

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/gender-war-and-the-state/>

This video discusses the life of Alda Gaba, an Italian noblewoman married into the Gamba family in Russia. Originating from a prominent family with lands in Central Italy, her husband was a military leader who provided mercenary services to Venice. Their marriage occurred during a tumultuous period for Italy, increasingly affected by French invasions.

Alda's significant role emerges through her correspondence—240 letters spanning from approximately 1498 to 1527—detailing her management of household and estate, notably during wartime. The letters reveal her proactive involvement in organizing military defenses, managing supplies, and rallying troops in place of her husband when he was away. After becoming a widow, she continued these responsibilities, demonstrating a clear connection between domestic estate management and military leadership.

This video highlights a specific event in 1512 when Brescia faced a conflict between pro-French and pro-Venetian factions, culminating in a violent uprising. Alda was actively engaged in defending against Venetian forces and leading cavalry, showcasing active female participation in military affairs during a time generally dominated by men.

The author argues that Alda's involvement should not be seen as exceptional but rather as a natural extension of noblewomen's roles, challenging traditional notions of gender and women's expected passivity in military contexts. This video concludes by suggesting a reevaluation of women's experiences in war, moving beyond the narrative of victims to recognizing their multifaceted roles, including leadership and management.