

Timelines of Events relating to Women

Timeline	Women's Event
3500 BC	Egyptian women begin brewing beer.
3000 BC	According to legend, the Chinese empress Se Ling-she is reported to have invented silk cultivation.
2300 BC	In Akkad, theologian and writer Enheduanna, daughter of Sargon, is made chief priestess of the gods at Ur and Uruk.
c. 1850 BC	Egyptian texts describe contraceptive suppositories, mixed out of honey and crocodile dung. This is the first known reference to contraceptives.
c. 1750 BC	Hammurabi's code protects a woman's right to hold and inherit property.
c. 1500 BC	The Egyptian medical school at Heliopolis has women students.
1472 BC	Queen Hatshepsut rules Egypt, fighting against the Nubians, expanding trade, and sponsoring exploration around the Red Sea.
c. 1450 BC	By law and by custom, Mesopotamian women are controlled first by their fathers, then by their husbands and fathers-in-law, and finally by their sons.
c. 1000 BC	Most Chinese shamans are women. They are particularly important for performing rites to bring rain.
843 BC	Athaliah becomes queen of Judah. Her reign is short and bloody, as she tries to murder everyone who might oppose her.
c. 600 BC	Lesbos, where she also teaches young women poetry, music, and the social graces.
c. 600 BC	In Sparta, girls are trained in athletics, including running, javelin, and discus, so that they will become strong and healthy mothers.
c. 600 BC	Ambapali, a wealthy Indian courtesan, gives her mango groves to the Buddha. She becomes his disciple and reaches the status of arhat, holy one.
480 BC	Artemisia I, queen of Halicarnassus, commands five ships in the Battle of Salamis on September 23.
c. 450 BC	In Athens, Aspasia opens a school for upper-class women. She teaches rhetoric and philosophy.
380 BC	Greek women have no independent status in society and may not make transactions worth more than one medimnos of barley, although they may own their own slaves.
c. 300 BC	Athenian philosopher Hipparchia studies with the Cynic Crates of Thebes. She forces her parents to let her marry him and boasts of spending her life on education rather than weaving.
c. 195 BC	Kao-hou seizes power from her son Hui-ti to become the first woman ruler of China.
195 BC	Roman women successfully insist on the repeal of the Oppian law, a sumptuary tax passed in 215, forbidding them to wear more than half

	an ounce of gold or to drive chariots in town.
51 BC	Cleopatra becomes queen of Egypt.
47 BC	In Sri Lanka, Queen Anula takes the throne. Her reign ends in 42 with her resignation.
39 AD	Two Vietnamese sisters, Trung Trac and Trung Nhi, lead the first revolt in Southeast Asia against Chinese domination. Despite early successes, the revolt eventually fails.
53 AD	In Korea, the Queen Mother of Koguryo serves as successful regent for her son King T'aego.
60 AD	Queen Boudicca of the Iceni rallies British tribes in an unsuccessful revolt against Romans under the command of Suetonius Paulinus.
65 AD	In Sri Lanka, Queen Sivali rules.
c. 65 AD	Ethiopian women and men fight in Rome as gladiators. Under the emperors Nero and Domitian, women captives (especially German ones) frequently fight in the arena.
107 AD	Dowager empress Deng holds the real power in China behind the boy-emperor Ngan-ti.
115 AD	Chinese poet and historian Pan Chao dies after a long and renowned career.
239 AD	Queen Himiko of Yamatai, the first known ruler of Japan, establishes diplomatic relations with China.
248 AD	Vietnamese patriot Trieu Au, with an army of 1,000, leads a revolt against the Chinese. She commits suicide after the revolt fails.
269 AD	Septimia Zenobia of Palmyra challenges Roman rule after conquering Egypt. The Roman emperor Aurelian captures and parades her and her son through Rome in a triumphal procession.
326 AD	Helena, mother of Roman Emperor Constantine I, claims to have found the sites of the Ascension and the Holy Sepulchre. Later legend says she also found the Holy Cross.
350 AD	Chinese calligrapher Wei Furen, also known as Wei Shou or Wei Fu-Jen, dies after a career in which she is honoured in the Book of One Hundred Beauties and teaches master calligrapher Wang Xizhi.
c. 385 AD	Roman St. Paulina founds a pilgrims' hospice and communal houses in Bethlehem. Her daughter Eustochium becomes head of the women's community on her death in 404.
c. 397 AD	Saint Fabiola founds the first public hospital in the Latin West, in Rome, copying the example she saw in the Byzantine empire on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.
415 AD	In Alexandria, Greek-Egyptian scholar and teacher Hypatia is murdered by a mob because of her intimacy with the city's pagan prefect, Orestes.
431 AD	The council of Ephesus recognizes Mary as the Mother of God, resulting in the spread westward from Byzantium of the cult of the Virgin.
493 AD	Princess Clotilda of Burgundia marries Clovis I, king of the Franks. She converts him to Christianity.

c. 535 AD	The Justinian Code makes adultery a capital offense for women but not for men.
c. 594 AD	Japanese Empress Suiko encourages the spread of Buddhism and orders the construction of Buddhist temples.
600 AD	Women in England may be publicly punished as "scolds," a practice that continues for 1,000 years.
632 AD	Queen Sondok becomes the ruler of the Korean kingdom of Silla. During her reign, she fights the kingdom of Paekche, sends students to China for education, and constructs Buddhist temples.
656 AD	'A'ishah, widow of Muhammad, rebels against the Caliph 'Ali in the battle of the Camel at Basra.
c. 659 AD	Indian Queen Vidya writes Sanskrit poetry.
721 AD	Princess Libuse and her husband, Premysl, found the city of Prague.
787 AD	The Second Council of Nicaea is called by Byzantine Empress Irene to settle the question of worshipping icons. The bishops rule in favour of icon worship.
801 AD	In the Frankish empire, prostitution is outlawed by Charlemagne.
c. 900 AD	The practice of foot binding becomes popular in the Chinese Court.
c. 950 AD	An anonymous Norwegian woman writes Wise Women's Prophecy, a history of the world, including prophecies for the future.
988 AD	Vladimir I of Russia converts Russia to Christianity and marries Anne, sister of Byzantine emperor Basil II. Anne brings Byzantine culture to Russia and the Crimea as her dowry.
1004 AD	Japanese author Murasaki Shikibu finishes the Genji Monogatari (The Tale of Genji), the world's first novel.
c. 1070 AD	English women create the Bayeux Tapestry, using wool embroidery on linen to record the events of the Norman Conquest.
1118 AD	Héloïse is made prioress of Argenteuil, where she fled after the discovery of her secret marriage to Peter Abelard.
1147 AD	Eleanor of Aquitaine accompanies her husband, French King Louis VII, on the Second Crusade. After their marriage collapses in 1152, she marries the future English King Henry II.
1148 AD	Abbess Hildegard of Bingen, currently working on Scivias Domini, ("Know the Ways of the Lord"), is verified as a divinely inspired prophet by an ecclesiastical commission.
c. 1160 AD	Frau Ava of Melk is one of Germany's first female poets.
1220 AD	At the University of Paris, women are banned from practicing medicine.
1319 AD	Guan Daosheng, Chinese calligrapher and painter, dies after a career including commissions for Emperor Renzhong.
1350 AD	There are over 3,000 nuns in England, reflecting the flourishing of convents and religious orders for women in the Middle Ages.
1351 AD	Under England's Treason Act, it is petty treason for a wife to murder her husband, who is her sovereign lord.
1384 AD	Jadwiga is crowned "king" of Poland. Two years later she marries Grand Duke Jogaila of Lithuania, thus uniting the kingdoms.

1390 AD	London licensing law for doctors requires a university education, thus barring women from the profession.
1390 AD	At the University of Bologna, Dorotea Bocchi takes the chair of medicine and moral philosophy, formerly held by her father.
1397 AD	On June 20, Queen Margaret I becomes the sole monarch of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway under the Union of Kalmar.
1405 AD	Italian-born French scholar Christine de Pisan writes The Book of the City of Ladies, a history of civilization from the view of women.
1406 AD	In Korea plans are made for training women doctors to serve female patients who refuse to be treated by male doctors.
1429 AD	Joan of Arc, supported by Queen Yolande, begins her military and religious campaign against the English. At the Battle of Orléans she leads the French army to victory.
1436 AD	Margery Kempe, an English mystical writer, finishes The Boke of Margery Kempe.
1448 AD	Queens' College, Cambridge, is established by Margaret of Anjou, the queen of England.
1455 AD	Female English silk manufacturers petition the Crown to stop competition from silk made in Lombard.
1485 AD	Korean law prohibits women from participating in outdoor games and feasts.
1486 AD	German cleric Johann Sprenger publishes Malleus maleficarum ("Hammer of Witches"), arguing that women, as the weaker sex, are more likely to be witches.
1492 AD	Queen Isabella I of Spain finances Christopher Columbus's voyage of exploration to the East Indies. Columbus instead finds the West Indies.
1519 AD	Mexican Indian princess and slave Doña Marina becomes translator and mistress of Hernán Cortés as he conquers New Spain.
1528 AD	In the Gulf of Mexico, 10 Spanish women accompany their husbands on a voyage of discovery. After the men are lost, the women search for them a year, then settle in Veracruz.
1553 AD	Mary Tudor becomes queen of England and has Lady Jane Grey, who was queen for nine days in July, beheaded. Mary's persecution of Protestants earns her the name Bloody Mary.
1558 AD	Elizabeth I, half-sister of Mary Tudor, becomes queen of England. She brings religious tolerance and leads the English to victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588.
1587 AD	Mary Queen of Scots is beheaded by order of Queen Elizabeth I.
c. 1600 AD	Iroquois women are responsible for agricultural production.
1603 AD	A Japanese dancer of the Izumo shrine invents kabuki theatre.
1608 AD	Pocahontas saves Jamestown colonist Captain John Smith from execution by Algonkian chief Powhatan.
1619 AD	A proposal to give women an equal portion in colonial lands is rejected by the Virginia House of Burgesses.
1629 AD	Tokugawa shogun Iemitsu bans women from kabuki theatre because it is considered immoral for women to dance in public.

1638 AD	Anne Hutchinson is expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for "traducing the ministers" of the Puritan colony. She and other religious dissenters found Rhode Island.
1642 AD	During the English Civil War, Brilliana, Lady Harley, defends Brampton Bryan Castle from the Royalist army in her husband's absence.
1643 AD	Blanche, Lady Arundel, holds off the parliamentary troops under Sir Edward Hungerford who attack Wardour Castle while her husband is away.
1644 AD	On her 18th birthday, Queen Christina ascends the throne of Sweden.
1648 AD	Margaret Brent, one of the largest landowners in Maryland, asks the Maryland Assembly for two votes, one for herself and one as administrator of Lord Calvert's estate. Her request is denied.
1650 AD	Anne Bradstreet's first volume of poems, <i>The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America</i> , is published in London.
1660 AD	Mary Dyer is executed in Boston for her Quaker proselytizing.
1669 AD	Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz enters the convent of San Jerónimo in New Spain. Her religious life allows her to dedicate herself to scholarship and lyric poetry.
1681 AD	La Fontaine makes her debut at the Paris Opéra as the first female professional ballet dancer.
1682 AD	Mary Rowlandson publishes <i>A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson</i> , describing her capture by Narragansett warriors and 12 weeks' captivity.
1682 AD	Sophia Alekseyevna becomes regent of Russia for her brother Ivan after she leads a palace coup against their half-brother Peter, who becomes associate ruler.
1692 AD	The Salem witch trials condemn 19 to die; most of the accused and the accusers are women.
1702 AD	Queen Anne ascends the throne of England.
1704 AD	Twenty-five Frenchwomen, called "Cassette girls," journey to Mobile on the Gulf Coast to find husbands. They refuse to marry any of the colonists there because of the crude conditions they find.
1711 AD	Queen Anne founds the Ascot races and becomes the first monarch of many to use the royal box there.
1715 AD	Elizabeth Elstob publishes the first Anglo-Saxon grammar, <i>The Rudiments of Grammar</i> .
1718 AD	Lady Mary Wortley Montagu advocates smallpox inoculation, which she has seen in Constantinople.
1725 AD	Catherine I becomes ruler of Russia on the death of her husband, Peter the Great.
1741 AD	Elizabeth Lucas Pinckney introduces indigo cultivation in South Carolina; by 1742 she has a successful crop.
1748 AD	Italian mathematician Maria Agnesi publishes <i>Instituzioni analitiche uso della gioventù italiana</i> ("Analytical Institutions for the Use of Italian Youth").
1750 AD	Hannah Snell publishes <i>The Female Soldier</i> , an account of her exploits

	in the British army fighting against the supporters of Bonnie Prince Charlie.
1762 AD	In Russia, Sophie Auguste von Anhalt-Zerbst, widow of Peter III, ascends to the throne as Catherine II. She rules as an "enlightened despot" until 1796.
1770 AD	Phillis Wheatley, the first black woman poet in the United States, publishes her poem An Elegiac Poem, on the Death of the Celebrated Divine ... George Whitefield.
1774 AD	Fifty-one women in Edenton, N.C., sign a petition endorsing the Nonimportation Association resolves, joining many other colonial women boycotting British goods.
1776 AD	Mother Ann Lee founds the parent Shaker settlement in America in the woods of Niskeyuna, N.Y.
1778 AD	On June 28, Mary Hays ("Molly Pitcher"), wife of an American gunner, brings water to the troops at the Battle of Monmouth. Legend claims that she takes his place when her husband is wounded.
1778 AD	Laura Bassi, author of De problemate quodam mechanico and De problemate quodam hydrometrico and the first woman professor of physics (at the University of Bologna), dies.
1781 AD	The Ladies Association of Philadelphia raises money, buys linen, and makes shirts of it to clothe soldiers during the American Revolution.
1782 AD	On May 20, Deborah Sampson, disguised as a man, enlists in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment as Robert Shurtleff. She is one of many women who fight in the American Revolution dressed as men.
1783 AD	German-born British astronomer Caroline Hershel discovers three nebulae.
1783 AD	Catherine II of Russia makes Yekaterina Daskiova head of the new Academy of Sciences and Arts.
1789 AD	On October 5, a crowd of Parisian market women numbering over 8,000 march to Versailles and present their demands for more affordable bread to the National Assembly and the king.
c. 1790 AD	In the United States, the Second Great Awakening begins; significantly more women than men participate in this wave of religious revival.
1791 AD	President George Washington praises Eliza Pinckney for her national service and the raising of republican sons. The idea of "Republican Motherhood" stimulates the founding of female academies.
1791 AD	French activist Olympe de Gournay writes her Declaration of the Rights of Woman as Citizens, arguing that women are citizens equal to men. She goes to the guillotine in November 1793.
1792 AD	Mary Wollstonecraft writes A Vindication of the Rights of Woman.
1793 AD	On October 16, four years after the start of the French Revolution, French queen Marie-Antoinette is guillotined.
1793 AD	Mrs. Samuel Slater receives the first United States patent granted to a woman, for a type of cotton thread. Her invention helps her husband build his successful textile business.
1795 AD	Ann Parrish founds the Friendly Circle (later the Female Society of

	Philadelphia for the Relief and Employment of the Poor), the first American charitable organization run by and for women.
1800 AD	The highest birthrate in the world is in the United States, 7.04 children per woman.
1803 AD	Parliament passes the first British abortion law, prohibiting abortion after quickening.
1804 AD	Under France's Napoleonic Code, women are legal minors, as are criminals, children, and the insane. A woman's husband controls her property and, in the case of divorce, gets the children.
1807 AD	New Jersey revokes the right of unmarried property-owning women to vote, which they have enjoyed since the adoption of the Constitution of New Jersey on July 2, 1776.
1813 AD	In England, Elizabeth Fry advocates reform of Newgate Prison, where the conditions for 300 women and children are appalling.
1817 AD	In Japan, Tyadano Makuza publishes Hitori jangae, arguing for women's equality.
1821 AD	In Colombia, women gain the right to go to university.
1821 AD	Emma Willard opens the Troy Female Seminary in New York, teaching a rigorous curriculum to girls.
1833 AD	Lydia Maria Child publishes An Appeal in Favor of That Class of Americans Called Africans, arguing for the abolition of slavery.
1833 AD	British mathematician Lady Byron studies Charles Babbage's "difference engine." She is, arguably, the first computer programmer in the world. The computer language Ada is later named in her honour.
1834 AD	In Lowell, Mass., women mill workers stage a successful strike to reverse a 25 percent cut in their pay.
1837 AD	In New York City, the first women's antislavery convention is held.
1838 AD	Oberlin College is the first American college to admit men and women on an equal basis.
1840 AD	At the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London, female delegates are not admitted. This leads Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton to call the first women's rights convention.
1844 AD	The English Factory Act establishes the 12-hour workday for female factory workers.
1845 AD	In Sweden, women get equal rights of inheritance.
1848 AD	The first women's rights convention is convened in Seneca Falls, N.Y. The resulting Declaration of Sentiments, patterned after the Declaration of Independence, advocates women's rights.
1849 AD	Elizabeth Blackwell becomes the first woman doctor in the United States.
1851 AD	Sojourner Truth gives her famous speech in defense of the rights of black women, "Ain't I a Woman?"
1851 AD	In Guatemala, the new constitution grants full citizenship to financially independent women.
1851 AD	In Germany and France, women are banned from political action, which includes editing newspapers. German publisher Louise Otto-

	Peters' Women's Newspaper is shut down.
1853 AD	Queen Victoria delivers her eighth child under chloroform. Her approval and recommendation of it popularizes use of the anesthetic.
1854 AD	Florence Nightingale nurses casualties during the Crimean War. Her efforts help reduce the death rate from injuries in combat from 42 percent to 2.2 percent.
1861 AD	Dorothea Dix becomes superintendent of women nurses for the Union Army.
1861 AD	In Sweden, single women who pay taxes win the right to vote in municipal elections.
1868 AD	In Thailand, Amdang Munan refuses to marry the man her parents picked for her; she prevails upon the king to rule that women may pick their own husbands.
1869 AD	Married women in Britain gain the right to own property.
1869 AD	Wyoming is the first state to give women the right to vote.
1872 AD	In Japan, primary education for all girls and boys is required by law.
1877 AD	In Chile, women are allowed to attend university.
1884 AD	Wimbledon holds its first women's singles championship; Maud Watson is the first winner.
1886 AD	Anandibai Joshee is the first Indian woman to earn a medical degree.
1889 AD	Jane Addams and Ellen Starr found Hull House in Chicago. It is one of the first settlement houses in the United States, and the most famous. Addams wins the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1931.
1893 AD	New Zealand is the first nation to grant women the right to vote.
1900 AD	British tennis player Charlotte Cooper wins the first women's gold medal at the Olympics.
1903 AD	The Women's Trade Union League (WTUL) is founded by Mary Kimball Kehew, Mary Kennedy O'Sullivan, Jane Addams, and other middle-class reformers to help working women organize.
1904 AD	In French law, women are no longer permanent minors.
1906 AD	Women in Finland get the right to vote.
1909 AD	The Sri Lanka Tamil Women's Union is created.
1911 AD	Marie Curie is awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for the isolation of pure radium.
1913 AD	Norwegian women get the right to vote.
1915 AD	In Denmark, women win the right to vote.
1917 AD	In Cuba, new laws protect women's custody of children, divorce rights, and property rights.
1918 AD	Canada gives women the right to vote. In Great Britain, women over 30 get the right to vote.
1918 AD	The Indian National Congress endorses giving women the right to vote.
1919 AD	In Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, The Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, and Poland, women get the right to vote.
1920 AD	On August 26, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution is signed into law, giving women in the United States the right to vote.
1927 AD	American figure skater Sonja Henie wins her first world amateur

	championship. She will win the next nine championships and gold medals at the Olympics in 1928, 1932, and 1936.
1930 AD	Ellen Church is the first airline stewardess.
1931 AD	Jane Addams receives the Nobel Prize for Peace.
1933 AD	In Italy, Mussolini rewards women who have more than 14 children.
1947 AD	In Japan, the new constitution guarantees women's equality.
1952 AD	Ana Figueroa from Chile becomes the first woman on the United Nations Security Council.
1956 AD	Golda Meir becomes Israel's minister of foreign affairs. She is the only woman in the Cabinet.
1961 AD	Wilma Rudolph sets a new world record in the 100-metre dash, 11.2 seconds.
1963 AD	Russian cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman in space.
1966 AD	Indira Gandhi becomes head of the Congress Party and the first female prime minister of India.
1969 AD	Golda Meir becomes the first female prime minister of Israel.
1971 AD	The National Commission on the Status of Women in India is created.
1971 AD	Helga Pederson of Denmark becomes the first female judge on the European Court of Human Rights.
1977 AD	In Saudi Arabia, Princess Misha is executed for marrying a man she chose.
1979 AD	Margaret Thatcher becomes the first female prime minister of Great Britain.
1980 AD	The Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that a rape occurs every six minutes in the United States.
1981 AD	Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman on the United States Supreme Court.
1987 AD	In Japan, the Supreme Court rules that marital rape is a crime.
1988 AD	Benazir Bhutto becomes prime minister of Pakistan.
1989 AD	American Barbara Harris becomes the first female Episcopal bishop.
1991 AD	The Nobel Prize for Peace is awarded to Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.
1993 AD	In Turkey, Tansu Ciller becomes her country's first female prime minister.
1993 AD	Kim Campbell becomes the first woman prime minister of Canada.
1994 AD	Hisako Takahashi becomes the first woman justice on Japan's Supreme Court.
1998 AD	Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, is unanimously elected to lead India's Congress Party.
1999 AD	Mireya Moscoso becomes the first female president of Panama and in December oversees the U.S. handover of the Panama Canal.
2000 AD	Beverly McLachlin becomes Canada's first woman Supreme Court chief justice. Some 70 years earlier, the same court had ruled that women were not "persons."
2000 AD	Tarja Halonen becomes the first woman president of Finland.

2000 AD	At the Sydney Olympics, American athlete Marion Jones becomes the first woman to win five medals in track-and-field events at a single Games.
2000 AD	Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka, the world's first female prime minister, retires in August.
2001 AD	Hillary Clinton is sworn in as a New York senator, becoming the first first lady to win elected office.

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