



Constitutional Myths and Miseducation

Jassie Morcos, Political Science

Advisor Dr. Lisa L. Miller



Research Question

How, when, and why did Constitutional Myths and Miseducation begin appearing?

Introduction

Constitutional myths are held beliefs that are based on false narratives

The myths being focused on are 1) State's Rights, 2) Checks and Balances, 3) Tyrannical Majorities, and 4) Government Overreach

The common understanding of such myths have evolved out of miseducation and their political perpetuation

Objective

Illustrate how principles stated as Constitutional principles are myths and Americans are being miseducated on the Political system, keeping them Politically disenfranchised



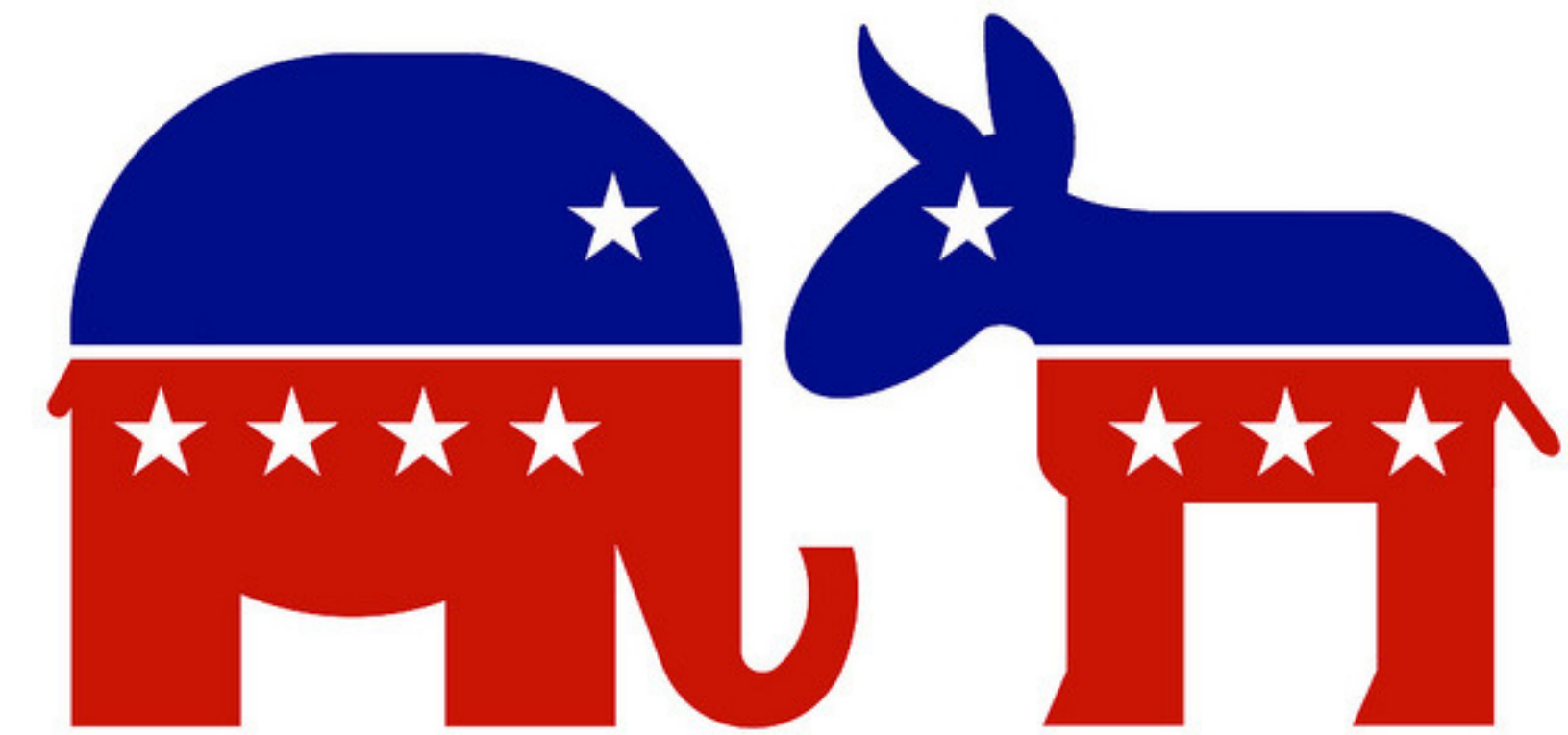
Methodology

Using the *American Presidency Project*, I did Archival analysis work with Political Party Platforms from 1860-2020

I also did an analysis of New Jersey textbooks and their use of Constitutional myths

Preliminary Results

Constitutional Myths were found to be used in Political Party Platforms before they were used in Civics textbooks because Civics education was not nationalized until about 1841. However, these myths become very apparent during 1860 around the beginning of the Civil War when Southern Slave owners wanted to maintain their Slave labor. Such myths and their perpetuated miseducation have allowed political minorities to maintain political control keeping political majorities stagnant in many ways. Being miseducated on our political system maintain a system that does not work for the people, rather against their interests.



Conclusion

Constitutional myths and miseducation are being perpetuated by political parties and civics program's teaching citizens incorrect information that hinders political growth. Understanding how, when, and why these myths begin allows citizens clarity into how their political system works and the way it is meant to work.

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Lisa L. Miller
- Dr. Miriam Jaffe
- Dr. Nicole Garcia
- Dr. Chisholm
- Professor Cunningham
- Rutgers McNair Program