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The Oval Office is Ready for Madame President: Predictors and Support

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Gender Stereotypes

Her Hurdles

- Gender stereotypes take root in religious and cultural traditions of the Protestant and Catholic faiths advocating for the roles of men and women. These strong religious background will facilitate the institutionalized gender stereotypes that sway America’s feelings towards a woman’s ability to successfully lead the nation.
- With the current war on terrorism the United States public has adopted an aggressive military foreign policy pushing the government to act quickly in regards to the extremist groups in the Middle East. This hyper-masculine attitude will block a woman from entering the position of leading the American military because gender stereotypes dictate that men are better suited for times of war.

Religion and Gender Stereotypes

Religious Influence in the Polls

- Women statistically are more likely to identify as Democrat and religious than men.
- Religion has proven to influence voters for decisions, economics, and foreign policy. It has also been enlisting and serving overseas in the US military since World War I and now hold leadership roles eroding the idea that women cannot fight.
- Religion is the least likely to explain how an American feels towards a woman president.
- The belief that women are incapable of leading the American military has become obsolete. This could also be attributed to the decreasing popularity of the sexist stereotype of a traditional housewife. Women are no longer just expected to stay home, they are also being portrayed as competitive, aggressive, and stubborn while also being presented as analytical, strong and self-sufficient.

Gender Stereotypes

- Gender stereotypes take root in religious traditions that influence how voters perceive male and female political candidates.
- Females are negatively characterized as emotional, gullible, and subordinate to others but they are also described as affectionate, honest and able to compromise.
- Women’s political issues are campaigned in education, health care, and children.
- Males have been portrayed negatively as competitive, aggressive, and stubborn while also being presented as analytical, strong and self-sufficient.
- Men are told to be better suited for military decisions, economic, and foreign policy.

Hypotheses:

H 1: Americans that identify with strong Judeo-Christian religious beliefs will be less likely to vote for a woman president.

H 2: The higher valued the religious rooted gender stereotypes, the higher opposition towards a female president.

H 3: If September 11th is lower likelihood a woman president will be elected.

Data

H 1: Woman in Judeo-Christian Values

Table 1 Regression compares the three categories of obstacles for Madame president between level of religiosity, modern sexism for women as leaders, and the belief that in times of war men are better suited in commanding the military.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Variable</th>
<th>Unstandardized Coefficient (B)</th>
<th>Standardized Coefficient (β)</th>
<th>t-Value</th>
<th>Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In religous important part of life</td>
<td>-0.015</td>
<td>-0.048</td>
<td>-2.131</td>
<td>0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better if man works and woman takes care of home</td>
<td>1.218</td>
<td>0.026</td>
<td>31.850</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approve/disapprove of government efforts to reduce terrorism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

H 2: Woman as Political Leader

Table Interpretation

- Table 1 Regression compares the three categories of obstacles for Madame president between level of religiosity, modern sexism for women as leaders, and the belief that in times of war men are better suited in commanding the military.
- The statistical significance explains which variable has the higher likelihood of proving how a voter feels towards a woman president.
- The belief that women should stay home is the most statistically significant leaning towards the traditional stereotypes.
- Religion is the least likely to explain how an American will vote for a woman president with a weak correlation.

H 3: Woman as Military Commanders

The belief that women are incapable of leading the American military has become obsolete. This could also be attributed to the decreasing popularity of the sexist stereotype of a traditional housewife. Women are no longer just expected to stay home, they are also being portrayed as competitive, aggressive, and stubborn while also being presented as analytical, strong and self-sufficient.

Findings

H 1: Woman in Judeo-Christian Values

It is proven that religion does not have a direct correlation on voting for a woman president. An American’s religious views may effect voting for controversial issues like euthanasia and global warming but faith no longer plays a direct role in gender biases at the election polls.

H 2: Woman as Political Leader

Over the last three decades the public opinion that a woman’s place is in the home has diminished substantial. This drop in gender stereotypes has been working to break the glass ceiling for female political candidates allowing equal comparison to their male counterparts. Even with this drop there is a significant correlation between gender stereotypes and voting for a woman president.

H 3: Woman as Military Commanders

The belief that women are incapable of leading the American military has become obsolete. This could also be attributed to the decreasing popularity of the sexist stereotype of a traditional housewife. Women are no longer just expected to stay home, they are also being portrayed as competitive, aggressive, and stubborn while also being presented as analytical, strong and self-sufficient.

Conclusions

- The disproving of the hypotheses’ and consistent weak correlation and significance level explains that Madame President has fewer obstacles than predicted in her road to the presidency.
- There is no longer a question of if there will be a female president, the question is when she will take her place in the Oval Office.

References


