Political science paper proposal

Science, Social Science



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The close relationship between politics and economic development has long been a topic of discussion in various fields of study. The need to develop credible evidence of the two major indicators of national sustainability and development has triggered several authors and researchers to come up with findings aimed at elaborating how the two key institutions interact with each other in order to realize a predictive behavior pattern. The study seeks to analyze the works of Frymer and Bartels in its quest to develop an understanding of the American society in a broader context. The main point of the argument is on the establishment of whether the two scholars have a similar point of reasoning or differ in their understanding of various political ideologies and their roles in shaping the standards of living among different social classes.

Bartels' book aimed at illustrating the increased income inequality that was witnessed under the Republican presidential administration but greatly diminished during the Democratic presidential administration in the United States. The Republican administrations in the 1970s witnessed the emergence of rich families which registered substantial net gains in their income as opposed to the poor families that did not realize any meaningful gains in their returns on investment. The Democratic leadership is marked by the equal distribution of wealth that aims at improving the living standards of the poor. He came to the conclusion that economic inequality was an integral part of the political phenomenon. The events are attributed to the varying economic policies pursued by the various political ideologies. The

Democrats have been focusing on increasing the levels of employment as well as increasing the growth of output aimed at assisting the poor and the middle-class members of the society. On the other hand, the Republicans have been containing the inflation rate which can only be realized by allowing some level of unemployment in the economy as demonstrated by Philip's curve (Bartels, 27-34).

Frymer on his part considers the role of Black Americans in the national politics and how they are very critical in determining the outcome of each presidential election in the United States. His theory affirms the fact that the African-American interests, as well as voices, have been ignored in a number of instances by both the two political divides as they all majored on other groups that seemed to be more predictive in determining the outcome of an election process. The interests of the African-Americans have thus been left out in legislative policymaking and campaigns. His views appear to b in contrast to that of Bartels who is of the opinion that one party promotes inequality while the other party promotes equality. Race plays a key role in the politics of America and this leads to inequality and marginalization based on the races. However, the two authors are in agreement that the government of the day plays a key role in determining the standards of living of various social classes and races (Frymer, 46-81).

Further analysis of the works of these two scholars will reveal inner facts on the political landscape in America and how it affects the entire nation and its inhabitants irrespective of their cultural beliefs, race, and socio-economic status.

Work Cited

Bartels, Larry M. Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2008. Internet resource. Frymer, Paul. Uneasy Alliances: Race and Party Competition in America. Princeton, N. J. Princeton University Press, 2010. Print.