

# **The Relationship of the Grand Old Party to the Equal Rights Amendment and the Influence of Disinformation on Its Failed Ratification**

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## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis, titled "The Relationship of the Grand Old Party to the Equal Rights Amendment and the Influence of Disinformation on Its Failed Ratification," deals with the Equal Rights Amendment and opposition against the amendment. The thesis aims to answer the question of whether arguments against the opposition can be called disinformation. The thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter explores the definition of "disinformation." The second chapter introduces the Equal Rights Amendment and outlines its history. The third chapter focuses on Phyllis Schlafly and the opposition she formed against the amendment. The fourth chapter is the longest, examining the most common arguments against the amendment and assessing whether they can be classified as disinformation. The fifth and final chapter discusses the Republican Party and its changing opinion on the amendment. The aim of the thesis is to determine whether the arguments against the amendment can be considered disinformation and how they influenced the Republican Party's opinion on the amendment. After analyzing the party's stance on the amendment, I conclude that the Republican Party learned a lesson from the battle over the amendment about the potential for aligning with religious groups. This led to the Republican Party replacing the Democratic Party in the American South and gaining its usual voters.