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The Oval Office is Ready for Madame President: Predictors and Support

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The Oval Office is Ready for Madame President: Predictors & Support

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Madame President

- This study analyzes the current obstacles that Madame President will have to overcome in order to be elected into the United States Oval Office.

Her Hurdles

- Many of the first women political candidates lacked the financial funding to be taken as serious competitors and missed the necessary education and experience to run for office.
- Fundamentalist Judeo-Christian values will influence voter opinions on issues like women's rights and the place of a woman in society.
- These strong religious background will facilitate the institutionalized gender stereotypes that sway American's feelings towards a woman's ability to successfully lead the nation.
- With the current war on terrorism the United States public has adopted an aggressive military foreign policy pushing the government to act quickly in regards to the extremist groups in the Middle East. This hyper-masculine attitude will blockade a woman from entering the position of leading the American military because gender stereotypes dictate that men are better suited in times of war.

Religion and Gender Stereotypes

Religious Influence in the Polls

- Women statistically are more likely to identify as Democrat and religious than men.
- Religion has proven to influence voters for legislature in family values like same sex marriage and abortion.
- Many gender stereotypes placed on women are rooted in the fundamental Christian traditions of the Protestant and Catholic faiths advocating for the dutiful wife and mother.
- The idea that woman is inferior to man would influence a traditional religious voter to strongly oppose a female president.
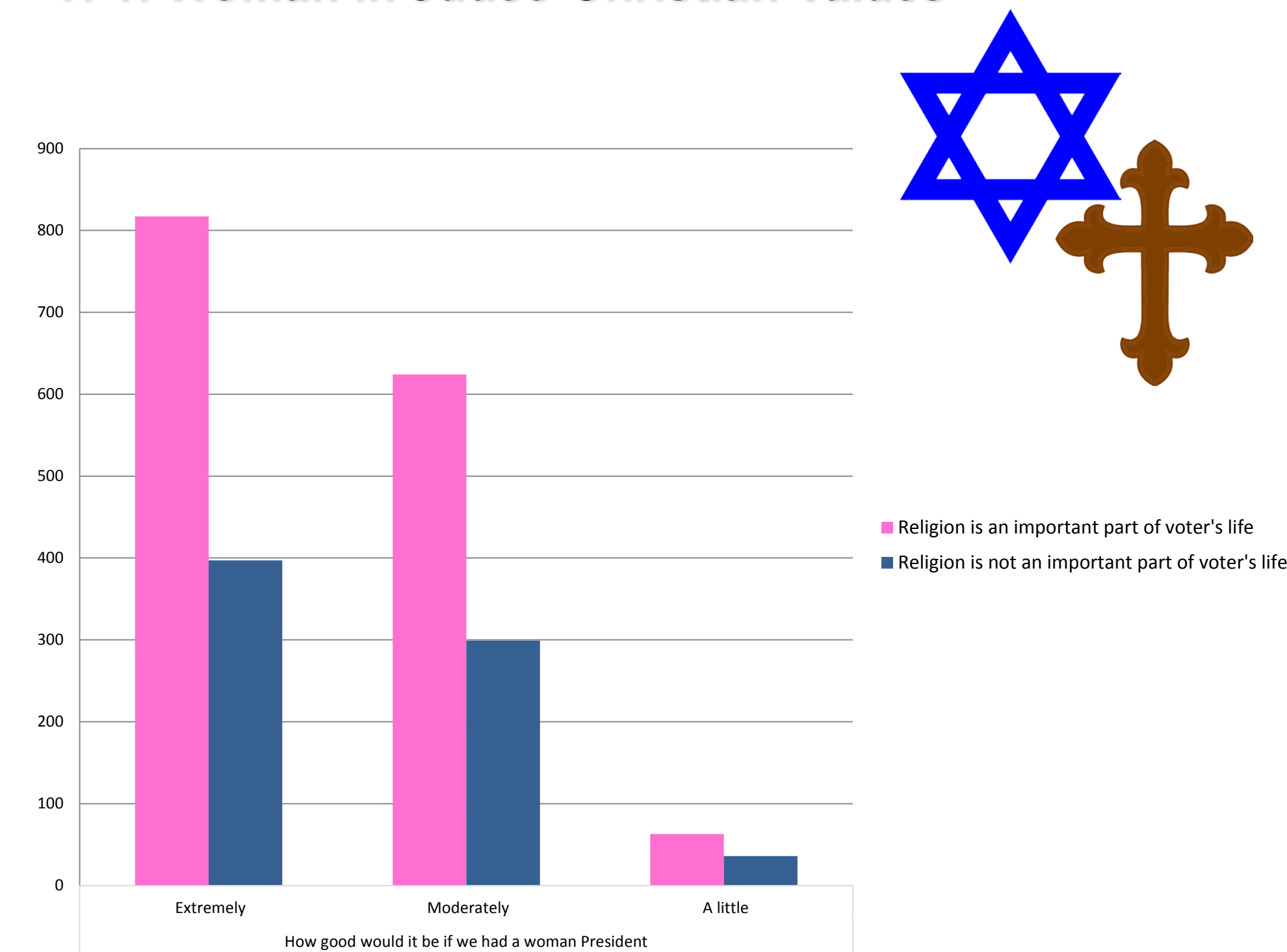
Gender Stereotypes

- Gender stereotypes take root in religious traditions that influence how voters perceive male and female political candidates.
  - Females are negatively characterized as emotional, gullible, and subordinate to others but they are also described as affectionate, honest and able to compromise.
    - Women's political issues are campaigned in education, health care, and children.
  - Males have been portrayed negatively as competitive, aggressive, and stubborn while also being presented as analytical, strong and self-sufficient.
    - Men are told to be better suited for military decisions, economics, and foreign policy.
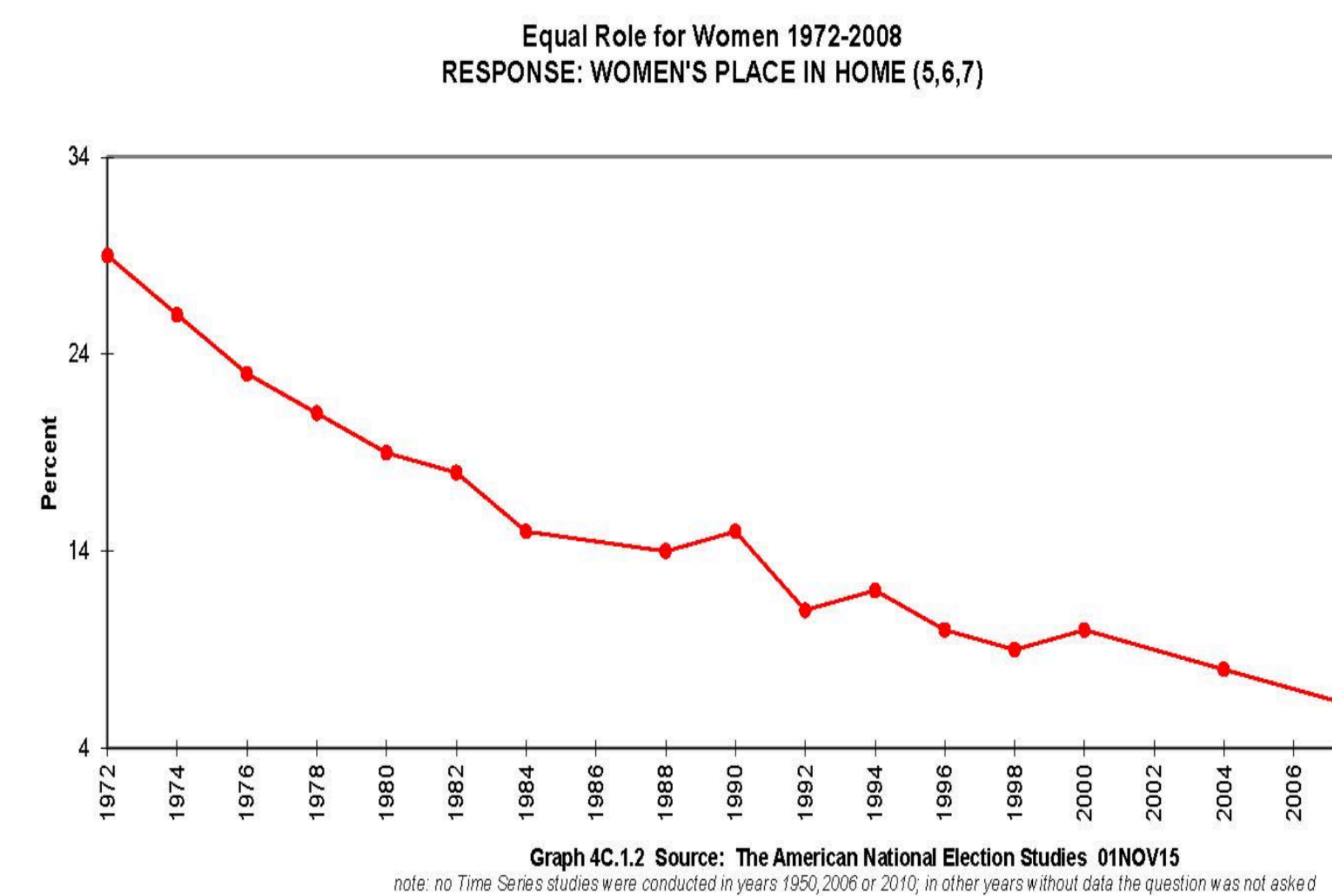
Hypotheses:

H 1: Americans that identify with strong Judeo-Christian religious beliefs will be less likely to vote for a woman president.

H 2: The higher valued the religious rooted gender stereotypes, the higher opposition towards a female president.

H 3: After the terrorist attacks of September 11th there is lower likelihood a woman president will be elected.

Data

H 1: Woman in Judeo-Christian Values

H 2: Woman as Political Leader

Equal Role for Women 1972-2008
RESPONSE: WOMEN'S PLACE IN HOME (5,6,7)

Graph 4C.1.2 Source: The American National Election Studies 01NOV15
note: no Time Series studies were conducted in years 1950, 2006 or 2010; in other years without data the question was not asked

H 3: Woman as Military Leader

Regression: Table 1

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients		Statistical Significance
		Std. Error	Beta	t	
1	(Constant)	.048		31.850	.000
	Is religion important part of R life	.027	.012	.537	.592
	Better if man works and woman takes care of home	.013	-.046	-2.131	.033
	Approve/disapprove of government efforts to reduce terrorism	.015	.026	1.218	.224

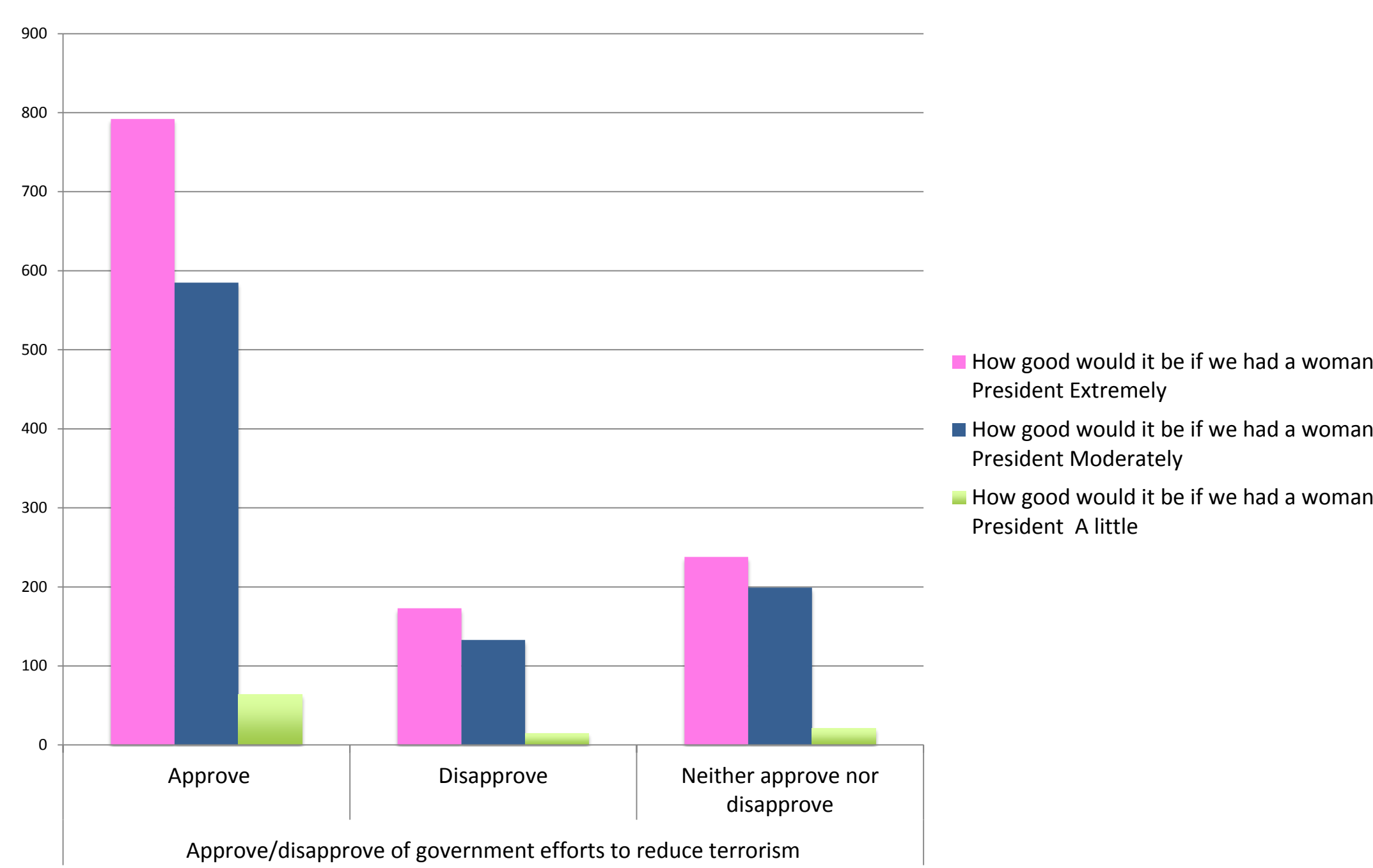a. Dependent Variable: POST: How good would it be if we had a woman President

Table Interpretation

- Table 1 Regression compares the three categories of obstacles for Madame president between level of religiosity, modern sexism for women as leaders, and the belief that in times of war men are better suited in commanding the military.
- The statistical significance explains which variable has the higher likelihood of proving how a voter feels towards a woman president.
- The belief that women should stay home is the most statistically significant leaning towards the traditional stereotypes.
- Religion is the least likely to explain how an American will vote for a woman president with a weak correlation.

Findings

H 1: Woman in Judeo-Christian Values

It is proven that religion does not have a direct correlation on voting for a woman president. An American's religious views may effect voting for controversial issues like euthanasia and global warming but faith no longer plays a direct role in gender biases at the election polls.

H 2: Woman as Political Leader

Over the last three decades the public opinion that a woman's place is in the home has diminished substantial. This drop in gender stereotypes has been working to break the glass ceiling for female political candidates allowing equal comparison to their male counterparts. But even with this drop there is a significant correlation between gender stereotypes and voting for a woman president.

H 3: Woman as Military Commanders

The belief that women are incapable of leading the American military has become obsolete. This could also be attributed to the decreasing popularity of the sexist stereotype of a traditional house wife. Women have been enlisting and serving overseas in the US military since World War I and now hold leadership roles eroding the idea that women cannot fight.

Conclusions

- The 2016 United States presidential election is providing real time examples that gender stereotypes in female candidates are diminishing with the upward climb of Hillary Clinton's Democratic nomination.
- Religion and gender stereotypes are steadily disappearing in American voters public opinion of politics.
- The disproving of the hypotheses' and consistent weak correlation and significance level explains that Madame President has fewer obstacles than predicted in her road to the presidency.
- There is no longer a question of if there will be a female president, the question is when will she take her place in the Oval Office.

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