

## The Changing Role of Women, 1870–1920

Part A. Read each of the quotations below. In the space below each quotation, write a phrase or sentence to express the main point of the selection.

You cannot dodge the fact women have work in the world that men cannot do and it is equally true that men have work that women cannot do. Neither man nor woman is superior or inferior to the other; the two are just different, positive and negative, two great manifestations of a still greater force.

—Ann Watkins, 1912

We cannot believe that it is a fixed in the nature of things, that a woman must choose between a home and her work, when a man may have both. There must be a way out and it is the problem of our generation to find the way.

—Smith College Weekly, 1919

Most males cannot tolerate the idea of living with an equal at the fireside, and here is the secret of opposition to women's equality in the state . . . men are not ready to recognize it in the home. . . . Conservatism cries out that we are going to destroy the family. Timid reformers answer that political equality will not change it. They are both wrong. It will entirely revolutionize it.

—John Stuart Mill in 1870 speech

The proper education of a man decides the welfare of an individual, but educate a woman, and the interests of the whole family are secured.

—Catherine Beecher in  
*Treatise on Domestic Economy*

Now the whole country is budding into women's clubs. The clubs are uniting and federating by towns, states, nations; there are even world organizations. The sense of human unity is growing daily among women.

—Charlotte Perkins Gilman

We have not laid a secure foundation for any statement on this subject unless we have made it clear that "women's rights" are identical with "human rights"; that no father, brother, or husband can have all the privileges ordained for him of God, till mother and sister and wife are set free to secure them according to instinctive individual bias.

—Catherine H. Dall, 1867