



Demanding Equality:

Suffrage and the Women's
Movement

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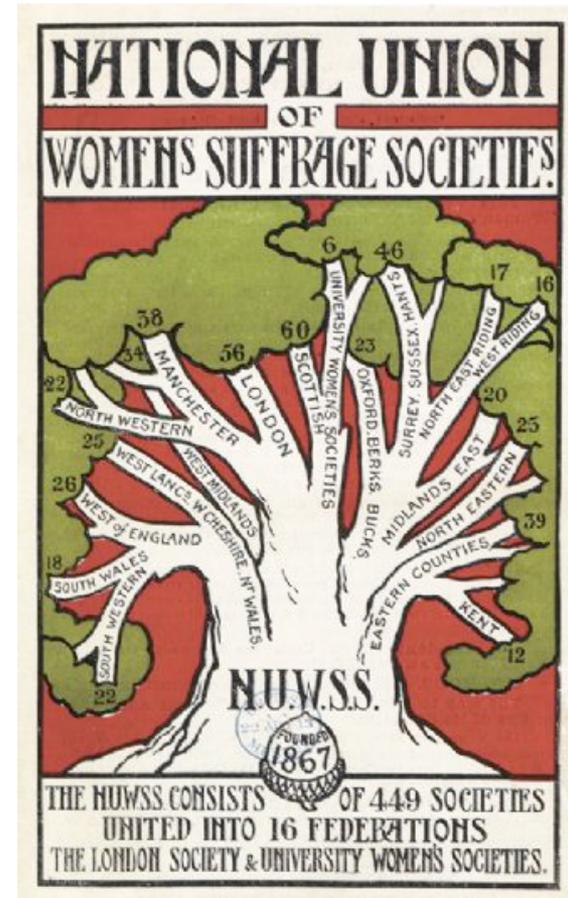
- Women's rights
 - By 1884, Germany, France, and Britain had enfranchised most men
 - Women relegated to status as second-class citizens
 - Women pressed their interests through independent organizations and forms of direct action

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- Women's organizations
 - General German Women's Association
 - Pressed for educational and legal reforms
 - Votes became the symbol for women's ability to attain full personhood
 - Middle-class women founded clubs, published journals, organized petitions

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- British women's suffrage campaigns
 - Exploded in violence
 - Millicent Fawcett (1847–1929)
 - National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (1897)
 - Composed of sixteen different organizations
 - Her movement lacked political and economic clout



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- British women's suffrage campaigns
 - Emmeline Pankhurst (1858–1928)
 - Founded the Women's Social and Political Union (1903)
 - Adopted tactics of militancy and civil disobedience
 - Women chained themselves to the visitor's gallery in the House of Commons



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- British women's suffrage campaigns
 - Slashed paintings in museums
 - Disrupted political meetings
 - Burned the homes of politicians
 - The British government countered this violence with repression
 - Six-hour riot between suffragists and police in 1910
 - The martyrdom of Emily Wilding Davison (1913)



FPO
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Militant Martyrdom for Woman Suffrage

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Demanding Equality: Suffrage and the Women's Movement

- British women's suffrage campaigns
- Redefining womanhood
 - Campaign for women's suffrage helped redefine Victorian gender roles
 - The increasing visibility of women

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- Redefining womanhood
 - Middle-class women and work
 - Worked as social workers and clerks, nurses, and teachers
 - British women established their own colleges at Oxford and Cambridge in the 1870s and 1880s
 - Women, politics, and reform
 - Poor relief, prison reform, temperance movements, abolition of slavery, education

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- Redefining womanhood
 - The “new” woman
 - Demanded education and a job
 - Claimed the right to be physically and intellectually active
 - The new woman as image
 - Few women actually fitted the image created by artists and journalists

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- Redefining womanhood
 - Opposition
 - Never exclusively male opposition
 - Mrs. Humphrey Ward—women in politics would sap the strength of the empire
 - Christian commentators criticized suffragists for moral decay
 - Others argued that feminism would dissolve the family