



# A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot

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Alice Paul began her life as a studious girl from a strict Quaker family in New Jersey. In 1907, a scholarship took her to England, where she developed a passionate devotion to the suffrage movement. Upon her return to the United States, Alice became the leader of the militant wing of the American suffrage movement. Calling themselves "Silent Sentinels," she and her followers were the first protestors to picket the White House. Arrested and jailed, they went on hunger strikes and were force-fed and brutalized. Years before Gandhi's campaign of nonviolent resistance, and decades before civil rights demonstrations, Alice Paul practiced peaceful civil disobedience in the pursuit of equal rights for women.

With her daring and unconventional tactics, Alice Paul eventually succeeded in forcing President Woodrow Wilson and a reluctant U.S. Congress to pass the Nineteenth Amendment, granting women the right to vote. Here at last is the inspiring story of the young woman whose dedication to women's rights made that long-held dream a reality.

"Alice Paul was a visionary and a pioneer. Her struggle for women's rights was built on the premise that no society or nation can reach its full potential if half of the population is left behind." -- Hillary Rodham Clinton

## **A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot Details**

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## From Reader Review A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot for online ebook

### Jennifer Mangler says

Alice Paul has long been one of my heroes, and I find it incredibly frustrating how few people know anything about her. We all owe her so much. Walton has written a wonderful book about her and the fight to get women the right to vote. We have forgotten just how difficult it was for Alice and her sister suffragists to finally attain what we now too often take for granted. This is a story everyone should know.

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### Gloria Mackay says

Amazing, amazing woman! We are eternally indebted to her.

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### Sarah says

This was a well written and researched biography about an important subject. Very focused on Alice Paul, it gives a good overview of her circle of activists and their strategy for pushing the President and congress to pass the 19th Amendment. It describes major milestones like the women's march in Washington in 1913 for suffrage, and the picketing of the White House during WWI and finally the arrests and hunger strikes of some of the core group of activists, and the final push in state legislatures for ratification of the amendment. If you know nothing about how women finally got the vote in the USA, this is a good book to read.

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### David Platt says

When people think of the heroes of the women's rights movement they think of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. But when I have asked my friends if they have heard of Alice Paul, I get blank stares.

Alice Paul is one of the most important people in the struggle for women to get the vote in the United States. President Obama should be commended for designating the Sewall-Belmont House, near the Capitol and the Supreme Court, as the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument.

Mary Walton does an excellent job of telling this vital woman's life story.

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### Stacey says

About a year or so ago I visited the Sewell Belmont House and Museum. I had had no idea it existed until I read a small blurb about it in the Washington Post. While visiting the museum, I realized how little I really knew about who fought for women's right to vote and what it took to get the constitutional amendment passed. I was aware of Susan B. Anthony and Elisabeth Cady Stanton but hadn't heard of Alice Paul until then.

Mary Walton's easy to read book fleshed out the museum exhibits and made the people involved real to me. I never would have imagined that a Quaker woman would get involved with the "militant" Pankhursts in England and then bring what she learned from the British women's suffrage movement back to the U.S. Ms. Paul never encouraged the violence that was happening across the Atlantic, but she did promote more "in your face" activities than the more "ladylike" American Woman's Suffrage Association. Without Alice Paul, women's national right to vote would have taken a lot longer to pass through congress.

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### **Patty says**

My major reason for liking this book, is that Alice Paul is my hero. One of my regrets is that I never met the woman who got all women the right to vote in this country and the author of the ERA. She was living about 3 blocks from my house and I never knew she was there. I am so sorry that that opportunity passed me by.

This book is fine. It is mostly the story of Alice Paul's actions that got women the right to vote in the United States. Walton does a good job telling her readers about Paul's early years and a terrific job writing about the years in the early 20th century where Paul laid it all on the line for suffrage.

My regret is that after 1920, the book comes to an end. There is a bit on Alice Paul's later life, but not much. Given that Paul wrote the ERA, there has to be more to the story. Hopefully that is another book for another author.

I am very grateful to Mary Walton for writing this book. Anything to keep Alice Paul's memory alive. She deserves to be remembered by all women. For a wonderful column, written in 2004 by Connie Schultz, go here:

<http://www.progressiveavenues.org/Wom...>

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### **Melissa says**

After watching the HBO movie "Iron-Jawed Angels," I read this book to learn more about Alice Paul and the women's suffrage movement. I thoroughly enjoyed both the book and the movie. The movie captures the drama of the events and the bravery of the women involved very well. But in compressing the story to fit a two-hour time frame, it sometimes creates an oversimplified impression of cause and effect. So I appreciated the more nuanced version told by the book. But if you don't have the patience for so much detail, at least rent the movie. It'll make you appreciate the vote and the women who worked so hard for it.

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### **Mary says**

This book was about a subject which each and everyone of us should know. Unfortunately, it was written more like a thesis or term paper than an engaging historical novel. I read the entire thing but wanted to give up many times.

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### **Ashley says**

I had to read this book for a Women's History class on how we obtained the vote. The teacher had us read this biography on Alice Paul, a woman who greatly advocated for women's voting rights in the 1910s through militant strategies. Ultimately, she and her followers succeeded. This novel explains the life of this woman's efforts to become a feminist and social activist in women's rights. There were some amusing moments in this book about this woman I found amazing, such as how she and others would infiltrate government houses and hide there, only to barge into important meetings between politicians and demand women's voting rights. She was definitely an amazing woman, and I respect and admire her and her fellow activists for giving women the right to vote. I do recommend this book if you're looking to read about an important woman in US and American women history that won't bore you and provides interesting facets of the American woman activist life during this time period.

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### **Carolyn Fagan says**

Fascinating read about and unknown (at least to me) women's suffrage pioneer. It baffles me that we all know about Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul is an unknown. Alice Paul's story is well that should be shared...she accomplished so much for women's rights and lived until 1977! Loved this one of the list for the NY Council for the Humanities' Votes for Women! reading and discussion group!

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### **David Muller says**

An incredibly important story of how an intrepid woman fought for decades to procure the right to vote for women. On a personal note, I am proud of the role my grandmother played in providing a comfortable retirement for Ms Paul at the end of her life, much as Ms Paul did for my grandparents Alice and Felix Muller when they were refugees in Geneva in 1940/41.

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### **Sarah says**

This was a good first read on the NWP and Alice Paul, but I found myself just wanting more. I did not get the feeling, much, for Paul's personality. Perhaps I was imagining it more as a biography than a story about the quest for the vote in the 1910s. I certainly wanted more on the ERA. I also disliked some of the odd stylistic choices - lots of exclamation points.

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### **Laura says**

I really enjoyed this book. I never realized just how much these women went through to get us the right to vote. I am sure that Alice Paul and her cohorts would be disgusted if they knew how many women stayed home this election. I would also like to think that they would also shake their heads at the quality of a few of the female candidates this year too.

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### **Jennifer says**

Alice Paul is one of my heroes. I went to the same high school as her and have always been inspired by her work. I'm so glad someone finally took the time to write about her and everything that she did for women. I am patiently waiting for the day that the ERA passes so that I can visit her grave and say thank you.

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### **Barbara says**

This is the very well researched story of Alice Paul and how she managed to finally win the vote for women in 1920. I had heard her name at one point in reading about feminism but it has been lost in the greater picture. She and the women who joined her were some of the first to use techniques of nonviolent civil disobedience. It was an amazing struggle directed by Paul with single minded perseverance. Mary Walton has turned it into a very readable history and one that made me realize how much I owe to this remarkable individual.

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