

women in early imperial china

Women in Early Imperial China: Roles, Status, and Influence

women in early imperial china occupied complex and often contradictory positions within society. While the dominant Confucian ideals emphasized patriarchal authority and female subservience, women's lives in this era were far from monolithic. From the Han dynasty through the early Tang period, women navigated a world shaped by strict social hierarchies but also found ways to exert influence in family, politics, culture, and religion. Exploring the roles, expectations, and realities faced by women in early imperial China reveals a nuanced picture of gender dynamics and cultural transformation.

The Social and Cultural Context of Women in Early Imperial China

To understand women in early imperial China, it's essential to grasp the prevailing Confucian values that shaped society. Confucianism, which became the state ideology during the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE), placed great importance on filial piety, hierarchical relationships, and clearly defined gender roles. Women were expected to be obedient daughters, loyal wives, and nurturing mothers, ideally embodying virtues like modesty, chastity, and diligence.

Confucian Teachings and Female Virtue

The “Three Obediences and Four Virtues” became the moral framework for women's conduct. According to these principles, a woman should obey her father before marriage, her husband after marriage, and her sons if widowed. The virtues emphasized included morality, proper speech, modest manner, and diligent work. These guidelines restricted women's autonomy and public participation but also created a code of conduct that many women internalized and adapted to their circumstances.

Family Structure and Women's Roles

The family was the fundamental social unit in early imperial China. Women's primary role was to manage household affairs and bear sons to continue the family lineage. Patriarchal authority meant that senior male relatives held decision-making power, but women, especially mothers and wives, wielded considerable influence behind the scenes. For example, mothers-in-law often controlled domestic matters and could impact the status of daughters-in-law.

Women in the Imperial Court and Politics

While Confucian norms generally limited women's public roles, some women in early imperial China

transcended these boundaries to become powerful figures in the imperial court. Their influence often came through familial connections or as consorts and empresses who could sway emperors and political decisions.

Empresses and Imperial Consorts

Several notable empresses and consorts left a lasting mark on Chinese history during this period. For instance, Empress Lü Zhi of the Han dynasty effectively ruled as regent after Emperor Gaozu's death, demonstrating women's potential to exercise political authority. Likewise, Empress Dou and Empress Wang played significant roles in court politics through their family networks and patronage.

These women often acted as mediators between the emperor and court officials, influencing appointments and policies. However, their power was precarious, relying heavily on favor and complex court intrigues.

Women as Regents and Political Players

In cases where emperors were young or weak, women could serve as regents, wielding substantial authority. The ability of women to govern in these circumstances challenges the perception of early imperial China as entirely restrictive for women. Their political involvement, though exceptional, highlights how gender roles could be negotiated in times of dynastic uncertainty.

Women's Economic Activities and Daily Lives

Beyond the walls of the palace, most women in early imperial China led lives centered around agriculture, handicrafts, and family labor. Their contributions to the economy and community were vital, though often undervalued in historical records.

Rural Women and Agricultural Work

In rural settings, women participated actively in farming alongside men. They planted crops, harvested, and managed food preparation. This labor was essential for family survival and local economies. Despite Confucian ideals that emphasized women's domestic roles, economic necessity often demanded women's involvement in physically demanding tasks.

Women in Textile Production and Handicrafts

Textile production was a common occupation for women, both in rural and urban areas. Spinning silk, weaving cloth, and embroidery were not only domestic tasks but sometimes sources of income. These skills were highly valued, and women's craftsmanship contributed to the flourishing silk industry, which was a significant part of China's economy and trade networks.

Marriage, Dowries, and Economic Exchange

Marriage arrangements often involved complex negotiations of dowries and bride prices. Women, through marriage, could transfer wealth and forge alliances between families. While women themselves rarely controlled property, their marriages were economic as well as social contracts, influencing family fortunes and status.

Education and Literary Contributions of Women

Although formal education for women was limited compared to men, some women in early imperial China received training in literature, music, and the arts. This education often came from family members or tutors and prepared women for roles as cultured wives and mothers.

Literary Women and Poets

Some women emerged as accomplished writers and poets, contributing to Chinese literature despite societal constraints. Their works often explored themes of love, loss, and personal reflection, offering insight into women's inner lives during this period. The poetry of Ban Zhao, a Han dynasty scholar and historian, stands out as an example of female intellectual achievement.

Teaching and Preserving Confucian Values

Women like Ban Zhao also played roles in educating younger women about Confucian ethics and household management. By imparting these teachings, they helped perpetuate social norms but also ensured that women could navigate their roles with greater confidence and skill.

Religious Roles and Female Spirituality

Religion provided another sphere where women in early imperial China could exercise agency. Daoism and Buddhism, which gained prominence during the later Han and subsequent dynasties, offered new spiritual possibilities and community roles for women.

Women in Daoism

Daoist women sometimes became priestesses or adepts, participating in rituals and healing practices. Daoism's emphasis on harmony with nature and spiritual immortality opened avenues for women to seek personal transcendence beyond the strictures of Confucian society.

Buddhist Nuns and Female Monastic Life

The spread of Buddhism introduced monastic life for women, allowing them to become nuns and dedicate themselves to religious study and practice. This provided an alternative life path that could elevate women's status and offer education and leadership opportunities within religious communities.

Challenges and Limitations Faced by Women

Despite these areas of influence and activity, women in early imperial China faced significant challenges. Legal codes and social customs limited their autonomy, and their status was often tied to male relatives.

Legal Restrictions and Inheritance

Women generally had limited property rights and were excluded from direct political participation. Inheritance laws favored male heirs, reinforcing women's dependence on husbands and sons. These legal constraints shaped women's vulnerability, especially in widowhood.

Social Expectations and Gender Norms

The pressure to conform to ideals of chastity and obedience could lead to harsh consequences for women who deviated from accepted behaviors. Female chastity, in particular, was highly prized, and widows were often expected to remain loyal to their deceased husbands, with remarriage viewed negatively.

Reflections on Women's Lives in Early Imperial China

Exploring women in early imperial China reveals a tapestry woven with strict cultural norms and surprising instances of female empowerment. While Confucianism set boundaries, women found ways to influence families, politics, culture, and religion. Their economic contributions sustained households, their intellectual pursuits enriched cultural life, and their spiritual commitments broadened social roles.

Understanding this historical context reminds us that women's experiences were varied and dynamic, shaped by personal circumstances and broader societal changes. For anyone interested in gender history or Chinese culture, the stories of women in early imperial China offer rich insights into resilience, adaptation, and the complexity of human lives across time.

Frequently Asked Questions

What roles did women typically hold in early Imperial China?

In early Imperial China, women primarily held roles within the domestic sphere, managing household affairs and raising children. Their status was largely defined by Confucian ideals emphasizing obedience, filial piety, and subservience to male family members.

How did Confucianism influence the status of women in early Imperial China?

Confucianism deeply influenced women's status by promoting a patriarchal social order where women were expected to be obedient to their fathers, husbands, and sons. This ideology reinforced gender hierarchies and limited women's public roles.

Were there any notable women who held power or influence during early Imperial China?

Yes, despite societal restrictions, some women attained significant power, such as Empress Lü Zhi of the Han Dynasty, who served as regent and wielded considerable political influence during her son's reign.

What were the educational opportunities available to women in early Imperial China?

Educational opportunities for women were limited and largely informal, focused on moral teachings and skills necessary for managing a household. Elite women sometimes received instruction in literature and arts, but formal education was primarily reserved for men.

How did marriage practices affect women's lives in early Imperial China?

Marriage was a crucial institution shaping women's lives, often arranged to strengthen family alliances. Women were expected to leave their natal families and integrate into their husband's household, where their primary roles were to produce heirs and maintain family harmony.

What legal rights did women have in early Imperial China?

Women had limited legal rights; they were generally under the authority of their fathers or husbands. While they could own property in some cases, their legal standing was subordinate, and laws often prioritized male relatives' interests.

How did women contribute to the cultural and artistic life of early Imperial China?

Women contributed to cultural life through poetry, calligraphy, and textile arts, which were valued

aspects of elite culture. Some women poets and artists gained recognition, although their work was often confined to private or domestic settings.

Additional Resources

****Women in Early Imperial China: Roles, Status, and Societal Impact****

women in early imperial china occupied complex and often contradictory positions within their society. While traditional narratives frequently depict them as subjugated or confined to domestic spheres, a closer examination reveals a nuanced landscape shaped by cultural norms, legal frameworks, and individual agency. Understanding the roles and status of women during this formative period not only sheds light on broader social structures but also contributes to ongoing discussions about gender dynamics in historical contexts.

Historical Context and Societal Framework

The early imperial era in China, spanning from the Qin dynasty (221–206 BCE) through the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE), was marked by significant political consolidation and cultural development. Confucianism emerged as the dominant ideological force, deeply influencing family structures, social roles, and governance. Within this framework, women's roles were largely defined by Confucian ideals emphasizing filial piety, obedience, and the importance of maintaining familial harmony.

Women in early imperial China were primarily associated with domestic responsibilities, including child-rearing, household management, and supporting their husbands. However, this period also witnessed women participating in various economic activities and, in some cases, wielding considerable influence within their families and communities.

The Confucian Model and Its Impact on Women

Confucian philosophy codified the "Three Obediences and Four Virtues," which prescribed women's subordination first to their fathers, then to their husbands, and finally to their sons. This ideological framework aimed to stabilize the family as the fundamental unit of society but simultaneously restricted women's autonomy.

- ****Three Obediences****: obedience to father before marriage, to husband after marriage, and to son in widowhood.
- ****Four Virtues****: morality, proper speech, modest manner, and diligent work.

Despite these strictures, Confucianism did not entirely silence women's voices. Elite women, particularly in the imperial court or aristocratic families, could influence political decisions indirectly through relationships with male relatives or by acting as patrons of the arts and literature.

Legal Status and Rights of Women

The legal codes of early imperial China provide insight into how women were perceived and regulated. The Qin dynasty's legalist principles emphasized strict social order, and subsequent Han legal reforms integrated Confucian ethics into the law.

Women's legal rights were limited compared to men. Property ownership and inheritance typically favored male descendants, although widows sometimes retained control over family property. Marriage laws often reinforced patriarchal control, with arranged marriages being common and divorce rights skewed heavily against women.

Marriage and Family Life

Marriage in early imperial China was not solely a personal or romantic union but a strategic alliance impacting family status, wealth, and social networks. The bride's role was to join the husband's household and ensure the continuation of the family line through male heirs.

Key aspects of marriage included:

- **Arranged Marriages:** Families negotiated marriages to strengthen alliances and social standing.
- **Dowry and Bride Price:** Economic transactions underscored the marriage contract.
- **Polygamy and Concubinage:** Elite men often had multiple wives or concubines, complicating family hierarchies and inheritance.

Despite these constraints, women could exercise influence within the household, particularly as mothers of sons who would carry on the family lineage.

Women's Economic Contributions

Contrary to assumptions that early imperial Chinese women were confined to the domestic sphere, many engaged actively in economic production. Agricultural work, textile manufacturing, and small-scale trade were areas where women's labor was both necessary and valued.

In rural settings, women often participated alongside men in farming activities, contributing to the household's sustenance and economic stability. In urban centers, women sometimes operated businesses or worked as artisans, though their opportunities remained circumscribed by social class and gender norms.

Textile Production and Female Labor

Textile production was one of the most significant occupations for women during the early imperial period. Spinning, weaving, and sewing were essential household tasks that could also generate income.

- Women's expertise in silk production was particularly prized, as silk was a major export commodity under imperial patronage.
- The production of fine textiles was closely linked to family status; well-made clothing signified wealth and respectability.

This economic role afforded some women a degree of independence and respect within their communities.

Education and Intellectual Pursuits

Education for women in early imperial China was limited and generally focused on moral instruction and domestic skills. Formal schooling was primarily reserved for boys, preparing them for civil service examinations and governmental roles.

However, some women, especially from elite families, received broader education and became accomplished poets, writers, and philosophers. Their works often circulated within restricted literary circles, offering a glimpse into women's intellectual lives despite societal constraints.

Notable Female Figures

Historical records mention several women who transcended traditional roles:

- **Empress Lü Zhi (241-180 BCE):** The first empress of the Han dynasty, she wielded considerable political power as regent after her husband's death.
- **Ban Zhao (45-116 CE):** A renowned historian and scholar, Ban Zhao authored "Lessons for Women," a seminal text on female conduct.
- **Lady Dai:** Her well-preserved tomb and artifacts offer valuable insights into the lives of elite women.

These figures demonstrate that women could navigate and sometimes shape the political and cultural landscapes of early imperial China.

Religious and Cultural Roles

Women also played roles in religious and cultural practices. Ancestor worship and rituals required women's participation, particularly as daughters-in-law responsible for maintaining family rites. Additionally, some women served as shamans or spiritual intermediaries in local communities.

Cultural expressions such as poetry, music, and dance often involved women, especially within court settings. These activities allowed women to contribute to the cultural richness of the period, albeit within socially prescribed limits.

Challenges and Limitations

Despite these contributions, women in early imperial China faced significant challenges:

1. **Legal Restrictions:** Limited property rights and legal protections curtailed autonomy.
2. **Social Expectations:** Rigid gender roles enforced through family and societal pressure.
3. **Political Marginalization:** Direct participation in governance was rare and often mediated through male relatives.

These factors combined to restrict women's public presence, even as they exercised influence in private and cultural domains.

Examining women in early imperial China reveals a tapestry of roles that balanced subordination with agency. While Confucian ideals shaped a predominantly patriarchal society, women's economic contributions, intellectual achievements, and occasional political power reflect a more intricate reality. Their experiences illuminate the broader dynamics of gender, power, and culture in one of history's most enduring civilizations.

[Women In Early Imperial China](#)

Find other PDF articles:

<https://old.rga.ca/archive-th-094/pdf?trackid=MHq81-9014&title=the-essential-frankfurt-school-reader.pdf>

women in early imperial china: *Women in Early Imperial China* Bret Hinsch, 2002 Written for his dissertation at Harvard in 1993, Hinsch's (history, National Chung Cheng U., Taiwan) fascinating

study of women during the Qin and Han periods in China provides a useful addition to the history of ancient women as well as life in early imperial China. The lives of women and their roles are examined in several contexts, including cosmology, kinship, law, government, learning, and ritual. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR.

women in early imperial china: Women in Early Imperial China Bret Hinsch, 2010 After a long spell of chaos, the Qin and Han dynasties (221 BCE 220 CE) saw the unification of the Chinese Empire under a single ruler, government, and code of law. During this era, changing social and political institutions affected the ways people conceived of womanhood. New ideals were promulgated, and women's lives gradually altered to conform to them. And under the new political system, the rulers' consorts and their families obtained powerful roles that allowed women unprecedented influence in the highest level of government. Recognized as the leading work in the field, this introductory survey offers the first sustained history of women in the early imperial era. Now in a revised edition that incorporates the latest scholarship and theoretical approaches, the book draws on extensive primary and secondary sources in Chinese and Japanese to paint a remarkably detailed picture of the distant past. Bret Hinsch's introductory chapters orient the nonspecialist to early imperial Chinese society; subsequent chapters discuss women's roles from the multiple perspectives of kinship, wealth and work, law, government, learning, ritual, and cosmology. An enhanced array of line drawings, a Chinese-character glossary, and extensive notes and bibliography enhance the author's discussion. Historians and students of gender and early China alike will find this book an invaluable overview.

women in early imperial china: Women in Early Imperial China Bret Hunt Hinsch, 1993

women in early imperial china: *Women in early imperial China* Bret Hunt Hinsch, 2000

women in early imperial china: *Women in Early Medieval China* Bret Hinsch, 2018-10-05 This important study provides the only comprehensive survey of Chinese women during the early medieval period of disunion, which lasted from the fall of the Eastern Han dynasty in 220 AD to the reunification of China by the Sui dynasty in 581 AD, also known as the Six Dynasties. Bret Hinsch offers rich descriptions of the most important aspects of female life in this era, including family and marriage, motherhood, political power, work, inheritance, education, and religious roles. He traces women's lived experiences as well as the emotional life and the ideals they pursued. Building on the best Western and Japanese scholarship, Hinsch also draws heavily on Chinese primary sources and scholarship, most of which is unknown outside China. As the first study in English about women in the early medieval era, this groundbreaking book will open a new window into Chinese history for Western readers.

women in early imperial china: *Women in Early Imperial China* Bret Hinsch, 2010-08-16 After a long spell of chaos, the Qin and Han dynasties (221 BCE-220 CE) saw the unification of the Chinese Empire under a single ruler, government, and code of law. During this era, changing social and political institutions affected the ways people conceived of womanhood. New ideals were promulgated, and women's lives gradually altered to conform to them. And under the new political system, the rulers' consorts and their families obtained powerful roles that allowed women unprecedented influence in the highest level of government. Recognized as the leading work in the field, this introductory survey offers the first sustained history of women in the early imperial era. Now in a revised edition that incorporates the latest scholarship and theoretical approaches, the book draws on extensive primary and secondary sources in Chinese and Japanese to paint a remarkably detailed picture of the distant past. Bret Hinsch's introductory chapters orient the nonspecialist to early imperial Chinese society; subsequent chapters discuss women's roles from the multiple perspectives of kinship, wealth and work, law, government, learning, ritual, and cosmology. An enhanced array of line drawings, a Chinese-character glossary, and extensive notes and bibliography enhance the author's discussion. Historians and students of gender and early China alike will find this book an invaluable overview.

women in early imperial china: Women in Ming China Bret Hinsch, 2021-05-03 This groundbreaking work provides an original and deeply knowledgeable overview of Chinese women

and gender relations during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644). Bret Hinsch explores in detail the central aspects of female life in this era, including family and marriage, motherhood, political power, work, inheritance, education, religious roles, and virtues. He considers not only the lived world of women, but also delves into their emotional life and the ideals they pursued. Drawing on a wide range of Western and Chinese primary and secondary sources—including standard histories, poetry, prose literature, and epitaphs—Hinsch makes an important period of Chinese women's history accessible to Western readers.

women in early imperial china: *Women in Ancient China* Bret Hinsch, 2018-05-14 This pioneering book provides a comprehensive survey of ancient Chinese women's history, covering thousands of years from the Neolithic era to China's unification in 221 BCE. For each period—Neolithic, Shang, Western Zhou, and Eastern Zhou—Bret Hinsch explores central aspects of female life: marriage, family life, politics, ritual, and religious roles. Deeply researched, the book draws on a wide range of Chinese scholarship and primary sources, including transmitted texts, inscriptions, and archaeological evidence. The result is a comprehensive view of women's history from the beginnings of Chinese civilization up to the beginnings of the imperial era. Clear and readable, the book will be invaluable for both students and specialists in gender studies.

women in early imperial china: *Women in Tang China* Bret Hinsch, 2019-11-11 This important book provides the first comprehensive survey of women in China during the Sui and Tang dynasties from the sixth through tenth centuries CE. Bret Hinsch provides rich insight into female life in the medieval era, ranging from political power, wealth, and work to family, religious roles, and virtues. He explores women's lived experiences but also delves into the subjective side of their emotional life and the ideals they pursued. Deeply researched, the book draws on a wide range of sources, including standard histories, poetry, prose literature, and epigraphic sources such as epitaphs, commemorative religious inscriptions, and Dunhuang documents. Building on the best Western and Japanese scholarship, Hinsch also draws heavily on Chinese scholarship, most of which is unknown outside China. As the first study in English about women in the medieval era, this groundbreaking work will open a new window into Chinese history for Western readers.

women in early imperial china: *Nan Nü*, 2000

women in early imperial china: *Women in Song and Yuan China* Bret Hinsch, 2020-12-16 This deeply researched book provides an original history of Chinese women during the pivotal Song and Yuan dynasties (960–1368). Bret Hinsch explores the most important aspects of female life in this era?political power, family, work, inheritance, religious roles, and emotions?and considers why the status of women declined during this period.

women in early imperial china: *Chinese Women in the Imperial Past* Harriet Thelma Zurndorfer, 1998-12-31 The present volume is the result of a Leiden University workshop on women in imperial China by a group of international scholars. In recent years Chinese women and gender studies have attracted more and more attention, and this book is one of the first efforts to focus on major aspects of this subject. It covers a wide range of topics and disciplines, including bibliography, demography, history, legal studies, literature, history of medicine, and philosophy. *Chinese Women in the Imperial Past* can rightly be seen as connected with the new Brill journal *NAN NU*, *Men, Women and Gender in Early and Imperial China*, which was founded to provide the scholarly community with a lasting forum in which the subject of Chinese women and gender can be dealt with in its own right.

women in early imperial china: *Women in Qing China* Bret Hinsch, 2022-03-10 This groundbreaking work provides an original and deeply knowledgeable overview of Chinese women and gender relations during the Qing Dynasty (1644–1912). Bret Hinsch explores in detail the central aspects of female life in this era, including family and marriage, motherhood, political power, work, inheritance, education, religious roles, and ethics. He considers not only women's experiences but also their emotional lives and the ideals they pursued. Drawing on a wide range of Western, Japanese, and Chinese primary and secondary sources—including standard histories, poetry, prose literature, and epitaphs—Hinsch makes an important period of Chinese women's history accessible

to Western readers.

women in early imperial china: Woman in Early Imperial China Bret Hinsch, 1993

women in early imperial china: Medicine for Women in Imperial China Angela Ki Che Leung, 2006-06-01 This book is the first scholarly work in English on medicine for women in pre-Song China. The essays deal with key issues in early Chinese gynecology and obstetrics, and how they were formulated before the Song when medicine for women reached maturity. The reader will find that medical questions in early China also reflected religious and social issues. The authors, based in North America and East Asia, describe and analyze women's bodies, illnesses, and childbirth experiences according to a variety of archaeological materials and historical texts. The essays reveal a rich and complex picture of early views on the female medical and social body that have wide implications for other institutions of the period, and on medicine and women in the later imperial era.

women in early imperial china: Women in Imperial China Bret Hinsch, 2016-09-22 This accessible text offers a comprehensive survey of women's history in China from the Neolithic period through the end of the Qing dynasty in the early twentieth century. Rather than providing an exhaustive chronicle of this vast subject, Bret Hinsch pinpoints the themes that characterized distinct periods in Chinese women's history and delves into the perception of female identity in each era. Moving beyond the traditional focus on the late imperial era, Hinsch explores how gender relations have developed and changed since ancient times. His chronological look at the most important female roles in every major dynasty showcases not only the constraints women faced but also their vast accomplishments throughout the millennia. Hinsch's extensive use of Chinese-language scholarship lends his book a fresh perspective rare among Western scholars. Professors and students will find this an invaluable textbook for Chinese women's studies and an excellent supplement for courses in gender studies and Chinese history.

women in early imperial china: Empresses and Consorts Shou Chen, Songzhi Pei, 1999-01-01 Here rendered into English for the first time, these chapters provide important insights into the worlds of palace women and court politics, while revealing much about the lives of upper-class women in general at the close of the third century.--BOOK JACKET.

women in early imperial china: Artisans in Early Imperial China Anthony J. Barbieri-Low, 2021-10-07 An award-winning study of the ancient world, now back in print Early China is best known for the dazzling material artifacts it has left behind. These terracotta figures, gilt-bronze lamps, and other material remnants of the Chinese past unearthed by archaeological excavations are often viewed without regard to the social context of their creation, yet they were made by individuals who contributed greatly to the foundations of early Chinese culture. With *Artisans in Early Imperial China*, Anthony Barbieri-Low combines historical, epigraphic, and archaeological analysis to refocus our gaze from the glittering objects and monuments of China onto the men and women who made them. Taking readers inside the private workshops, crowded marketplaces, and great palaces, temples, and tombs of early China, Barbieri-Low explores the lives and working conditions of artisans, meticulously documenting their role in early Chinese society and the economy. First published in 2007, winner of top prizes from the Association for Asian Studies, American Historical Association, College Art Association, and the International Convention of Asia Scholars, and now back in print, *Artisans in Early Imperial China* will appeal to anyone interested in Chinese history, as well as to scholars of comparative social history, labor history, and Asian art history.

women in early imperial china: Women in Imperial China Bret Hinsch, 2016-09-22 This accessible text offers a comprehensive survey of women's history in China from the Neolithic period through the end of the Qing dynasty in the early twentieth century. Rather than providing an exhaustive chronicle of this vast subject, Bret Hinsch pinpoints the themes that characterized distinct periods in Chinese women's history and delves into the perception of female identity in each era. Moving beyond the traditional focus on the late imperial era, Hinsch explores how gender relations have developed and changed since ancient times. His chronological look at the most

important female roles in every major dynasty showcases not only the constraints women faced but also their vast accomplishments throughout the millennia. Hinsch's extensive use of Chinese-language scholarship lends his book a fresh perspective rare among Western scholars. Professors and students will find this an invaluable textbook for Chinese women's studies and an excellent supplement for courses in gender studies and Chinese history.

women in early imperial china: *Women in China from Earliest Times to the Present* Robin Yates, 2009-07-31 This essential reference work provides an alphabetic listing, with an extensive index, of studies on women in China from earliest times to the present day written in Western languages, primarily English, French, German, and Italian. Containing more than 2500 citations of books, chapters in books, and articles, especially those published in the last thirty years, and more than 100 titles of doctoral dissertations and Masters theses, it covers works written in the disciplines of anthropology and sociology; art and archaeology; demography; economics; education; fashion; film and media studies; history; interdisciplinary studies; law; literature; music; medicine, science, and technology; political science; and religion and philosophy. It also contains many citations of studies of women in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Related to women in early imperial china

Women | News, Politics, Lifestyle, and Expert Opinions The ultimate destination for Women. Covering news, politics, fashion, beauty, wellness, and expert exclusives - since 1995

About Us - Women Founded in 1995 and acquired by Static Media in 2023, Women.com brings fresh perspective to the lifestyle space, providing coverage that brings sharp focus to conversations that matter

Relationships - Women Young Sheldon may center around a boy genius, but the women in Sheldon's life have rich star power, and the actors behind them have even richer personal lives. [Read More](#)

Outdated Boot Trends To Step Away From For Fall And Winter 2025 So to nail this boot trend, Women.com spoke exclusively with personal stylist and fashion consultant Cynthia Kennedy, creator of Your Style Transformation Academy to talk

Fall 2025 Fashion Trends You'll Be Seeing Everywhere - Women "Plaid for fall isn't new, but this year it's showing up with unexpected twists, like oversized graphic checks, different color combinations, and even mixed plaids in one outfit,"

So, How Much Is A Normal Amount Of Self-Pleasure? (Asking "There truly is no healthy amount of self-pleasure," sex and relationship therapist and social worker, Leigh Norén, exclusively tells Women. "It's a 'whatever floats your boat'

The Heel Trends That Will Be Hot For Fall 2025 - Cynthia Kennedy, creator of Your Style Transformation Academy, exclusively told Women that the stiletto version of the boot is out for fall/winter 2025, sharing, "They don't offer

The Fall 2025 Hair Trends To Have On Your Radar - Women The weather may be cooling down, but fall 2025's hottest hair trends are all about warmth. From brassy blond to burgundy, here are the styles to look out for

6 Trendy Haircuts You'll Be Seeing Everywhere In 2025 - Women "The 'French Bob' is going to be popular in the coming year," Gretchen Friese told Women.com exclusively. "As people are going shorter more often these days and looking for a

What Is Mar-A-Lago Face? The Plastic Surgery Trend, Explained While people have noticed the "Mar-a-Lago face" predominantly in the women of MAGA, like Lara Trump, Kimberly Guilfoyle, Lauren Sánchez, and Kristi Noem, the men fall

Women | News, Politics, Lifestyle, and Expert Opinions The ultimate destination for Women. Covering news, politics, fashion, beauty, wellness, and expert exclusives - since 1995

About Us - Women Founded in 1995 and acquired by Static Media in 2023, Women.com brings fresh perspective to the lifestyle space, providing coverage that brings sharp focus to conversations that matter

Relationships - Women Young Sheldon may center around a boy genius, but the women in Sheldon's life have rich star power, and the actors behind them have even richer personal lives. [Read More](#)

Outdated Boot Trends To Step Away From For Fall And Winter 2025 So to nail this boot trend, Women.com spoke exclusively with personal stylist and fashion consultant Cynthia Kennedy, creator of Your Style Transformation Academy to talk

Fall 2025 Fashion Trends You'll Be Seeing Everywhere - Women "Plaid for fall isn't new, but this year it's showing up with unexpected twists, like oversized graphic checks, different color combinations, and even mixed plaids in one outfit,"

So, How Much Is A Normal Amount Of Self-Pleasure? (Asking "There truly is no healthy amount of self-pleasure," sex and relationship therapist and social worker, Leigh Norén, exclusively tells Women. "It's a 'whatever floats your boat'"

The Heel Trends That Will Be Hot For Fall 2025 - Cynthia Kennedy, creator of Your Style Transformation Academy, exclusively told Women that the stiletto version of the boot is out for fall/winter 2025, sharing, "They don't offer

The Fall 2025 Hair Trends To Have On Your Radar - Women The weather may be cooling down, but fall 2025's hottest hair trends are all about warmth. From brassy blond to burgundy, here are the styles to look out for

6 Trendy Haircuts You'll Be Seeing Everywhere In 2025 - Women "The 'French Bob' is going to be popular in the coming year," Gretchen Friese told Women.com exclusively. "As people are going shorter more often these days and looking for a

What Is Mar-A-Lago Face? The Plastic Surgery Trend, Explained While people have noticed the "Mar-a-Lago face" predominantly in the women of MAGA, like Lara Trump, Kimberly Guilfoyle, Lauren Sánchez, and Kristi Noem, the men fall

Women | News, Politics, Lifestyle, and Expert Opinions The ultimate destination for Women. Covering news, politics, fashion, beauty, wellness, and expert exclusives - since 1995

About Us - Women Founded in 1995 and acquired by Static Media in 2023, Women.com brings fresh perspective to the lifestyle space, providing coverage that brings sharp focus to conversations that matter

Relationships - Women Young Sheldon may center around a boy genius, but the women in Sheldon's life have rich star power, and the actors behind them have even richer personal lives. [Read More](#)

Outdated Boot Trends To Step Away From For Fall And Winter 2025 So to nail this boot trend, Women.com spoke exclusively with personal stylist and fashion consultant Cynthia Kennedy, creator of Your Style Transformation Academy to talk

Fall 2025 Fashion Trends You'll Be Seeing Everywhere - Women "Plaid for fall isn't new, but this year it's showing up with unexpected twists, like oversized graphic checks, different color combinations, and even mixed plaids in one outfit,"

So, How Much Is A Normal Amount Of Self-Pleasure? (Asking "There truly is no healthy amount of self-pleasure," sex and relationship therapist and social worker, Leigh Norén, exclusively tells Women. "It's a 'whatever floats your boat'"

The Heel Trends That Will Be Hot For Fall 2025 - Cynthia Kennedy, creator of Your Style Transformation Academy, exclusively told Women that the stiletto version of the boot is out for fall/winter 2025, sharing, "They don't offer

The Fall 2025 Hair Trends To Have On Your Radar - Women The weather may be cooling down, but fall 2025's hottest hair trends are all about warmth. From brassy blond to burgundy, here are the styles to look out for

6 Trendy Haircuts You'll Be Seeing Everywhere In 2025 - Women "The 'French Bob' is going to be popular in the coming year," Gretchen Friese told Women.com exclusively. "As people are going shorter more often these days and looking for a

What Is Mar-A-Lago Face? The Plastic Surgery Trend, Explained While people have noticed

the "Mar-a-Lago face" predominantly in the women of MAGA, like Lara Trump, Kimberly Guilfoyle, Lauren Sánchez, and Kristi Noem, the men fall

Women | News, Politics, Lifestyle, and Expert Opinions The ultimate destination for Women. Covering news, politics, fashion, beauty, wellness, and expert exclusives - since 1995

About Us - Women Founded in 1995 and acquired by Static Media in 2023, Women.com brings fresh perspective to the lifestyle space, providing coverage that brings sharp focus to conversations that matter

Relationships - Women Young Sheldon may center around a boy genius, but the women in Sheldon's life have rich star power, and the actors behind them have even richer personal lives. [Read More](#)

Outdated Boot Trends To Step Away From For Fall And Winter So to nail this boot trend, Women.com spoke exclusively with personal stylist and fashion consultant Cynthia Kennedy, creator of Your Style Transformation Academy to talk

Fall 2025 Fashion Trends You'll Be Seeing Everywhere - Women "Plaid for fall isn't new, but this year it's showing up with unexpected twists, like oversized graphic checks, different color combinations, and even mixed plaids in one outfit,"

So, How Much Is A Normal Amount Of Self-Pleasure? (Asking "There truly is no healthy amount of self-pleasure," sex and relationship therapist and social worker, Leigh Norén, exclusively tells Women. "It's a 'whatever floats your boat' kind

The Heel Trends That Will Be Hot For Fall 2025 - Cynthia Kennedy, creator of Your Style Transformation Academy, exclusively told Women that the stiletto version of the boot is out for fall/winter 2025, sharing, "They don't offer

The Fall 2025 Hair Trends To Have On Your Radar - Women The weather may be cooling down, but fall 2025's hottest hair trends are all about warmth. From brassy blond to burgundy, here are the styles to look out for

6 Trendy Haircuts You'll Be Seeing Everywhere In 2025 - Women "The 'French Bob' is going to be popular in the coming year," Gretchen Friese told Women.com exclusively. "As people are going shorter more often these days and looking for a

What Is Mar-A-Lago Face? The Plastic Surgery Trend, Explained While people have noticed the "Mar-a-Lago face" predominantly in the women of MAGA, like Lara Trump, Kimberly Guilfoyle, Lauren Sánchez, and Kristi Noem, the men fall

Women | News, Politics, Lifestyle, and Expert Opinions The ultimate destination for Women. Covering news, politics, fashion, beauty, wellness, and expert exclusives - since 1995

About Us - Women Founded in 1995 and acquired by Static Media in 2023, Women.com brings fresh perspective to the lifestyle space, providing coverage that brings sharp focus to conversations that matter

Relationships - Women Young Sheldon may center around a boy genius, but the women in Sheldon's life have rich star power, and the actors behind them have even richer personal lives. [Read More](#)

Outdated Boot Trends To Step Away From For Fall And Winter So to nail this boot trend, Women.com spoke exclusively with personal stylist and fashion consultant Cynthia Kennedy, creator of Your Style Transformation Academy to talk

Fall 2025 Fashion Trends You'll Be Seeing Everywhere - Women "Plaid for fall isn't new, but this year it's showing up with unexpected twists, like oversized graphic checks, different color combinations, and even mixed plaids in one outfit,"

So, How Much Is A Normal Amount Of Self-Pleasure? (Asking "There truly is no healthy amount of self-pleasure," sex and relationship therapist and social worker, Leigh Norén, exclusively tells Women. "It's a 'whatever floats your boat' kind

The Heel Trends That Will Be Hot For Fall 2025 - Cynthia Kennedy, creator of Your Style Transformation Academy, exclusively told Women that the stiletto version of the boot is out for fall/winter 2025, sharing, "They don't offer

The Fall 2025 Hair Trends To Have On Your Radar - Women The weather may be cooling down, but fall 2025's hottest hair trends are all about warmth. From brassy blond to burgundy, here are the styles to look out for

6 Trendy Haircuts You'll Be Seeing Everywhere In 2025 - Women "The 'French Bob' is going to be popular in the coming year," Gretchen Friese told Women.com exclusively. "As people are going shorter more often these days and looking for a

What Is Mar-A-Lago Face? The Plastic Surgery Trend, Explained While people have noticed the "Mar-a-Lago face" predominantly in the women of MAGA, like Lara Trump, Kimberly Guilfoyle, Lauren Sánchez, and Kristi Noem, the men fall

Related to women in early imperial china

Introduction from the Guest Editor: Women's Work, Virtue and Space: Change from Early to Late Imperial China (JSTOR Daily13y) East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine, No. 36, Special Issue on Women and Textile Production Techniques in Traditional China (2012), pp. 9-38 (30 pages)

Introduction from the Guest Editor: Women's Work, Virtue and Space: Change from Early to Late Imperial China (JSTOR Daily13y) East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine, No. 36, Special Issue on Women and Textile Production Techniques in Traditional China (2012), pp. 9-38 (30 pages)

Aesthetic Evolution: Tracing Female Beauty in Ancient Chinese Art (Sixth Tone1y) Editor's note: "Fair Ladies — Digital Representations of Ancient Chinese Women," a Zhejiang Museum exhibition of more than 1,000 paintings from 32 museums across China, was held first online in 2021

Aesthetic Evolution: Tracing Female Beauty in Ancient Chinese Art (Sixth Tone1y) Editor's note: "Fair Ladies — Digital Representations of Ancient Chinese Women," a Zhejiang Museum exhibition of more than 1,000 paintings from 32 museums across China, was held first online in 2021

New DNA Evidence Reveals Female-Led Society in Ancient China (Wall Street Journal2mon) Scientists in China have discovered one of the oldest known matrilineal societies—where family lines and inheritance are traced through a community's women, not its men. Archaeologists unearthed the

New DNA Evidence Reveals Female-Led Society in Ancient China (Wall Street Journal2mon) Scientists in China have discovered one of the oldest known matrilineal societies—where family lines and inheritance are traced through a community's women, not its men. Archaeologists unearthed the

Xi Jinping's Historians Can't Stop Rewriting China's Imperial Past (Wall Street Journal1y) China's Communist Party often speaks proudly about what it claims to be 5,000 years of Chinese civilization. But its leaders are still struggling to decide what they should say about the past few

Xi Jinping's Historians Can't Stop Rewriting China's Imperial Past (Wall Street Journal1y) China's Communist Party often speaks proudly about what it claims to be 5,000 years of Chinese civilization. But its leaders are still struggling to decide what they should say about the past few

China's other great wall is impressive, too—and steeped in history (National Geographic news6mon) The 8.5-mile-long wall that surrounds Xi'an, touted as one of the best-preserved walled fortifications in China, could be the next UNESCO World Heritage site. Millions of people converge on Xi'an

China's other great wall is impressive, too—and steeped in history (National Geographic news6mon) The 8.5-mile-long wall that surrounds Xi'an, touted as one of the best-preserved walled fortifications in China, could be the next UNESCO World Heritage site. Millions of people converge on Xi'an