

Romanian Women in the New Economic Context of the Twentieth Century

Abstract:

The study aims at revealing some of the key aspects of the process through which women started to become “economic players.” The analysis concentrates on the women from the Romanian society but integrated in the European context. Two are the processes, both European and Romanian, between which the study develops: the Industrial Revolution and the First World War. A major turn in history, the Industrial Revolution, can also be seen as a “women’s revolution” due to the effects and the impact it had on the women’s role in the society. The fact that women had stepped through labor outside the limited circle of family was a real progress that generated the development of the feminist movements. Our intention is to identify the extent to which the new economic context that emerged at the beginning of the twentieth century influenced women from the Romanian society as well. The study, part of an extended research project, is limited for the moment at the analysis of the theoretical debates that this progress on the labor market generated, as we think that they perfectly mirror the reactions pro and against this challenge of the traditional gender roles.

Keywords: *Economy, Gender Differences, Labour, Debates, Emancipation.*