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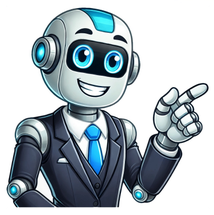

Learning ObjectivesDescribe the origins and growth of the womens rights movement leading to the passage of the 19th amendmentFigure 1. The western states were the first to allow women the right to vote, a freedom that grew out of the less deeply entrenched gendered spheres in the region. This illustration, from 1915, shows a suffragist holding a torch over the western states and inviting the beckoning women from the rest of the country to join her.The Progressive drive for a more perfect democracy and social justice also fostered the growth of two new movements that attacked the oldest and most long-standing betrayals of the American promise of equal opportunity and citizenshipthe disfranchisement of women and the lack of civil rights for African Americans. African Americans across the nation identified an agenda for civil rights and economic opportunity during the Progressive Era, but they disagreed strongly on how to meet these goals in the face of broad discrimination and disfranchisement, segregation, and racial violence in the South. And beginning in the late nineteenth century, the womens movement cultivated a cadre of new leaders, national organizations, and competing rationales for womens rightsespecially the right to vote.It would be suffrage, ultimately, that would mark the full emergence of women in American public life. Generations of womenand, occasionally, menhad organized and worked for womens suffrage. Suffragists efforts resulted in slow but encouraging steps forward during the last decades of the nineteenth century. Notable victories were won in the West, where suffragists mobilized large numbers of women and male politicians were open to experimental forms of governance. By 1911, six western states had passed suffrage amendments to their constitutions.Figure 2. Women suffragists in Ohio sought to educate and convince men that they should support a womans right to vote. As the feature below on the backlash against suffragists illustrates, it was a far from simple task. Women like Jane Addams and Florence Kelley were instrumental in the early Progressive settlement house movement, and female leaders dominated organizations such as the WCTU and the Anti-Saloon League. From these earlier efforts came new leaders who, in their turn, focused their efforts on the key goal of the Progressive Era as it pertained to women: the right to vote.Women had first formulated their demand for the right to vote in the Declaration of Sentiments at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention in New York, and saw their first opportunity of securing suffrage during Reconstruction when legislators, driven by racial animosity, sought to enfranchise women to counter the votes of Black men following the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment. By 1900, the western frontier states of Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming had already responded to the suffragists by granting women the right to vote in state and local elections.Figure 3. Suffragette, advocate, sociologist, and lawyer Alice Paul.These states conceded to the suffragists demands largely to attract more women settlers to these male-dominated regions. Despite such accommodations, it was still a challenge to show that womens lives in the West rarely fit with the nineteenth-century ideology of gendered separate spheres that had legitimized the exclusion of women from the rough-and-tumble party competitions of public politics. In 1890, the National American Womens Suffrage Association (NAWSA) organized several hundred state and local chapters to urge the passage of a federal amendment to guarantee a womans right to vote. Its leaders, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, were veterans of the suffrage movement and had formulated the first demand for the right to vote at Seneca Falls in 1848. Under the subsequent leadership of Carrie Chapman Catt, beginning in 1900, the group decided to make suffrage its first priority. Soon, its membership began to grow. Using modern marketing efforts like celebrity endorsements to attract a younger audience, the NAWSA became a significant political pressure group for the passage of a suffrage amendment to the Constitution.For some in the NAWSA, however, the pace of change was too slow. Frustrated with the lack of response by state and national legislators, Alice Paul, who joined the organization in 1912, sought to expand the scope of the group as well as to adopt more direct protest tactics to draw greater media attention. When others in the group were unwilling to move in her direction, Paul split from the NAWSA to create the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, later renamed the National Womans Party, in 1913. Known as the Silent Sentinels, Paul and her group picketed outside the White House for nearly two years, starting in 1917. In the latter stages of their protests, many women, including Paul, were arrested and thrown in jail, where they staged a hunger strike as self-proclaimed political prisoners. Prison guards ultimately force-fed Paul to keep her alive. At a timeduring World War Iwhen women volunteered as army nurses, worked in vital defense industries, and supported President Wilsons campaign to make the world safe for democracy, the scandalous mistreatment of Paul embarrassed Wilson. Enlightened as to the injustice affecting American women, he changed his position in support of a womans constitutional right to vote.Figure 4. Alice Paul and her Silent Sentinels picketed outside the White House for almost two years, and, when arrested, went on hunger strike until they were force-fed in order to save their lives. Alice Paul, a descendent of William Penn, had an impressive educational background. Graduating at the top of her class, she then attendedSwarthmore College, earned a Master of Arts from theUniversity of Pennsylvaniain 1907, thenWoodbrooke Quaker Study CentreinBirmingham, England, and took economics classes from theUniversity of Birmingham, eventually returning tothe University of Pennsylvania, where she earned a Ph.D. in sociology. Her dissertation was entitled The Legal Position of Women in Pennsylvania; it discussed the history of the womens movement in Pennsylvania and the rest of the U.S., and promoted suffrage as the key issue of the day. Paul later received her law degree (LL.B) from theWashington College of LawatAmerican Universityin 1922, after the suffrage fight was over.In 1927, she earned amaster of lawsdegree, and in 1928, a doctorate in civil law from American University.Watch this video from the Alice Paul Institute about the mistreatment and imprisonment of many of the suffragettes. The Nineteenth AmendmentIn January 1918, President Woodrow Wilson declared his support for a constitutional amendment, and two years later womens suffrage became a reality.While Catt and Paul used different strategies, their combined efforts brought enough pressure to bear for Congress to pass the Nineteenth Amendment, which prohibited voter discrimination on the basis of sex, during a special session in the summer of 1919. Subsequently, the required thirty-six states approved its adoption, with Tennessee doing so in August of 1920, in time for that years presidential election. After the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, women from all walks of life mobilized to vote. They were driven by the promise of change but also in some cases by their anxieties about the future. Much had changed since their campaign began; the United States was now more industrial than not, increasingly more urban than rural. The activism and activities of these new urban denizens also gave rise to a new American culture. Some suffragists, even outside the South, argued that White womens votes were necessary to maintain White supremacy. Many White American women argued that enfranchising White upper- and middle-class women would counteract Black voters. Despite this, many Black women fought tirelessly towards the passage of the 19th amendment, includingMary Ann Shadd Cary and Sojourner Truth.Figure 5. The anti-suffrage group used ridicule and embarrassment to try and sway the public away from supporting a womans right to vote.The early suffragists may have believed that the right to vote was a universal one, but they faced waves of discrimination and ridicule from both men and women. The image below shows one of the organizations pushing back against the movement, but much of the anti-suffrage campaign was carried out through ridiculing postcards and signs that showed suffragists as sexually wanton, grasping, irresponsible, or impossibly ugly. Men in anti-suffragist posters were depicted as henpecked, crouching to clean the floor, while their suffragist wives marched out the door to campaign for the vote. They also showed cartoons of women gambling, drinking, and smoking cigars, that is, taking on mens vices, once they gained voting rights.Other anti-suffragists believed that women could better influence the country from outside the realm of party politics, through their clubs, petitions, and churches. Many women also opposed womens suffrage because they thought the dirty world of politics was a morass to which ladies should not be exposed. The National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage formed in 1911; around the country, state representatives used the organizations speakers, funds, and literature to promote the anti-suffragist cause. As the link below illustrates, the suffragists endured much prejudice and backlash in their push for equal rights and fair representation. Browse this collection of anti-suffragist cartoons to see examples of the stereotypes and fear-mongering that the anti-suffragist campaign promoted. This video explains the womens suffrage movement and other social reform movements led by women during the Progressive Era, including Jane Addams, Alice Paul, Margaret Sanger, and Emma Goldman, among others.You can view thetranscript for Womens Suffrage: Crash Course US History #31 here (opens in new window).For a light-hearted review of the 19th Amendment, watch this classic School House Rock song Sufferin Till Suffrage. Nineteenth Amendment: granted women the constitutional right to voteSeneca Falls Convention: 1848 suffragist meeting where the Declaration of Sentiments was drafted, outlining a set of demands that would help to secure the right of women to voteSilent Sentinels:women protesters who picketed the White House for years to protest for womens right to vote; they went on a hunger strike after their arrest, and their force-feeding became a national scandal From the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century, the Progressive movement had incredible political power. Serious reforms came across American society to address social issues and inequalities. Four major changes took the form of amendments to the US Constitution itself. These were the 16th through 19th amendments, ratified between 1913 and 1920. The 16th Amendment changed the primary method by which the federal government generated revenue. Previously, federal money came from tariffs which became a regressive tax, as poorer people spent a higher percentage of their income on basic, necessary goods. The progressive movement had long pushed for a progressive tax on income but a previous attempt to legislate the issue in Congress in 1861 was struck down by the US Supreme Court in 1872. Since the Supreme Court had declared the law unconstitutional, a constitutional amendment was required for the income tax to become law. The amendment was passed in Congress in 1909 and ratified in 1913. Regressive Tax: A tax applied as the same fee to all, thereby taking a larger percentage of the income of those who earn less.Progressive Tax: A tax applied at a higher rate to those who have a higher income.In 1913, the 17th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. This amendment changed how Senators were elected and placed much more power in the hands of ordinary Americans. Before the amendment, senators were chosen by the state legislature in the states they represented. With the 17th Amendment, Americans were now able to vote for their Senate representative in direct elections. Fig. 2 - Federal Agents Destroying AlcoholThe 18th Amendment outlawed making, distributing, and consuming alcohol. Changes in alcohol production at the time had made alcohol stronger and cheaper, resulting in increased consumption. Organizations like the Woman's Christian Temperance Union tied increased alcohol consumption to many social problems of the day ranging from domestic violence to health issues. The broader progressive movement picked up the issue, calling it a "noble experiment", and pursued prohibition as a constitutional amendment. The amendment was ratified in 1919. Ratified in 1920, the 19th Amendment provided women with the right to vote in the United States. The issue had been discussed in Congress since 1878 and had been fought for by activists since the turn of the nineteenth century. The progressive movement was finally the vehicle that moved women's suffrage into the constitution. Although women could not vote in national elections until 1920, a woman named Jeanette Rankin had been elected to the House of Representatives in 1917 before women could even vote nationally Fig.3 - Suffrage Cartoon 1920The reforms under presidents like Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson helped to balanced power between average Americans and wealthy elites. Although Taft had been viewed as more conservative than his predecessor Roosevelt, he still supported progressive measures such as the income tax. Their reforms increased citizens' say in government. The 16th Amendment had been initially supported by conservatives in Congress as a means to kill the income tax issue because they believed that the states would never ratify such an amendment. They were wrong and in 1913 the first income taxes were collected, but only from one percent of the population. When the US entered WWI, Congress turned to raising income taxes as a major method for financing the war. The federal budget increased significantly under the new income from the rising taxes. In the end, a third of the war costs were paid through the new income taxes. Between 1913 and 1930, income tax grew to account for 60% of federal tax revenue.When drafting the constitution, Federalists had feared a "tyranny of the majority," where the rights of those who held minority opinions would be trampled. The adoption of the 17th amendment was the end of a safeguard that had been placed in the constitution for that purpose. Despite intentions, these appointments were susceptible to corruption themselves. In 1912, shortly before the amendment was ratified, the election of Senator William Lorimer was overturned as it was found that members of the Illinois state legislature had been bribed into supporting his election. The 17th amendment and direct elections took the selections of senators out of the hands of just a few men. The term "tyranny of the majority" did not refer to protecting minority populations but the fear that a mob of common people could not be trusted with real political power.Fig. 4 - 18th Amendment Repeal FlierInitially, the 18th Amendment did have some of the effects its supporters had hoped for, including a lower crime rate and lower rates of alcohol related health problems. As prohibition went on though, organized crime began to form around the business of selling alcohol which reversed the lowering trend of murder rates and increased the death rate from dangerous forms of black-market alcohol. The 18th amendment was ultimately repealed in 1933 by the 21st Amendment. The 18th Amendment is the only constitutional amendment to be repealed in full. By the time the 19th Amendment was ratified, a number of states were already allowing women to vote in their elections. The election of 1920 would be the first to see women vote for national offices in the United States. Women drove an increase in voter turnout by 8 million from the previous election. Ironically, although the Progressive reformers had given the new right to vote in the election, it was won in a landslide by conservative candidate Warren G Harding, whose campaign slogan was the anti-progressive motto "a return to normalcy." Fig. 5 - Income Tax CartoonAlthough Americans would select conservatives to lead them through the prosperous Roaring '20s, the Great Depression of the 1930s would be an entirely different matter. The 1932 election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt set the United States back on the path of the Progressive Era. The reforms of the Progressives laid the groundwork for FDR's New Deal. To finance the New Deal, FDR used the 16th Amendment to raise income taxes on the wealthiest Americans far higher than Wilson had during WWI. Democrats aligned with FDR's New Deal would be supported by Americans suffering from the Great Depression in elections of the 1930s under the 17th Amendment's direct elections. In the early twentieth century, progressives ratified the 16th through 19th amendmentsThe long-battled income tax became law under the 16th AmendmentWhen the 17th Amendment passed, Americans were now able to directly elect their SenatorsAlcohol was banned in the United States with the 18th AmendmentWomen were finally able to vote after the 19th AmendmentPage 2 Fact Checked Content Last Updated: 03.10.2022 8 min reading time Content creation process designed by Content cross-checked by Content quality checked by Save Article Save Article Nothing happens in a vacuum, let's explore the context for this amendment. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were all passed during the Reconstruction Era. This was the period after the Civil War when the South was to be reconstructed. It lasted from the end of the Civil War until the Great Compromise of 1877. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery and the 14th defined citizenship and naturalization for immigrants. This was a period of unrest because the Southern states did not like that African Americans were gaining rights. The South would not accept these rights unless they were forced to. The political party in power, the radical republicans, passed the Reconstruction Act of 1867. Fig. 1- Military DistrictsThis act divided the South into five sections each with a military general in charge. The soldiers would protect the newly established rights of African Americans and enforce other laws and plans established by Congress. Voting was considered a political right, not a natural right therefore it was up to the state to determine who had the right to vote. The 15th Amendment was passed by Congress in 1869. It would be added to the conditions for Southern states to rejoin the Union. The generals stationed in the different sections would make sure that all eligible voters were registered including African Americans. The 15th Amendment was passed in 1869 but would not be ratified until 1870. This means that Congress passed the article in 1869 but could not get the majority of the House of Representatives to pass it until 1870. The majority means that it has to be two-thirds. Politicians had three reasons for giving voting rights to African AmericansIt was the right thing to doIt prevented Confederates from gaining powerThey would vote for RepublicansThis amendment was pushed and passed by the radical republican party. They had three reasons for wanting African American male suffrage. It was the right thing to do, it would prevent Confederate politicians from gaining power, and they would vote for Republicans.Keeping former Confederates out of Congress was very important for reconstruction. The radical republicans wanted to control reconstruction and could not do so if Confederates were in power. Part of the radical republican plan for reconstruction was the enfranchisement of African Americans through rights, education, and government programs. The 15th Amendment gave voting rights to any man who is an American citizen. It also placed the responsibility of upholding and protecting these rights onto Congress. This included African Americans and people who immigrated to America. There was a large number of Chinese immigrants who came to America looking for work. They often worked in the North on railroads. The 15th Amendment left room for voter suppression. Congress did not want the "unworthy poor" to be able to vote or immigrants. A way of keeping them from voting was allowing for poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses. Let's take a closer look at each of these techniques.TermDescription Literacy TestsTests that were administrated to African Americans to prove that they could read or had an understanding of the ConstitutionPoll TaxesA fee that someone had to pay before they votedGrandfather ClauseAllowed white men to skip the literacy test and poll taxFear TacticsAfrican Americans were threatened, assaulted, and murdered if they tried to voteLiteracy TestsWhen someone went to the poll, they would have to read a section of the Constitution. If they could not read it, then they had to explain it to whoever was administering the test. The administrator would determine whether or not the person could vote. In the South, this was used to prevent African Americans from voting. Fig. 2- African Americans votingMost African Americans were formerly enslaved. It was illegal for an enslaved person to learn to read so many African Americans were illiterate. They could not read, and the Constitution had never been explained to them. The administrators were white men. When an African American passed the test, the administrator lied and said that they didn't. Poll TaxesIt cost one dollar to vote. This might seem like a small amount of money today but for an impoverished person in the 19th century, this was a great deal of money. Many African Americans worked as sharecroppers and had to buy food and supplies on credit. They truly could not afford the one dollar that it cost to vote. Grandfather ClausesPoliticians did not want to prevent white men from voting and many poor white men were illiterate. If someone's father or grandfather could vote before 1867 then he could vote without passing the literacy test or paying the fee. Black people were only able to vote after 1870 so this clause only applied to white men.Fear TacticsAfrican Americans who could pass the literacy test and afford the one dollar then had to deal with white mobs. These mobs patrolled voting booths and would fight and sometimes kill black men who were voting. This turned into a lawsuit that went all the way to the Supreme Court in the US vs Cruikshank case. The Supreme Court decided that Congress could not intervene as long as politicians were not preventing Black voters. If private individuals or groups did then it was not a federal matter.The Voting Rights Act of 1865 made poll taxes, literacy tests, and other forms of voter suppression illegal. During the following decades, more voting rights acts were passed to further protect American voters. The 15th Amendment did not include women or Native Americans. White and black women supported the 15th Amendment believing that everyone would get the right to vote. Though that was not the case. Even though some of the largest African American suffrage leaders were also active in women's suffrage, like Franklin Douglass, the African American male suffrage movement wanted to remain separate from the women's cause. This created a divide within the women's suffrage movement where some women stayed and advocated for black male voting rights while others separated and focused on women's voting rights. Often white women would insult African Americans because they were able to vote when the white women could not. Women would not be able to vote until 1920. Fig. 3- Women's Suffrage boothNative Americans were not considered citizens therefore they could not vote. They would not be given the right to vote until 1924. Even then it was left to the state to decide if the indigenous person could vote. It would not be until 1948 that indigenous people could vote in every state. They still had to pass literacy tests and pay poll taxes.The 15th Amendment signified a time of change. Even though African American voting would be suppressed in the South for the following 70 or so years, African Americans were gaining rights. Political power is an important contribution to change. As African Americans gained political power, they were able to change America. The 15th Amendment was passed in 1869 and gave African American men the right to vote.Each former Confederate state had to ratify the 15th Amendment before it could rejoin the Union.Even though the 15th Amendment gave African American men the right to vote, Southern Democrats found ways to suppress their votes. Literacy tests, poll taxes, grandfather clauses, and fear tactics were used to prevent African Americans from voting. The 15th Amendment excluded women of all races and Native Americans. What is the 15th amendment? The 15th Amendment gave all American men the right to vote including African American men and immigrants who became citizens. What did the 15th amendment do? The 15th Amendment gave all American men the right to vote including African American men and immigrants who became citizens. When was the 15th amendment passed? The 15th Amendment was passed by Congress in 1869 and ratified in 1870. When was the 15th amendment ratified? The 15th Amendment was passed by Congress in 1869 and ratified in 1870. What does the 15th amendment say? The 15th Amendment gave all American men the right to vote including African American men and immigrants who became citizens. Save Article At StudySmarter, we have created a learning platform that serves millions of students. Meet the people who work hard to deliver fact based content as well as making sure it is verified. Lily Hulatt is a Digital Content Specialist with over three years of experience in content strategy and curriculum design. She gained her PhD in English Literature from Durham University in 2022, taught in Durham Universitys English Studies Department, and has contributed to a number of publications. Lily specialises in English Literature, English Language, History, and Philosophy. Get to know Lily Gabriel Freitas is an AI Engineer with a solid experience in software development, machine learning algorithms, and generative AI, including large language models (LLMs) applications. Graduated in Electrical Engineering at the University of So Paulo, he is currently pursuing an MSc in Computer Engineering at the University of Campinas, specializing in machine learning topics. Gabriel has a strong background in software engineering and has worked on projects involving computer vision, embedded AI, and LLM applications. Get to know Gabriel Vaia is a globally recognized educational technology company, offering a holistic learning platform designed for students of all ages and educational levels. Our platform provides learning support for a wide range of subjects, including STEM, Social Sciences, and Languages and also helps students to successfully master various tests and exams worldwide, such as GCSE, A Level, SAT, ACT, Abitur, and more. We offer an extensive library of learning materials, including interactive flashcards, comprehensive textbook solutions, and detailed explanations. The cutting-edge technology and tools we provide help students create their own learning materials. StudySmarters content is not only expert-verified but also regularly updated to ensure accuracy and relevance. Learn more Page 3 Fact Checked Content Last Updated: 12.10.2022 10 min reading time Content creation process designed by Content cross-checked by Content quality checked by Save Article Save Article The 21st century began with the election of 2000, and America has seen three more presidencies since. There were natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and the Covid Pandemic. Major human rights events have occurred, like the legalization of same-sex marriage and the progress brought on by the Black Lives Matter Movement. The 21st century has been very eventful; let's examine these events! 1992 Presidential Election Before we jump into the 21st Century, let's look at the election of 1992. This election had three primary candidates. Up for re-election from the Republican party was George H. W. Bush. Bush had many accomplishments during his previous term, but an economic downfall caused his support to waiver. The Democrat party offered Bill Clinton. Clinton was a "New Democrat" and represented change. A third-party candidate, Ross Perot, also ran. Though he didn't win, Perot took votes away from the Republican candidate. Bill Clinton won the 1992 election. This signaled that America was ready for a change going into the 21st century!America has seen four presidents since 2000, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and the current president (at the time of writing this article!) Joe Biden. Bush and Trump were Republicans, while Obama and Biden were Democrats. The stakes for America are never small. If our country does not lead the cause of freedom, it will not be led."-George W. Bush 4George W. Bush became president in 2000. His presidency was thrust into action on September 11, 2001. Terrorists hijacked four planes and crashed two into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers, one into the Pentagon, and the last crashed into a Pennsylvania field because the passengers gained control over it. This tragic event is referred to as 9-11 by Americans who still remember the loss of life, from the passengers to the people within the buildings to the first responders. The War on TerrorBush launched the Patriot Act, which allowed the government to monitor civilians' phones and emails to find terrorists. The Department of Homeland Security was established, and the War on Terror began. Bush's War on Terror involved the United States and Great Britain, Russia, France, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The president sent the military into Afghanistan to capture Osama Bin Laden, the leader of the Taliban that claimed responsibility for 9-11. It is highly debated if the Taliban was responsible for 9-11. While they claimed responsibility, they often did so for any terrorist event, even if they weren't responsible. Their goal was to spread terror, claiming different events made the organization seem larger and scarier than it was. In 2003, Bush claimed to suspect Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. American soldiers would go on to invade and occupy Iraq through Operation Iraqi Freedom for twenty years and never find proof of weapons of mass destruction. The War on Terror initially had the support of the American people, but after several years without results, Americans' faith wavered. They questioned if the cost of human lives was even worth it. Fig 1: George W. BushIn 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans. Katrina was a category 5 hurricane that killed more than 1,300 people and caused 13 billion dollars worth of damages. Critics believed that Bush's response to Katrina was weak. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) didn't do enough, and what it did do was too late. Fig 2: Barack Obama I want future generations to know that we are a people who see our differences as a great gift, that were a people who value the dignity and worth of every citizen -- man and woman, young and old, black and white, Latino, Asian, immigrant, Native American, gay, straight, Americans with mental illness or physical disability. Everybody matters." 3-Barack Obama Barack Obama was the first African American to become president, but he inherited an unofficial war from the Bush Administration. Obama allowed troops to remain in Afghanistan and Iraq but wouldn't let America become involved with the Syrian Civil War. Critics argued that Obama was too weak regarding foreign affairs in the Middle East. Obama also allowed drone strikes in the Middle East to kill Isis, a new terrorist organization threat. These strikes killed Isis targets but also innocent civilians.America was also in the worst economic remission since the Great Depression at the start of the Obama administration. Obama passed the Recovery Act and the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). The Recovery Act created infrastructure projects to put Americans back to work, while Obamacare created affordable insurance. Obama tried to increase the minimum wage nationwide but was struck down by Congress. This did encourage many states to raise the minimum wage. Fig 3: Donald TrumpDonald Trump was elected into office promising to "Make America Great Again." One of his campaign promises was to build a wall that would keep immigrants from Mexico out of America and that the Mexican government would pay for it. By the end of his campaign, only a few miles, the wall had been put up in places with no previous defenses. The Mexican government didn't pay for it. I think were gonna be very good with the coronavirus. I think that at some point thats going to, sort of, just disappearI hope" 1 -Donald TrumpIn 2020, the Coronavirus spread throughout America, causing America to enter a global pandemic. Critics of Trump believed that he did not do enough to slow the spread of the virus. Trump believed that "it (the coronavirus) miraculously goes away." After the vaccine was released in December 2020, critics believed that Trump didn't properly encourage Americans to get vaccinated. Trump was the third American president impeached by the House of Representatives and the first president to be impeached twice. A conservative majority Senate acquitted him during both impeachment trials, so Trump was not removed from office. Trump's first impeachment occurred because he attempted to bribe Ukraine to find damaging information on his political opponent, Joe Biden. The second article of impeachment came from the House of Representatives due to Trump's connections with the rioters' actions during the January 6th insurrection at the US Captial. fig 4: Joe BidenJoe Biden is the current President of the United States and was Barack Obama's vice president. In 2020 America's unemployment rate had risen to 6.3, but Biden reduced it to 3.9. Unemployment has not seen a reduction this drastic since 1969. Biden issued a Covid Relief plan that spent 1.9 trillion dollars to give American adults 1,400 dollars. Biden re-entered the Paris Climate Accord, which Trump had left. The Climate Accord was an agreement between multiple countries to control climate change. But . . . within the growing catastrophe, I believe theres an incredible opportunity . . . . We have the ability to invest in ourselves and build an equitable clean-energy future and in the process create millions of good-paying jobs [while we] create an environment that raises the standard of living around the world. 2-Joe BidenJoe Biden's presidency is continuing, and we won't know the full scale of it until it has ended. America has shifted its values in the 21st Century. Activist groups that support human rights and represent marginalized communities are a part of this. Third-wave feminism was popular in the 2000s but shifted to the fourth wave in the mid-2010s. The fourth wave is categorized by its use of social media in the information age. Fig 5: Black Lives Matter, Colorado Mural.Civil Rights Activists have formed groups like Black Lives Matter, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and the Me Too movement to raise awareness for marginalized groups. The Black Lives Matter movement raises awareness about police brutality against African Americans. The Me Too movement empowers victims of sexual assault to come forward and seek justice. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement raises awareness about the high numbers of missing and murdered Native American women.There were many significant events in America during the 21st Century; let's take a moment to highlight two of these: Hurricane Katrina and the Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage. Hurricane KatrinaHurricane Katrina touchdown in the Southern United States in August 2005; though it affected multiple states, the most damage was done in Louisiana. The American government was informed that a category five hurricane would strike. Government officials had six days to evacuate and prepare Louisiana for the hurricane's touchdown. The government's handling of Katrina was a failure. fig 6: Sunken House After Hurricane KatrinaEvacuation of New Orleans, the state capital, only began 24 hours before touchdown, even though the government knew it would take 72 hours to evacuate the city fully. Refugees were told that the Super Dome Stadium was safe to bunker down. The stadium did not have enough food or water, and the people left there had to wait five days after the storm to get supplies.The immediate support of victims of Katrina was a failure because of the government's slow response. It was not declared national significance until 36 hours after the hurricane ended. At least 1,833 people died, and 80% of New Orleans was flooded. Legalization of Same-Sex MarriageIn 2015, the Supreme Court found denying same-sex couples marriage rights was unconstitutional in the Obergefell Vs Hodges case. All states had to recognize the rights of same-sex married couples, which were to be the same as the rights of heterosexual couples. Fig 7: Pride Flag. This landmark decision was because marriage was defined as between a man and a woman in defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) of 1996. Homosexual couples were denied over 1,000 benefits that come from marriage. American Achievements in the 21st CenturyAmerica has made many achievements in the 21st century. In 2004 Mark Zuckerberg launched the social media platform Facebook, which would revolutionize online communication. In 2007, Steve Jobs released the first iPhone. The 21st Century has introduced new technologies at a fast pace. America has had many accomplishments and setbacks in the 21st century. It is difficult to say what the 21st century will mean on the greater scale of history because we are only two decades into it. We can say that this century has already been quite eventful and will most likely continue to do so. America has had four presidents in the 21st century: George W. BushBarack ObamaDonald TrumpJoe BidenActivist groups continue to spread awarenessHurricane Katrina devastated Louisiana in 2005Same-sex marriage was legalized in 2015 What is a 21st century American? A 21st century American is someone who is living in America in the 21st century. Will America survive the 21st century? America will survive the 21st century. We have already seen many social changes in America in the first twenty years of the 21st century but cannot predict the outcome of these changes. Are the effects of slavery present in 21st century America? America is still a post-slavery country meaning that slavery still affects America today. This is evident in the wage discrepancy, employment discrepancy, and white supremacy that still exist today. What are the significant problems in 21st century America? The significant problems in 21st century America include but are not limited to human rights and climate control. How is the American dream defined in the 21st century? The 21st century American dream is to achieve a comfortable life through hard work. Save Article Access over 700 million learning materials Study more efficiently with flashcards Get better grades with AI Sign up for free Already have an account? Log in Good job! Keep learning, you are doing great. Don't give up! Next Open in our app At StudySmarter, we have created a learning platform that serves millions of students. Meet the people who work hard to deliver fact based content as well as making sure it is verified. Lily Hulatt is a Digital Content Specialist with over three years of experience in content strategy and curriculum design. She gained her PhD in English Literature from Durham University in 2022, taught in Durham Universitys English Studies Department, and has contributed to a number of publications. Lily specialises in English Literature, English Language, History, and Philosophy. Get to know Lily Gabriel Freitas is an AI Engineer with a solid experience in software development, machine learning algorithms, and generative AI, including large language models (LLMs) applications. Graduated in Electrical Engineering at the University of So Paulo, he is currently pursuing an MSc in Computer Engineering at the University of Campinas, specializing in machine learning topics. Gabriel has a strong background in software engineering and has worked on projects involving computer vision, embedded AI, and LLM applications. Get to know Gabriel Vaia is a globally recognized educational technology company, offering a holistic learning platform designed for students of all ages and educational levels. 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Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.The Progressive Era, which lasted from the late 1890s to the early 1920s, was a period of increased political activism and social reform in the United States.1 During this era, the National American Woman Suffrage Association2 initially emphasized state-level efforts to secure voting rights for women.3 By 1916, women had obtained full voting rights in eleven western states and partial voting rights in many others.4 Nonetheless, the slow pace of progress at the state level spurred activists such as Carrie Chapman Catt to intensify their efforts to obtain an amendment to the Constitution recognizing womens right to vote.5 Some suffragists, such as Alice Paul, combined traditional advocacy efforts with more radical forms of protest, including parades, picketing, and hunger strikes in support of a federal amendment.6 The year 1917 marked a turning point in the fight for womens suffrage.7 In that year, the first woman elected to Congress, Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana, took office.8 In addition, New York passed a referendum approving womens suffrage, becoming the first eastern state to do so.9 As the United States entered World War I in April 1917 to fight for democracy abroad, it became more difficult for opponents of womens suffrage to argue that women should be denied a fundamental democratic right at home.10 By the end of the year, the womens suffrage movement had secured significant political support for a federal amendment, but obtaining the approval of Congress and the state legislatures proved to be a difficult task.11 Page 2 Nineteenth Amendment: 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. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.The language that would become the Nineteenth Amendment was first introduced in Congress during the Reconstruction Era. In 1878, Senator Aaron Sargent of California introduced a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution that would have prohibited the federal and state governments from restricting U.S. citizens voting rights on account of sex. 1 This language was modeled after the Fifteenth Amendments prohibition on race-based voting restrictions.2 The Senate did not act on Senator Sargents proposal at the time; however, it later voted down the proposed womens suffrage amendment, as reintroduced, in 1887.3 After decades of slow progress at the federal level, the womens suffrage amendment attained a critical level of political support in the late 1910s.4 In December 1917, Representative John E. Raker of California reintroduced the joint resolution proposing a womens suffrage amendment in the Sixty-Fifth Congress.5 During the House of Representatives debate on the resolution, proponents argued that women should have the right to vote because they had played a key role in the nations labor force during World War I.6 Moreover, U.S. allies, including Great Britain, had already granted suffrage to many women.7 At least one congressman argued that the extension of the franchise to women would recognize their increasing social and economic independence from their husbands.8 Proponents also noted that many women paid taxes without having a role in choosing their political representatives.9 In general, opponents argued that amending the Constitution to recognize womens suffrage would intrude on each states authority to determine the composition of its electorate10 and disrupt the traditional notion of the American family.11 A few congressmen objected because the Nineteenth Amendment would, at least on paper, enfranchise African-American women.12 Despite some opposition, the joint resolution narrowly achieved the two-thirds majority needed for passage in the House on January 10, 1918.13 The Senate debated the joint resolution for several months in 1918. Senate debates touched on many of the same issues as the House debates, including womens contribution to the war effort, states rights, and race.14 In September 1918, shortly before the midterm elections, President Woodrow Wilson gave a speech to the Senate in support of the womens suffrage amendment.15 President Wilson noted that women supported the nations fight in World War I and contended that the United States could not fight for democracy abroad while denying women the right to vote at home.16 In addition to arguing that womens suffrage was key to winning the war, Wilson stated that the resolution of the nations great problems after the war would depend upon the direct and authoritative participation of women in our counsels. 17 The day after Wilsons speech, on October 1, 1918, the Senate rejected the joint resolution proposing the womens suffrage amendment.18 The amendment again failed in the Senate during the Sixty-Fifth Congress on February 10, 1919.19 In May 1919, after the new Sixty-Sixth Congress convened, President Wilson called a special session of the national legislature to consider a number of issues, including the womens suffrage amendment.20 Progress in Congress was swift. The House passed the joint resolution proposing the Nineteenth Amendment on May 21, 1919,21 and the Senate approved it on June 4, 1919.22 Thereafter, it was sent to the states for ratification.23 Although the new Congress acted quickly on the Amendment, more than a year elapsed before it attained the three-fourths majority of the states necessary for ratification on August 18, 1920.24 About a week later, on August 26, U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified the Amendment to have been ratified.25 Despite the Nineteenth Amendments ratification, many African-American women and other female minority groups throughout the United States continued to face significant obstacles to voting, such as poll taxes and literacy tests. These barriers were addressed when the states ratified the Twenty-Fourth Amendment in 1964.26 Congress then enacted the Voting Rights Act in 1965 to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment.27 HomeThe Progressive EraWomens Suffrage Womens Suffrage is the womens right to vote. Early attempts to gain suffrage for American women date back to the late 1800s. The women of the time struggled to gain political and economic equality. They worked hard for social reforms and fought for a constitutional amendment that would guarantee their right to vote. It took a long struggle for women to gain this right and even then, it was not allowed in some states. In the Constitution, the 19th Amendment passed in 1920 paved the way for womens suffrage.The Womens Rights MovementWomens rights movement in the United States gained momentum in the 1840s. It championed the rights of the women to speak in public and to be appointed to public offices. Many conventions were held, and resolutions were passed to discuss the rights of the women. At the time, the right to vote was among the most important demands of the movement. Along with it, women also fought for social, economical and political equality as well to bring reforms in the society.Seneca Falls ConventionSeneca Falls Convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19-20, 1848. It lasted for two days and gained much attention and popularity around the States. The session had six sessions on different topics where the participants discussed the laws regarding social, religious and political issues in society.Presentations and discussions were held over the role of women in the society. Seneca Falls Convention led to many other conventions later on and became a basis for womens rights movement.The 15th AmendmentIn 1870, the 15th Amendment was passed. It stated that the right to vote should not be denied on the basis of race. The amendment effectively granted suffrage to the recently emancipated African-Americans across the country. Although the women activists celebrated the fact that this was a step forward, they also criticized the amendment.This was because it limited the right to vote to men. For this reason, womens rights activists sought to change the text of the amendment to make it gender-neutral but they failed.The 19th AmendmentDuring World War I, women played an important role at the home front and their sacrifices were greatly recognized. In the 19th Amendment of US constitution, women were given the right to vote. The amendment was ratified on 18th August, 1920. This ended almost a century of protests by women in US.Affect and AftermathThere were many positive outcomes of womens suffrage. After getting their right to vote, women started to gain more exposure and involvement in the social, economical and political areas of the society. They also started entering male-dominated areas like medicine, politics, clergy, and law.The salaries of female employees started to rise, although they were still nowhere near those of the salaries of males. Still, suffrage was a big step forward. Women started to get into colleges and gained higher education. The after effects of this movement spread to the entire States of America and gradually to Europe and other parts of the world as well. The Progressive Era 19th AmendmentMuckrakersWomens Suffrage by MIA HAZRA Progressive Era reformers hoped to rewrite the Constitution through constitutional amendment. The democratic reforms that they achieved are well known. But what about their failures? Twenty-first century contention over the role of the U.S. Supreme Court is not new. Since the fram