

# TANYA L. ROTH, PHD

*Historian. Teacher. Writer.*



An award-winning historian and teacher with a PhD in history from Washington University in St. Louis. Author of **Her Cold War: Women in the U.S. Military, 1945-1980.**

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## About the Author

Tanya Roth is a historian and high school history teacher with a history PhD from Washington University in St. Louis. For the last decade, Tanya has taught a variety of classes in US and world history, helping students learn to write and to uncover the stories that make history memorable and fascinating. Tanya's students and colleagues know her as someone with an energetic, lively personality and a flair for the dramatic. She is passionate about learning how history helps us understand the world we live in.

Tanya's writing and research have been recognized by several awards, including a fellowship from the American Association of University Women, the Society of Military History's Coffman Prize, and grants from the John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Gerald Ford Presidential Libraries. Her writing has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *History News Network*, *Public Seminar*, and the American Historical Association's *AHA Today*.

Tanya's book, *Her Cold War: Women in the U.S. Military, 1945-1980*, will be published by University of North Carolina Press in September 2021. Her book explains why American government and military leaders fought to give women a permanent place in the armed forces after World War II, a decision that laid the groundwork for the military as we know it today.

Servicewomen reimagined equality.  
Womanpower redefined the military.

While Rosie the Riveter had fewer paid employment options after being told to cede her job to returning World War II veterans, her sisters and daughters found new work opportunities in national defense. The 1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act created permanent military positions for women with the promise of equal pay. **Her Cold War** follows the experiences of women in the military from the passage of the Act to the early 1980s.



In the late 1940s, defense officials structured women's military roles on the basis of perceived gender differences. Classified as noncombatants, servicewomen filled roles that they might hold in civilian life, such as secretarial or medical support positions. Defense officials also prohibited pregnant women and mothers from remaining in the military and encouraged many women to leave upon marriage. Before civilian feminists took up similar issues in the 1970s, many servicewomen called for a broader definition of equality free of gender-based service restrictions. Tanya L. Roth shows us that the battles these servicewomen fought for equality paved the way for women in combat, a prerequisite for promotion to many leadership positions, and opened opportunities for other servicepeople, including those with disabilities, LGBT and gender nonconforming people, noncitizens, and more.

Coming September 30, 2021 from University of North Carolina Press

Pre-order *Her Cold War* now

[Hardcover - Paperback](#)

# HER COLD WAR

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## Praise for Her Cold War

“An important contribution to military history, women’s history, and U.S. social and cultural history.”

—Heather Marie Stur, author of *Beyond Combat: Bringing the Home Front to the Front Lines*

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"Focused on a crucial, though often-overlooked time period...Tanya L. Roth skillfully and seamlessly restores ‘womanpower’ to its central place in the history of the American military and the women’s movement, demonstrating once and for all the irretractable ties between second-wave feminism and Cold War national defense."

—Kara Dixon Vuic, author of *The Girls Next Door: American Women and Military Entertainment*

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# HER COLD WAR

## *Book Talk Topics*

Tanya is an experienced speaker and looks forward to expanding on a number of themes from her book. Possible topics include:

- How military and government leaders fought for womanpower after World War II
- Recruiting women for military service, including visuals beyond those in the book
- What we mean when we talk about 'equality' in the military, and the multiple meanings of equality
- The role women's bodies played in shaping military service
- The evolution of womanpower in the military
- Women's rights in the armed forces: how have they changed?
- A portrait of women military leaders in the Cold War
- Doing oral history: explaining the process, conducting interviews that capture someone's story
- The legacies of the Cold War military
- The Equal Rights Amendment and American Servicewomen