

# The Women's Movement in Wartime

*This page intentionally left blank*

# The Women's Movement in Wartime

International Perspectives, 1914–19

Edited by

Alison S. Fell

*Lancaster University*

and

Ingrid Sharp

*University of Leeds*



Editorial matter, selection and introduction

© Alison S. Fell and Ingrid Sharp 2007.

All remaining chapters © their respective authors 2007.

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2007 978-0-230-01966-9

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No paragraph of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1T 4LP.

Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The authors have asserted their rights to be identified as the authors of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published 2007 by

PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS and

175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

Companies and representatives throughout the world

PALGRAVE MACMILLAN is the global academic imprint of the Palgrave Macmillan division of St. Martin's Press, LLC and of Palgrave Macmillan Ltd. Macmillan® is a registered trademark in the United States, United Kingdom and other countries. Palgrave is a registered trademark in the European Union and other countries.

ISBN 978-1-349-28576-1 ISBN 978-0-230-21079-0 (eBook)

DOI 10.1057/9780230210790

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources. Logging, pulping and manufacturing processes are expected to conform to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The women's movement in wartime: international perspectives, 1914–19/  
edited by Alison S. Fell, Ingrid Sharp.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. World War, 1914–1918—Women. 2. Feminism—History—  
20th century. I. Fell, Alison S., 1971– II. Sharp, Ingrid.

D639.W7W654 2007

940.3082—dc22

2006048012

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
16 15 14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07

# Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	viii
<i>Notes on the Contributors</i>	ix
1 Introduction: The Women's Movement and the First World War <i>Alison S. Fell and Ingrid Sharp</i>	1
2 'Indian Sisters! ... Send your husbands, brothers, sons': India, Women and the First World War <i>Santanu Das</i>	18
3 Martial Spirit and Mobilization Myths: Bourgeois Women and the 'Ideas of 1914' in Germany <i>Claudia Siebrecht</i>	38
4 'French women do not wish to talk about peace': Julie Siegfried and the Response of the Conseil National des Femmes Françaises to the First World War <i>Alison S. Fell</i>	53
5 Blaming the Women: Women's 'Responsibility' for the First World War <i>Ingrid Sharp</i>	67
6 The Creation of an Icon in Defence of H�el�ene Brion: Pacifists and Feminists in the French Minority Media <i>Joanna Shearer</i>	88
7 In a Different Voice: Responses of Hungarian Feminism to the First World War <i>Judit Acs�ady</i>	105
8 Feminism and Suffrage in Russia: Women, War and Revolution 1914–1917 <i>Olga Shnyrova</i>	124

9	The Pankhursts and the Great War <i>June Purvis</i>	141
10	'The Woman Who Dared': Major Mabel St Clair Stobart <i>Angela K. Smith</i>	158
11	Esther Pohl Lovejoy, M.D., the First World War, and a Feminist Critique of Wartime Violence <i>Kimberly Jensen</i>	175
12	Elisabeth Rotten and the 'Auskunfts- und Hilfsstelle für Deutsche im Ausland und Ausländer in Deutschland', 1914–1919 <i>Matthew Stibbe</i>	194
13	Transforming Utopia: The 'League for the Protection of Mothers and Sexual Reform' in the First World War <i>Peter Davies</i>	211
14	The 'Women's International League for Peace and Freedom' and Reconciliation after the Great War <i>Erika Kuhlman</i>	227
15	Sacrificial Rituals and Wounded Hearts: The Uses of Christian Symbolism in French and German Women's Responses to the First World War <i>Catherine O'Brien</i>	244
	<i>Index</i>	260

# List of Figures

- 1 Man: 'Why are you turning down my proposal of marriage?' Woman: 'For the same reason that the recruiting board rejected you' (Hirschfeld and Gaspar 1930: 67). 70
- 2 'Although parting is painful, yet she's prouder of me for going' (Hirschfeld and Gaspar 1930: Facing 172). 73
- 3 Front cover of *A Nő: Feminista folyóirat (Woman: Feminist Journal)*, May 1915. 116
- 4 'Then and Now', *Ogonek* (1917) 28: 1. 125
- 5 'Two Fighters for Women's Equality. The Commander of the Women's Battalion of Death M. Bochkareva and English Suffragist Mrs Pankhurst in Petrograd', *Ogonek* 1917. 133
- 6 Mabel St Clair Stobart, while arrested as a spy in Belgium, 1914. Copyright Eric Stobart, provided by Joffe and Joanna Crichton. 165
- 7 Mabel St Clair Stobart with the convoy crossing a river during the Serbian retreat. Copyright Eric Stobart, provided by Joffe and Joanna Crichton. 169
- 8 Esther Lovejoy 1917, OHSU Historical Collections & Archives. 180
- 9 House of the Good Neighbor Monday Morning (Lovejoy 1919: Facing 16). 181
- 10 Liberty Loan Speech, OHSU Historical Collections & Archives. 183
- 11 War Babies (Lovejoy 1919: Facing 180). 188
- 12 O. Gulbransson 28 January 1919 'We aren't allowed to join the conversation at Versailles', *Simplicissimus* 23/44: 547. © 2006 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/BONO, Oslo. 228
- 13 Eugène Delacroix, 'Christ on the Cross' © The National Gallery, London. 250
- 14 Our Lady Vulnerate (Reproduced by permission of the Rector, Real Colegio de Ingles, Valladolid, Spain. © Royal English College). 255

# Acknowledgements

The editors would like to thank Belinda Cooke for her editorial and translation work, the Universities of Lancaster and Leeds for financial assistance in the preparation of this volume, and the British Academy for their support for this project. They are also grateful to Michael Strang and Ruth Ireland at Palgrave for their advice and guidance.



# Notes on the Contributors

**Judit Acsády** is a sociologist working for the Sociology Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Her fields of research include the history of Hungarian feminism and gender relations. Her PhD dissertation 'Emancipation and Identity' (2004) was about the recent representation of and attitudes to Hungarian women's emancipation. She has published a number of articles based on her research findings. She is a guest lecturer at the ELTE and Corvinus University, Budapest.

**Santanu Das** is British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Queen Mary, University of London, and is the author of *Touch and Intimacy in First World War Literature* (2005). He is presently working on India and First World War writing.

**Peter Davies** is Senior Lecturer in German at the University of Edinburgh. He has written on the cultural politics of the German Communist Party and on mid-twentieth-century German literature. He is currently working on the reception of Johann Jakob Bachofen's theory of ancient matriarchy in Germany.

**Alison S. Fell** is Lecturer in French Studies at Lancaster University. She is the author of *Liberty, Equality, Maternity* (2003) and is currently writing a book on the image and experiences of French First World War nurses.

**Kimberly Jensen** is Professor of History and Gender Studies at Western Oregon University. She has published articles and a book on American women and the First World War and is currently writing a biography of Esther Pohl Lovejoy, M.D.

**Erika Kuhlman** is Assistant Professor of History at Idaho State University. She has written books and articles on American women's resistance to the Great War, and is currently writing a book on US and German women's involvement in post-war reconciliation.

**Catherine O'Brien** is Lecturer in French and Film Studies at Kingston University. She has published on First World War literature and Mariology, and is currently writing a book on intersections between film and theology.

**June Purvis** is Professor of Women's and Gender History at the University of Portsmouth. She is the Founding and Managing Editor of the journal *Women's History Review*, as well as the Editor for a book series on women's and gender history, both with Routledge. She has published extensively on women's education in the nineteenth century and on the suffragette movement in Edwardian Britain. Her most recent book is *Emmeline Pankhurst: A Biography* (2002).

**Ingrid Sharp** is Senior Lecturer in German at Leeds University. Her research focuses on the history of the women's movement in Germany and its international connections. She has published several articles on gender relations in Germany during the First World War and the Weimar Republic and is the co-editor, with Jane Jordan, of *Diseases of the Body Politic: Josephine Butler and the Prostitution Campaigns* (2003).

**Joanna Shearer** is a PhD candidate at Oxford Brookes University, where she is completing a thesis on French women's political journalism. She has previously published two book chapters on French women's fiction and journalism in wartime.

**Olga Shyrnova** is Director of Gender Studies and Associate Professor at the Ivanovo State University, Russia. She has received numerous travel and research grants from Russian and international bodies for her work on the history of the women's movement and the campaign for female suffrage in the UK and Russia. Publications include *For Freedom, for Honour! The Suffragette Mission to Revolutionary Russia* (2005) and (with Igor Shkolnikov) 'The Suffrage Movement in Great Britain and in Russia: Comparative Analyses' (1998).

**Claudia Siebrecht** is currently completing her PhD thesis in Trinity College, Dublin. Her research focuses on visual sources of the First World War and the title of her thesis is 'Death, sacrifice and mourning in women's art during the First World War in Germany, 1914–1919'.

**Angela K. Smith** is Senior Lecturer in English and Creative Writing at the University of Plymouth. She has published books and articles on the First World War focusing on gender relations and the Suffrage Movement. She is currently working on a biography of Mabel St Clair Stobart.

**Matthew Stibbe** is Senior Lecturer in History at Sheffield Hallam University. He is the author of *German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914–1918* (2001) and *Women in the Third Reich* (2003); and co-editor with Kevin McDermott of *Revolution and Resistance in Eastern Europe. Challenges to Communist Rule* (2006). He is currently completing a study of civilian internment in Germany during the First World War with special reference to the camp at Ruhleben near Berlin.