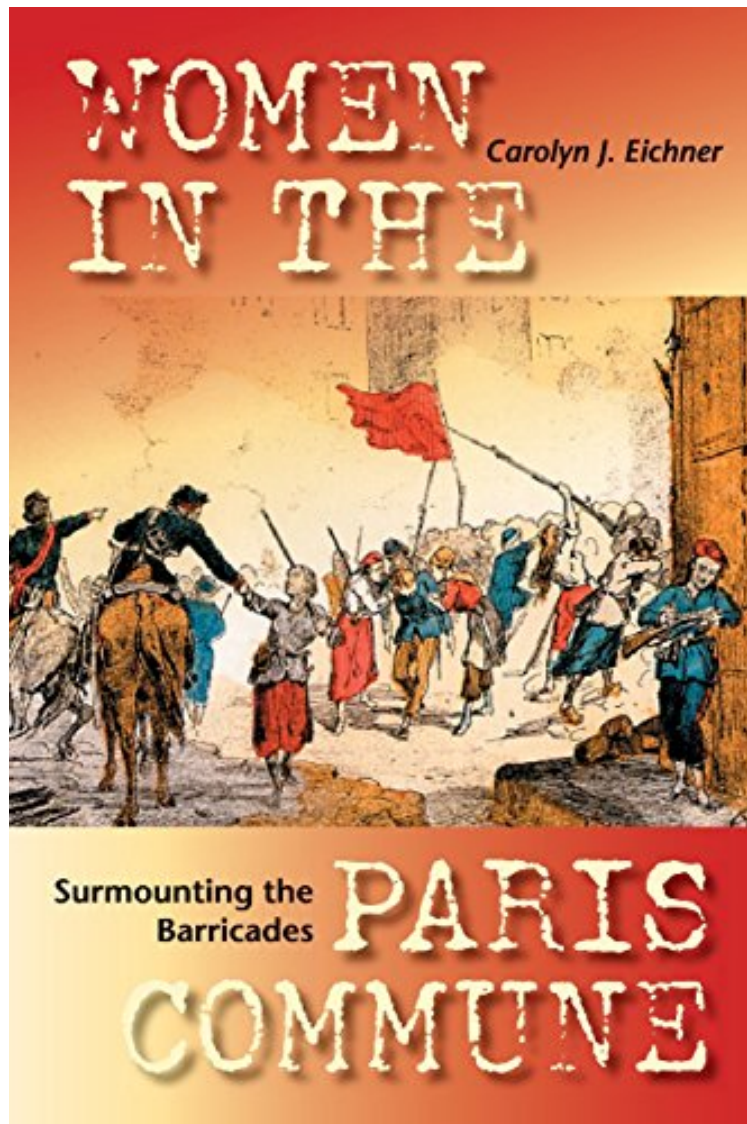


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Surmounting the Barricades: Women in the Paris Commune

Carolyn J. Eichner

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#1511635 in Books Carolyn J Eichner 2004-11-12 2004-11-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x .80 x 6.12l, 1.01 #File Name: 0253217059296 pages Surmounting the Barricades Women in the Paris Commune | File size: 28.Mb

Carolyn J. Eichner : Surmounting the Barricades: Women in the Paris Commune before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Surmounting the Barricades: Women in the Paris Commune:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Commune and its left intellectual spectrum mapped By Tom Mertes In truly democratic and revolutionary moments a richer tapestry of ideas is allowed to unfurl that is today folded into "the two sides" to every political debate. One of the most vital examples of such an opening was the 1871

Paris Commune. Carolyn Eichner, a professor at the University of South Florida, has captivantly explored some of the key ideologies of the period as they surfaced behind the barricades of France's last revolutionary moment. Eichner uses the biographies of three Commune women to explore the socialisms and feminisms of the period. This approach is compelling because it allows for a consideration of the ideas not just in the vacuum of the two-month flowering of the Parisian uprising but as organic projects rising out of the Revolution of 1789 onward. These projects were transformed by the Commune and rethought in response to its failure and the bloody repression by the Versailles government. Each of the women brought different ideas, backgrounds and activism to bear in the three phases. Hence, the ideas and actions are embodied rather than abstracted - making them all the more compelling. With these three dramatic narratives, Eichner also uses the characterizations of Andr Lo, Paule Mink, Elisabeth Dmitrieff and other Communardes by the state officials to present a picture of the gender and social relations of the period by unpacking their portrayal and condemnation of these women and socialists in official documents. This is a well written and researched work that should be added to the shelf of anyone interested in 19th century France and, especially, the flowering of the left intellectually in the period. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating read! By Suzie Siegel I loved this book! It is really relevant to today's political times. It shows how people can organize and promote their beliefs, even when the situation seems hopeless. The book will help people understand the roots of some of the protests we see today. It's also a must for people who are interested in European history. I knew a little about the French Revolution, but I had never heard about the 1871 uprising called the Paris Commune. Carolyn Eichner tells the inspiring stories of three very different women who became leaders in the 1871 insurrection. Readers find out how they blended feminist and socialist ideas to try to improve their city. You'll get caught up in their daring ideas and actions!

This book vividly evokes radical women's integral roles within France's revolutionary civil war known as the Paris Commune. It demonstrates the breadth, depth, and impact of Commune feminist socialisms far beyond the 1871 insurrection. Examining the period from the early 1860s through that century's end, Carolyn J. Eichner investigates how radical women developed critiques of gender, class, and religious hierarchies in the immediate pre-Commune era, how these ideologies emerged as a plurality of feminist socialisms within the revolution, and how these varied politics subsequently affected fin-de-siècle gender and class relations. She focuses on three distinctly dissimilar revolutionary women leaders who exemplify multiple competing and complementary feminist socialisms: Andre Leo, Elisabeth Dmitrieff, and Paule Mink. Leo theorized and educated through journalism and fiction, Dmitrieff organized institutional power for working-class women, and Mink agitated crowds to create an egalitarian socialist world. Each woman forged her own path to gender equality and social justice.

Conceived as a contribution to the history of French feminism, Carolyn Eichner's study implicitly links the feminists of the 1848 Revolution with those of the late nineteenth century by demonstrating the Paris Commune's central importance as a catalyst for one important strand of feminist activism.... Eichner argues convincingly that these women have been little recognized by historians of the Commune, in part because of their predominant focus on the overpowering figure of Louise Michel and on the incendiaries who came to personify the insurrection itself.... In her view, they must be recognized first and foremost as feminists, revealing elements of continuity within feminism and a legacy for future struggles over women's suffrage at the century's end.... [Her three principal protagonists] were caught up in internal socialist debates over goals and strategies, as they attempted to define their own forms of feminist socialism that could generate a gendered critique of class analysis.... In the civil war that was the Commune all three women chose to subordinate gender questions to the overriding issue of class struggle... [The] historiography of feminism and socialism has tended to marginalize the Communardes on the grounds that these militants demanded social and economic equality over and above individual women's rights.... Eichner makes a strong case that the legacy of these women was to keep this strand of feminism and its agenda alive. *European History Quarterly* 38:1 Jan. 2008 (European History Quarterly) For 72 days following the disastrous 1871 Franco-Prussian War, working-class and socialist Parisians challenged the French government. At the end of May 1871, the French Army stormed the city, attacked the insurgents' barricades, and left over 25,000 rebels dead. Most textbooks ignore the role women played in this revolt. Eichner (women's studies, Univ. of South Florida) corrects this oversight. She uses three revolutionaries, Elisabeth Dmitrieff, Andre Leo, and Paule Mink to represent the greater number of nameless female Communardes who challenged the strict gender and class boundaries that relegated French women to a status equal to that of minor children. Chapters explore the short-lived Commune from a refreshingly new feminist perspective. Each of the three women brought their different strengths to this revolt, representing the differing constituencies of women present on the barricades. Dmitrieff excelled at labor organizing, Leo used her writing skills to challenge the accepted roles allocated by French society to all women, and Mink specialized in grassroots activism. Despite the failure of the Commune, all of Eichner's protagonists continued their public activism, refusing to allow their dreams for an egalitarian society to die. *Summing Up: Recommended. Most academic levels/libraries.* (R. V. A. Gomez Anne Arundel Community College, 2005 Oct CHOICE) About the Author Carolyn J. Eichner is a historian and Associate

Professor of Womens Studies at the University of South Florida.