

CHAPTER  
**13**

Section 3

CONNECTIONS ACROSS TIME AND CULTURES

*Roles of Women*

THEMATIC CONNECTION:  
POWER AND AUTHORITY

*In Unit 3, you have read about the status of women in Muslim, Chinese, and feudal European societies. Throughout history and into modern times, the roles and responsibilities of women in society have varied. To help you identify some reasons for the continuous shift in the status of women, answer the questions that follow.*

1. In Chapter 10, Section 1, you read that Muslim women had more rights than European women living in the same time period.
  - a. What rights did Muslim women have? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What were their responsibilities as women? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. How did the religion of Islam affect the role of women in Muslim society? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. In Chapter 12, Section 1, you read that prosperity in China during the Tang and Song periods transformed Chinese society. The status of Chinese women, who had always been subservient, declined even further.
  - a. What were the reasons for this decline? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How did the custom of foot-binding reflect the inferior status of women? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. In feudal European society, there were well-defined social classes, and status determined a person's prestige and power.
  - a. How did the Church view women? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How were women viewed in the literature of chivalry? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Under the feudal system, how did the role of a noblewoman differ from that of the vast majority of women? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. How did peasant women contribute to the well-being of their families? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. In general, how would you characterize the status of women in the ancient and medieval societies you have studied? How would you characterize the role of women in modern-day societies? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. What factors appear to have had the greatest influence on the rights and responsibilities of women in society? \_\_\_\_\_  
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