

sources, though in their research the authors used both primary and secondary sources. Sidebars provide details about the lives of several scientists discussed in the book.

*Race, Racism, and Science* should be an indispensable book in any course in which race is the central concern. An African studies course might use the book as a supplement to the lectures and textbook. A graduate course in the history of biology might also use *Race, Racism, and Science* as a supplement. An instructor might, taking the book as a starting point, ask students to research and report on the work of one topic in the book. A student, for example, might examine the craniometry of Samuel Morton or the eugenics of Charles Davenport. Alternatively an instructor might use the racism of Louis Agassiz as the basis for a discussion of the subjectivity of science. Instructors eager for material suitable for a lecture might draw upon the book for its narrative on eugenics, a topic germane to the histories of the United States, Britain, and Germany. One hopes that *Race, Racism, and Science* will receive the attention it deserves.

Independent Scholar

Christopher Cumo

**Helen M. Jewell.** *Women in Late Medieval and Reformation Europe, 1200-1550.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. Pp. 171. Paper, \$29.95; ISBN 0-333-91257-8.

This excellent volume is part of the European Culture and Society Series. Helen M. Jewell, now retired, was formerly Senior Lecturer in the School of History at the University of Liverpool. Her previous publications include *Women in Medieval England* and *Women in Dark Age and Early Medieval Europe c. 500-1200*, the latter also in this series. The author combines a historiographical survey of trends over the last thirty years with recent scholarship that will provide an indispensable introduction for students, teachers, and anyone interested in women's history from the later Middle Ages to the Reformation. The book could be assigned for an upper-division course covering this period, but an instructor could find a great deal of material for lectures in this a rather slim but densely packed volume.

In chapter 1, which is an introduction, the author states that the focus is on Western Europe. She then looks at the various social groupings and communities as well as the impact of political, economic, demographic, and religious developments on women during the period 1200-1550. The chapter concludes with an examination of primary sources and an evaluation of the historiography of the subject. The second chapter discusses the misogynistic elements in Ancient Medicine, the Judeo-Christian tradition, and canon and secular law that worked to keep women in an inferior position throughout the Middle Ages for the most part. Furthermore, women's options contracted in the Renaissance, and the Reformation strengthened patriarchal ideology. The next two chapters are especially interesting because of their focus on the practical, i.e., women in rural and urban communities. Chapter 3 first examines the role of

women in the agricultural cycle and in pastoral economies. Then the impact of manorial obligations on women is scrutinized. This is followed by a consideration of the domestic roles of countrywomen, and finally there is a summary of the rural woman's life cycle. Chapter 4 is rich with details of women in urban communities. We learn about the unhealthy conditions of town life, the exploitation of female domestics, the role of women in trades and crafts, domestic life, the crucial role of wet-nurses, and prostitution. This chapter also concludes with a look at the life cycle of urban women. The focus in chapter 5 shifts to women and power, beginning with queens and then women of the nobility and landed classes. This chapter also includes a life cycle. The author believes that it might be worth reconsidering "the possibility of women actually wielding power," and the chapter ends with some examples such as Blanche of Castile, Margaret of Denmark, and others. Chapter 6, which concerns women and religion, includes discussions of nuns, mystics, beguines, teritiaries, saints, devotional observances of laywomen, women and heresy, witchcraft, Jewish and Muslim women, and, finally, the Reformation and women. The seventh chapter focuses on three women who exceeded society's expectations: Christine de Pizan, Clare of Assisi, and Joan of Arc. Chapter 8 summarizes some of the themes covered in the previous chapters, and the author ends by noting that by 1550, "there was about to be much wider voicing of women's equal right to education." Times were changing.

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**Helen Rawlings. *The Spanish Inquisition*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2006. Pp. 192. Paper, \$30.95; ISBN 0-631-20600-0.**

Helen Rawlings has written a first-rate introduction to the complex study of a subject that has entertained a second awakening within the scholarly world of historical literature. Intended for the mature student or general interest reader, *The Spanish Inquisition* is written almost in textbook form, providing for an easy to understand and well-organized volume of work. Rawlings examined both the work of past scholars and the newer research done by British, European, and American scholars, to establish a clear understanding of the structure of the Inquisition as an institution; when and where activity was most present; and the short and long term effects it had on Spanish society and culture. With over 41 books cited in this volume, combined with the author's authority on the subject, this is an excellent resource and a thought-provoking read.

With the discovery and study of fresh evidence, a new generation of scholars has re-examined the Inquisition. Rawlings, drawing on these new studies, confronts the severe left and right views of the Spanish Inquisition presented by older scholars. She is able to disprove the preceding conclusions that the Inquisition was either a completely evil institution or something that stood for all that was good about tradition and doctrine. She is able to prove that the Inquisition's reputation as a vicious means