

niciste» du régime du président Habyarimana qu'elle cherche alors à défendre, au lendemain du génocide de 1994, elle engage une autre opération militaire autorisée par les Nations Unies et comportant cette fois un mandat strictement humanitaire.

Cette évolution de la politique française se verra confirmée en 1996 alors que se rejoue, mais au Zaïre cette fois, une situation du même type que celle qui avait motivé l'intervention de la France au Rwanda en 1990. Or, cette fois-ci, la France se refuse à adopter une attitude unilatérale et refuse de jouer la carte humanitaire du sauvetage des réfugiés rwandais au Zaïre. Elle plaide plutôt pour un déploiement multilatéral qui n'aura finalement pas lieu, ce qui témoigne du fait que, dans la foulée de l'échec rwandais, ses principaux partenaires au sein du Conseil de sécurité refusent de lui reconnaître une position privilégiée dans ce dossier. La période marque une phase de recul de l'influence de la France au sein du Conseil de sécurité et ce n'est qu'à la toute fin des années 1990 que s'amorce, sous l'impulsion des diplomates en poste à New York, plutôt que des responsables politiques à Paris, un effort de réengagement de la France dans le dossier du Zaïre (devenu entre-temps la République démocratique du Congo (RDC)). La diplomatie française parvient alors à faire accepter un déploiement de Casques bleus composé de troupes provenant essentiellement «d'États proches» de la France (284). Finalement, tirant les leçons du «lead» qu'aura précédemment assumé avec succès le Royaume-Uni dans le cadre du conflit en Sierra Leone et alors qu'elle est désormais plus consciente que l'argumentaire humanitaire ne signifie rien si la volonté d'intervenir n'est pas également présente, ce n'est qu'en 2003 que la France lance une opération en RDC sous le drapeau de l'Union européenne et avec un mandat humanitaire des Nations Unies. Bien que le succès de la communauté internationale en RDC demeure pour le moins ambigu encore aujourd'hui, la France confirme néanmoins qu'elle a alors retrouvé sa position de «lead» sur les conflits dans la région des Grands Lacs.

L'ouvrage de D. Ambrosetti convainc le lecteur de l'intérêt que représente une telle interprétation tout à fait originale s'attachant à éclairer la logique et la rationalité qui entourent les attentes normatives qu'entretiennent les décideurs diplomatiques au Conseil de sécurité. Riche en analyses d'un jeu diplomatique qui comporte ses règles propres, l'ouvrage met un peu plus de chair sur les rivalités de puissance au sein du système international ainsi que sur ce que l'on associe peut-être trop rapidement à l'intérêt national de l'État.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS THIBAUT *Université de Moncton*

Hillary Clinton's Race for the White House: Gender Politics and the Media on the Campaign Trail

Regina G. Lawrence and Melody Rose

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What role does media bias actually play in a woman candidate's campaign? Do sexist press portrayals bring her political aspirations to an abrupt stop or are they merely one more bump on an already bumpy road to elected office? Regina G. Lawrence and Melody Rose assess the effect of media bias on women's electoral chances by using Hillary Clinton's unsuccessful bid for the US Democratic presidential nomination in 2008 as a case study. In addition to the usual quantitative evaluations of coverage in newspapers and television broadcasts, their analysis draws upon interviews with campaign officials and observations in the political blogosphere. The authors' holistic approach to their subject, which includes investigating not only the media's perception of Clinton but the influence of non-media factors on her campaign, makes their book a valuable contribution to the literature on women in politics.

Lawrence and Rose's main argument is that any examination of Clinton's campaign must consider three interlocking variables: the male-identified norms of US presidential politics, contemporary media norms and routines, and the individual candidate in her particular political context. To this list they should have added a fourth variable: societal attitudes toward the appropriate gender roles and behaviours for women. The authors routinely incorporate this variable into their analysis of Clinton's presidential bid. Though traditional gender norms drew the masculine contours of the Oval Office, the authors draw attention to how wider societal attitudes formed a constant backdrop to Clinton's political ambitions and even speculate that these standards will not be applied uniformly to all women candidates. Still, over the course of the book, the authors succeed in demonstrating how these variables intersected at different points during Clinton's campaign to continually shape and reshape her circumstances and strategies. What they discover is that Clinton's own choices and the presence of a charismatic African-American opponent played far more prominent roles in her defeat than did the media. In fact, sexist news coverage rarely acted as more than an irritant to the candidate and sometimes even helped her to attract outraged voters and supporters.

The real strengths of *Hillary Clinton's Race for the White House* are in its empirical testing of current theories on women in politics and in its fuller exploration of media behaviour. In assessing the literature's predictive capabilities, Lawrence and Rose conclude that some of the double binds women politicians have traditionally faced are weakening or are not as salient for all women, while others, such as the association of the White House with traditional gender roles, remain surprisingly resilient despite advancements made by the women's movement. The authors also offer a refreshingly honest appraisal of the mainstream media's approach to covering presidential elections, which includes a preoccupation with the horse race, gaffes and pre-set "scripts" for each candidate. They correctly point out that male candidates must also contend with a press more interested in who will win than in the issues and that negative coverage of a woman politician should not be confused with sexist coverage. Lawrence and Rose also reveal how Clinton's own rhetorical strategies influenced her media depictions, from the style of her television advertisements to her refusal to foreground the history-making potential of her candidacy in her political communication.

Media scholars and students will be particularly interested by what Lawrence and Rose uncover during their foray into the online news environment. Unlike mainstream journalists, bloggers felt comfortable discussing Clinton in a blatantly sexist manner, suggesting that the more aggressive forms of media bias noted in traditional media outlets a couple of decades ago have now migrated to the Internet. Their preliminary findings make it clear that scholars need to go beyond just assessing how much politicians, activists, and voters use new social media for engaging in politics to evaluating the actual content of their online political discussions.

Overall, *Hillary Clinton's Race for the White House* represents a growing maturity in the study of media coverage of women politicians. Lawrence and Rose offer a complex analysis of the many forces at work in a female candidate's campaign for office, not just those obstacles unique to women. By placing news coverage within this larger context, the authors avoid the trap of overestimating the media's actual ability to thwart a woman's political aspirations. Instructors keen on fostering debates about media power should include this book as a text in courses related to women in politics, journalism, and American politics. It would also make an excellent resource for researchers studying these topics as well as for those interested in Hillary Clinton, political communication, and gender stereotyping in the United States.

ANGELIA WAGNER *University of Alberta*