

Voices of Social Movements



Name:

Date:

Definition of Social Movements

Social movements are organized efforts by groups of people to create social change or resist changes by influencing public opinion, government policies, or social norms.

Example: The women's suffragette movement in the UK aimed to secure voting rights for women, resulting in significant legislative changes such as the Representation of the People Act 1918 and the Equal Franchise Act 1928.

Report on the Women's Suffragette Movement

Introduction

The women's suffragette movement emerged in the United Kingdom as a response to socio-political and economic conditions that marginalized women. This report outlines the developments that led to the movement, highlighting the political, social, and economic context.

Political Situation

Initially, women were not explicitly banned from voting until the Reform Act of 1832 and the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835. The political landscape began to change with the formation of the National Society for Women's Suffrage in 1872 and the more influential National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS). The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) was later formed in 1903, marking the beginning of militant campaigns for women's voting rights. The outbreak of World War I in 1914 led to a suspension of these campaigns. However, lobbying efforts led to the Representation of the People Act 1918, enfranchising women over 30 who met certain property qualifications. The Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act 1928 equalized voting rights for men and women over 21.

Social Situation

Socially, the movement was influenced by changing gender roles and feminist goals, such as the right to sue ex-husbands after divorce and the right for married women to own property. Early advocates like John Stuart Mill and organizations like the Kensington Society and Women's Suffrage Committee played crucial roles. The suffragists, known for their peaceful methods, were complemented by the more militant suffragettes, led by figures like Emmeline Pankhurst.

Economic Situation

Economically, the inclusion of women in the workforce during World War I showcased their capabilities and shifted public sentiment in favor of women's suffrage. The war effort demonstrated women's potential beyond traditional roles, leading to increased support for their right to vote.

Conclusion

The women's suffragette movement was a culmination of political lobbying, social advocacy, and economic participation. It led to significant legislative changes, ultimately granting women the right to vote on equal terms with men by 1928.

Voices of Social Movements



Name:

Date:

Voices of reform

Emmeline Pankhurst



Role: Leader of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and advocate for women's voting rights.

Actions:

- Organize and lead suffragette protests and rallies.
- Engage in militant activities like hunger strikes and property damage to draw attention to the cause.
- Lobby government officials for legislative changes to enfranchise women.
- Mobilize women to support the war effort during World War I.

Emmeline Pankhurst was a pivotal figure in the suffragette movement, known for her militant tactics and unwavering dedication to securing women's right to vote.

John Stuart Mill



Role: Philosopher, political economist, and early advocate for women's suffrage.

Actions:

- Write influential works such as 'The Subjection of Women' advocating for gender equality.
- Use his position as a Member of Parliament to introduce and support legislation for women's voting rights.
- Engage in public debates and discussions to promote the principles of utilitarianism and liberalism.
- Advocate for social and political reforms including proportional representation and labor rights.

John Stuart Mill was a leading intellectual figure who used his philosophical and political influence to advance the cause of women's suffrage and broader social reforms.

Voices of Social Movements



Name:

Date:

After the movement



Audio Content

To listen to audio content just scan the QR code and listen to it on the digital worksheet.

Evaluate the key differences between the political landscape for women before the suffragette movement and now.

Explain how the role of women in the workforce during World War I contributed to the suffragette movement and how this contrasts with women's economic participation today.
