“Democracy Should Begin at Home”: Women and the Great War

Dr. Sam Boerboom
&
Dr. Emily Arendt
Women’s Suffrage: Nearly 75 Years in the Making

Lucretia Mott, c. 1841

Coverage of Seneca Falls Convention, 1848
The American Lyceum Movement
The Woman’s Vote in the Age of Universal Male Suffrage

Racist pro-suffrage cartoon, 1870
Reunification: NAWSA, 1890

State Presidents and Officers of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, 1892
Chautauqua Movement

“A fluent speaker sure to interest her audiences”

- 1916 First woman elected to Congress
- Montana granted women’s right to vote in 1914
Emma Goldman

Anarchism

Politically-informed atheism

Indecorous speech

Known for her “Address to the Jury” July 9, 1917
Ask for work. If they don't give you work, ask for bread. If they do not give you work or bread, then take bread.

-- Emma Goldman
The Great War and American Women: Enlisted Military Service

Yeomen (F) came from every state in the union

Honorable Discharge Forms from Billings nurses who served abroad
Un-enlisted Military Service

Women’s Volunteerism

*Philadelphia War Bond Sale*

*1917 Government Propaganda Poster*
NAWSA in the era of WWI

New York suffragists advertising a "Great Suffrage Sacrifice Sale"

NAWSA broadside c. 1918
Catt’s Address to Congress

Maxim vs. practice

Anaphora (‘carrying back’)

Apostrophe (‘turning away’)
Catt’s “Address to Congress,” 1917

MRS. CATT ASSAILS HER WAR CRITICS

Suffrage Leader Denies Imputation of Disloyalty Made by Women Opposed to Votes.

New York Times headline, 10.4.1917

“SHE HAS GIVEN ME TO DEMOCRACY; GIVE DEMOCRACY TO HER.”
Another Approach:
The National Woman’s Party

Crowd blocking parade route during inaugural suffrage procession, 1913 Washington, D.C
Alice Paul

“Deeds not words”

Masterfully employed the power of public suffrage spectacle

Embodied speech
Suffrage spectacle integrated women into the physical landscape and media representations of Washington and the nation.
White House protests
Picketing a War President
Political prisoner

The Daily Sketch, a British tabloid
Montana Suffrage Heroine: Hazel Hunkins-Hallinan

“Miss Hazel Hunkins of Montana took her place. ‘Here at the statue of Lafayette, who fought for the liberty of this country,’ she began, ‘and under the American flag, I am asking for...’ She was immediately arrested.”

-from Doris Stevens, Jailed for Freedom (1920)

Hunkins-Hallinan on the NWP Picket Line, 1917
Adding to the ratification flag

“We have made partners of the women in this war; shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of privilege and right?”

-Woodrow Wilson, message to Congress, September 1918