

Title: The Patriarchy of Politics

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In the American political system that was designed for the success of men, women face the obstacles of elitism and traditional gender roles in their fight to become successful political participants, and as a result, are not equally represented in legislatures. Those who benefit from this elitist electoral system are primarily wealthy, white men, as evident with the Bush family dynasty--where patriarchy and generational wealth have made them powerful politicians.

Women have traditionally been restricted to duties within the home and taking care of children, and early steps towards equality were discounted. This created strict gender roles that are still in place today, preventing women from feeling empowered to create a place in politics for themselves. In modern democracies to correct historic inequality, quota systems have been implemented to strengthen women's representation. While these systems are not perfect, they have given this power directly to the establishment of political parties. In order to implement such a practice, the United States would have to redesign the electoral process, as currently the system will not be sufficient to gain equal representation due to cultural differences among states and districts. Despite this, women have been increasingly successful in getting elected to legislatures. However when women are elected, they differ ideologically as much as men and cannot be seen as representing their gender as a whole, rather they add perspectives to debate that were historically ignored. Increasing women's representation would make legislatures function more like a microcosm of the country they serve.

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