
Louise Otto-Peters was one of the most influential leaders of the German Women’s rights movement in the 19th Century. Her writing, which included: novels, poetry, novellas, short stories, advocated for expansion of women’s public sphere. She also created, wrote for and edited the women’s newspaper Frauen-Zeitung. One of the aims of the women organizations she led was to open up professions to women and move away from prostitution as being something women were forced to fall back on, which she articulated in her piece *Women's Right to Earn a Living*.


The original German text of Otto’s work was reprinted in this source. Between 1815 and 1870 Germany developed into an economic and political power and started to become much more modern during industrialization. This sourcebook provides an examination of the affect this leap had on citizen’s everyday lives. It contains 15 sections, 258 pages, including Otto’s *Women’s Right to Earn a Living*. It can be found in the Ebook library through worldcat.org. It did not focus specifically on women’s reaction, which sets it apart from most sourcebooks that contain Otto’s essays and writings.


This book contains Otto’s work *Women’s Right to Earn a Living* along with other 19th century european women writers. Specifically, the essays expose their responses to the industrial revolution. Otto’s essay appears in the second half of the book that focuses on how women were challenging their preconceived roles and trying to escape from the sexual and cultural confinements that society defined them in. The book puts Otto’s essay into a larger women’s movement perspective. She was the leader of the German Women’s Rights movement, but her complaints and actions were not unique. All over, women were feeling the changing social norms that the industrial revolution was sparking. Otto was one of the first to voice her concerns and also act on other women’s behalf to improve all women’s lives for the better.

*Women's Right to Earn a Living* appears in the book, *German Feminist Writings*, where she is one of the more notable authors represented. This points to her influence and importance in the German feminist movement. Otto’s works appear throughout the book, in sections such as Women and Work, Women in Politics and Education for Girls and Women.