

a beginning on our journey, but also that we face a long road ahead before reaching our destination.

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PALETSCHEK, Sylvia, and Bianka PIETROW-ENNKER — *Women's Emancipation Movements in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: A European Perspective*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004. Pp. xiv, 238.

This collection of essays presented at an international conference treats the emergence of the women's movements in 12 European countries, including northern, southern, and eastern European countries like Norway, Czechoslovakia, and Spain. Although one essay compares and contrasts the British and American movements, there is no essay on Canada or any of the Commonwealth countries. The guiding principles laid down by the organizers of the conference were to use the nation-state as "a spatial frame" (p. 4), to present a synopsis of current research, and to consider women's emancipation rather than feminist movements, both because emancipation "includes the preparatory, organizational, and peak phases of the movement" (p. 5) and because the term feminist was not used, or very hesitantly used, in central, eastern, and northern Europe. Twelve essays describe the state of research on women's movements in each country, cite key works to consult in their endnotes, and identify areas needing more research. All of these essays provide a chronological and thematic overview. As such, the essays will be useful to teachers who want to prepare lectures, and undergraduate students who want to do papers, on women's movements in countries other than the familiar western European ones.

The individual essays are not as helpful in making comparisons between the national movements. One example will suffice: Ida Blom's essay on Norway describes an 1889 match-workers' strike supported by feminists, without a word about the match-workers' strike supported by Annie Besant in London about the same time. However, the editors' concluding chapter points out several transnational themes. These are the importance to nineteenth-century feminists of creating a women's tradition, the widespread experience of charitable and social work, and the struggles for educational and employment opportunities and (in Protestant countries) for moral purity. Another commonality is the pivotal role played by urban, middle-class, educated women and men, particularly those belonging to a religious or ethnic minority (especially Jews in central Europe) and with ties to social reform and oppositional movements. If class and religious issues are handled well, however, race and imperial issues are rarely acknowledged. Jane Rendall's brief remarks on British imperialist feminism and Florence Rochefort's briefer reference to Hubertine Auclert's interventions on behalf of Algerian women do not reflect the sum total of research into the disturbing interaction between feminism and imperialism.

Throughout the essays, the authors address and usually deny the now-dated

assumption about a huge divide between equal rights/individualist feminists and maternal/social/relational feminists. Almost all the authors follow Karen Offen, both in earlier articles on relational feminism and in the contextual essay, in recognizing that feminists used both types of argument because they could conceive of equality in difference and could see the tactical benefits of stressing one or the other argument when lobbying for different causes. In the opening essay, Offen (whose *European Feminisms*, also published by Stanford University Press, is the only other published work on Europe-wide women's movements) notes the importance of Enlightenment concepts of individual and equal rights and the role of the French Revolution in disseminating these concepts. Most of the national essays also identify pivotal moments when Enlightenment or revolutionary ideas raised issues of citizenship. However, Mary Nash's essay on Spain queries a focus on the political rights phase of women's movements from the 1880s to the 1920s and asserts the need for multiple genealogies of feminism. She pays tribute to Spanish writers who contributed to the *querelle des femmes* from the fifteenth century to the Enlightenment, mid-nineteenth century Spanish romantic writers, and literary and educational feminists active in the nineteenth century, all prior to a more public and political phase of Spanish feminism beginning in the 1920s. In fact, most of the essays in this anthology seek to explain the periodization of women's emancipation movements more by "national particularities" like the timing and nature of democratization and modernization than by the now-familiar international women's congresses or by using the Anglo-American timelines as an explicit or implicit gauge for other national movements. Most essays pay more attention to "cultural" than to purely political feminism. Ute Gerhard's essay on Germany offers a historiographical guide to the shift from institutional and organizational histories to exploring women's relations, their social and intellectual networks, and the culture of the women's movement. Like many of the authors dealing with the uneven development of continental feminisms, Gerhard points to the repression of the 1848 revolutions and the authoritarianism of monarchical regimes.

For readers unable or unwilling to read an entire anthology, I mention two highlights of this collection that suggest new avenues of research for other national settings. Ida Blom's essay, "Modernity and the Norwegian Women's Movement from the 1880s to 1914", discusses the organization of housewives and working-class women organizing themselves, incisively analyses allies and opponents, including women's groups, and concludes with a thought-provoking section on the counterculture and networks of small-town Norway, some of which reached beyond regional and national boundaries. Eleni Varikas's essay on "National and Gender Identity in Turn-of-the-Century Greece" deftly links the nationalist discourse of resistance to the cultural hegemony of the West to a discourse on sexual morals and sexual difference, placing gender at the centre of national self-definition.

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