



# Women of Byzantium

*Carolyn L. Connor*

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On detailed inspection, sources relating to the Byzantine empire do contain significant reference to the position and role of women in society. In this study Carolyn Connor presents a window into the 'lives, occupations, beliefs, and social roles of Byzantine women' from Late Antiquity, AD 250, to the Fall of Constantinople in 1453. Drawing on a wide variety of sources including art, architecture, inscriptions, hagiographies, poetry, histories, legal records and chronicles, each chapter takes a particular theme relating to women such as imperial marriage, women as saints, female pilgrimages, monasticism and women as patrons. Each chapter begins with a general introduction to its central theme and then takes a particular female figure as a case study, covering many different types and social classes of women. The lives of ordinary women, wives, mothers, and sisters are social classes of women. The lives of ordinary women, wives, mothers, and sisters are placed alongside those of the empress Theodora, the empress Zoe, the wife of the emperor Justinian, Anna Komnene, and so on. An impressive and well-written study which is not beyond the general reader.

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