

~~During the early to high middle
ages, women in Germanic and
Catholic cultures were~~

During the early to high middle
ages, the treatment and status of
women varied in ~~many~~ several ways
between Germanic and Christian
cultures. As these two cultures
moved slowly into a more unified
culture, they influenced each other,
further changing women's lives. Science
fic views on women, ~~secular~~ secular
laws regarding women, Catholic treatise
~~also~~ ~~about~~ women, and the ^{way} women
of the privileged classes were treated
~~are~~ all factors in the overall
medieval viewpoint towards the female
sex.

Scientists, philosophers, and
any one who attended universities,

believed ~~at~~ the medical knowledge of the time, as set forth by Aristotle, Galen, and other predominant philosophers. These educated men believed that women were inferior, physically deformed men. They thought that women were colder, therefore not able to produce semen, and these men also construed the menstrual cycle to be solid evidence of this inferiority. In more widespread beliefs, women were associated with nature and passion, or the "flesh" and men with reason and ~~strength~~ civility. This belief has its roots in Greco-Roman thinking. ~~The~~ ^{most} interesting fact that the educated medieval man believed ~~is~~ is that women were insatiable sex-machines, and with every indiscretion, a man lost brain cells!

The overall effect of such scientific dogma on women was ~~to~~ to contribute to the attitude that

Women ~~were~~ are the weaker sex, to be
✓ protected + used. Women were seen as
less able to think rationally or to do important
~~mental~~ work besides the bearing of children.
~~and~~ ~~work~~ This justified their status as
✓ minors under the law, and supplied further
evidence to ~~add~~ the list of reasons why
women ~~would~~ ^{would} not be allowed to teach
✓ males, or why they could not have other
rights their male counterparts enjoyed.

In the Eyes of the law, Women were
not equal to men either, although they
were somewhat protected. In early Germanic
secular laws, women of childbearing age
were protected the most, revealing the priority
✓ of the cultures value on women. The
daughters ~~was~~ father chose her husband
✓ for her, usually the highest bidder. Later
on, as Christianity exerted a strong
influence on Germanic tradition, the
bride herself would be given a gift ^{the morning}
instead, which she could keep and

will. In early Germanic culture,
~~as the tradition was that~~

However, Polygamy, incest, and abuse
were accepted. One protection a woman
had was that she could force her
rapist to marry her.

In Carolingian society and
beyond, although women were never
counts, they could be Chatelaines.

These women owned land and a
castle, and commanded men under them.

~~as well~~ Women gained more rights
under Charlemagne, including rights

in court and to own property. One
important development was marital
indissolubility, meaning that a man
could not simply divorce his wife

if she was infertile, sick, or ugly.
The ^{sole} reason that justified divorce was
adultery.

The church also had a great
influence on women's lives in the
early to high middle ages. Although

Jesus
Mary, the mother of God was ~~so~~ adored and
venerated, Eve was reviled, often in the
same sentence! Much value was
placed on virginity, in contrast to the
✓ Germanic emphasis on fertility. Eve was
blamed for the fall of man, and all
✓ ~~women~~ women (her successors) were seen
✓ as "gates to hell". The view of women as
evil temptresses was taken a step farther
by the Cluniac reform. During this movement
the Cluniac reformers renounced clerical
✓ marriage. Otto ^{of Cluny} called women some unkind
names going so far as to declare that
(paraphrase) 'who would want to embrace this
sack of dung?'

although at first women could be
abbesses, controlling a ~~few~~ and ruling
over even monks in a double monastery, setting
✓ this ^{practice} died out. ~~It~~ chronically, for a time, man
areas girls were better educated than its
boys, because only girls were allowed to
✓ attend double monasteries. The church was
receive educ. in

The only source of education, and if your area was run by an abbess, your sons were out of luck!

Noblewomen enjoyed perhaps the ~~highest~~ ^{best} status of all women during this period. Queens wielded great power in many cases. Charlemagne's Queen controlled the household, and all his subjects were to obey and respect her. In a few documented cases Queens ~~were seen~~ appeared in armor on the battlefield, if not to fight. The Church relied heavily on Queens to convert their kings + their people, owing many missionary successes to women. ~~As~~ As already mentioned, Chatelaines enjoyed considerable power, as did abbesses.

early medieval period

Scientific knowledge, Germanic customs, secular beliefs, the Church, and the ^{elevated} rights of noblewomen were all a part of the overall treatment

and status of women in the
early to high middle ages. ~~Q~~
Women had ^{both} gained and lost ~~rights~~
standing as compared to older
civilizations. I don't know if men
understand them even now.

Merry Christmas! It's been
a fun class!