



## Kamala Criticized

[00:00:00] **Dr Bradley Onishi:** Welcome to straight white American Jesus. My name is Brad Onishi, associate professor religious studies, Skidmore college, and I'm here with my co-host today.

**Dr Dan Miller:** I'm Dan Miller. I'm an associate professor of religion and social thought of Landmark college. And Brad is good to see you. In the 2020 bingo. Right? Like wildfires in California are something that everybody could have planned on.

But, I think like end of the world, apocalyptic, lightning strikes and things like that or not. And, Clearly affecting you so much that you don't remember where you teach at this point?

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** I think that's, I think that's right. Yeah. yeah. those, you don't know, there were, we had a blazing heat wave in California over the last week.

That led to a very unusual lightening storm that took place over the course of the weekend. and I've lived all over the country. I know that other regions like [00:01:00] to make fun of you know, places that struggle with things that seem innocuous. So like when I lived it, you know, when I live in upstate New York and Atlanta gets one inch of snow and it tears up the city, everyone's like, Oh, look at that.

So I know you might, what you might be thinking, like, what do you mean lightening? But we do not have lightning storms here in this part of the country. During the summer. It's just very rare. If you add to that, the global warming affects. Anyway, I could talk about this forever. I'm not going to all what I'm trying to say here.

Dan is, as I speak about 10 miles, 15 miles East, to me, that is 200,000 acres at this point. we've been sort of, on evacuation alert. for the last three days we packed bag, it's all sitting in front of the door or so anyway, it's been a pretty, difficult week over here. If you can folks, think of, or, or if you're praying type pray for California, it's, it's just not a good time.

So, silver lining of all that. Dan is, I'm here with you today and we get to talk about all of these, story. I mean, there's a lot, [00:02:00] I feel like we say that every week, it's cliché at this point, but it's just absolutely true. So I'm going to start though with our old friend, Jerry Falwell, Jr. We thought we were done with Falwell's Follies.

But we are not friends. Some of you may have seen it. Maybe you have not. If you didn't see it yet, I will warn you. It is not something you can unsee, but, yesterday a video emerged of

Jerry Falwell Jr. In the gym doing a, an exercise that is meant to strengthen your glutes, where you put a barbell over your midsection and thrust upward.

You might've seen people do this in the gym or something. But Jerry Falwell was doing this with two women standing on either side of the bar. And, it just did not, you know, Dan, there's a lot of jokes that can make it, did not. It looked like there was much room for the Holy spirit, except Jesus into your heart.

And you too can turn women into weights. I don't know. I mean, what do you think down? I mean, we could do a whole 50 minutes on, maybe he's trying. He's no longer president of Liberty, he wants to be on the power team. Like maybe he'll be ripping phone books apart soon and [00:03:00] telling us about how God gave him the power.

I don't know. What do you think?

**Dr Dan Miller:** Doing all to the glory of God, right? Yeah. It's funny. You mentioned that I was thinking of the power team for those who don't know or didn't grow up in the evangelical subculture at the time we did, there was this, I don't know if it's as prevalent evangelicalism as it was, but there was this time where like, no matter what you did or were good at, if you could say that you were doing it as a Christian, you could like make a ministry out of it.

And the power team were these really, really big guys. Who would you like feats of strength? I throwing around weights and tearing up phone books of their teeth or their hands, or like, you know, whatever. So yeah, that Liberty thing didn't work out. So maybe, maybe the power team, it is, that that's Falwell's next move.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Yeah. He might maybe he's training so that that's, all the best for him with that endeavor. let's jump in. We gotta talk about a lot. We gotta have the Dem convention. We gotta talk about numerous fronts of corruption related to Bannon and Senate Intel. We've got to talk about Q Anon. We've got to talk about, Kamala Harris.

Anyway, there's a lot to get to, let's start with this. Dan, Dem [00:04:00] wrapped up last night. Biden gave what I think is, is being touted as a pretty good speech. I know you'll get into that here in a sec. I want to start with this though, with religion, Fox news earlier this week, put up an info graphic that said, and I'm looking at it, right?

Yeah. Now Biden is pretending to be faith and family candidate. Okay, so that's fun. and if you were an alien and you saw that you would think that doesn't make any sense. Biden has been a Catholic ever since he's been public office, he's been a Catholic his whole life, and he's clearly a family person like.

We've all seen and empathize with him as like he's talked about his son dying, about his wife dying his first wife dying when he was young. I mean, the idea that he's not a family man is so strange. The idea that he's not a faith, person of faith is so strange. And yet after the Dem convention, Franklin Graham decided he needed to wake up today and talk about how here's, what he said.

it has been interesting to see the absence [00:05:00] of God at the Dem convention. I don't believe America's finest hours will be in front of us if we take God out of government and public life. So Dan I'll, I'll throw this to you in a second. I just want to open this as a scholar, religion who watched the Dem convention and last night was like religion night at the democratic convention. Okay. Chris Coons, Senator of Delaware, gave a, a whole thing about how Biden's this faith is at the forefront of who he is as a human being period. There were three prayers to start the convention. Right? A couple of days ago, one by a Jewish leader, one by Muslim leader, one by a Christian leader.

Okay. Corey Booker Senator from New Jersey, all about his faith. Kamala Harris talked about a beloved community. We saw a montage of John Lewis talking about the beloved community. The idea that there was no religion at this convention it's ludicrous. I'm sorry. It's just, I don't buy it. Franklin Grant just took something out of the drawer from like 1998 and just decided to recycle it.

Cause he was [00:06:00] tired and he thought, Oh, this always works. I'll just call the Dems godless and move on. I got more to say, but anyway, off to you.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Well, I was just going to say that, that line it's like, it's like 2004 or election talking points, right? This is like, for those who don't remember, right. You had the Bush Gore election was really, really close in 2000.

And then by 2004, that was the real life value voters, family values, election, and all of that. And it is, it's like straight talking points from that. And. The whole reason you and I got in this game that we're playing right now was that so many of those people who we thought were values voters and valued the family and Christianity and all that stuff.

And voted for Trump with all of his morality and his, sleeping around and bragging about sexual assault and demeaning women all the time. And talking with shock jocks about having sex with his daughter and just awful things like this. And yeah, so it's, it's weird. And I don't know that anybody.

Anybody who was going to be swayed either way is going to be affected by Graham's [00:07:00] tweet. Listen to this thing that one of the questions I have though, I want to watch. If, especially a Trump, if Trump loses this election, but certainly as time goes on, is the damage that I'm predicting will have been done to the Evangelical brand.

I just don't think that many people are going to listen to that anymore. with that, you know, we're, we're the, the group, the religious group, the values families. We the GOP, the religious, right. We're the ones who, who, value families and God and so forth. So yeah, it was, it was really strange. It was, as you say, it was like he, dusted off something from like, you know, that he was going to use against John Kerry or Al Gore, and brought it out as if the last four plus years haven't happened.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Chris Coons, you know, Senator Coons started his, his little, video speech and montage by saying. Joe Biden is a person of faith who doesn't, just, or not just, but who does not use religion or the Bible as a prop is a direct reference to Trump's spectacle of a photo [00:08:00] of you know, in front of the church at St. John's church across from the

white house. So that's number one. I mean, I'll just go into others here, right? Like Michelle Obama talked all about Joe Biden's faith. Okay. Religion was everywhere. And to say that it wasn't is, is really just one of these ongoing tropes you've talked about. Dan conservatives have won the branding more when it comes to religion, you can say.

Somehow that Joe Biden is not a faith and family only candidate. And just think you're going to like get away with that. Well, it's because over the last 40 years, really, since Reagan conservatives have dominated the war, the faith and family party, and I agree with you, it's just really hard to say to a 20 year old or a 25 year old living through this time.

Like, Oh yeah. Let me tell you why. We're the faith and family, us who elected a man, who, you know, had sex with, another person who he paid while his wife was recovering from, you know, giving birth to his, [00:09:00] his son. It's just really hard to explain that to somebody. It's really hard to explain to someone that if you turn on the dem convention and they can't shut up about religion, they're talking about justice and equality, the beloved community.

And yet, no, there's no religion there. They're just faking it. All people are just faking it. I mean, I, then I haven't even met should Mayor Pete, you know, Mayor Pete's up there talking about how his wedding. And marriage is about love. It's it's ordained by God. It's it's constituted by God, but it was made possible by changes in the law over the last decade.

He also talked about how he was allowed to serve in the military. As a gay man, because of changes in the law. So, you know, Mayor Pete, whether you love him or not, he's out there talking about religion more, perhaps more than anyone. I haven't even talked about Elizabeth Warren, anyone else? So, anyway, this is getting old, other thoughts though, Dan?

From the, from the convention, do you want to talk about Biden or, or heroin? Obama's yeah, go ahead.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Just one more. What about the, the religion side on the flip side of this? It was so pronounced, The Jill Filipovic from CNN [00:10:00] had a, really, what I think was maybe a good insight. And, you know, they were just pulling or sort of getting feedback from different analysts about what they thought about the convention.

And she said that it struck her is really, really Christian. And she made the point just, just on the flip side of this, right? You've got Graham saying, God, isn't there. You have others who are a little bit concerned who were like, look, this is a really diverse group of people. One things we could talk about more with the convention was the effort that is obvious to try to bring together these really kind of disparate constituencies, that that can, yeah. Under the democratic party umbrella tent from time to time and certainly in an anti-Trump mood. But that's yeah, includes lots of people have no religious faith, lots of people with diverse religious faiths, and her concern.

And I think there's some validity to it was that it was, it was not just discussions about faith, but it was, it was really, really Christian. Yeah. Yes. There were some other things represented. And I thought in our last cast about, commonly Harris's complex, personal religious identity, but yeah that's another point of this it's worth looking at is sort of who

were they aiming at? Who were [00:11:00] they not aiming at? You know, what was going on, but it was, it was just, it's a counterpoint to Graham, that, that quote on quote, faith was so much on display, but there were some who were a little uncomfortable with it, or at least with the direction that it took.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** I agree. And I think that's, I think it is valid. It's really tough. You know, this is something that people, When it comes to religion or really anything in the democratic party or on the, on the left side of the political spectrum, there's always this balancing act. We talk about this all the time Dan, like there's no black or white binary thinking.

And so there's always this sort of need, which don't get me wrong. I think as a feature to include diverse voices. And that means diverse people with diverse faiths, people from various ethnic and racial perspectives and backgrounds and identities, sexual identities, gender identities, right? All of these things are under the big tent of the democratic party. And so yes, religion was everywhere. As soon as I give that full throated, like Franklin Graham, you're an idiot. I'm sorry, what were you watching? I have to say yes, we did not really [00:12:00] see Ilhan Omar, right? Or Rashida Tlaib or other non-Christian, democratic leaders who are people of faith and whose faith is part of their identity.

Now we can go on and on about this and I'll just say to kind of wrap it up. My theory is I think the Biden campaign really sees some opportunity with white Catholics, white Evangelicals, maybe. And, and I'll throw that to you. What you think about the white Evangelicals? But the numbers from PRRI the numbers from, people like publican, religion and public show that there's, there's probably some squishy room there for the white Catholic, who is willing to get on board with Biden.

Who, as we've pointed out, Dan says, personally, he's not really on board of the abortion, even though he recognizes it as, something that is, a woman's right in the American landscape. So I think there's room here to peel off of a bunch of white Catholic voters. And my guess is that is what led to this very Christian kind of a feeling.

What do you think about that? And what do you think about white E [00:13:00] vangelicals being included in there?

**Dr Dan Miller:** You're right about the white Christians and maybe there may be some disaffected white Evangelicals. We're starting to see it. I think it's part of that same suburban crowd that people are trying to fight over right now.

I'll tell you, and this shifts a little bit more like general impressions about the convention. One thing I was glad that I didn't see is I don't think I saw them. Saying, you know, there's a, there's a big swath of Trump voters out there that we can win over. Right. But most white Evangelicals are not going to vote for Biden.

I th I think, I don't know if I affirmed data for this, but I think that most white Evangelicals who aren't comfortable with Trump. May sit things out. I'm not positive. They're going to run out and vote for Biden. You know, but maybe there are a few, but I mean, I think it is much more enamored with that Catholic vote as you're talking about and that's been a constituency, obviously that, that resonates with Democrats for a long time. And with whom

Biden has, has a lot of history. I think it is Biden. this was, this brings us in like a general thing. One of the standard kinds of procedures that you see in the conventions. You [00:14:00] used to be both Republican and Democrat, I think lately it's more democratic.

Yeah, because you have all these people who are kind of the surrogates or the nominee, or the, the would be nominee who are the kind of attack dogs. Right. so they come out swinging, Kamala Harris comes out and gives a really great, like, you know, prosecutorial kind of presentation. The Obama's were great, you know, other people just come out swinging and they're very pugilistic and very that the attack.

Well, Biden, I think was very aggressive, more aggressive than I think I typically think of Biden as being, but still trying to show that if I'm president, I'm going to be everybody's president and, you know, you had that, those themes of light and darkness and whatever, but still everybody's president.

But I think that he wasn't swinging too far that direction of, you know, there's, there's this hidden SWAT of Trump voters we're going to win over. And I still think white evangelicals are mostly bad. I was pleased to see that they didn't go so far in that direction that, you know, I think that they were trying to win them over.

But, so I think you're right. I think it's the Catholic [00:15:00] group. And I think it is Biden trying to be a sort of broad tent candidate and recognizing that the role of those other people, especially the VP candidate is sometimes to go out and play that attack role. and to appeal to some constituencies that he can't.

Well, I think he knows that his strength is going to be, to try to have a broader constituency that can maybe, carve off enough of those votes in places like Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and Florida and other places that could, that could really cost Trump the election.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** It seems like Biden's biggest strength here is, normalcy and decency, right?

Like. Look, I'm just a return to decency. Like you can look at me whether you love me, the policies, whether you're a Republican, whether you're whatever, as just. One of those guys who's been around for a long time. I'm a family man. I'm a man of faith. I'm a, here's everybody talking about my Catholicism. Here's all the stories of people I've reached out to.

You know, [00:16:00] here's Brayden the 13 year old kid who struggles with his stuttering and he is somebody I've worked with and, and, and, and formed a relationship with. Cause I'm a stutterer too. If I'm Joe Biden, it's really just, Hey, do you want to go back to American decent? Do you want to go back to American normalcy?

If so, I'm your guy. I'll be honest. Then I was pretty open about my, my, my I'm liking Elizabeth Warren. I still do, I, if Joe Biden was not my first choice, I don't think, you know, I've hidden that. So if you wanna email me and yell at me about that. Okay. It's okay. But the drops to me is that we don't have a candidate who is progressive as I would have hoped. Right. The silver lining. And I don't know if this is, I don't know what this is. I don't want to, I

don't want to celebrate it, but I guess I just need to recognize it. Joe. Biden's old, old white dude. Who's religious. It's real. The Republicans are just having a very hard time.

Like Fox news just doesn't know what to do with Joe Biden. Is he sleepy [00:17:00] Joe? Well, he just gave a great speech and Chris Wallace and Brett Baer. Like acknowledged it. They just both acknowledged on air. He just gave a great speech. I mean, Chris Wallace says Donald Trump's going to have to run against the candidate, not a caricature.

Laura Ingraham had Donald Jr. on last night and actually admitted that Biden gave a great speech. So is he, is he like not well enough to give a good speech? Well, that didn't work. He's not Hillary Clinton. You can't draw on the misogyny. He's not Elizabeth Warren. We're not getting any of the racial slurs or the drumming up of her past when it comes to Native American identity, all that stuff.

We're not getting any of the, like, he's a Marxist kind of stuff. Really working, Joe. Biden's not a Marxist. If you look, I'm sorry. I mean, believe me, people on the right and the left wish he were more of a Marxist and he's just not. So anyway, Dan, my point here is just. I think his speech did a lot of things.

It just confirmed for me that people on the right are gonna continue [00:18:00] to flounder when it comes to trying to find that vitriolic hate-filled instinct that they really found with Hillary Clinton four years ago. And with Barack Obama four years before that.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Yeah, I think my, my final thoughts on this are kind of along the same lines, right?

The Van Jones again from CNN had this thing where he said something about, you know, that sound you hear as Democrats exhaling that, you know, Biden has always been like a gaffe machine. It's like just drop a quarter, pull the lever and like the cure, what comes out, and just had a couple, do this cycle.

So I think everybody was, was kind of nervous about, you know, what the speech would be. Would he meet the moment? And he did. I mean, it was, it was a really, it was probably thought that it was the greatest speech of his career. I don't, I don't know about that. But it was really, really solid and it undercuts that Trump, line that the only one that really been able to kind of stick with it's maybe has some force to it with, with voters, is that he's old and decrepit and kind of senile or whatever.

We talked about the problems of [00:19:00] Trump saying that when he's, you know, basically as old and whatever. But one thing it highlights is the virtual conventions, right. Have been, did they're weird. It's uncharted territory. Nobody knew what it was going to be like. The Democrats went first, which I think can be both an advantage and a disadvantage.

But one of the things that is kneecapping Trump, in his, his effort to get reelected is not being able to have his big rallies, right. Where he can just throw red meat to a roaring crowd. You can send out the tweets, but he doesn't get the feedback. You don't get that, that kind of, reciprocal buildup and momentum that you get when he's feeding off of the crowd and they're feeding off of him and so on.

And that's why the convention yeah, they usually are. And I think Republicans generally are better at this than the Democrats. Again, I think it's because the Democrats have a more diverse audience. They can't what counts as red meat to one portion of the democratic audience might not to another. And so it's hard to do that.

but there won't be just ruined crowd. So when, you know, people were talking about the virtual conventions, I was like, I think this is a [00:20:00] net benefit for Democrats. I think that they're going to benefit from this. And they did really well overall. I think there were some bumpy things and some weird things and, you know, but I think it worked, I think that was also a helped Biden.

Biden was never going to get the kinds of cheers. From a crowd that you were going to get from Trump. Like nobody can spit fire and venom the way that Trump can and get feedback. And so I think this Biden as well, I think he looked really president. Yeah. Like instead of giving, an energizing convention speech, he was able to basically give what sounded like a really impassioned presidential speech.

And like you're saying for a lot of people, that's a normal that they would like to get back to. My last thought about this is Trump has been apoplectic when the speakers are up right. Sending all those all caps, tweets when, especially Michelle Obama was speaking and Barack Obama, whatever. And I keep reading things.

I'm sure you do too, where he is just trying to create more live events for the Republicans. He wants it to be live. He wants to be featured more, and I'm going to be sure [00:21:00] to see how that plays out because there are again, risks and rewards going live. If it works really well, maybe. Great. But if you're doing all this stuff kind of online and unscripted and the room for technological failures or, or just Trump wandering off script and talking about his electoral victory last time and whatever, it's something to think about as we go into the Republican convention, next time will be to sort of compare the two. And I think it's worth looking as we get into it and beyond it, who, who will have benefited the most from this, I have a hunch that neither sides are going to get the kind of typical convention posts you mentioned, bump, that they normally get, but we'll see. So that's just a thought, but I think it really served Biden well, and let him play to his strengths in a way that he might not have been able to in front of a live audience.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** No. And it, it also just opened the door for more of these sort of montage decentralization kind of features. So like, I, you know, like they showed the Biden clan granddaughters, right. [00:22:00] And it was, it was heartwarming.

I mean, it was, there was nothing faked in my, I mean, maybe there was maybe those, those young ladies are just great actors. Actresses or actors and they're just, there is on there really faking the authenticity that grandpa shows them. I don't know. Maybe I wanted it to be, I mean, you can, you can tell me all the things about my take care of that that might be off, but.

You know, when you went to Brayden, as I mentioned that the 13 year old boy who struggles with a stutter, when you see Biden on talking on video with, with a union workers

of America, right. You know, when you have everyone for, yeah. I just thought those, all that stuff. I mean, I was watching it with my partner last night and she was just like, This actually went really well.

Like this is not awkward or weird. It's not forced. It's actually going great. I was like, yup. I think that's true. One or two last thoughts your dad won't we'll move on is, Barack Obama gave a speech to me that was as close as to Barack Obama gets as pull the alarm as we've ever seen. Like we know him as supremely even keeled [00:23:00] sometimes to the point of like, we wish he wasn't. Right. Like, you know, if you've ever had a friend who had just, you wish at some point would actually get a little, a bit like angry or show a little bit of, yes an excess of emotion, right. That they usually don't, Obama is sometimes that person.

there was a lot of folks on Twitter saying it looked like he was almost crying in like an angry, cry, like angry tears. Like the soul of our democracy is at stake and we have a chance to save it. But if we don't make the right choice here, you can, you can sort of detect in his countenance. A deep, deep, deep concern.

And I think people know that, and it was not an Obama that I think we often get if I'm, if I'm honest and I think Obama is sometimes prone to too much, trying to reach across to everyone listening. And sometimes that's a feature and sometimes that's a strength and sometimes it can be a weakness. And I think this time we got an Obama who was very clear, like if we don't choose the right thing here, if we [00:24:00] don't fulfill this mission, We may not have an American democracy very, very much longer.

And I think that was, that was startling to some folks. And so, anyway, any final thoughts here before we move on to Cuba?

**Dr Dan Miller:** Well, my final thought everything you've said about Obama, I agree with. My final thought was that, just to reiterate what you said, like when they did the roll call and different things like that and the virtual again, it showed, it showed America that looked like the real America.

Not the, who are the real Americans and who aren't of the Republican party, but like who are the actual people who live in this country and, you know, the diversity that they have, along lots of different axes. And again, you have the virtual things sort of the Democrats. Well, cause you can do that in a convention, you cut to video, but then it's kind of weird if you had a bunch of people standing around looking at the video.

But when everything was virtual, I think it works. So, yeah, I think it did. And I agree with everything you said, About Obama as I used to chafe, when people would describe as, as being a professorial as a, as a professor, real tight myself, but it's, it's often a fair criticism and I've often felt like Obama was like, if he was your buddy in [00:25:00] junior high, he's the guy that you would like poke to just see how long it would take him to get mad enough to like poke you back or something.

And he was, he was kind of swaying back. So yeah, it was a really jarring thing. Yeah, we can move on to some other things.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Yeah. And just real quick roll call. I mean, I think the biggest convention bump. Goes to Rhode Island, calamari industry. So if, if, if anyone saw the featuring the front, the foregrounding of calamari from Rhode Island, I think we all learned some lessons there.

I have, I have a bunch of dear friends from Rhode Island, and I know they're very proud to be Rhode Islanders. And so, that got a convention about the other thing I'll say real quick, Dan. Sorry. I keep just adding things is like, Somebody had this on Twitter I don't know who it was. I'm sorry. I wish I could credit you, but it was not me.

said that the Democrats featured someone like Braden who stutters. And said, Hey, you know, young man and have the courage, have the, have the, ready to go on, on [00:26:00] television in front of the nation and speak. I mean, it was, I'm getting emotional, just thinking about it. If I'm honest, it took a tremendous amount of courage for that young man to do that as somebody who has dyspraxia and sort of knows.

What would, it feels like to have everyone watching you when you can't do something that just most people consider, you know, quote on quote, easy or normal. I cried through that. I won't lie. So the Democrats feature who struggles with a stutter and the Republicans are featuring those, those who smirk in the face of, of Americans calling for justice, they're going to feature the couple from St. Louis. Who, no Louisville, excuse me. Sorry. Apologies to everyone in both of those cities, Louisville, who, or standing outside their McMansion, holding guns. They're featured speakers at the RNC. Okay. so if there's, I know I have friends who are going to say, there's no difference between Republicans and Democrats.

I understand what you're saying when you say that. Yeah. But these moments to me, just, just speak to the fact that I think there is. a difference and, it's hard not to notice that when you see these things. All right, Dan, sorry. [00:27:00] I keep derailing us, go to QAnon. We're going to come back to Kamala Harris.

We're going to come back to band and we're going to come back to the Senate. Let's go to Q Anon. So, Q Anon is a growing menace. That's just the way I'm gonna put it. Okay. we have seen over and over again, that candidates have been nominated. People are running and signaling their affirmation for Q.

Q is guys. I just want to say this again. We have an episode up right now with Mark Andre, Argentina, go listen to it. Many of you have it's one of our most downloaded episodes in the history of this show. He makes clear that Q is a conspiracy theory based on the idea that a cabal of devil worshipping people are running a sex ring and trying to take over the world.

And that Donald Trump is the one who can stop them. Okay. That's what, like that's damn, that's so different than. Even say like a fundamentalist religion that we might sort of have an ability to think ourselves into as like, well, I don't agree with fundamentalists, you know, [00:28:00] Christians, but at least I can think myself into what they're doing there or, but this is Dan.

There's nothing. There's no, there, there at all. There's no substance here. Okay. So I'm just going to read some things from the New York Times. And then I'll tell you why I'm talking

about this. so Trump was asked about Q the other day and he said, Oh, I, from what I understand, there, there are Americans who love this country.

And they like me and someone asked him, well, they are, they believe that everything, I just said, a secret sex ring is trying to take over the world and that you can stop them. And he said, well, is that a bad thing? Right. He basically threw fuel on the fire of Q. New York Times, Mr. Trump's comments also elevated a group of people who the FBI has said poses a domestic terrorism threat.

They've been classified as by the FBI. The domestic terrorism group quote Q Anon is promoting political disinformation, medical disinformation, and carrying on a legacy of antisemitic tropes. Joan Donovan, the research director at the Shorenstein center on media politics and public policy [00:29:00] said in an interview attention from the president is only going to embolden these groups to grow their ranks.

Okay. Leadership matters. This was a chance for somebody to squash this. I mean, Jeb Bush of all people got on Twitter and just said, why is the president not disavowing this? Why is he not saying that this is absolutely bonkers? Okay. Couple of other things here. Sorry. Great piece from, Michelle Marcotte at salon, linking Q to Evangelicals, right.

And asking this question is Q and on the new Christian right now. My, my response is on an organizational level. Q is not it guys. If you go listen to the orange wave, listen to my interviews with Anne Nelson and Sarah Posner. Read their books. It's so clear that from the local to the national levels, the religious right has been based on a, on a, an overcoming organization, one that trumps the Democrats [00:30:00] and anyone else in their way, their ability to organize, raise money, and deploy an army from city councils all the way to the presidency is unmatched in this country.

Q does not have that. Okay. So I do not agree on that ground. That Q is the new religious, right. However, The point that Marcotte makes that is really insightful is what this does for people intellectually and Q and the religious right. Share something. Okay. Here's what she says by claiming to pursue a crusade against the sexual abuse of children Q Anon gives its adherence, a feeling of self righteousness, one that allows them to ignore the reality that they supported deeply immoral and sociopathic president, who is bragging about his efforts to steal the November election. Evangelical Christianity played the same role for conservatives in the pre-Trump years, letting them feel holy and moral.

Despite openly backing politicians who promoted immoral policies. So I agree here that Q by sort of [00:31:00] setting up this mythical sexual abuse ring of, Illuminati leaders is doing the same thing that Evangelicals do with abortion. You make those the most vulnerable, your imaginary sort of victim. And you, you do so in a mythical way.

And then you set out to save them justifying anything that happens in between, including supporting a president. Who's deeply immoral, including supporting people who, some who are espousing and implementing immoral policies. It's the same function Dan, right? Like if you support a, I'm sorry, if you think of yourself as, protecting the most vulnerable in society, you can justify logical inconsistencies. You can justify moral inconsistencies. You can accept

intellectual chasms in terms of your understanding of reality, because you are telling yourself, you've got to save the world from a cabal of reptilian devil worshipping sex traffickers. That part is really scary to [00:32:00] me. And, it points to why Q is sort of something akin to, and is very much an ally of many facets of the religious right.

**Dr Dan Miller:** I just going to say, I felt like one way the Democrats failed was by not reaching out to the, you know, the lizard Satan worshipping, cobblistic type. So that's one, one demographic. They, they seem to have missed given that apparently they are the, the tool of Q Anon.

No, so I would look at looking at all of this is interesting. And one of the things about this is number one. As, as you've, you've documented more than I have, but people can like Google it and look at it and see the names. We keep getting people winning Republican primaries who are increasingly like part of, or, or supportive of QAnon.

Right. It went from like, Oh, I don't know. Maybe it's not terrible. Or like, I don't mind if a few people are holding up signs. To about, believers in this. But it brings up another issue, which is what will the GOP look like after Trump? Right? This is one of these kinds of things that people have debated.

I think most people now have moved from the Trump [00:33:00] hijack, the GOP. To recognize that no, Trump, I said it a lot is the ID of the GOP. He's the one who says all this stuff out loud that the GOP candidates and politicians have believed for years and just like gives explicit expression to what had been political strategies for decades and things like that.

But there are still, I think those who hope. That if Trump loses this election, or maybe if he goes another four years and you know that in 2024, that the GOP can, can go back to being what they think it was, which was, you know, a party of conservative ideals and, you know, a party, that really believes in some things and so forth.

I think there are those who hope for that. I think with this Q Anon stuff shows is that with, or without Trump, the GOP is, has set a trajectory into. I don't even know what to call it. Right. It's a, into the dude, this kind of apocalyptic mindset and conspiracism and racism and xenophobia and all of this, [00:34:00] that these, these folks who are the Q and on people that are winning, primaries, they're not old white guys.

They're not the, you know, 65 and over class that are, you know, the, just, just the white backlash of old white man who don't like the changing demographics. They're younger, they're more charismatic in some cases. So I think, I think the scary thing. Is that it shows that this is it's not fringe within the GOP anymore.

It is becoming increasingly mainstream. And we see that with, all the people who won't be cry. Pence tried to walk Trump back a little bit and said that he didn't hear him endorse it. And the Trump doesn't endorse Q Anon. But Pence didn't come out and condemn Q and all right. He just says Trump doesn't.

They recognize that is a big part of their constituency. They don't want to alienate them. And I think it's, I think it's a window into. What the GOP is with or without Trump.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Well, so if y'all listen to the orange way, if you listened to the episode from the gold rush to the tea party. Right. I really lay out in, in those [00:35:00] first couple of episodes, how conspiracism has been part of the GOP since the John Birch society and had before, but let's just go to the John Birch society.

The 1960s, the John Birch society claimed that people like to white Eisenhower were communist agents trying to topple the government. Okay. They claimed without any evidence or reasoning to that, sex educators want it. We're teaching children that, sex with animals was a good idea, or that teachers in fourth grade classrooms were taking their clothes off to show people, to show their students parts of the anatomy.

The conspiracism has been there. Okay. And there's a direct line from the John Birch society to the tea party to Q Anon. And that is just, I lay some of that out in the series, if you haven't listened to it yet, go take a listen because it's all there. The difference I see Dan is that that was always balanced with this intellectual wing of the Republican party.

So the Buckleys. Right. And, and, and others who wanted to really have what [00:36:00] was an intellectually sophisticated conservatism. Right. They were always there too. They were always sort of part and parcel of the Republican party. You had the conspiracy theorist, you had the extremists, you had the Goldwaters.

Right. But you also had the Buckleys and, and that led to people like George Herbert Walker, Bush, right? I mean, those types of Republicans, what you're saying, Dan is those guys are gone or maybe they're around. But they're either not going to win and no one's listening to them or they're part of the Lincoln project now because they see no other choice. That part of the Republican party, that intellectual conservatism, even if you, and I don't agree with it sort of reasoning and it's logic, you can at least see there an attempt to work out a kind of coherence ideology of conservative politics. What we're left with now is Q Anon and candidates like Laura Loomer. Laura Loomer was just, I'm sorry. She just won her primary in Florida. It's the district that includes Mar-a-Lago Laura Loomer is not a [00:37:00] 65 year old man, as you said, Dan, she's a 27 year old woman. Okay.

So she just won this primary. Now I don't, there's, there's a little chance she's actually going to win her seat to Congress, but she won the primary from the Republican party. She's the person who got the seat. So let's go through some of Laura Loomer's history Dan. She is banned from Uber and Lyft. It's one thing Dan in my experience, they get a lower, an Uber or Lyft.

Maybe you spill, right? Your bag of Doritos and the, the, the, the Lyft drivers, like not a great, passenger, you know, maybe, you know, I actually used to drive Uber in DC and people would get into Uber. They'd my car. And they'd be like drunk or loud or whatever. Okay. Maybe they got three stars. Do you know what it takes to get banned?

From Uber and Lyft a lot. Okay. Why? Because Laura Loomer said these things, someone needs to create a non-Islamic form of Uber or Lyft, because I never want to support another

Islamic immigrant driver. Uber will literally hire Islamic [00:38:00] terrorists, but they will ban a conservative journalist for addressing legitimate safety concerns.

So she got kicked out. Okay. She then parlayed that into continuous attacks on Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. Okay. So she attacked them, calling them terrorists, calling them agents for foreign powers. Okay. This is all coming from the independent, by the way, just want to, Greg Evans at the independent.

Okay. What else? She spread conspiracy theories about school shootings. So she claims that some school shootings are fake and that they are being staged. So here she is, after one of them, because these kids are reading a screen or notes, someone else wrote for them. Notice how media has only talking to the same group of students.

They aren't talking to the program. Pro gun ROTC students will actually save lives. Unlike these students. Okay. here she is tweeting a little bit ago. I hope everyone is paying attention. This is how the media works in a prime, the public of the truth. A middle Eastern looking man walked into a country music bar in California last night and killed 12 [00:39:00] Christian college kids.

Suspect has been dead for many hours. What's his name? Okay. Dan. She was thrown out of, Shakespeare in the park. Again, I don't know how you get kicked out of Shakespeare in the park. Okay. But she managed to do that. She was banned from Twitter for being in an open Islamophobia and racist, and then changed herself to Twitter headquarters.

So that happened. Okay. she called the women's March a Nazi organization. So that was great. Was even banned from SeaPak. All right. Sorry. That was a lot, you know why I said all of that, cause that is the GOP. You can tell me, it's not, you can tell me that Mitt Romney or whoever Justin Amash or John McCain.

I don't know who you want to point out, but in this America where Trump is president, these are the people who are gaining traction in the modern day GOP.

You know, I'm

**Dr Dan Miller:** a, I'm old now. I was born in the seventies. I remember all the eighties. And like, [00:40:00] remember all the eighties, like, like teen movies where, you know, the kind of bad boy likes the nice girl and they try to hang out and all their, his friends are like assholes.

And he's like, no, they're really not that bad. And I'm really a good guy and whatever. And eventually they have to kind of take a look around and be like, Oh, if everybody who's drawn to me sucks, maybe I need to look at myself. That's where the GOP is, right. The Mitt Romney's in the others and everybody who wants to try to pretend that this isn't a thing it's like, okay, sure.

Fine. And I have this conversation with students. Is everybody in the GOP? A racist? No, of course not right outside of KKK or something. Everybody in any organization, isn't always

something, right? Is everybody xenophobic? No. Does everybody support every policy proposal of Trump? No

Is everyone Misogynistic? No. But man, the racists loved Trump, man. The message Denis loved Trump. Jeez, the conspiracy theory, people love Trump. Islamophobia love Trump. And at some point, and we're seeing this, [00:41:00] some, some people, like you mentioned Lincoln projects, some conservatives have figured this out and taken a look around and said, man, if everybody who is drawn to our party in droves sucks, they're like, they're terrible people.

Maybe it means we're a terrible party. Maybe it means that we are, we're not the party of conservative ideals and, you know, pull yourself up from the bootstraps and equal opportunity or treating everybody with the same dignity or all of the things that we think were about individual freedom. What have you, right.

Maybe we are exactly what the critics of the GOP for decades have said we are. And we're starting to see that, but it is, it is, you know, if everybody who's drawn to the party sucks. It tells you something about the party. And this is what I tell people when they're like, well, I'm not a racist. I support Trump.

That is fine. You and all the racist groups. So what. Take a look at yourself in the mirror and ask why the person you are drawn to is so appealing to all of these, these really, really terrible groups.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Yeah, no, I, [00:42:00] I agree if the modern GOP is not what you say it is then why are there dozens of Q Anon candidates?

Why are there dozens of Islamophobia and people who are. Barely dog whistle racist, if not out. And outrace, I mean, what what's going on here. Okay. Let's switch modes. Dan. I have one more thing that I really want to just talk about in depth, and I'm gonna throw it to you for a whole slate of corruption stories.

So, just give me one more thing here, and that is, I want to come back to Carla Harris. So comma Harris, I gave a speech the other night, 22 million people tuned in. It was the highest rating up to that point for the convention. I thought it was a pretty good speech. She talked a lot about her mom being an immigrant, for somebody who lives in the Bay area for the moment who is, Asian American she referenced the Asian American Black or African American coalition of activists that formed in 1960s, San Francisco and Berkeley in Oakland. Her parents we're marching together as Asian American and black people. that really touched me. [00:43:00] It was really great. Okay. she talked about you know, her experience at, an HBCU. And she also said, I know a predator when I see one talking about her days as a prosecutor and in reference to Donald Trump. One of the things that I thought, needed to be talked about is the fact that there are folks on the right saying that Kamala Harris is not really Black.

Okay. And so this is the Dinesh D'Souza is of the world, the Laura Ingrahams of the world. A lot of your pastors who have, big followings on YouTube, right? And their, their reasoning is,

is that Kamala Harris, her father was Jamaican. So her father's family does not go back, according to them.

And, and in their mind, this is really important not descendent from slaves. So you're not really black. Ok, sorry. You don't count. Right. And Trevor Noah, you know, on the daily show had had a great piece. I'm not going to lie a couple of days ago where he said. This is ridiculous. He said, look, you don't, first of all, you don't get to decide who's Black. And who's not. [00:44:00] Second of all. If Camila Harris walks into 1960s, Mississippi, is she subject to Jim Crow? She is, it seems pretty black to me. Right? If she walks into Alabama, a courthouse in a small town, Alabama, a city or town and tries to vote, right. In mid 20th century America. is she Black enough to be discriminated against?

Yes. Is she Black enough to be turned away right from white, only institutions? Is she Black enough? Right. And he, he just went on and on and on and show these great examples of the fact that, redlining the one drop rule throughout the history of America. Kamala Harris is, thoroughly and overwhelmingly Black enough to be discriminated against.

And what he said is when you're trying to achieve perfection, right. They want to say, meaning the right, that you're not enough. And then when you get there, like the Obama family and your people of color, and specifically your Black people, then you're too much. Well, the Obama's were too Black. Right. And you know, I know for [00:45:00] me, Dan, this, this hits a home a little bit.

I am a, I'm different than Kamala Harris in the sense that I'm a person of a mixed race person of color who has a white parent. I am a white person and a person of color. So it is a little different than I want to put that out there, at the front of this. But as a biracial person, you often feel like you're, you're either not enough or too much.

I feel that all the time, I either feel like I'm showing up to a pool party and a tuxedo. Or like I'm showing up to a black tie event in my swim trunks, right? Like when you're biracial, you're either not enough or way too much. And that's what we're seeing with Kamala Harris. So anyway, thoughts on this, Dan, before we go to, the, the whole slate of corruption stories we need to cover.

I do, I do

**Dr Dan Miller:** have some thoughts on it and they, they may, they, I don't know.

I don't know if they'll upset anybody or not, but I'm going to throw them out there. And here here's my take on this is that for white conservatives. Being Black means something really, really specific. Right. it's okay to be black, as long as you remain in [00:46:00] your proper social place, which is to say subordinate to white supremacy right to a white supremacist society, to a society where white people hold, most political power and economic power and social authority. And so if Black people have the quote unquote proper role and they stay in that role and they don't disrupt that order, they're okay. So those conservatives are fine.

If Black people are athletes, as long as they don't speak out about Black lives matter or kneel during the national Anthem. They're fine with those people if they're in low paying service

industry jobs. They're fine with those people if, if they're, you know, mowing the lawns and doing things like that and doing things, then they're fine with those people.

Even if they have. You know, really notable positions like a Ben Carson or a Clarence Thomas, as long as they don't do anything to disrupt the kind of narrative that the U S is not racist. And I'll just throw this out there. I challenge anybody to find the criteria that would count. For Clarence Thomas to declare something to be racist.

[00:47:00] Give it a try, like, like how explicit would have to be as soon as a Black person aspires to power or God forbid, gains power or authority or prestige, or does anything to challenge those notions of white supremacy and white authority. Then they're a threat and they're, they're not being properly Black.

And, and they needed to be put back in their place. And that means dispersing crowds of Black protesters who are peaceably demonstrating they're out of place. They're too disruptive. They're challenging that white order, it means living in fear and railing against the first African American president or, or his, his incredibly intelligent smart wife who is a phenomenal speaker and a great thinker and well educated.

And so the best that conservatives can say is that she's quote, on quote articulate. Oh, with the idea that, you know, proper Black people are not articulate. So she's not Black enough because she's educated and well-spoken, so there's nothing surprising about this. It's [00:48:00] completely predictable that Kamala Harris, regardless of what people might think of her politics or her background as a DA and all of that kind of stuff that especially people on the left are concerned about, she is just, a woman of color who is achieving too much too fast, who explicitly challenges a white social order that tries to keep her out of that.

And so one of the things they will do is say, well, she, she can't really be Black. It's inconceivable that a, a Black person could do this or have any legitimate right. To do this. and so there are a lot of things going on there, but that's, that's a huge part of it. To me is a deeply ingrained white conservative conception of what a proper quote on quote Black person is.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** I agree. And I feel like I could talk about this for the next half an hour. I'm mindful of the time we're going to end up with a three hour, weekly Roundup today, Dan. So, we should not do that. We can if you want, but, we probably shouldn't. So, I want to set this up. So for you, we've got a bunch of corruption stories and I want to sort of lean on you to take us through those, piece here from the New York times a couple of days ago.

A sprawling report [00:49:00] released Tuesday by Republican controlled Senate panel that spent three years investigating Russia's interference in the 2016 election, laid out an extensive web of contacts between Trump campaign advisors and Russian officials, and other Russians, including at least one intelligence officer and others tied to the country's spy services.

The report by the seller. The report by the Senate intelligence committee. Totally. Nearly a thousand pages drew to a close one of the highest profile congressional investigations in

recent memory. And could be the last word from an official government inquiry about the expansive Russian campaign to sabotage the 2016 election.

All right, Dan, what do you think?

**Dr Dan Miller:** I think it's telling. So first of all, to remind everybody, right, the Senate is run by the Republicans, right? This is the Senate intelligence committee run by Republicans that releases a thousand page thousand ish page report. The basically to like wait for it, finds collusion.

Remember when that word was like bandy about all the time finds extensive collusion between the Trump campaign and [00:50:00] Russia to interfere the 2016 election. I think it's telling that in our political and social moment, it barely makes a sound it's found more than the Mueller report found. It found more than anything that came up in the impeachment hearings, especially because of, Republicans to kind of, roadblock those.

So. It was super telling, but it just, it's just this pattern, right? Another thing this week run through a couple of things real fast. Cause we, as you say, we are sort of running low on time, but Bannon, we all remember our friend Bannon, who was, was one of Kim Trump's advisors and so forth, was arrested and charged with fraud.

And he, and some colleagues raising money for Trump's border wall and then using it for, lots of personal, things and, and different things like that. The Bannon is the seventh Trump advisor to be charged with crimes since Trump took office, I had all the research that's completely unheard of, but it is certainly not typical.

You have the, postmaster general, testifying before Congress today under a lot of [00:51:00] pressure because it turns out that he's a big Trump donor and was put in that position and he immediately starts taking sorting machines out and removing postal, mailboxes and different things like this.

Now it says he's not doing anything to stop, vote by mail that he supports vote by mail, that he votes by mail and so forth. But you, you have that. So it's just story after story, after story of, of corruption. You have, you know, Trump just explicitly calling for the, to like, not dealing with absentee ballots or mail in ballots, this postmaster general doing what he wants.

His advice from now says he doesn't know anything, but Bannon, even though there are lots of photos and other things, man, with these other people. So all of that, and we can talk about more of them in detail. It just shows that this is beyond a doubt. One of the most corrupt administration, certainly in modern presidential history, a 20th century presidential history, I'm sure somebody who's a scholar can find some 18th century presidents who did like way worse things maybe or something like that.

But in our lifetime, [00:52:00] it's just standard. And as I say, these things barely make a stir with everything else that's going on.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Yeah. So the report, this is, this is from the same piece at the New York Times. The report portrayed a Trump campaign that was stocked with businessmen with no government experience advisers working at the fringes of the Fort or policy establishment and other friends and associates of Mr. Trump. Campaign figures, the report said, quote, presented attractive targets for foreign influence creating notable counter-intelligence vulnerabilities. So again, Dan, everything you just said about his campaign being stopped with people who either became vulnerable to, collaboration or collusion with the Russians, or were, were motivated by that from the beginning. Friends, if you haven't listened to the latest episode of the orange wave, I lay this out in detail that kleptocracy.

Has been building in this country for three decades and the result of the United States becoming a money laundering Haven and a place where lawyers and, politicians and businessman are working to help [00:53:00] foreign nationals launder their money in this country through real estate, real estate and other things.

Well, that's directly related to Trump and his campaign. the corruption you're seeing is the result of people having loyalty to power rather than to their country and loyalty to nothing else, but power and the desire for control and money and all the forms, power takes. We're seeing that Dan. Well, other things that came from this, the Senate committee, the same one we're talking about made criminal referrals in 2019 for Don Trump, Jr. Jared Kushner, Steve Bannon, Eric Prince and Sam Clovis. Okay. Passing along their suspicions, according to NBC news, that the men may have misled the committee during their testimony. And other things. Now, those, those that referral or those referrals were not followed up on the DOJ did not pursue them a surprise.

Surprise. Okay. But we're talking about Senate led committee. Right. I'm sorry. A Republican led committee in the Senate [00:54:00] that is making criminal referrals to Jared Kushner. The leader of our, I was going to say a lot of bad words. There were federal response to the COVID crisis. Criminal referrals for Eric Prince, who many sort of suspect was a big part of Trump's sending these black ops people to Portland to take people off the streets.

Steve Bannon who Chris Christie of all people asked that on television said is a very bad dude and who was just indicted for siphoning millions of dollars away from a kind of fake build the wall campaign. Okay. That is so here's what I'll say, friends, if your uncle or anyone else wants to come at you and say that the Russian thing was a hoax and that, that you got to get over your Trump derangement syndrome because we all know that Russian thing didn't lead anywhere.

It didn't lead anywhere because the processes were sabotaged and they were not pursued in ways that mattered the men. And there were mostly [00:55:00] men who are committing this level of fraud and corruption. Did so with impunity, they have found no punishment. They have Roger Stone went to jail and then got pardoned.

Okay. So the Russian thing was not a hoax. The Russian thing was not fake. The Russian thing was not a bunch of ballyhooed liberal gobbledygook. It is confirmed in a thousand page document by a bipartisan intelligence committee from the house of Congress led by Republicans. Those are the facts. Okay, those are the facts.

And so when people try to tell you that, that, you know, you got to get, let go of the Russian thing, you can point them here and just say, I'm sorry, even though. The leavers of justice were sabotaged. It does not negate the fact that corruption has reached the highest levels of our government. Any other thoughts here, Dan?

What else do we got in terms of corruption?

**Dr Dan Miller:** Those were my biggest ones. I like the point that you make about, the referral and just, it's sort of an ongoing [00:56:00] corruption thing of, you know, Bill Barr and the department of justice, basically acting as Trump's, you know, personal, personal offer. You know, he testified before Congress recently and of course says that he acts independently and so forth.

But I don't think that when that historians look back at, Bill Barr and the Trump administration is going to have any doubt that he basically did the president's bidding. So, there's that, I think there's also the collusion of the whole party. They knew this stuff back when they were trying to shut down the impeachment and you know, all of that, that was about the Ukrainian deal.

It wasn't directly about a Russian interference, but the two things are related in a number of ways. Yeah. So as you say, they released this report, but made sure that it wasn't going to do anything to the president. So we'll see, we'll see what happens moving forward. If it, if it matters in any way.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Well, one more thing here on corruption is, There's a Russian dissident. His name is Alexei Navalny guy. He tried to get on the ballot in 2018. He wanted Russia to have free and fair elections. Okay. He wanted Russia to have a free press. He [00:57:00] was not allowed to be on the ballot. Surprise, surprise Putin, Putin made sure that that didn't happen.

Okay. Well he was just poisoned friends. Okay. There was poison put in his tea and he's now very sick. Okay. Here's the question. What would have happened? I'm not going to talk about Obama's America or Clinton's America. What would have happened in Reagan's America? If a Russian dissident had been poisoned by one of the top leaders at the Soviet union, there would have been an all out campaign talking about the corruption of a non-democratic place, like the USSR, right?

Here's Michael McFaul writing at the Washington post when negotiating with autocrats, most US presidents did not check their values at the door when visiting Moscow for the first time in 1988, Ronald Reagan met with the Soviet communist party leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, but he also hosted a lunch with dissonance people like Navalny. George W. Bush Jr did the same when attending a meeting with Putin in St. [00:58:00] Petersburg in 2006. Barack Obama met with Russian civil society and opposition leaders on his first visit to Moscow in 2009. Okay. My guess is all of those men would have had something to say about that. Someone like Navalny being, being, poisoned, McFall writes this president Trump contrast has enthusiastically embraced Putin and excused as villainous ways.

To the best of my knowledge, Trump has never praised to let alone met with activists, physician leaders in Russia, Ukraine, or Belarus. Okay. Hearing of Navalny's hospitalization, all Trump could muster Thursday was we haven't seen it yet. We're looking at it. And Mike Pompei was going to be reporting to me soon.

Okay. Basically doing what he often does, which is using ignorance as a virtue. Oh no. Yeah. I have no idea. Oh, you mean, I tweeted a, a, something from a doctor who thinks that, demons from his is part of the problem. I don't know. Yeah. What do I know about that? I'm not sure. Q Anon. I don't know about that either.

That's not a [00:59:00] virtue. Ignorance is not a virtue when you're the leader of the free world, especially when it comes to Russian dissidents being poisoned. Okay. Dan, we haven't, I mean, we talked for an hour now. We haven't got into Belarus. I mean, we get to spend a whole hour on Belarus and what's happening there.

What's my point. Dan corruption in this country has an effect on the world. We are not a city on a Hill that is upholding moral, values or democratic values for anyone anymore. We used to be, we used to at least talk that way. And yet when you ask Reagan or Obama or George W. Bush or George Herbert Walker, Bush, about something like this quick condemnation, I can't believe that's happening.

We need to do something. Okay. Trump, I don't know. Haven't heard about it. Michael told me later. I don't know. I got to go watch Fox News, right? That is what we've become. If you think the corruption and the conspiracism doesn't have an effect. Well, here it is.

**Dr Dan Miller:** The only point I'm going to add to that is I think it's also an effect of Trump's kind of extreme narcissism, right?

Where everything comes down to whether or not people quote on quote like him, right. That personalization of [01:00:00] everything. It's not about the U S or us interests or the American people let alone democratic values or human rights or whatever it's about whether or not he thinks somebody likes him. And also the extreme envy he has for autocratic leaders who can do whatever they want sort of in an unchecked fashion.

And so he likes Putin's power and authority and his ability to do whatever he wants. And he knows full well that Putin worked to help him get elected. And he knows that, he thinks that Putin likes him. I think. Putin is playing Trump like a cheap instrument, but, you know, that's, he thinks he likes him. And so for Trump, that is what makes it right.

That is all that matters is, but he thinks somebody is in his corner and supports him. And there's somebody he aspires to be like. And so. That's it. And so if they're they're poisoning their enemies and this is, I don't know why this is like, Putin's calling card. That's like poisoning people, but it is right.

It's like, there's no doubt if a Russian dissident dies from poisoning or falling out of windows. [01:01:00] it's, it's, it's Putin behind it. Yeah, so it's just that it, it, it, the, the lack of, of values and empathy and all of that, but I think it is also. just for Trump, it really is all about him. And we've talked about this on a populous level for him.

That is, he is the embodiment of the real America. And so somebody likes him and it must be good for America. And if they don't, then it must not be. And that's, that's his mission.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Trump is trying to classify teachers as essential workers. Real quick as we wind down, Dan on its face, it seems like, Oh, that's nice.

We're recognizing teachers right as essential. It's about time. Why is this not what it seems. What'd you say?

**Dr Dan Miller:** I'd say it's not what it seems because of course, Trump hasn't done anything to help teachers, right. Or to help schools. Right. We've had the demands that are largely empty. Cause the only thing that they can really do as it turns out, but the demands of schools reopened.

Why is it? Because Trump's worried about the socialization and mental health of school aged kids who are like living [01:02:00] kind of in isolation. No. Is it because he's worried about, about students who don't have adequate nutrition apart from a school lunch programs and things like that. No, it's not that, is it because he's worried about American kids falling behind other places in the world in terms of just their education?

Nope. Is it because you're worried about specialists, students who need extra attention and time that just can't be duplicated effectively in a virtual context? No, it's because he wants the economy economic numbers to look better, between now and November. So you can be reelected and parents can't go to work if their kids can't go to school. And so he's had this demand, the schools have to open. Have we we've talked about, this has deboss a bit, the department of education put forward comprehensive guidelines. No. Have they put forward lots of money to help schools do all the things they would need to do? No.

Has the federal government rolled out like really, really intensive, COVID testing and tracking capabilities so that, you know, if a student does test positive, they can identify all the people that are [01:03:00] affected. No, they haven't done any of that. So it's just another cynical attempt to kind of paint over it and say education's important when in reality, it's just Trump once again, being willing to sacrifice a group of Americans who do something, he doesn't know anything about, he's never set foot. as, growing up in a public school classroom, he's never done that. He's never been a part of that. School teachers did they're underpaid and they're overworked, two things that Trump will never have experienced in his entire life.

They are for him, just exactly like medical professionals are and like grocery store workers are and gas station attendance. And mechanics, there are people who are disposable and who he is willing to sacrifice for the sake of, again, something that's all about Trump economic numbers that he hopes will rebound enough to help him in November.

So it's just cynical. If it were backed up with all of those other things, there could be a way in which declaring teachers as, essential workers could be really meaningful and significant [01:04:00] and even beneficial. But none of that's happening. it's just Trump. It's right up there with the being willing to sacrifice grandma for the economy, we'll be willing to sacrifice our teachers and our children for the economy.

We'll say he's. He said the children are immune to COVID. They're not, Yeah. So it's just another cynical Trump administration attempt to try to do something that he thinks will help him, in the election. My thought is that it won't, he keeps trying to race bait people in the suburbs and other things, for the election.

My guess is that all of this is going to be yeah. Fire. And the fact is that most kids won't be back in schools. Certainly not for the entire fall. And I think that's going to hurt him. I think it's just. A cynical attempt to try to deal with that. Yeah.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** All right. Well, we should probably go to reasons for hope.

I, I'll give you mine down and that is that, watching the Dem convention did give me hope, that may make me sound like a norm core old man, something or other neoliberal, you know, filling in blank. I understand that, I don't always find the democratic party to be, [01:05:00] where I feel most at home.

I don't think that's possible when you have a two parties system, when you have two parties trying to encompass so many different perspectives and experiences and ideologies. So I'm not out here trying to be Mr. Democrat. that's not, that's never been my Mo, but you know, what, what did give me hope? Dan was the feeling of hope I had.

When I saw the America represented there. Now you can tell me about the Clintons and all that. Yeah. Okay. Fine. I will. I'm just going to be honest here. I wish Bill Clinton was not on the screen. Okay. But to see the young people of color, to see the young mayors of color, to see all of the women represented to see, Kamala Harris is a sister and step-kids and, to hear her family story, to see of all of them, those various sort of parts of this country, and to think that there's a chance we might return to, that, that moving forward, right?

I'm not naive. I'm old enough to know that if the arc of the universe does bend towards justice, it does so in a [01:06:00] very curved and way, and at a very slow pace. Okay. So I'm not out here, touting utopia or some sort of naive, you know, Wonderland, if Joe Biden is elected. What it did inspiring me though, was that feeling of it feels right.

It's like we're moving towards something. That's right. You know, you often had that feeling in the Obama years, as frustrating as they may have been that the, at least we were moving somewhere when it came to gay marriage or when it came to, you know, repealing, don't ask, don't tell in the military, or when it came to Obamacare, you felt at least like we were moving inch by inch towards something better.

It showed me Dan that the Democrats and sometimes their demise. But they draw on hope a lot and hope requires work. It requires you to imagine a different world to imagine what's possible in the face of many obstacles. Republicans in the era of Trump, especially they're only instinct has been fear. We're going to scare the shit out of you.

So you actually put us in power and you're so [01:07:00] afraid that you believe us when we say we're the only ones who could protect you. So anyway, Dan, my, my reason for hope is, is the fact that I felt hope when I thought about what could be the future. If the election

goes a certain way. And on top of that, if we organize to retake the local and state levels from, from extremists who have in many ways, decimated them.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Yeah. So, somebody who is very close to me, I'm not gonna say who, texted me and they said, today you said your podcast reason for hope should be Joe effing Biden that that's a direct quote. So my reason for hope, it's not, it's not Joe Biden. I, you know, I'm, I'm lukewarm to Joe Biden.

We talked about this. I'm not enthusiastic about Joe Biden. I'm enthusiastic about Normalcy getting Trump out of office. And I hope, and we'll participate in, Progressive's holding Biden's feet to the fire. Should he be elected and trying to push the democratic party further in a progressive direction and so forth.

But my hope is, or my reason that Biden gives me hope. [01:08:00] Is that there are people like this person for whom I think there is a lot of hope and Biden, right? There are people who, you know, maybe, you know, and maybe they're not ready for Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren or AOC or somebody like that. And, you know, maybe they are, and they just don't think that that person can be elected, whatever.

There are people, I think who saw the convention, not just the way that you did it, right? The way that you just really encapsulated, but they also saw it as here is somebody that we think can actually win. And he really showed that and he puts something forward and we can really feel confident moving forward for the next, you know, less than three months now, till the election.

So I think my reason for hope is that I think Biden is giving people a reason for hope beyond Trump. and so shout out to, the person who sent me the text, and slightly edited the, obviously didn't say effing.

Joe fudging

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Biden

[01:09:00] Anyway, sorry.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Christmas stories like, except I didn't say fudge anyway.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Yeah, no, we're going to get a. We're going to get punchy here if we don't wind this down. So as always friends find us on the Facebook page, find us on Twitter at straight white JC. Find me on Twitter at Bradley Onishi. The orange wave is winding down.

One more episode we'll we'll drop soon. Thank you for all of you supported that you can find us, in order to support us that straight white American Jesus at podomatic.com. Can always use support on Patron or on PayPal. You have no idea how much that helps. It really does make this podcast go.

We have a great problem and that so many of you are listening. We've had to pay more and more and more to host our stuff. We've invested in transcription software. We're working

on transcripts for all our episodes. We've been able to pay our straight white American Jesus' summer intern, to help us with transcription and research and writing and all those things.

So, all of that support really just makes this thing go. I want to [01:10:00] say a big, thank you to Cambria Weaver, who has been our summer intern and helped me so much on the orange wave. So Cambria, thank you. And we appreciate all of your hard work. And, other than that, Dan, I'll say we'll be back next week with the weekly Roundup.

And we got a lot of good things cooking. So I'm be on the lookout for what we're up to this fall. And, Other than that, think of California, if you can, these fires are no joke. And, they're, they're really, we can have a career. I'll see you next weekend. Thanks for being here.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Thanks. Thanks to everybody for putting up with our rambling for so long.

I'll see you next week.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Alright. .