

Rankin v. Rodham:

**The Difference between
Shattering and Cracking the**

It's Tuesday, November 7th of the year 1916. Jeannette Rankin has just successfully won her campaign in running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. This achievement makes her the very first woman to ever serve in Congress. The precedence of this achievement is only emphasized by the fact that the people of Montana elected her into Congress four years before the 19th amendment, that allowed women across the country to vote, had been ratified. Rankin had just made history, and her legacy had only just begun. Flash forward to almost exactly one hundred years from that historic date. It's Tuesday, November 8th of the year 2016. This is the first year in American history where a woman is the presidential nominee of a major political party.¹ Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Democratic Party candidate, and she seems to be the clear winner of this election. She's an experienced woman of privilege who is going head-to-head with the inexperienced, well-placed Republican Party candidate Donald Trump. With Clinton's outstanding credentials, such as a law degree from Yale Law School, and her immense involvement in politics throughout her life, like holding the position of Secretary of State for the United States, one would think that she would be the obvious choice to preside over the country, right?² As the American people were casting their votes and television networks across the country were broadcasting this historic election taking place, one could almost hear the cracks in one of the highest, hardest glass ceilings begin to form. Unfortunately, despite Clinton's

¹. McGregor, Jena. "Analysis | How the 'Glass Ceiling' Became Such a Powerful - and Problematic - Metaphor." The Washington Post, WP Company, 9 June 2016, <www.washingtonpost.com/news/on-leadership/wp/2016/06/09/how-the-glass-ceiling-became-such-a-powerful-and-problematic-metaphor/?utm_term=.c9d50fd37d73> [Accessed September 1, 2017].

². "First Lady Biography: Hillary Clinton." Hillary Clinton Biography: National First Ladies' Library, The National First Ladies' Library, <www.firstladies.org/biographies/firstladies.aspx?biography=43> [Accessed September 18, 2017].

seemingly pertinent credentials and Trump's lack of experience, Donald Trump won the electoral vote, meaning he had won the highest position in the country- President of the United States. The 2016 United States Presidential election dramatized and emphasized the inability of a powerful woman to win against a well-placed male.

Jeanette Rankin was more successful than Hillary Rodham Clinton in breaking the existing glass ceiling of her time, although many people do not know of her today. What can one learn about breaking glass ceilings by comparing these two women? One would think that after one hundred years women would have advanced further in the world of politics. In order for women to make more advancements we must be more honest, we must acknowledge our own shortcomings. In light of this idea, I dare to say what no one else has yet to point out, that Hillary Rodham Clinton has not been the first in anything. Rodham was not the first female presidential nominee, Secretary of State, or activist First Lady. Adding various adjectives (such as "major party") does not hide the truth. Hillary Rodham Clinton has yet to shatter any glass ceiling for women to further advance. In contrast, Rankin became the first women elected to federal government office, not just in the United States, but in western democracies. As apparent in the evidence provided, Rankin was consistent in her views, bold in standing up for herself, and unafraid to take an unpopular position when it was something she genuinely believed; in contrast, Rodham was inconsistent in her policy positions by changing her stance to match whatever was most popular at the time.

What even is the glass ceiling? It is often described as an invisible barrier for women and people of color. More specifically, as defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, it is an unfair system or set of attitudes that prevents some people (such as women or people of a

certain race) from getting the most powerful jobs.³ How was Rankin so successful in shattering the glass ceiling, but Rodham not so much? One could say that an individual's early life is a major predecessor to how their later adult life evolves, so just how different were these two women's early lives, and how did they overcome the hardships life brought them?

What in their early lives led to their eventual success or, in Rodham's case, eventual disappointment? Born on June 11th, 1880, near Missoula, Montana to Olive Pickering Rankin and John Rankin, Jeanette Rankin was the eldest among six children. Rankin came from a humble background seeing as her mother was a school teacher and her father worked as an immigrant carpenter and rancher. Her hard-working character and drive was more than likely an outcome of her being the eldest child of the family. She was given the responsibility of caring for her younger siblings, assisting her parents' daily chores and outdoor work, and maintaining the ranch machinery.⁴ In her later adolescence, Rankin earned a degree in biology in 1902 from the University of Montana. Rankin briefly followed in her mother's footsteps working as a teacher. She then tried numerous other careers, including working as a seamstress and as a social worker. Rankin later found her calling in the women's suffrage movement, where her

3. "Glass Ceiling." Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/glass%20ceiling [Accessed September 1, 2017].

4. "Who Is Jeannette Rankin? Everything You Need to Know." *Childhood, Life Achievements & Timeline*, Famous People, www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/jeannette-rankin-6678.php [Accessed December 18, 2017].

legacy begins.⁵ In contrast to that of Jeannette Rankin, Hillary Rodham Clinton was born as Hillary Diane Rodham on October 26th, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois to parents Hugh and Dorothy Rodham. Like Rankin, Hillary Rodham was the first born. She has two younger brothers, Hugh Jr. and Anthony Rodham. Hillary Rodham was raised in Park Ridge, Illinois, a picturesque suburb located 15 miles northwest of downtown Chicago. Unlike that of Rankin, Rodham was raised with more wealth seeing as her dad, Hugh Rodham, was a prosperous fabric storeowner.⁶ Hillary, a women's rights and equality advocate from a youthful age, grew up as a conservative Republican. However, after seeing Martin Luther King Jr. deliver a speech and beginning her studies at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, her life and politics were changed forever.⁷

A collegiate education can play a vital role in the eventual success of an individual. Both women took different paths throughout their collegiate academic careers. Jeannette Rankin attended Montana State University at Missoula and graduated in 1902 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. This alone is an achievement in itself seeing as she was an educated female scientist at the turn of the century. Rankin, at this point in time, is already in a position of uniqueness and respect among her peers. Although Rankin had a degree in biology, she partook in numerous other fields of work and study such as that of a schoolteacher, and seamstress and

5. "Jeannette Rankin." *Biography.com*, A&E Networks Television, 1 Mar. 2017, <www.biography.com/people/jeannette-rankin-9451806> [Accessed December 18, 2017].

6. "Home." *Clinton House Museum*, Clinton House Museum, <www.clintonhousemuseum.org/learn/hillary-clinton> [Accessed September 18, 2017].

7. *Hillary Rodham-Clinton Biography*. <www.mtholyoke.edu/~carve22r/classweb/eightwomen/hrcbiography.html> [Accessed December 18, 2017].

studied furniture design, looking for some work to which she could commit herself. When her father died in 1902, he left money to Rankin, paid out over her lifetime. On a long trip to Boston in 1904 to visit with her brother at Harvard and with other relatives, she was inspired by slum conditions to take up the new field of social work. She became a resident in a San Francisco Settlement House for four months, then entered the New York School of Philanthropy (later, to become the Columbia School of Social Work). She returned to the west to become a social worker in Spokane, Washington, in a children's home.⁸

Rodham, on the other hand, seemed to always have an interest in law and politics. A student leader in public schools, she was active in youth programs at the First United Methodist Church. Although she later became associated with liberal causes, during this time she adhered to the Republican Party of her parents. She campaigned for Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater in 1964 and chaired the local chapter of the Young Republicans. A year later, after she enrolled at Wellesley College, her political views began to change. Influenced by the assassinations of Malcolm X, Robert F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr., she joined the Democratic Party and volunteered in the presidential campaign of antiwar candidate Eugene McCarthy. As an undergraduate at Wellesley College, Hillary mixed academic excellence with school government. Speaking at graduation, she said, "The challenge now is to practice politics as the art of making what appears to be impossible, possible." After her graduation from Wellesley in 1969, Hillary entered Yale Law School, where she came under the influence of

⁸. Lewis, Jone Johnson. "Jeannette Rankin First Woman Elected to Congress." *Thoughtco.com*, 13 Oct. 2017, <www.thoughtco.com/jeannette-rankin-biography-3528695> [Accessed December 18, 2017].

Yale alumna Marian Wright Edelman, a lawyer and children's rights advocate. Rodham served on the Board of Editors of Yale Law Review and Social Action, interned with children's advocate Marian Wright Edelman, and met Bill Clinton. Through her work with Edelman, Rodham developed a strong interest in family law and issues affecting children.⁹

Although both women at this point in their lives were well educated and established individuals, they had only just begun. Once obtaining their degrees, both women begin to delve into setting the foundation for their future political careers. Rankin studied at the University of Washington in Seattle and became involved in the woman suffrage movement in 1910. Visiting Montana, Rankin became the first woman to speak before the Montana legislature, where she surprised the spectators and legislators alike with her speaking ability. She organized and spoke for the Equal Franchise Society. Rankin then moved to New York, and continued her work on women's rights. During these years, she began her lifelong relationship with Katherine Anthony. Rankin went to work for the New York Woman Suffrage Party and in 1912 she became the field secretary of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Rankin and Anthony were among the thousands of suffragists at the 1913 suffrage march in Washington, D.C., before the inauguration of Woodrow Wilson. Rankin returned to Montana to help organize the successful Montana suffrage campaign in 1914. To do so, she had to give up her prized

9. Caroli, Betty Boyd. "Hillary Clinton." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 29 Dec. 2017, <www.britannica.com/biography/Hillary-Rodham-Clinton> [Accessed September 20, 2017]; "Hillary Rodham Clinton." *The White House*, The United States Government, <www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/first-ladies/hillary-rodham-clinton/> [Accessed September 20, 2017].

position with the NAWSA.¹⁰ After graduation, Hillary advised the Children’s Defense Fund in Cambridge and joined the impeachment inquiry staff advising the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives. Then after completing those responsibilities, she “followed her heart to Arkansas,” where Bill had begun his political career. Bill and Hillary then married in 1975. She joined the faculty of the University of Arkansas Law School in 1975 and the Rose Law Firm in 1976. Two years later in 1978, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the board of the Legal Services Corporation, and Bill Clinton became governor of Arkansas. Bill and Hillary then had their daughter, Chelsea, in 1980. Hillary served as Arkansas’s First Lady for 12 years, balancing family, law, and public service. She chaired the Arkansas Educational Standards Committee, co-founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, and served on the boards of the Arkansas Children’s Hospital, Legal Services, and the Children’s Defense Fund. Once her husband Bill Clinton was elected President of the United States Hillary, as the nation’s First Lady, continued to balance public service with private life. Her active role began in 1993 when the President asked her to chair the Task Force on National Health Care Reform. Her efforts to reform health care ended disastrously for her as she did not achieve her stated objectives. However, Hilary continued to be a leading advocate for expanding health insurance coverage, ensuring childhood immunization, and raising public awareness of health issues. She wrote a weekly newspaper column entitled “Talking It Over,” which focused on her experiences as First Lady and her observations of women, children, and families she has met around the world. As First Lady, her public involvement with many activities sometimes led to controversy.

¹⁰. Lewis, Jone Johnson. “Jeannette Rankin First Woman Elected to Congress.” *Thoughtco.com*, 13 Oct. 2017, <www.thoughtco.com/jeannette-rankin-biography-3528695> [Accessed December 18, 2017].

Undeterred by critics, Hillary won many admirers for her staunch support for women around the world and her commitment to children's issues.¹¹

Now, having set a solid foundation and credibility among their peers, these two women aimed to shatter the glass ceiling of their time. Here is where the divide between these two women becomes most obvious. Here is where Rankin becomes a true first, and Rodham meets her inevitable downfall. As war in Europe loomed, Rankin turned her attention to work for peace, and in 1916, ran for one of the two seats in Congress for the U.S. House of Representatives from Montana as a Republican.

So, what exactly did Rankin have to accomplish to be elected into office? The first thing she could attribute to her eventual success was the campaigning she had done for women's suffrage in Montana. Not only did that work result in the successful 1914 expansion of the vote in her home state—allowing women to help vote her into office shortly after, years before they were granted the right to vote nationwide—but it also introduced her to voters as a powerful political figure. Despite the relative difficulty of traversing the large state at the time, Rankin traveled from one end to another campaigning for her cause.



In an interview by Helen Bonner on July 8, 1980, the former Montana legislator had this to say about Rankin's relentless campaigning efforts:

“She was one of the ablest campaigners that I

11. “Hillary Rodham Clinton.” *The White House*, The United States Government, <www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/first-ladies/hillary-rodham-clinton/> [Accessed September 20, 2017].

ever saw. If she heard of a vote a hundred miles up in the mountains [or] in some isolated canyon up there, she would go up and see them, drive up there and it didn't make any difference about the roads. . . . She would go anywhere. Anywhere—a house of prostitution, it didn't make any difference to her what it was—she would make herself at home. . . . She was a tough person; nothing phased (sic) her when she was after something.”¹²

“She had built a tremendous base of women who were very loyal. They had clubs and she organized them,” noted Luckowski, one of the co-authors of the book *Jeannette Rankin: A Political Woman*. “It was a very personal experience for her across this very big state.”

Next, were Montana's unusual political structures. Two at-large members of Congress represented the state in the House. To put it simply, everyone voted for two people, rather than half the population voting for one candidate and the other half voting for the other candidate. Rankin knew that she wouldn't get the most votes in the state – but she also knew that, given the at-large-structure, she could still make it to Washington as the second-favorite pick. She even made a point, in her campaign, to acknowledge that the voters could cast their votes for their favorite male candidate and just list her as the second choice. Then, finally she had the support network to back up her political hopes and dreams. Rankin's brother Wellington was one of Montana's best-known men, with plenty of wealth and connections to help his sister campaign.¹³ He served as campaign manager and helped finance the campaign. On

¹². Tom Haines, former Montana legislator, interview by Helen Bonner, 8 July 1980, transcript, University of Montana Library Archives, 1, 2, 8, 9 [Accessed January 15, 2018].

¹³. Rothman, Lily. “First Woman Elected to U.S. National Office 100 Years Ago.” *Time*, *Time*, 7 Nov. 2016, <time.com/4549800/jeannette-rankin-100/> [Accessed January 15, 2018].

November 7, 1916, Jeannette Rankin made history by becoming the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress, and the first woman elected to a national legislature in any western democracy.¹⁴

Being the first female elected into the U.S. Congress was not the only defining moment in Rankin's political career. Only four days after taking office, Jeannette Rankin made history in yet another way: she boldly voted against U.S. entry into World War I. She bravely violated protocol by speaking during the roll call before casting her vote, announcing, "I want to stand by my country, but I cannot vote for war."

Here, is a quote directly from Jeannette Rankin herself speaking fearlessly about what she ever so passionately believed in:

Babies are dying from cold and hunger; soldiers have died for lack of a woolen shirt. Might it not be that the men who have spent their lives thinking in terms of commercial profit find it hard to adjust themselves to thinking in terms of human needs? Might it not be that a great force that has always been thinking in terms of human needs, and that always will think in terms of human needs, has not been mobilized? Is it not possible that the women of the country have something of value to give the Nation at this time? It would be strange indeed if the women of the country through all these years had not developed an intelligence, a feeling, a spiritual force peculiar to themselves, which they hold in readiness to give to the world.¹⁵

She was not alone in voting against entering World War I. There were fifty-seven other people in Congress who voted against entry into the war.¹⁶ Although her anti-war vote may have

14. Ibid.

15. Jeannette Rankin, "Woman Suffrage," Congressional Record, 10 January 1918, JRP, MHS [Accessed January 15, 2018].

16. Munger, Sean. "The Dissenters: Five Who Voted against American Entry into World War I." SeanMunger.com, 6 Apr. 2017, <seanmunger.com/2014/04/06/the-dissenters-five-who-voted-against-american-entry-into-world-war-i/> [Accessed January 15, 2017].

been unsuccessful and lost her popularity, Rankin investigated worker abuse and successfully brought about change for workers at the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The United Press reports on the investigation stated: "Miss Jeannette Rankin, during a speech in the House Monday, plans to ask for a congressional investigation of working conditions among women at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing [and] of the hours that women in the [Bureau work] daily. Washington has been stirred for a week by Miss Rankin's exploit in going on a three-hour tour of the Bureau - as simple 'J.Rankin.'"

When her term ended, Rankin found herself gerrymandered out of her district but never lost her determination or compromised on her (at times unpopular) beliefs. After the war ended, Rankin continued to work for peace through the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and began work for the National Consumers' League. She worked, at the same time, on the staff of the American Civil Liberties Union and after a brief return to Montana to help her brother run -- unsuccessfully -- for the Senate, she moved to a farm in Georgia. She returned to Montana every summer, her legal residence. From her base in Georgia, Jeannette Rankin became Field Secretary of the WILPF and lobbied for peace. When she left the WILPF she formed the Georgia Peace Society. She lobbied for the Women's Peace Union, working for an antiwar constitutional amendment. She left the Peace Union, and began working with the National Council for the Prevention of War. She also successfully lobbied for American cooperation with the World Court and for labor reforms and an end to child labor, including passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act of 1921, a bill she had originally introduced into Congress.

Despite the negative feedback she received for her earlier anti-war vote, she continued to work towards what she believed in - she never gave up. In the first half of 1937, she spoke in 10

states, giving 93 speeches for peace. She supported the America First Committee, but decided that lobbying was not the most effective way to work for peace. In 1939, she returned to Montana and ran for Congress again, supporting a strong but neutral America in yet another time of impending war. Her brother once again contributed financial support for her candidacy. Elected with a small plurality, Jeannette Rankin arrived in Washington in January as one of six women in the House, two in the Senate.¹⁷

Just like in her first term in office, Rankin, in her second term of office, was met with a critical decision, another very important vote to cast. Silence fell over the United States Congress. A crowd of restless lawmakers and visitors quieted as they waited for Representative Jeannette Rankin to speak. The moment had come for the Montana congresswoman to cast her vote. It was December 8, 1941. Up until that day, the United States of America had been able to stay out of the dreadful conflict called War World II. But after the tragedy that was the attack on Pearl Harbor, America had been shaken with shock, anger, and grief. Soon after the attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt responded to the country's outrage by asking Congress to declare war on Japan. Sixty-year-old congresswoman Jeannette Pickering Rankin of Montana, an adamant pacifist, believed war was wrong. Her whole career prior to this very moment had been about bringing world peace. She had voted against war before in Congress, so what's to stop her for voting for her beliefs now? She also had a promise to uphold. When she campaigned for Congress, she had promised Montanans that if she were to be elected that she would keep their

17. Lewis, Jone Johnson. "Jeannette Rankin First Woman Elected to Congress." *Thoughtco.com*, 13 Oct. 2017, <www.thoughtco.com/jeannette-rankin-biography-3528695> [Accessed December 18, 2017]; "Jeannette Rankin." *Biography.com*, A&E Networks Television, 1 Mar. 2017, <www.biography.com/people/jeannette-rankin-9451806> [Accessed December 18, 2017].

sons out of World War II. She tirelessly tried to explain her views. “Mr. Speaker!” she called out as Congress discussed President Roosevelt’s request for a declaration of war against Japan. “I would like to be heard!” she exclaimed. Again and again she tried to speak against the war. Again and again, despite her bold efforts, she was ignored or shouted down by the Speaker of the House and other congressmen. But, despite Rankin’s pleas to be heard, the clerk had begun reading the roll. As their names were read, the representatives voted aloud. Each and every one voted “yes” to declaring war on Japan. Finally, as the clerk called Rankin’s name her moment had come to vote. Rankin looked up and squared her shoulders. In a clear, strong voice, she spoke the words that would define her forever. “No,” she said. “As a woman I can’t go to war, and I refuse to send anyone else.” Instantly an outcry rose from the crowd. Spectators hurled protests and insults at the woman who had voted for what she believed in, who voted for peace. Hissing and booing filled the chambers. The voting continued until every member of the House of Representatives had cast their vote. Altogether, 470 lawmakers said, “yes” to war. Jeannette Rankin was the only lawmaker to vote “no.” Despite all the odds against her, despite the whole nation being against her, Jeannette Rankin remained committed to her beliefs.¹⁸

Hillary Rodham on the other hand, has had a political career that contrasted to that of Jeannette Rankin’s consistent and unprecedented political career. Hilary has never truly been the first in anything she has done. When one must use several adjectives to clarify being “first,” it means one is not truly first. Rankin was the first women elected to Congress. Rodham was not the first women elected or to run for president. Hence, writers must add several adjectives to

¹⁸. O'Brien, Mary Barmeyer. Jeannette Rankin: Bright Star in the Big Sky. TwoDot, 2016.

justify using the word “first.” Yes, Rodham’s 2016 Presidential race was historic, but she was not the first woman to run for President of the United States. More than a dozen other women have run for the position previously. Victoria Woodhull ran in the year 1872 as the Equal Rights Party candidate. Next was Gracie Allen, who ran during the year 1940 as the Surprise Party candidate. Next is Linda Jenness who ran in 1972 with the Socialist Workers Party. Jill Stein ran as the Green Party nominee in 2012 and 2016, running against Hilary in the most recent election.¹⁹ These women, including Rodham, unsuccessfully ran for President. The only difference between Hillary and these other women is that Hillary was able to run with a major political party which was the Democratic Party. Although this was a major success for Rodham,



this alone does not make her a true first nor does it support the claim of her shattering the glass ceiling.

Rodham insinuates she is doing so by saying this during her 2016 Democratic nomination acceptance speech:

Standing here as my mother’s daughter, and my daughter’s mother, I’m so happy this day has come. Happy for grandmothers and little girls and everyone in between. Happy for boys and men because when any barrier falls in America, it clears the way for everyone. When there are no ceilings, the sky is the

limit. So let’s keep going until every one of the 161 million women and girls across America has the opportunities she deserves to have.²⁰

¹⁹. “Hillary Clinton and Five Other Women Who Ran For President.” *Time*, Time, <time.com/3771209/hillary-clinton-female-candidates/> [Accessed December 28, 2017].

²⁰. Lasher, Megan. “Best Quotes From Hillary Clinton's DNC Nominee Speech - Motto.” *Time*, Time, 29 July 2016, motto.time.com/4430554/hillary-clinton-dnc-best-quotes/ [Accessed January 15, 2018].

Another major difference between Rankin and Rodham was the way they went about campaigning. Rankin's campaign was all about changing the nation for the better. Rankin's selfless nature shone through her campaign, while Rodham's campaign was mainly about her image. It was all about Hilary breaking barriers. Rodham mainly campaigned on the fact that she would be the first woman to ever be elected President of the United States, whereas Rankin never really mentioned that she would be the first ever woman elected to Congress.

Another stark contrast to that of Rankin was Rodham's lack of consistency throughout her political career. The Hillary Rodham Clinton that entered the kickoff Democratic presidential campaign seemed remarkably different from the one that ran for president in 2008, as she chased the liberal voters that have come to dominate her party's nomination process with a leftward drift. The last time Rodham took the stage for a presidential debate, back in 2008, she was against same sex-marriage, a supporter of the Second Amendment, stood behind her Iraq War vote, and opposed states issuing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. Flash forward to Tuesday October 18, 2016, in Las Vegas, and Rodham came out as a backer of same-sex couples, a supporter of tighter federal gun control measures, admitted her vote for the Iraq War was a "mistake" and advocated for illegal immigrants. "This is a classic political decision that you can flip-flop if you flop over to the popular side of an issue," said David Alexrod, a Democratic strategist who advised President Obama's bids for the White House, on CNN. But, in doing this

it only confirmed her inauthenticity. The inconsistency in Rodham's beliefs made her seem inauthentic and untrustworthy.²¹ Unlike Rankin, Rodham never firmly stood by her beliefs.

Hillary Rodham Clinton may have made history by being the first woman to be the presidential nominee of a major political party²², but she is not a true first and has not shattered any glass ceiling. Jeannette Rankin was the very first woman to be elected into the United States Congress. Prior to this achievement, no woman had ever served in the United States House of Representatives or Senate. Rankin shattered the glass ceiling for other women to be elected into congress in the following years.²³ Another extraordinary woman to break a glass ceiling was Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve as a United States Supreme Court Justice. President Ronald Reagan appointed O'Connor to the Supreme Court, where she served from

²¹. Riddell, Kelly. "Hillary Clinton Flip-Flops from 2008 Positions in Bid for Liberal Voters' Support." *The Washington Times*, The Washington Times, 12 Oct. 2015, <www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/oct/12/hillary-clinton-flip-flops-from-2008-positions-in-/> [Accessed December 28, 2017].

²². McGregor, Jena. "Analysis | How the 'Glass Ceiling' Became Such a Powerful - and Problematic - Metaphor." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 9 June 2016, <www.washingtonpost.com/news/on-leadership/wp/2016/06/09/how-the-glass-ceiling-became-such-a-powerful-and-problematic-metaphor/?utm_term=.c9d50fd37d73> [Accessed September 1, 2017].

²³. Lewis, Jone Johnson. "Jeannette Rankin First Woman Elected to Congress." *Thoughtco.com*, 13 Oct. 2017, <www.thoughtco.com/jeannette-rankin-biography-3528695> [Accessed December 18, 2017]; "Jeannette Rankin." *Biography.com*, A&E Networks Television, 1 Mar. 2017, <www.biography.com/people/jeannette-rankin-9451806> [Accessed December 18, 2017]; O'Brien, Mary Barmeyer. *Jeannette Rankin: Bright Star in the Big Sky*. TwoDot, 2016.

1981 until 2006.²⁴ Another woman to make waves in American politics as a true first was Madeline Korbel Albright. President Bill Clinton nominated Madeline Albright to be the very first woman Secretary of State on December 5, 1996. The U.S. Senate confirmed Albright on January 22, 1997, and swore her in the next day. She served in the position for four years and ended her service on January 20, 2001.²⁵ Nancy Pelosi remains a force to be reckoned with as she has made tremendous progress in the fight for equality for women in politics. On January 4, 2007 she became the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives in United States history. Pelosi's term as Speaker remains the highest elected office any woman has ever achieved. Yet, she did not stop there.

The *Atlantic* has noted this about Nancy Pelosi:

Women pioneers, after all, often must expend twice as much energy as men for half the credit. What *is* remarkable is that, having been deposed from the speakership almost five years ago, Pelosi still works as frenetically at the business of leading her caucus as she ever has. At the age of 75, she has given no sign of slowing down, or letting go.²⁶

The difference between these women who are true firsts, and who have actually shattered the glass ceiling for women to further advance in politics is that they do not have to add any

²⁴. "Sandra Day O'Connor." Home - Supreme Court of the United States, <www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/SandraDayOConnor.aspx> [Accessed December 30, 2017].

²⁵. U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of State, <history.state.gov/departmenthistory/people/albright-madeleine-korbel> [Accessed December 30, 2017].

²⁶. Pelosi, Nancy, and Amy Hill Hearth. *Know Your Power: a Message to America's Daughters*. Anchor Books, 2009; Kroll, Andy. "The Staying Power of Nancy Pelosi." *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 11 Sept. 2015, <www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/09/the-staying-power-of-nancy-pelosi/440022/> [Accessed September 18, 2017].

stipulations to their title, like Rodham does. They are simply the first female: Congresswoman, Supreme Court Justice, Secretary of State, and Speaker of the House.

As apparent in the evidence provided, Rankin was consistent in her views, bold in standing up for herself, and unafraid to take an unpopular position when it was something she genuinely believed; in contrast, Rodham was inconsistent in her policy positions by changing her stance to match whatever was most popular at the time. Hillary Rodham was not able to achieve the ultimate success that Jeannette Rankin was able to achieve almost exactly 100 years prior when she won a seat in the United States House of Representatives. Hillary Rodham was not able to become a true first and shatter one of the highest glass ceiling women in America face. In contrast to the likes of, Jeanette Rankin, Sandra Day O'Conner, Madeline Albright, and Nancy Pelosi who were women who truly broke the glass ceiling, Hillary Rodham Clinton did no such thing. Perhaps one day soon, America will come to see a woman obtain the coveted role of President of the United States. Perhaps she will combine the traits of all of the women who have been true firsts of their time. Maybe one day, America will see the highest, hardest glass ceiling finally shatter as a bold, consistent woman, unafraid of being different, becomes that first pioneer.

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