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**“The Woman’s Hour Has Struck:”  
How the National American Woman Suffrage Association  
Secured the Nineteenth Amendment Through War Activism in  
World War I**

**Claire Marsden**

“War, what is it good for?”<sup>1</sup> Despite the controversy of American overseas military expeditions in the early twentieth century, World War I proved a turning point in the American women’s suffrage movement, most notably due to the war efforts of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Throughout the nineteenth century, NAWSA’s suffrage amendment efforts consisted of state by state lobbying, parades, and open-air meetings, which resulted in only eight states granting women the vote before the war.<sup>2</sup> The turn of the twentieth century, however, sparked new life in the centuries old suffrage movement. The Progressive Era gave rise to the “new woman,” some of whom started professional careers, advanced their education, had fewer children, and got politically involved while still maintaining their traditional domestic sphere of childcare and housework.<sup>3</sup> With the United States’ entrance into World War I in 1917 and women’s new public role, NAWSA saw an opportunity to appeal to male politicians by proving women’s societal worth through war efforts, shifting their suffrage strategy away from state campaigns to emphasize national patriotism.<sup>4</sup> Contrastingly, the National

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<sup>1</sup> Robert P. Saladin, "Strange Bedfellows: War and Minority Rights," *World Affairs* 173, no. 6 (March 2011): 57.

<sup>2</sup> “Women's Suffrage and WWI,” *National Parks Service*, 2018, <<https://www.nps.gov/articles/womens-suffrage-wwi.htm>> (30 Jan. 2021).

<sup>3</sup> Holly J. McCammon et al., “How Movements Win: Gendered Opportunity Structures and U.S. Women's Suffrage Movements, 1866 to 1919,” *American Sociological Review* 66, no. 1 (February 2001): 53.

<sup>4</sup> “Chapter XXIV: War Service of Organized Suffragists,” in *History of Woman Suffrage, Vol. 5: 1900-1920*, (New York: National American Woman Suffrage Association, 1922), 720.

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Women's Party (NWP), another suffrage association, ignored the war and relied on radical forms of protest that rejected the patriarchy and aggressively stood against the government to fight for women's equality.<sup>5</sup> NWP's bold strategy proved to be ahead of its time. NAWSA, understanding that the fight for women's equality was too radical for the moment, took a more conservative approach, presenting their suffragists as allies to the government, not enemies. NAWSA made itself indispensable by maintaining the home front in volunteering its two million members to hold leadership positions, maintain the economy, raise funds, and cultivate supplies for millions of soldiers abroad.<sup>6</sup> NAWSA's actions shortened the war and took much of the burden off the Wilson administration. NAWSA women used war efforts and strong patriotism to appeal to traditional American values in order to gain women's suffrage. The most crucial factor in bringing about suffrage was NAWSA's wartime activism as it changed the minds of federal government politicians, particularly President Woodrow Wilson, a long-time opponent of suffrage. Proving to be a critical asset in the war, NAWSA swayed male society into honoring the democracy they fought for internationally on the home front as well, leading to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, granting American women the right to vote.

NAWSA struggled to gain popularity in their state by state suffrage campaign, leading them to shift efforts towards patriotism in the wake of World War I. Created in 1890 through the merger of the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) and the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA), NAWSA advocated for American women suffrage for thirty years, with most members fighting since the late 1860s under NWSA or AWSA. The original women's suffrage amendment, written by

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<sup>5</sup> Linda Lumsden, "Excellent Ammunition," *Journalism History* 25, no. 2, (Summer 1999): 53.

<sup>6</sup> *The Hand Book of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and Proceedings of the Forty-Ninth Annual Convention, Held at Washington, D.C.* (New York City: National Woman Suffrage Publishing Co., 1915), 185.

NAWSA founder Susan B. Anthony, was introduced to Congress in 1878 and got rejected annually until 1920.<sup>7</sup> Led by Carrie Chapman Catt and Anna Howard Shaw, NAWSA's suffrage campaign focused on winning state amendments, where they went door-to-door, man-to-man, appealing to traditional female stereotypes about nurturing mothers and peacemakers to sell the political and social benefits of female voters.<sup>8</sup> This progress was slow, creating a long road to national suffrage. Fortunately, NAWSA was "not wedded to any method of obtaining [suffrage], but [was] willing to adopt any just plan which [promised] success," demonstrating a willingness to use any means required to advance suffrage.<sup>9</sup> At the turn of the twentieth century, the Progressive Era brought forth the idea of the "new woman" as women started gaining confidence, power, and freedom in society.<sup>10</sup> This female empowerment, in tandem with the war, sparked a new mentality in NAWSA's suffrage movement that emphasized patriotism and strong women's war activism.

On February 23, 1917, NAWSA leaders pledged war service to President Wilson in a vote of 63 to 14.<sup>11</sup> NAWSA preemptively dedicated its members and supplies months before the United States officially entered World War I on April 6, 1917 to "avoid waste of time and effort in an emergency,"<sup>12</sup> strategically proving to the government, early on, the utility of their vast abilities and devotion to the country. Despite being a pacifist, Catt, NAWSA's President, saw war as a promising suffrage opportunity and, in 1917, proclaimed: "We offer services which we can guarantee to perform, because [NAWSA] has the most efficient country

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<sup>7</sup> "Suffrage Won After Long Fight," *The Brattleboro daily reformer*, 19 August 1920..

<sup>8</sup> "Suffrage Vote Nears: After 40 Years of Effort Women Hope to Win Thursday," *The Washington Post*, 23 June 1918.

<sup>9</sup> *Hand Book*, 27.

<sup>10</sup> "Suffrage Vote Nears."

<sup>11</sup> Lumsden, "Excellent Ammunition," 54.

<sup>12</sup> "Chapter XXIV," 723.

organization of any association of women in the United States.”<sup>13</sup> Seeing the war’s potential benefit, Catt subordinated a key part of her personal ideology to achieve gains for suffrage. Moreover, the Association declared: “we pledge our unswerving loyalty to our country, and the continuance of our aid in patriotic service, to help make the world safe for democracy, both at home and abroad.”<sup>14</sup> As millions of men traveled abroad to fight, NAWSA volunteered its two million devoted members to advance the war through fundraising, mobilizing resources, lobbying, and utilizing their multi-level organization.<sup>15</sup>

NAWSA’s patriotic strategy brought about a relatively speedy reversal of Wilson’s position on suffrage, giving them support from the nation’s most powerful leader. In 1918, Wilson, “[agreed] without reservation that the full and sincere democratic reconstruction of the world...[would] not have been completely or adequately attained until women [were] admitted to the suffrage.”<sup>16</sup> The United States’ entrance in World War I in conjunction with NAWSA’s consequential dedication of war efforts convinced Wilson to support suffrage after years of opposition. The weight of his influence resulted in a wave of various Congressional and state officials to back the federal amendment, which quickly gained approval in 1920, shortly after the war’s end in 1918.<sup>17</sup> With suffragists comprising the bulk of home front volunteers, NAWSA made suffrage a visible war topic and a prominent political issue not only to prove women’s value to the government and encourage cooperation for suffrage but also to inspire a national realization of

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<sup>13</sup> “Suffragists’ Machine Perfected in All States Under Mrs. Catt’s Rule,” *New York Times*, 29 April 1917, 8.

<sup>14</sup> *Hand Book*, 186.

<sup>15</sup> Susan Goodier and Karen Pastorello, “The Great Interruption: World War I and Woman Suffrage” in *Women Will Vote: Winning Suffrage in New York State* (London: Cornell University Press, 2017), 155.

<sup>16</sup> “Wilson Aids Suffrage: President Expresses Hope Senate Will Pass Amendment.” *The Washington Post*, June 14, 1918.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

the hypocrisy in fighting for democracy abroad while denying it at home.

NAWSA used the United States' entrance into the war as a sign that "The Woman's Hour Has Struck," boosting the spirit of mobilization and igniting a new fire in the fight for suffrage.<sup>18</sup> The government, desperate for a women's workforce in World War I, was indebted to NAWSA for their unwavering war-time labors and sacrifices that demonstrated their steadfast loyalty to the nation and made suffragists the ultimate war asset. The Association helped with food production, clothing conservation, the Americanization of immigrants, protecting women in industrial jobs, establishing the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense, raising Liberty Loans, and volunteering with the Red Cross.<sup>19</sup> NAWSA branded its suffragists as patriotic citizens, making them so prominent in every facet of the war that government officials could not help but think, see, and talk about women's enfranchisement.<sup>20</sup> Playing "a leading role in the support and defense of the nation," NAWSA's war effort unquestionably gave suffrage a global platform that pressured the nation to correct its phony endorsement of democracy by approving the Nineteenth Amendment.<sup>21</sup>

The majority of NAWSA suffragists' war contributions consisted of cultivating and serving four war service departments: Food Production, Thrift and Elimination of Waste, Americanization, and Industrial Protection of Women. These departments had branches across the nation that NAWSA state presidents often oversaw in addition to serving as chairs of the War Service Committee to confer their progress and desires to the federal government.<sup>22</sup> The Food Production department trained women to farm and cultivate large gardens, having suffragists

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<sup>18</sup> *Hand Book*, 58.

<sup>19</sup> *Hand Book*, 130.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 58.

<sup>21</sup> "Chapter XXIV," 737.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 726.

attend farm training schools, volunteer on farms, or can food at home and in canning kitchens in order to provide a sufficient food supply to soldiers in Europe.<sup>23</sup> The Thrift and Elimination of Waste department stressed the importance of clothing services for soldiers; NAWSA leaders traveled and wrote letters to citizens nationwide reaching out for donations and volunteers to manufacture clothing.<sup>24</sup> In the Americanization department, NAWSA led war propaganda programs focused on patriotic education for immigrants. During the war, the United States housed over eight million immigrants, who, due to differing traditions and backgrounds, were feared to not understand the war's purpose and rebel against or threaten U.S. war efforts.<sup>25</sup> NAWSA, through this department, sought to minimize the threat of anti-war opinions so they held classes to teach immigrants about patriotism, national allegiance, and American customs and language.<sup>26</sup> The department also used slogans such as 'Our Second Line of Defense' and 'The Girl Behind the Man Behind the Gun' to urge more women to contribute to the exhausted war workforce, strategically acknowledging women's importance in the nation to further the suffrage campaign within war activism.<sup>27</sup> The Industrial Protection of Women department was established to secure women wartime jobs to fill men's positions and to protect women in these jobs by fighting for equal pay.<sup>28</sup> Prior to the war, women received much less pay than men and were excluded from various job positions; NASWA took advantage of the nation's desperation for women's labor to promote better and more equal working conditions. NAWSA's war efforts did not stop with these departments; the suffragists took further initiative by establishing

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<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, 728.

<sup>24</sup> "Chapter XXIV," 727.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, 724.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 729.

<sup>27</sup> Saladin, "Strange Bedfellows," 58.

<sup>28</sup> "Chapter XXIV," 728.

greater female leadership positions and volunteering for a variety of war relief organizations.

The Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense (WCND) was NAWSA's most progressive contribution to the war, establishing a women's alternative to the male-dominated Council of National Defense that gave women a say in war initiatives.<sup>29</sup> The federal government, under President Wilson, planned on making the WCND an advisory body with no real power; however, Anna Howard Shaw, former NAWSA president and leader of WCND, made the committee a central channel for "delivering woman power to the war effort"<sup>30</sup> that directly coordinated state and local projects. The government reluctantly allowed WCND to operate as Shaw desired because it was too large of an asset to turn down. The Woman's Committee positioned itself within NAWSA's various subdivisions of war efforts including social hygiene, home and foreign relief, charity maintenance, child welfare, and the four key departments previously mentioned.<sup>31</sup> NAWSA's creation of and dominance in WCND allowed "NAWSA officials throughout the nation increased opportunities to link woman suffrage with women's war service in the public mind."<sup>32</sup> NASWA utilized this committee to promote suffrage as a greater form of citizenship that helped women fulfill their responsibility of maintaining the home front and keeping families safe during the chaos of war.

To further prove women's worthiness of suffrage, NAWSA members volunteered in addition to their numerous other war contributions. The suffragists sustained the functionality of society and the national economy throughout the duration of the war by volunteering in hospitals and munition factories, raising money,

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<sup>29</sup> Lynn Dumenil, "Women, Politics, and Protest" in *The Second Line of Defense: American Women and World War I* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017), 35.

<sup>30</sup> Lynn Dumenil, "Channeling Womanpower: Maternalism and World War I Mobilization" in *The Second Line of Defense: American Women and World War I* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017), 60.

<sup>31</sup> *Hand Book*, 77.

<sup>32</sup> Dumenil, "Women, Politics, and Protest," 35.

and caring for children.<sup>33</sup> Taking on many leadership roles, NAWSA suffragists remained active in all parts of war volunteer projects, serving everywhere from the Red Cross to the Navy League.<sup>34</sup> NAWSA volunteered immense labor to raise \$125,000 for the establishment and maintenance of the Woman's Hospital Unit in France as well as \$200,000 for Women's Overseas Hospitals.<sup>35</sup> Through its state branches and mass membership, NAWSA collected one-fourth of the total Liberty Bonds raised during the war, significantly expanding the nation's ability to afford valuable resources.<sup>36</sup> Summarizing NAWSA's war work, George Clarke, Lord Sydenham of Combe, stated: "Wherever intelligence, care, and close attention [was] needed, women...distinguished themselves...to save thousands of lives and to change the entire aspect of the war."<sup>37</sup> NAWSA made itself an indispensable war asset, leading the federal government to realize women's value and drop their objections to suffrage.

Not all suffragists universally supported NAWSA's war efforts. The National Women's Party (NWP) juxtaposed NAWSA's patriotic suffrage campaign with their radical fight for equality that some believe was the driving force in attaining the Nineteenth Amendment. Both organizations appealed to predominantly middle to upper class white women who supported suffrage; however, the groups' differing ideologies for suffrage and campaign strategies created deep tension between them. NWP's suffrage approach was to ignore the war, solely focusing energy on the federal suffrage amendment. NWP "rejected patriarchal politics" and fought for women's suffrage as a natural right, not as a war effort or a promotion of female stereotypes.<sup>38</sup> NWP not only held a radical philosophy regarding suffrage but

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<sup>33</sup> *Hand Book*, 50.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, 190.

<sup>35</sup> "Chapter XXIV," 732; *Ibid.*, 735.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, 735.

<sup>37</sup> *Hand Book*, 50.

<sup>38</sup> Lumsden, "Excellent Ammunition," 53.

also enjoyed flouting their unruly behavior and rebellion against the government to pressure politicians into giving them equality and to gain more media attention for their cause.

NWP felt the nation was unpatriotic in not allowing citizens to complain about injustice and fight for equality, so they followed rule-breaking tactics to gain suffrage, like picketing the White House, getting arrested, and going on starvation strikes in prison.<sup>39</sup> In their campaigns, NWP often pointed out "the hypocrisy of President Wilson's advice to teachers," for example, "[to] emphasize the 'meaning and aims of democracy' when most teachers were voteless women."<sup>40</sup> They were unafraid to appear selfish to the nation in standing up for women's interest instead of the war because they felt suffrage was a more dire issue than overseas democracy.<sup>41</sup> Instead of pressuring the government into respecting their fight for equality, the NWP's rebellion only elevated the good doings of NAWSA, making the government take more of a liking to their suffrage tactics. Instead of critiquing the government with radical protests, NAWSA took out their disenfranchisement frustration by working hard in the war to show off women's capabilities and strength. NAWSA fought for both the war and suffrage, reinforcing gender stereotypes to impress male politicians with their patriotism and traditional values.<sup>42</sup> NAWSA knew that an unwillingness to support the war, like what NWP did, would look "unpatriotic and be cited as more evidence that women were unfit for citizenship."<sup>43</sup> NAWSA co-founder Alice Stone Blackwell explained that, "Women are seeking the ballot not for their own pleasure, not even chiefly for their own self-respect, but above all because they want to help."<sup>44</sup> NAWSA purposefully never framed suffrage as an issue of women's natural rights,

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<sup>39</sup> Lumsden, "Excellent Ammunition," 59.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, 58.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, 53.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, 54.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, 56.

knowing that the advertisement of women's stereotypical nurturing qualities and helpfulness in the war would gain more popularity than NWP's radical notions, especially as the majority of politicians did not support gender equality.<sup>45</sup> Although NWP held more progressive ideologies in their suffrage fight, NAWSA knew that strong war efforts, more than strong suffragist campaigns, would force politicians to take note of women's competence, the hypocrisy of international democracy, and women's dependability during the country's darkest hardships. By using the national war themes of justice and democracy in their own fight for suffrage, NAWSA appealed to the government as patriotic allies and created a strong bond with politicians instead of making them their enemy as NWP did, proving the crucial, positive impact war activism played in changing minds on suffrage and passing the Nineteenth Amendment.<sup>46</sup>

NAWSA's fierce home front war efforts persuaded President Woodrow Wilson to support suffrage, providing women an endorsement from the nation's most powerful man that allowed them to secure the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. When elected, President Wilson gave no indication he approved of women's rights or would take any action to help their amendment pass in Congress as he was a longtime adversary of gender equality.<sup>47</sup> Wilson, "rudely repulsed delegations of distinguished women wishing to law their views before him" as he thought a woman's place was in the home and viewed suffrage as "repugnant."<sup>48</sup> NAWSA came through as a critical war asset when the government desperately needed help, proving their bravery, strength, and honor to the President, which "tipped the scales in the fight for women's suffrage."<sup>49</sup> The war was expensive and required

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<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Dumenil, "Women, Politics, and Protest," 33.

<sup>47</sup> "Suffrage Vote Nears."

<sup>48</sup> John Brisben Walker, "Woodrow Wilson. Has He Been for 'America First?'," *The Friends of Peace and Justice* (November 18, 1915): 14.

<sup>49</sup> Saldin, "Strange Bedfellows," 58.

significant sacrifice from citizens and the government in order for the United States to succeed. Unlike most people who were unwilling to put in the time and effort to heavily contribute to war efforts, NAWSA took on the challenge of providing for the nation, demonstrating their resilience and worth as citizens as part of their decades long fight for suffrage.<sup>50</sup>

After seeing NAWSA's national commitment and critical war aid, Wilson declared that the United States could not rightfully promote, "full and sincere democratic reconstitution of the world" until women obtained suffrage.<sup>51</sup> In a 1917 speech to Congress, Wilson asked, "We have made partners of the women in this war; shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering...and not to a partnership of privilege and right?"<sup>52</sup> In 1918, Wilson again stated, "it is high time that some part of our debt of gratitude to them should be acknowledged and paid, and the only acknowledgment they ask is their admission to suffrage."<sup>53</sup> His passionate speeches advising Congress to approve the Nineteenth Amendment demonstrate not only his recognition of the hypocrisy of fighting for international democracy but also his indebtedness to NAWSA for their unwavering loyalty. On August 18, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified by a two-third majority in Congress, a few years after the end of World War I on November 11, 1918 and shortly following the President's various impassioned speeches.<sup>54</sup> Wilson believed that female suffrage would benefit the nation as women's peaceful nature would keep the country out of future conflict.<sup>55</sup> Wilson directly took NAWSA's bait of appealing to traditional and conservative male views of women during this era. NAWSA's contribution to World War I allowed Wilson to

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<sup>50</sup> Saldin, "Strange Bedfellows," 62.

<sup>51</sup> "Suffrage Vote Nears."

<sup>52</sup> Saldin, "Strange Bedfellows," 59.

<sup>53</sup> "Suffrage Vote Nears."

<sup>54</sup> Saldin, "Strange Bedfellows," 59.

<sup>55</sup> "Suffrage Vote Nears."

realize women's capabilities and usefulness socially, politically, and economically, beyond their domestic sphere of housework.

NAWSA dissolved once the Nineteenth Amendment passed, completing their task of winning suffrage that left a legacy of full citizenship and political opportunity for future American women. The Nineteenth Amendment states: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."<sup>56</sup> Congress has the power to enforce this article in any way deemed appropriate to guarantee women equal opportunity to vote and take part of government.<sup>57</sup> World War I shifted the cause for women's political independence as American democracy relied on women's ability to uplift society and the economy while men fought overseas.<sup>58</sup> As legal scholar Pamela S. Karlan notes, "Suffragists conscripted rhetorical claims advanced in favor of the war, and pointed to women's key role on the home front, to bolster their arguments in favor of domestic expansion of voting rights."<sup>59</sup> The political and "gendered opportunities for suffrage stemmed particularly from women's growing presence in the public sphere,"<sup>60</sup> which allowed NAWSA to gain a dominant role in the war. At the same time the President and other federal politicians experienced a change of heart regarding suffrage, state officials also became more supportive towards the end of the war after seeing NAWSA's persistent patriotism and resilient involvement in providing labor and resources for the nation.<sup>61</sup> With the war, NAWSA transitioned their suffrage battle from the state to federal level; although they no longer primarily advocated for state suffrage amendments, having widespread support from multiple levels of government greatly

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<sup>56</sup> "Suffrage Won After Long Fight."

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Melissa D. Witte, "How World War I Strengthened Women's Suffrage, Shifted Public Attitude, Stanford Scholar Says," *Stanford News*, 12 Aug. 2020, <<https://news.stanford.edu/2020/08/12/world-war-strengthened-womens-suffrage/>> (30 Jan. 2021).

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> McCammon et al., "How Movements Win," 64.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

aided their campaign. Drafted in 1875 by Susan B. Anthony and introduced to Congress in 1878, the Amendment was officially ratified on August 18, 1920, two years after the end of World War I.<sup>62</sup> The timing of the Amendment's approval directly correlates with the end of the war as shown by the short time frame in between both momentous events, especially when observed within the approximate fifty-year timeline of NWSA, AWSA, and NAWSA's failed attempts to gain suffrage prior to 1920.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association, after thirty years of struggle in their state by state amendment campaign, passed the most crucial amendment for female rights to the United States Constitution due to their unwavering aid in World War I that proved women's value as loyal, hardworking, and dedicated citizens. By placing themselves at the forefront of war activism, NAWSA demonstrated to politicians the hypocrisy of fighting for international democracy when the most dedicated U.S. citizens could not even vote. President Wilson conceded to his misogynistic errors of misjudging women's capabilities and quickly backed the suffrage movement after NAWSA proved to be a critical war asset. The government was indebted to these patriotic suffragists for their unwavering service that allowed the nation to survive and thrive during wartime. NAWSA's creation of four special war service departments, leadership in the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense, and vast volunteer work uplifted the nation's society and economy in a time of grave desperation. Despite winning over the government, NAWSA did face opposition from fellow suffragists. The NWP critiqued NAWSA's war efforts as too conservative and against gender equality; however, NAWSA knew patriotism would illicit more respect from, and create an ally in, the government, advancing women's rights further than any radical movements could. The Association's dedication to the nation changed President Wilson's anti-suffrage opinion into a full endorsement that led the majority

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<sup>62</sup> "Suffrage Won After Long Fight."

of Congressmen to do the same, allowing the Nineteenth Amendment to pass in 1920. Without World War I, it is unknown when suffragists would have gained enough support for a federal amendment to pass. The war proved not only to be a critical event in history that changed the course of global democracy but also a key opening for suffragists to persuade the government of their value and create a legacy for American women that has been celebrated for more than 100 years. NAWSA's war activism completely changed the societal and political fate of American women as it paved the way for women's suffrage and for further progress towards gender equality. The work done by the Association has allowed women to continue to break down stereotypes and barriers to equal opportunities, carrying on NAWSA's baton to instill an even better future for the next generation of women.

**Author Bio:**

Claire Marsden is a senior at Santa Clara University pursuing a History major and a double minor in Political Science and Journalism. She is a member of the Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honors Society, Alpha Phi Fraternity, and Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society. She is a passionate writer and researcher, specifically interested in twentieth century social justice and women's rights. Claire is from Los Angeles, California, and plans to move back after graduation to pursue a career in creative writing either as a journalist or in the entertainment industry.