

Contents

List of Tables	ix
Preface	xi
Acknowledgements	xiii
1 Women and the Women's Movement before 1914	1
2 The Impact of the Great War	6
Patriotism and the Women's Movement 1914-1915	7
Continuity: Housekeeping and Motherhood	12
Discontinuity: Women and Wartime Employment	18
Women in Uniform	30
Women's Enfranchisement and the Separate Spheres	34
3 Strategy and Tactics of the Women's Movement in the 1920s	43
The Demise of the Militant Tradition	44
From Suffrage to Equal Citizenship	50
The Women's Party in Local Government	56
The Alternative: Party Politics	61
Why Was There No Women's Party in Britain?	66
4 The Anti-Feminist Reaction	72
Femininity and Feminism	73
Masculinity and Feminism	76
Demobilisation	80
Housekeeping as a Profession	83
Population and Motherhood	87
Women's Employment and the Depression	90
5 The Domestication of British Politics	101
Women and the Agenda of Politics	101
Women and the Peace Movement	103
The Significance of the Women's Legislation of the 1920s	107
Conservative Politics for Women	124
Labour Housewives and Socialist Feminists	129
Liberal Feminism and the Liberal Party	139
Women as Voters Between the Wars	141

6	The Political Containment of Women 1918-1939	154
	The Competition for Candidatures	154
	Women's Strategies as Parliamentary Candidates	170
	Women's Careers as Backbench MPs	190
	The Role of Women in Government	201
7	The Cult of Domesticity in the 1930s	209
	The Rise and Rise of Women's Magazines	209
	Housework Expands to Fill the Time Available	218
	Marriage: the 'Best Job of All'?	222
	Citizenship for Homemakers: the WIs	226
	Politics for Consumers: the Women's Co-operative Guild	230
8	The New Feminism and The Decline of the Women's Movement in the 1930s	235
	Equal Rights versus the New Feminism	236
	Nancy Astor and the Moral Reform Tradition	244
	Welfare Feminism and Birth Control	249
	The Two Generations of Feminism	257
9	Women in the Second World War	264
	House and Home in Wartime	265
	Family and Morality	269
	The Mobilisation of Women	271
	Women's Politics: Revivalism and Consensus	275
10	The Nadir of British Feminism 1945-1959?	284
	The Working Woman in the Post-war Economy	285
	The Age of the Consumer	289
	Motherhood and the Welfare State	293
	Political Strategies	298
11	Conclusions	312
	Notes	316
	Bibliography	333
	Index	343

List of Tables

2.1	Infant Welfare Provision 1911–1918	16
2.2	Increases in Women's Employment 1914–1918	20
3.1	The Paisley By-election 1920	55
3.2	Women Elected to Local Authorities in England and Wales 1914–1937	57
3.3	Distribution of Women on Elective Local Authorities	58
4.1	Crude Birth Rate (England and Wales) 1901–1931	89
4.2	Women as a Percentage of the British Labour Force 1911–1961	91
4.3	Participation Rates of Women in the Labour Force 1911–1961	91
4.4	Average Earnings: Females as a Percentage of those for Males, 1906–1935	96
4.5	Family Background of Men over 20 Years in England and Wales, 1921	97
4.6	Unemployment by Gender in Selected Industries, February 1931	99
4.7	Trade Union Membership: Men and Women 1918–1939	100
5.1	Women's Legislation 1918–1929	108
5.2	Women Electors and Parliamentary Candidates at General Elections 1918–1931	120
5.3	'Women's Issues' at General Elections 1918–1929	123
5.4	Branches of the Women's Unionist Association	125
5.5	Labour Party Women's Sections	131
5.6	Women's National Liberal Federation Membership	140
5.7	MPs on the Blacklist and the Whitelist 1922–1924	143
5.8	The New Electorate 1929	151
6.1	Women in British Parliamentary Elections 1918–1970	159
6.2	The Distribution of Women's Candidatures at General Elections 1922–1935	160
6.3	Voting in Sunderland, 1929 General Election	185
6.4	Voting in Blackburn, 1929 General Election	187
6.5	Voting in Norwich, 1929 General Election	189
6.6	Bills Introduced by Women and Successfully Enacted 1919–1939	199
7.1	Petitions for Divorce in England and Wales 1901–1985	217
7.2	First Marriage Rates by Age Groups Among Women 1901–1975	223

7.3	The Growth of the Women's Institutes 1915–1951	227
7.4	Women's Co-operative Guild Membership 1914–1931	232
9.1	Women Candidates (Conservative, Labour and Liberal) in the General Election of 1945	281
10.1	Women as a Percentage of the Labour Force 1931–1981	288
10.2	Male and Female Participation Rates in the Labour Force 1931–1981	289
10.3	First Marriage Rates for Women (England and Wales) per Thousand Population	294
10.4	Birth Rates per Thousand Population (England and Wales) 1931–1975	294
10.5	The Distribution of Women's Candidatures at General Elections 1950–1959	303