

**Case Study Title:** Powerful Women Reshape Our World

**Article Information:** Please provide the information requested below for the four to five USA TODAY articles (from the printed newspaper) you've selected which were published between July 1, 2006 and March 1, 2007, focusing on a news topics relating to the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Study Topic, *Gold, Gods, and Glory: The Global Dynamics of Power*.

Article headline: How 'mamisma' can change politics;  
Gender doesn't have to work against female candidates. In fact, the right mix of femininity and strength might be just what the electorate ordered.  
Byline (reporter(s)' name(s): Harriet Rubin  
USA TODAY publication date: January 30, 2007  
Section (News, Money, Sports or Life): News  
USA TODAY page number: 11A

Article headline: Congress reopens under new management;  
Democrats assume control, begin pushing their priorities  
Byline (reporter(s)' name(s): Kathy Kiely and Fredreka Schouten  
USA TODAY publication date: January 5, 2007  
Section (News, Money, Sports or Life): News  
USA TODAY page number: 4A

Article headline: Pelosi leads a wave of women making  
political history; New House leader sees cracks in 'marble ceiling'  
Byline (reporter(s)' name(s): Kathy Kiely  
USA TODAY publication date: January 4, 2007  
Section (News, Money, Sports or Life): News  
USA TODAY page number: 6A

Article headline: Female leaders in Maine have forged many  
paths in politics  
Byline (reporter(s)' name(s): Kathy Kiely  
USA TODAY publication date: January 4, 2007  
Section (News, Money, Sports or Life): News  
USA TODAY page number: 6A

Article headline: Women, term limits, scandals shape races  
Byline (reporter(s)' name(s): Susan Page  
USA TODAY publication date: October 6, 2006  
Section (News, Money, Sports or Life): News  
USA TODAY page number: 10A

## Summary Statement:

Since the foundation of time, or as far back as records exist, there have been powerful female rulers. Egyptian Queens are believed to have governed from around 3000 BCE, the first being Ku-baba who ruled in the Mesopotamian City-State of Ur in ~2500 BCE. However, it was not until after World War I that the first few women became members of governments. The world's first female cabinet minister was Nina Bang, Danish Minister of Education 1924-26. Today, there are only two countries that have never had a female member of government; Monaco and Saudi Arabia.

As a result of these powerful female rulers, women today have an opportunity to bequeath their mark on history. In America, Nancy Pelosi made history as she took her oath on January 4, 2007, as our nation's first female speaker of the House. Senator Hillary Clinton has publicly announced her interest in the presidency. Meanwhile, in France, another powerful woman, presidential candidate Segolene Royal, is selling herself as mother protector of the nation. Indubitably, these women are sure to change the dynamics of leadership for future generations of women.

Many people still feel that women have no place in leadership and can't hold their own against powerful men. Yet in the world today, there are six women Prime Ministers in; Germany, Jamaica, New Zealand, Mozambique, South Korea, and The Netherlands Antilles. Of the monarchies, there are reigning Queens in Denmark, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom – the latter is represented by female Governor Generals in Canada and Saint Lucia, who function as their countries' de-facto Heads of State.

Women are no longer satisfied with being seen as the weaker sex. "Our first aim is simply to be seen, by women and by men," said Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, President of Iceland from 1980 to 1996. "We are a reality; we are ladies who have reached the heights. We want people around the world to know that it has been done." Vigdís agreed that men and women approach the task of leadership differently and said that the ideal would be to combine the two approaches. "I don't want women to run the world alone. But if men and women could run the world together things would be very different."

What do Chile, Liberia, and Germany have in common? They have all elected their first female leaders in the past year. Is it women's time to rule? In an article written by Nancy Bocskor entitled, "*The Changing Global Faces of Politics: Training tomorrow's female leaders*," she quotes Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, former Congresswoman, as saying, "When women lead, dynamics change -- silenced voices are heard, healthy babies are born, children read, economies grow, and families awake to new possibilities every day."

Leadership in its purest form is about uniting people around a common mission or objective. Female rulers, both past and present, have made it their life's work to unite their citizens and bring about positive transformation in their respective nations. The future looks bright for future female leaders!

Sponsored by USA TODAY and Phi Theta Kappa.

For questions or additional information e-mail [tria.cohen@ptk.org](mailto:tria.cohen@ptk.org) or call 601-984-3515.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, has recently been criticized for wearing spike heels and Armani suits; why do think this is happening?
  - a. Women who dress fashionably are not taken seriously.
  - b. Women leaders are expected to dress reminiscent of their male counterparts.
  - c. Women leaders are constantly under scrutiny by the public.
  - d. All of the above.
  
2. One of the most important decisions that Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton made about her bid for the presidency came late last year when she ended a debate in her camp over whether she should repudiate her 2002 vote authorizing military action in Iraq. In the end, she settled on language that was similar to Senator John Kerry's when he was the Democratic nominee in 2004: that if she had known in 2002 what she knows now about Iraqi weaponry, she would never have voted for the Senate resolution authorizing force. Yet, antiwar anger continued to fester and on the morning of February 17, 2007, Mrs. Clinton rolled out a new response to those demanding contrition: She said she "was willing to lose support from voters rather than make an apology she did not believe in."

If Senator Clinton loses votes due to her statement do you think it is because:

- a. Voters want her to lie about what she believes?
  - b. Voters feel she should stand by the decision she made in 2002?
  - c. Voters expect her to apologize for repudiating her 2002 vote authorizing military action in Iraq?
- 
3. As our nation's secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice articulates foreign policy for the world's only remaining superpower. She is admonished in many circles for her vision of American diplomacy and her handling of issues ranging from Iraq to the Palestinian elections to the rise of China, yet she is one of the most highly criticized female leaders on the planet—is it because:
    - a. Vindictiveness and destructive stereotypes exist about black women?
    - b. The Bush Administration's foreign policy is highly controversial and the subject of constant approbations and denunciations?
    - c. A Lack of education and experience?
    - d. None of the above.
- 
3. Would you vote for a female running for the office of The President of the United States if you felt she was qualified and capable?
    - a. Yes
    - b. No

If yes, which of the following females would you vote for in a Presidential election?

- a. Hillary Clinton
- b. Nancy Pelosi
- c. Condoleezza Rice

Sponsored by USA TODAY and Phi Theta Kappa.

For questions or additional information e-mail [tria.cohen@ptk.org](mailto:tria.cohen@ptk.org) or call 601-984-3515.

### **Future Implications:**

The political dynamics that are currently taking place in the United States today as candidates announce their intent to run for President has sparked interest in the possibility of a female U.S. President. While many people still feel that women have no place in such a high-level office, many others feel that the time has come for a female to hold the office of President.

As Hillary Clinton moves forward in her goal to become the first female U.S. President, many critics say that she would not make a good president. Is this because they believe that a woman would not make a good president or is it that they feel Hillary Clinton is not qualified for the position? Dick Cheney feels Hillary is a "formidable candidate" and could "win the race" but he does not feel she would make a good leader. When asked why he stated, "I don't agree with her philosophically and from a policy standpoint."

I, personally, hope to see a female president in my lifetime. I believe women leaders are strong, intelligent, and competent. I would support a female candidate for president if she was a proponent of the ideals that I value.

**Additional Resources:**

*Books:*

Millan, Betty Monstrous Regiment: Women Rulers in Men's Worlds  
Kensal Press, 1982

Jackson, Guida M. Women Rulers Throughout the Ages, An Illustrated Guide  
ABC-Clio Inc., 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, September 1, 1999

*Websites:*

Worldwide Guide to Women in Leadership

<http://www.guide2womenleaders.com/>

IRI, Campaigns & Elections, *The Changing Global Face of Politics: Training tomorrow's female leaders*, by Nancy Bocskor, January 2007

<http://www.iri.org/newsarchive/2007/2007-01-29-News-CampaignsAndElections.asp>

The Harvard University Gazette, *Women Who Lead*, by Ken Gewertz, September 25, 1997

<http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazatte/1997/09.25/WomenWhoLead.html>

Yahoo! News, *Cheney: Hillary Clinton would not be good president*, January 24, 2007

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070124/pl\\_afp/uspoliticscheney\\_070124224111](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070124/pl_afp/uspoliticscheney_070124224111)