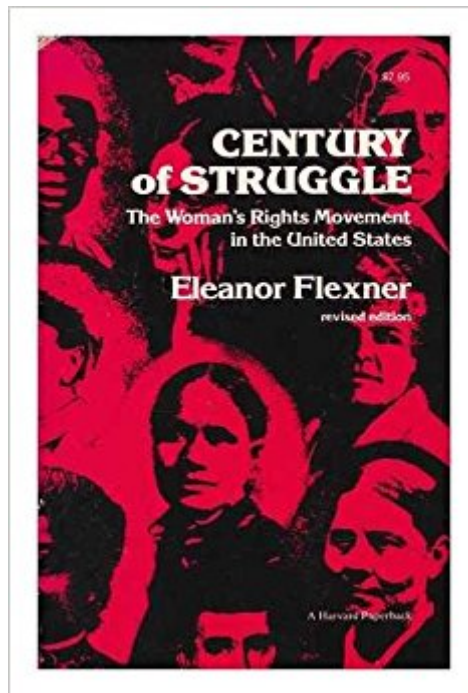




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Century Of Struggle: The Woman's Rights Movement In The United States



Synopsis

Century of Struggle tells the story of one of the great social movements in American history. The struggle for women's voting rights was one of the longest, most successful, and in some respects most radical challenges ever posed to the American system of electoral politics. The book you are about to read tells the story of one of the great social movements in American history. The struggle for women's voting rights was one of the longest, most successful, and in some respects most radical challenges ever posed to the American system of electoral politics | It is difficult to imagine now a time when women were largely removed by custom, practice, and law from the formal political rights and responsibilities that supported and sustained the nation's young democracy | For sheer drama the suffrage movement has few equals in modern American political history. •From the Preface by Ellen Fitzpatrick --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

Miss Flexner's well-documented text is brightened by vignettes of stout and colorful personalities | Her book has depth and amplitude. (New York Times Book Review) Never before | has a book done more to relate the women's rights movement in the United States to the centuries-old struggle of the individual to attain his (or her) full stature in society. Woman's fight for the franchise is here presented, not as a separate shred torn from history, but as part of the warp and woof of national progress | Miss Flexner admirably refrains from idealizing her subjects,

rightly judging that the facts need no gilding to show in true proportions the stature of these valiant women. (Christian Science Monitor)A book to be read by every student in this countryâ | This account will help us to maintain a truer image of ourselves as we try to finish up the struggle first launched so long ago. (Betty Friedan) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A book to be read by every student in this country...This account will help us to maintain a truer image of ourselves as we try to finish up the struggle first launched so long ago. --Betty Friedan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This recent paperback edition of *Century of Struggle*, Eleanor Flexner's classic history of women's suffrage and the work to expand women's rights, has a splendid new introduction by her friend and collaborator Ellen Fitzpatrick, who relates the major events in Flexner's own life to Flexner's deep understanding of the complex social and political problem confronting 19th- and early 20th-century American suffragists. There is no better account than Flexner's of the dogged determination of US women to achieve their political aims, or of the genius of their political inventiveness in a time in which both law and custom were against women's full participation in civic life. The achievement of the vote for women was extraordinarily difficult, infinitely more so than most people realize. In her own preface to *Century of Struggle*, Eleanor Flexner quotes from Carrie Chapman Catt and Nettie Rogers Schuler: "Hundreds of women gave the accumulated possibilities of an entire lifetime, thousands gave years of their lives, hundreds of thousands gave constant interest and such aid as they could. It was a continuous, seemingly endless chain of activity. Young suffragists who helped forge the last links in that chain were not born when it began. Old suffragists who forged the first links were dead when it ended . . . It is doubtful if any man, even among suffrage men, ever realized what the suffrage struggle came to mean to women before the end was allowed in America."

This new edition of Flexner's *Century of Struggle* is excellent. She covers American woman's history since the beginning of American colonization up until the 1970s. She touches on the development of woman's education, job occupation, and political awareness through their activities in abolition. I recommend this book to every American. This book covers many missing holes in our male dominated histories.

This book changed the way I think about women's history! What an amazing feat, having written this

in the 1950's as the first book of this kind about the subject. Everyone should read this!

Outstanding account of women's impact on American history.

I agree fully with Jane Eliosoff's review and just wish to add that this wonderful book should be required reading in high schools and colleges. One of its best features is that it is truly multicultural in its treatment of the "first wave" of the women's rights movement, even though this book was written before the word "multicultural" was coined.

Flexner offers an insightful view into the struggle of women to win the vote. However, Flexner interjects her own views too often, which sways the facts in the direction of NAWSA as the victors of the 19th Amendment. Very little credit is given to the NWP and Alice Paul. The narrative seemed swayed against the NWP from the outset.

This is correctly viewed as the definitive work on the first wave of feminism in the US, primarily focusing on the women's suffrage movement. I know about "publish or perish," but I find it outrageous that this edition gives equal billing to Ellen Fitzpatrick. Her short preface does reveal important information about Eleanor Flexner, but give me a break. Given the Communist Party involvement of the author, it seems surprising that one major gap in her book is anything on the role of the Socialist Party in the suffrage movement. (Although given that the Stalinized CP she joined was supporting US imperialism in World War II, while the left wing of the SP much of which had formed the CP had opposed US imperialism in World War I, which many members were imprisoned for, perhaps research into its predecessors was not encouraged). "In at least three states the Socialist Party campaigns around the suffrage issue played an important and perhaps decisive part in the winning of the franchise...." according to Mary-Alice Waters in *Feminism and the Marxist Movement*. Another book that has a little information on this is *The American Socialist Movement 1897-1912*. One might also be interested in the biographies of some important female members of the SP: *Woman of Valor: Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement in America*, *From Prairie to Prison: The Life of Social Activist Kate Richards O'Hare* (MISSOURI BIOGRAPHY SERIES), *Fire and Grace: The Life of Rose Pastor Stokes*. There were many others. Some of the best books on the relationship between socialism and the fight for women's rights are *The Communist Manifesto*, *Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, *Women and the Family*, *Women in Cuba: The making of a revolution within the revolution*. From Santiago de Cuba

and the Rebel Army, to the birth of the Federation of Cuban Women and Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women.

A very well written book that should be read by all high school students that chronicles the incredible, herculean struggles of women in reaching their full rights in America. The book provides intimate insights on the myriad of social, cultural, legal, and political dynamics that were in play for over a century. Understanding how our society ultimately came to terms with these core principles, values, and truths of women's rights not only is useful from a narrow historic point of view, but also provides a basis to predict and hopefully improve how we face the emerging, global challenges of our generation.

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