

Academic Scholars: Probing the Donald: Has America gone mad? NO!



Last Saturday in the Scholars' programme, we took a brief break from the fascinating teacher-presentations, in which we usually enjoy to question "Has America Gone Mad? The Trump Phenomenon". After a brief presentation by Mrs Burnett on the basics of the campaign, in which she was certainly not complimentary about "The Donald" (but openly admitted her bias from the start), we split into four groups of mixed ages to try and answer or present a response to the question.

As a Trump supporter myself (possibly one of about four in Taunton School), I could not wait to get stuck in to this topic, particularly following the drama of the morning's revelation about Trump's comments about women in 2005. The morning news certainly did raise the question as to whether or not a political leader's personal morality and public service can be separated. In this case I argued that these historical comments, whilst disgusting, crude, and certainly not acceptable, are purely a distraction and I think we all know of times we have taken banter way too far and apologised accordingly.

The first group featured an initial platitude of "racist", "misogynist", and all other comments which seem to be fashionably used against anyone supporting Trump's radical vision, before Nick Brown and Callum Hudson suggested that Trump's rise may not actually be mad but may actually have

some positive impacts. The second group featured an interesting array of differing opinions, and the third group featured Pascal Jones' interesting and sliding argument that America has indeed gone mad.

It then arrived to my group to present and I was unleashed! To summarise, I argued as follows: the pathetic and absurd arguments that Trump is a 'modern-day Hitler' are some of the most ridiculous comments possibly ever uttered in human history, and the idea that because he wants to build a wall with Mexico makes him a racist is equally fanciful. The Trump Phenomenon has arguably been generated partly out of fear but also out of frustration; frustration with the political class Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton embodies.

I am a very open-minded, internationalist and compassionate conservative but the media's portrayal of Trump supporters is despicable in my view. When leaked emails revealed sexism, anti-Semitism, and racism at the Democrat National Committee, where was the thunderous moral grandstanding by the mainstream press? There is seemingly a double standard that is being applied here, and it is not racist to want effective border security through a physical barrier.

Of course I, like nearly all of the non-reactionary, more educated

Trump supporters, have reservations over Trump as Commander-in-Chief or his morality being at the leadership of the free world. It is not the offensive comments or braggadocios remarks by Trump that encourage me to support him, but rather it is his new and bold economic, social, and world security vision, powerful leadership, and renewed American strength in the world. It cannot be understated that sometimes he is just incredibly funny. The one thing Hillary offers is no change at all. The Republicans who are putting their individual jobs, donors, and egos ahead of their party are frankly disgraceful.

Barack Obama seems to be a wonderfully nice person, but has nevertheless been arguably one of the worst Presidents in American history; growth not above 3% in any quarter, more public debt accumulated than every former president combined, the disastrous Iran deal, the premature exit from Iraq, the shambles that is Obamacare, allowing a resurgent Russia, faltering over Libya, Syria and SIS, and frankly everything else. People cannot just blame the Republican-controlled Congress, even if it has not been the most helpful institution. That is why it is time for a Trump presidency and I still advocate now: if Donald J. Trump is elected President, America would certainly not have lost its mind.

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