

1876 v. 2016 Election

Introduction

Presidential elections play a crucial role in making history in the US. Most voters have high expectations that their favorite leaders will win and impact change in their lives. Nevertheless, the complicated Electoral College system makes it hard to predict the winner as the popular vote is not the only determinant of who will become the next president. This feature is evident in both the 1876 and 2016 elections. The two periods have some similarities and contrasts regarding the results of presidential elections.

Similarities

The main similarity between the 1876 and 2016 elections is that in both periods, the president with the highest popular votes did not turn out to be the winner. Besides, both losing teams were democrats, and the winners were republicans. In 1876, Rutherford B. Hayes faced democrat Samuel J. Tilden, and Hayes won the election despite Tilden having 19 votes more than Hyes in the first count of votes. Also, in 2016 Donald J. Trump won despite having 46.0% popular votes as compared with 48.18% for Hilary R. Clinton (Barthélémy, Mathieu, & Ashley 20).

The second similarity between the two elections is that both winning candidates were strongly opposed after the election. For instance, in 1876, the public threatened to send 100,000 men to match if Tilden was not declared as the winner. Also, after Trump's elections, Americans began to use words such as 'NOT my president' to express their frustrations. Additionally, both candidates expressed their intentions to improve the country's infrastructure, including bridges and railroads, as a tactic to appeal to the electorate (Taylor 45).

Differences

One of the main differences between the two elections is the method used to select the presidential candidates. For instance, in 1876, the GOP wanted a candidate who was free from scandals such as the Great Era, as this approach would encourage the support of liberals. On the other hand, in 2016, the decision of the Republican Party to nominate Trump was clear that they intended to renounce any liberal platforms (Barthélémy et al. 20). According to Taylor (45), this notion is evident from the nomination of Steve Bannon as Trump's chief strategist. This appointment sparked range from Protestants who affirmed that this would create room for aspects such as racism as the strategist was involved in similar allegations (Taylor 45).

Another difference between the two elections was the cause of the dispute regarding the election results. In 1876, the cause of the dispute was caused by electors from both parties. For instance, the republican Oregon elector was a government employee and thus was not supposed to take part in voting. On the other hand, the disagreements from the 2016 election were influenced by claims regarding interference with results. For instance, some claimed that the Russians had tampered with the results to demoralize the faith of the US citizens in their government (Sides, Michael, and Lynn 34).

. Conclusion

In summation, the presidential election process is a crucial topic since it highlights aspects such as democracy in a country. The two cases between 1876 and 2016 elections both show that the election system needs to be revised to ensure citizens' votes are valued. Besides, the differences support that more actions need to be done to demonstrate the advancements of policies.

Works Cited

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