



Text Ronald Reagan's and Hillary Clinton's speeches

While Reagan claims each individual must participate through hard work and sacrifice to achieve widespread economic growth, Clinton argues that women have historically been denied access to that participation. Both Reagan and Clinton desire the success for all members of a society and emphasize the role that economic success in particular plays in answering the problems that we face.

According to Reagan, the key to economic growth is hard working individuals. He argues that the U.S. has been historically economically strong because, "we unleashed the energy and individual genius of man" (74-75). Because the U.S. upholds the "freedom and the dignity of the individual," its citizens can take it upon themselves to pursue their dreams and fuel the economy. For Reagan, the core of the U.S. economy is "entrepreneurs with faith in themselves and faith in an idea who create new jobs, new wealth, and opportunity" (line 91-92). As the size of the U.S. government and tax rates grew, the economy stagnated. Reagan states in his administration, he will get to work, "removing the roadblocks that have slowed our economy and reduced productivity" (108-109).

Clinton, while perhaps agreeing with Reagan in principle here, argues that in reality, a certain group of (women) has endured more significant roadblocks than the rest. Rather than the size of government, Clinton sees "structural and social impediments that stack the deck against" women (56). Women frequently "are denied access to credit and may even be prohibited from opening bank accounts, signing contracts, purchasing property, incorporating a business, or filing lawsuits without a male guardian" (99-101). These sorts of impediments ensure "that men have the higher paying jobs to support their families" (line 111). Like Reagan, Clinton thinks the U.S. (and other world economies) needs to unleash the creative power of all individuals to achieve economic growth. And the fact that women have been "denied the chance to contribute fully to that growth" means that there is a entire group of Americans who are yearning to participate (lines 115-116).