5-16-2018

Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

Tyler James Ferrari
Chapman University, tylerj.ferrari@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/polisci_student_work

Part of the American Politics Commons, Other Political Science Commons, Other Sociology Commons, Political Theory Commons, Politics and Social Change Commons, Social Psychology Commons, Social Psychology and Interaction Commons, and the Sociology of Culture Commons

Recommended Citation
Ferrari, Tyler James, "Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification" (2018). Political Science Student Papers and Posters. 7.
https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/polisci_student_work/7

This Senior Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Political Science at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Political Science Student Papers and Posters by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact laughtin@chapman.edu.
Urban legends and conspiracy theories have been a cornerstone of American culture for many years, and these stories and theories have permeated into many aspects of society, from tourism to pop culture, but how have these stories and theories affected politics? Conspiracy theories and urban legends all revolve around the distrust of institutions, ranging from governments to the media, but there is very little research to indicate how beliefs in these types of phenomena affect political self-identification, and fear in real-world disasters. This paper seeks to answer the following: How do paranormal and abnormal beliefs influence political identification? And how do these beliefs influence one’s fear into “real-world” events like natural disasters and terrorism? While prominent scholars like Sunstein note the causes and solutions of conspiracy theories while noting the damage they can cause to a society, there is little work done to see what types of voters these people are, this is something this paper aims to find. This paper hypothesizes that beliefs in paranormal phenomena will lead to equal amounts of respondents identifying as democrats and republicans and these beliefs in paranormal phenomena correlate with respondents feeling more fearful when it comes to real-world threats. Using the Chapman Survey of American fears, this paper will analyze data involving beliefs in paranormal phenomena like bigfoot and aliens, beliefs that government is covering up the truth about certain events, along with respondent’s political ideology and fear in real world events. It is expected that the results will match the hypotheses stated above, showing that even in an era of great partisanship, fear of the unknown and unexplained is a bipartisan affair.
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

Introduction

For centuries Americans have been mistrusting of their government and other places of authority. The American Revolution was rooted in the mistrust of King George III to adequately care for and protect the colonies from unfair taxes and abuses by parliament. Since the revolution, Americans’ distrust of the government has become more palpable, with some candidates using this mistrust as a campaign tool. This mistrust has permeated throughout all levels of government and higher authority, with different Americans being mistrustful of different institutions. Additionally, this has influenced American culture in its obsession with urban legends and paranormal phenomena. Shows like The X-Files, Monsters and Mysteries in America, and Finding Bigfoot, have cult-like followings of believers and those who “want to believe.” The popularity of shows like these illustrates a culture in America that is skeptical of authority and open to abnormal ideas. But how do these ideas influence one’s political identification and ideology? Are there any correlation between one’s belief that the government is hiding the truth about aliens and their political party? Additionally, do these beliefs influence how one feels about more likely disasters like terrorism and economic collapse? Understanding these potential relationships will help governments and other institutions better understand how to deal with the skeptical, because bringing about a renewed sense of trust in America’s institutions will help the country overall in the face of trials and disasters.

Literature Review

Conspiracy theories coupled with other abnormal beliefs and their influence on political views is a topic that lacks academic research, but there is a body of work that examines conspiracy theories and their spread, along with how these beliefs influence one’s participation
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

in politics overall. The lack of research into abnormal beliefs and their effect on ideology shows a gap in this area of the social sciences, which would greatly benefit from this type of research, especially in the era of “fake news” and other types of odd beliefs held by many Americans. Conspiracy theories are often credited to those on the fringes of society who may not be regarded as “sane,” but the research below illustrates the far reach of these theories across all lines of gender, education level, and social circles. The research into abnormal beliefs and their effects on political ideologies is lacking, but current research gives light into how voters think about these topics, and how they spread these beliefs, which is important in understanding how these beliefs may influence politics.

Before examining the world of conspiratorial beliefs and politics, it is important that one defines what a conspiracy theory is in the modern sense, and illustrates why they are so powerful. Jeffrey Bale writes in “Political paranoia v. political realism” that there is a difference between rash conspiracy theories and the reality of clandestine conspiracies perpetrated by national governments throughout history (Bale). Bale writes that many academics, “when clear evidence of a plot is inadvertently discovered in the course of their own research, they frequently feel compelled… to preface their account of it by ostentatiously disclaiming a belief in conspiracies” (Bale). This is important to the research in this paper, because a lack of investigation of clandestine activities and conspiracies proliferates beliefs in conspiracy theories, because it appears as if academia is covering up the conspiracy, when they are simply avoiding it to preserve their reputation. Bale defines the “classic” type of conspiracy theory as a theory that, “make complex patterns of cause and effect in human affairs more comprehensible by means of reductionism and over-simplification” (Bale). This definition is important, because it encapsulates a wide range of paranormal, abnormal, and conspiratorial beliefs that will be
discussed during this paper. In addition, the notion that conspiracy theories “oversimplify” phenomena is an important distinction to make for this paper, because this notion of oversimplification may carry over into political beliefs, with the respondents also having an overly simplistic view of the political realm, and this may influence their political ideology and views on issues. Bale also argues that despite many conspiracies being wrong to assume that there is an overarching conspiracy coordinated by the rich and powerful across the globe, it is important to realize that governments conspire with their spy agencies and military to conduct operations across the globe, with a recent example being Russia’s poisoning of a former Russian agent with military grade toxins in the UK (Bale). Making this distinction is important, because people who believe in those types of activities are not “conspiracy theorists” in the traditional sense, which can affect the data depending on the question being asked. Overall, the definition of conspiracy theories and how it differs from conspiratorial politics is a vital distinction to make for the purposes of this paper.

In the paper, “The social consequences of conspiracism,” Jolley and Douglas aim to discover if there are any connections between exposure to pro-conspiracy theory articles and writings affect’s one’s attitudes and beliefs towards conspiracy theories, and if that has an effect on their willingness to participate in political activities and actions that help minimize climate change. They argue that there has been little research into this subject, and those who believe in conspiracy theories are always have some sort of psychological ailment, and they also aim to show that these beliefs can influence any segment of the population. (Douglas, Jolley) This is something vital into the research into conspiracy theories and other abnormal beliefs and their effect on politics, because simply pushing off those who hold these beliefs as “crazy” or “uneducated” contributes little to academia and hurts future research because many will not be as
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

willing to come forward if they believe that they will be deemed as crazy. Jolley and Douglas seek to prove this by conducting two experiments on graduate and undergraduate students. This helps illustrate their point because they are sampling a portion of the population that is “trained” for four or more years to cite sources, seek credible sources, and to analyze data for themselves. The authors showing that even this portion of society can be influenced by conspiratorial writings will end any discussion about conspiracies only being believed by the “fringe.” Jolley and Douglas’ experiments consisted of the participants being split into a pro-conspiracy group, anti-conspiracy group, and a control group. Both of the experimental groups read articles that either favored or did not favor conspiracy theories, and then took a survey to see their attitudes towards these conspiracies and politics or global warming overall. Their data showed that those who read the pro-conspiracy articles were more likely to believe the validity of these conspiracies, and that effected their willingness to participate in either political activity or activities that would lower their carbon footprint. (Douglas, Jolley) Additionally, the study showed that those who felt powerless were much less likely to participate in political activities (Douglas, Jolley). The research done here shows the effect that conspiracy theories have on participation in the public space. In addition, it shows that even the most educated in a society can also be influenced by these theories. The damaging effect of these theories on society is greatly shown here, and the importance of media literacy is prevalent throughout this paper. However, the paper fails to show what connection there is between these beliefs and ideology, illustrating a large gap in the research in this subject.

It is important to understand how conspiracy theories spread, and possible government tactics to combat them, in order to understand how the public may react to that and how it may influence their political beliefs. Cass Sunstein and Adrian Vermeule discuss the causes for the
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

creation and proliferation of conspiracy theories, and how the government can best combat them.

They argue that conspiracies spread through social groups and reputation (Sunstein, Vermeule).

For example, they argue that if one receives this theory from a fairly reputable source, like a trustworthy friend, then one is more likely to believe the theory. Additionally, they argue that there is strength in numbers when it comes to the spread of these theories, and if there is a group of friends where the majority of them believe a theory, then the minority in the group will be less likely to question it, allowing for that majority to spread the theories without pushback from those they respect (Sunstein, Vermeule). These are all important concepts to abnormal beliefs and their relation to politics, because these are often methods to how political ideas spread as well. If a group believes in a set of ideals it is more likely they will feel confident in sharing those ideals with others outside of the group because they have the backing of friends and family, and this same concept is followed with these theories. They argue that the government must be careful in how they respond to these theories, because their response may only serve to legitimize the theory in the eyes of the true believers and those who are on the fence regarding the theory (Sunstein, Vermeule). This is important to the topic covered in this paper because one’s trust in government is a large influencing factor in how one’s political ideas are developed, and a belief in conspiracy theories and other abnormal beliefs may also influence one’s trust in the government, thus influencing their ideology.

**Hypotheses**

**Hypothesis I**

The first hypothesis that will be tested is, “those who tend to believe in paranormal phenomena (ghosts, cryptids, aliens) tend to lean more conservative.” The reasoning behind this
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

hypothesis is that conservative Americans tend to be more religious, so their belief systems rely much more on faith than they do on hard, objective facts. This arguably makes them more predisposed to believing in paranormal phenomena, because they are not always rooted in the strongest scientific evidence. Additionally, the use of “conservative” here and not “republican” is because this paper will be testing ideology for this question and not party ID, because conservative Democrats and conservative Republicans both most likely have similar religious and cultural views, and with paranormal beliefs being more cultural, testing ideology is more effective.

Hypothesis II

Unlike paranormal phenomena, conspiracy theories are usually rooted in one’s attitude towards the government. The second hypothesis tested for this experiment is, “those who tend to believe in conspiracy theories tend to identify as Democrats.” The rationale for testing party ID in this instance is because party loyalty will effect how one sees the government, and that view of the government can influence the conspiracies that one believes in. Additionally, since conspiracy theories tend to deal with government institutions and tend to be more political, the political ID of the respondents is more relevant for this questions as opposed to their ideology, because ideology often incorporates cultural and social identities that are not as relevant to one’s views on the government.

Hypothesis III

The third hypothesis for this paper revolves around independents. It is important to address independents for this study because they are the largest political ID in the country, so they will have a large effect on these results. This hypothesis reads, “Independents are more
likely to have an equal amount of belief in conspiracies and paranormal phenomena, but they will also have the most amount of respondents who do not believe in either of these topics.” This hypothesis is rooted in the ideological split of independents, which is not relevant for this study, but instead this hypothesis is meant to better explain the high rate of responses to each question that is expected once the data is analyzed. Since independents are such a large raw amount of the respondents for the dataset, addressing their influence on the data is vital to having well-rounded conclusions for this paper.

**Methods**

The data used for this study was complied from the 2017 Chapman Survey of American Fears (CSAF) and analyzed with SPSS. The CSAF has been conducted on a yearly basis and the survey is done nationally with a sample size of 1,207 American adults. Various tests were conducted for this experiment, including crosstabulations, Difference and Means Tests, as well as constructing two indexes to further analyze Americans’ beliefs in paranormal phenomena and conspiracies. The two indexes were constructed based off of the questions regarding beliefs in paranormal phenomena and belief in conspiracy theories. These indexes were then compared with other variables in order to gather more data for this study.

**Data:**

In order to test the hypotheses proposed by this paper, a wide array of questions were tested from the survey, and these are broken down into three categories: Paranormal or “odd” beliefs, Conspiracies, and “Realistic” fears. Specifically, the questions used revolve around the issues of Bigfoot, aliens, ghosts, the moon landing, and various manmade disasters like
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

economic calamity and terrorism. The wording of the questions directly from the survey can be found below.

**Paranormal or “Odd” Beliefs**

- Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: Aliens have come to Earth in modern times
- Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: Bigfoot is a real creature
- Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: Places can be haunted by spirits

**Conspiracies**

- The Government is concealing what it knows about... Alien encounters?
- The Government is concealing what it knows about... The moon landing?

**“Realistic” Fears**

- Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: The United States is likely to experience a large-scale terrorist event (such as 9/11) in the near future.
- How afraid are you of the following events? - Economic/ financial collapse

These questions are tested because they cover a wide array of beliefs that are topical to America in 2018. With the country still recovering from the 2008 Recession, respondents are more likely to have a more informed answer about their fears regarding economic collapse. In terms of the conspiracies and paranormal beliefs, these questions represent topics that are relevant to American culture today, because of their coverage in the media and on TV. For example, shows such as *Finding Bigfoot* and *Ghost Adventures* are popular on cable television,
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

so this shows and interest by the American public in the topic, so respondents are more likely to be familiar with the topics and be able to give an answer, and this is shown in the data with relatively small amounts of respondents not responding to these questions. Finally, these questions were chosen because they were historically relevant across different time frames. Specifically, questions regarding conspiracies about the moon landing and alien encounters were chosen because these conspiracies have persisted across decades and have become ingrained in American culture, which allows the experimenters to gain better responses from the survey respondents.

**Results:**

*Paranormal or “Odd” Beliefs*

For the section of questions regarding paranormal beliefs, the data showed that Independents were marginally more likely to believe in all three of the phenomena tested, with 29.8% believing that aliens have visited earth in modern times, compared to 24.5% of Republicans and 23.3% of Democrats. The gap between independents and partisans is somewhat larger when asked if they believe Bigfoot is a real creature, with 19.8% of Independents being believers, compared with 14.3% of Republicans and 13.8% of Democrats.
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

In regards to spirits, the numbers across the board were relatively similar, with about half of all party affiliates believing that spirits can haunt locations. A common thread among all of these results is that a plurality of respondents who believe in these phenomena do identify as independents politically. The possible reasons for this are obvious, more people in the United States identify as independent, meaning that the likelihood that those who believe in these phenomena are independents. However, when comparing the two parties, Republicans are more likely to believe in these paranormal phenomena by small percentage points over Democrats, but the difference is negligible.

In addition to conducting crosstabulations of these three paranormal questions and party identification, an index of all paranormal beliefs was created in order to see how many beliefs each respondent held. 35% of respondents were found to hold either zero or one paranormal beliefs, compared with 65% of respondents holding two or more beliefs. What this illustrates is that most Americans do still have a belief in the paranormal despite the increase in education rates among the population. However, only 4.2% of respondents have a belief in all eight of the paranormal phenomena tested. What is interesting about the index is that the percentage of those who believe in more phenomena general decreases and then plateaus after four phenomena, and there is no clear explanation for why. When comparing party ID to this index, there is no clear pattern that emerges from this analysis. Once again, Independents are the largest group across all levels of belief, ranging from no beliefs to eight beliefs, and Both Republicans and Democrats have a generate decrease in numbers of belief as the number of beliefs increases. Additionally, the p-value for this set of variables is .356, which indicated that these results are not statistically significant, which is shown by the data. However, when looking at ideology and belief in the paranormal, an interesting pattern emerges. Conservatives are more likely to believe in these
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

paranormal phenomena. A possible explanation for this is that conservatives are often more religious, which could possibly make them more open to many of these phenomena which are not rooted in science. What is most interesting about these results is that they are statistically significant, with a p-value of <.01. The reason why the significance differs between party ID and political ideology is because identifying as a republican can include liberal, moderate, and conservative Republicans, while party ID simply counts them all as the same. When breaking down the respondents into ideologies instead of parties, this allows for those independents, who make up the plurality of those who believe in paranormal phenomena, to be spread out among conservatism, liberalism, and moderate ideologies, and this gives the data more clarity on which types of political actors hold these beliefs.

**Conspiracies**

When it comes to conspiracy theories, the results are generally the same with some small variations. On the question of the government concealing the truth about the moon landing,

![Bar chart showing belief in the moon landing conspiracy among Republicans, Independents, and Democrats. Independents were again the most likely to believe this conspiracy, with 31.5% believing,](image)
compared to 17.4% of Republicans and 25.4% of Democrats. When looking at the question regarding the government being truthful about Aliens, Independents hold a significant gap over Democrats and Republicans, with 44.3% believing, compared to 36.3% of Republicans and 38.3% of Democrats. Much like the paranormal questions, those who do end up believing in these conspiracies are more likely to identify as Independents. The reasons for this are potentially similar to the explanations presented above, and this is most likely the case. An index was also created for this portion of the analysis, utilizing all eight questions regarding beliefs in the government “concealing what it knows about” these topics. What this index found was that more Americans tend to believe in conspiracies across the board, with nearly 10% (9.5%) believing in all eight conspiracies presented, one of which was not a real conspiracy theory. What this most likely illustrates is that Americans across party lines are generally more skeptical of the government telling the whole truth on a wide array of events, and this skepticism is arguably built into Americans’ DNA, especially after the events of Vietnam and Watergate.

When it comes to breaking these results down across party lines, a crosstab between party ID and this index shows that Democrats are more likely to believe in these conspiracies compared with republicans, and this relationship is statistically significant with a p-value of <.01. What this possibly illustrates is that pure partisanship can play a role in a belief in conspiracy theories. With the survey being conducted in 2017, it is possible that many of these Democrats who believe in these theories are simply more skeptical of the Trump administration to tell the truth, compared with the government overall.

*Realistic Fears*
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

When looking at the more “realistic fears” tested in the survey, the results were different from the more “abnormal beliefs” above. When asked if they believe that another 9/11-style event is likely to occur soon, Republicans were more likely to believe this, with 70% believing. Independents and Democrats were significantly less likely, but majorities of both groups still believed it was likely, with 60% of Independents and 54.5% of Democrats believing that an attack was likely. In terms of economic fears, the results are relatively more evenly distributed. Republicans are less likely to believe that economic collapse will occur in the near future, with only 41.1% of them feeling fearful. Independents have about the same amount of anxiety towards this possible event, with about 43.1% agreeing that collapse is likely. Democrats were the most likely to believe that economic collapse is soon, with nearly half, 49.7%, believing that economic collapse is coming soon.

![Fear of Economic Collapse in the Near Future](image)

The relatively high number of respondents across the parties that believe that another economic calamity is coming soon illustrates how fragile the American psyche still is despite being nearly 10 years removed from the Great Recession, along with a lack of belief in the strong economy. Americans still feeling skeptical this far from this event may illustrate how much of America still
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

is not seeing their lifestyle return to pre-recession levels, and this may lead them to believe that things will not get better soon. Additionally, nearly half of Democrats believing that the economy will collapse soon is most likely another clear indicator that partisanship is extremely powerful, because it could mostly likely be seen that Democrats were more optimistic about the economy a year before this survey was taken while President Obama was in power. When looking to see if these fears were influenced at all by beliefs in conspiracies and/or paranormal phenomena, the results were surprising. The correlation between both indexes and both of the realistic questions were statistically significant with all of them having p-values of <.01. Looking at these results in more detail, the data shows that when regarding the terrorism question, those who believe in more conspiracy theories are more likely to strongly believe that a 9/11-type attack is likely.
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

This is most likely rooted in a general mistrust of government institutions, especially those who failed in protecting the country from the 9/11 back in 2001. Many of these conspiracies are based in cover-ups from these same organizations such as the Department of Defense, the CIA, and the FBI. Having a mistrust in these institutions stemming from these conspiracy theories most likely yields an even greater mistrust in regards to instances when these institutions actually failed the public.

Overall, the data shows that both a considerable amount of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents believe in conspiracy theories and paranormal phenomena, and these seem to clearly influence how some of these Americans see the threats around them in today’s world. After conducting a crosstabulation of the conspiracy and paranormal indexes, with the two “real-world” fears chosen for this study, it was found that, generally, respondents who were afraid of another 9/11 style attack or another financial collapse were also more likely to believe in conspiracy theories or paranormal phenomena. The indexes show that there is a positive correlation with being “afraid” or “very afraid” and believing in more paranormal phenomena or
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

conspiracy theories that were asked in the CSAF.

Again, the most likely explanation for this is that those who have a high amount of fear in potential disasters and a high amount of belief in either paranormal phenomena or conspiracy theories are more likely to distrust government institutions and other institutions like science that would generally make people less fearful of all these phenomena and disasters. What this also illustrates is that there is a general paranoia among much of the population in the US that is either rooted in extreme fears of things they can’t explain, or a mistrust of the government that surrounds them. It’s also important to note that in these crosstabs, it appears that the belief in conspiracy theories corresponds more to a fear of these “real-world” events, which further illustrates that the most likely factor driving this correlation is a mistrust of institutions like banks and the government, particularly the national security aspects of the government.

However, what is most intriguing is how Democrats are still the group most likely to believe in conspiracy theories, while Republicans are not. Despite the growth of right-wing groups that greatly mistrust the government, it is interesting to see how that has not translated into an increased belief in conspiracy theories among conservatives and/or republicans. Regardless, these types of results have problematic consequences for the government and the nation’s institutions moving forward.

Discussion

With the general mistrust of institutions in America growing in the aftermath of the prolonged War on Terror and the Great Recession, it is no surprise that beliefs in conspiracy theories and paranormal phenomena is generally large across the political and ideological spectrum, but the prevalence of these beliefs illustrates serious problems for the political system moving forward. Since 2008, conspiracy theories targeting major party candidates has greatly
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

increased, first beginning with conspiracies surrounding President Obama’s birthplace, and now in 2016 targeting Hillary Clinton’s health or Donald Trump’s relations with Russia. As more of these theories target candidates, the more the public’s relationship with the government will continue to worsen because of the growing lack of trust. Furthermore, many public officials have given greater credibility to some conspiracy theories by promoting stories from websites like Infowars or Russia Today. The growth in audience that these sites have seen illustrates a distrust in the media as well as the government. This growing distrust threatens democracy because various factions within the political realm are now able to create their own realities, and these differing realities block any chance for discourse on political issues. Perhaps even more dangerous, an unhealthy mistrust of institutions like the government in times of emergency can cost people lives, as seen in disasters like Hurricane Harvey. The data in this paper clearly illustrates that while most Americans do not believes in these conspiracies or other paranormal phenomena, there is still a large faction that believe in these things, and that can possibly make them more susceptible to more sinister attempts to mislead the public, such as Russian disinformation campaigns during the 2016 election. Additionally, the large amount of Democrats believing in conspiracy theories is possibly motivated by partisan attitudes, and this greatly hurts the American political system because trust or mistrust in the government is becoming motivated only by partisan bickering as opposed to being motivated by the efficacy of these institutions. It is vital that leaders in both parties, and in Americans institutions like Universities, the Media, or the government as a whole, stop conspiracies from spreading by being truthful with the public the first chance they get, and fighting back against conspiracy theories.
Conclusion

This paper sought to explore the relationship between one’s beliefs in conspiracy theories and paranormal phenomena, and one’s political identification. The literature illustrated that while beliefs in conspiracy theories in particular have an effect on political behavior, there was never any literature indicating what these beliefs meant about one’s political ideology. What this paper has found is that there are relationships between political ID and a belief in conspiracy theories, and a relationship between ideology and a belief in paranormal phenomena. These types of findings are at their root driven by America’s fear of the unknown and her long distrust of her rulers. Additionally, what this paper found is that independents still are the largest group of respondents to believe in this phenomena, but that is more rooted in the fact that political independents are now the largest political group in the country, so they are more likely to have a large group of these people. Additionally, many who consider themselves independent are usually more skeptical of the government as a whole, so it also possible that those more susceptible to believe in conspiracy also reside in this group. Further research is needed to explore the intricacies of these splits between conservatives, democrats, and independents, but the data clearly shows that, overall, there is a significant amount of Americans that distrust their government and other important institutions, and it is this distrust that can be extremely dangerous once disaster strikes, and the government failing to adequately crush conspiracy theories with the complete truth only further inflames these people into not trusting their government, which hurts this country overall.
Paranormal Beliefs and their Effect on American Fears and Political Identification

Works Cited


