

“A closed country is a dying country.”
Edna Ferber

The Escalation of Trump Stormfront and the 2016 Election

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“Morality is not to be measured by a moral yardstick: for there is no absolute morality. So take your yardstick somewhere else and watch out.”
Friedrich Nietzsche

The Problem

Since David Duke ran for public office and was elected to the Louisiana state legislature in 1989, leaders of the far political right have been trying to gain a foothold in mainstream electoral politics. In a campaign tinged with populist rhetoric, Donald Trump emerged victorious in the 2016 election. What does this mean for the American white nationalist movement?

The Dispossessed Majority

White nationalists perceive that their collective racial identity is threatened by unfair social relationships that block them from achieving desirable societal goals. They fear multiculturalism and what they term a seismic demographic shift away from a traditionally white America. According to Lowndes (2016), a conservative brand of race and ethnic populism has been part of the Republican political identity since 1968. He warns that the Democratic Party has also failed to address the plight of middle and working class whites who continue to experience downward mobility and stagnant wages.

Source:
Lowndes, Joseph. (2016). White Populism and the Transformation of the Silent Majority. *The Forum*, 14(1): 25-37.



<http://donaldjtrump.com>

Race and Politics American Style

White nationalists believe that social policy benefits minorities and people of color. The back to back elections of President Obama increased their discomfort with changes in American society. Lowndes (2016) argues that the role of white racial identity in Tea Party politics was partially responsible for a shift of populist anger toward the state along with support of a prison industrial complex and dismantling of the welfare system in the United States. While denying the race card, Tea Party leaders such as Sarah Palin struck a unifying chord with white nationalists by her references to the real America. The imagery she used both visually and in speeches included small racially homogenous towns, apple pie, and guns.

According to Bonilla-Silva (2014), the election of a black president may have been more of a curse than a blessing for minority Americans in the future. His assessment of Senators Marco Rubio of Florida and Tim Scott of South Carolina is that they are anti-minority minorities themselves. He supports his claims by pointing out both men support gerrymandering and other regulations that hurt progressive Democratic candidates.

Source:
Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. (2014). *Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.



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Methodology

Data for this study was collected from Stormfront, an online community of people who self-identify as white nationalists. The site is supported by voluntary monetary contributions from its users and has been online since 1995. As of December 2016, there were more than 300,000 documented members and 12,206,400 individual posts.

The Politics & Continuing Crisis sub-forum was the source for discussions from six threads and one non-scientific poll.

Source:
www.stormfront.org



Findings

Although some Stormfront members supported Trump's candidacy and election, there was not a consensus from a majority of bloggers during his campaign and subsequent election. There was also some surprise among members the day after the election. As with mainstream voters, many thought Hillary would win.

The most troubling issue for white nationalists is Trump's Jewish connections – especially his daughter Ivanka. One point of agreement on Stormfront is that Jews are bad and anyone with ties to Israel is not to be trusted.

The overriding belief among white nationalists is that the Founding Fathers created the Naturalization Act of 1790 to secure liberty for themselves and their descendants, not for immigrants from less desirable countries such as Mexico and China.

Quotes from Stormfront

“Trump's act is pretty transparent and he was able to conjure support from both mainstream and white nationalist voters. Most Americans are low information voters anyway and that is how Trump was able to win the election.”

“With Trump's victory, you are all celebrating the complete and total consolidation of power by Ashkenazi Jews in the Unites [sic] States of America.”