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from the arrival of the spaniards to present day influences from cuba puerto rico and mexico essays are not in alphabetical order but in a classified arrangement volume 1 history begins with an interpretive essay that criticizes the lack of recognition of the hispanic influence in the building of the american nation what follows is a collection of essays on such subjects as the spanish exploration conquest and settlement of new mexico 1540 1680 spanish culture of the golden age and eighteenth century and histories of chicanos puerto ricans and cubans in the u s the volume covering hispanic literature and art begins with an essay that attempts to foster an appreciation of puerto rican cuban and chicano arts and letters it goes on to discuss each people s literature by genre which includes theater the novel poetry and the short story other essays discuss women writers the hispanic oral tradition art music cinema and the spanish language press

in the late 1930s a number of american women especially those allied with various peace and isolationist groups protested against the nation s entry into world war ii while their story is fairly well known margaret paton walsh reveals a far less familiar story of women who fervently felt that american intervention was absolutely necessary paton walsh recounts how the united states became involved in the war but does so through the eyes of american women who faced it as a necessary evil covering the period between 1935 and 1941 she examines how these women functioned as political actors even though they were excluded from positions of power through activism in women s organizations informal women s networks and even male dominated lobbying groups in the great debate over whether america should enter the war some women favored aid to the allies not because they hoped for war but because they hoped aid would forestall more direct u s involvement but also because they believed war was preferable to a nazi victory paton walsh shows that this activism involved some of the most prominent women of their day elizabeth cutter morrow whose son in law charles lindbergh was an isolationist spokesman supported the revision of the neutrality acts to allow the sale of arms to the allies and expressed her support in a national radio broadcast soon other women joined this debate esther brunauer of the aauw journalist dorothy thompson and organizations like the league of women voters and national women s trade union league broke from the pacifist tradition to advocate american aid for the allied cause focusing on the conflict in europe paton walsh shows how these women grasped the implications of the lend lease program for america s entry into the war but supported it nevertheless by late 1941 the women s division of the fight for freedom committee had been established no longer merely advocating aid to britain to keep american boys out of battle this organization supported direct american involvement in the war as a means of stopping nazi oppression while most historians have focused on women s pacifism paton walsh connects women more directly to world events

and shows how those interventionists reformulated maternalist ideas to justify and explain their beliefs our war too is a story of american women trying to reconcile the irreconcilable to preserve both their principles and their peace it expands our understanding of women as political actors and thinkers about foreign policy as it sheds new light on american public opinion over the build up to the war

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