

Women

Before World War I women's place was believed to be at home. However, the outbreak of war led to women working in areas of work that were formerly reserved for men, for example as railway guards, ticket collectors, buses conductors, postal workers, police, firefighters. Some women also worked heavy or precision machinery in engineering. However, they received lower wages for doing the same work as men, and thus began some of the earliest demands for equal pay.

Women's employment rates increased during WWI, from 23.6% of the working age population in 1914 to between 37.7% and 46.7% in 1918 and then from 57% in 1971 to 76% in 2001.

In the 21st century, even in families where women engage in full-time waged work, they continue to undertake the vast majority of domestic labour.

Because of their numerous accomplishments during WWI, women were given a right to vote in most countries after this historical moment.

SOCIAL EFFECTS OF WORLD WAR I

Armenian genocide

In April 1915 the Ottoman government embarked upon the systematic decimation of its civilian Armenian population. The persecutions continued with varying intensity until 1923 when the Ottoman Empire ceased to exist and was replaced by the Republic of Turkey. It was estimated that one million of Armenian population had perished by 1918, while hundreds of thousands had become homeless and stateless refugees. By 1923 virtually the entire Armenian population of Anatolian Turkey had disappeared.

The Ottoman Empire was ruled by the Turks who had conquered lands extending across West Asia, North Africa and Southeast Europe. The government was centered in Constantinople and was headed by a sultan who was vested with absolute power. The Turks practiced Islam and were a martial people. The Armenians, a Christian minority, lived as second class citizens subject to legal restrictions which denied them normal safeguards.

By November 1920, just over two years after Armenia established its first independence, the Bolsheviks attacked and occupied it. Armenia gained its final independence and stopped being a part of USRR on 21st of September 1991.

African-Americans

When the war ended, African-Americans hoped that their patriotic sacrifices would have a positive impact on race relations and their civil rights. Unfortunately, for African Americans, this time brought anything but peace. In the USA fear of labor unrest and the return of black soldiers spawned a nationwide surge in violence, much of it directed at African Americans.

On the other hand World War I did change African-Americans' place in American society. Black people asserted their citizenship. They were also allowed to protest racial injustice. It was also a chance for African-Americans to spread their culture throughout the world. World War I marked the beginning of the Great Migration, which let black people escape the racially oppressive environment of the South.

World War I represents a turning point in African American history, one that shaped the course of the black experience in the twentieth century.