

Module 02: Should Women Vote? The Politics of Suffrage

Evidence

Texts

Timeline

Images

Texts

The documents in this section illustrate the evolving debate surrounding women's suffrage in Britain. All five texts draw connections between women's nature, voting rights, and the political system. As you read, think about the most effective way to compare and contrast the different positions presented.

A 1. "On the Enfranchisement of Women"
Harriet Taylor Mill,
1851

A 2. "Women and Representative Government"
Millicent Garrett Fawcett,
Nineteenth Century, 1883

A 3. "Why We Are Militant"
Emmeline Pankhurst, 1913

A 4. "An Appeal Against Female Suffrage"
Mrs. Humphrey Ward, *The Nineteenth Century*, 1889

A 5. *The Unexpurgated Case Against Woman Suffrage*
Almroth E. Wright,
1913

Timeline

















The table in this section contains the years in which European countries (and others) granted women the right to vote.

A 6. Table
Women's Suffrage
in Europe

Images

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, newspapers and periodicals emerged as a means of mass persuasion. The spread of literacy and

the availability of mass-circulation publications meant that advocates of certain positions could rely on the media to convey their points of view. Women's suffrage gained particular visibility in mass media since it affected individuals, political campaigns, and society as a whole. Moreover, with the onset of militant suffragism, the struggle became part of the public sphere in an unprecedented way. The images below appeared in publications advocating suffrage, in one avowedly opposed to suffrage, and in *Punch*, which commented on political events and social trends. To understand the images, think about the symbols, the locations and positions of figures, and the use of captions to determine the messages intended.

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|  <p><u>7. Cartoon: "Suffrage Universel: Guerre, Paix"</u>
<i>La Citoyenne</i>, July 2-August 6, 1882</p> |  <p><u>8. Concerning the Question of National Representation in Russia Without Distinction of Sex</u>
<i>PZhK</i>, 1906</p> |
|  <p><u>9. Cartoon: "Excelsior!"</u>
<i>Punch</i>, July 13, 1910</p> |  <p><u>10. "Votes for Working Women"</u>
<i>Suffragette</i>, January 7, 1913</p> |
|  <p><u>11. "Justice/Equality"</u>
<i>Suffragette</i>, December 7, 1912</p> |  <p><u>12. "A Leap-Year Proposal"</u>
<i>Anti-Suffrage Review</i>, May 1912</p> |
|  <p><u>13. "Nothing for Their 'Panés'"</u>
<i>Smashing Times</i></p> |  <p><u>14. "Unmasked"</u>
<i>Anti-Suffrage Review</i>, September 1912</p> |
|  <p><u>15. "No Room for Me!"</u>
<i>Anti-Suffrage Review</i>, April 1912</p> |  <p><u>16. "Do you want women to have votes?"</u>
<i>Punch</i>, December 1, 1909</p> |
|  <p><u>17. "Cabinet Minister's Day"</u>
<i>Punch</i>, Almanac for 1910</p> |  <p><u>18. "Holiday Campaign"</u>
<i>Suffragette</i>, August 29, 1913</p> |
|  <p><u>19. "In Honour. . Davison"</u>
<i>Suffragette</i>, June 13, 1913</p> |  <p><u>20. "Hereditary Instinct"</u>
<i>Punch</i>, January 6, 1909</p> |
|  <p><u>21. "The Suspect"</u>
<i>Punch</i>, February 12, 1909</p> |  <p><u>22. "Another Militant"</u>
<i>Punch</i>, March 19, 1913</p> |



23. "War Incidents"
Punch, June 25,
1913



**24. "Treatment of
Political Prisoners"**
Suffragette,
January 10, 1913



25. "Cat and Mouse"
Suffragette,
August 1, 1913