….women who were still not granted the right, perhaps—for example—because they were unable to read.

As each country granted women the right to vote, their culture matured to a greater or lesser degree vis-à-vis women’s suffrage. We should take note that all this took place over the course of a single century—a remarkable achievement for us as a species.

Each decade from 1917 until 1980 saw the list of nations who had granted this right to vote grow longer. Already mentioned in the Sprouting | Engagement phase as having granted women the right to vote were the “early adopters” of women’s suffrage:

(list 1)

The Pitcairn Islands

Isle of Man

Cook Islands

New Zealand

Australia

Finland

Norway, and

Denmark (including Greenland and the Farce Islands, and today’s country of Iceland.

These countries were the first national “sprouts” to grant women the right to vote, between 1838 and 1913. World War I then began, at the end of July 1914. Commencing in 1917—in part fueled by a moment of opportunity known as the Russian Revolution, that year, and by World War I—a wave of countries began to grant women the right to vote. Beginning with:

(list 2)

Armenia

Canada

Estonia

Latvia

Netherlands

Russian Republic

Uruguay

Azerbaijan

Georgia

Germany

Hungary

Ireland

Kyrgyzstan

Lithuania

Poland

United Kingdom

Austria

Belarus

Belgium

Jersey

Luxembourg

Ukraine

Zimbabwe

In all, twenty-three nations granted women the right to vote in the three-year period between 1917 and 1919. This was a dramatic shift from the nineteenth century and first sixteen years of the twentieth. This wave of countries adopting women’s suffrage only continued to grow in the decades that followed. The 1920s saw:

(list 3)

* The Principality of Albania
* Czechoslovakia: including today’s:
* Czech Republic and
* Slovakia
* United States
* Sweden
* Burma
* Kazakhstan
* Mongolia
* Tajikistan
* Turkmenistan
* Italy
* Trinidad and Tobago
* Ecuador
* Moldova
* Puerto Rico
* Romania

—another fifteen nations joining the ranks of countries who had granted women the right to vote. In the 1930s it was:

(List 4)

Greece

South Africa

Turkey

Portugal

Spain

Sri Lanka

Brazil

Maldives

Thailand

Cuba

U.S. Virgin Islands

Bulgaria

Indonesia

Philippines

Bolivia

Uzbekistan

El Salvador

—seventeen more countries added to the women’s suffrage roster. (List 5) The 1940s saw:

(List 5)

Panama

Dominican Republic

Bermuda

France

Jamaica

Guatemala

Senegal

Togo

Yugoslavia, including today’s:

* Serbia
* Montenegro
* Croatia
* Slovenia
* Bosna and Herzegovina, and Macedonia

Cameroon

Djibouti

North Korea

Liberia

Venezuela

Vietnam

Argentina

China (including Taiwan)

India

Japan

Malta

Pakistan

Singapore

Israel

South Korea

Niger

Seychelles

Suriname

Chile

Costa Rica

Hong Kong (now part of China)

Antilles

Syria

—thirty-seven nations in all. In the 1950s it was:

(List 6)

Barbados

British Leeward Islands, including today’s:

* Antigua and Barbuda
* British Virgin Islands
* Montserrat
* Saint Kitts and Nevis
* Anguilla

British Windward Islands, including today’s:

* Grenada
* St. Lucia
* St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and
* Dominica

Libya

Nepal

Côte d’Ivoire

Lebanon

Bhutan

Guyana

Mexico

Belize

Columbia

Ghana

Cambodia

Ethiopia and Eritrea

Honduras

Nicaragua

Peru

Benin

Comoros

Egypt

Gabon

Mali

Mauritius

Somalia

Cayman Islands

Malaysia

Tunisia

Burkina Faso

Chad

Guinea

Laos

Brunei

Madagascar

San Marino

Tanzania

—another thirty-seven countries. A map of the world coloring in local countries that had granted women the right to vote would at this point clearly show that the majority of nations had done so. But the fight for women’s suffrage world-wide was not over. The 1960s saw: (List 7 )

Bahamas

Cyprus

The Gambia

Tonga

Burundi

Malawi

Mauritania

Paraguay

Rwanda

Sierra Leone

Algeria

Monaco

Uganda

Zambia

Afghanistan

Congo

Equatorial Guinea

Figi

Iran

Kenya

Morocco

Papua New Guinea

Sudan

Botswana

Lesotho

Zaire (Congo)

Kirbati

Tuvalu

South Yemen (Yemen)

Nauru

Swaziland

Andorra

grant women the right to vote—another thirty-two countries. There were now fewer than 30 “holdouts,” or local that had not yet granted women the right to vote.

This idea whose time has come then reached what I consider to be its global maturity in the 1970s (and just beyond) when: (List 8)

North Yemen (Yemen)

Bangladesh

Switzerland

Jordan

Solomon Islands

Angola

Cape Verde

Mozambique

Sâo Tomé and Principe

Vanuatu

Timor-Leste

Guinea-Bissau

Marshall Islands

Micronesia, and

Palau