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THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE **MOVEMENT**

The woman suffrage movement actually began in 1848, when a women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York. The Seneca Falls meeting was not the first in support of women's rights, but suffragists later viewed it as the meeting that launched the suffrage movement. For the next 50 years, woman suffrage supporters worked to educate the public about the validity of woman suffrage. Under the leadership of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and other women's rights pioneers, suffragists circulated petitions and lobbied Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to enfranchise women.

At the turn of the century, women reformers in the club movement and in the settlement house movement wanted

to pass reform legislation. However, many politicians were unwilling to listen to a disenfranchised group. Thus, over time women began to realize that in order to achieve reform, they needed to win the right to vote. For these reasons, at the turn of the century, the woman suffrage movement became a mass movement.

In the 20th century leadership of the suffrage movement passed to two organizations. The first, the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), under the leadership of Carrie Chapman Catt, was a moderate organization. The NAWSA undertook campaigns to enfranchise women in individual states, and simultaneously lobbied President Wilson and Congress to pass a woman suffrage Constitutional Amendment. In the 1910s, NAWSA's membership numbered in the millions.

The second group, the National Woman's Party (NWP), under the leadership of Alice Paul, was a more militant organization. The NWP undertook radical actions, including picketing the White House, in order to convince

Wilson and Congress to pass a woman suffrage amendment.

In 1920, due to the combined efforts of the NAWSA and the NWP, the 19th Amendment, enfranchising women, was finally ratified. This victory is considered the most significant achievement of women in the Progressive Era. It was the single largest extension of democratic voting rights in our nation's history, and it was achieved peacefully, through democratic processes.

Brazil: 1932

Women were allowed to vote in Brazil in 1932, but it wasn't until 1945 that voting was mandatory for men and women.

Turkey: 1934

Beginning in 1930, women in Turkey could vote and run for local office. Legislation passed in 1934 that expanded women's voting rights to national parliamentary elections.

France: 1944

In France, women became enfranchised through legislation passed in 1944. French women were able to vote the following year in the nation's first general election held after German occupation.

Japan: 1945

Japanese women got the right to vote in 1945 thanks in part to Lt. Ethel Weed, an American officer who advocated for civil code reform during the post-World War II Allied occupation of Japan.

India: 1947

After becoming a republic in 1947, India granted women the right to vote.

Greece: 1952

Since 1952, women in Greece have had the right to vote in and run for parliamentary election.

China: 1953

Women in China were first granted the right to vote in 1947 through the Constitution of the Republic of China but were not explicitly enfranchised until 1953.

Mexico: 1953

Yucatan passed women's enfranchisement in 1917. Starting in 1947, all women in Mexico could participate in municipal elections. They didn't win the right to vote in national elections until 1953.

Honduras: 1955

In Honduras, women won the right to vote in 1955. The victory is commemorated with a celebration every year.

Egypt: 1956

Women won enfranchisement in Egypt in 1956.

Canada:

First Nation women won the right to vote in 1960. On the provincial level, some women in Canada could vote beginning in 1916. Suffrage expanded to the federal level over the next few years: In 1917 nurses and women in the armed forces could vote, then women whose fathers, husbands, or sons were serving overseas. In 1918 legislation passed expanding suffrage to female citizens excluding Asian-Canadian women and First Nation women, who did not win the right to vote until the 1940s and 1960, respectively.

Australia:

Indigenous Australians won the right to vote in 1962 Non-indigenous women in Australia got the right to vote beginning in 1895, when the state of South Australia passed colony- and state-wide suffrage, in addition to the right to stand for parliament. In 1899, state suffrage expanded to Western Australia.

In 1902, non-indigenous women won the right to vote on the federal level with the passing of the Commonwealth Franchise Act. Indigenous Australians didn't get the federal right to vote until 1962.

The Bahamas: 1962

Women in the Bahamas gained the right to vote from a bill that was passed in 1961 and went into effect in 1962.

Switzerland: 1971

Swiss women won the right to vote in federal elections in 1971. By that year, most of Switzerland's states had

instituted women's suffrage at the local level. However, a few didn't allow women to vote in local elections until the late '80s, and the state of Appenzell Innerrhoden didn't allow women to vote in local elections until 1991.

Iraq: 1980

Women in Iraq got the right to vote and run for office in 1980, but the government reduced some civil liberties during the Gulf War.

Oman: 1994

Oman instituted women's suffrage in 1994, becoming the first Gulf Cooperation Council state where women won the right to vote. Only a select number of citizens were initially given the rights, but Oman made suffrage universal in 2003.

Saudi Arabia: 2015

Saudi Arabia is the most recent country to grant women enfranchisement. Starting in 2015, Saudi women could vote and run for office.

Sources :

<https://www.insider.com/when-women-around-the-world-got-the-right-to-vote-2019-2>

<https://www.womenshistory.org/resources/general/woman-suffrage-movement>

