



Out to Work: A History of Wage-Earning Women in the United States, 20th Anniversary Edition

By Alice Kessler-Harris

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First published in 1982, this pioneering work traces the transformation of "women's work" into wage labor in the United States, identifying the social, economic, and ideological forces that have shaped our expectations of what women do. Basing her observations upon the personal experience of individual American women set against the backdrop of American society, Alice Kessler-Harris examines the effects of class, ethnic and racial patterns, changing perceptions of wage work for women, and the relationship between wage-earning and family roles. In the 20th Anniversary Edition of this landmark book, the author has updated the original and written a new Afterword.

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for the Previous Edition:

"Impressive and deftly written....An example or two cannot do justice to the variety of materials and ideas the author draws together to explain how women workers have functioned as a low-paid reserve force, and why, as wage work became the rule rather than the exception in the 20th century, they found themselves in marginal jobs stereotyped as feminine."--*The New York Times Book Review*

"Comprehensive and packed with information."--*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"Without a doubt the single best survey of transformation of women's paid and unpaid work from the colonial period to the present."--*American Historical Review*

About the Author

Alice Kessler-Harris is the R. Gordon Hoxie Professor of American History at Columbia University, where she also teaches in the Institute for Research on Women and Gender. She is the author of *A Woman's Wage*, *Women Have Always Worked* and *In Pursuit of Equity*.

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