

“All the President’s Women: Analyzing the Appointment of Women in the Clinton Presidency,” examines the historical levels of appointment to women in Clinton cabinet, White House Office and sub-cabinet. The public view of the Clinton administration’s relations with women began with the historical appointments of Janet Reno as Attorney General and Madeleine Albright as Ambassador to the United Nations and then Secretary of State, and continued with the role of the First Lady as an administration official, particularly during the health care debate, and moving to the appointment of Dee Dee Meyers as the president’s spokeswoman. The message that the Clinton administration sent to the American public, particularly women, was that this was an administration that valued women, that incorporated women’s voices into policy-making, and that was comfortable with powerful women. This paper uses the case study research method, analyzing newspapers and other archived periodicals as well as government documents and other records.

This analysis of the impact of the formal, historical inclusion of women into a presidential administration hypothesizes that it was women and their role in the administration that spawned disproportionate support among women in presidential approval ratings and in the 1996 campaigns. In effect, the Clinton administration took women seriously, women realized this and reciprocated with nearly unconditional support. In examining the legacy of President William Jefferson Clinton, his role in including women in his administration, of soliciting and accepting their advice, is one of the historical watersheds in both women’s history and histories of the executive branch.