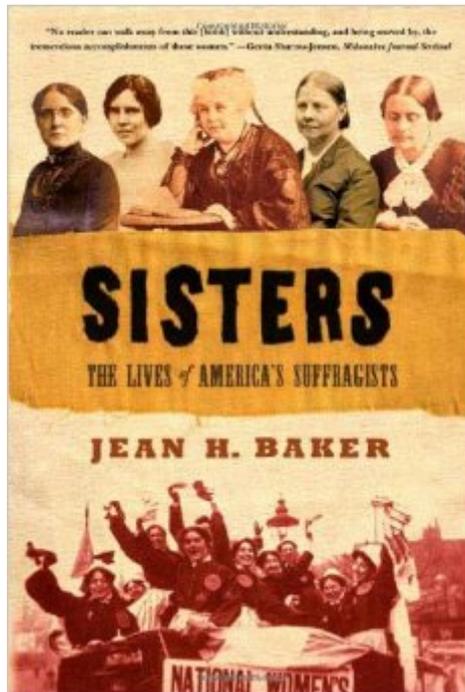


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# Sisters: The Lives Of America's Suffragists



## Synopsis

They forever changed America: Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frances Willard, Alice Paul. At their revolution's start in the 1840s, a woman's right to speak in public was questioned. By its conclusion in 1920, the victory in woman's suffrage had also encompassed the most fundamental rights of citizenship: the right to control wages, hold property, to contract, to sue, to testify in court. Their struggle was confrontational (women were the first to picket the White House for a political cause) and violent (women were arrested, jailed, and force-fed in prisons). And like every revolutionary before them, their struggle was personal. For the first time, the eminent historian Jean H. Baker tellingly interweaves these women's private lives with their public achievements, presenting these revolutionary women in three dimensions, humanized, and marvelously approachable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Before reading this book, I had basically no idea about anything dealing with the Suffrage movement, except that it was Susan B. Anthony who was on a coin (and this was even after taking a college-level US History course). This book is a MUST for any person who wants to get a general overview not only about five of the most influential women in the Suffrage Movement, but also of the movement overall. It doesn't have any "boring" parts, and is all information that everyone should know. I can't recommend it enough!

I must admit the only reason I started reading this book was because it was required reading for my

Leadership class. I thought it sounded interesting from the options, and decided to give it a try. Going into this book I only had heard bits and pieces of the lives of these women, and had mainly focused my attention on Susan B. Anthony. I was amazed to learn about the other four women who had such a large part in this movement between 1840 and 1920. Jean Baker's ability to turn nonfiction facts into engaging tales of the peaks and valleys in the lives of these amazing women kept me reading. I was interested from the opening sentence of each women's story, and had to find out how their lives played out. These stories don't often get told, and I think everyone should take time to read about these extraordinary American women who changed the world.

Jean Baker has provided a fascinating memoir of five amazingly strong women in the fabric of America's history. Through carefully documented and responsibly interpreted research, she gives the reader a clear view into the public and private lives of five of the suffragettes: Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frances Willard and Alice Paul. Each of the 5 biographies can be read alone, although a reading of all 5 adds richness and depth to the understanding of the period and the suffrage movement. Definitely a 5-star read! Highly recommended for personal reading or as a required text for college history or women's studies classes. Recommended companion DVDs: "Iron Jawed Angels" and "Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony: Not for Ourselves Alone," both available from .

This book should be required reading in every high school and every home in America. Woman's history is the context for a true understanding of current affairs in the West. I worked for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1981 which failed due to ignorance of the history of how the suffragists won the vote in 1920. The current battle for reproductive rights continues largely because of the ignorance of the history of these Sisters. Mahatma Gandhi is often extolled for the victories of Martin Luther King Jr and of President Obama. While slavery was being overcome by the abolitionists, suffragists were being ridiculed, jailed and force fed. Gandhi's nonviolence movement was practiced by the suffragists before Satyagraha became a household word. Roe vs. Wade can be understood only in the context of woman's history. The woman's movement for freedom is alive and will win in the end. Know the facts of history and freedom for both men and women will come sooner rather than later.

Good background story on some amazing women. Interesting to follow the story of the Temperance movement combine with women suffragists. It gives a real understanding of the struggle and

stamina of those who paved the way. The book is filled with good descriptions of so many parts of the movement of these women's lives. It is a bit academic, lots of facts and figures, but a story worth reading and certainly a story that needs recognition in appreciation of what people are willing to do to further this amazing cause through to its completion.

Sisters worked very well in a U.S. History survey class. Students, in fact, wanted more personal information about these women, and in discussion went beyond Baker in their speculations as to how personal lives shaped their activism. Highly recommended.

I want to say that I knew nothing about women's history when I took the class that made me purchase this book. So, everything here was completely new to me. There is a lot of really good information for a novice. HOWEVER, I would think that someone with even more than one semester's worth of knowledge would think this too basic.

I bought this while writing a research paper on one of the subjects of this book- Frances Willard. This book gives more than just a basic overview of five major suffragists in the US. Great detail and well researched. Interesting read and not just a lot of boring facts. I found the other subjects just as interesting and would recommend this book to anyone researching any of these women or anyone wanting to know about the suffragist movement.

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