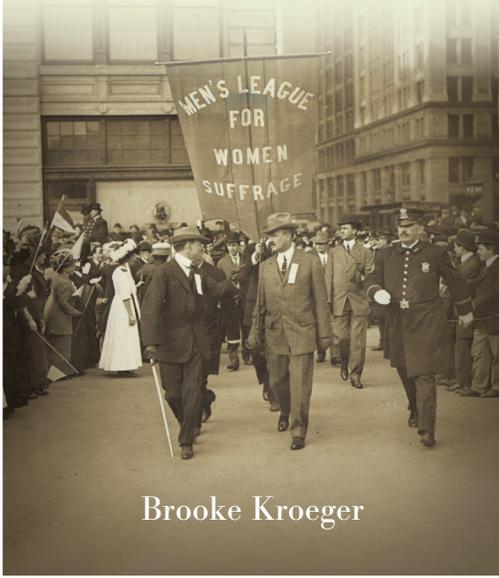


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THE SUFFRAGENTS

How Women Used Men to Get the Vote



Brooke Kroeger

The *Suffragents* is the untold story of how some of New York's most powerful men formed the Men's League for Woman Suffrage, which grew between 1909 and 1917 from 150 founding members into a force of thousands across thirty-five states. Brooke Kroeger explores the formation of the League and the men who instigated it to involve themselves with the suffrage campaign, what they did at the behest of the movement's female leadership, and why. She details the National American Woman Suffrage Association's strategic decision to accept their organized help and then to deploy these influential new allies as suffrage foot soldiers, a role they accepted with uncommon grace. Led by such luminaries as Oswald Garrison Villard, John Dewey, Max Eastman, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, and George Foster Peabody, members of the League worked the streets, the stage, the press, and the legislative and executive branches of government. In the process, they helped convince waffling politicians, a dismissive public, and a largely hostile press to support the women's demand. Together, they swayed the course of history.

Brooke Kroeger is Professor at the New York University Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. Her books include *Nellie Bly: Daredevil, Reporter, Feminist*.

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213 b/w photographs

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praise for **THE SUFFRAGENTS**

“...with smooth efficiency and the touch of a novelist, Brooke Kroeger shows how the suffragist movement, engineered by women from top to bottom, cleverly stitched in the involvement of men from all walks of professional and political life, directed by women who used neither gun nor blade to direct the men, but the weapons of intelligence, cleverness, and when necessary, subterfuge. The collaboration in this balance of power between prominent men who invested in the movement, and the women who directed them, has everything to teach us today.”

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“...Brooke Kroeger gives us the first history of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage, the 'Gentleman's Auxiliary' of the women's movement. Eschewing the spotlight, they supported gender equality, as we all should, because it's quite simply the right thing to do. With this gift, Kroeger gives us back a bit of our history.”

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“Not all the suffragists who risked ridicule to march down Fifth Avenue in the big parades touting votes for women wore dresses. Brooke Kroeger meticulously documents the largely unsung role of men who publicly supported their wives, mothers, sisters, or lovers in the final dramatic decade of women's seventy-year battle for the ballot.”

— Linda J. Lumsden, author of *Rampant Women: Suffragists and the Right of Assembly*