



The Suffragettes

HOW THE SUFFRAGETTES CHANGED BRITAIN

Synopsis

- What is suffrage?
- The right to vote
- The Suffragists
- The Suffragettes
- Violent protests
- Consequences
- Suffragettes and WWI
- The Representation of the People Act
- Conclusion
- Sources



"If men use explosives and bombs for their own purpose, they call it war, and the throwing of a bomb that destroys other people is then described as a glorious and heroic deed. Why should a woman not make use of the same weapons as men? It is not only war we have declared. We are fighting for a **revolution**".

— Christabel Pankhurst, 1913



What is suffrage?

WHO COULD VOTE IN ENGLAND?

Suffrage

the right to **vote** in political elections



In History:

⇒ Many restrictions

Age

Gender

Race

Education

Wealth

Social status



⇒ In England 

$\frac{2}{3}$ of the **male** population could vote

Not include

Who did not own property

Who paid at least £10/year in rent

Servants

Criminals

Lunatics

What is suffrage?



Women **couldn't** vote

⇒ Queen Victoria: “mad, wicked folly”

↓
the fight for women's rights

⇒ Also other women had the same thought...





The *right* to vote

SUFFRAGISTS AND SUFFRAGETTES

In 19th - 20th centuries

⇒ 2 main **political groups** came up

NATIONAL UNION OF **WOMEN'S**
SUFFRAGE **SOCIETIES** (NUWSS)

WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL **UNION** (WSPU)

⇒ **Suffragists**

Suffragettes ⇐

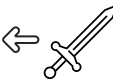
NICKNAME GIVEN BY
NEWSPAPER



⇒ Peaceful protest

TWO DIFFERENT
TATTICS

Violent protest ⇐



⇒ under the colours of red,
green and white

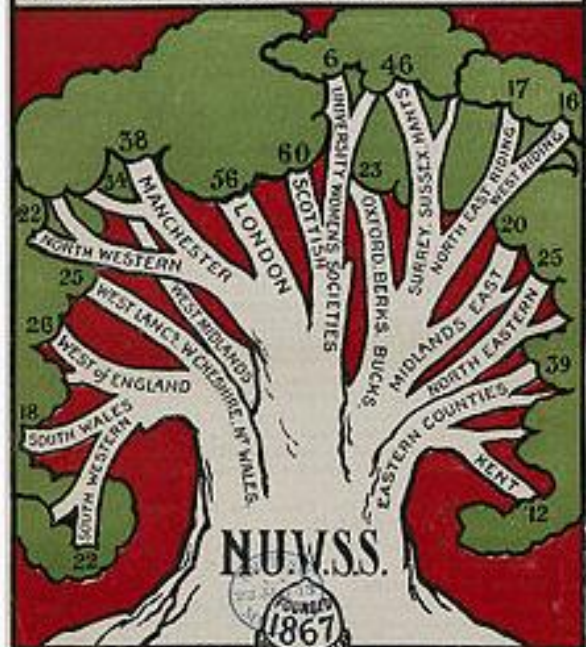
under the still-familiar ⇐
purple, green and white

VOTE FOR WOMEN

The **right** to vote



NATIONAL UNION OF WOMENS SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.



THE NUWSS CONSISTS OF 449 SOCIETIES
UNITED INTO 16 FEDERATIONS
THE LONDON SOCIETY & UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S SOCIETIES.

The Suffragists

NUWSS: PEACEFUL PROTESTS

The Suffragists

⇒ Members of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS)

⇒ Led by Millicent Garrett Fawcett

- ⇒ **V**ote for middle-class property-owning women
- ⇒ **B**elieve in peaceful protest

If

the organization was seen to be

Thoughtful
Intelligent
Law-abiding

they would win the **r**espect of Parliament

↓
to reach the goal

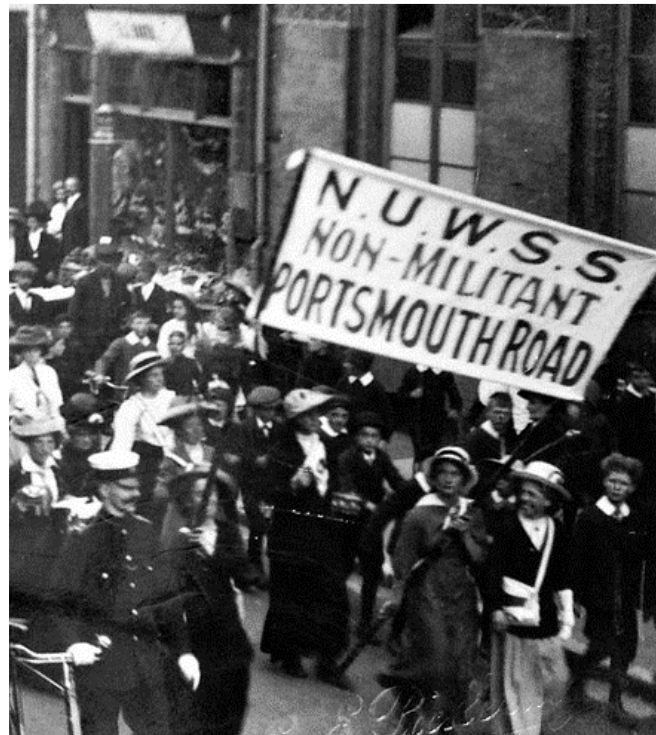


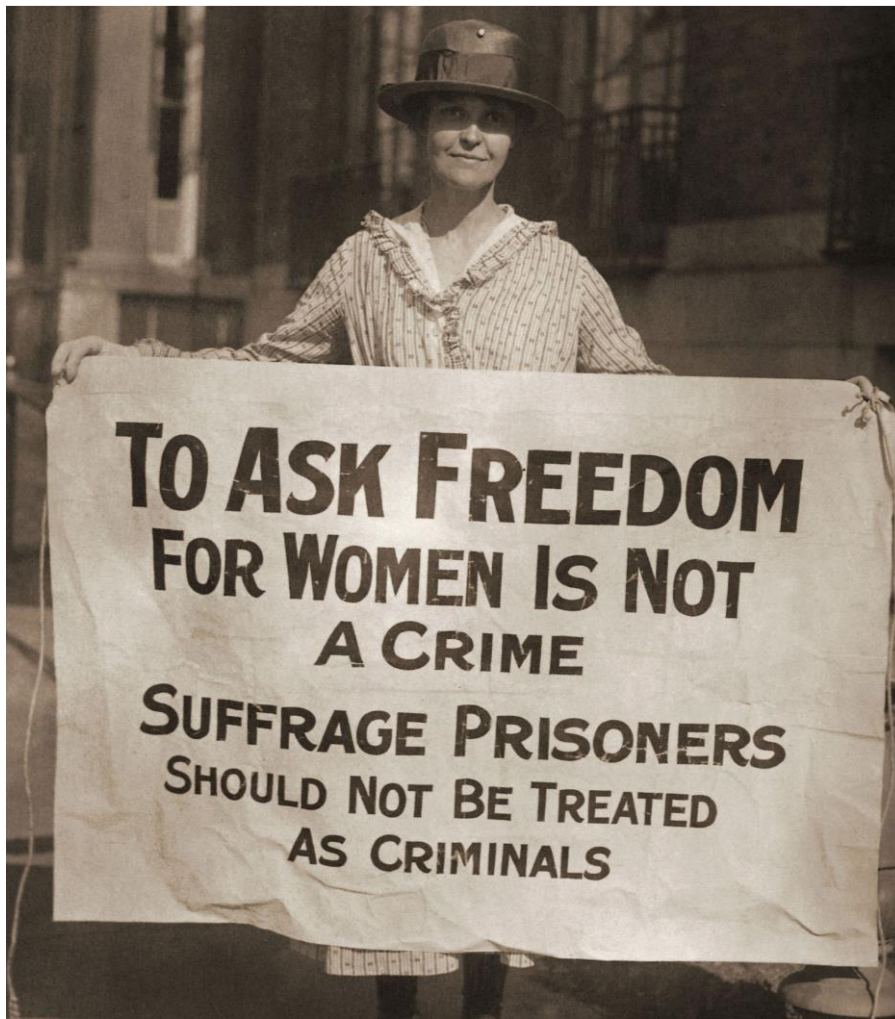
Did The NUWSS **work**?

⇒ Several Bills were **supported** in Parliament...

⇒ ...but **not enough** to pass

No, it didn't work out





**TO ASK FREEDOM
FOR WOMEN IS NOT
A CRIME**

**SUFFRAGE PRISONERS
SHOULD NOT BE TREATED
AS CRIMINALS**

The Suffragettes

DEEDS NOT WORDS

The term "Suffragette"

⇒ Nowadays _____
A woman who fought for her right to vote

⇒ Originally _____
it was a **sexist** insult

⇒ Coined in _____

» **J**anuary 1906

» by a British **Daily Mail** | militant demonstrations

» derogatory way | **B**elittling
Mocking the demonstrators' efforts

» British women

used **suffragette** for their movement

by pronouncing it with a **hard g**

Suffra-**get**

The Suffragettes

empowered **women**
young
holding placards
marching

determined to win the **right to vote**

have their views **represented**

on **equal** terms with men

Emmeline Pankhurst

⇒ **former** of the NUWSS

⇒ supporter of women's suffrage

⇒ becoming **frustrated** with the Suffragists' approach

Too pacific

⇒ formed her own society

Social and Political Union (**WSPU**)

in 1903

⇒ Emmeline's daughters

active in the cause

Sylvia

Christabel

1905

Suffragettes' campaign

⇒ motto was "Deeds Not Words" became more violent

More aggressive tactics

- » breaking windows
- » planting bombs
- » handcuffing themselves to railings
- » hunger strikes

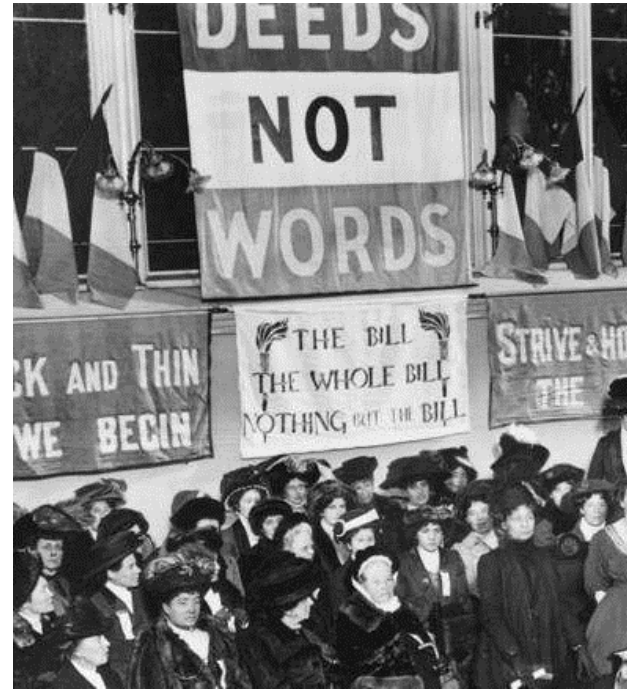


1906 Liberal government was elected

1908

» Herbert Henry Asquith as Prime Minister

The Suffragettes



- » Suffragettes
 - ↳ very **hopeful**
 - ↳ Liberals would support them
 - ↳ **promised** in many candidates' election campaigns

But

- » They were to be **disappointed**
- » Asquith → A strong **anti-suffragist**
- » Even the Women's Sunday **march**
 - ↳ Hyde Park in June 1908
 - ↳ 250,000 people shouted "Votes for Women"
 - ↳ **did not** move Asquith
 - ↳ to **allow** a suffrage bill

The Suffragettes





Violent protests

TO KNOW MORE: SOME VIOLENT PROTESTS OF
THE WSPU

Violent protests

⇒ 20 November 1909

suffragettes attacked

a “young” Winston Churchill

with a horse whip

Bristol railway station

⇒ The same month

Selina Martin and Lesley Hall

pretends to be orange sellers

armed with a catapult and missiles

attacked Asquith’s car in Liverpool

⇒ 1910, Battersea

An employee → suffered burns

to stop a suffragette from throwing a liquid

over the papers of a
Member of the Parliament

one of the first cases


causing physical harm

to a member of the public

1912, Dublin

most violent suffragette attacks

Mary Leigh
Gladys Evans
Lizzie Baker
Mabel Capper

- » set fire to the Theatre Royal  during a lunchtime with Asquith
 - » left some gunpowder close to the stage
 - » threw petrol and lit matches in the projection room
- ← contained highly combustible film reels

» Previously

Mary threw a hatchet towards Asquith
Missed him

→ cut the Irish MP John Redmond on the ear

Violent protests





Consequences

“CAT AND MOUSE” ACT - AND THE HORSE RACE

Consequences

⇒ Many Suffragettes

were arrested for **law-breaking**



→ went to prison

hunger strike (stop eating)

To stop them from becoming ill

↓
force-fed

⇒ To prevent from dying in prison

Parliament

introduced

→ “Cat and Mouse” Act.



hunger-strikers were **temporarily** released
until they recovered

re-arrested and locked up again

Consequences

1913

⇒ Emily Wilding Davison

moved out in front of the King's **racehorse**

↓
during a race at Epsom

→ She died **tragically**

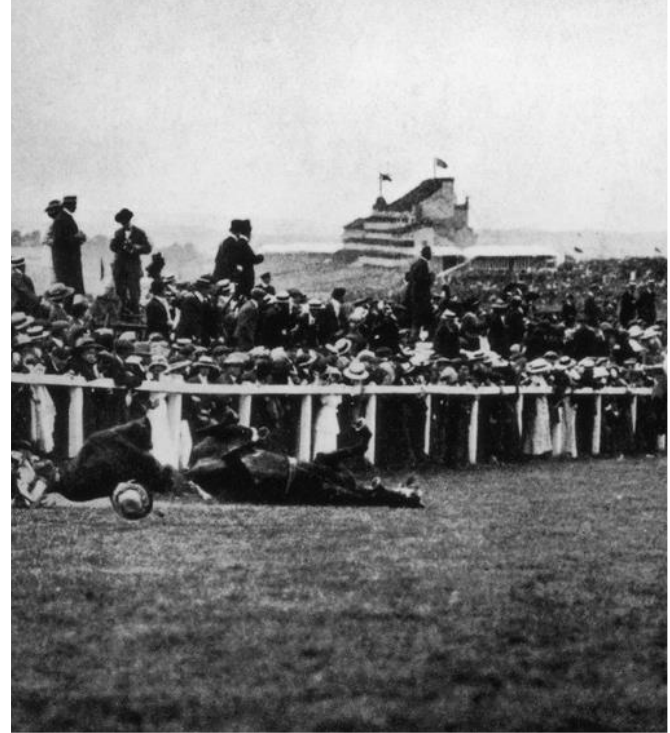
⇒ What was Emily doing?

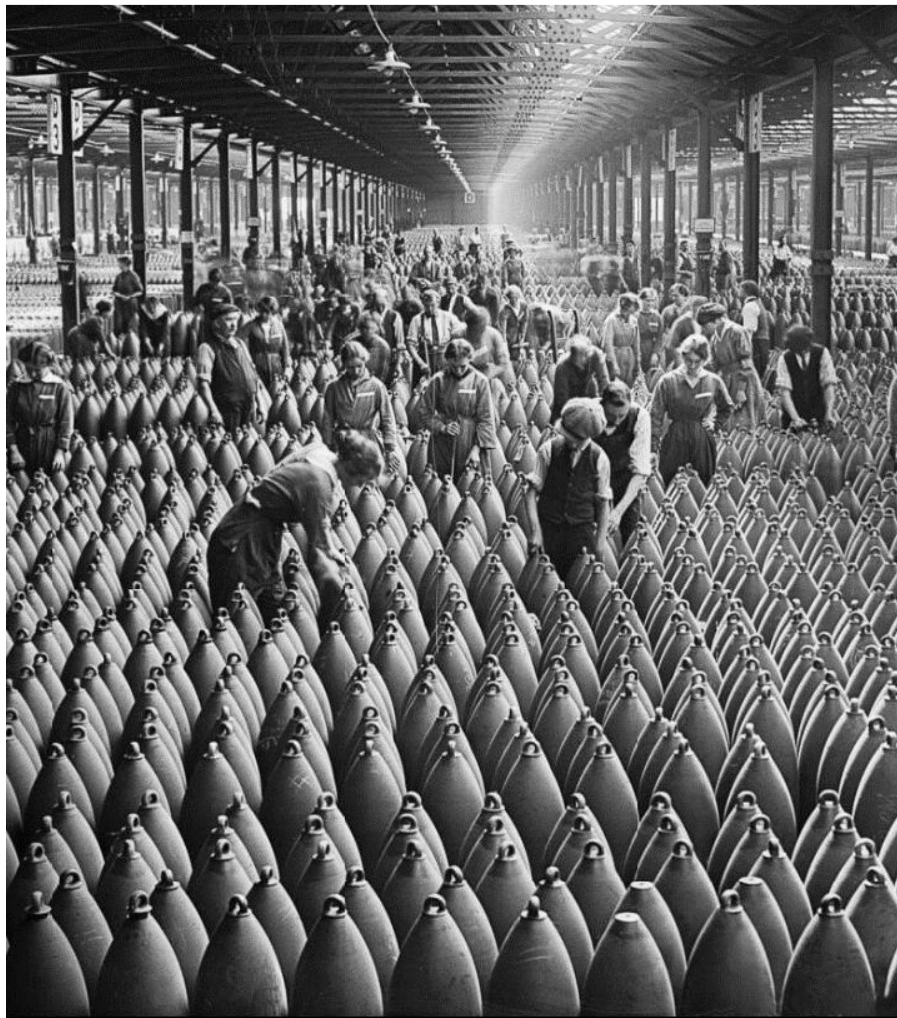
No one knows

Perhaps

She was trying to put a **banner** with
suffragette colours

on the King's **horse**





Suffragettes and WWI

THE CHANGE OF THE WOMAN ROLE IN THE WWI

Suffragettes and WWI

⇒ Emmeline Pankhurst and Millicent Fawcett

» stopped campaigning

» encouraged women to join the war



in the spirit of national unity

⇒ WWI

↳ changed women's **role** in society

Before WWI

MEN

⇒ Work

WOMEN

⇒ stay home

⇒ cook

⇒ clean

⇒ wash

⇒ raise children

In WWI

MEN

⇒ Go to war

WOMEN

⇒ Work!

Essential job
to keep the
Country running



The Representation of the People Act

1918: 8.4 MILLION WOMEN COULD VOTE

1918 Approve of

The Representation of the People Act

⇒ granted some women the right to vote

- » to be over the age of 30
- » own property
 - ↳ be married with someone who owned them

it was still a big **v**ictory

8.4 million women could vote

2 July 1928

↳ all women over the age of 21 could vote

The Representation of the People Act





Conclusion

WERE THE VIOLENT PROTESTS NEEDED?

Conclusion

⇒ Huge effect → Change England

⇒ Some discussions

- » How they act ↘ Violent!
- » The role of WWI

made the Government more **intransigent**

There is **no** doubts

Did the act pass **only** for the women's efforts during the war...

○_r

raised **a lot** the profile of the issue of women's votes

...because the violent protest workout?

An aerial, black and white photograph of a large crowd of people, likely at a stadium or arena. The crowd is dense and fills most of the frame. In the upper right, there are architectural elements of a building, possibly a stadium, with a balcony or walkway. The overall tone is historical and commemorative.

THANKS

Liceo Scientifico "Democrito"
Classe 5A

Francesco Sgorbini

Sources



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