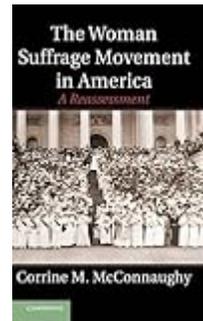


Corrine M. McConnaughey. *The Woman Suffrage Movement in America: A Reassessment.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013. xv + 272 pp. \$95.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-107-01366-7.



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Woman Suffrage through Programmatic Enfranchisement

In *The Woman Suffrage Movement in America: A Reassessment*, Corrine M. McConnaughey sets out to develop a general framework for understanding why politicians act to widen the democratic circle, and use that framework to explain the politics of woman suffrage (p. 4). She argues that previous studies of the woman suffrage movement focused too closely on the suffragists and not enough on the lawmakers who actually gave women the right to vote. To fill this void, she examines the legislative process in several states to discover how and why a majority of their legislators were convinced to support woman suffrage.

McConnaughey's study begins with a general discussion of suffrage in America and analyzes how the electorate expanded over the decades. In connection with this, she offers what she describes as two models of enfranchisement: strategic enfranchisement and programmatic enfranchisement. She defines strategic enfranchisement as when a single political party acts to enfranchise new voters expecting to reap electoral rewards (p. 34). As an example, she describes how the Republi-

can Party fought for suffrage for African Americans in the years following the Civil War and was rewarded with the votes of these new members of the electorate. Programmatic enfranchisement, on the other hand, is when pressure for change comes from the voters. A third party appears that holds so much leverage with voters that the major parties are forced to address the key issues presented in that new party's platform or face the defection of a large number of voters.

After rejecting strategic enfranchisement as a framework to explain how women gained the vote, McConnaughey turns to individual states to build a case for programmatic enfranchisement. Using Colorado, Illinois, and Michigan as examples, she traces the suffrage workers' efforts in each state to convince legislators to grant them the vote. In each case, she shows how the women's alliances with strong third parties—such as the Populists in Colorado or the Progressives in Illinois—resulted in a successful drive for woman suffrage. The third parties, needing funds, political skill, and workers, welcomed help from suffragists. In return for their hard