

A Women's History Book List

from the AAUW-NWV Women's History SIG.

From shaping nations and fighting to end slavery to gaining the right to vote and rocketing into space, women have made huge contributions to society over the centuries. Explore groundbreaking events, historical figures and the everyday life of women via reading biographies, memoirs, and historical narratives. The vast number of books related to the women's suffrage movement have previously been listed and, thus are not included in this list. Additions to the list have been made following recommendations of members made since the original list was compiled in 2021.

When Women Invented Television: The Untold Story of the Female Powerhouses Who Pioneered the Way We Watch Today by Jennifer Keishin Armstrong. 2021

You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War by Elizabeth Becker. 2021.

Margaret Bourke-White Moments in History by Sean Quimby (Author), Oliva María Rubio (Editor), Margaret Bourke-White (photographer). 2013.

The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine by Janice P. Nimura. 2021

The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation by Anna Malaika Tubbs. 2021.

The Princess Spy: The True Story of World War II Aline Griffith, Countess of Romanones by Larry Loftis. 2021.

Confident Women: Swindlers, Grifters, and Shapeshifters of the Feminine Persuasion by Tori Telfer. 2021.

The Woman They Could Not Silence: One Woman, Her Incredible Fight for Freedom, and the Men Who Tried to Make Her Disappear (Historical Nonfiction About Women's Rights and Mental Health) by Kate Moore. 2021.

Ethel Rosenberg: An American Tragedy by Anne Sebba. 2021

Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts by Rebecca Hall. 2021

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A Life by Jane Sherron de Hart. 2020

Eleanor by David Michaelis. 2020.

Agent Sonya: Moscow's Most Daring Wartime Spy by Ben Macintyre. 2020.

D-Day Girls: The Spies Who Armed the Resistance, Sabotaged the Nazis, and Helped Win World War II by Sarah Rose. 2020

A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II by Sonia Purnell. 2019.

Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II by Liza Muncy. 2018

Bygone Badass Broads: 52 Forgotten Women Who Changed the World by Mackenzi Lee with illustrations by Petra Eriksson. 2018

The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore. 2017.
(Narrative Nonfiction)

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly. 2016

A Warrior of the People: How Susan La Flesche Overcame Racial and Gender Inequality to Become America's First Indian Doctor by Joe Starita. 2016.

Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World by Rachel Ignotofsky. 2016
(age: 11-17)

Making Marie Curie: Intellectual Property and Celebrity Culture in an Age of Information by Eva Hemmungs Wirtén. 2015

Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail by Ben Montgomery. 2015.

Major Problems in American Women's History: Documents and Essays. Edited by Mary Beth Norton. 5th edition. 2014.

The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II by Denise Kiernan. 2013

Wonder Girl: The Magnificent Sporting Life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias by Don van Natta. 2013.

Bluestockings: The Remarkable Story of the First Women to Fight for an Education by Jane Robinson. 2010

Jane Goodall: A Biography by Meg Greene. 2005.

Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation by Cokie Roberts. 2004

Mary Colter: Architect of the Southwest by Arnold Berke. 2003

No Small Courage: A History of Women in the United States A survey anthology edited by Nancy F. Cott, 2000

A Century of Women: The History of Women in Britain and the United States in the Twentieth Century by Sheila Rowbotham. 1997

The Heart of a Woman by Maya Angelou. 1997

A History of Women in America: From Founding Mothers to Feminists-How Women Shaped the Life and Culture of America by Carol Hymowitz. 1984. (An older book but enthusiastically recommended by Juma Espinosa who taught women's history)

Mission France: The True History of the Women of SOE by Kate Vigurs. July 6, 2021

100 Women Who Made History: Remarkable Women Who Shaped Our World (100 in History) by DK. February 7, 2017 (age group 8-10).

The Women with Silver Wings: The Inspiring True Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II by Katherine Sharp Landdeck. April 21, 2020

◆**NOTE: Special Section: Women and Science** – recommended by Jane Bottenstein:

A Crack in Creation by Jennifer Doudna and Samuel Sternberg. 2017.

A Feeling for the Organism by Evelyn Keller. 1983.

Ada, The Enchantress of Numbers: Prophet of the Computer Age by Betty A. Toole. 1992.

Marie Curie: A Life by Susan Quinn. 1995.

Molecules of Emotion by Candace Pert. 1997.

Nobel Prize Women in Science (Second Edition) by Sharon McGrayne. 1998.

The Code Breaker by Walter Isaacson. 2021.

The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict. 2016.

Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers by Rachel Ignotofsky. 2016.

Women in Science: Then and Now by Vivian Gornick. 2009.