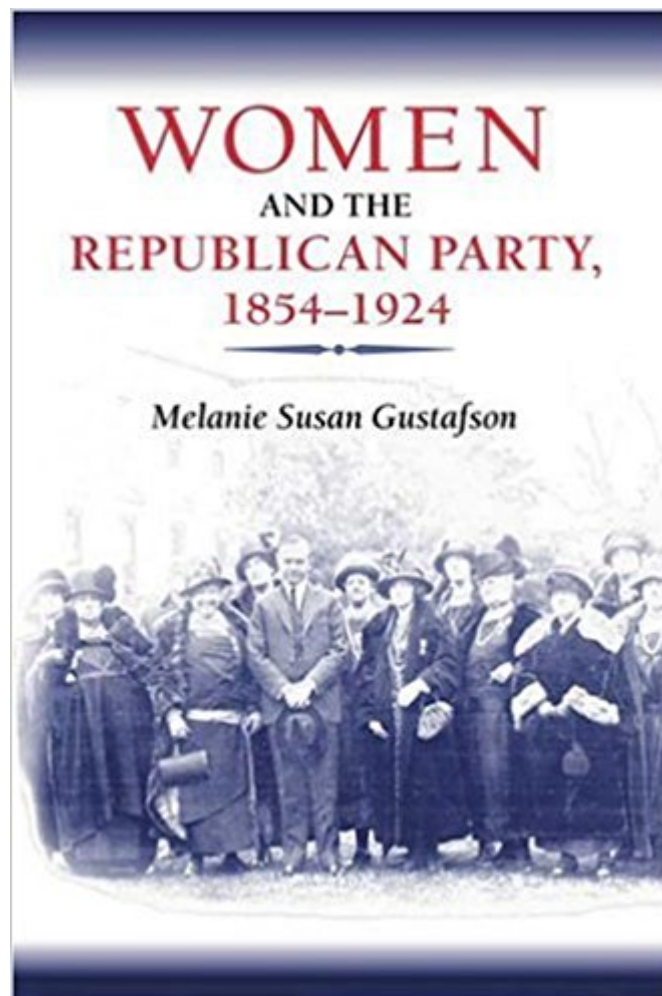




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Women And The Republican Party, 1854-1924 (Women In American History)



Synopsis

An original and timely examination of women's long history of participating in partisan politics, *Women and the Republican Party, 1854-1924* explores the forces that propelled women to partisan activism in an era of widespread disfranchisement and provides a new perspective on how women fashioned their political strategies and identities before and after 1920. Melanie Susan Gustafson examines women's partisan history as part of the larger history of women's political culture. Contesting the accepted notion that women were uninvolved in political parties before they formally got the vote, Gustafson reveals the length and depth of women's partisan activism between the founding of the Republican party, whose abolitionist agenda captured the loyalty of many women, and the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. *Women and the Republican Party, 1854-1924* presents the complex interplay of partisan and nonpartisan activity, the fierce debates among women about the best way to make their influence felt, and the ebb and flow of enthusiasm for women's participation within the Republican party. Gustafson documents the emergence of third parties--in particular the Progressive party, which split off from the Republican party in 1912--that fused the civic world of reform organizations with the electoral world of voting and legislation. She also profiles the leading women Republicans and activists, both familiar (Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane Addams, Mary Church Terrell) and less well known (Anna Dickinson, Victoria Woodhull, Judith Ellen Foster, Mary Ann Shadd Cary).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Gustafson successfully confronts the historical complexity of American women's partisanship." -- Linda Van Ingen, H-Women, H-Net Reviews "Traces the political participation of women in the Republican Party from its inception in 1854 through the first elections after the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment." -- Not only do readers learn about women formerly invisible, but Gustafson shows more-famous women in a new light -- women such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Mary Church Terrell, or Jane Addams." --History "Gustafson convincingly demonstrates that women's partisan activism has a long history antedating the achievement of suffrage." --Journal of Illinois History "Forces us to think both broadly and concretely about how women develop political identities and strategies." -- Researchers will turn to her book for years to come." --American Historical Review

Accessibly written, Gustafson makes it clear that women were involved in politics before obtaining the vote, not just as nonpartisan members of gender-specific voluntary organizations (as many have shown), but also as party activists (as few have shown).

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