

Abstract

This thesis examines the influence of the QAnon conspiracy theory on political events in the United States, focusing in particular on the January 6, 2021 attack on Capitol Hill and the 2022 election. QAnon has become one of the most widely used conspiracy theories in the contemporary USA. The main goal of this study is to explore how QAnon has moved from the fringes of the internet to become a significant political force.

The research is structured into three main parts: theoretical, methodological, and analytical. The theoretical part provides the historical context and development of QAnon and highlights its transition from an obscure movement to the mainstream. The thesis employs a case study method, using process tracing to examine the role of QAnon in the political events. The analytical section assesses how the narratives disseminated by the QAnon movement influenced people's behavior during the attack on the Capitol and how they affected the political campaigns and outcomes of the 2022 elections.

The findings suggest that QAnon conspiracy theory mobilized a significant number of people to take violent action and contributed to transforming political discourse. This paper contributes to the broader discourse on the role of digital culture and conspiracy theories in shaping contemporary politics and offers insights that may help mitigate the negative impacts of the spread of conspiracy theories in the future.