

Outline

Introduction.

This part of the paper talks about superstition in other areas of life and points out the fact that the paper will try to establish whether politics makes use of superstition too.

Literature Review and Research Findings:

This segment of the paper has information on what other scholars have said about superstition .It also has the findings of the research on superstition and politics.

Conclusion.

This part of the research paper talks about the final verdict on the research task. It states the findings and the expected trend.

Superstition and Politics

Introduction:

The world over, people display funny habits which they believe make them succeed in their undertakings and careers. It is not unusual to come across someone who performs a certain act each time he or she is going to do what has been assigned to them in the belief that it will turn out right. Sportsmen and sportswomen have the habit of doing some things that those of us on the sidelines may describe as weird. They do this just before participating in sports competitions in the belief that they will win those competitions. The same applies to people in other professions as well. Politics is also a profession and in this research paper, we will try to dig into the relationship that has existed between superstition and politics.

Florentine politics had the concept of carnival, a superstitious concept that was connected to the occult. It had the effect of making the oppressed masses within the system forget their political oppression (Galluci 3). This had the effect of ensuring that the rulers stayed in power for longer periods without facing challenges from a dissatisfied populace. Even Julius Caesar was superstitious to some degree (Rattli, para. 1). In the 2008 American presidential elections, the candidates, Barak Obama for the Democratic Party and John McCain of the Republican Party both had good lucky rituals that they performed any time they went to meet the people (Katz para.1-2). So, does this point to a wider trend of superstition in politics?

Superstitious practices by politicians

The research finding right from the early times such as the Florentine political establishments point to the rampant practice of superstition in politics. The current period is perhaps more saturated with politicians who believe in certain actions that they have to do before

engaging in political activities in the hope of giving them the much needed good fortune. Barak Obama is known for playing a game of basketball any time he is a candidate and he believes that this brings him good luck and victory in the polls. John McCain too displayed this kind of behavior, with the appetite of carrying such items as a penny and a feather as a way of bringing him good luck (Katz para.1-2).

These are not the only politicians who perform this kind of acts or carry such items as a way of enhancing their chances of victory. The world is full of such politicians. The activities they engage in range from playing some games to carrying charms to political functions. The flywhisk made from the tail of a cow is particularly famous and common in Africa as a good lucky item.

Conclusion.

From the above findings, it is evident that politics and superstition are not strange bedfellows. They are existing together, practised by men and women who are struggling to gain advantage over their rivals in the political arena. It is an act that is likely to increase in future given the outcome that is at times encouraging to the people who practice superstition. Failure in politics even with the use of charms is the only way that superstition can decline.

Works cited.

- Galluci, Mary. 'Occult' Power: The Politics of Witchcraft and Superstition in Renaissance Florence. *Italica*, Vol. 80, No. 1 (.2003)1-20.Print.
- Katz, Celeste. *Superstition rules the Day; both Obama and McCain Count on Good-luck Rituals*. Daily News, NewYorkDailyNews.com.4th Nov.2880.Web.6th Dec.2009.
- Rattli, Arik. *Superstition in the Play Julius Caesar*. Associated Content.28thJan.2009.Web.6th Dec.2009.