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## Twisted logic of “Never Trumpers”

By Steve Bakke  October 31, 2020



Thomas Friedman’s editorial in the Minneapolis StarTribune on 10-30-20 (“A plea to Trump voters: Don’t re-elect this man,”) is accurately summarized by that title. While acknowledging the legitimacy of supporting Trump based on his policies, Friedman nevertheless shows his elitist stripes by declaring “none of that resonates with me.”

He then states what I believe is the central theme of these pleadings: “our President is not just a policy robot. He’s also a role model.” With that statement Friedman put his finger on the essence of a very real dilemma faced by conservative voters, i.e. that Trump’s popular conservative policies often collide with his controversial style. But Friedman’s recommendation isn’t the solution sought by conservatives.

Friedman is perfectly comfortable asking us to disregard Trump’s accomplishments. I imagine that once he became comfortable personally doing so, he’s finding it easy to preach to the rest of us. But if Friedman’s goal is to revive the legitimacy of the former “Grand Old Party,” I find his logic significantly twisted.

Given that our President suffers from the human condition, i.e. significantly flawed, I’d turn Friedman’s twisted logic around on him by pointing out that “the President isn’t just a role model, his most important obligation is promising and delivering on conservative policies.” And he’s done that.

When faced with a difficult presidential election choice, the decision should be all about policy preferences. One should ask no more of a conservative than to decide on that basis. And conservatives should commit to deliver nothing less.