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**British Women's Roles during the Second World War  
1939-1945**

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## ***Dedication***

*I would like to dedicate my work to my great parents,*

*for their years of love and encouragement.*

*Because of their guidance and example,*

*I am a woman today.*

## ***Acknowledgements***

*I would like to first say a very big thank you to my supervisor Misses Ghermaoui for all the support and encouragement she gave me, during the long months proceeded. Without her guidance and constant feedback, this dissertation would not been achievable.*

*Very much thank to my parents for their love, educating and preparing me for my future. A special thank to my family especially my sister and brothers. I would also like to thank my wonderful husband who was very patient to help me in my studies, thank you for supporting me for everything, and principally I can't thank you enough for encouraging me throughout this experience.*

*Finally, I expand my thanks to my pen friends, thank you for listening, offering me advice, backing me through this entire process.*

## **Abstract**

The aim of the present paper is to investigate and identify the roles of British Women during the Second World War 1939\_1945. The thesis details the ways in which Women were experienced a variety of roles from country to another, how they were treated in the domestic service, the workforce and the armed forces as the best example of the successful mobilization of the energies and abilities of Women in the service of nation. In the Second World War, Women were more active in the military through auxiliary groups such as Women's Auxiliary Air Force and it is important to understand how much of an impact their work made on the Allies war effort. The present paper concludes that British Women played a major role during World War Two, however at the end they found that the advances they had made were greatly reduced and the attitudes to the role of Women in the services were changed forever.

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## General Introduction

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Women are the inherent part of our society and cannot be neglected due to a less power and authority. They are created as a companion for men and men have to make them walk with them in the course of life. They play their roles with great responsibilities in upbringing of a healthy solid society. Women were seen as mother, sister, daughter, wife who was intended to cook, clean, and take care of the kids.

The basic unit of society is a Woman. As Woman makes a family, family makes a home and homes make a society. So we should think that a society would come into existence without the contribution of Women. We all know that without education, no development is possible. Here we have forgotten that the very first and best school of a child is its mother's lap. A good healthy society needs to be emerged and for its emergence Women play a pivotal role.

The proposed work aims to be dealing with British Women and their Roles during Second World War, in which, Women had demonstrated themselves capable of more than just motherhood and housewifery. Early in the twentieth century, they won the right to vote, sought higher education, joined the workforce, and held strikes to attain better working conditions. On numerous occasions, Women have overcome adversity and shown their full capacity to the world.

In this work I plan a research of my advantage gradually in order to find answers for the following questions as well as; what are the Roles of British Women during Second World War? When did the government pass the national act that permit the induction of Women into the armed forces? Is the Women's Voluntary Service the best example of the successful mobilization of the energies and abilities of Women in the service of the Nation? How many Women were presenting with Auxiliary territorial Service? Where did Women's Royal Naval Service work? What is the fundamental purpose behind Women's Auxiliary Air Force?

The present dissertation is divided into three main chapters. The first chapter focuses on the roles of British Women before the Second World War as well as at home in which Women were expected to be housewives, they cooked and cleaned. Many Women found work as clerks, teachers and nurses. Therefore Wives had political rights and involvement in society. This chapter also examines why Women's international activism should be a subject of scholarly interest, then presents the myriad and vibrant forms it could take.

## General Introduction

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The second chapter explains the Roles of ladies during the Second World War as in the armed forces, They were given a choice of working in industry or joining one of the auxiliary services; the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) or the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS), Women also volunteered for the Land Army (WLA), Voluntary Service (WVS) and Timber Corps (WTC).

The third chapter discusses Women after Second World War, in which this period affected personal, social and political life of millions of people on our planet as well as Women. Moreover, the chapter includes the impact of World War two on the work of Women as a result inequality and discrimination appeared.

CHAPTER

ONE

**Introduction**

Too short for a start, the first chapter will present the role of British Women before the second World War, thus the chapter discusses four major divisions that include; the role at home in which Women were anticipated to be housewives or perhaps to do certain Women's job, moreover, at work, the female worked hard in many domains for instance; mechanics, building ships, plumbers then ambulance drivers. Thus, Women's contribution in politics. At the beginning of the twentieth wives could vote, they also surged into the labour party and political movements. The last one is about Women and their Roles in the international activism.

**1-1 -At home**

Before the Second World War, Women had a very stereotypical role in British society. If married, they stayed at home. More frequently women focused to do certain women's jobs such as nursing or shop assistant, domestic tasks of washing and cleaning as well as raising children, they also undertook sewing lace-making and assembling toys or boxes.

With the arrival of the war, women continued this work but their duties expanded to include maintaining the household finances and having to do heavy jobs like mending furniture and filling the coal bunker.(Women's Roles in the home front)

In the early 1900, families were larger than they are now, having seven or eight children was not unusual and some families had many more. There was a lot of hard work to do in the house and most women managed without much help from their husbands or the sort of modern machines that we have today like washing machines and vacuum cleaners.

In many ways, housewives began to carry out additional jobs serving as paying family bills house repairs. They worried about their children, about food-rationing and about men away at war. Many women had to face a future without their husbands and sons when they were killed at war.

The war bestowed two valuable legacies on women. First, it opened up a wider range of occupations to female workers and hastened the collapse of traditional women's employment particularly domestic service, between 11 and 13 percent of female population in England and Wales were domestic servants. By 1931, the percentage had dropped to under eight percent.(Women on the home front in World War One)

For the middle classes, the decline of domestic servants was facilitated by the rise of domestic appliances, such as cookers, waitress, electric irons, maids or children's nurses in the homes of well-off families. Many young women went into service as soon as they left school, however they did not work in grand houses. The population of labour-saving devices does not, however expail the dramatic drop in the servant population.

Middle-class women continued to clamour for servants, but working women who might previously have enticed into service were being drawn away by alternative employment opening up to satisfy the demands of war, thus nearly half of the first recruits were former domestic servants.

The number of women in the civil service increased from 33.000 to 102.000 by 1921. The advantages of these alternative employments over domestic service were obvious: wages were higher, conditions better, and independence enhanced.

Servants kept on to do all kinds of jobs around the house just as making fires, sweeping and dusting, scrubbing floors and waiting at table. If a servant was lucky and worked hard, she might get a job as a lady's maid, helping her mistress to dress, fixing her hair in the latest styles, looking after her clothes and running her a bath. Rich families with big houses could have ten or more housemaids as well as other servants.

Servants were not paid a lot and the hours were very long. They had little time off and had to obey strict rules. The war changed life for some young servants when they left their jobs in service for new jobs in war factories where the pay was better.

Fewer people had so many servants. This was due to a number of reasons. Women's roles had changed dramatically during the war and many had enjoyed taking on more responsibility in offices and factories. New technology at this time also meant that some families bought machines to save time and effort like vacuum cleaners and they did not need to employ as many servants as before.(Women's Roles on the home front)

## **1-2- At work**

During the 1920s and 30s, the economy was plunged into a recession leading to very high levels of unemployment. The peak of women's trade union membership reached in 1920. Nearly one and half million, 25% of the total female workforce had dropped to a mere one million by 1939, despite the fact that the percentage of women within the total workforce had risen. This bleak statistic can't be accounted for by suggesting that women became 'anti-union' in the inter war years.

In the general climate of unemployment, Women workers were perceived as a threat. Their employment was rising from 27% of the total workforce in 1923 to 30% in 1939 so it was thought, of that of men.

Although unemployment benefit had been introduced through the National Insurance Act, Women were not eligible for benefits if they refused to take up available jobs in domestic service. All this served to force women back towards what was considered 'women's work' like laundry, dress making, domestic work and work in 'sweated industries' (shop workers-union of shop, distributive and Allied Workers). During this period, The government replicated women's unequal pay rates in the labour market by setting the unemployment benefit for women at a lower rate than that for men.

However, some job opportunities in new light making electrical goods industries and professions did open up for women through the 1920s and 30s. Following the education act of 1918 which raised the school leaving age to 14, Women were better educated, many women found work as clerks, teachers and nurses, The Sex Disqualification Act of 1919 made it easier for women to go to university and enter their professions. Middle class women benefited from increased job opportunities. During this time, Women began to get jobs in increasing numbers in the civil service accounting for about a quarter of all such posts by 1935, though these were mostly at clerical and administrative grades rather than the technical and professional jobs which were dominated by men.

Some jobs in new and existing industries came to be considered 'women's work' such as assembly work in the engineering, electrical, food and drink industries, as well as clerical work, typing and counter-Sales. However, these jobs were low paid and involved long working hours and shift work. Women workers were usually excluded from supervisory roles or work that was considered to be 'Skilled', despite women's successful roles in such jobs during world war one.

By the 1930s, about one third of British women over 15 worked outside the home, of whom nearly a third still worked in domestic service, however, only one tenth of married women worked. Prominent social expectations at that time reinforced the view that caring and cooking

was exclusively 'women's work'. Indeed without electrical appliances like washing machines, domestic labour was time-consuming and hard work. (Women and Work)

The civil service, the education sector and new professions operated and 'marriage bar' which meant that women had to resign their posts when they got married. Even those who defied these unofficial rules found that it was impossible to continue working once they had children.

Trade unions, which were led by men, continued to be concerned that women would be employed as cheap labour in these new industries, the wartime demand for wage equality had previously been utilized to recruit women to trade unions. But most unions drew back from this demand. Instead they actively campaigned to restrict women's employment in certain industries by calling for a strict application of the 'marriage bar' or the introduction of one. Almost all of them refused to campaign or shelved demands for equal pay. (Striking Women)

By 1931, a working women's weekly wage had returned to the pre-war situation of half the male rate in most industries. During this period, Women gained the right to vote and this led to some early attempts to mobilize the women's votes on issues of concern to women, including issues at work.

Others, like the Post Office Workers went even further and called on a halt to female employment all together. In these ways many of the unions contributed to the problem that they thought they were addressing, namely the use of women as cheap labour in a time of recession and high unemployment.

In trade union membership, the drop was a problem that might be redressed if only women could be persuaded to swell the declining ranks and boost the depleted coffers. Hence at the same time as pursuing negative policies on the employment of women, individual unions were involved in recruitment campaigns. In 1921, it established a Women's Advisory Committee and later in 1926, an annual Women's Conference to assist the General Council in tackling the 'problem' of women'. The women's committee was left to launch a series of recruitment campaigns that proposed to increase the involvement of women by establishing local women's

committees. Such committees would campaign around the issues of most concern to women workers and would assist in recruitment.

The General Council itself stepped in 1937 and also in 1939, with its own remedy. It launched two campaigns based on the assumption that trade unionism would bring women if it appealed to them on the basis of such 'womanly' issues just as personal health and beauty. According to a special leaflet, trade unionism enhanced with a radiant looking female clad in a swimming costume, was the 'ticket' to health and beauty since it would ensure that improved wages secured by unions could be used to buy cosmetics and other adornments.

### **1-3- In politics**

#### **1.3.1 The Women's Suffrage Movement**

The Women's Suffrage Movement was the struggle for the right of women to vote and run for office and part of the overall women's rights movement. In the mid-19th century, women in several countries most notably Britain formed organizations to fight for suffrage. Women began discussing the problems they faced in society and the different ways they wanted to change their lives.(The Women's Suffrage Movement)

Although British women and men had been arguing for both universal and women's suffrage since the 1860s, the movement for women's votes accelerated when Emmeline and Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia founded the women's social and political Union 'WSPU' in 1903. A more radical organization than some of the earlier ones fighting for suffrage. Its slogan was 'Deeds Not Words' and in fact the WSPU became more and more militant as the years went on and the British government refused to support women's suffrage.

In 1906, a liberal government was elected to parliament for the first time, with first Henry Campbell. Bannerman then in 1908, Herbert Asquith as Prime Minister. Suffragettes were very hopeful that the Liberals would support them as promised in many candidates' election campaigns.

But they were to be disappointed, particularly with Asquith. Even the Women's Sunday March in Hyde Park in June 1908, in which 250,000 people shout 'votes for women' did not move Asquith to allow a suffrage bill to be introduced.

As suffragettes<sup>1</sup> became more militant, their actions and their treatment by the police became more violent. What began as women claiming themselves to railings outside the Prime Minister's residence accelerated into window smashing, and then descended into states of riot at demonstrations-often orchestrated by police. Inevitably suffragettes were arrested for public disorder and give prison sentences of anywhere from three days to several months.

The most notorious prison was Holloway in north London. On 18 November 1910, a protest in Parliament Square turned violent and police beat many suffragettes. After that the movement began to wage guerilla war face, orchestrating systematic window-smashing and arson attacks. As it became more radical and violent, the WSPU lost many of its supporters.

In June 1913, Emily Wilding Division threw herself under the king's horse at the Derby racecourse and was killed. She was the only suffragette to die for the cause and was made into a martyr. In August 1914, war was declared in Europe. The suffrage movement suspended its activities, the government released all suffragettes from prison, and the Pankhurst and others threw themselves into supporting Britain's War Effort. Around a million women took on men's jobs as they went off to fight in the war.

In February 1918, the government passed an act giving women the vote if they were over the age of 30 and either owned property, or was the wife of someone who did. As a result, 8, 5 million women became entitled to vote in the General Election of 1918.

On 2 July 1928, a law was passed allowing all women over the age of 21 years to vote. It is debatable how much effect the suffragette's movement had on bringing about changes in voting laws. Some believe the movement's militancy made the government more intransigent. Others say the 1918 Act was passed as a reward for women's efforts during the war rather than anything

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<sup>1</sup> Suffragettes :women seeking the right to vote through organized protest.

the suffragettes did. There are no doubts, however, that the suffragettes raised the profile of the issue of women's votes to that of national consideration.

### **1.3.2 Political waves during the women's movement**

The majority of wives in political families did not take interest in campaigns for vote for women at the beginning of the twentieth century or were even against it. One of the reasons was that they enjoyed the protection of class, wealth and privilege. Some political wives also possessed more important indirect influence than the vote could give them. Although, many women believed that they should have the right to vote, they thought that social and economic improvement of the working-class women was more fundamental. The first step to involve women in politics was at the end of the nineteenth century when women's auxiliary political associations, as for instance the women's Liberal Foundation and the women's Liberal unionist Association, sought for women as unpaid party workers. This played an important role in politicizing women and served as a training ground in political activities and organizations.(Stefania, Abrar,N.P)

The role of political wives altered significantly during the 1910s when they were expected to participate actively in elections. The women's movement was partly responsible for these changes since they helped to educate upper class-women about the suffrage question. Women obtained the right to vote in parliamentary elections. A decade later this right was extended to the rest, as Women were enfranchised as Men. This proved largely a hollow victory. (Rasmussen, Jorgen. S, 300-315)

### **1.3.3 Women in parliament**

In 1918, women 30 years and older granted the right to vote, but the government gave the vote as a reward for services rendered during the first world war, not in recognition of their equal rights to citizenship. In 1919, women allowed to stand up for elections, in the 1928, the vote for Women were secured on the same terms as men. The years following the suffrage grant of 1918, working-class women surged into the Labour Party and political movements.(Olive, Banks,N.P)

An atmosphere of optimism and self-confidence was developed and the new Women members expected to join the fight for class justice on equal terms with their male comrade's .By 1922, one hundred thousand women had joined the women's section of Local Labour Parties. But, at the decade progressed, it became clear that they lacked the necessary power to achieve an equal partnership. The expected surge of women into leading position in local government councils and in Parliament did not occur. The gap between candidacy of political women in local councils, in national executive committees and in the parliament was extreme.

No more than a handful of women were elected as delegates to annual conferences. Only nine women became Labour Members of Parliament in the period between the wars. The small number of female MPS was completely ineffectual that even concerning to women's issues; they depend on the male support and vote. Decisions-making power remained firmly in the hands of those who were already held it-the male members.(Pamela ,Gaves, N.P)

### **1.3.4 Politics for Women**

Women in the 20s were apprehensive to join politics due to the extensive discrimination, in the beginning of 1900s women could not much of anything in the male dominated political world, Women could not vote, serve on juries, or hold any type of political office, it was a common belief that women and men's roles should not overlap, however, during world war one, many women worked out of the home for the first time. They filled the vacant jobs men left when they were shipped out to fight overseas.(Women's Suffrage)

Women activists thought of themselves as social reformers, the main political focus insisted on domestic and female. On the issue of equal pay the unity among women MP was most obvious and forceful. (Joni, Lovenduski, N.P)

Nevertheless it took several stages till equal pay became law. Other topics which interested especially women were for instance the Sex Disqualification in 1919 or the claim of Equal Guardianship Right in the 1920's, as well as the Matrimonial Act in 1923 or Widows' Pension in 1925.

**1-4- In International Activism**

Although the First World War led to many radical changes on the world stage, including the appearance of rival visions of democratic participation, social justice and national self-determination, the years 1919 to 1939 must rank as one of the most difficult periods to categorize in the history of women's international activism. After more than four years of devastating worldwide conflict, involving unprecedented levels of forced migration, death, disease and family separation, internationally organized women across the globe had to take stock and reconstitute themselves in face of fresh challenges to come. The restitution of peace in 1919-1920 albeit very much a victors' peace imposed upon the vanquished allowed women's movements at national and international levels to slowly heal the internal divisions that had emerged between pro- and anti-war voices in the years 1914 to 1919.

True, it was to take some time before women activists from the defeated nations were welcomed back into the ranks of the more conservative-minded international women's organizations, but at least campaigners from Allied and neutral countries could re-establish contacts that had been broken not only by political differences after 1914 but also by interruptions in postal communications and practical barriers to foreign travel caused by the fighting. (Wilmers, See Anika, N.P). On the other hand, whether they had been pro-or anti-war before 1918, women's groups and individual female activists were frustrated by their complete exclusion both from the peace talks in Paris in 1919-1920, and from subsequent efforts at the level of high politics to establish a new order in international relations. Men, it seemed, were determined to bar women from active involvement in foreign policy and diplomacy on the grounds that they would 'naturally' prioritize peace and reconciliation over other, supposedly more important matters of state interest, such as maintaining or developing existing wartime alliances, securing new borders, and protecting the interests of national and religious minorities.

While lip-service was occasionally paid to equality of rights for women in international negotiations, in reality decisions over how best to resolve ongoing territorial disputes and alleged violations of the rights of minority communities in individual countries and how to confront or deter future acts of aggression committed by one state or group of states against another were left in the hands of men. Even important steps towards preventing further world wars, such as the Kellogg-Briand Pact, signed by fifty-seven countries and renouncing the use of armed force as a means of resolving 'disputes and conflicts of whatever kind', reflected male priorities and assumptions about how international politics should work, and how the competing interests of individual nations and states might be reconciled. As was the case with the Paris Peace Conference, women were not given a hearing by the delegates invited to the French president's summer residence in Rambouillet in 1928 to sign this solemn new undertaking to maintain world peace. All of the delegates were men, and, worse still, a group of militant women protestors who gathered outside to present a petition in favor of an equal voice for their own sex were arrested by the French police. (Rupp, Leila J,138-139)

In fact, this proved to be something of a turning point. Although some female peace activists operating across borders continued to put their trust in the League of Nations as the best way of mediating international disputes and preventing armed conflict, six leading women's organizations-the International Council of Women , The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the World's Young Women's Christian Association, the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, the World Union of Women for International Concord, and the International Federation of University Women-issued a joint 'appeal of the world's women to the world's statesmen' in 1930, criticizing what they saw as:

an increasing and ominous tendency of the Press, the general public and even Governmental circles to discuss, or admit in discussion, the possibility of another war; this in utter disregard of the sacred Kellogg-Briand pact formally renouncing war which has just been signed by fifty-seven civilized nations. We declare the work for peace to be the most urgent task before the world to-day. We appeal, therefore, to every right-thinking person and, in particular, to women, who pay the first cost of human life, to realize their responsibility and power. We ask every single individual to use his active influence to combat the idea of a recourse to violence as the solution of any problem; to work by word and deed for the eradication of the psychological causes of war: fear, ignorance and greed, and to promote by every means

the recognition of the oneness of humanity and the interdependence of nations. (International Council of Women, 8)

Not only did the peace settlement of 1919–1920, the League of Nations and the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 fail to tackle the causes of war mentioned above, but they also left open a number of issues connected to women's rights in particular, especially the twin questions of suffrage and equal citizenship. At the level of international politics, these issues were considered to be a matter for existing states to decide for themselves, irrespective of any feminist campaigns mounted in favor of universal principles of justice and equality. (Sluga, Glenda, 51)

Thus individual countries could refuse women the vote or rescind in part or in full previous acts of enfranchisement, as happened in Hungary after 1922. Moreover, a married women's right to determine her own nationality—rather than being forced to accept that of her husband—was denied almost everywhere. As the number of stateless refugees grew as a result of the redrawing of international borders in the 1920s and the rise of ever-more brutal dictatorships in Europe in the 1930s, the gender inequalities inherent in contemporary approaches to citizenship became increasingly stark.

A woman who married a stateless refugee became stateless herself, as did her children. Minority rights, as well as rights to vote and to access health care, education, housing and welfare, were granted only to those who belonged to a state and while nearly all post-war European states encouraged motherhood as a national and domestic good, they continued to prioritize fatherhood and patriarchal values when it came to determining who did and did not belong in a legal sense. (Gisela Pock, See, 248–259)

In the new world order after 1918, which has been cast by Eric Hobsbawm as marking the initial, 'Wilsonian' phase of a longer 'apogee of nationalism', lasting until 1950 and entailing a 'redrawing of the world political map along national lines', the inter-twined principles of nationality *and* gender thus remained key determinants of an individual's life chances. (Hobsbawm, E.J., N.P)

Moreover, the espousal of nationalism itself, and in particular the more aggressive forms of ethnic nationalism which arose in the inter-war years was frequently associated, especially, but

not only, in Europe, with efforts to return women to the private and domestic spheres International activism, by contrast, was often considered to be unpatriotic and 'unmotherly', especially when it involved women who failed in their supposed 'duty' to marry and have children or who refused to align themselves with a particular nation or national cause.(Kuhlman,230-231)

Jews and pacifists were most vulnerable to exclusion from the new nationalist mainstream, with even 'respectable' conservative women's groups adopting 'moderate' forms of anti-Semitism and anti-communism as a means of positioning themselves far right and fascist organizations. These developments were setbacks indeed for some of the central causes espoused by democratic and internationally organized women since the turn of the twentieth century, but did they constitute, as some writers have claimed, a collective 'backlash' against gender equality and a near-global decline of domestic women's movements in the 1920s and 1930s which lasted through to the 1960s. (Kingsley Kent,Susan,143)

Here recent scholarship has been inclined to take a more nuanced approach, in line with Ann Taylor Allen's call to recognize that women during and after the First World War 'confronted conflicting and discordant definitions of femininity', citizenship and belonging, some of which were socially conservative or reactionary, and some of which embraced and even encouraged radical changes to gender relations and new forms of female mobilization in particular regional, national or imperial settings. Historians of the international women's movement have also reclaimed the 1920s and 1930s as a time in which women's cross-border social and political activism continued to flourish, while developing in varied and sometimes unexpected or disconcerting directions. (Clavine,Patricia,N.P)

The liberal, progressive vision of female solidarity across borders that enthused and mobilized the 'imagined community' was reflected, for instance, in the quinquennial congress of the International Council of Women (ICW), which took place in Vienna in 1930,on Peace through Education, recommending Essay Competitions, with prizes, for the young people of different countries, and urging that the League of Nations should advise National Governments to introduce Courses of lessons into secondary schools showing the disasters caused by War.

In addition, the development of new and terrifying weapons of war that targeted civilian populations challenged the gendered division that separated men from women, combatant from non-combatant. (Grayzel,Susan.R,127-143). In a hostile and threatening world, the imagined community of internationally minded women was thus urgently needed as a model for harmonious relationships between nations and a platform for building a sustainable peace.

After 1918, Women came together as socialists; as advocates of single issues, such as equal rights; as members of occupational categories; as adherents of different religious traditions; and as inhabitants of different regions of the world.(Geneva,Carol Miller, 219-245). The individual essays in this special issue likewise emphasize the growth of women's international activism in the aftermath of the First World War. In some way engendered by the formation of the League of Nations in 1920 that prompted women to come together and seek to address issues now recognized as having a global dimension, as food distribution, famine relief and medical intervention to improve women's health and prevent the spread of diseases.(Dallas,George,198-199)

Women's International Association (WIA), formed after the war. This shared professional identity allowed them to sidestep some controversial issues in national and international politics for instance that of defining themselves in relation to pacifism or the campaign for women's enfranchisement across the globe but not others for instance, the question of whether women from former enemy countries (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey) should be invited to participate.(Mary Hilson,325-347). Although the WIA was not overtly feminist in its goals, its members were bound together by a gendered political cause as well as a professional identity.

The ambiguities inherent in women's international activism during the years between the two world wars are again brought to life in Julie Gottlieb and Matthew Stibbe's account of the little-known visit of the German women's leader Gertrud Scholtz-Klink to London in March 1939, on the eve of the Nazi occupation of Prague. Scholtz-Klink was neither a feminist nor an internationalist, but a loyal Nazi supported Hitler's high-risk annexations of Austria and the Sudetenland in 1938. Nevertheless her visit as leader of an organization that claimed to represent over thirty million German women deserves attention for what it reveals about a shared

conservative vision among women's groups in both countries, particularly in regard to opinions about women's 'nature' and the way to improve women's lives and the health of the nation through greater attention to hygiene and fitness.(Rupp,12)

The fact that British reports on the visit should focus more on Scholtz-Klink's appearance and style of dress than on her potential to further or hinder the cause of peace, is also revealing of the continuing trivialization of women's activism in the sphere of international relations, even as war again appeared on the horizon.

Many of the female activists discussed in this special issue were not internationalists by political conviction or inclination, even if they were willing to work across international boundaries in the interests of peace and/or of specific national goals. Some had a very narrow conception of peace: peace between particular nations rather than peace between all nations; peace between the 'civilized' or capitalist or 'Germanic' nations but not peace with the 'Reds' or the Soviet Union; peace at home but not peace abroad. Some also had quite an essentialist view of women's role as 'natural' peacemakers, whether in the political or the cultural realms, while others avoided the question of gender altogether, and others still saw no contradiction in espousing women's 'natural' affinity with peace while supporting the war aims or revisionist demands of highly militarized societies. Nonetheless, it is possible to find examples of a much more expansive vision, one which incorporated the need to challenge male power and assumptions, even within peace and internationalist movements.

**Conclusion**

Briefly, just before the Second World War, Women obviously had a vital role to play in British society, exceptionally, their life was mainly tied to life of domesticity, As well as their places still to a great extent at home. Women took their position en masse in factories, shops and offices across the country. It is additionally a background marked by Women's contribution in the political scene of Great Britain. Hence, Women had a common Role in international activism.



CHAPTER

TWO

**Introduction**

During the period of World War two, Women from different countries were forced to take on a range of roles. This depicted a global conflict of the highest scale. Owing to this factor, there was an urgency of rallying the whole populace, a factor that led to the expansion of Women's Roles. In the war, Women's Work would be vital therefore thousands Women in various nations were deeply involved in the Land Army, Voluntary Service for Air Raid Precautions, they also served in the armed forces as far as Auxiliary Territorial Service, Women's Royal Naval Service and Auxiliary Air Force, further, Timber Corps.

**2-1 Women's Land Army**

The Women's Army played a fundamental role in Britain during World War Two. The WLA was established in January 1917 but was re-founded shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, in June 1939, to provide extra agricultural labour. The government expected that if war broke out there would be nourishment deficiencies Britain, then as now, depended intensely on imported sustenance, and it was imagined that imperative would be debilitated by foreseen German blockades. Also, numerous male homestead specialists were relied upon to sign up, leaving a deficiency of work. The administration was again quick to expand nourishment creation by recovering field and unused land for growing crops.(Women's Land Army)

Initially, Women were asked to volunteer for the WLA.<sup>1</sup> In any case, in December 1941, the government passed the National Act, which permitted the induction of Women into the Armed Forces or for key war work. To begin with just single Women in the vicinity of 20 and 30 dowagers without youngsters were rung yet later as far as possible was extended to incorporate Women in the vicinity of 19 and 43 .Women could choose whether to enter the armed forces on work in farming on industry.

At its peak in 1943 more than 80.000 Women filled in as 'Land Girls'. They originated from an extensive variety of foundations including towns and urban communities and additionally the wide open, on the homesteads they did loads of various employments for example taking care of creatures, plugging the fields, gathering crops, draining the cows, mending machinery.

Some 6.000 Women worked in the Timber Corps, chopping down trees and running sawmills. Other volunteers travelled in forestry and more than 1.000 were employed as rat-catchers, to stop the vermin nibbling away at the crops. Individuals from the Women's Land Army wore a uniform of: green shirts, darker breaks and dark colored felt caps. They were regularly given wellington boots and at times wore a make a beeline to keep their hair getting gotten in any machines.

These Women worked extended periods particularly during the summer, for the most part outside and furthermore in chilly and rain. There was insignificant preparing and most Women were required to find out about agricultural work while they were really doing it. The land young girls lived either on the ranches where they worked, or in hostels. They originated from a wide assortment of foundations, with more than one third from London and other large

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<sup>1</sup> WLA:was a British civilian organization created during the second world war.

cities. Some were aching to visit the family, and numerous ranchers were distrustful about utilizing young Women on their farms, yet individuals soon came to acknowledge how helpful the greater part of them were.

Land girls earned for a minimum of 50 hours work a week. 1944, Wages were expanded; however as the wages were paid by the agriculturist, as opposed to straightforwardly by the state, it was hard to guarantee that everybody was paid properly. The WLA went under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, yet its head was the impressive Lady Denman. Hitched to the previous representative General of Australia, Lady Denman was a main figure in the Women's Institute development, and again has a nearby enthusiasm for provincial issues. Her home, Buncombe Place in Sussex, turned into the WLA head quarters. Each region had its own WLA agent who was relied upon to guarantee the Land Girls were being dealt well, and were working adequately.

### **2-2 Women's Voluntary Service for Air Raid Precaution:**

One thing is certain, during the Second World War; the WVS is one of the best examples of the successful mobilization of the energies and abilities of Women in the service of the nation. (The unsung heroines of the Women's Voluntary Service)

In 1938, with the flare-up of World War Two looking increasingly likely, the Home Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare decided to set up a Women's Voluntary association to aid the occasion of conceivable future air assaults. On sixteenth May 1938 the WVS for air assault safety measures WVS was established. Hoare asked the vigorous and decided Lady Reading who had been a medical attendant amid World War One to run the WVS, the point was that each Woman ought to be given the chance to add to the defense of the nation against adversary air assaults.

At the point when War was announced on third September 1939, the WVS had 165,000 individuals attracted from gatherings not able to sign up or do fundamental War Work. These were the elderly, the youthful, the housebound or those with dependants. Their work immediately broadened into aiding in every aspect of the Home Front, and their name was soon changed to the WVS for common Defense. (Women in world War Two)

The work of the WVS was sorted out in close collaboration with government Departments and Local Authorities. One of their earliest assignments was to help with the departure of one and a half million mothers and youngsters from huge urban areas to the nation. In London, kids under five went to one of three WVS accepting nurseries. Each

youngster has its head washed and was given any garments: he or she needed, and after that by and by escorted in a train or car by a WVS part to nation nurseries.

In two years 30.000 little kids were cleared one WVS part voyaged 126490 miles in three years and escorted 2526 youngsters under five. Individuals additionally staffed lodgings clubs, debilitated coves and shared encouraging focuses. They opened clubs for mothers, gave transport for hospital patients and embraced welfare work for troops.

In May 1940, Germany attacked the Low Countries and the war, the extent that Great Britain was concerned really began. WVS individuals gave sustenance and apparel. The free world sent a huge number of pieces of clothing amid the war. Moreover, garments were brought for the benefit of the Lord Mayor's Air Raid Distress Fund. It was the employment of the WVS to circulate this attire to those whose homes had been bombarded out. The principal portable flask was fabricated and a few WVS were made a request to trimming cover nets. Before long a great many Women were spending the odd half hour weaving scrim on to a net backing.

By 1941, Air Raids were a reality in many major cities. Women's Voluntary Service composed rest places for those left destitute after an assault. And additionally Civil Defense Duties, WVS<sup>2</sup> attempted sudden employments, for example, disseminating 45 million proportion books, cycling into reap fields with pork pie, and darning the socks of the British Army.

Thrift turned into an outright need and by 1942, a major economy drive was under way. Manage and-Mend turned into a lifestyle: paper, string and sustenance were stored and WVS individuals weaved socks from old sweaters. They then worked in the empathetic Leave Camps helping servicemen with household issues.

By 1943, WVS individuals were staffing Incident Inquiry Points set up in the shelled territories to give data about the dead and harmed. They regularly needed to break terrible news to the dispossessed, in addition go up against lighter errands and gathered 56 million books for the troops.

In 1944, raids proceeded on London and East Anglia. Mobile canteens were set up to help with the departure of influenced territories. In September the WVS were made a request to go up against Services welfare there. Prior to the finish of the year, the WVS had propelled two battles preparing in family unit repair work, and empowering thrift in fuel utilization. In

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<sup>2</sup> WVS: a British auxiliary service as the Women's Voluntary Service for work in air raids and civil defence.

December, 2700 children and 900 mothers were escorted over from Wales to the home countries. A large number had lost all their own belonging and could not afford to replace them.

On 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, the war in Europe was over but WVS members were sent to South East Asia command for troop welfare work. So the troops pushed through Malaya to French Indo-China, as the WVS went too. On August 15<sup>th</sup> the war against Japan was also concluded.

The members of the WVS had adapted to impossible troubles in spite of the fact that they had not been obliged by regimentation and had a reputation for never saying so. Members had gotten many honors for heroism, including two British Empire Medals, five George Medals and seventy eight Empire Awards. Unfortunately, 241 members had died whilst on duty.

### **2-3 Auxiliary Territorial Service**

Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS often pronounced as an acronym). (Auxiliary Territorial Service). In the autumn of September 1938, when war seemed possible again, the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service was established, organized on a regional basis in the same way as the Territorial Army. It incorporated members of the first Aid Nursing Yeomanry, the earliest Women's Voluntary corps which had served with distinction in the First World War. (War and Military records)

In April 1941, the individuals from the ATS were given full military status, despite the fact that they kept on being paid two-third of the wage of a man of a similar rank. And additionally, Britain enlisted people who were looked for from the Dominions, India and the West Indies. Six hundred West Indian Women volunteered of who half remained in the Caribbean while 200 served in the USA and 100 in the UK.

Early in December 1941, the National Service Act was passed by the government concerning the conscription of Women into War Work or the Armed Forces. All Women in the Army joined the ATS for nurses who joined Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, medical and dental officers who were charged specifically into the Army and held Army ranks. The primary volunteers to the ATS were utilized as cooks, agents and vendors. They had no uniform and got small preparing. After the underlying convergence of volunteers, an arrangement of essential preparing was built up enduring a month and a half. Newcomers were issued with their uniform and made a request to do exchange tests to build up which territory they ought to go into.

Experience in civilian life was usually crucial for example; if Women had been a shorthand typist she would more likely than not be appointed administrative obligations. Over

the span of the war the scope of obligations attempted by the ATS<sup>3</sup> extended and Women filled in as telephonists, drivers, mess orderlies, butchers, cooks, postal laborers, ammo assessors and military police.

The Women of the ATS again made a critical commitment to Anti-Aircraft Command of the Royal Artillery, known as 'ack-ack'. They made up blended batteries, assuming control over a portion of the assignments once in the past performed by the male team, including discovering adversary airplane and controlling the course of the weapon, in spite of the fact that they never shot the firearms. Others worked searchlights. A few ATS individuals were at perpetual Anti-Aircraft Camps and others were portable. These mobile units were especially occupied.

Beyond home defense, Women from the ATS served in many battlefields and also other critical areas, for example, Washington. Taking after the Allied attack of Normandy in June 1944, some blended Anti-Aircraft batteries were sent to France however the speed to the progress implied that the batteries were soon broken up and the ATS Women moved into general administrative work. At its peak, 210308 Women were presenting with the ATS 335 were executed.

## **2-4 Women's Royal Naval Service**

Women's Royal Naval Service (popularly and officially known as the Wrens) was the Women's branch of the Royal Naval. It was founded during the First World War in 1917. The service was disbanded when the war ended, however was reformed in 1939. With the realization that Women would be needed to assist the Royal Naval if war broke out again. Vera Laughton Matthews was appointed as Direction and by December 1939, there were 3000 personnel. Those who served in the WRNS<sup>4</sup> were named 'Wrens'.(Women's Royal Naval Service, Regiment history)

At first Wrens enrolled to discharge men to serve adrift. This was reflected in the enlisting Slogan 'to free a man for the armada'. As the Wartime naval force extended, the WRNS stuck to this same pattern, going up against obligations that the Royal Naval had officially considered past their abilities. Individuals included cooks, assistants, remote, circuit testers and air mechanics. Numerous Wrens were included in arranging maritime operations, containing the D-Day arrivals in June 1944 with dialect aptitudes. Wrens were drafted to stations around the drift to catch and interpret adversary signals. Wrens then travelled at the administration Code and Cipher School at Bletchley Park.

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<sup>3</sup> ATS:was the Women's branch of the British Army during the Second World War.

<sup>4</sup> WRNS:was the Women's branch of the Royal Naval.

Nevertheless, few served at sea. Wrens did operate small harbor launches and tugs close to shore. A few Wrens were prepared to fill in as pilots on D-Day, taking the littler ships over the channel and towing incapacitated vessels again into port for repairs that were regularly done by WRNS mechanics. A large number of Wrens served in abroad units. They additionally worked in many branches of the Royal Naval, and also the Fleet Air Arm and the Royal Marines. Numerous popular nations like Australia, Canada and New Zealand framed their own particular Royal Naval Services. The Women's Royal Indian Naval Service devoted to a great degree to the running of Royal Indian Navy Shore foundations.

In December 1941, the legislature passed the National Service Act which permitted the enrollment of Women into War Work or the Armed Forces. Ladies could join the WRNS or its maritime or flying corps similarities.

Frequently, the Women between 19 and 30 were called up, yet later as far as possible was pushed up to 43. Women could be recruited up to the age of 50. Along these lines in the ATS and the WAAF, Women from all achievements learnt aptitudes and went up against duties in the WRNS that would have been incredible before the war.

In 1944, the WRNS accomplished its greatest size, with 74.000 Women doing more than 200 particular employments. 303 Wrens were killed on Wartime benefit. Toward the finish of the war, the WRNS were made a changeless piece of the Royal Naval; however the female did not serve in Royal Navy dispatches similar to the 1990s.

### **2-5 Women's Auxiliary Air Force**

Women's Auxiliary Air Force was shaped in June 1939 when the war appeared to be impending once more. The fundamental purpose behind this administration was to discharge men for battle posts. Ladies were acknowledged between the ages of 17 and 44. Between December 1939 and June 1945 individuals expanded from 88.00 to 153.000.(Recruiting for the Women's Auxiliary Air Force)

The WAAF came unfair the organization of the RAF and individuals did not serve in individual female units, as with its armed force proportional the ATS, however as individual individuals from RAF charges Katherine Trefusis-Forbes was the pioneer of the WAAF, he had served in the Women's Volunteer Reserve in the World War One.

A pre war distribution for the WAAF<sup>5</sup> expressed its capacity with a level of clearness. It recognized three zones of work that Women in the WAAF were relied upon to do; driving and administrative work then cooking, waitressing next running messages, however the

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<sup>5</sup> WAAF:was the Women's branch of the Royal Air Force throughout the Second World War.

occupations open to Women initiated differentiated as the war created. It additionally expressed that those in the WAAF could hope to be prepared for different purposes, for example, teleprinter administrators, communication, telecommunication and the capture attempt of codes and figures, including at the Government Code and Cipher School at Bletchley Park. They were mechanics, specialists, circuit testers and fitters for planes. They embraced the understanding of elevated photos and gave climate reports.

WAAF's were prepared in radar plotting, the maintenance of barrage balloons in order to make incoming Luftwaffe bombers fly higher than they would want to therefore making it probable that their bomb aiming would be less accurate. Their work was vital during the Battle of Britain and later in managing night-contender headphones against German planes. There were questions about whether Women would have the physical quality or Stamina as the balloons were 66 feet high when swelled. Yet, so fruitful were the underlying volunteers that Women eventually ran more than 1.000 torrent swell destinations all through Britain.

Some members of the WAAF with particular skills transferred into the Special Operations Executive and were trained as agents to be sent into occupied Europe. One of these was Noor Inayatkhan, originally from India, who was sent to France as a radio operator for SOE. She was arrested by the Gestapo and executed in September 1944.

The Women of the WAAF were not permitted to carry out the employment of fly; yet, the necessity of preparing more pilots in optional parts to discharge cutting edge pilots for dynamic administration prompted the arrangement of the air transport Auxiliary ATA. 150 Women flew with the ATA throughout the war, checking the brilliant pilot Army Johnson. ATA obligations included conveying new planes from plants to RAF gloves and Shuttling unsuitable to have Women pilots flying military air ship.

The government passed the National Service Act in December 1941, which considered the enrollment of Women. Women could go into war work, or join the WAAF or its army or air force equivalent, the ATS and the WRNS. Women joined the WAAF from both the UK and abroad, including the Caribbean, Local enrollment for the WAAF occurred in the Egyptian, Palestinian, Jewish, Assyrian, Greek and Cypriot people group. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa all had Women's areas in their aviation based armed forces. People from WAAF served wherever all through the UK, in the US, in Egypt and later in Europe after the attack of June 1944. By 1945, a fourth of a million Women had served in the WAAF in more than 110 distinct exchanges, supporting operations around the globe. They were a basic and key some portion of the Royal Air Force's War effort.

## 2-6 Women's Timber Corps

The women's Timber Corps was a British civilian organization. It had been set up during the First World War, but in April 1942, the Ministry of Supply (home crown Timber Department) inaugurated a new venture 'The Women's Tiber Corps' WTC<sup>6</sup> in England. (History of British Women)

The Timber Corps were started due to the German occupation of Norway causing a shortage of imported timber. This branch got even less acknowledgment than the average Land Girl. As past depicted under the 'uniform' segment, the uniform for the Timber Corps was somewhat extraordinary as 'Wood Jill's' had 'beret' rather than a cap and had an alternate arm band. Their identification demonstrated a fir tree, instead of the pile of wheat for the Women's Land Army.

More so in this type of work, the girls worked alongside strong men who had to teach them everything to do with the chopping of the tree through to loading it onto a lorry. (Women's Timber Corps: Lumber Jills)

During the Second World War, more than 4,900 young ladies joined the Women's Land Army Timber Corps with a specific end goal to make a commitment to the war exertion. They worked in the timberlands of Great Britain, felling, snedding, boading, crosscutting, driving tractors, trucks, working with stallions, measuring and working sawmills. This was done in a wide range of climate. (Women's Timber Corps Land Army). One thousand were stayed outdoors in wooden hovels in the north of Scotland in which young ladies and Women were enlisted from the age of 17, be that as it may, some were as youthful as 14. They originated from a wide range of foundations and varying backgrounds. The individuals who required preparing were sent to and billeted at preparing camps, for example, Stanford Lodge, close Breeching and presented all through Scotland on wherever they were required.

A female forester was required to the employing of six pound axe and the measuring of trees then the undertaking of the regulatory work out in the forests, then again the Women create enough timber to supply timber post pit props for the mines, utility poles, detours, ships poles, railroad sleepers, weapon mats, versatile following to bolster tanks, stepping stools, newsprint and even crosses for warriors graves.

Timber Corps individuals were sufficiently experienced to be sent to Germany after the war to rescue hardware from deserted sawmills. Despite the fact that ranger service delighted

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<sup>6</sup> WTC: Women who joined WTC were commonly known as Lumber Jills, they work in forestry replacing men who had left to join the armed forces.

in a more appealing picture than cultivating, it in any case required stamina and aptitude. The Lumber Jill's as they were called wore an indistinguishable uniform from the Land Girls, except for the Green Beret, and the identification, which rather than a Wheat Sheaf a fir tree, surmounted by a Royal crown.

More importantly, Lumber Jill's worked from 7 am to 4:30 slightly shorter when compared to the girls on the fields. This created some barriers between the different branches of the Women's Land Army as farming Land Girls often through the Timber Corps had the 'soft option'. Before being taken on, Lumber Jill's had to pass a stricter medical examination than Land Girls.

Preparing focuses were set up all through the UK; Stanford Lodge in Breeching, Angus in Scotland was one of these preparation camps. Here the young ladies were instructed the basics of ranger service, land ling axes, saws, vehicles and steeds. It was a severe shock for a few, as the lion's share had been city reared and was new to the boundless expanses or the profound woods. Following a two-week course they were scattered all through the farmland, the majority of the Scots went to camps arranged in remote territories of the Highlands Inverness-Shire, Moray shire, Argyll shire and numerous different parts of Scotland.

In England, the Timber Corps individuals were scattered to an assortment of private billets and were included in a more shifted sort of ranger service. In any case, it was with a sprightly heart these young ladies attempted the undertaking before them, taking in the aptitudes expected to take care of business to win the war.

**Conclusion**

Overall, the Role of British Women in the Second World War was an essential behind the scenes efforts as the armed forces. Just as a cameraman is essential to the making of a movie the Roles of Women played in the war was important to our allied victory. So, all the help provided by Women gave a chance in the success of War.

CHAPTER

THREE

**Introduction**

This part represents the third and the last chapter of this work. This chapter examines Women after Second World War, in a very similar way that happened with her role in British Society as the armed forces. In other words, this chapter will be commenced by providing a brief summary regarding the effects of Second World War on lives and status of Women. Later on, Women's Work was impacted by the period. Lastly, equally to the previous chapter, Inequality and discrimination will be depicted as the final screw before the analysis fully attached.

**3-1-The effects of Second World War on lives and status of Women:**

Every event has its consequences and nothing happens accidentally, there is no doubt about it. It does not matter if the event touches just one personal life or the whole world. We talk about important but also about insignificant events. Some consequences appear immediately but people can meet some of them many years later. Especially the huge event such as the Second World War has affected the personal, social and political life of millions of people on our planet as well as Women. It is incomprehensible that some of those Women whose life was wholly changed by the war had no idea who Adolph Hitler had been or where the Great Britain was situated.

The Second World War was for the Brits an imperative defining moment. It was the development of most extreme significance which conveyed Women having a place with all classes. They had a typical reason and that was to bolster their kindred kinsmen who were on the front shielding them and their liberal convictions. However, this perhaps basic demonstration of supporting the armed force and the remarkable one of being apparently unaffected by the Nazi-unleashed Blitz<sup>1</sup> had long haul impacts. Everyone realized that when the war finished, nothing would have been the same, politically and socially.(How did second World War affect the British Women)

Instantly after the end of World War two, British Women experienced enormous social change. The nation was bankrupted after the war. The New Labour government gave the reorganization of the fundamental foundations, for example, mining, railroads, street activity, air movement, petroleum, power and even the Bank of England. From 1957 occurred amid the fifties, however it may not be what Macmillan or his associates or, without a doubt, any other person explicitly expected, was the entry of the British form of 'the well-off society'. On one hand, there was a financial development since business sectors were gradually recuperating from the war emergency and there was as yet a supply of crude materials from previous provinces. What's more, then again the analysts discovered that 'the work of ladies' and 'working two jobs' of many individuals prompted enhancing of expectation for everyday comforts. Presently the life appeared to be simpler to the Brits.

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<sup>1</sup> Nazi-unleashed Blitz: is a military tactic designed to create disorganization among enemy forces through the use of mobile and locally concentrated firepower.

The falling birth rate implied littler and wealthier families. They were better prepared and an ever increasing number of families claimed autos, they could purchase new home loan houses and spent occasions abroad, as in Spain, France or Italy. Indeed, even specialists could bear the cost of occasions at Mediterranean Sea. Though before the war, the car was the matter of wealthier individuals, after 1945 the quantity of auto proprietors has expanded.

Women faced various issues in post war society. A few Women confronted confinement from her significant other whether they stayed use after the war. They suspected that it was troublesome after the war to find business, much of the time skilled Women expected to work however, their capacities were no longer required in post war society. Britain obliged Women to work in the midst of the war; however after the war the occupation showcase moved as the war economy was destroyed. Various women got themselves unemployed and on account of the finish of Wartime nurseries, Women experienced issues in finding any businesses that included childcare.

A few Women thought that it was hard to settle down to non military personnel life after the war since they discovered peacetime was exhausting in contrast with the fervor of the war. Women frequently had a great deal of independence and obligation during the war, and some found that there were parts of their lives that could not be bestowed to family and friends.

Not everyone wanted the status of Women to change after the war. Not everybody needed the status of Women to change after the war. After 1945, Women from white collar class were dealing with their family unit's independent from anyone else and there was an absence of cleaning specialists in light of the fact that the hirelings can scarcely discover a vocation. Some of them battled in the war and now and then there had no place to return. A few Women were anxious to come back to their 'conventional' local parts, and a few Women's spouses were not enthusiastic about the possibility of their wives working. Numerous Women felt that the war was not reality, thus they contradicted the adjustment in status of Women.

Obviously, numerous Men additionally did not need the status of Women to change, conceivably for similar reasons, additionally in light of the fact that they felt Women were not as able as they were at doing certain occupations. The administration advanced the picture of 'a mother at home'; this may recommend that the legislature additionally did not need the status of Women to change.

The war incredibly helped the status of Women. Ladies battled for a considerable length of time to be equivalent to men, and the Second World War gave Women this open door. The war helped Women to demonstrate they could do tasks requiring knowledge, and exceed expectations at them. The war helped numerous Women to consider themselves to be an option that is other than a spouse.

The Second World War affected the lives and status of Women in many different ways. The war was a turning point for the status of Women. Thus, Women in the end accomplished some balance in the way they were paid. Besides, Women were prohibited from certain social and word related circles, and that they utilized the war to help them change their parts.

The government settled on specific choices to guarantee Women could contribute as a workforce. It needed to change the status of Women amid the war since they required Women to work. However, the legislature changed its' position totally on working Women after the war since they no longer required them. This demonstrates the choices made by the administration were made to impact Women into working, and could be seen as a kind of purposeful publicity. However, these choices changed a significant number of individuals' dispositions until the end of time. The war did not so much change the roles and status of Women, but it changed the way Women thought of themselves and made them more confident.

### **3-2The impact of Second World War on Women's Work:**

It is obvious that any radical change to the lives of Women of all classes were simply illusory, by exploring a variety of aspects that impact on all women's lives. For instance, changes within the social lives of Women, stereotypical; Women's economy; employment and the impact of politics upon Women. The term illusory will be defined as any radical change which does not impact upon or create a real change in the status; opportunities and lifestyles of all Women throughout this period. (Women after World War Two,2011)

Fundamentally, there have been many changes inside the post war period which have affected on all parts of Women's life. These can be considered as changes that are not deceptive and had w vast effect. As Women now had more flexibility in their ways of life and opportunity in the occupation advertise than already were being a mother to a vast family took

up all their time. However this radical change can likewise be considered as twofold edged as regardless of counterparts seeing an expansion in sexual conduct and mentalities.

The radical social change can be shown through the continuation of generalizations inside society. And additionally, the continuations of the possibility that Women ought to keep on being the picture of a customary housewives. Numerous Women were to a degree anticipated that would come back to their customary part as housewives and moms. Different persistent generalizations for Women can be found in the work put, as employments can regularly stereotyped into particularly Women's Work.

In many ways, the story of women's employment during World War One was repeated during World War Two. In spite of their accomplishment in wartime industries during World War Two, comparative generalizations about Women's ability and capacity to take part in 'men's work' were flowed by the businesses and the administration. Exchange unions again communicated worries about men's compensation being pushed down and looked for confirmations that Women's Wartime Work would just be transitory. In any case, the necessities of the wartime economy won once more. In December 1941, the government recruited single Women aged 20-30 as helpers to the Armed Forces, Civil Defense, or war businesses. Promulgation pamphlets asked Women to partake in the war effort.

Therefore, it can be recommended that any radical change in open doors for Women's Employment can be considered as illusory on the grounds that generalizations still remain and will keep on having an effect on the open doors in Women's lives. With the extension of the economy, came the advancement of innovation can be contended as majorly affecting the lives of Women however out this period, accordingly exhibiting a radical change was not illusory. Similarly as, the advancements of ordinary family unit things like; clothes washers, vacuum cleaners, gas and electric stoves can highlight a change that has affected on the status; opportunity and ways of life of Women in the course of the most recent years.

Work is another territory in which it can be contended that there were radical changes that affected the lives of Women, for example, in spite of the fact that there was weight for Women to backpedal to their conventional parts, many stayed in some type of work in the quick years, a pattern which develops and proceeds into current circumstances. However this radical change does not exclusively lie with the way that Women stayed in work additionally

incorporated the adjustment in Women needing more considerable parts. This shows a radical change in Women's chances that can't be viewed as deceptive as more Women are proceeding to be required in some type of work up to present day.

Government figures demonstrate that Women' work expanded from around 5.1 million to a little more than 7.25 million. Forty six percent of all Women aged between 14 and 59, and 90% of all physically fit single Women between the ages of 18 and 40 were occupied with some type of work or National Service by September 1943. The level of work could have been higher as domestic servants were avoided from these figures. Numerous household hirelings would have been redeployed to national service, yet no correct figures exist.

### **3-3Inequality and Discrimination:**

In 1945 inequality was deep-rooted, taken for granted facts of British culture, infrequently transparently talked about or tested even by the majority of the individuals who experienced them. There has since been a momentous development in acknowledgment that these imbalances exist and are shameful and some since quite a while ago underestimated bunches have gained legitimate rights, qualifications, social regard and social acknowledgment to a degree incredible in 1945, however considerable disparities remain .

Among many continuing inequalities, mothers of young children, particularly Bangladeshi and Pakistani women, toll especially seriously in the work advertise and there is pervasive gender inequality in pay and work opportunities regardless of the relative and expanding accomplishment of Women of every single ethnic gathering at all levels of training. Acknowledgment that discrimination against individuals exists at all has infiltrated more gradually than familiarity with different types of separation. More established individuals themselves have been ease back to recognize that they merit better treatment and allegations of age and gender discrimination among broadcasters remain pervasive.

During World War Two Women worked in manufacturing plants creating weapons, building ships, planes, in the assistant administrations as air-raid wardens<sup>2</sup>, shoot officers and clearing officers, as drivers of fire engines, trains and trams, as conductors and as nurses. During this period some exchange unions serving customarily male occupations like engineering started to admit Women members. (Women and Work)

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<sup>2</sup> Air-Raid wardens :acivilian having special duties during an air-raid alert,as directing people to air-raid shelters.

The section of Women into occupations which were prepares and cable cars and in the engineering, metal and shipbuilding enterprises viewed as exceptionally skilled and as male preserves, for instance as drivers of fire engines, recharged discuss about equivalent pay. The exchange unions were by and by worried about the effect on men's wages after the war when men would be working in these occupations. But the government's priority was the recruitment of workers to service industries and the war effort.

Some limited agreement on equivalent pay was achieved that permitted rise to pay for Women where they played out an indistinguishable work from Men had 'without help or supervision'. Most workers figured out how to go around the issue of equivalent pay, and Women's pay stayed by and large 53% of the compensation of the men they supplanted. Semi-talented and incompetent occupations were assigned as 'Women' jobs' and were excluded from equivalent pay negotiations.

Women workers turned to disturbing on a neighborhood level to battle for equivalent pay, regularly without the support of their unions. Women workers at the Rolls-Royce plant at Hilling ton close Glasgow questioned being paid at a lower rate than untalented men doing likewise work. A court of Inquiry prescribed another reviewing framework which was concurred by the Amalgamated Engineering Union. Be that as it may, the ladies trusted the new framework would even now leave 80% of them on the least rate and went on a one-week strike in October 1943, upheld by most men in the plant. In the long run an understanding was come to on a set wage that was the same for men and Women workers, depending on the kind of machines they worked on.

More established and disabled Women have always been among the poorest groups in society. Discrimination against them largely taken for granted. Disabled Women , particularly the individuals who were rationally debilitated, profited minimum from the presentation of the National Health Service in 1948, however in the mid 1950s they had half of all doctor's facility beds, frequently in somber conditions. Women-not a minority but rather a greater part gather through the vast majority of British history - had been dissenting about imbalance for no less than a century and had, finally, by 1928, accomplished the vote on equivalent terms with men.

Women got 7 shillings not as much as the 21 shillings seven days that men got. Women were effectively conveyed in civil defense as overnight fire watchers in industrial facilities, emergency vehicle drivers, air attack superintendents, individuals from medical aid gatherings and delivery people. Such Women were at risk from bombing however were qualified for lower pay for wounds contrasted with men. Exchange unions, campaigners and a few Women parliamentarians took up this issue and regardless of starting government opposition to this request; equal rates were presented in April 1943.

With the expanded work of Women, the need to meet working mothers' minding obligations must be tended to. State funding was given to build up around 1345 wartime nurseries, a huge increase from the 14 such nurseries which existed in 1940. However, this was always viewed as a brief measure for the time of the war and, in spite of the consistent increment in Women' work rates since the 1920s; a married Women's place was as yet thought to be in the home.

**Conclusion**

The Second World War has influenced Women in society, economics not in Britain but all around the world. The life after the war was completely different from the one before 1939. People were experienced from the first war but the second one was much crueler and it has a bad impact on generations. The eyewitnesses still remember the terror and they are able to hand over the terrible experiences. The war has influenced all branches of human as well as Women's life is not only black and white. Every item hides also some positive traces even it seems to be impossible when we talk about such a terrible event like the Second World War. We can rank for instance completely changed life of women among the positive features.



## General Conclusion

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Before the Second World War, British Women stayed at home to do certain domestic service as cleaning, washing, and cooking took up a great deal of time, they also raised their kids. Women were better educated as a result of the Education Acts of 1902 and 1918. There were more job opportunities for women in the 1920's and 1930's due to better education. Many women found work as clerks, teachers and nurses.

More importantly, Wives in the twentieth were afraid to join politics, they began discussing the problems they faced in society and the different ways they wanted to change their lives in order to take the right of vote in the political scene. As Women had a great Role in the international activism in which some Women campaigners, international work through established national Women' movement, radical pacifist organizations was crucial for the prevention of war and the maintenance of world peace.

British women were active in the war effort but to a limited extent, acting as nurses on the battle field and working in munitions factories, but resumed their traditional roles in society after the war. Currently, World War Two brought about major change for Women in the services. Women were more active in the military, they were involved in all branches of the Armed Forces, Women stepped up to take their place. In the army, Women joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service because they believed they would lead a life of glamour, Women joined the Royal Air Force in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force doing the same as the ATS however the opportunities were there for slightly more existing work.

The Women's Royal Naval Service were posted to every home and overseas naval unit, there were 72,000 serving it in 1945. Furthermore, one civilian choice open to Women was to join the Women's Land Army, at its peak, there were over 80,000 'Land Girl' as a result the Women undertook hard farm work. Six thousand Women worked in the Timber Corps, felling trees and running sawmills. The contribution of volunteers also made a dramatic difference to the cultural and social life of British community and they should be acknowledged for the invisible work that they continue to do, sometimes for decades.

To conclude, there have been a great number of radical changes that have impacted on the lives of British Women in the years since the Second World War, whether they can be considered as illusory. It would be logical to assume that the radical changes, on the surface, were not illusory. Yet, the practical change demonstrates that the radical changes in Women's lives were not superficial. Briefly, to say that all the radical changes have impacted upon Women's lives and work in British Society.

## General Conclusion

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