

In this moment of alarm and peril: Female Education, Religion and Politics In the Late Eighteenth Century, With special reference to Catharine Macaulay and Hannah More

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Abstract

Catharine Macaulay and Hannah More are conventionally represented as ideological opposites. Through an analysis which centres on their writings, this thesis critically examines that representation, and more broadly explores contemporary perceptions of the roles of women of the middling sort in the late eighteenth century. It argues that revolution, particularly the French Revolution, created a climate wherein the duties of women became the subject of increasing debate. The discussion challenges and builds upon recent work on women's writing and history, by examining how and why the role of women changed at this time. This work is concerned with contemporary representations of women, and concentrates on analysis of primary texts and archival material over a wide range of genres, including educational treatises, plays, popular tracts, political pamphlets, historical writing and newspapers - the latter proving a major resource. Following a critical introduction, the thesis falls into four chapters. Chapter one discusses the reputation, critical reception and public fame of Macaulay and More, thereby providing insights into contemporary sexual and social politics. Women were considered arbiters of morals and manners - believed to play a vital role in ensuring social stability - and the second chapter examines how the threat of revolution led to increasing anxiety and debate about the nature of female education. The third and fourth chapters discuss religion and politics respectively, and argue that beliefs about the interdependency of Church and State, together with the feminization of religion, legitimized women's involvement in politics and enlarged their sphere of influence. The conclusion argues that the political and religious climate provided opportunities for women to reassess and redefine their roles; while often remaining within parameters defined by commonly held perceptions of femininity, they politicized the domestic, extended female agency, and elevated the status of women.

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During the long eighteenth century, ideas of society and of social progress were first fully investigated. These investigations took place in the contexts of economic, theological, historical and literary writings which paid unprecedented attention to the place of women. Combining intellectual history with literary criticism, Karen O'Brien examines the central importance to the British Enlightenment both of women writers and of women as a subject of enquiry. She examines the work of a range of writers, including John Locke, Mary Astell, David Hume, Adam Smith, Edward Gibbon, T. R. Malthus Start by marking "Religion, Revolution, and Regional Culture in Eighteenth-Century France: The Ecclesiastical Oath of 1791" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving... Want to Read. The imposition of a loyalty oath on French clergymen in the winter of 1790 was a turning point in the Revolutionary decade after 1789. What is more, there is a remarkable similarity between the geography of this oath--the regional percentages of those who accepted or rejected it--and the geographic patterns of religious practice and political behavior persisting into the t The imposition of a loyalty oath on French clergymen in the winter of 1790 was a turning point in the Revolutionary. decade after 1789. Annette Ashley, "'In this Moment of Alarm and Peril': Female Education, Religion, and Politics in the Late-Eighteenth Century, with special reference to Catharine Macaulay and Hannah More' (2004). Giles Bergel, 'William Dicey and Eighteenth-Century Print Culture' (2004). Jill Gage, 'My Schoolfellows, My Patrons, My Public: English Schoolboy Authorship 1660-1798' (2014, with Markman Ellis). Within and between countries, some populations, religions, and governments remain openly hostile to the notion of women in politics. Based on these differences, Hughes and Paxton identify and describe four basic paths to women's increased representation over time: (1) No Change, (2) Incremental Gains, (3) Fast-Track Growth, and (4) Plateau. Keywords. Fast Growth Track Incremental Gain Gender Quotas Union Of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) Plateau Country. These keywords were added by machine and not by the authors. This process is experimental and the keywords may be updated as the learning