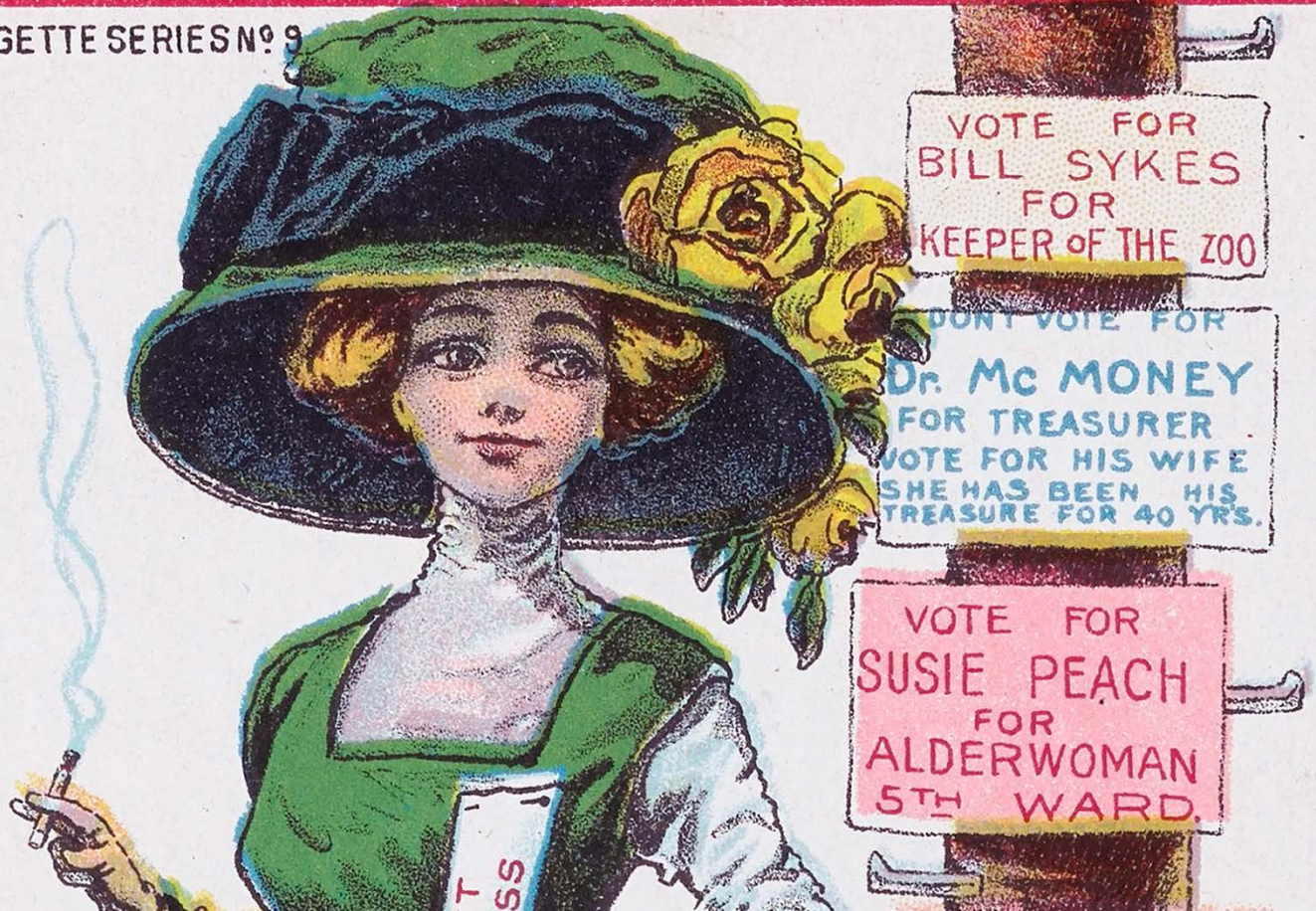




SUFFRAGETTE SERIES N° 9



Unit 7 Overview: The Long Nineteenth Century 1750 to 1914 CE

People have worn clothes for millennia. But changes in fashion can tell us a lot about the political, economic, and social revolutions that societies experienced in the long nineteenth century.





<p>0:04 <i>Montage of drawings and paintings of battles, congress, and industrialization. Collection of paintings of women and men in extravagant clothing.</i></p>	<p>Battles, congresses, the execution of kings, the spread of factories and railroads. These changes forged by the Revolutions of the Long 19th century can be studied in many ways. But what about fashion? It's only natural if you're overturning the world order you want to look good doing it! Especially when the people you're overthrowing dressed like this.</p>
<p>0:33 <i>Painting of a woman on the battlefield during the American Revolution, followed by a series of images of American people in homespun clothing. Image of a guillotine alongside an image of French royalty. Series of images of French clothing post-revolution.</i></p>	<p>And so, on the eve of the American Revolution, colonial women protested British rule by urging their communities to abandon highly taxed English cloth for simple American homespun. Like this suit George Washington wore to his inauguration as president. Across the Atlantic Ocean, in Revolutionary France, you could get your head cut off for wearing restrictive corsets, heavy wigs, and elaborate clothing of the ruling class. In fact, the Revolutionary workers who overthrew the monarchy were known as "sans culottes" or, without culottes because they wore longer, more sensible trousers, rather than the short pants of the aristocrats and middle class. But people didn't want to dressed like workers forever. Within a few years, French women were celebrating the Revolution and their freedom by developing an entirely new style based on an exotic Indian cloth and simple but elegant hair styles.</p>
<p>1:35 <i>Paintings of women marching and the French Revolution.</i></p>	<p>These revolutions and fashion reflect the changing ideas of this revolutionary era. The Long 19th Century lasted from 1750 to 1914 and this 164 year period transformed how human societies were governed, how they made the things they used, and how they connected with each other.</p>
<p>1:57 <i>Paintings of land and Enlightenment debaters followed by photo of Leviathan.</i></p>	<p>Starting in 1750, people in many parts of the world sought to overthrow systems that they found oppressive. Their agitation found expression in debates about the nature of humanity and the universe known as the enlightenment. Among these ideas was a simple question did people need to be ruled by kings and aristocrats?</p>
<p>2:28 <i>Images of the Declaration of Independence and the German Revolution.</i></p>	<p>Enlightenment thinkers argued that people ought to rule themselves to govern their country as citizens rather than serve a king as subjects. The belief that the people might be able to govern themselves helped develop a sense that those who were ruled by far away kings could instead rule themselves as an independent nation.</p>
<p>2:49 <i>Paintings of American founding fathers, revolution, and people in homespun local cloth.</i></p>	<p>These beliefs helped launch political and national revolutions all around the world. Revolutionaries wrote constitutions and raised armies to achieve their goals. They also designed and wore clothes like homespun local cloth, or the trousers of a worker that reflected their revolutionary spirit.</p>
<p>3:09 <i>Series of famous paintings depicting the Haitian Revolution. Drawings and paintings depicting discrimination in the United States.</i></p>	<p>Perhaps the most radical political revolution in this era happened when enslaved people of African descent overthrew French rule and slavery to create the free country of Haiti. But there were limits to these Revolutions. In other new democracies, like France and the United States, slavery continued. As did discrimination based on gender and class.</p>
<p>3:40</p>	<p>Meanwhile, perhaps the biggest changes in fashion and in society were sparked by a very different sort of revolution. The Industrial Revolution! The Industrial</p>



<p><i>Montage of paintings and drawings depicting the Industrial Revolution, including images of factories and the people who worked in them.</i></p>	<p>Revolution made it possible to produce goods faster and cheaper. The first real industrial product in the world, in fact, was cloth. After all, everyone needs clothing.</p>
<p>4:05 <i>Various images of people in cloth outfits designed during the Industrial Revolution. Two photographs of enslaved people in a field.</i></p>	<p>Thanks to industrialization people could use machines powered by coal to make lots of cheap cloths. That meant that more people had access to more clothes than ever before. For many in the middle class, fashionable clothing became affordable for the first time. Clothing companies began to mass produce inexpensive shirts and dresses in large quantities. But there was a dark side to this explosion in productivity. The people that produced the cotton, wool, and silk that made these clothes were often too poor to afford the clothing made from it, In fact, many were enslaved.</p>
<p>4:44 <i>Series of photographs of factory workers in harsh conditions followed by a photograph of factory pollution.</i></p>	<p>Factory workers, often women and children, labored long hours in dangerous conditions to feed the demands of the middle class. And clothing factories were powered by coal, producing so much pollution that people in cities wore dark colors just to hide the grime.</p>
<p>5:10 <i>Photographs of cotton used during the mass-production of clothes and colonized people. Painting depicting the harsh discrimination in colonies followed by a map detailing colonial expansion.</i></p>	<p>One of the reasons that mass-produced clothes were affordable in Europe and North America was that they were made from the natural resources and labor in colonies. Colonized people were treated very differently from citizens of empires. This was the system of colonialism and at its heart was the exploitation of the labor and resources of colonial subjects in large parts of Asia, Africa, the Pacific, and the Caribbean.</p>
<p>5:39 <i>Montage of paintings and photos of different forms of protest to colonization, such as revolutions or clothing. Series of images of Gandhi in homespun cloth.</i></p>	<p>Colonized people everywhere resisted this system in many ways. Sometimes with violence and sometimes through more subtle methods. Some even used fashion as a weapon against colonialism. In India, like in the earlier American Revolution, anti-colonial leaders like Gandhi boycotted British clothing and wore only homespun cloth made in India.</p>
<p>6:13 <i>Montage of various protests and newspapers against slavery and gender or class discrimination. Drawings and photographs of the suffragettes in various protests.</i></p>	<p>Throughout the Long 19th Century, people were trying to fix all these problems. Seeking to abolish slavery, reform colonialism, improve working conditions, end child labor, and create gender equality. In Reform movements, fashion also played a role. One great example is the suffragettes, women who fought against female oppression and to get women the vote. Suffragettes often wore white to emphasize the purity of their purpose. They also chose clothing that was easy to move in rather than the restrictive clothes that they were supposed to wear. And some of them took a page from the sans culottes and wore trousers instead of dresses.</p>
<p>7:02 <i>Series of photographs of modern protests that utilize</i></p>	<p>The ways we dress today remain symbolic: the messages on our t-shirts, the colors we choose, even specific items of clothing are an expression of our goals and</p>



clothing to make a statement.
Painting of women protesting
for their rights in the 19th
Century.

beliefs. But we owe a lot of our freedom to wear what we want to those who fought for freedom and justice in The Long 19th Century.



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