

## Race, Law, and the Body Politic-Notes 3: The Threat to American Democracy: Overcoming the Trump Cult

Tonight, we discuss what is called in American democracy “Trumpism.” Does Trumpism exist? Is it a cult? Is this phenomenon a threat to American democracy?

Daniel Brown writes in his article, “Yes Trumpism is a Cult Mentality,

“The main tenet of cultism is that the individual surrenders their integrity and authority to the leader. Cult members allow themselves to believe anything the leader tells them, no matter how contradictory, amoral, deceitful, or irrational. They manifest cruel and insensitive behavior they would have previously considered unthinkable and sanction questionable acts in the belief that the ends justify the means.”

John Weaver, Dan Rather, and Anthony Scaramucci assert that Trumpism is a cult likened to the former Moonies and other known cults. Indeed, the testimony of many that participated in the insurrection on the Capitol stated that “this what Trump wanted us to do.”

Today Senator McConnell called the “looney lies and conspiracy theories” held by Trump supporters like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene a “cancer” to the Republican Party and the country.

How did we get to this point in American society?

- Fear
- Cynicism
- Loss of White supremacy as dominate cultural character

Adam Serwer of The Atlantic writes,

“THE MORAL CORE OF Trumpism is the ethnic and religious chauvinism that the president has espoused since his descent from the escalator at Trump Tower in 2015, when he announced that Mexico was sending “rapists” and “drug dealers” to America. As that campaign unfolded, Trump’s list of domestic enemies grew, as he vowed to ban Muslims from coming to the United States, and embraced police brutality against Black Americans. But what sustains

Trumpism is cynicism about the workings of government and the promises of democracy....”

If these sentiments are correct about Trumpism and the state of the country, what can be done to correct the matter? For instance:

- If Mr. Trump is impeached will it help or hurt America?
- Is the possibility for another insurrection likely, probable, or unlikely?
- Clearly conservative evangelical churches have been supportive of Trumpism. What can liberal and moderate churches do to overcome Trumpism?
- What is the role of America’s youth and are you encouraged by the new wave of activism?
- Is Marjorie Taylor Greene the new face of politics in America?

Suggested Reading

### **The four characteristics of Trumpism**

**BY DAVID EDWARD TABACHNICK, PH.D. — 01/05/16 03:00 PM EST**  
[/thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/presidential-campaign/264746-the-four-characteristics-of-trumpism](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/presidential-campaign/264746-the-four-characteristics-of-trumpism)

### **The Deep Story of Trumpism, Derek Thompson**

Thinking about the Republican Party like a political psychiatrist

[www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/12/deep-story-trumpism/617498/](http://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/12/deep-story-trumpism/617498/)