The Role and Function of Ideologies in American Politics

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The biggest role and function of political, social, and economic ideologies are to bring light to the values and principles of the political candidates that are entrusted and brought onto the hands of the citizens to choose and pick what political leader they want to run their country and make decisions for their future. The United States have been a wholly independent country since their Revolutionary War, which had impacted a huge part of their past, and would still inadvertently continue on to impact their future.

Socially, ideologies matter as they target people’s emotions. Beliefs, opinions, and thinking are all social behaviour, and asAristotle has said, we humans rely on social interaction in order to survive. For us, it is an absolute necessity. A politician’s belief, opinion, and the way they think can make or break a citizens vote and their trust. It isn’t the most important aspect of what makes a politician, it is still a big factor. It’s definitely helpful when a politician is seen as someone who loves to spend time with their family, and when there are pictures of them with their family during weekends and holidays roaming around in magazines, tabloids, and on social media. Or when they are seen supporting charitable or extracurricular causes, which allow them to be seen as more relatable and sympathetic towards the viewers. Although this has been the case in the past for the majority of the politicians when in attempt to garner voters, the current United States Presidential election of 2016 has proved to be much different.

The Republican Presidential Nominee, Donald J. Trump, has shut all the previous ways that politicians share ideas and values, and instead embarked on a Presidential campaign that is extremely unorthodox, so much so that it was viewed at first to be one that was destined for failure. Trump has been extremely successful in bringing about his views on people and the world into national light, and has been able to garner so much attention on himself that it almost

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seems understandable to be that successful in politics. Many people see politics as dry and uninteresting, but Trump has given it a loud edge, so much so that tuning into the news, watching what’s going on politically, and talking about these candidates are now considered cool. What’s even more interesting and crazy about his entire campaign is that Trump has no political background and no filter of what he says. Trump says what comes to first his head, and no immediate realization as to what or who he has targeted in his comments. If there is one thing that he has been consistent in, and something now and has been expected of his attendance on national news; it would be that Trump is constantly surprising the general public with sundry, outrageous remarks, and is constantly denying every wrong fact he has said or given a previous statement of.

A political ideology handles how its citizens see its candidates’ belief for what it wants for the future. Secretary Hillary Clinton is the Presidential candidate that has released the most forward information on the policies that she plans on pushing forth, if and when she becomes President, and delivering such to the American people. Certain policies that affect

politics, ones that are in focus and of importance in today’s society, specifically the criminal justice system, is something that Clinton is focused on and addressed during the First Presidential Debate. Criminal justice has been the headlining news in America for the past couple years, and it is an important issue that needs to be addressed and fixed, especially by top governing officials. Furthermore, some of Clinton’s policies for this issue are to retrain police officers so that using their weapon is the last resort, to bring communities together, and to focus on re-establishing trust between the police and its community’s citizens.

In terms of the economy, an the role and function of an ideology for this affects major businessmen and businesswomen, their corporations, and most of all, their employees.

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This is an ideology and stance to raise or lower taxes which ends up affects the mass population. Secretary Clinton has proposed to raise the current estate tax to 65%. She claims that this will hurt only the richest of the country, but it will also affect small business owners. It affects how they run their business after a death, and it is a hard thing to grasp, especially if they have been faithfully paying taxes their entire lives. It’s also key to know that many major businesses have the funds and backing to find a loophole to this law. Secretary Clinton is also focused on increasing the number of those who are in the middle class. The unemployment rate of the United States of America, as of June 2016, is at 4.9%. Seeing this percentage on its own does not seem to be of much effect. But think about it this way, this is an average of 5 for every 100 people in America that are jobless. When you put that percentage alongside the population of America, that is a staggering 15.7 million people that don’t have a job. Those people don’t have a pay check to rely on to feed their kids, put them to a good school, provide them with a house over their heads, clothes, and medical care. In order to bring America back into being a country that is able to maintain a low unemployment rate, the economy needs to be stable and the people need to be able to rely on the government more.

The role and function of ideologies in American politics in terms of politically, economically, and socially, have affected Canada as a country. Although Canada is a constitutional monarchy, we have been extremely influenced by our Southern neighbours as they are our biggest ally. The United States of America and the European Union are our biggest trading partners and if the economy in America lowers, our dollar is affected. Although we hold a different type of government, the United States also has strong influence on Canada in terms of foreign policy.