

Donald J. Trump and his Critics on the Right

Daniel S. Benveniste, PhD – August 1, 2020

We all know what the Democrats have to say about Donald Trump but perhaps their critiques are more than just partisan politics. What do the Republicans have to say? It is obvious to all of us that Trump is more corrupt, more racist, more of a liar, more selfish, more idiotic, and more disorganized than even his strongest opponents ever could have imagined. He's damaged the separation of powers, political discourse, statesmanship, US leadership, and decency in the White House. He's ruined our international reputation, eroded civil discourse, and took the shame out of being a white supremacist. And what do the Republicans have to say about it?

Steve Schmidt - Campaign director for John McCain – (June 23, 2020)

"Donald Trump has been the worst president this country has ever had." "When you listen to the President, these are the musings of an imbecile. An idiot" "We've never seen a level of incompetence, a level of ineptitude so staggering on a daily basis by anybody in the history of the country whose ever been charged with substantial responsibilities...And he's brought death, suffering, and economic collapse on truly an epic scale."

Mitt Romney (March 3, 2016)

Romney said candidate Trump's promises were "worthless", and described him as a "fraud", He said, "he's playing the American public for suckers."

Michael Steele – Former Chairman of the Republican National Committee (June 5, 2020)

"This reality television presidency is incompatible with democracy, it's incompatible with governing, it's incompatible with everyday people trying to realize the American dream."

President George W. Bush (Oct. 19, 2017)

"We have seen our discourse degraded by casual cruelty," "Bullying and prejudice in our public life sets a national tone, provides permission for cruelty and bigotry, and compromises the moral education of children," ... "The only way to pass along civic values is to first live up to them." "Our identity as a nation — unlike many other nations — is not determined by geography or ethnicity, by soil or blood. Being an American involves the embrace of high ideals and civic responsibility," "People of every race, religion, and ethnicity can be fully and equally American. It means that bigotry or white supremacy in any form is blasphemy against the American creed."

Ana Navarro (Jan 19, 2019)

"He is not a conservative. Do you think tariffs are conservative? Do you think having sex with a stripper is conservative values?" ... "Do you think cheating on the stripper with a Playboy bunny is conservative values? Do you think trade wars is conservative values? Do you think pulling out of Syria is conservative values? Give me a break!"

Rick Wilson - Republican strategist (May 9, 2020)

"Donald Trump is in the White House to serve himself... Donald Trump's reaction [to the corona virus pandemic] is the way a weak man reacts to a strong crisis."

John Kelly (June 5, 2020)

"The partisanship has gotten out of hand, the tribal thing has gotten out of hand, we don't look at each other as fellow Americans it seems anymore, we look at each other as opponents, we don't talk to each other anymore, we yell at each other,"

Rex Tillerson (Dec 7, 2018)

“Tillerson said Trump “is pretty undisciplined, doesn’t like to read, doesn’t read briefing reports, doesn’t like to get into the details of a lot of things, but rather just kind of says, ‘This is what I believe.’” “So often, the president would say, ‘Here’s what I want to do, and here’s how I want to do it,’ “and I would have to say to him, ‘Mr. President, I understand what you want to do, but you can’t do it that way. It violates the law.’”

Jim Mattis (June 5, 2020)

“Donald Trump is the first president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people—does not even pretend to try. Instead, he tries to divide us,”

Steven Calabresi, co-founder of the conservative Federalist Society (July 31, 2020)

"I am frankly appalled by the president's recent tweet seeking to postpone the November election. Until recently, I had taken as political hyperbole the Democrats' assertion that President Trump is a fascist." "But this latest tweet is fascistic and is itself grounds for the president's immediate impeachment again by the House of Representatives and his removal from office by the Senate,"

John Bolton (June 24, 2020)

“I don’t think he’s fit for office. I don’t think he has the competence to carry out the job. There really isn’t any guiding principle that I was able to discern other than what’s good for Donald Trump’s re-election.” “Trump said that Xi should go ahead with building the camps which Trump thought was exactly the right thing to do.” Trump asked Xi to help him win the election and “stressed the importance of farmers and increased Chinese purchases of soybeans and wheat in the electoral outcome.”

Collin Powell (June 7, 2020)

"We have a Constitution. And we have to follow that Constitution. And the President has drifted away from it," "He lies about things, and he gets away with it because people will not hold him accountable."

George Will (July 15, 2019)

"I believe that what this president has done to our culture, to our civic discourse ... you cannot unring these bells ... and you cannot change that he has now in a very short time made it seem normal for schoolboy taunts and obvious lies to be spun out in a constant stream. I think this will do more lasting damage than Richard Nixon's surreptitious burglaries did." ... "What Donald Trump's revolutionary effect has been [is] to make things acceptable that were unthinkable until recently," “The nation’s floundering government is now administered by a gangster regime,”

John McCain (Feb 19, 2017)

“In many respects, this administration is in disarray, and they’ve got a lot of work to do,” “The first thing that dictators do is shut down the press,” "No woman should ever be victimized by this kind of inappropriate behavior," ... "An American president does not lead the Free World by congratulating dictators on winning sham elections," ... "The damage inflicted by President Trump's naivete, egotism, false equivalence, and sympathy for autocrats is difficult to calculate,"

New organizations like *The Lincoln Project*, *Republican Voters Against Trump*, and *Bush Alumni for Biden* are now working hard to wake up their Republican friends and colleagues in a way that no Democrat can. And on July 27th 2020 *The Reagan Foundation* asked the Donald Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee joint fundraising committee to stop using President Ronald Reagan's likeness in fundraising appeals.

<daniel.benveniste@gmail.com>