

A World Turned Upside Down?

Mary Louise Roberts, Civilization Without Sexes

Introduction

Why, according to Roberts, were people so obsessed with gender in the post-World War I years?

What is the problem that she sees with how other historians have evaluated the impact of the war on women's lives?

Why does she think it is important to study what people said about women, even if much of it was inaccurate and or exaggerated?

This Being Without Breasts, Without Hips

Why did the modern woman become such an important symbol of the 1920s? What role did the War play in creating this image in the French popular imagination?

What were the two primary views of women that dominated French popular culture in the inter-war years? Why such a bifurcated bad woman/good woman dichotomy?

How did the traditional association of women with morality affect discussion of gender in the inter-war years?