

 **TED CRUZ:  
HE'S FILLING A VOID!  
A VOID CREATED  
by the  
ESTABLISHMENT ITSELF!**

By Stephen L. Bakke  September 22, 2015



Getty Images

*Even if victory seemed difficult or impossible, that wouldn't excuse me or anyone else from doing the right thing. Avoiding difficult battles is how we ended up in this mess ..... all because Washington is willing to act only when there is guaranteed political gain.* – Senator Mike Lee (R-UT)

A couple days ago I “went out on a limb” and predicted who I believe will be the “final five” republican presidential hopefuls, whenever we get down to that number. To some peoples surprise, Ted Cruz was not on my “final five” list! I believe he did his job and performed an important function the last two years! But I don't believe he will establish wide support, and it's mainly because of his cutting edge contrarian agenda and style. He has amazing appeal to some, but that appeal isn't likely to become broad-based.

Also working against the Senator is an uncompromising ideological approach to issues, and the electorate falls short of Cruz in terms of this uncompromising style. Cruz's motivation is understandable and his role is purposeful. In an atmosphere of stilted “same-old,” the establishment created a void to be filled and he's filling it. In so doing he's forging a new and useful path for others to follow without constantly being reminded “that's NOT the way we do things.” He has forced the nation to pay attention to his point of view.

Cruz faces constant criticism for weakening the immediate power of the Republican Party and damaging the prospects of other candidates. That may be somewhat true, but I prefer to give him credit for choosing to stand alone, if necessary, to make Washington listen. He dreams big dreams and doesn't worry about making political enemies along the way. He has broken the silence of blind commitment to the status quo. He has tested the limits of what he can get away with.

Has Cruz put himself and his ideology before the republican agenda? Probably, and he wouldn't shrink from admitting there's been some of that. But he won't acknowledge that there's been anything self-serving about his efforts. However, he's human and therefore can't completely eliminate self-serving tendencies, but for the most part I believe he is sincere.

Senator Cruz has kicked and bullied a lot of superficial barriers out of the way. Using a sports analogy, he has opened a big hole in the defensive line. Others can now follow with less concern for tradition and unnecessary allegiances.

**Thanks Senator Cruz!**

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**P.S.**

**Here's another, very different, opinion** that surfaced while I was working on this brief commentary. I mentioned my thoughts on Cruz to my old mentor Stefano. He got back to me with an entirely different (and unconventional) analysis of the Senator's apparent inability to get broad-

based support from the electorate. He thinks they are put off by his looks. **I'm not buying this theory**, but I thought I would share it with you anyway. He wrote:

*Hey SB! Your ideas are interesting but not very creative or original. I recently was talking to a guy and mentioned Senator Cruz looked like (the infamous) Senator Joe McCarthy – something about the intensity of the eyes. I explained further that this intensity is perceived subliminally as a negative by many voters. Humans tend to stare like this when they are angry, trying to control others, or are trying to cover up their emotions. Rand Paul has a little of this look, too, which is off-putting despite whatever agreement one may have with the political message.*

*After a few moments this guy's eyes lit up and he said: "He also looks just like the mysterious, much-feared Russian mystic, Rasputin." So I looked it up.*



*There in front of me was the answer I was looking for! All three of these characters have the same brooding, "Svengali-like" intensity. That's the look people are uncomfortable with. That's why Senator Cruz won't be our next president. – Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB's primary "go to guy."*

**To which I must respond: "Who the heck is Svengali?"**