Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez: Democratic Party's Latest Puppet

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (frequently referred to as AOC), the newly elected U.S. representative from New York's 14th congressional district, has been a sensational figure on the internet ever since her election. Her age, identity, modest political background, and her unlikely and unexpecting electoral success have made her the center of discussion and the rising new star in the Democratic party.

The dark secret that the left-leaning media would not tell you was that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was nowhere close to this independent-thinking and innovative politician she portrayed herself as but merely a puppet for her party. The Democratic Party has made good use of her identity as a female, Hispanic, and lower-middle class American as well as her unrealistic and provocative policies to attract the public's attention and advertise itself through the process.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has frequently been the center of controversy for her unrealistic policies ever since her election. Examples include cutting current emissions of greenhouse gas in half in the next twelve years, enforcing seventy percent marginal tax rate for income above ten million, and nationalizing the entire healthcare system in the United States.[1] Such policies have led to oppositions and criticism among experts and politicians in both parties. Even Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic speaker of the House of the Representatives, downplays the role of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in the party by saying there were only "like five people" on her side[2]. Although some people believe in the good intentions of these policies, they are nevertheless sources of controversies and sparked heated discussions in real life and the internet. In fact, most of the policies she promotes are not serious proposals—like the over-exaggerating headlines of gossip magazines, they quickly take over the media and spark more confrontation between the two sides. The viability of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez policy is never a concern for the leaders of the Democratic Party. All they want from her is the picture of an underrepresented, grassroots politician who seems to be fighting for the great, liberal causes of economic equality and environmental preservations. The Democratic Party has no consideration for the people Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez represents, nor does it care about her future political career. The Democrats will keep portraying AOC as a blooming star in the party, as long as she is able to keep tossing out controversial statements and proposals to catch the attention of the public.

The Democratic Party values Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for her unique cultural background and identity despite her obvious lack of experiences in politics. She is twenty-nine years old, she is Hispanic, and she worked as a bartender. It doesn't surprise me at all that many

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[1] Elaine Parker, "AOC's Policies Are An Indictment of American Economic Education," Townhall, March 08, 2019, accessed May 04, 2019,
https://townhall.com/columnists/elaineparker/2019/03/08/aocs-policies-are-an-indictment-of-american-economic-education-n2542776.

[2] Lukas Mikelionis, "Dozens of Dems Vote 95 Percent of Time with AOC despite Pelosi's Claim That Bloc Is 'like Five People'," Fox News, , accessed May 09, 2019,
https://www.foxnews.com/politics/dems-vote-ocasio-cortez-pelosi.

young people find her particularly appealing and approachable: they are tired of the "old-school" white politicians like Joseph Crowley, the long-time U.S. representative from New York's 14th congressional district, whom AOC won the Democratic nomination over, and turn their eyes to this dark-horse candidate, feeling connections to her identity as an ethnic minority or her experiences as a middle-class citizen.[3] These qualities make her a good public figure and an internet sensation, yet her obvious lack of political experience disqualifies her from being a professional Congress-member. We can see this lack of experience and professionalism among other freshman Democrats in the Congress: Ilhan Omar, the U.S. Representative for Minnesota's 5th congressional district who had been frequently under fire for her comments about Israel and her reference to 9/11 as "some people did something" on a CAIR(Council on American-Islamic Relations)-sponsored event; Rashida Tlaib, a fellow Democratic freshman in the Congress, also worded her support for Ilhan Omar.[4] Tlaib had previously spoken on the 2018 annual banquet of CAIR[5]. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), who hosted the event in which Omar made her speech, was a designated terrorist organization according to the United Arab Emirates.[6]

The rise to fame of Ocasio-Cortez, Omar, or Tlaib is no coincidence but a clear reflection of popular politics nowadays in the United States. It seems that the viability of a politician's policies, the originalities of his/her ideas, and his/her political experiences no longer matter to the younger generation as long as the person is able to spark controversies and catch the attention of the public.

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[3] "CROWLEY, Joseph," US House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, accessed May 04, 2019, https://history.house.gov/People/Detail/11748.

[4] Karen Zraick, "Ilhan Omar's Latest Remarks on Israel Draw Criticism," The New York Times, March 01, 2019, accessed May 04, 2019, https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/01/us/politics/ilhan-omar-israel.html.

[5] CAIR GLA, YouTube, December 26, 2018, , accessed May 14, 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRELFg-_vGo.

[6] Adam Taylor, "Why the U.A.E. Is Calling 2 American Groups Terrorists," The Washington Post, November 17, 2014, accessed May 04, 2019, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2014/11/17/why-the-u-a-e-is-calling-2-american-groups-terrorists/?utm_term=.e5abaee62947.