

Questions for Gender, Politics and everyday life under Vichy

Lucienne Blondel

What is Blondel's attitude towards women and suffrage? How do her hesitations about giving women the vote compare with those of Republicans in the 1880s and 1890s?

What is the problem with democracy for Blondel?

What is her critique of the pro-natalist policy of the present government? What measures does she think should be taken to increase the French birthrate?

What would women's role be in an ideal society, for Blondel?

To whom do you think her ideas would be appealing?

Paula Schwartz, *Partisanes* and Gender Politics in Vichy France

How did men and women's roles in the resistance differ? Why, according to Schwartz, did post-war accounts tend to de-emphasize the role of gender in the resistance?

Why, according to Schwartz, did the fact that there were women playing prominent leadership roles in the resistance not necessarily lead to changed ideas about women's capabilities and roles among their male colleagues?

Why did men sometimes take on female code names? What advantage did this offer them?

Do you think that Stephen Hause's metaphor of the "double helix" is helpful in understanding women's roles in the Resistance?

Claire Duchon, Chapter 1: Liberation

How did both the attitudes towards, and punishments inflicted on, male and female collaborators differ after the war? What accounts for those differences?

How did occupation and war-time deprivation affect gender roles and attitudes towards gender? What similarities and differences do you see with the First World War?