Volume is organized into 3 distinct time periods
  ○ 19th and 20th c. (prior to Bolshevik Rev. of 1917)
  ○ Soviet Period 1917-1991
  ○ and the transitional era post 1985

Terms to look into
  ○ Russian Women’s Mutual Philanthropic Society?
  ○ Zhenskii Vestnik (Women’s Herald)
  ○ Women’s Equal Rights Union (1905-1908)
  ○ Union of Women (Soiuz Zhenschchin) journal
  ○ Professional Union of Home Employees (Professional’nyi soiuz domovykh sluzhashchikh)

Important Dates
  ○ Dec. 1908: First All-Russian Women’s Congress
  ○ 1911: Right to higher education in medical, pedagogical, and other higher education establishments granted to women
  ○ 1914-19147: Women’s military movement
  ○ July 1917: Women granted suffrage
  ○ 1917-1918: Women’s military units in WWI, include Women’s Death Battalion
  ○ 1919: Official establishment of coeducation in universities
  ○ 1920: Abortion legalized
  ○ 1936-1955: Abortion banned in USSR (Stalinist regime)
    ■ might be interesting to look in change towards women from pre-Stalin era to post-Stalin era?

Part 1.
  ○ this period is characterized by confusion: “all the movements and groups were born in the idea of the need for change, but there was no consensus from generation to generation and from group to group about what forms change should take” (17)
  ○ makes reference to Stites (already have it), Clement’s Bolshevik Feminist and Jay Bergman’s Vera Zasulich
  ○ All-Russian Congress for the Struggle against the Trade in Women (1910): convened by Russian Society for Protection of Women, to highlight problems of prostitution
    ■ ⅔ of attendes were women
  ○ The First Women’s Calendar- sketches of Russian feminists, radical activists, etc. (Look for visual research)
  ○ First All-Russian Women’s Congress (Dec. 10-16, 1908)
    ■ socialist opposition ultimately thwarted the drive to create a national women’s council
- headed by Dr. Anna Shabanova
- Most groups came from the capital, some from Moscow, and a few from provincial cities → “Participants reflected the urban social spectrum, including society ladies and women workers, but the largest number were intelligentki, educated women students and professionals, especially doctors and teachers… Despite some efforts by the organizers, no peasant women attended” (25)

- Russian Women’s participation in WWI:
  - thousands became involved in the front-line hostilities
  - creation of Women’s Military Congress (Aug. 1-4, 1917)
  - “much of this work was a grassroots, impromptu effort” (102)
  - Typical gender roles were still prevalent: “The congress was also concerned with the unfavorable response of some elements of Russian society toward women in military service, particularly toward female combat participation. The women were especially troubled by their negative image within the male military establishment and conservative quarters” (102)
    - Stoff, Laurie S. “Russian Women in Combat: Female Soldiers of the First World War”
  - Prior to the overthrow of Tsarist rule, women fought disguised as men. “Many fought undetected in the trenches until they were wounded and examined by medical personnel.” (103)
  - Female units were disbanded when Bolsheviks decided to pull out from war → many women went on to fight in Civil War

- Use of Journalism in the late 19th c. to further a Feminist cause
  - over 230 women in Russia from 1860-1905 became official publishers or editors of periodicals
  - some discussed pedagogy, with emphasis on teaching children values. This was seen as an “‘acceptable’ forum for a woman’s voice” (108)

- Part 2.
  - “The goal of the Soviet leadership over the years was to direct societal development into prescribed directions. Although there were women’s organizations and women’s efforts, especially early in the Soviet era, homogenization during the Stalin era erased most of the diversity of the efforts” (125)
  - “Although formally committed to equality of men and women from its earliest days, the Soviet government fell short of making women’s equality a reality”. (125)
was “proclaimed but never fully realized” (126) → WHY??

Provision Gov’t and Later Communism + FAMILIES (1917-)

- Bolshevik overthrow of Prov. Gov’t advocated the “withering away of the family”
- 1918: state secular regulation of marriage, stipulated the equality of women and men in all family relations (132)
- 1926- family codes like common-law marriage and “postcard divorces” eroded the protection of women:
  - no paternal support
  - “wives for the season”

Great Retreat and Families

- shift from ‘withering away’ of the state and law and family, to the strengthening of the socialist state and family’
  - women’s employment and independence increased and abandonment by husbands was less of a threat
- created new obstacles for divorce (higher fees, both parties had to be present) → “reflected regime’s return to a traditional ideal of the family as nurturer of children and fertile procreator of a new generation” (133)
- banned abortions in 1936
  - Buckley, Mary. *Perestroika and Soviet Women*

First All-Russian Congress of Women Workers (Congress of Peasant and Working Women)

- only expected 300 delegates to attend, more than 1,147 working and peasant women showed up
  - Buckley, Mary. *Women and Ideology in the Soviet Union.*

Komsomolka

- youth league established in Moscow after 1917 rev.
- “After the Civil War ended, the level of the women’s socio political consciousness, rather than their military expertise, became an issue for the Komsol leaders” (145)
- 1920: women were described as ‘the most backward element’ of Russian society (145) → use Komsomol as vehicle of enlightenment
- “female League members were primarily involved in pursuits traditionally reserved for women, at home and in the league” (145) i.e. heading youth organizations
- Stalin’s 5 Year Plan: “actually lasted from 1929-1932, required Soviet young women to involve themselves in less traditional pursuits in both rural and urban settings” (146) → Look more into what this means
- During WWII, many women fulfilled male roles in factories, collective farms, and in military defense
Pursuit of Legal Equality

- Bolsheviks promised change in the social and legal inequalities of tsarist regime
- granted women to vote, created safer working hours, supported gender equality in the work place
- began voicing complaints to regime through unions, but did not have a union of their own
- “Since gender equality was not a high priority of the regime, bureaucrats, arbiters, and union and Party officials could ignore women’s complaints” (154)
- Stalin declared the ‘woman question’ “solved” in 1930, onset of the pruges led to women stopping to pursue work-related claims
  - Wood, Elizabeth: *The Baba and the Comrade* (ALREADY HAVE IT)
  - Granik, Lisa “The Trials of the Proletarka” in Reforming Justice

Obshchestvennitsa Movement (1934-1941), STILL CONSIDERED FOR JOBS RELATING TO THE DOMESTIC SPHERE

- “wife-activists” who participated in “voluntary educational, cultural, and social service work in the new Soviet industrialized settlements of the 1930s” (163)
- provided a means to mobilize the wives of specialists into the labor force
- “Some women related their experiences as wife-activists, seeking to promote a uniquely Soviet ‘s culture of daily life’” (164)
- Late 1930s- “campaign dovetailed into the ‘masculine professions’ movement of the late 1930s, in which women qualified for professions that previously had been exclusively male” (165)
- helped to stabilize the labor force during the era of industrialization, joined woman worker and collective farmer as a variant on the ‘new Soviet woman’
- “overt recognition of the continuing importance of domestic life and its connection to state and Party priorities… housewives in the obshchestvennitsa movement could also be considered ‘builders of socialism’” (166)
- Fitzpatrick, Sheila *The Cultural Front* (HAVE IT, LOOK UP SPECIFICS AGAIN)

More Women and Work

- Engel, Babara Alpern. *Between the Fields and the City: Women, Work and Family in Russia, 1861-1914.*
Women in the Communist Party

- CPSU was evidence that promises of gender equality were not fulfilled. Only 3 women sat on the Politburo.

Zhenotdel (Women’s Department of the Communist Party)

- existed from 1919-1930
- after Lenin’s declaration that women were equal it became clear that considerable training of women had to be done
- socialist term for this issue: “The woman question”
- organization’s “primary goal was the recruitment of women and political socialization of women so that they could adapt to life in the new order” (188)
- focused on women as mothers and workers
- led by Aleksandra Kollontoni
- were met with particular resistance, “local women who attended Zhenotdel meetings, even though they were called women’s ‘clubs’ in the remote areas, were often beaten by their husbands or worse” (189)
- organization was terminated by Stalin in 1930, declared woman problem had been solved.
  - most likely because he wanted to direct all resources to industrial growth

- Lenin, V.I. *The Emancipation of Women*.