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EXPLAINING SUPPORT FOR TRUMP: UNACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES

By Steve Bakke  December 8, 2019



Democrats and never-Trumpers are totally mystified by the support Trump commands. They think it's cult-like and represents moral inferiority. They believe most Trump supporters have an element of evil in their souls. I've witnessed them worrying that Trump supporters live among us and hide in plain sight. "They look like normal people...walk among us with impunity...some of them are actually likable." That attitude mystifies me because there's a simple explanation. P

Be assured, Trump supporters aren't blind to the outrageous characteristics of our President. But they are devoted conservatives and, appropriately, refuse to permanently forsake their heartfelt policy preferences in exchange for stamping out a temporary outrageous leader who supports most of those important ideals.

If tempted by the "siren song" of progressivism, conservatives have trouble supporting electoral college removal, full-term abortions, foolish and naïve border control policies, unsustainable ideas for free higher-ed, and impossibly expensive Medicare-for-all. And then they see the "Green New Deal" with its goals to eliminate autos, virtually eliminate air travel, reject clean nuclear energy, and so much more.

These conservatives can't ignore the great economy, wages, low unemployment, job growth, stock market records, border control methods, pro-life policies, and the optimistic outlook of so many citizens.

It's foolish to overanalyze the motivation for Trump supporters to remain "true." Maybe there's a subliminal attraction to Trump's combative style, but the real explanation is more basic than that. They are resolute in their opposition to the democrat candidates and their policy priorities. It's all about unacceptable alternatives.