

Women of Russia: Betwixt Ambition and Tradition

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Abstract

The women of Russia have a chequered history of struggle for their rights often contending with cross currents of history, occasioned by rise and fall of dynasties, and the tenacious hold of religious orthodoxy, predictably unfavourable to them. This is despite the fact that Russian history is replete with tales of valour and wisdom by exemplary women who have led Russia through difficult times and set the foundation of the imperial Russia, the predecessor of the Russia that we see today. The years of communism with its emphasis on communitarian ethics and egalitarian and emancipatory ethos should have, one would assume, made it easier for women to claim their place under the sun. However, their experience through the years of communism, and ever since, was not so elevating. The Russian women, like their counterparts elsewhere in the world, are engaged in an unequal struggle for recognition of their rights, with even additional burden of having to operate in a moral and legal environment unresponsive to change.

Keywords: Women Rights, Gender Stereotypes, Womanly Mission, Glass Ceiling.

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