



The Ends of History: Victorians and "the Woman Question" (Routledge Library Editions: Women's History)

Christina Crosby

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Why were the Victorians so passionate about "History"?

How did this passion relate to another Victorian obsession – the "woman question"? In a brilliant and provocative study, Christina Crosby investigates the links between the Victorians' fascination with "history" and with the nature of "women."

Discussing both key novels and non-literary texts – *Daniel Deronda* and Hegel's *Philosophy of History*; *Henry Esmond* and Macaulay's *History of England*; *Little Dorrit*, Wilkie Collins' *The Frozen Deep*, and Mayhew's survey of "labour and the poor"; *Villette*, Patrick Fairburn's *The Typology of Scripture* and Ruskin's *Modern Painters* – she argues that the construction of middle-class Victorian "man" as the universal subject of history entailed the identification of "women" as those who are before, beyond, above, or below history. Crosby's analysis raises a crucial question for today's feminists – how can one read historically without replicating the problem of nineteenth century "history"?

The book was first published in 1991.

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