

During and immediately after World War 1, both the woman suffrage movement and the temperance movement finally achieved the goals they had sought for decades. How did the war contribute to these movements' victories?

Haley McHatten

Beal College

HY 103: US History

Ms. Ginger Glodowske

August 1, 2020

During and immediately after World War 1, both the woman suffrage movement and the temperance movement finally achieved the goals they had sought for decades. How did the

war contribute to these movements' victories?

World War I was a time in history that women became increasingly involved with playing major roles as Americans. Women were able to majorly contribute much time and effort during this period of time. American women served the country overseas as nurses, humanitarian relief workers, physicians, telephone operators, linguists, ambulance drivers, entertainers and Soldier support workers of all different kinds. It's amazing to look at how involved women became in this period of time as many people even today still reflect these jobs as "man jobs". Though many women were able to be more involved overseas, many stayed back in the US picking up slack made by many of the men fighting overseas in the war. This put forth women to perform many different non traditional jobs. As said by one women canteen worker who applied to go overseas, "I am more than willing to live as a soldier and know the hardships I would have to undergo." (Roark, 2017)

Looking back into the events leading up to World War I, the women's suffrage movement had begun. Women fought for their freedom and to have a say in what they thought was best for the country. Women wanted more power, they wanted the right to be heard. Before the war started President Wilson had put forth the choice of women's right to vote on a state to state basis. As this was implemented 8 states put forth this law. Though a small victory was made in this movement, women still fought across the country. With the start of World War I, President Wilson quickly had his focus turned away to the war. The women remained persistent in their efforts. Through the involvement of women throughout the period of the war, women were viewed as a major help just when the nation needed it the most. As a result of their hard work and efforts, President Wilson recognized this as well as many other American's. They were atlas convinced that American women deserved the right to vote. The president had finally given his

support to the suffrage. As stated by President Wilson following the war, “It would be wrong not to reward the wartime partnership of suffering and sacrifice with a partnership of privilege and right” (Roark, 2017) This is when in 1919, congress had passed the Nineteenth Amendment, granting women the right to vote.

I think that in both movements during this period of time with the war in play, it was noticed not only by the President but also by the nation, that everyone is capable of coming together as a nation, often when it’s needed most. In viewing all of the efforts, it was made more clear that everyone should be attempted to be treated as equals. In conclusion, I believe this period of time did the nation so much good, despite the hardships of the war.

References

Roark, James. *The American Promise: a History of the United States, Volume 2.*

Bedford/St. Martin's, 2017.