

Depth Study K - The Campaigns for Women's Suffrage, c.1870-1918

SOURCE A: From a suffragist postcard from the early twentieth century.



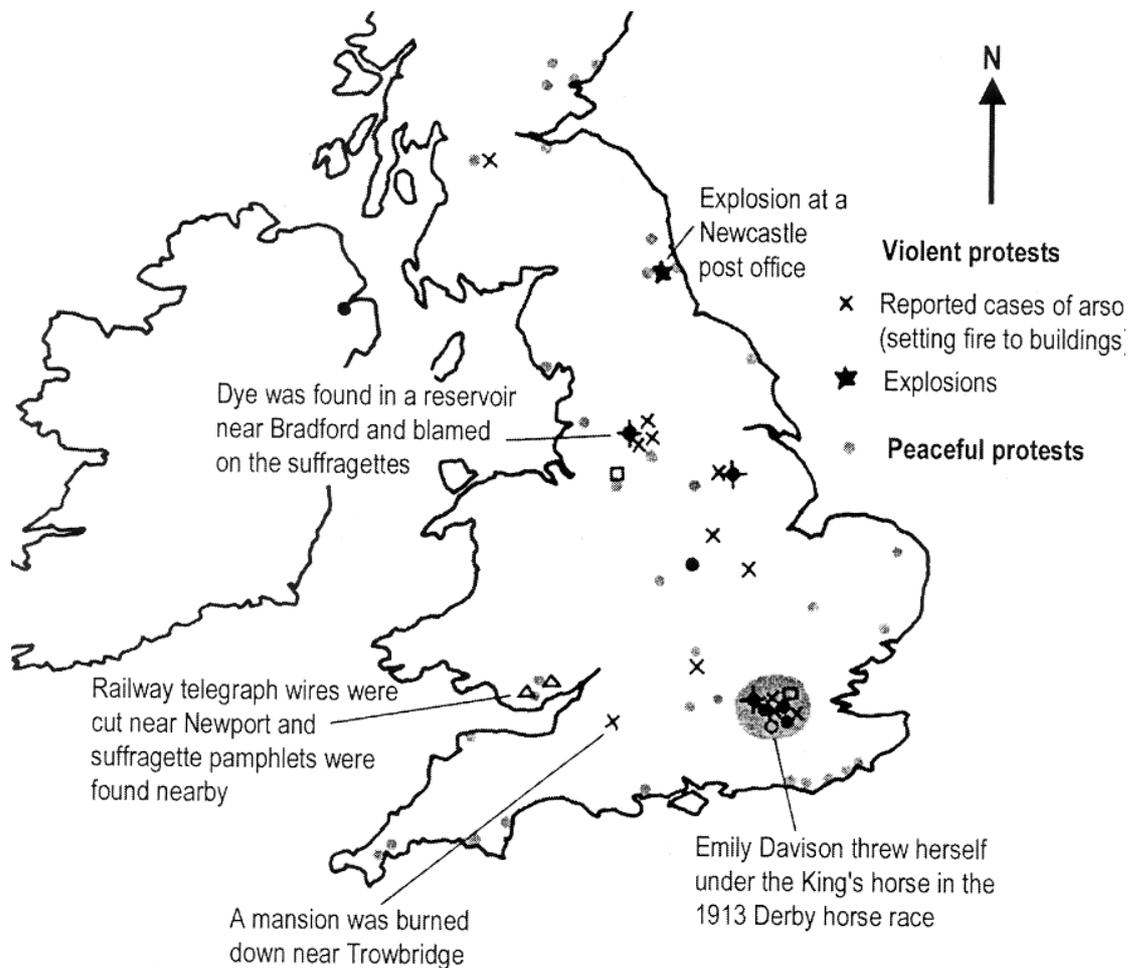
SOURCE B: From *Votes For Women*, a study by D. Atkinson, 1988. It describes the first violence used by the WSPU in 1908.

On 30 June 1908 thousands of sympathisers and members of the public went to a demonstration organised by the WSPU in Parliament Square, London. Five thousand police were called in to deal with the crowds, and violence broke out. Enraged by the violence in the Square, two teachers, both WSPU members, took a cab into Downing Street and flung small stones through the windows of the Prime Minister's house. Twenty-seven women were sent to prison that day, and the first window-smashers served two months in Holloway Prison. When they were released they were treated like heroines by the suffragettes.

SOURCE C: From *The Daily Express*, 14 October 1908.

The time for gently dealing with idle, mischievous women who call themselves 'militant suffragists' has gone. The important business of the State has been held up. Hundreds of policemen were given difficult and unnecessary work. Such things cannot be tolerated. Now the country will demand that these women, who encourage disorder and riot, should be punished with the utmost severity.

SOURCE D: Map of suffragette activities in June 1913.



SOURCE E: From *Unshackled*, by Christabel Pankhurst, 1959.

If Mrs Fawcett and my mother, Emmeline Pankhurst, had worked together in the years before the First World War the House of Commons might have agreed to their demands. The Prime Minister could not easily have fought both wings of the Women's Movement.

SOURCE F: Written by Millicent Fawcett, the leader of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, in 1886.

Women's suffrage will come, as a result of a gradual process of change. This political change will depend upon other social, educational and economic developments.