

HOMEWORK: Women in the War

I. Women and the War Effort

- a. Because of _____, women were needed to work in defense industries, civil service, and the Armed Forces.
- b. Govt. campaigns targeted women who had never before worked
 - i. Glorified & glamorized roles of working women
 - ii. Suggested a woman's femininity would not be sacrificed
- c. Encouraged women to support the war effort by doing what?

II. Rosie the Riveter

- a. *Who is Rosie the Riveter?* She was first called Rosie by _____ on the cover of the *Saturday Evening Post* in May of 1943. What was the purpose of the Rosie posters?
- b. Before they took jobs in factories, most women didn't have jobs after they got married. Women's role had traditionally been in the home, taking care of the children. Most people, husbands included, didn't believe that they were smart enough or strong enough to hold down a real job.
- c. As men were drafted into the war, many factory jobs opened up.
 - i. News of good-paying jobs brought women already working in traditional "women's" jobs (clerks, secretaries, and household servants) into these positions.
 - ii. These women weren't enough to fill the number of jobs available so the Office of War Information launched a campaign to fill the rest of the positions with married and older women.
 - iii. Govt recruited women, telling them it was their patriotic duty to serve.
- d. How did women respond to the new opportunities (consider how the Depression impacted their response)?



- e. What were the advantages to working?



f. What problems did working women encounter? (LIST 2)

g. By 1944, nearly 19.4 million women were working. More than _____ of all American women worked at some point during the war.

i. Jobs included working in airplane plants, in shipyards as welders, steelworkers, and riveters.

III. What was the All-American Girls' Professional Baseball League?

a. How did the All-American Professional Baseball League, like Rosie the Riveter, mirror the messages of strength and femininity?

IV. WWII gave women a chance to try hundreds of typically male-dominated jobs.

V. Post-war efforts to “demobilize” women:

i. Once the war was over, the govt and businesses urged women to return to their homes and resume “traditional” ways of living – WHY?

1. According to a survey done in Springfield, Massachusetts, _____% of women said they hoped to continue working after the war. Within one week of VJ, every woman had been fired.

ii. How did women respond?