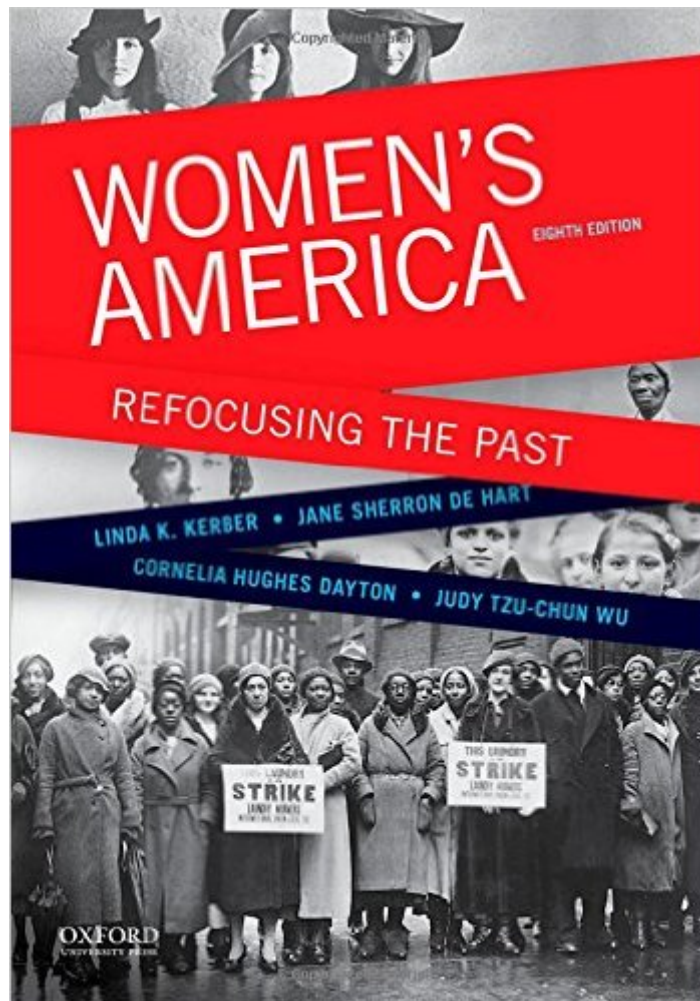


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# Women's America: Refocusing The Past



## Synopsis

Featuring a mix of primary source documents, articles, and illustrations, *Women's America: Refocusing the Past* has long been an invaluable resource. Now in its eighth edition, the book has been extensively revised and updated to cover recent developments in U.S. women's history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The introduction to this book suggests that women's history (and I mean in the USA) can be studied in stages, with each era of history bringing changes and progress. Take for instance Amelia Earhart, which the authors use as an example of courage. While she was definitely an innovator, as there were few women aviators at the time, she wasn't the first woman in the USA to show courage. Half a century earlier, hadn't thousands of women taken risks when their families moved into the Great Plains? Anyone who saw the recent remake of *True Grit* knows that the "pioneer woman" of the 1800s had to have assumed great risk. It is for this reason, that the authors advise the following criteria when reading this book; identify the historical source, ask who created it, ask why, ask how the attitudes (or laws) of the time influenced the recording, and ask who it was meant for. An early chapter here covers the issue of women in early America, with special emphasis on those that were enslaved. The authors write about how rice harvesting was a back-breaking job, often done by the women. They cut through the Uncle Ben and Aunt Jemima stereotypes, and show us how the reality was even worse. The women performed hard manual labor, and relatively few were tasked strictly with cooking, cleaning, and childcare. A more interesting piece is the issue of something called "Interspousal Tort Immunity." Under English

Common Law, the husband and wife were considered one person, so they could not sue each other. The wife could therefore not claim any damages if her husband beat her or stole from her. The chapter is comically titled "Why Diamonds Really Are a Girl's Best Friend" in that the jewelry bestowed as an engagement gift was in fact a defense.

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