

# The Perilous Path to the Presidency

## Introduction

The American presidency is one of the most powerful and influential positions in the world. The president of the United States is responsible for leading the country, both domestically and internationally. The president also serves as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces and is responsible for setting the nation's agenda.

The American presidency has a long and storied history, dating back to the founding of the United States in 1776. Over the years, the role of the president has evolved and changed, reflecting the changing needs of the country. In the early days of the republic, the president was seen as a relatively weak figure, with most power resting in the hands of Congress. However, over time, the presidency has become increasingly

powerful, and the president now plays a central role in all aspects of American government.

The American presidency is a complex and challenging job. The president must be able to deal with a wide range of issues, from domestic policy to foreign affairs. The president must also be able to work with Congress and the Supreme Court to get things done. In addition, the president must be able to communicate effectively with the American people and inspire them to follow his or her lead.

The American presidency is a demanding job, but it is also a rewarding one. The president has the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of millions of people. The president can also leave a lasting legacy on the country.

The American presidency is a unique and important institution. It is a symbol of the country's democracy and its values. The president is the leader of the free

world, and he or she has a responsibility to protect the interests of the United States and its allies.

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## Book Description

In *The Perilous Path to the Presidency*, Pasquale De Marco takes a hard look at the state of American presidential campaigns and the flaws in the primary system and the electoral college.

Pasquale De Marco argues that the current system is broken and in need of reform. The frontloading of primaries and caucuses gives too much power to a small number of early-voting states. The lack of voter choice in many states means that voters are often forced to choose between two candidates they don't like. And the electoral college is an undemocratic system that has led to several presidents being elected who did not win the popular vote.

Pasquale De Marco also examines the role of the president in the 21st century. The president is now more powerful than ever before, and the challenges facing the president are more complex than ever

before. The president must deal with a wide range of issues, from domestic policy to foreign affairs, and must be able to work with Congress and the Supreme Court to get things done.

The *Perilous Path to the Presidency* is a timely and important book that offers a fresh perspective on the American presidency. Pasquale De Marco provides a comprehensive analysis of the problems facing the presidency and offers a number of proposals for reform. This book is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the American presidency and the challenges facing the country in the 21st century.

The *Perilous Path to the Presidency* is a must-read for anyone interested in American politics. Pasquale De Marco provides a clear and concise overview of the history of the presidency, the current state of the office, and the challenges facing the president in the 21st century. Pasquale De Marco also offers a number of thoughtful proposals for reform.

# Chapter 1: The State of American Presidential Campaigns

## The History of Presidential Campaigns

The history of presidential campaigns in the United States can be traced back to the early days of the republic. In the early 1800s, candidates for president typically campaigned by traveling around the country and giving speeches. They would also rely on their supporters to spread the word about their candidacy.

As the country grew and became more populous, it became more difficult for candidates to campaign in person. As a result, they began to rely more on mass media, such as newspapers and television, to reach voters. In the 20th century, the rise of television played a major role in shaping presidential campaigns. Candidates began to use television to connect with voters on a personal level and to deliver their messages directly to their homes.

In recent years, the internet has become a major force in presidential campaigns. Candidates now use the internet to reach voters, raise money, and organize their supporters. Social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, have also become important tools for candidates to connect with voters.

The history of presidential campaigns in the United States is a long and complex one. Over the years, the way that candidates campaign for president has changed dramatically. However, the goal of all presidential campaigns remains the same: to win the votes of the American people.

### **The Changing Nature of Presidential Campaigns**

The nature of presidential campaigns has changed significantly over the years. In the early days of the republic, candidates campaigned by traveling around the country and giving speeches. They would also rely on their supporters to spread the word about their candidacy.

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The changing nature of presidential campaigns has had a significant impact on the way that candidates conduct their campaigns. Candidates now have to be more aware of the media and how they can use it to their

advantage. They also have to be more careful about what they say and do, as their words and actions can be easily captured on video and shared online.

## **The Challenges of Running for President**

Running for president is a challenging and demanding undertaking. Candidates have to travel extensively, give numerous speeches, and raise large sums of money. They also have to be constantly on guard against attacks from their opponents.

The challenges of running for president are many. Candidates have to travel extensively, give numerous speeches, and raise large sums of money. They also have to be constantly on guard against attacks from their opponents. In addition, candidates have to be able to withstand the intense scrutiny that comes with running for office.

Despite the challenges, many people are drawn to the presidency. The presidency is the most powerful office

in the world, and it offers the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of millions of people.

# Chapter 1: The State of American Presidential Campaigns

## The Role of Money in Elections

The role of money in American presidential elections has been a topic of debate for many years. Some people argue that money is necessary to run a successful campaign, while others argue that it gives wealthy donors too much influence over the political process.

There is no doubt that money plays a significant role in American presidential elections. Candidates need money to pay for advertising, staff, travel, and other expenses. In the 2020 election, the two major party candidates spent a combined total of over \$2 billion on their campaigns.

The vast majority of this money came from private donors. Wealthy individuals and groups can donate unlimited amounts of money to super PACs, which are political action committees that can spend money on

behalf of candidates. This gives wealthy donors a great deal of influence over the political process.

Money can also be used to influence elections in other ways. For example, wealthy donors can use their money to fund attack ads against their opponents. These ads can be very effective in shaping public opinion.

The role of money in American presidential elections is a complex issue with no easy answers. Some argue that money is necessary to run a successful campaign, while others argue that it gives wealthy donors too much influence over the political process. Ultimately, it is up to the American people to decide how much influence they want money to have in their elections.

There are a number of reforms that could be implemented to reduce the role of money in American presidential elections. One reform would be to ban super PACs. This would prevent wealthy donors from giving unlimited amounts of money to political

campaigns. Another reform would be to provide public financing for presidential campaigns. This would level the playing field and allow candidates from all backgrounds to run for office.

These are just a few of the reforms that could be implemented to reduce the role of money in American presidential elections. It is important to have a public discussion about this issue and to find a solution that works for everyone.

# Chapter 1: The State of American Presidential Campaigns

## The Influence of Media

The media plays a significant role in shaping public opinion about presidential candidates and elections. The way that the media covers a candidate can have a major impact on their chances of winning.

In the past, the media was more likely to be objective in its coverage of presidential candidates. However, in recent years, the media has become more polarized, and this has led to a more negative and critical tone in coverage of candidates.

This negative coverage can have a number of negative consequences. First, it can discourage people from voting. When people feel like they don't have any good options, they are less likely to participate in the electoral process. Second, negative coverage can lead to a more divided and polarized electorate. When people

are constantly bombarded with negative messages about the other side, they are less likely to be open to compromise or to work together.

Third, negative coverage can make it difficult for candidates to govern effectively. When a president is constantly under attack from the media, it is difficult for them to focus on the job of running the country. They are constantly having to defend themselves against attacks, and this can make it difficult to get anything done.

Of course, the media also has a responsibility to hold candidates accountable and to inform the public about their positions on the issues. However, there is a difference between holding candidates accountable and simply attacking them. The media should strive to provide fair and balanced coverage of all candidates, and they should avoid taking sides in the election.

The media can play a positive role in the electoral process by providing accurate and unbiased

information to the public. By doing so, the media can help to ensure that the American people are able to make informed decisions about who to vote for.

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

**Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.**

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