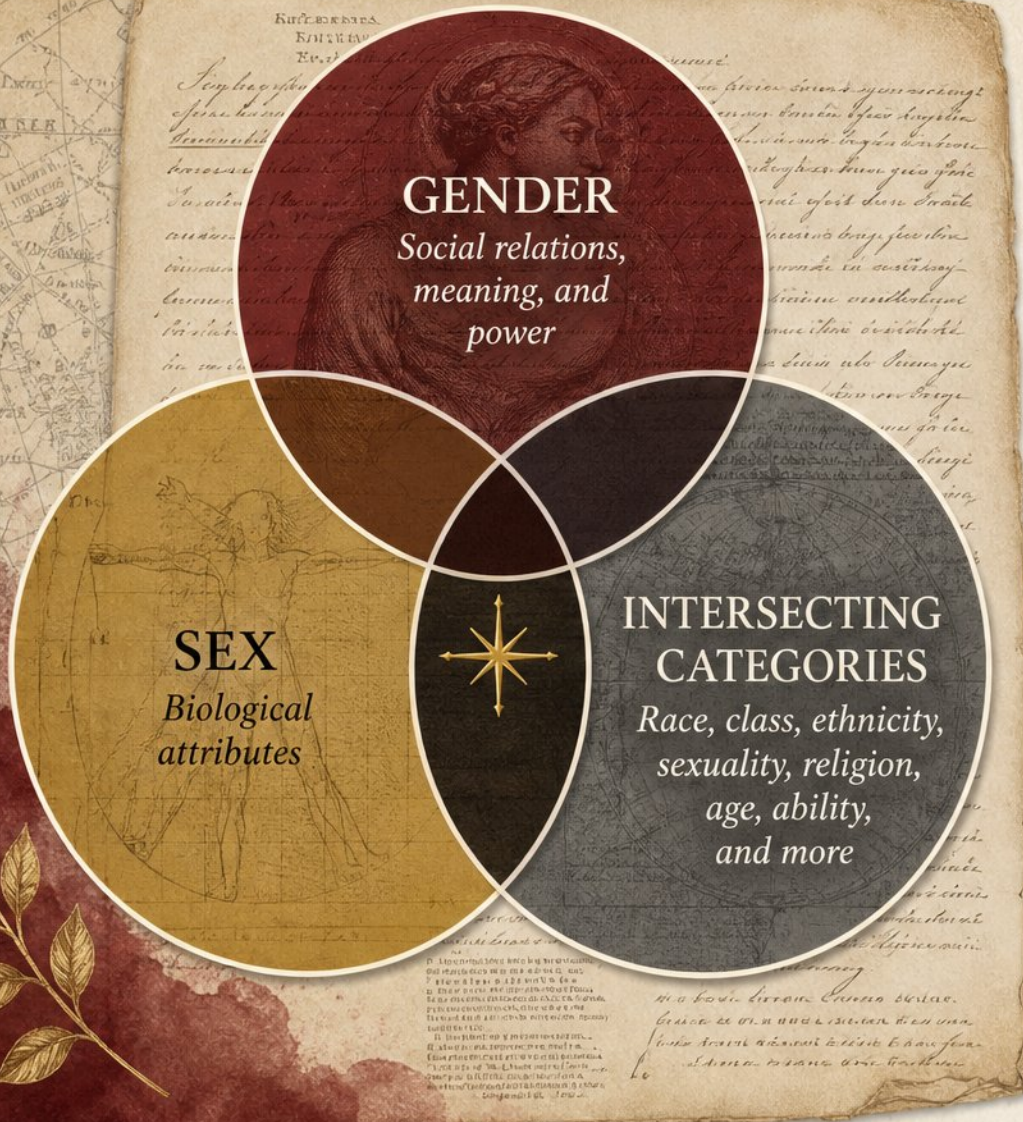


Women and Gender *in* World History

- Gender analysis transforms world history, not just adds women
- Distinguish biological sex from socially constructed gender
- Intersections of class, race, and religion shape experience
- Journey from ancient societies to the contemporary world
- Essential lens for learners, educators, and content creators



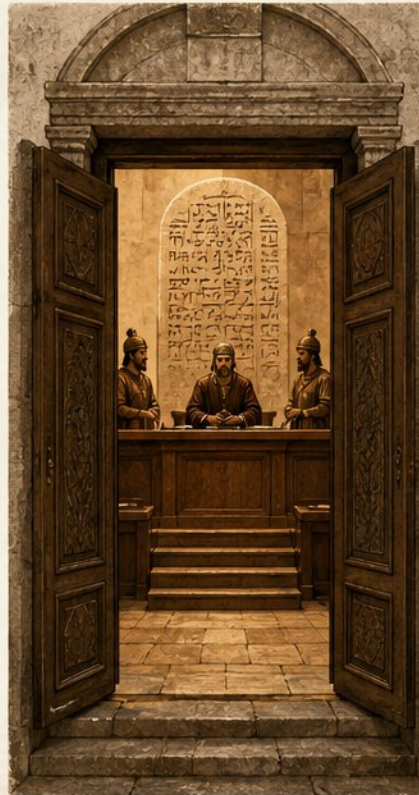
What Is Gender as a Category of Historical Analysis?



- Gender: a constitutive element of social relationships and a primary way of signifying power
- Culturally available symbols, normative concepts, institutions, and subjective identities
- Distinguish women's history, gender history, and the history of sexuality
- Gender analysis transforms periodization and political history

Patriarchy, the Public/Private Divide, and Intersectionality

- ❖ - Patriarchy varies across time and place, not a single uniform system
- ❖ - Public/private divide questioned for naturalizing women's exclusion
- ❖ - Intersectionality: gender, class, race, religion interlock as power systems
- ❖ - Hammurabi's Code shows gender and class without racial categories
- ❖ - Confucian five relationships reveal interlocking hierarchical oppressions



Women, Households, and Economy in Early Agrarian Societies

- Household production: women processed grain, wool, and food in Mesopotamia
- Marriage, kinship, and property transmission as sites of gender negotiation
- Hammurabi's Code reveals and enforces gender hierarchies
- Temple and palace workshops: weaving, grinding, and oil pressing
- Class shaped women's work: elite administrators to enslaved laborers



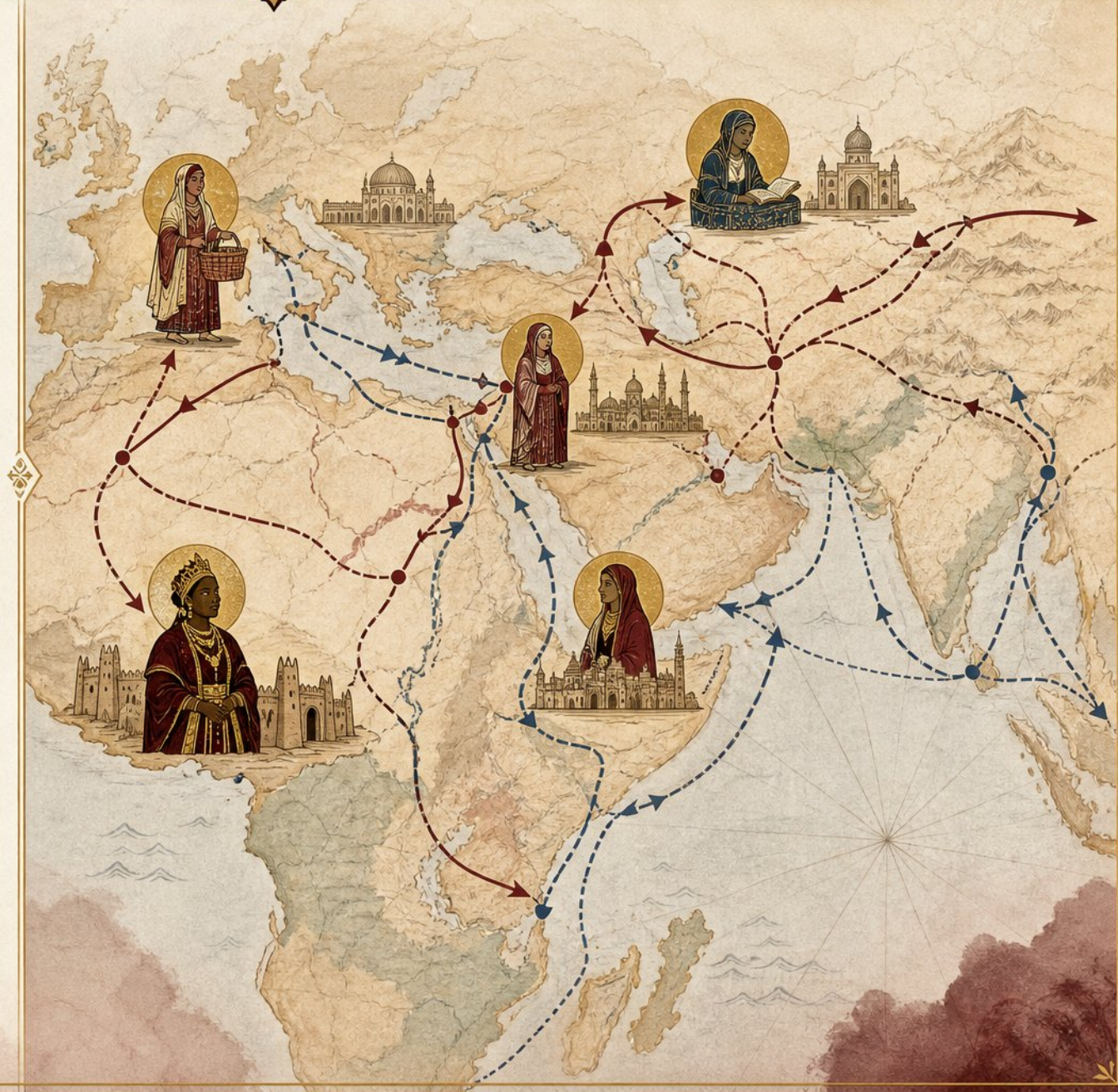
Religion, Empire, and Gender Order in the Classical Era

- Religious traditions both shaped and were shaped by gender norms
- Early Christian women held authority as martyrs, presbyters, and deacons
- Buddhist nuns like Dhammadinna and Khema taught prominent male listeners
- Confucian hierarchies merged with Buddhist values at Chinese courts
- Imperial expansion reshaped elite and ordinary women's roles across Afro-Eurasia



Medieval Transformations: Trade, Faith, and Gendered Power

- Long-distance trade expanded women's work and mobility across Afro-Eurasia
- New faiths opened spaces for female piety, learning, and authority
- Women ruled as regents and sovereigns from Kanem-Bornu to Yemen
- Zumurrud of Damascus commanded Mamluks to assassinate her son
- Aissa Koli ruled Kanem-Bornu in her own right, c. 1563–1570
- Slavery and concubinage built racialized gender hierarchies



The Early Modern World: Households, Colonies, and Global Exchange

- State-building varied by region in Europe, Asia, and the Americas
- Colonial encounters reshaped indigenous gender systems and authority
- Women navigated free, indentured, and enslaved statuses across oceans
- The household was a unit of production, consumption, and politics
- Indigenous traditions often remained complementary despite European pressure

FREE



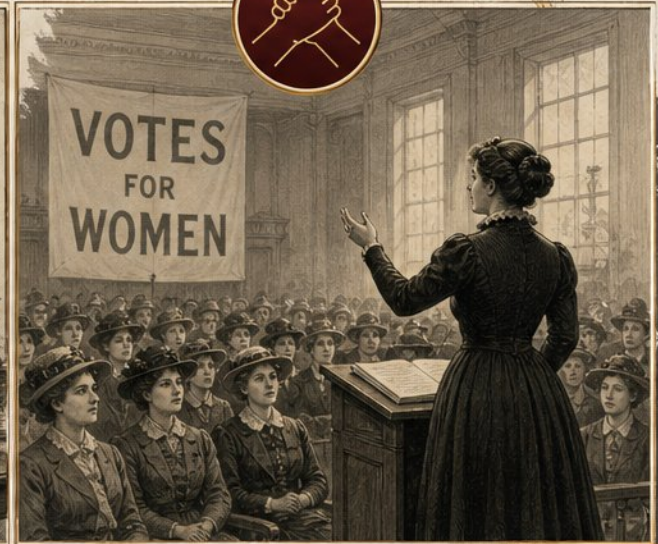
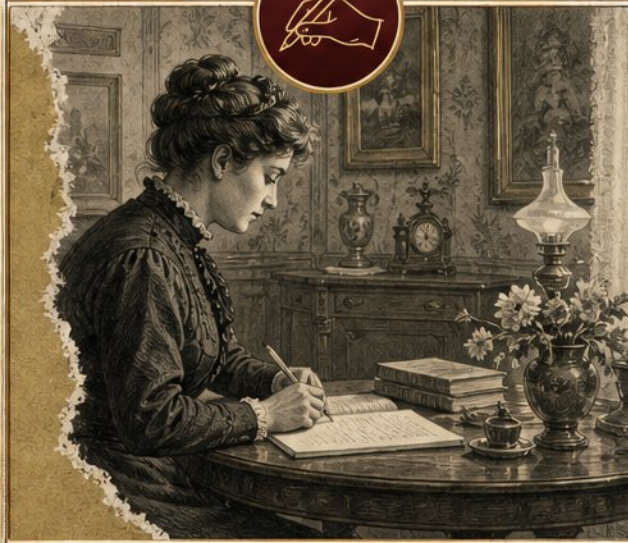
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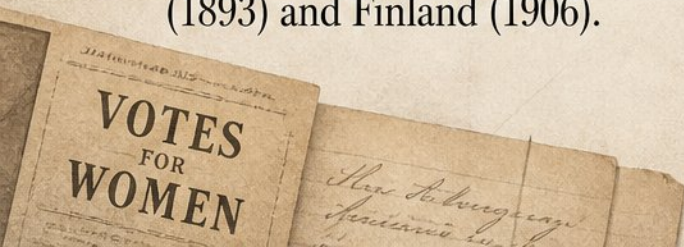
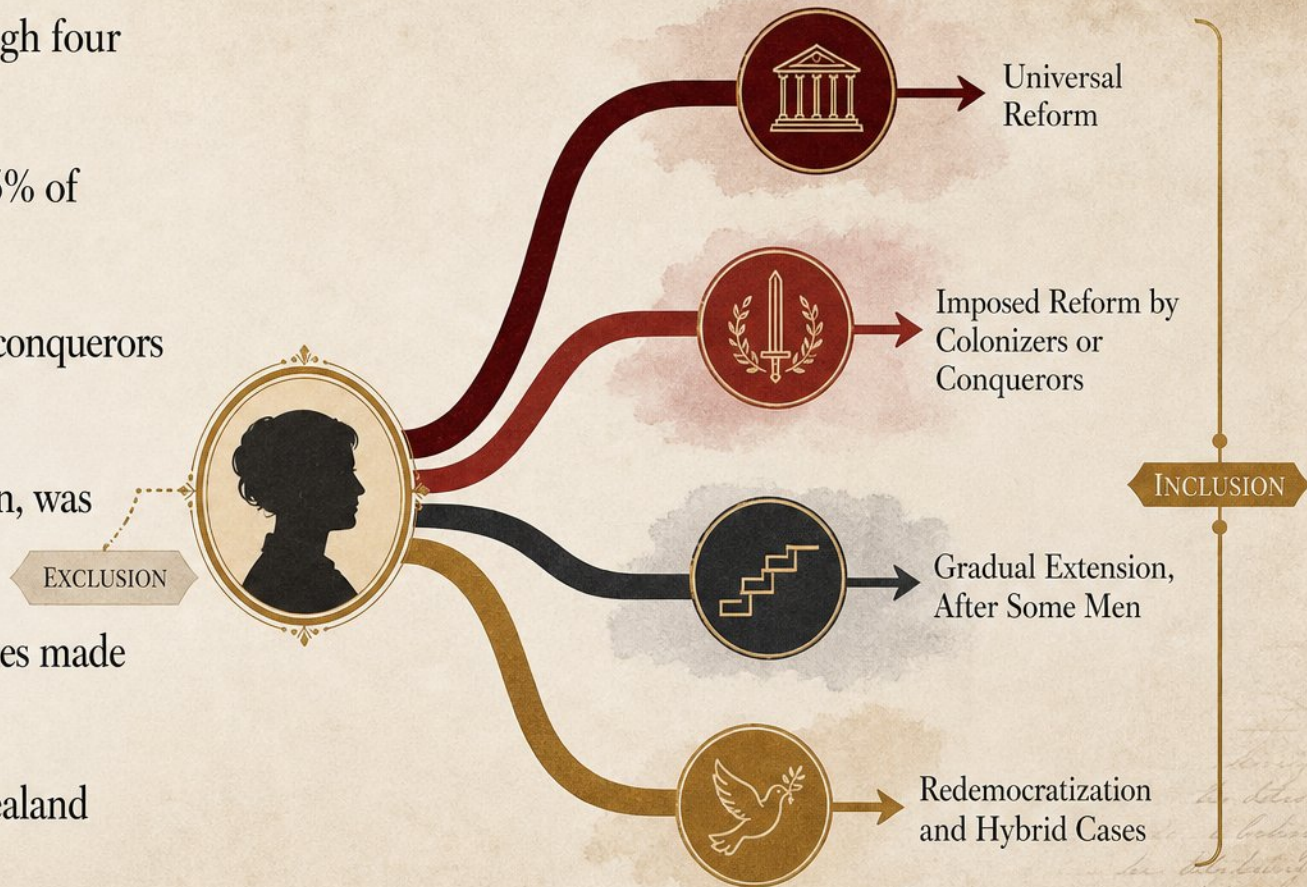
Industrialization, Imperialism, and the Remaking of Gender



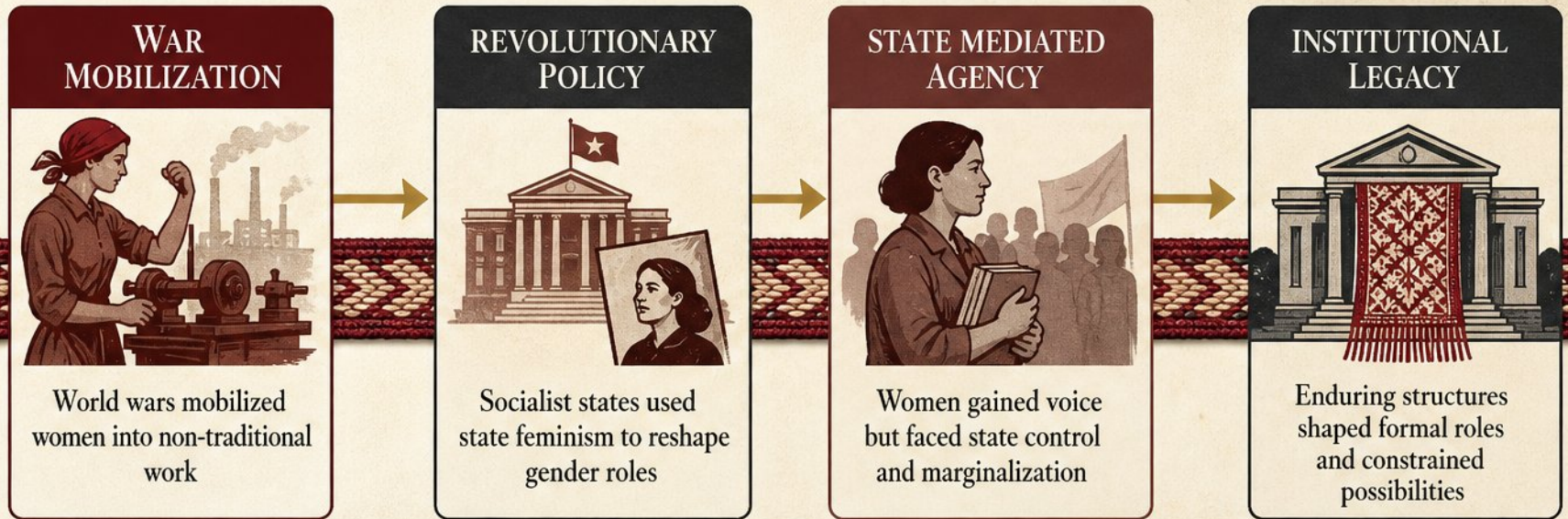
- Factory labor challenged the male breadwinner ideal
- Imperial civilizing missions policed women's bodies
- Organized women's movements emerged across continents
- Education and literacy expanded women's public roles

Suffrage and Political Citizenship in Comparative Perspective

- Women won voting rights through four contextual paths.
- Universal reform occurred in 15% of countries granting suffrage.
- Imposed reform by colonizers or conquerors accounted for 28%.
- Gradual extension, after some men, was most common at 44%.
- Redemocratization and hybrid cases made up the remaining 14%.
- The first movers included New Zealand (1893) and Finland (1906).



War, Revolution, and State Feminism in the Twentieth Century



- World wars mobilized women into non-traditional work
- Socialist states used state feminism to reshape gender roles
- Women gained voice but faced state control and marginalization
- Decolonization movements enlisted women as organizers and symbols
- Transnational socialist networks linked women across Second and Third Worlds

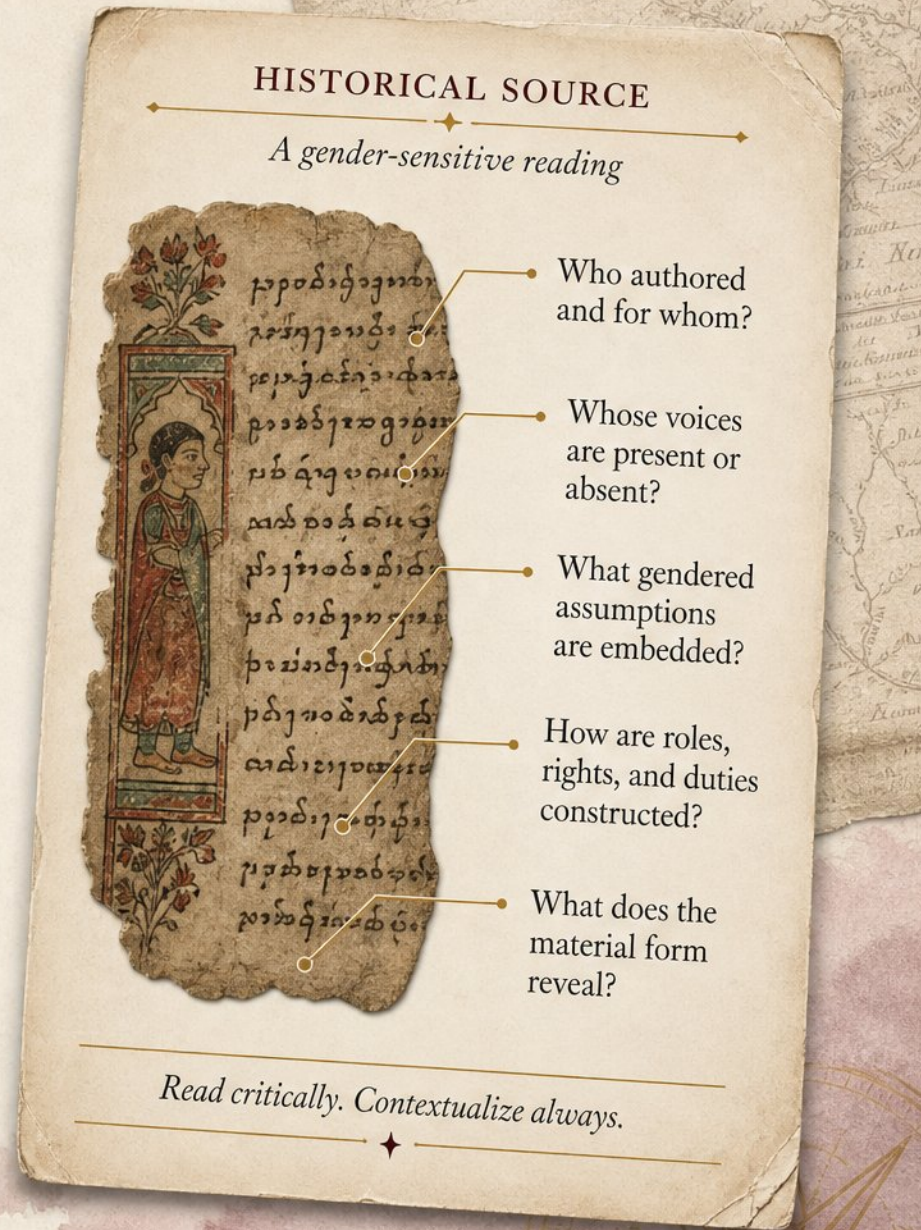
Contemporary Gender Issues in Global Perspective

- ✦ - Global labor markets increasingly rely on feminized, mobile care work
- ✦ - Reproductive rights remain a contested field of bodily politics
- ✦ - LGBTQ+ movements organize transnationally despite regional backlash
- ✦ - Women still earn only one-third of global labor income
- ✦ - Legal equality exists on paper, but enforcement lags everywhere



Gender Analysis in Practice: Methods and Sources

- ✦ Question who is privileged in mainstream historical narratives
- ✦ Integrate gender; move beyond merely adding women
- ✦ Read legal codes, sacred texts, and visual culture critically
- ✦ Use material culture when written records are scarce
- ✦ Avoid anachronism by contextualizing past gender systems



Designing Gender-Inclusive History for Learners and Audiences



- Integrate gender into narratives; avoid "add women and stir"



- Use chronological, thematic, and case-study approaches strategically



- Expand sources: legal codes, material culture, oral histories, visuals



- Avoid tokenism by featuring diverse women as historical actors



- Connect historical gender analysis to contemporary debates



Chronological Narrative

Situate gender within time and sequence to reveal change and continuity.



Thematic Approach

Explore gender across themes and structures that shape experiences.



Case-Study Approach

Examine specific contexts and lives to deepen understanding and nuance.

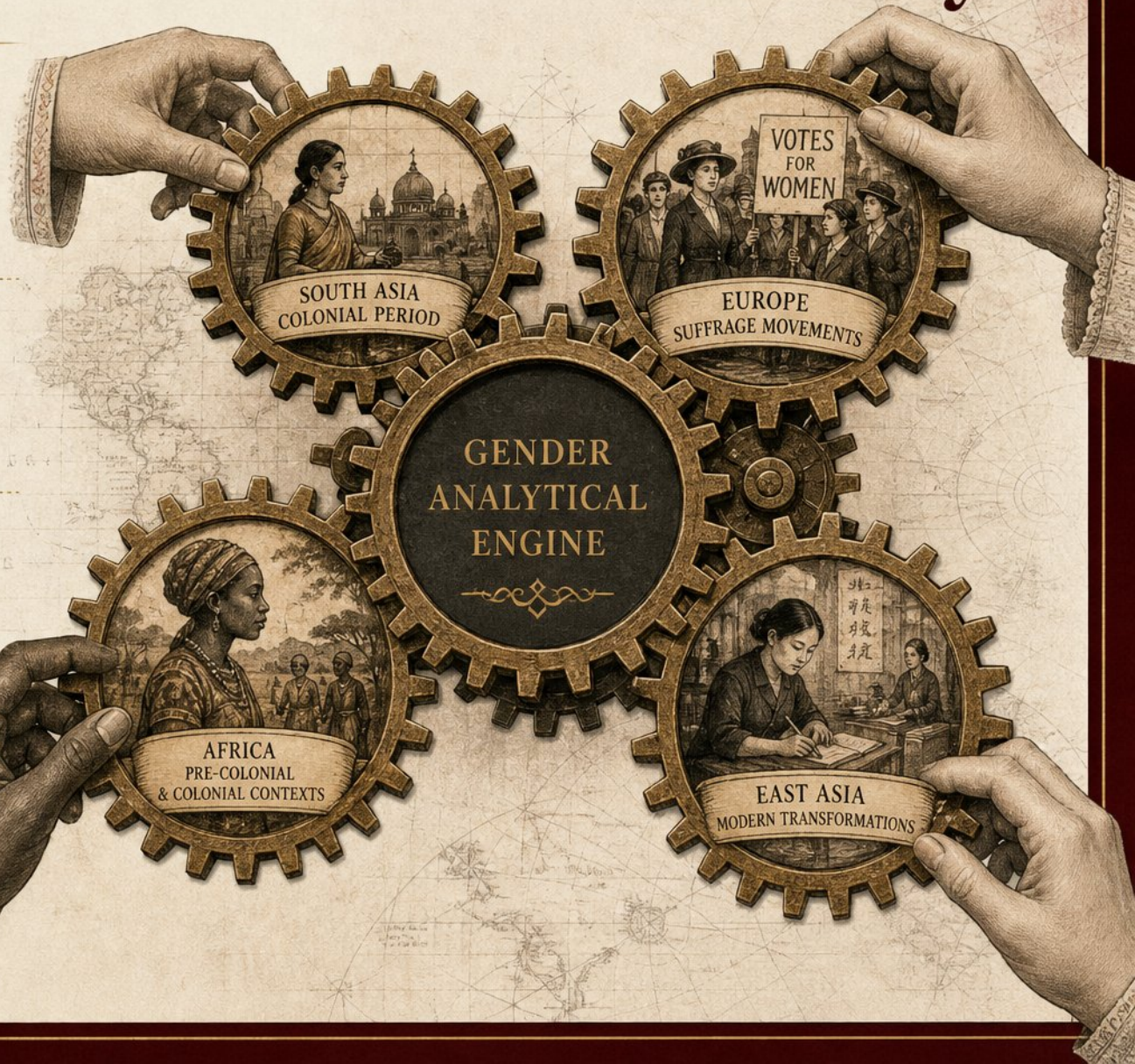


Inclusive Learning Goal

Empower learners and audiences through gender-inclusive history that informs, challenges, and inspires.

Key Takeaways and Further Practice in Gender History

- ◆ Gender is a historically variable analytical category, not a fixed or universal condition
- ◆ Women's and gender history must be intersectional and globally comparative
- ◆ Gender analysis improves research, teaching, and content creation
- ◆ Explore further reading, curriculum development, and original research



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