

# *Trumpism: Why Traditional Republicans Should Withdraw Support [2017-2021: A Primer]*

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**2023 INTERNATIONAL BOOK AWARDS FINALIST.**

**Do you oppose former President Donald Trump but get tongue-tied when trying to explain your disapproval? Here’s a concise seven-point roadmap, documented examples from his first term, laying out the unfitness for office — no matter what possible “good” he may have done.**

This slim volume is a smart, succinct compilation of the dysfunction and disruption most people were too busy to keep up with because they had a life. The gravity of the depravity got by them. Let’s face it: Many of us were fooled. Donald takes full advantage of that famous saying: Before the truth can get its Ivanka Brand Women’s Lory3 Ankle Booties zipped up, the lie is halfway around the world.

This book — entertaining, well researched, and referenced — is a compelling summary of the most jarring presidential administration in U.S. history. It distills the chronic reprobate behavior forgotten by the masses, that had made headlines, was widely decried over a news cycle or two, then had disappeared into the sea of Trumpian turpitude. No regular person could keep track of it all — which was the point, the plan.■

## No Getting Around It

Withdrawing support for Trumpism simply means you value American representative democracy, though imperfect, over encroaching autocracy. You value integrity and faculty, though fallible, over corruption, incompetence, and amorality. You value honesty, though never absolute, over inveterate mendacity.



You believe that truth is a thing.

If you were a Trump supporter but at some point — no matter how late — became enlightened and withdrew your support, I admire and respect you. I've written about the importance of dispassionate logic and reasoning. It is those taken in early that have shown the most courage and strength of corrective reason in overcoming the titanic barrage of disinformation. You, apparently, *can* handle the truth. Are we *clear*? Crystal.

If you're under age 30 and still support Donald's vision, I offer you a hall pass. It's difficult to break free of phony populist or dogmatic evangelical leverage exerted by parents who never learned to think critically. Which explains my ever-present push for a required K-12 critical thinking curriculum and more humanities studies in secondary education.

But here's the thing, and there's no getting around this. If you're over 30, well past adolescence, and still support Trumpism — in spite of the deadly, inhumane, anti-democracy pollution with which it has befouled the waters flowing beneath your MAGA bridge — you are one of two things: 1) willfully disinformed; or 2) selfishly amoral.

Not amoral, you protest? I've laid out in factual detail a weekly, seemingly endless series of reasons for withdrawing support for Trump and Trumpism. I've given you the researched, documented truths and citations with meticulous attribution to confirm these facts for yourself. I have mixed in quirky references to classic movie quotes and *SNL* jokes to make the medicine go down easier. I've clarified why no amount of support for pro-life, anti-gay-marriage judges or the mythical MAGA "economy" can justify massive needless post-born pandemic death, child torture, and the violent, methodical dismantling of American democracy.

You no longer can be disinformed. Unless it's willfully. Which I believe is amoral. ■



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## About the Author

Tom Ersin has been a full-time professional writer and editor since 2010 and holds degrees in communications and counseling. Ersin is a Macomb County, Michigan, long-time political observer and editor of current affairs magazine *GraniteWord.com*. He's written a half-dozen nonfiction books on 21st century U.S. politics. His turn-ons are running his (good) dog, Bob Barker, and railing about the lack of critical thinking and civics studies in primary and secondary education. ■

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Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Book:** *Trumpism: Why Traditional Republicans Should Withdraw Support [2017-2021: A Primer]* (2022, 107 pages, \$9)

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**Troy, MI, December 15, 2022** — GraniteWord.com has announced the release of *Trumpism: Why Traditional Republicans Should Withdraw Support [2017-2021: A Primer]* by Tom Ersin.

This slim volume is Ersin's introduction to his history of the Trump presidency. The complete book collection comprises 160-plus consecutive weekly roundup articles spanning 1,400-plus pages charting Donald's administration from the perspective of an avid (compulsive?) political news consumer. Readers can think of it as an in-depth every-Thursdays recap of all the news they were too busy to consume because they had a life and didn't realize the gravity of the dysfunction and corruption. *Trumpism: Why Traditional Republicans Should Withdraw Support* comprises a sometimes humorous but serious summary account of Mr. Trump's time in the Oval Office, interspersed with quotes, headlines, and commentary. It's all here. When you see Mr. Ersin's opinion you'll know it. Much more often, when you see facts, quotations, and details, their accuracy has been backed up by careful research and citation.

The first historical volume [2017-2019] covers the first half of Donald Trump's presidency, featuring the Mueller investigation, Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Maria, North Korea threat, Asia tour, Helsinki Trump-Putin summit, Brett Kavanaugh Supreme Court nominee hearings, and 2018 midterm elections.

The second historical volume [2019-2021] covers the second half of President Trump's administration, featuring the Mueller report, Sharpie-gate, Impeachment No. 1 (extortion of Ukraine), COVID-19 pandemic, Black Lives Matter movement, 2020 presidential election, Insurrection of January 6, and Impeachment No. 2 (Incitement of Insurrection).

*Trumpism: Why Traditional Republicans Should Withdraw Support* and excerpts are available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For review copies, interview requests, or more information, contact Tom Ersin at tom@graniteword.com. (2022, [GraniteWord.com](https://www.GraniteWord.com), \$9)

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## Excerpt

# Prologue: Willingness to Lie and Shock With Abandon

“The system held but just barely.”

(Lemire, Jonathan, White House correspondent; *The Associated Press*;  
6/28/2021.)

In the last months of the 2016 presidential campaign, my wife and partner, Norma, canvassed for the Democratic Party. She always has paid attention to current events, but what motivated her to *volunteer* this election cycle — as it did many women and other humans — was the threat of a Donald Trump administration.

Throughout late September, October, and early November she reported to Macomb County Democratic headquarters each weekend in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, was assigned a walking partner and a map, and hit the streets talking to residents for three hours each Saturday and Sunday.

The highlight of her tenure was a drop-in to fire up staff by legendary U.S. Rep. Sander Levin (D) of Michigan’s 9<sup>th</sup> District in Greater Detroit. She and Sander reminisced about my late dad and cousin working with him on past local party business. Gracing our mantel is a photo of the congressman and Norma commemorating Rep. Levin’s fall 2016 visit.

On Election Day, Nov. 8, all Dem foot soldiers did extra duty, one final push to put Hillary over the top. They knocked on doors from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At the end of that long shift they retreated to their command center for the last time, cautiously confident.

Upon returning they were greeted with an announcement: Campaign bigwigs were reporting ominous internal exit-polling numbers for the Great Lakes State and they needed all hands for a late surge. Norma and the rest of her crew went back to the streets for another two hours.

The rest is histrionics.

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Watergate. The Civil War. These are milestones in history, when American democracy was threatened and stress-tested like few other times in the past 234 years. Until the Trump presidency.

A perfect Stormy of electoral anomalies put Donald J. Trump in the White House Jan. 20, 2017. His supporters will argue against these points until the (pro-Trump shibboleth) “Make America Great Again” cows come home, but it’s clear — crystal — in my mind. The storm’s components? 1) Proved Russian pro-Donald election interference solicited, welcomed, and used by the Trump campaign; 2) FBI Director James Comey’s misguided reopening (then reclosing) of the Hillary Clinton email investigation 11 days before Election Day; 3) a now-

exposed last-minute illegal hush-money payment to adult-film actor Stormy Daniels to keep her extramarital affair with Donald out of the grocery-store-check-out periodicals (which in the wake of the *Access Hollywood* hot-mic recording release surely would have sunk the campaign), and 4) Donald's willingness to lie and shock with abandon.

The capacity to possess literally zero integrity is a highly effective weapon, inherently immensely difficult to counter. And I don't use the word *literally* lightly — or incorrectly.

Donald exploited this weapon, zero integrity, in an attempt to inoculate himself from election loss, which culminated in an insurrection incited by the "big lie": that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him through (nonexistent) "deep state" voting fraud. Remember that he began this inoculation process during the 2016 campaign, regularly pronouncing that the only way he could lose would be through voter fraud. Though he won the Electoral College, he still engaged the lie to assuage his ego over losing the 2016 popular vote by nearly 3 million. He reprised the only-way-I-could-lose-is-fraud fable in the lead-up to his 2020 race, thus setting the stage to try to retain power illegally after his loss to Joe Biden.

## Willingness to Lie and Shock With Abandon

Also because of that last component, *willingness to lie and shock with abandon*, candidate and President Trump was able to keep his corruption, incompetence, and amorality hidden from his supporters and the apathetic middle, or at least keep those failings consistently disguised and foggy.

He did this in spite of — *and* because of — the media's enormous gift to him of free air time: by many expert estimates, several billion dollars in no-cost advertising throughout the 2016 campaign. Nearly all news and quasi-news outlets from the left, right, and middle were guilty. They simply could not take their cameras and microphones off the Trumpian train wreck in progress. And when there was the slightest lull, Donald would steer the day's news cycle that morning with a new tweet-outrage: a slur, epithet, or conspiracy theory.

So Mr. Trump's goal — doubt — is achieved. As journalist McKay Coppins discussed in his Feb. 10, 2020, article in *The Atlantic*, "The Billion-Dollar Disinformation Campaign to Reelect the President," autocratic fabulists such as Donald Trump don't need to crush their critics anymore. They've learned to flood the national consciousness with conspiracy theory and other mendacity to drown out truth-tellers and create doubt: "Scholars call it censorship through noise."

And Donald takes full advantage of the reality in that famous saying: Before the truth can get its Ivanka Brand Women's Lory3 Ankle Booties zipped up, the lie is halfway around the world.

Multiply that by a swarm of Trump lies circling the globe.

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