



**AP[®] European History
2004 Sample Student Responses
Form B**

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D-1

The changing status of individuals due to war is a common phenomenon throughout European history. The new need for women in the workforce at a time when ~~women~~ men began being drafted, the political support for women's rights from ~~so~~ some socialist leaders, and the general increase in a more humanitarian attitude toward formerly oppressed individuals all played a part in helping women gain rights in the last half of the 20th century. Two key factors determined the changing role of women between 1914 to 1939, and served to assist, as well as slow down, the women's movements of Europe. War and national gain was one key factor, and ~~ideological~~ ideology a second.

One may see the increased role of women in economics by viewing her increased participation in the workforce. In England, ~~the~~ more women were pushed to find jobs ~~during~~ after husbands were drafted and, at the same time, were pushed to sell war bonds ~~to~~ and join factories to directly assist in the war effort. In Germany, women were pushed to join the ranks of the

in the 1930s,
Nazi party, though they ~~was~~ later lost rights upon the success of the Nazi party, when the political need for women no longer existed. In both these instances, a practical, war-time ~~need~~ need for women helped her gain ~~so~~ rights to work. At the same time, after WWI, and later after WWII, ~~these rights were~~ many of these rights were lost as war came home.

Just as the war efforts in England in WWI and II, and the ^{early} efforts of the Nazi party initially helped women in both the workforce and in political rank, a similar phenomenon occurred in Soviet Russia. There, as in England and Germany, women were initially ~~a~~ equal players in the effort to bring about Socialist Revolution and democracy. However, while ~~these~~ women's rights and political participation was emphasized by the Social Revolutionary Party, ~~the~~ and while the eventual success of ~~the~~ Lenin's Social Democratic party ~~&~~ initially brought tremendous improvements for women, and encouraged equality

between the sexes, ~~status~~ under Stalin many of these improvements were reversed. Women had the right to divorce under the earlier years of Communist rule, and the right to keep their property and income after a divorce. ~~However~~ Abortions were legal for women as well, ~~and~~ and birth-control was distributed for sale as well. Once these rights were taken away, however, the social reality for women in Russia, which strongly affected their economic flexibility and status, was limited. Without the right to divorce and without the means for abortions and easy access to birth control, women ~~could not~~ began to ~~become~~ be more economically dependent on their husbands, and less ~~likely~~ likely to build a career.

As ~~the~~ women in Russia ~~lost~~ gained, and then lost rights which ~~the~~ were caused by and resulted in political and economic changes in their status, an ideological movement in Western Europe pushed for women's suffrage, ~~as~~ as the practical need for women in the workforce increased.

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In England, hunger strikes, marches, and campaigns were lead by the suffrage movement, and included both women and men. Unlike the slow change instigated by the practical war effort, these were ideologically-minded suffragettes emphasized the need for women to gain the vote. Simply by participating in the marches, these women were increasing the amount of women participation in politics, and, as time went by, the issues of women holding property and having a right to divorce, were included in their demands. Unlike the practical reasons for given women more opportunities during war years, the ideological women's movements helped women gain lasting rights even during times of peace, and even call for peace during times of war.

Therefore, two simultaneous impacts of women - the ideological demands for women's rights, and the practical need for female political and economic support - can be seen throughout Europe. Both these phenomena paved the way,

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even while at times limiting, ~~to political~~
~~and economic~~ the rights of women, and
~~with~~ assisted in the eventual permanent
participation of women in political and
economic life.

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5.

E-1

Between the start of World War One and the start of World War Two, European women's role in the economy and politics increased because of political, social, and military reasons.

Politically, women gained a more active voice in politics. Especially because women had been pushing for female suffrage since the mid 1850s, they saw the culmination of their efforts by the early 1900s. In Great Britain, women got the right to vote with some restrictions in the 1910s but by the 1920s these restrictions were dropped and they fully won the right to vote. Such victories for women enabled them to have the fair and greater say in government affairs for which they had worked toward for many years. Women used their greater political voices to push for reforms, specifically in the industrial realm.

Socially, people were slowly becoming more open to the idea of women assuming leadership positions. Accordingly, it became more socially acceptable to see women assume jobs that formerly only men had held, such as professional and manual-labor jobs. Women themselves wanted such positions, especially they (the jobs) showed their independence and equal capabilities. Basically, as the times changed, women continued to step up in the roles they placed in society.

One must also realize that the huge war effort behind World War One contributed to the rise of women's influence in society. With so many men needed to fight the Great War, women had to take over factory jobs ^{and truck-driving jobs} that had once been only for men. ^{Many} women willingly took such positions because they wholeheartedly supported their husbands and country. Particularly because of governments' encouragement to

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women to help out in the war effort caused women to help.

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