



Bernie Sanders Rapid Response Library

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NEW IN THIS ISSUE

Economists Say Sanders Plan comes up short

These guys make a big mistake, and that is that they refuse to apply known economic modeling to the positive growth aspects that the Sanders plan would engender. The Sanders plan is based on generating 5.3% economic growth, and these establishment economic types think that is unreasonable. IOW, they are perfectly willing to accept that Government spending results in growth (i.e., "stimulus") but they somehow posit - without a single shred of proof - that the amount of spending to be done under the Sanders proposal will not result in economic GROWTH in the same "outrageous" levels.

Bernie is proposing an economic package that is huge in its scope. but ALSO huge in its impact. The plan relies on the idea that economic growth that will result will be commensurate with the size of the stimulus delivered. These economists are looking at the size of the stimulus package, and the "cost" of the stimulus, without acknowledging the economic growth that will result.

"under conventional assumptions, the projected impact of Senator Sanders' proposals stems from their scale and ambition. When you dare to do big things, big results should be expected. The Sanders program is big, and when you run it through a standard model, you get a big result.

That, by the way, is the lesson of the Reagan era – like it or not. It is a lesson that, among today's political leaders, only Senator Sanders has learned."

- James K. Galbraith

<https://ourfuture.org/20160223/the-sanders-economic-plan-controversy>

Clintonemail.com

The FBI criminal investigation centers around Clinton's use of a personal server (clintonemail.com) for 100% of her official email correspondence while Secretary of State. Note this is not just a personal email account - this is a server - a physical piece of hardware that was installed in her house. This is unprecedented. Colin Powell used personal email, but it was an AOL account, and he only used it in addition to his official .gov account.

When approached by the FBI, the person who set up and maintained Clinton's server invoked his 5th Amendment rights against self-incrimination. This means that the guy who was directly responsible for Clinton's email server was pretty damned sure that some laws were broken. He has now been given immunity, and I assume that he is singing like the proverbial canary.

Maybe Hillary will not be indicted. maybe she will be a "unindicted co-conspirator" or some such thing. Either way, it will be a disaster for her already tanking poll numbers. John Boehner recently said that Hillary Clinton will probably need to withdraw. Say what you want about Boehner, he is a well-connected guy who knows how things work in DC.

2008 versus 2016?

In 2008 Hillary Clinton had to loan herself \$13 Million to finance her campaign against Obama but by the end she was \$5 Million in debt. Dianne Feinstein brokered a sit-down between Obama and Hillary on June 6 at which Obama agreed (1) to erase Clinton's campaign debt using his own general election funds, and (2) to make Hillary Secretary of State, the most coveted and high-profile cabinet position, and one which would catapult her nicely into the 2016 race.

In return, Hillary agreed to endorse Obama for President and not to mount a challenge in 2012.

There is NO COMPARISON to be made between 2008 and 2016. Firstly, Bernie has no debt. He cannot be bought with campaign cash. Secondly, he has no intention to run again for President in 2024 when he is 82 years of age, so he cannot be pacified with a plum cabinet position that will "build his profile" in preparation for such a run.

#BernieOrBust

I was on the fence about the #BernieOrBust movement until the #nvdemconvention. Now I - like Ana Kasperian - am firmly in the #BernieOrBust camp. Yes, I am willing to risk a disastrous Trump Presidency if it will bring back democracy to the Democratic Party. I lived through Reagan, who was foretold by everyone on the Left to start a nuclear war with the USSR. Hell, I even lived in West Germany when Ronnie stationed the "Pershing II" short range nuclear missiles there. We survived. We got through. The only bad thing about the Reagan legacy was that it allowed the DLC and the Clinton neoliberal movement to seize control of the Democratic Party and turn it into the Republican Party of ca. 1970 - the kind of Republican Party that a Nixon or Ford would feel comfortable in. In short, it is time to take our Party back from the neoliberal/neocon cabal that hijacked it in 1992, and if a President Trump is needed to do that, then maybe the "Shock Doctrine" has merit after all.

"Voting for Trump by Default"

The scare tactics won't work this time around. We fell for that in 1992 and 1996 (when it worked) and in 2000 and 2004 (when it didn't). No more evil of two lessers. A vote for Hillary is a vote FOR Hillary. If I vote for this woman whom I despise and oppose on almost every major issue, my vote will nonetheless be counted as being equal and the same as the vote of a Hillary fanatic who has "I'm With Her" tattooed on his chest.

And when Hillary claims a mandate from the polls, gets up and says that the "voters have spoken" and that she has the "support of the American people" she'll be talking about ME. And I refuse to let that happen. I would rather be able to say a year into a Trump term "hey, don't look at me, I didn't vote for him".

If on the other hand I voted for Hillary as you would have me do, and then a year into a Clinton Presidency finds us with another Middle East war, passage of the TPP and a Wall Street meltdown, I will NOT be able say "hey, don't look at me, I voted against Trump".

IT DON'T WORK THAT WAY!

Death threats to Roberta Lange

In Nevada, death threats are a crime of coercion. According to Nevada statutes it is "unlawful for a person, with the intent to compel another to do or abstain from doing an act which the other person has a right to do or abstain from doing, to ... Attempt to intimidate the person by threats or force." (NRS 207.190) "A person who violates the provisions ... shall be punished for a category B felony by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 6 years, and may be further punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000."

Why are the Nevada Dems not seeking to prosecute and punish these "Sanders supporters"? I'll tell you why – because the calls were made by *agents provocateurs* paid by David Brock's Correct the Record PAC.

Nevada Convention: The AYE's must have won the voice vote ?

I have noticed many news outlets using the "fact" that there were more Clinton delegates than Sanders delegates in LV to insinuate that somehow the voice vote must have been adjudicated correctly.

ERROR 1: At the time that the first voice vote was taken many people were still going through the credentials/admitting process, so it would be incorrect to assume that both cohorts - the ones waiting in line outside and the ones in the room itself - were proportionally divided in accordance with the final attendee count.

ERROR 2: Error 1 above notwithstanding, the makeup of the crowd in this case has NO bearing on the actual voice vote. It would have to assume that every Sanders supporter was against the motion to make the temporary rules permanent, and that every Clinton supporter was FOR the temporary rules being made permanent. I would point out that the temporary rules gave Roberta Lange quasi dictatorial powers in terms of running the convention, and specified that every vote to be taken on a voice vote basis, with Lange being the sole adjudicator as to the results of said vote. Her ruling in any case could not be questioned. Given the draconian nature of these "temporary rules" it is MORE THAN POSSIBLE that many Clinton supporters would also be against making them permanent, would be against giving Lange so much power, or would be against the arbitrary nature of passing every motion by voice vote alone.

Riley, every person who watches the many videos of that voice vote must admit that the NAYs certainly did have it, and that Roberta Lange acted dictatorially and

arbitrarily. They must then also agree that everyone who voted NAY - be they a Sanders delegate or a Clinton delegate - would have felt that they had been ignored, dismissed and generally run roughshod over. It is no wonder then that the people who had seen their votes overturned in what was LITERALLY an arbitrary and undemocratic process, would be upset, and would feel aggrieved.

ERROR 3: Even if one refuses to believe that the "NAYs won the voice vote, anyone who watches the video would AT LEAST have to admit that the results of that voice vote were not clear and decisive. The very rules that were in place at the time called for a head count to be taken in such cases. Roberta Lange refused to follow this rule, and ruled for the AYEes despite there being a clearly questionable audible result of the voice vote.

ERROR 4: If you assume that all Clinton delegates would vote one way, and all Sanders delegates would vote the other way, why bother with the vote? By your reasoning, the rules could have been made permanent without a vote based on the delegate attendance alone. And surely you would not think that would be right -?

The IMPORTANT Difference between Trump and Clinton

I don't often agree with Rich Lowry of the National Review, but he recently made an observation that rings true.

Trump and Clinton are both "radioactive" - they have the highest negatives of ANY Presidential candidate in history - well above 50%. And indeed 50% of the people voting for each of these candidates say they are actually voting AGAINST the other candidate.

There is, however, a major difference: Trump became the nominee DESPITE the best efforts of the RNC and the Republican Establishment and national Republican icons to stop him. He was denounced on all fronts by every reputable Republican group in the country.

Hillary, on the other hand, will get the nomination (of she gets it) precisely BECAUSE of the direct intervention of the DNC and the Democratic Establishment. Look at the Superdelegate count. Look at the MSM and all the major Democratic groups out there - they are ALL supporting Hillary both openly and behind the scenes. Indeed, whether it is campaign financing and fundraising, debate schedules, or even running the primaries themselves, it is impossible to see where the DNC ends and the Clinton Campaign begins.

What this means:

If Trump loses, the RNC will at least be able to console itself that Trump did not represent Republican ideals, values and policies.

If Hillary loses, however, it will be a very strong condemnation and indictment of the DNC and the Democratic Party - along with their explicit ideals, values and policies as embodied by Hillary Clinton. Because like it or not, Hillary IS the Democratic Party, and the rejection of Hillary will do serious and lasting harm to the Democratic Party as a whole.



If EVER there was a time for Superdelegates, it is 2016

Firstly, I think it is time we realized that the vaunted "Two Party System" is a farce. They both control the Establishment, and yet they each have an ever-dwindling share of the overall electorate. The Democrats represent only 29% of the electorate, the Republicans 26%. Independents make up 43%. Yet, in the "closed" primaries Independents are not allowed to vote!

What this means is that the "Party Faithful" who represent a small minority of the overall Electorate, choose their favourite candidate, and then the Party tries like hell to convince the Independent voters to like their candidate as well. Obviously such a system can land us where we are today - two candidates, both of whom are hated by a MAJORITY of the American people.

To be fair, Donald Trump has made it this far in stark opposition to and despite the best efforts of the RNC and the GOP Establishment. But look at Hillary! The DNC and the Party Establishment have done everything they can to rig the process so that she will be the nominee, and yet Hillary is disliked by a strong majority of Americans - her favorability ratings are under water by -16%, while Trump's are - 18%.

The problem for the Democrats is that the extent to which Clinton is beloved by the die-hard Democratic rank-and-file, she is hated by the population in general.

BUT - this is EXACTLY why the Democratic Party, in its wisdom, decided to invent Superdelegates. The purpose of the Superdelegates is to step in and prevent a disaster from happening if and when the DNC primary process results in a presumptive nominee who is popular among the Democratic "base" (i.e., 29% of voters) but has little or no chance of winning in the General Election. Given that Hillary has already lost an 11-pt. lead over Trump and continues to lose ground, it would seem that NOW is the time for the SD's to exercise their power. Bernie Sanders beats trump by double digits, and in the polls that currently show Hillary tied with or losing to Trump, Bernie is beating him by up to 15 points. So come on Democrats, use the tools that you have to win in November!! Pick Bernie Sanders as your nominee!! #BernieOrBust #DropOutHillary #StillSanders.

Blame Bernie for Hillary Losing?

HA HA! It's already starting, eh? Sure - in a year that EVERY PUNDIT and political observer had named "the year of the outsider" and the "anti-establishment year" let's choose a candidate who embodies the Establishment. Yes, her husband was President, so let's entice the American people - who are in an anti-Establishment mood - with the chance to have good old Bill "Slick Willy" Clinton shuffling around the White House again, doing God knows what.

Let's choose a candidate who by her own admission is "terrible at politics." Let's find one that has been in the public eye for a long time, but who lost her last Presidential primary to an unknown 1st term junior Senator who is black and has a funny Muslim



name. Yes, we want the candidate that started out way ahead of that guy but then lost in the end.

And by all means, let's pick a candidate who has the LOWEST favourability rating of any candidate EVER. And just for good measure, let's make sure that same candidate is under an active FBI criminal investigation, the results of which will probably be made public at the WORST possible time during the campaign.

Yes - a majority (54%) of the US electorate do not like her, and even larger majority (68%) consider her not to be trustworthy. She is the epitome of an Establishment politician and a lousy campaigner. But according to the DNC, she is a sure thing to win.

You want to blame Bernie? Why not blame the candidate who, with multiple Super PACs and unlimited resources, with the entire DNC and Party establishment behind her, with 97% name recognition, with a 30 year track record, nonetheless SOMEHOW managed to piss away a 60-point lead against a completely unknown Senator from Vermont, and a 74-year old "avowed Socialist" to boot. Yes, she was ahead by 60 points and now she is virtually tied. Yes, by all means, with a stellar performance like that, if she loses the General Election it will be because that grumpy old Socialist in the rumbled suit was too mean to her.

GIVE ME A BREAK.

Time for a Third Party?

The Democrats, after all, only account for 29% of the electorate. The GOP accounts for even less (25%). The largest cohort of voters are the Independents, with 42% of the vote - i.e., 45% LARGER than either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. The Democrats are incapable off representing anywhere near a majority of the American electorate, and neither are the Republicans.

Indeed, polls indicate that fully 50% of the people supporting either Trump or Hillary are doing so because they are actually voting AGAINST the other candidate. That means that in 2016, 42% of Americans will feel that they have nothing to vote FOR.

Funny how that number of 42% keeps coming up, eh?

Moreover, in the latest polls, 60%+ of the American voters want to see a Third Party alternative.

I say, it's high time we gave them that choice!! #BernieOrBust #Movement4Bernie

Why the Democratic Convention and Party Platform Matter to Bernie Sanders

Should he lose the nomination, Bernie will automatically support Hillary Clinton as he promised to do, but his supporters will not. They are not bound by the promise that Bernie made when he entered the race, and Hillary represents everything that the Berners are against: SuperPACs, Wall Street donations and above all

Establishmentarianism. Indeed, Clinton's pre-ordained anointment by the Establishment is driven home each time a news report counts the 400+ Superdelegates that pledged themselves to Hillary before the race even started. And depending on how the convention plays out, the Democratic Establishment may appear to be villainous and corrupt to most Bernie supporters.

Bernie always starts his speeches by saying that it is "too late for Establishment politics and Establishment economics." That is his THEME, that is his MESSAGE. A message is a very powerful thing and for Sanders supporters, being against the Establishment is, in many respects, their main reason for supporting Bernie.

It will be very difficult if not impossible for people like me to suddenly do a 180 about face and support the very thing we have been campaigning against for over a year. And for Bernie it is a very tricky argument to make: "Hey, you know those things I have told you to be against all these months? Well, now I am asking you to support them." Bernie will not say this. He cannot say this and maintain his brand of authenticity and anti-Establishment audacity.

THAT is why Bernie is pushing so hard to get a Democratic Party Platform that incorporates his main themes. If the DNC adopts Bernie's main issues into the Party platform, then Bernie can make the case that Hillary, as leader of the Democratic Party, will push for change, will represent those issues and policies that Bernie has fought for, because the DNC platform says so.

In other words, don't think of it as a vote for Hillary, think of it as a vote for a party platform that is progressive and embraces Bernie's values.

Whether this will work, I don't know. But by fighting Bernie over the DNC committee assignments, the DNC seems to be working once more against their own interests. They should accommodate Bernie to the greatest extent possible in terms of fairness and in terms of adopting progressive policy planks in the platform. This will give Sanders the wherewithal and the argument to transform his movement into a pro-Democrat (and thus pro-Hillary) cohort in November.

Of course, this assumes a modicum of intelligence on the part of the DNC, so it will probably not play out like this at all.

Clinton and the IG Report

The IG report shows that there is NO comparison to be made between the email use of Clinton and Powell. Powell used an AOL account occasionally, but he kept two different computers on his desk - one for official State business and one for private correspondence.

Hillary Clinton went to great trouble and expense to set up a non-secure private email server in her basement so that she could keep 100% of her emails away from public scrutiny, State Dept governance, FOIA requests, and so on. This was unprecedented and was against ALL govt. rules at the time.

So when she says it was standard procedure for her predecessors, that is a lie.

There were rules put in place in 2009 while Clinton was at the State Dept that said that using private emails for official business was not allowed, and indeed Clinton

herself sent out an actual Memo to all State Dept employees, ambassadors etc informing them of the need to use official government email servers for all communication.

So when she says that the rules were put in place after she left, that was a lie. When she says the rules were ambiguous or confused, that is a lie.

Clinton, unlike 4 of the other 5 Secretaries of State who were reviewed in the IG report, REFUSED to cooperate with the IG and sit for an interview about her emails. Her staff also refused to cooperate.

So when she says she is fully cooperating and will talk to anyone about the issue, that is a lie.

Classified material is classified whether it is marked classified or not. 2200 emils containing classified information were found on Clinton's server. In addition there were 22 SAP emails that were so top secret that they were "born" classified and top secret and did not even need to be marked as such, because they were only supposed to reside on a top secret secure State Dept. server. Yet somehow these emails also found their way onto Clinton's non-secured private email server.

So when Clinton says that she never sent or received classified information on her email server, this is a lie. When she says none of the classified emails were "marked" classified that is disingenuous and misleading, as she had been trained to identify Classified material on sight ans to handle it accordingly, She failed in both instances.

Clinton says that she turned over all work-related emails to the State Dept. Yet more emails keep popping up. But the claim itself is ludicrous: out of 62,000 emails, Clinton claims that 31,000 of them were personal/private. This is deeply disturbing, as it means that roughly half of her email correspondence on any day was private. If you calculate 10 min. per email, that means Clinton spent about 3 hours a day writing personal correspondence.

While that might explain her dismal record and execrable performance while in office, it does not pass the smell test as far as being believable.

Why Clinton would be Worse than Trump

1. Firstly, I do not believe that someone will set fire to the Capitol and blame it on the Mexicans or the Muslims. IOW - I do not foresee Trump being able to seize Hitlerian style absolute power. He will face the same checks and balances that have hamstrung Obama for 8 years.
2. If elected, Trump would be hemmed in on all sides by aggressive Democrats and scared Republicans trying to salvage their own seats and their own upcoming re-elections. He would be blocked to an extent that would make Obama look like he had carte blanche for 8 years.



3. People who are wetting themselves over SCOTUS nominations are impugning the integrity and the backbone of the Democrats in the US Senate. Trump will not be able to push a radical right-winger onto the bench. He prides himself on making deals, he will make a deal to get a judge appointed over what will be strong Democratic opposition.

4. Trump wants to be POTUS - he does not want to be a "War President" - he is untravelled and uninterested in foreign events. He has run on a non-interventionist platform, and that is a major difference between him and Clinton, whom he has attacked incessantly for Iraq.

5. Trump has railed against bad trade deals and the TPP - this is another differentiator and is one of the few points that his supporters all agree on. Trump would most probably resist going back on this, one of his few consistent campaign promises, by signing the TPP.

6. The amount of damage that Trump could do would thus be very modest, aside from the more subjective damage done to America's prestige and image by having our own Berlusconi in the WH.

7. Clinton, OTOH, knows "how to get things done" - and that scares me deeply. With Bill in charge of the economy (as she repeatedly promises), TPP will be a done deal - Bill as we know has never met a trade deal he didn't like.

8. Likud-led Israel badly wants the US to attack Iran and bomb them back to the stone age. Hillary will oblige them. If she wins, we will be bombing Iran before you can say "I Love Bibi".

9. Syria? Again - Israel wants Assad out, so Hillary will oblige. We will push Russia out of the area and cause even more misery and instability all in the name of Israeli Security.

10. God only knows what she will do to further punish, provoke and incite Russia, but look for a very aggressive and trigger-happy Putin if Hillary gets in.

AND - I have not even started on what having two Presidents Clinton at the helm will mean for the Clinton Foundation and the Clinton Global Initiative. I think that their "Initiative" may just about be tantamount to world domination. I am not joking. You do know that she prizes Henry Kissinger as a mentor and an advisor on world affairs and foreign policy, right? That the Clintons vacation together with the Kissingers? Makes my skin crawl, and I fear having any POTUS who is on such close personal terms with a genocidal maniac war criminal like K.

And finally: how bad can Trump be? The Clintons famously went to Trump's wedding. They in turn invited Trump to their daughter's wedding. Chelsea and Ivanka are BFFs. Bill plays GOLF with Donald. If Trump really were the dangerous megalomaniacal bigot that the Clinton camp would have us believe, then why be so cozy with him?



General Comments

***Reaganism Teaches us What Bernie's Political Revolution is About**

Ronald Reagan ran on a platform of right wing catnip: Abolish Medicare; Privatise Social Security; drastically shrink the Federal Government; cut taxes to the bone, overturn Roe v. Wade. Once elected, however, Reagan actually RAISED taxes 11 times. He grew the Federal workforce by 30%; he did not touch Medicare or Social Security, indeed he cut an historic deal with Tip O'Neill, Democrat House Leader, to extend the viability of Social Security. Reagan did practically nothing on Roe v. Wade.

And yet, Reagan transformed the American political mentality. Conservatism became cool; greed was good; the word "liberal" became an epithet and an accusation by which to smear your opponent. The entire political spectrum shifted Rightwards, so much so that the Democrats were forced to embrace the "New Democrat" thinking of the Democratic Leadership Council and its Chairman, Bill Clinton.

Bill Clinton had been Governor of Arkansas. You do not get to be Governor of Arkansas by being a liberal. And Bill was eager to show just how much he was NOT a liberal: he famously left the campaign trail to fly back top Arkansas to oversee the execution of a deeply mentally impaired inmate. He invented the "Sister Souljah Moment" to show how much of a racist Southerner he still was.

THIS was what Reagan achieved. He may not have managed to get done all those Right wing dream ticket items, but he forced the Democrats to become Republicans. It is amazing to see video of the Clintons back then: Hillary telling an audience in NH about black "Super Predators" and how they need to be "brought to heel." The support for mass incarceration. Ending "Welfare as we know it" and turning welfare recipients into productive citizens rather than "deadbeats" as Hillary called them. The abolition of AFDC threw millions of children into poverty. The Clintons' Crime Bill and 3-strikes laws led to the mass incarceration of millions of black youths. The Democrats became the Party of Wall Street, with Bill Clinton making history in 1996 as the first Democratic Presidential candidate to raise more money from Corporate America than his GOP rival.

And yet – and yet – these pro-business, pro-Wall Street, anti-poor New Democrats were the people that ran as "liberals" and "progressives". The American political scene had changed so much that the Democratic President, leader of the Democratic Party and heir to the mantle of FDR, LBJ, Harry Truman, could stand up and proudly proclaim that "the era of big government is over." I'll bet that was when Grover Norquist got his first chubbie.

So here we are, and a Reagan of the Left is running in the form of Bernie Sanders. Is he maddeningly vague? Yes, but that is only because he is aspirational and exhorting people to "think big" and go back to a time before Reagan, when Government could do good things, big things, when Government could make people's lives better. When Government could be a force for fairness and a shield to protect the ordinary citizen from being ground under the giant boot-heel of huge multinational corporations.



Why Bernie's "Political Revolution" is a Double-Edged Sword

Bernie Sanders is attracting huge crowds, and his followers - his main demographic - is comprised of young people and working class people who usually do not vote. One of Bernie's main themes is that "Republicans win when turnout is low." Bernie has identified this group of "self-disenfranchised" voters who have given up on the system. This is why issues that have strong majority support among citizens do not get addressed in Congress. Establishment politicians know that young people, students and the working poor just do not show up.

Only 35% of voters voted in 2014. Even in Presidential years, 50% of voters stay home. Among young people, 60% to 80% do not vote. Bernie has targeted this group. and his "Political Revolution" is nothing more or less than a campaign to bring these non-voting groups to the polls and get them involved on an ongoing basis in the political and electoral process. That's it.

Bernie is confident that if we increase voter participation, we will have a country and a government that better serves the people.

HOWEVER - the people that Bernie is attracting are loyal to Bernie, not the Democratic Party. Much was made of the fact that at the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner in Iowa last week the Bernie supporters left en masse after his speech and did not stick around to listen to Hillary Clinton. This fact reflects what I, as an avid supporter and follower of the Sanders campaign, know to be true: Bernie has a "yooj" following that is enthusiastic and fervent, almost evangelical in nature, but that enthusiasm is reserved only for Bernie.

Because these supporters do not usually vote, they will not show up in any polls of so-called "likely voters." That is why the Sanders campaign continues to exude confidence even in the face of daunting poll numbers.

This massive movement (and it is a movement) is however a double-edged sword. If Bernie becomes the nominee, this cohort of previously non-voting voters will most certainly propel him to victory. If however Hillary Clinton becomes the nominee, this same horde of potential voters will not come out to vote. They will, in all probability, avoid the polls like they avoided the Clinton speech in Iowa.

The Democratic Party Establishment needs to consider this. They have in 2016 a chance to massively expand their party's base, to get huge numbers of voters to come to their side, and to dramatically change the political landscape in America in a way that has not been seen since Reagan.

If however the Democratic Establishment see fit to use their power and influence to ensure a Clinton nomination, they will lose the chance to recruit these people and condemn the country to Right-Wing dominated government for another generation,

and in so doing also risk losing the General Election in 2016.

Reagan Analogy – History Repeats!

Imagine, a politician who is true to his ideals, even when they are not popular; one who stays the course, keeps true to himself, and seizes the right moment when the US public is of the right mind to accept his radically different message.

This politician speaks plainly, has an answer to every question, and is magnificently convincing because he is sincere and well-practiced in his delivery, in his positions, in his unabashed embrace of a political philosophy that had been decried as “radical” and “fringe” and “out of the mainstream” for the past decades.

Suddenly, this politician gains traction with the Common Man, who appreciates his honesty, understands his outrage, and has had enough of the “mainstream” political philosophy that has simply stopped working for America. He leads what quickly becomes a political “Revolution” that dramatically changes the political landscape in America ...

Yes of course I am talking about Ronald Reagan.

But I think the same holds true for Bernie. He has spent decades in the wilderness. He has endured the long period in which “liberal” was a dirty epithet, and “socialism” even worse. But his time has arrived, and I would bet that we will see “Bernie Republicans” come out and support him.

And after all, why not? Bernie represents the economic interests of what we used to call “Reagan Democrats” - every one of his positions enjoys strong majority support among ALL Americans, regardless of party affiliation.

Bernie is running against a woman with a LOT of baggage, and one who is beholden to what Bernie calls the “billionaire class” ... just as Reagan was able to dismiss GHW Bush, Bob Dole, John Anderson and others as “too liberal” and corrupt during the 1980 GOP Primary, Bernie will also be able to sell himself, ultimately, as “the real deal” - with Hillary being just too conservative and corrupted by her billionaire friends on Wall Street and K Street.

Yes, my friends, the pendulum is finally swinging. We thought we were seeing a sea change with Obama - but he turned out to be just another opportunistic politician. Bernie is the clear-eyed, consistent, unabashed Liberal that America will love.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Reagan Comparison - Short

Imagine, a politician who is true to his ideals, even when they are not popular; one who stays the course, keeps true to himself, and seizes the right moment when the US public is of the right mind to accept his radically different message.

Suddenly, this politician gains traction with the Common Man, who appreciates his honesty, understands his outrage, and has had enough of the “mainstream” political philosophy that has simply stopped working for America. He leads what quickly becomes a political “Revolution” that dramatically changes the political landscape in America ...

Yes of course I am talking about Ronald Reagan.

But I think the same holds true for Bernie. He has spent decades in the wilderness.

He has endured the long period in which “liberal” was a dirty epithet. But his time has arrived, and I would bet that we will see “Bernie Republicans” come out and support him.

Like Bernie, the “Reagan Revolution” also came out of the blue: remember – the great socialist programs of Medicare, Medicaid and The Great Society were all introduced in the late 60’s – if someone had told me a scant decade later that a far-right cowboy B-movie actor who was against Social Security and against Medicare and against Roe v. Wade and against unions and against civil rights would win in Michigan, Massachusetts, New York, and yes, even Vermont, I would have told them they were CRAZY.
So go ahead. Call us crazy.

Reagan Comparison - Reply

Bernie Sanders will be our next President, so get used to it. The “free market” capitalism / libertarianism you all claim to support is the greatest MYTH ever perpetrated on humanity - there is no such thing as a free market, there are only different people who make the rules. As a Democratic Socialist - which is very different from a Socialist (see <http://www.dsausa.org>), Bernie believes that people should have a larger role in deciding how the market functions, so that the economy is there to serve the people and not vice-versa. I remember 1980 when Reagan won by a landslide, a far right Conservative winning NY, NJ, MA and almost every other blue state except Minnesota - it was a blowout. And now the country is ready for a blowout in the other direction.

So hold onto your tinfoil hats, it's going to be a bumpy ride for y'all.

Reagan Comparison - Age

Bernie is about as old as Joe Biden is, and just a few years older than Hillary. However, I like to compare Sanders to Reagan, who also lead a transformative (as Obama says) “revolution” in American politics.

When Reagan was elected, he was 69, which was just 3 years away from the average life expectancy at the time. Bernie is 73, but he is a full 6 years away from the average life expectancy today.

In short, if 50 is the new 30, then 70 is the new 50.

Just as Reagan wanted to take the country back 50 years to the time pre-FDR and pre-New Deal, Bernie wants to take the country back 50 years to the time pre-Reagan and pre-Reaganomics. In order to do that, he needs to have perspective, he needs to know about the concepts and the movement of which he speaks. Bernie's age in this instance brings gravitas and authority, and his “50 years of consistency” means all the more because of the longevity of his convictions.

Electability

I would remind everyone that Bernie Sanders is a “socialist” that has been re-elected NINE (9) TIMES to Congress. As a socialist, he was re-elected Senator with 71% of

the vote.

I'll say it again - as a socialist, he won with 71% of the vote.

Show me a Democratic politician who has that record, and running in a state with a higher GUN ownership rate than Nebraska, Ohio, Illinois, North Carolina and Missouri.

Oh, and just for good measure, this "socialist Jew" got those huge mandates in a state with just under 1% Jewish population.

Incorruptibility

Bernie Sanders has been in Congress 25 years. He has been re-elected 9 times, most recently with 71% of the vote. Before that he was Mayor of Vermont's biggest city. And after all that, his Net Worth is only \$330,000. And most of that was from a \$200,000 severance his wife got from her job running a college.

So if you want to say Bernie is stupid for being so poor after all those years in politics, or he's an idiot or inept because he stayed in politics so long without making a fortune or getting a sweet job as a lobbyist or consultant, then you are welcome to make that argument.

Such an argument would certainly be more believable than saying Bernie Sanders is corrupted by money and big donors.

Bernie Differs from Democrats / Morality as a Political Theme

You have made the same errors that so many make when talking about Bernie - that is to equate his political beliefs and his stance on issues with those of Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and/or the Democratic Party. This is simply not true. If it were true that Bernie's positions and those of the Democratic Party were one and the same, then HE WOULD BE A DEMOCRAT.

Indeed, this erroneous mindset is witnessed by two facts that no one in the fourth estate seems to be able to put together. On one hand, Sanders is criticised because he has not managed to introduce legislation that gets voted on and passed. On the other hand, he has voted 95%-99% with the Democrats on legislation that DID come up for a vote. If I am allergic to seafood and really want filet mignon, and my choice for dinner is either salmon or chicken, I will vote for the chicken. Welcome to the frustrating world of Bernie Sanders's 25 years in Congress.

Bernie is a Democratic Socialist, which means he believes in many things that used to be the bedrock of the Democratic Party, but disappeared from the American political landscape following the Reagan Revolution. Indeed, Bernie's political platform is taken almost word for word from FDR's "Second Bill of Rights" aka the "Economic Bill of Rights." This legislation was a non-starter in the US at the time, but it did become adopted by the European countries when they rebuilt their political systems following WWII.

Bernie disagrees strongly with Clinton and the Democratic Party on many issues. TPP is the latest - Bernie never misses a chance to rail against the TPP as well as every other "Democratic" trade deal since NAFTA, which he characterises consistently as "disastrous" for American workers, and all of which he voted against. He thinks Obamacare is nothing but a sop to the insurance industry and is adamant about expanding Medicare to cover all. I will not go into every issue here, but suffice

it to say that the Democratic Party has, since Bill Clinton and the DLC, become a party of the centre, with Obama acting as what would have been a centre-right politician anytime prior to 1990.

THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE between Bernie and the Democrats, however, is Bernie's unabashed penchant for framing his arguments in quasi-religious moral terms. He is not afraid to talk about greed, and to accuse the Koch Brothers and corporate giants of greed. The Democrats still seem to be languishing under the 80's meme that "greed is good" and that one should not "criticise success". Bernie will have none of that. He believes - and he exhorts his supporters to believe - that there is something morally reprehensible about being wealthy and wanting to acquire even more wealth "while children go to bed hungry."

Bernie is a big fan of Pope Francis and even channels the Pontiff on both the Senate floor and in his rallies. He believes, like Francis, that Climate Change is not a social, economic or even scientific issue - it is a moral one.

Liberals have traditionally been loathe to couch their positions in religious doctrine, and Democrats especially shy away from using words like "greed", "evil", "abhorrent", "abysmal" and so on to describe their political foes or an opposing viewpoint. Not Bernie. In fact, I have not heard a politician so fond of using the word "grotesque" since Newt Gingrich in the 90's. When Bernie's supporters say that he "tells the truth" and "gives it to you straight" they might as well be saying that he is not afraid to call a sin a sin, and a sinner a sinner.

Bernie and the Democrats not only differ in terms of policy they are literally worlds apart in how they frame the debate itself. Bernie is appealing to the Christian nature of Americans, telling them that it's OK, they can come back to what they always knew in their hearts: that Jesus would condemn Gordon Gekko and raise high the modest worker. Bernie is reminding them of what they learned in Sunday school, and he is giving them a way to exercise those beliefs in a context that will redound to the overall good not just of society, but of themselves.

That is a powerful message indeed, and not one that Hillary or any other establishment Democrat can offer.

Bernie not a Democrat?

Bernie has caucused with the Democrats in the House and Senate for 25 years, where he has voted for and supported Democratic leadership and sponsored, co-sponsored Democratic legislation; the Democratic leadership rewarded him with Committee assignments and chairs. When it comes to governing, Bernie Sanders has done MUCH, MUCH more to advance Democratic causes and policies than has Hillary Clinton with her lackluster 8 years in the Senate..

Immigration

Consistent Position /Long

Bernie's position on immigration is completely consistent with his overall philosophy and especially his opposition to international "trade" agreements such as GATT/WTO, NAFTA, CAFTA, PNTR, and now TPP. These deals are backed by the Koch Bros. and other Big Businesses because they facilitate the free flow of CAPITAL and GOODS between nations without regulations, and place corporations'

profits above the sovereign will of the people in the participating countries. What has been missing so far however, is an agreement on the free flow of LABOR.

Of course the big multinationals would like to see “open borders” where all people can go – and work – everywhere. Unfortunately, there are still these pesky things called “nation states” that try to serve the best interests of their citizens, and this means workplace regulations. The Koch Bros. and other multinationals would like to see both sides of the equation covered, so that Capital and Labor BOTH would flow freely without being subject to regulations or controls by individual nations. Wages would then plummet everywhere in a dismal race to the bottom, leaving even more profit for the corporations.

Bernie is completely correct in saying that if such an “open borders” policy is ever adopted then nation states like the USA will for all intents and purposes cease to exist, and we will all live in a dystopian world ruled by mega-corporations like in Rollerball. Is that what you want?

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Open Borders – Short (COOL)

Bernie assumes that an "open borders" policy would further diminish the strength of the nation state as we know it and further increase the power of multinational corporations. We already have trade deals that allow corporations to sue nations if they pass regulations that eat into profits (real or projected) - America has already lost the right to COOL (Country of Origin Labelling) which used to tell an American consumer where the hamburger you are buying actually came from. Not any more - the meat could come from Nebraska or Canada or Mexico - you will never know. Phillip Morris is suing Uruguay because that country implemented an anti-smoking public health campaign.

Bernie sees an open borders policy as part of that continuum - taking power away from nations and their elected governments and giving it to multinational corporations. He is consistent, and he is right!

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Reagan on Open Borders

Look, “Open Borders” is not just a Koch Brothers idea, it was Ronald Reagan’s position, and Bernie is nothing if not the anti-Reagan. In 1980, Reagan said we should “open the border both ways” with Mexico:

<http://reason.com/blog/2014/11/21/friday-av-club-what-gop-immigration-poli#.pvk98o:K0AD>

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

What Open Borders Really Means

People talk about “open borders” without, I think, fully realizing what it would mean. I think many people think it would only affect unskilled workers, but obviously it would have to apply to everyone. So you would have plumbers, machinists, skilled and

semi-skilled workers coming to America in hopes of making 5x what they make in their home country.

Likewise, I expect that any “open borders” policy would include provisions allowing professionals like engineers, software developers, managers – even doctors and lawyers – to move to America and work.

This is why Big Business and the Koch Brothers LOVE an “Open Borders” policy – it would, in effect remove the need for outsourcing. Rather than move the jobs to Vietnam or India, the Indians and the Vietnamese could just move to America! It would radically drive down the cost of labor – indeed, wages AND salaries would plummet – and it would dramatically increase profit!

Imagine – those techies in Silicon Valley would no longer be making those huge 6-figure incomes. They will be making the same as their colleagues in Bangalore and Karachi. Larry Ellison, Jeff Bezos and other tech billionaires will be popping champagne! – Oh, and so will those Koch Brothers Bernie mentions.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Positions and Issues

Climate Change

I grew up in the 70’s when America was leading the world in green technology and environmentalism. The ozone layer was disappearing, and we solved the problem by leading the world in eliminating CFC’s.

Jimmy Carter had a program under which homeowners would get a tax deduction for installing solar heating panels on their roof. While in college I actually had a summer job selling these systems. They were very popular! And our President led by example as well: Carter installed solar heating panels on the roof of the White House.

Under Carter, America started to move to smaller, more fuel-efficient cars, and lead-free gasoline was introduced to work together with catalytic converters to lower the pollution caused by automobile exhaust.

Then Ronald Reagan was elected. Almost on the first day, he ripped out the solar panels on the White House and set about getting America back into the fossil fuel camp. SUV’s were introduced, and the size of American cars swung to the other end of the size spectrum.

When I graduated college, I got my first job as European Sales Representative for Allied Signal, an American company that made catalytic converters for automobiles running on unleaded gas. The US was 15 years ahead of Europe in clean-car technology, and we sold our catalysts to Mercedes, BMW, Porsche, Renault, Peugeot and FIAT. I must say it was a wonderful feeling to be respected as an American by my colleagues and customers: respected for the technology that only America could have pioneered.

Sadly, those days are gone. America is now “Number 1” among advanced countries only in areas like gun violence, obesity, military spending and of course the denial of Climate Change.

Bernie Sanders has a plan to take America back to our rightful place as a pioneer and an innovator in clean technology. Under Bernie’s leadership, the US will lead the world once again in stewarding the planet. America can and will become the “indispensible nation” not just in terms of military security but also in climate security. The world needs radical change in terms of our relationship with the planet and our environment; the world is counting on America not just to develop the technologies we need, but also to once more provide a shining example of what can be achieved when American ingenuity is combined with sensible public policy. #FeelTheBern – Bernie2016!

Popularity of Bernie’s Positions with Percentages (Citations)

Bernie’s ideas are not radical or "fringe" positions - they are SUPPORTED BY STRONG MAJORITIES OF AMERICANS:

65% support expanding Social Security:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/19/social-security-benefits-poll_n_4305258.html?utm_hp_ref=politics

67% support “Medicare for All” Single payer health care:

<http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/229959-majority-still-support-single-payer-option-poll-finds>

63% Support Free Tuition at public colleges:

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/230064-poll-majority-support-obamas-free-tuition-planb>

64% support increasing corporate taxes:

<http://www.people-press.org/2015/03/19/federal-tax-system-seen-in-need-of-overhaul/>

61% support increasing taxes on the wealthy:

<http://www.people-press.org/2015/03/19/federal-tax-system-seen-in-need-of-overhaul/>

63% support a \$15 minimum wage:

<http://www.nelp.org/content/uploads/2015/03/Minimum-Wage-Poll-Memo-Jan-2015.pdf>

Moreover:

215 economists support Bernie’s proposal of a \$15 Minimum Wage as well – they even submitted a petition to Congress:

<http://www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/public/index.cfm/2015/7/top-economists-are-backing-sen-bernie-sanders-on-establishing-a-15-an-hour-minimum-wage>

170 economists support Bernie’s proposal to reform Wall Street:

<http://www.politicususa.com/2016/01/14/170-economists-bernie-sanders-plan-reform-wall-st-rein-greed.html>



Popularity of Bernie's Position with Percentages (No Citations)

Bernie's ideas are not radical or "fringe" positions - they are SUPPORTED BY STRONG MAJORITIES OF AMERICANS:

67% support "Medicare for All" Single payer health care

63% Support Free Tuition at public colleges

64% support increasing corporate taxes

61% support increasing taxes on the wealthy

63% support the \$15 minimum wage (as do 215 prominent economists)

BERNIE SANDERS

AND THE PEOPLE

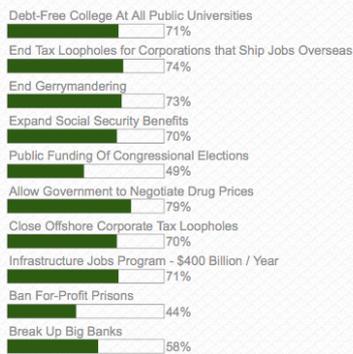
Polling suggests the majority of 2016 voters agree with Bernie Sanders' platform.



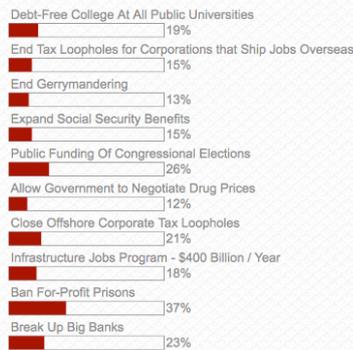
WHAT DO VOTERS THINK OF HIS IDEAS?

Progressive Change Insitute polling of likely 2016 voters.

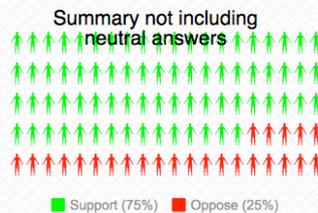
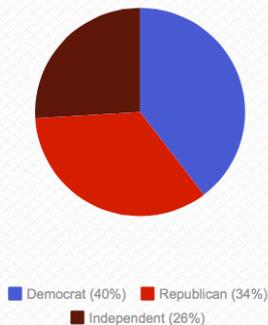
SUPPORT



OPPOSE



POLITICAL AFFILIATION OF THOSE POLLED



Bi-Partisan Stats

"583 (38.9%) of those interviewed identified themselves as Democrats, 382 (25.5%) as Independents, and 507 (33.8%) as Republicans."

Figure 1: Infographic showing popularity of Bernie's Positions

Minimum Wage - FDR

When FDR set up the Minimum Wage as part of the New Deal in 1933, he said:
“It seems to me to be equally plain that no business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. By "business" I mean the whole of commerce as well as the whole of industry; by workers I mean all workers, the white collar class as well as the men in overalls; and by living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level-I mean the wages of decent living.”

So you see, the Minimum Wage was and has always been meant to mean a Living Wage. We just need to go back to that idea.

Minimum Wage - Effect of \$15 Minimum Wage on Prices

A \$15 minimum wage will add only 17 cents to the price of a Big Mac.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2015/07/30/what-doubling-the-minimum-wage-would-do-to-the-price-of-a-big-mac/>

Currently, taxpayers are paying \$153 billion a year to subsidize low-wage workers:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/04/15/we-are-spending-153-billion-a-year-to-subsidize-mcdonalds-and-walmarts-low-wage-workers/>

Minimum Wage – CEO Hypocrisy

The CEO of Dunkin’ Donuts, Nigel Travis, notably slammed the movement toward a \$15 minimum wage, calling it “outrageous.” But while low-wage workers have not seen a substantial raise in decades (along with declining purchasing power since the 1960s), Travis himself has been raking it in. This year, he earned about \$10.2 million—or about \$5,800 per hour—which is twice what he made in 2014, making his own hypocrisy the only thing that is “outrageous.”

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2015/03/30/dunkin-ceo-pay-doubled/hXp2WjwxpBWIKkPWtdsD4J/story.html>

Travis is not the exception by a long shot, either; the average CEO makes about 300 times what their staff earns, and CEO pay has increased about 54 percent since the start of the economic recovery in 2009, according to the Economic Policy Institute. Even worse, the federal minimum wage stands at \$7.25—which is exactly where it was in 2009.

Yet for the top 1 percent of earners, incomes have quadrupled since 1980.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/richest-americans-see-huge-growth-in-income/>

Myopia

Ever since the 1980's - and especially under Clinton and the so-called "Democratic Leadership Council" - the two parties have pursued the same economic agenda. Clinton co-opted all the economic policies of the Republicans so that he - and other establishment Democrats - could get the support of wealthy donors.

There was then a tacit agreement that the Democrats and the Republicans would "fight it out" over social issues like Abortion, Gay Marriage, Gun Control, School Prayer, Evolution, Race, Immigration, and so on. No one talked about economics.

Bernie has been criticized for being "too focused on economics" - but that is only because no one has talked about economics in terms of the middle class since 1980. People are just not used to it. We have been told for 30 years that "economics" means tax-cuts for the rich, and to the extent that you were either for or against those tax cuts, you were judged to be a Democrat or a Republican, a "liberal" or a "conservative" - we became completely MYOPIC as country, unable to see what is really going on.

Now Bernie comes along and says, "wait, instead of arguing over just how much or how little to CUT Social security, let's talk about expanding it. Instead of fighting over how to make college more "affordable" - let's just make it tuition-free - like it used to be up until the 70's."

So - minds are being blown, because we have collectively lost our memory of when things used to be different. People reject Bernie's ideas as "radical" and yet everyone knows that what he is saying is true. We have just become so docile, so accustomed to moving on that small little playing field that the donor class and the political elite have set up for us, that we cannot imagine doing anything to really affect the status quo - for 30 years we have tinkered around the edges, made small adjustments here and there ... now we need to actually reverse the decline that we have been experiencing and return to what we were before money became the be-all and end-all, before "trickle-down economics" became a matter of accepted faith. Before the political Establishment conspired with the wealthy to rob the middle class. FEEL THE BERN!!!

Meme on Wealth

There is a popular meme on the Right that goes something like this:

"Socialism is horrible, because eventually you run out of other people's money. Do you realize that if you confiscated all the wealth, every single penny of the top 10% that it would only run our government for six months or so."

Let's do the numbers:

Total Net Worth of all US households: \$84.9 Trillion

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/americans-net-worth-hits-high-of-84-9-trillion-1434038401>

Net Worth of the top 10% of US households (75%): \$63.9 trillion

<http://www.mybudget360.com/wealth-inequality-america-top-10-percent-of-us-households-control-75-percent-of-wealth/>

Net Worth of the top 1% of US households (35%): \$34.9 trillion

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wealth_inequality_in_the_United_States

Net Worth of the top 0.1% of US households (25%): \$21.2 trillion

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/nov/13/us-wealth-inequality-top-01-worth-as-much-as-the-bottom-90>

Total Federal Budget for 2015: 3.9 trillion (Wiki)

This means that the net worth of the top 10% could run the Federal Government for 16 YEARS.

Are you surprised? I would imagine that most people do not realize just how much frigging money the top 10% really do have.

But this is even more interesting: the total DEBT of the US is now at \$19 trillion – that means the Net Worth of the very top 1/10th of 1% (0.1%) could more than wipe out our entire DEBT! Isn't that fantastic? Bring me my pitchfork!! :-)

Income Inequality

Bernie's right in pointing out that the US has a "grotesque" and "absurd" level of income inequality. According to Global Finance magazine, which lists all countries by their GINI coefficient, which represents the income distribution of a nation's residents. Out of 34 OECD countries, the US is the 31st WORST in terms of income inequality. In case you are wondering, the three countries we beat are Turkey, Mexico and Chile.

Tuition Free Public Colleges

The public colleges and universities that Bernie wants to make "tuition free" were established using Federal Land Grants back in the 1800's (under the Morrill Act). As part of their charter, they were to offer tuition free educations to in-state taxpayers – just like anyone who lives in a city or town gets to attend that town's High Schools "tuition free." This is not a radical concept!!

Anyway, these public universities thrived, people were educated and these institutions stayed tuition free for over 100 years. That's right -- until the mid 1960's you could have gone to UCAL Berkeley or UCLA for FREE. What happened in the 1960's? Well, Ronald Reagan and other conservative State Governors wanted to cut taxes and maintain balanced budgets -- so ... they introduced tuition to the previously free public colleges. Nice, huh?

So DO NOT frame this proposal as some sort of radical "leftist" idea - Bernie Sanders simply wants to turn those public colleges and universities back into the truly "public" schools that they were originally established to be, and the way they functioned for a century before radical "rightists" decided to start making people PAY for what was supposed to be a public service.

For a list of all the public universities that used to be "tuition free" before Reagan and other conservatives took over, click here:

<http://www.nap.edu/read/4980/chapter/2>

Student Loan Interest Rates – Right Wing Talking Point

Ignorant right-wingers make the argument that "Bernie doesn't understand economics" because he asks why student loan rates are higher than car or house loans. Conservatives say it is simply because there is no collateral.

But it is CONGRESS that sets those loan rates!!

Bernie is saying that it is in the interest of the public good and the national future of our country to have an educated population. If Congress is setting the interest rates, if the government is running the student loan programme, then the Congress should



not be acting like Wells Fargo or Citibank. They should be acting for the good of the country and of the American people. And that means having lower interest rates on the student loans that the government makes.

Post Office Banks – why it is a good idea

This is an excellent idea because there are many parts of the country where there are no banks. Indeed, of the 30,000+ Post Offices in the country, 59% are located in Zip Codes where there are no traditional banking services available.

The people who live in these “bank deserts” have to rely on check cashing services and payday lenders, which charge exorbitant fees. Each year, the average “underserved” household spends \$2,412 – nearly 10 percent of gross income – in fees and interest for what is euphemistically called “alternative financial services”. These people are getting doubly screwed because they are paying exorbitant fees but do not have the opportunity to create a credit history, have access to affordable, safe and sustainable financial services, or build assets over time.

Postal Banking is widespread throughout the world, and 1,5 billion people rely worldwide on Postal Banking. It is like universal health care, paid family and medical leave, and free college tuition – just one more thing that every other industrialized country in the world has, except the US. It is a valid a trusted concept, and one that is already proven to work in the US. From 1917 to 1967 the US had Postal Banking. The United States Postal Savings System (USPSS) eventually closed because it was not allowed to charge or offer high interest rates, and as banks opened more branches everywhere, they could not compete. NOW, however, banks have been closing branches, and so we have “bank deserts” where almost 40% of Zip Codes in the US do not have a single bank in them – yet they do have a working post office, staffed with trained professionals who are already doing certain limited financial transactions such as Money Orders.

More info here:

<http://www.campaignforpostalbanking.org/know-the-facts/>

Senator Warren Champions Postal Banking

“Nearly 60 percent of Post Office branches are in banking deserts. They are in zipcodes where there are either one or no bank branches. This means that the Postal Service already has the strong brick-and-mortar presence in low-income and rural communities that traditional banks are leaving behind.

“. . .it’s not often in life when you see such a perfect match: there is a big need — 68 million Americans, who don’t have access to traditional banking — and a Post Office that has plenty of additional capacity. The two can be put together, bring down costs [and] bring more families into the financial mainstream. . .”

*Post Office Banks – why the USPS “loses” money

The government (the PRC) sets the postal rates. It tells the USPS, for example that UPS and FedEx only have to pay \$0.02 for every package the USPS helps deliver.

This is GREAT for UPS and FedEx, because it keeps their costs down, and they make more PROFIT.

This is NOT good for the USPS, because they are not covering their costs. So they are "losing" money in order for FedEx and UPS to "make" more money. Don't you see? It is just another indirect subsidy to big business.

In the 2014 Election alone, FedEx contributed over \$2 MILLION to political campaigns, and spent another \$13 MILLION on lobbying. UPS paid over \$3 MILLION in campaign contributions and spent another \$7 MILLION in lobbying.

Why do you think they give so much to the politicians? Among many other things, it is so the politicians will keep the USPS rates DOWN and run the USPS at a loss which is, in the end FedEx's and UPS's gain.

It is just like the government allowing Wal-Mart and McDonald's to pay their workers so little that they qualify for Food Stamps and Medicaid. By making the taxpayers pay part of the employees' "compensation", this is an indirect subsidy and a transfer of wealth from taxpayers to those corporations in the form of government-subsidized operating costs. Talk about socialism!

Democratic Socialism

Definition from DSUSA.org

Bernie is not a "Socialist" - he is a "Democratic Socialist" - and yes, that is a thing, and yes, it is different from standard "Socialism". In other words, think more Sweden and Denmark than Cuba and Venezuela.

There is even a national organization for Democratic Socialists in the US:

FROM: http://www.dsusa.org/what_is_democratic_socialism

"Democratic socialists believe that both the economy and society should be run democratically—to meet public needs, not to make profits for a few ...Democratic socialists do not want to create an all-powerful government bureaucracy. But we do not want big corporate bureaucracies to control our society either. Rather, we believe that social and economic decisions should be made by those whom they most affect"

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Democrats vs. Democratic Socialists (DWS)

Democrats - at least the ones that supported ACA (Obamacare) over single payer, believe that things like health care should still be a for-profit industry, and the health care companies should still have profits and spend their customers' premiums on marketing and making political contributions and lobbying - but maybe just not as much as they might have otherwise. Why do you think health care stocks skyrocketed after Obamacare was passed? A Democratic Socialist, however, believes that health care is a right and should be provided by the State and paid for with our tax dollars, just like the military.

That is what DWS was afraid of saying.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

US Invented EU Dem Socialism

The US actually invented European style Democratic Socialism!! It was all based on FDR's "Second Bill of Rights" - a.k.a., the "Economic Bill of Rights" (look it up!). FDR could not get it passed through the Republican Congress (sound familiar?) but it was worked into the Marshall Plan and the US-assisted rebuilding of the European countries after WWII. Europe never had a socialist tradition - they were used to monarchies, class structures and dictatorships - all the things our Founding Fathers wanted to get away from. So America gifted them a new way to start over clean and build a society that honored labor, protected the middle class, and granted rights to the individual that Americans still don't have. Bernie aims to rectify that.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Socialist Jew

They tell me Bernie can't win because he is a Socialist Jew. I tell them America celebrates a Socialist Jew every December 25!

Reagan Was a Socialist

People think that "Socialism" means the re-distribution of wealth. Well, in that case, the biggest Socialist President we have had was Ronald Reagan. In 1986, when Reagan slashed the top tax rate again, his redistributionist obsession led to a perversity in the law. The wealthiest faced a 28 percent tax rate, while those with lower incomes faced a 33 percent rate; in addition, the bottom rate climbed from 11 percent to 15 percent. For the first time in history, the top rate fell and the bottom rate rose simultaneously. Even unemployment compensation was not spared. The jobless had to pay income tax on their benefits. A year later, the man who would not spare unemployment compensation from taxation called for a cut in the capital gains tax. Thus, Reagan was a staunch socialist, totally committed to his cause of wealth redistribution towards the affluent. This started a trend of redistribution UPWARDS that goes on today. Bernie Sanders wants to correct that situation.

And as far as socialized, government-run healthcare is concerned, again, Reagan was its biggest proponent! When Reagan signed the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act into law (which forces ER's to treat everyone) he didn't just socialize medicine, he did it by putting the burden on the people and businesses who were actually doing the right thing and buying health insurance policies and he did it while laying an unfunded mandate on the states.

And yet people think he was for small government.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Dem Socialist Countries have highest GDP Per Capita

According to the IMF, 9 of the top 10 countries with the highest GDP per capita (used to measure a country's wealth) are Socialist Democracies: Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, San Marino, Singapore, Australia. And the 10th country, the one that is at the BOTTOM of the list? The USA.



Democratic Socialism is Better for Business

What most people don't know, and what will probably come as a surprise to you, is that it is much easier to start and grow a small business in "Socialist" Europe than in the US. This is due to several reasons:

1. Lower regulatory burdens - yep, it's true, according to the OECD
2. Lower taxes - again, it's true according to OECD
3. Better access to working capital (World Economic Forum)
4. Lower employee costs for healthcare (which are 0 in the EU because they have Single payer nationalised health care)

Small business's share of the U.S. economy is slowly shrinking and is less significant than in many European economies. This is because of crony Capitalism and "laissez-faire" attitude that believes in the so-called "Free Market" - when there is no such thing. Europe's political and economic system is from the 20th century, and America's is from the 18th. Viewed in those terms, it is not hard to believe that the European-style "Democratic Socialism" that Bernie is pushing is the way to go for entrepreneurs and believers in free enterprise.

But don't take my word on it - this is all from BusinessWeek:

http://www.businessweek.com/smallbiz/content/dec2010/sb20101210_839038.htm

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Quick Response – Anti-Socialist Hypocrisy

OK –you are anti-socialism – we get it. So will you promise everyone here and now that you won't cash your Social Security checks? I mean, you wouldn't be part of that socialist scheme, would you? Making the people who are working pay for your retirement? Horrible! And Medicare? Promise us all right now that you will NOT go on Medicare, because that, my friend, is the largest program of socialized medicine in the world!

I also assume that you do not send your kids to public school, because why should their education be paid for with other people's taxes?

Will you affirm all these points, or are you just another reactionary hypocrite?

Quick Response – Your definition of socialism is outdated

The problem with most of you who criticise Sanders because he is a "socialist" is that you are referencing a definition of Socialism that goes back to a time when "negroes" were only 3/5 of a person, and "democracy" meant you had to be a white, male property owner in order to vote. Doesn't sound much like the "democracy" that people like to cheer about today, does it? Well, socialism has evolved since the 1800's as well.

The "democratic socialism" that Bernie Sanders is promoting only means that the PEOPLE have a bigger say in how the government is run and above all, how our tax dollars get spent. It is about rewriting the rules and, in its most simplistic sense, it is



about reversing the right wing extremist rules that got written in the 1980's, when all the wealth started flowing from the middle and working classes to the top 1%.

***Quick Response – If socialism always fails, how do you explain China?**

If it is true that "socialism" that always makes a country unsuccessful, how do you explain China? They are a Socialist/Communist government and yet many would say that they are beating America at its own "capitalist" game. They have 9% economic growth and are expanding into markets all over the world. They are "buying" America's debt. Donald Trump says, "China is killing us." How can China be killing us if they have a socialist government?

The "democratic socialism" that Bernie Sanders is promoting only means that the PEOPLE have a bigger say in how the government is run and above all, how our tax dollars get spent. It is about rewriting the rules and, in its most simplistic sense, it is about reversing the right wing extremist rules that got written in the 1980's, when all the wealth started flowing from the middle and working classes to the top 1%.

Possible GOP Attacks on Bernie as a Socialist – NOT CREDIBLE

Yes, I would dearly LOVE to see the GOP attack Bernie's "socialist" positions. I would HOPE to see them attack the expansion of Social Security, which 65% of Americans support. I would ENCOURAGE them to condemn single payer "Medicare for all", which 67% of Americans support; I would BEG them to dismiss tuition free state colleges, which 63% of Americans support; I would EXPECT them to oppose raising corporate taxes, which 64% of Americans support, just as I would EXPECT them to oppose raising taxes on the wealthy, which 61% of American support. And last, but not least, I would WELCOME them to attack the \$15 minimum wage, which 63% of Americans support.

Yes, by all means, the GOP attack machine would go into overdrive against Bernie, and if you somehow think that the GOP will not go into overdrive attacking Hillary you must have been in a coma the past 30 years.

The difference is that with Bernie the attacks would backfire because Bernie - and Bernie alone - can get those new voters, independents and disaffected Republicans out to vote for him. Hillary cannot.

***Social Security is not Socialist ?**

The first SS beneficiary to receive monthly check was Ida May Fuller, who worked worked for three years under the Social Security program. The accumulated taxes on her salary during those three years was a total of \$24.75. Her initial monthly check was \$22.54. During her lifetime she collected a total of \$22,888.92 in Social Security benefits. Who paid in the money she collected?

***Americans are used to Socialism – thanks to FOX**

Oh, the delicious irony. Oh, the poetic justice! The American people have been told for 8 years that Obama is a "socialist" ... FOX, the Tea Party, the Koch Brothers and their minions – they have spent the last 8 years comparing Obama to Mao, Stalin, Hitler, etc. – and screaming "socialist", "communist" and "Marxist" all the while. And



after 8 years under the brutal heel of Obama's Socialist Oppression, the stock market is at a record high, corporate profits are obscenely high, and the unemployment rate is only 5%. Now, not all Americans may be happy with Obama or the Obama economy, but they do know that things are better than they were when he took office, and so maybe Socialism is not the disaster people say. Americans are now inured to the term "socialist" and the Right Wing have collectively cried "wolf" too many times to use it as an effective weapon against Bernie.

Fascism

Definition of Fascism (from Wikipedia):

"Fascism operated from a Social Darwinist view of human relations. The aim was to promote superior individuals and weed out the weak. In terms of economic practice, this meant promoting the interests of successful businessmen while destroying trade unions and other organizations of the working class. Fascist governments encouraged the pursuit of private profit and offered many benefits to large businesses, but they demanded in return that all economic activity should serve the national interest. Historian Gaetano Salvemini argued in 1936 that fascism makes taxpayers responsible to private enterprise, because 'the State pays for the blunders of private enterprise... Profit is private and individual. Loss is public and social.'"

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Hillary Clinton

Philosophical Difference between Hillary and Bernie

Bernie makes concrete policy proposals, while Hillary says "we need to look at this" and "we need to think about that" and proposes small incremental changes. She is not proposing anything big, she is not proposing any fundamental changes. She assumes that things will stay the same, with GOP gridlock and so on. She keeps saying she will "fight" for families and children and women. This indicates a worldview in which the GOP is still on the offensive, and she is selling herself as the "defender in chief". That defensive attitude is how – and why - the Dems keep losing.

Hillary's defensive posture is a holdover no doubt from her days in the Democratic Leadership Council. Bill Clinton was Chairman of the DLC, whose whole philosophy was based on the idea that liberal politics were "dead" and no one would vote for liberal ideas anymore. And so in order to win elections, Democrats had to become more like Republicans, and "triangulate" or co-opt GOP conservative issues and talking points in order to win elections.

DLC veterans like Hillary still believe that a truly progressive agenda cannot win in American politics, so she continues to fight a rear-guard action trying to "defend" women's rights and other progressive advancements made before 1980. She is not about changing the political landscape or promoting progressive ideals that she thinks do not have a majority of votes in the current voting electorate. So she will "defend" Social Security, and "defend" Medicare" and make college "more

affordable”.

Bernie actually FOUNDED the Progressive Caucus in the House in 1991. He is a true believer and a true liberal, and he believes that a liberal agenda can WIN if enough people come out to vote. So he is for “expanding” Social Security” and offering “Medicare for all” and making college “tuition free.” These are bold steps that will change America fundamentally and put the Republicans on the defensive.

So while Hillary talks about "fighting" Bernie talks about "winning." And THAT is the difference

What a Clinton Victory will Mean

A Hillary Clinton victory will set back the cause of Progressivism by a generation. I would much rather see a REAL Republican in the WH than have a fake Democrat suck all the air out of the Left for another 8 years. A Clinton win will solidify and greatly strengthen the stranglehold that the New Democrats and DLC have on the Democratic Party.

It will be business as usual for Wall Street and the Big Banks and these massive "institutions" will only gain in strength and influence under a Clinton Administration. I honestly believe all the economics experts that say another financial crisis is coming, and a Clinton Administration will do **absolutely nothing** to stop it happening.

The Military and the MI complex will also continue to expand, with more bombs, more boots on the ground, and more \$\$\$\$ going towards a quagmire rather than education and infrastructure.

The TPP and other bad trade deals will move forward, hurting the American middle class and transforming geopolitics through a huge increase in corporate power. We will no longer have "multinational corporations" - we will have "SUPRANATIONAL corporations."

Hillary is not for expanding Social Security and Medicare, and she has indicated that she favors "reform" - meaning she is willing to accept the calculus that there is just not enough money to support these programs, and so cuts will be "inevitable." At the first Democratic debate, she was pressed to say whether she, like Bernie, wanted to expand Social Security. "I fully support Social Security and the most important fight we're going to have is defending it against continuing Republican efforts to privatize it," Clinton said, after hesitating.

Fight. Defend. Protect.

These are the words of defeat, part of the DLC-driven strategy to scare the Left into supporting “moderate” positions because when there is so much to LOSE you dare not even consider WINNING.

Against all these horrific scenarios: financial meltdown; eternal, expensive and deadly military quagmire, continued destruction of the American middle class, cutbacks and possible privatisation of Social Security and Medicare, we are being asked to "think of the Supreme Court." While adding another conservative or to the

mix may seem like a catastrophe, I do not think it is disastrous enough to warrant setting the causes of justice, peace and prosperity back for another generation.

And having a true right-wing government will allow the Left to regroup and re-launch a new campaign to take our country back - if not in 4 then in 8 years.

Nixon's Watergate allowed Carter to win; Bush's failures helped make a President Obama possible; maybe a Trump Presidency will result in giving us a President Warren.

Hillary Clinton avoids giving answers -1

The fact is, no one knows what a Clinton presidency would look like, and Hillary is doing her best to make sure no one will know. She famously dodged a question about Keystone by saying "ask me when I am President." This seems to be her basic response to everything. She is saying, in effect:

"You cannot assume I will be more hawkish than Obama just because I have acted so in the past."

"You cannot assume that I will support the TPP just because I used to call it 'the gold standard' of trade deals"

"I do not support Keystone anymore, but I am not against it for environmental reasons, so you'll just have to guess where I will stand on future projects like this."

"I don't support private prisons even though the private prison industry is supporting my campaign."

"Just because I defended Wall Street and represented their interests as a Senator does not mean that I will continue to do so as President, and you will just have to trust me on that."

"Just because certain special interests and industries are financing my campaign does not mean that I will be favorable to them as President."

"Just because certain industries have made me a multi-millionaire does not mean I am beholden to them in any way."

She'd rather tell anecdotes about moms and kids and express outrage at the the things that we all find outrageous. She does not deserve to hold office.

***Hillary Clinton avoids giving answers - 2**

Bernie makes concrete policy proposals, while Hillary says "we need to look at this" and "we need to think about that" and proposes small incremental changes. She is not proposing anything big, she is not proposing any fundamental changes. She assumes that things will stay the same, with GOP gridlock and so on. She keeps saying she will "fight" for families and children and women. This belies a worldview in which the GOP is still on the offensive, and she is selling herself as the defender in chief.



That defensive attitude is how the Dems keep losing. This is a holdover no doubt from her days in the Democratic Leadership Council. Bill was Chairman of the DLC, whose whole philosophy was based on the idea that liberal politics could no longer win, and so in order to win elections, Democrats had to become more like Republicans, and "triangulate" or co-opt GOP conservative issues and talking points in order to win elections.

DLC veterans like Hillary still believe that a truly progressive agenda cannot win in American politics, so she continues to fight a rear-guard action trying to "defend" women's rights and other progressive advancements made before 1980. She is not about changing the political landscape or promoting progressive ideals that she thinks do not have a majority of votes in the current voting electorate.

Bernie actually FOUNDED the Progressive Caucus in the House in 1991. He is a true believer and a true liberal, and he believes that a liberal agenda can WIN if enough people come out to vote.

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Hillary Clinton Flip Flops

<https://youtu.be/I3EneuJFwDs>

Hillary Clinton Wins Primary Against Bernie Sanders, But Can't Beat GOP

She barely wins against Trump, but loses to all the other frontrunners.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/hillary-clinton-wins-primary-against-bernie-sanders-cant-beat-gop-poll-2112072>

Positions held / Votes Taken

The Invasion of Iraq ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.

The Bank Bailout ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.

The Patriot Act ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.

The War on Drugs ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.

"No Child Left Behind" ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.

Charter Schools ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.

Walmart Board of Directors member ~ Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.

Supported NAFTA ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.

Marched with MLK ~> Sanders: Yes. Clinton: No.

Wall Street Reform ~> Sanders: Yes. Clinton: No.

Student Loan Reform ~> Sanders: Yes. Clinton: No.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Hillary Clinton Opposes Ending the Death Penalty

Bernie Sanders has introduced legislation for an end to the Death Penalty, but Hillary opposes abolishing it ... she is NOT a progressive!

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/10/29/on-senate-floor-bernie-sanders-calls-for-ending-the-death-penalty/>

Guns – Bernie and Hillary have IDENTICAL Positions

"I respect the Second Amendment. I respect the rights of lawful gun owners to own

guns, to use their guns, but I also believe that most lawful gun owners whom I have spoken with for many years across our country also want to be sure that we keep those guns out of the wrong hands. And as president, I will work to try to bridge this divide, which I think has been polarizing and, frankly, doesn't reflect the common sense of the American people. We will strike the right balance to protect the constitutional right but to give people the feeling & the reality that they will be protected from guns in the wrong hands."

- Hillary Clinton in 2008 Primary Debate in Philadelphia

Bernie is the True Democrat

During the 1980's and 1990's, the Democrats became Republicans on all the issues relating to economics. The past 30 years have been about great "social arguments" - Gay Marriage, Abortion, Gun Control - it was only on those issues that you could tell a Democrat from a Republican - and meanwhile, no one was looking out for the Middle Class anymore. Americans were divided against each other, battling the so-called "culture wars", while BOTH parties conspired to transfer wealth from the middle class upward, and to feather their respective nests with donations from their billionaire "donors"...

Hillary Clinton is the very epitome, the poster-child, for the "New Democrat" ideals her husband championed with his deregulation of Wall Street, his destruction of the Welfare system, and his "tough on crime" legislation that has led DIRECTLY to the problems of mass incarceration that we see today. All the while collecting MILLIONS in speaking fees and in campaign donations from the big banks on Wall Street.

Bernie is here to take us back to where we were a thriving country, with a robust middle class, where we all did better when we all did better. Back to the idea that America is great because of its middle class.

Bernie is no more of a socialist than FDR was with his New Deal, or Lyndon Johnson was with his Great Society. And in that sense, BERNIE IS THE TRUE DEMOCRAT.

Why Hillary is Running

Hillary Rodham Clinton wants to be President of the United States. THAT is why she is running. It is her turn, she has suffered ignominy and shame, countless slings and arrows, standing by Bill and toughing it out, so that she could arrive at long last at this point in history, where it is HER moment, where it is HER time, where it is HER right to be President. It is, in the end all about HER - Hillary Rodham Clinton.

By contrast, Bernie Sanders is about helping people, he is running not for himself, but for the average American. and THAT is the difference.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Democrats Need a Big Turnout, Not Hillary

I really believe the old maxim, "Democrats fall in love, Republicans fall in line." In my 50+ years experience, this has always proven to be true: Democrats cannot win an election unless they have a *charismatic candidate* that is beloved by the base, so that the base turns out in force on Election Day.

Hillary is not that candidate.

Sure, "Email-gate" may pass, but Hillary's favourability ratings as well as her "trustworthiness" ratings are in the toilet. You simply cannot depend on her to galvanize and excite an Obama-like coalition to save the day on November 8, 2016.

Let's face it: such phrases as "*she's the only viable candidate*", "*she's better than what the GOP has*" and worst of all, "*think about the Supreme Court*" are simply NOT the rallying cries that will get the Democratic base to the polls. And we all know that when people stay home, Democrats lose.

The irony, of course, is that we have seen this all before. Remember the catchphrase from the 2004 election: "Dated Dean. Married Kerry" --?

We all know how well that "sensible choice" turned out. Let's not make that mistake again, Democrats! FEEL THE BERN!!

***Hillary will be Conservative Catnip if she is on the ballot**

We had better hope that Bernie is the nominee, because Hillary is actually the unelectable one. Everyone assumes that she is more "electable" than Sanders, but where is the proof? Her unfavorables nationwide are a solid 60%+. She polls in single digits among Independents. Bernie is the only candidate with a "net favorable" nationwide and he gets 45% among Independents. Where is your evidence that Hillary will do better than Bernie? Where? At long last, WHERE????

The woman elicits hatred and vitriol more than any other politician in America - especially on the Right. Having Hillary on the ticket will be Conservative Catnip -it will be like having a Gay Marriage ban, an Abortion ban, and a Mandatory School Prayer on the ballot all at the same time. The Right wing base will be out in droves!!

Meanwhile, disenchanted Democrats asked to once more "hold their nose and think of the Supreme Court" will mostly stay home on Election Day. Sure there will be diehard Hillary supporters and the rank and file "party faithful" who will come out, but you need more than that to win an election. And when people stay home, Democrats lose.

So if you were happy about the turnout in 2010 and 2014, by all means vote for Hillary. But if you want to WIN, vote for Bernie!!

FEEL THE BERN, brothers and sisters!

The Email Scandal – Why it REALLY Matters

One thing that gets missed in the Clinton "email scandal" is that regardless of whether or not Hillary transmitted or received classified material, the idea that she would use ONLY her personal email account for both personal and official State Department correspondence is frankly unbelievably stupid. There had to have been a reason. It was an unprecedented decision. Even Colin Powell was smart enough to have two different accounts. So that raises flags.

And then her explanation that she just "didn't think about it" when she started at State, that she really wasn't paying attention or that she did not put much thought into it - is frankly unbelievable. Remember, this was 2009 -- we were well, well into the digital age at that point. The NSA spying programs that Hillary loves so much were well underway at that point, the Russians and the Chinese were already known to be hacking and conducting cyber-ops... and yet, she just couldn't be bothered to give any thought to email security. Is THAT what we are to believe?

She is either an extremely incompetent woman with very, very poor judgment or she is a bald-faced liar. Either way not good.

Hillary: Progressive or Centrist?

In the first Democratic Debate, Hillary proclaimed that she was a "progressive." But 4 weeks earlier she had proudly "pled guilty" to being a "Moderate-Centrist."

<https://youtu.be/LTL767hKxHo>

Quinnipiac Poll August 2015

Major takeaways:

1. Sanders, Clinton and Biden all beat each of the GOP nominees in a head-to-head.
2. 39% of respondents, including 38% of Democrats, said they had not heard enough about Bernie to have an opinion
3. Bernie had a favorability rating of POSITIVE 4 (+42/-38)
4. Hillary had a favorability rating of NEGATIVE 12 (+39/-51)
5. Bernie Sanders was judged TRUSTWORTHY by 21 points (+44/-23)
6. Hillary Clinton was judged UNTRUSTWORTHY by 27 points (+34/-61)
7. When asked the first word that came to mind about Hillary, 30% said "untrustworthy", "deceitful", "criminal" or something synonymous.

<http://www.quinnipiac.edu/news-and-events/quinnipiac-university-poll/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2274>

Hillary v Bernie on the 1990's Crime Bill Crime (Comments)

If anyone should be "held accountable for her actions" (as the BlackLivesMatter protesters shout) then it is Hillary Clinton, not Bernie Sanders. Hillary was an ardent and vocal supporter of her husband's welfare "reform" and "tough on crime" bills that devastated black families and led to the mass incarceration of black youths.

To wit:

"We need more police, we need more and tougher prison sentences for repeat offenders. The 'three-strikes-and-you're-out' for violent offenders has to be part of the plan. We need more prisons to keep violent offenders for as long as it takes to keep them off the streets."

- Hillary Clinton, speaking on the 1994 Crime Bill.

"We already imprison more people per capita than any other country, and all of the executions in the world, will not make that situation right. We can either educate or

electrocute. We can create meaningful jobs, rebuilding our society, or we can build more jails. Mr. Speaker, let us create a society of hope and compassion, not one of hate and vengeance.”

- Bernie Sanders, speaking on the same 1994 Crime Bill.

Hillary on the TPP - 2012

"... This TPP sets the gold standard in trade agreements to open free, transparent, fair trade, the kind of environment that has the rule of law and a level playing field. And when negotiated, this agreement will cover 40 percent of the world's total trade..."

- Hillary Clinton to an Australian Trade Group in 2012h
- <http://www.state.gov/secretary/20092013clinton/rm/2012/11/200565.htm>

Hillary on the TPP - 2015

"... I am against it now, but we'll see: if there is any kind of significant changes ... if Congress adopted my work and wage proposals, I would be pretty excited ... but that will have to wait until I am actually there as President.”

<https://youtu.be/D8pcUKboeA8>

So – Hillary is not opposing TPP because of the enormous power it gives to corporations or the tremendous clout and huge profits it gives to Big Pharma at the expense of sick people, or that COLA will be banned, or the fact that companies can sue governments for “lost future profits” ... she is only concerned with “work and wages” ...

Hillary's Timeline of Flip-Flops on the TPP

In a 2012 speech, Clinton said the TPP, “sets the gold standard in trade agreements to open, free, transparent, fair trade, the kind of environment that has the rule of law and a level playing field.”

On October 7, 2015 Clinton wrote, “Based on what I know so far, I can't support this agreement. The bar here is very high and, based on what I have seen, I don't believe this agreement has met it.”

On October 13, 2015, Clinton said: “I'm against it now, but we'll see whether there is any kind of significant changes,” Clinton said to Javier Palomarez in San Antonio for a U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Q&A.

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/after-announcing-opposition-clinton-leaves-door-open-to-supporting-tpp-later/>

SO - when Bernie says that he will have the same position on the TPP tomorrow, that is an important difference in position - not just an accusation of flip-flopping. Bernie is saying that there are no circumstances under which he would support the TPP. Hillary Clinton however DOES NOT hold that view!

Hillary the Darling of Wall Street (Blankfein Quote)

Lloyd Blankfein, CEO of Goldman Sachs, is on record saying: “I very much was supportive of Hillary Clinton the last go-round,” he said. “I held fundraisers for her.” is on record saying that he would be just as happy whether Jeb Bush or Hillary Clinton

were President.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/04/wall-street-republicans-hillary-clinton-2016-106070>

Blankfein paid Hillary \$400,000 in speaking fees in 2014 to give speeches to Goldman Sachs audiences, and Goldman has contributed \$500,000 to her campaign.

More praise from Wall Street: "If it turns out to be Jeb versus Hillary we would love that and either outcome would be fine," one top Republican-leaning Wall Street lawyer said over lunch in midtown Manhattan last week. "We could live with either one. Jeb versus Joe Biden would also be fine."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/h-a-goodman/president-hillary-clinton_b_5525235.html

Hillary is a NeoCon Warhawk

Hillary is an interventionist and to the Right of Obama on foreign policy. The Clintons were well-known members of the DLC, the Democratic Leadership Council. This was the conservative, right-leaning group of so-called "New Democrats" that rejected economic populism and "triangulated" Republican positions on social issues – as well as Foreign Policy. The DLC was part of and supported the PNAC – the cabal of right wing neoconservatives that laid the foundation for Bush's Iraq war.

Robert Kagan, a famous neocon under Bush and an architect of the Iraq war who has advised Clinton on foreign policy, says: "If she pursues a policy which we think she will pursue ...it's something that might have been called neocon, but clearly her supporters are not going to call it that; they are going to call it something else."

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/16/us/politics/historians-critique-of-obama-foreign-policy-is-brought-alive-by-events-in-iraq.html?_r=0

Hillary never met an intervention she didn't like. Her soulmate in the Senate was John McCain.

She is a neocon hawk and agreed with McCain on everything, even the great "success" in Iraq. In 2005 she also pronounced that the Iraqi insurgency was "dying." "The fact that you have these suicide bombers now, wreaking such hatred and violence while people pray, is to me, an indication of their failure," Clinton said. "It's regrettable that the security needs have increased so much. On the other hand, I think you can look at the country as a whole and see that there are many parts of Iraq that are functioning quite well," Clinton said.

http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2005-02-19-iraq-senators_x.htm

She continued to get it all wrong. But she is a neocon, and that is what they do.

Hillary is a NeoCon Warhawk – Long Version

Let's make no mistake: Hillary is an interventionist and to the Right of Obama on foreign policy. Hillary was a staunch member of the Democratic Leadership Council, an organisation of so-called "New Democrats" of which Bill Clinton was Chairman. The DLC rejected economic populism and believed in "triangulation" – i.e., the option of Conservative social and economic positions in order to win votes among what they perceived to be a conservative-leaning electorate. The DLC was fully behind

the disastrous domestic policies that the Clintons pushed (Tough On Crime Bill, DOMA, Destruction of Welfare/dissolution of AFDC).

But on Foreign Policy, the DLC was also very conservative, and the DLC signed on with and supported the Project for a New American Century (PNAC) – the cabal of neoconservatives that were behind the Iraq War. And indeed, support for Bush's invasion of Iraq was the official policy position of the DLC!

Robert Kagan, a famous neocon under Bush and an architect of the Iraq war who has Hillary is an interventionist and to the “If she pursues a policy which we think she will pursue,” he added, “it’s something that might have been called neocon, but clearly her supporters are not going to call it that; they are going to call it something else.” Kagan served on Clinton’s foreign policy advisory board when she was Secretary of State, and he has deep neocon roots. He was part of the Project for a New American Century (PNAC), which as you recall was the organization that included Wolfowitz, Cheney, Feith, Peypes, and pushed for seizing upon 9/11 as “the new Pearl Harbor” to galvanize America into a massive expansionist military campaign that started with the Iraq invasion.

It is one thing to say that her Iraq vote was a simple “mistake.” But if you consider that she was indeed a neocon and being influenced and advised by the DLC and the PNAC, then the more plausible explanation emerges: she supported the Iraq war because she believed in the underlying neocon principles that had driven the decision to invade in the first place - the same principles and ideology **that influenced Bush and Cheney.**

There has never been a possible military intervention that Clinton has opposed. She is on record as a war hawk and has always pushed for the use of military force, from the Libya campaign up through her latest push to set up a “no fly zone” in Syria. She maintains that a No Fly Zone would not involve those infamous “boots on the ground”, but in the case of Iraq, the NFZ was simply an extended prelude to invasion.

While in the Senate, Hillary crossed the aisle to vote with Republicans to defeat a bill that would have prohibited the use of cluster bombs in areas where civilians are likely to be killed by them.

Hillary is also a well-known supporter of Israel and the Likud Party and has opposed Obama in saying that Netanyahu was indeed ready for a 2-state solution, and she has condemned Jimmy Carter’s assessment that the occupied territories represent a new “apartheid”. She has also worked to block Palestine’s recognition as a state in the UN. Where does this vehement support for Israel come from? It could come from a very strong religious context. In June 2014 Hillary told the NY Times in an interview that the Bible was the most important book to her.

“At the risk of appearing predictable, the Bible was and remains the biggest influence on my thinking. I was raised reading it, memorizing passages from it and being guided by it. I still find it a source of wisdom, comfort and encouragement.” Will she, like Bush, start going on about Gog and Magog when it comes to Middle East policy?



I don't know if Clinton's bellicosity arises from a fear of being perceived as "weak" or "womanish" on foreign policy, or whether she is just another Israel-loving neocon who believes that the US should intervene wherever Israel wants them to. But one thing is sure, and that is she is always the first, it seems to push for a military option, and in this way she is a true student of the neoconservatism. If she is president, it is most likely, as Kagan says, that she will pursue what the PNAC called a "Reaganite policy of military strength and moral clarity."

One thing is beyond dispute: Hillary Clinton will be to the right of Obama on Foreign Policy. She is anxious to confront Putin, she will continue to give Israel a free hand in all that it wants to do, she will coddle the MI complex, she will continue to support the kingdoms that have given so generously to her foundation, and she will be the first to jump in with a military option should any region become a flashpoint that she perceives to threaten any of those stakeholders.

When it comes to foreign policy, Bernie can always be expected to give the line that he delivered on Tuesday night:

"I happen to believe from the bottom of my heart that war should be the last resort" Many may be tempted to dismiss this statement as oratory or simply stating a platitude rather than arguing a position. But in reality, when he is up there compared with Hillary Clinton, we must realize that it is a serious declaration of a major difference in their approach to Foreign Policy. That simple sentiment that "war is a last resort" may seem axiomatic to us, but it is by no means a given with Hillary Clinton.

READ:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/16/us/politics/historians-critique-of-obama-foreign-policy-is-brought-alive-by-events-in-iraq.html?_r=0

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/06/opinion/sunday/are-neocons-getting-ready-to-ally-with-hillary-clinton.html?_r=0

Hillary: Bible is "Biggest Influence on my Thinking"

In June 2014, when Hillary thought she was going to have a cakewalk to the nomination, and was worried about seeming too liberal, she took a page out of the Trump playbook and told the NY Times in an interview that the Bible was the most important book to her.

"At the risk of appearing predictable, the Bible was and remains the biggest influence on my thinking. I was raised reading it, memorizing passages from it and being guided by it. I still find it a source of wisdom, comfort and encouragement." Will she, like Bush, start going on about Gog and Magog when it comes to Middle East policy?

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/15/books/review/hillary-rodham-clinton-by-the-book.html?ref=review&_r=1

Hillary Wins Big ONLY in the Conservative States

Hillary has won the South. She has won by massive margins in deeply conservative States that Democrats have no hope of winning in a General Election. The map below could almost reflect a map of her popularity.

The states in the South that voted for Hillary did so with a very low voter turnout.

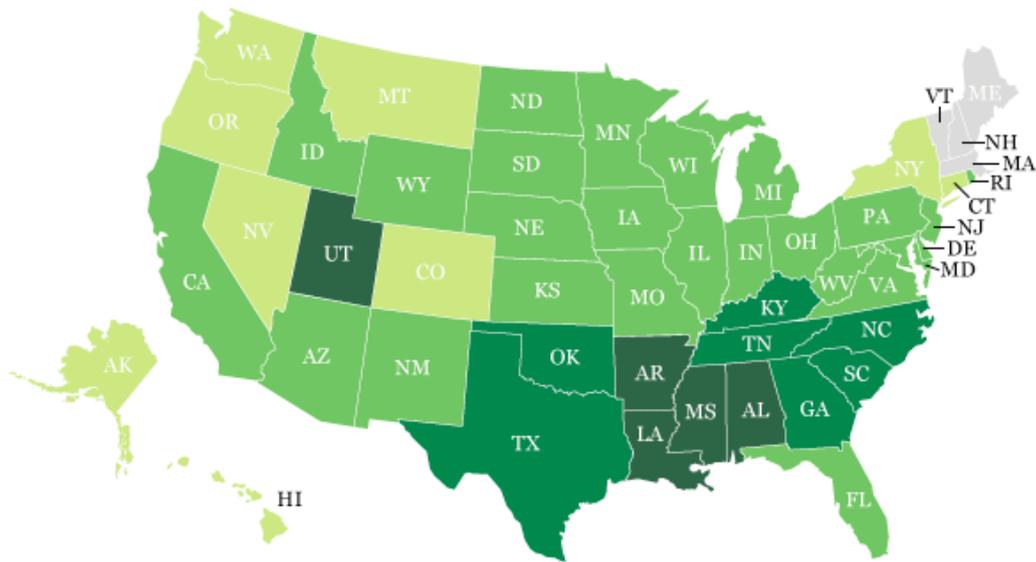


More recent Promaries in the North have yielded HIGH voter turnout, and Bernie won.

The DNC delegates should consider this. If Bernie can galvanise Democrats in those States where Democrats have a chance of winning in November, this should be given greater weight than the fact that Hillary “won” in the old Confederacy, which will not help the Democrats at all on the general election.

Weekly Religious Service Attendance, 2014

■ Highest attendance ■ Above average attendance ■ Average attendance
■ Below average attendance ■ Lowest attendance



GALLUP'



Top 10 States, Church Attendance

States with highest weekly attendance

	%
Utah	51
Mississippi	47
Alabama	46
Louisiana	46
Arkansas	45
South Carolina	42
Tennessee	42
Kentucky	41
North Carolina	40
Georgia	39
Texas	39
Oklahoma	39

Gallup Daily tracking

January-December 2014

GALLUP

Hillary's Net Worth puts her in the Top 1%

USA Today published a summary of the Net Worth of all the Presidential candidates. It shows that Hillary ranked No. 4 – right behind Jeb Bush – with a Net Worth of **\$15.3 million-\$55 million**. Bernie Sanders ranked No. 10 with a Net Worth of only **\$110,000-\$550,000**.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2015/08/26/24-7-wall-st-net-worth-presidential-candidates/32409491/>

Hillary's Donor Base

<http://www.truth-out.org/speakout/item/32165-comparing-hillary-clinton-s-top-donors-to-bernie-sanders-top-donors>

Hillary is VERY Conservative (summary post)

As a young woman, Hillary was a “Goldwater Girl” who canvassed for that right-wing Republican, who was running on a platform to reverse the Civil Rights Act

Hillary went to the very prestigious Wellesley College outside Boston, where she was President of the Wellesley Young Republicans.

Hillary is on record as a neocon, and has neocon advisers like Robert Kagan that had previously been the architects of the Iraq war. Hillary has never met a war she didn't like – she has always – ALWAYS – been for putting American boots on the



ground. The Iraq vote was not an outlier – it fit perfectly a pattern of right-leaning bellicosity that has been Hillary’s trademark since she entered national politics. More recently, she called for establishing a UNILATERAL “no-fly-zone” over Syria. The US should, according to her, act alone to set up this no-fly zone. I am sure that would have gone over really well when the Russians started flying sorties two weeks later. Yes, I know she has walked back that position, saying that we would have a “coalition” – but when she says “coalition” she is talking like Bush – IOW, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands will join us.

Hillary’s conservative ties to Wall Street are well known and well-documented. Her biggest donors are Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase and Morgan Stanley. Suffice it to say that the great Financiers on Wall Street like Lloyd Blankfein at Goldman Sachs do not see any difference between a Hillary Clinton Administration, or a Jeb Bush Administration. “Both would be fine,” said Blankfein.

Hillary is on record with the NY Times claiming that the Bible “influenced her thinking” the most. What are we supposed to take away from that?

Hillary supports the prison industry and mass incarceration. The for-profit prison lobby is out raising money for her campaign.

Hillary is blasé when it comes to racial injustice – she actually was one of the first to say that “All Lives Matter” – when she travelled to Ferguson Mo. In June and gave a speech in an historic black church there:

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/06/24/hillary-clintons-all-lives-matter-remark-stirs-backlash/>

Hillary on DOMA

Hillary is rewriting history and the people who were there have all weighed in to say that it was a politically expedient move and there was no talk of a possible Amendment. But you see this is what the Clintons are all about. I cannot believe that people are discussing Bill and Hillary as if there never was a Democratic Leadership Council, as if Bill was never Chairman of the DLC, and as if Hilary herself wasn't a card carrying true believer in the DLC. As you know, the DLC “triangulated” and co-opted Republican positions just to get more votes. These people are NOT liberal, folks!!!

CASE IN POINT: DOMA - this is Hillary in 2004:

"I believe marriage is not just a bond but a sacred bond between a man and a woman. I have had occasion in my life to defend marriage, to stand up for marriage, to believe in the hard work and challenge of marriage. So I take umbrage at anyone who might suggest that those of us who worry about amending the Constitution are less committed to the sanctity of marriage, or to the fundamental bedrock principle that it exists between a man and a woman, going back into the midst of history as one of the founding, foundational institutions of history and humanity and civilization, and that its primary, principal role during those millennia has been the raising and socializing of children for the society into which they are to become adults."

Watch the video - it is obvious that she truly believes this - to the extent that she "truly" believes in anything.

<https://youtu.be/6l1-r1YgK9I>

The BIG DIFFERENCE between Hillary and Bernie

No one begrudged the Roosevelts their wealth, nor the Kennedys theirs. Even Mitt Romney was generally considered to have “earned” his fortune. And Donald Trump has become famous almost solely for his success as a businessman. In other words, they “earned” their money in the American way.

But the Clintons? They are simply “America’s Political Family.” They have never done anything else. And yet they have amassed a fortune of \$55 million, and they travel in the same circles as the Trumps and the Bushes, etc.. Indeed, it is now widely known that the Clintons went to Trump’s last wedding, and Trump’s daughter Ivanka is best friends with Chelsea Clinton.

And this brings us to the Big Difference. Bernie Sanders is a true believer. He is motivated by a genuine desire to help people, to speak truth to power, and as he says so often in his speeches, he wants to use his political position to “*take on the billionaire class.*”

Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, has used her political positions and connections to *become PART of that “billionaire class.”* And she revels in it. And that is, I think, why people in the US don’t like her. She literally embodies all that is wrong with the calcified, corrupt and money-driven political system that is running America today. She is, in essence, the poster-girl for Bernie’s “political revolution” and that fact will come out over the course of the campaign.

The Clintons and the Trumps are Good Friends

Please, please understand that the Clintons and the Trumps are all FRIENDS. Their children are BFFs and they swim in the same waters, go to the same restaurants, tan on the same beaches – and all rendezvous at Martha’s Vineyard, the Hamptons and so forth for recreation.

We need to break the grip of the ruling political elite – and that is what Bernie Sanders wants to do. Make no mistake – the “Billionaire Class” is a ruling elite in America, and it actually has its supporters among the American populace. During the 2000 Presidential Election, the media was all aflutter, wondering whether the Bush family would have a “frosty” Thanksgiving dinner if Jeb, who was Governor of Florida at the time, would fail to deliver Florida for his older Brother George in the November election. How difficult for them!!

And the prospect of a Clinton-Trump race would also bring no doubt concern over whether the two daughters would have their friendship put to the test as their parents fought it out to see who would be the leader of the free world. My goodness, if Hillary won maybe Chelsea would have to “un-friend” Ivanka!

This is madness, and it is sick. Hillary is, in essence, the poster-girl for why we need Bernie’s “political revolution” and that fact will come out over the course of the campaign.



Clinton-Trump Friendship and The BIG DIFFERENCE w/Bernie

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Figure 2: Ivanka Trump and Chelsea Clinton embrace



Figure 3: The Clintons and the Trumps having a laugh together at Trump's wedding

Banks v. Guns - A Tale of Two Constituencies

Hillary goes after Bernie on guns; Bernie goes after Hillary on Wall Street and the Big Banks. It's political tit-for-tat, right?

Unfortunately for Hillary, these arguments are not equal in terms of scope and substance.

As a Congressman and Senator from rural Vermont, Sanders was representing his constituents - hunters and other conservative gun-owners -when he voted the way he did. Likewise, as the junior Senator from New York, Clinton had Wall Street banks as her own constituents, and so one might have understood the fact that she was obligated to represent their interests in the Senate.

The question to be considered NOW, however, is whether a President Sanders would adopt a stronger position gun control when he represents all Americans, and whether a President Clinton would be tough on Wall Street once in the Oval Office. This question is best answered simply:

- To date, Hillary Clinton has received over \$3.5 million in donations from Wall Street banks, with Goldman Sachs giving her almost \$1 million for this election alone.
- To date, Bernie Sanders has received \$0 from the NRA, and has a D- rating by that group.

THIS outlines the big difference between the two candidates: Hillary Clinton is willing to rant and rave all day about Gun Control, Abortion Rights, Gay Rights, Civil Rights and Climate Change because that is what her rich, elite donor base want her to do. The last thing they want is for Hillary to actually do something to curb their power, influence or wealth.



Hillary: Progressive or Centrist?

In the first Democratic Debate, Hillary proclaimed that she was a “progressive.” But 4 weeks earlier she had proudly “pled guilty” to being a “Moderate-Centrist.”

<https://youtu.be/LTL767hKxHo>

Hillary believes “All Lives Matter”

It was Hillary Clinton who was tone deaf this summer, when she travelled to Ferguson Mo. In June and gave a speech in an historic black church there, saying “All Lives Matter.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/06/24/hillary-clintons-all-lives-matter-remark-stirs-backlash/>

Hillary is a Hypocrite on College Tuition

Hillary has said that she had to work when she went to college, but that is only because she chose to attend Wellesley College, a prestigious all-female college outside Boston. As a resident of Illinois, she could have gone to the University of Illinois in 1965 TUITION FREE. This is because that school was a Land Grant school chartered to provide free tuition for in-state students. It was not until the 70’s that the UI started charging tuition to in-state students.

Bernie is the One who “Gets Things Done” (Legislation)

According to the Congressional Record, Bernie has Sponsored or Co-Sponsored over 6,000 bills; he Introduced 5,286 of those bills; 704 made it out of Committee; 206 became law - <https://www.congress.gov/member/bernard-sanders/S000033>

Moreover he was the “Amendment King” in that he passed more Amendments than any other member of Congress = and they were all Progressive.

<http://www.alternet.org/election-2016/bernie-gets-it-done-sanders-record-pushing-through-major-reforms-will-surprise-you>

Climate Change IS the Biggest Threat to National Security

Climate change ‘urgent and growing threat’ to national security: Pentagon

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jul/29/climate-change-urgent-security-threat-pentagon/>

Pentagon: Climate change a national security threat

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/220575-pentagon-unveils-plan-to-fight-climate-change>

Climate Change an 'Immediate Risk,' Pentagon Says

<http://www.livescience.com/48295-pentagon-climate-change-roadmap.html>

Pentagon report calls for military to prepare for climate change

<http://www.earthmagazine.org/article/pentagon-report-calls-military-prepare-climate-change>



Pentagon Report: U.S. Military Considers Climate Change a 'Threat Multiplier' That Could Exacerbate Terrorism

<http://www.newsweek.com/pentagon-report-us-military-considers-climate-change-immediate-threat-could-277155>

TPP – Bernie and Hillary actually DO NOT agree

When Bernie says that he will have the same position on the TPP tomorrow, that is an important difference in position - not just an accusation of flip-flopping. Bernie is saying that there are no circumstances under which he would support the TPP. Hillary Clinton however DOES NOT hold that view!

On October 7, 2015 Clinton said, "Based on what I know so far, I can't support this agreement. The bar here is very high and, based on what I have seen, I don't believe this agreement has met it."

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Clinton to Javier Palomarez in San Antonio for a Q&A.

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/after-announcing-opposition-clinton-leaves-door-open-to-supporting-tpp-later/>

So – Hillary is not opposing TPP because of the enormous power it gives to corporations or the tremendous clout and huge profits it gives to Big Pharma at the expense of sick people, or that COOL will be banned, or the fact that companies can sue governments for "lost future profits" ... she is only concerned with "work and wages" ... whatever that means? Bernie is unequivocally against the deal.

Hillary Equivocates and does not give real answers

Bernie Sanders was much more substantive, he resonated more with the audience, and he actually answered the questions - Hillary did nothing but equivocate, mouth platitudes and throw out fluff lines like "we need to look at that" and "we need to think about this" and "we should figure out how to do this" – Instead of laying out concrete positions and presenting real ideas, she'd rather tell anecdotes about moms and kids and express outrage at the the things that we all find outrageous.

Bernie already has answers, he already has positions, because he has been pushing the same issues for 40 years!

The fact is, no one knows what a Clinton presidency would look like, and Hillary is doing her best to make sure no one will know. She famously dodged a question about Keystone by saying "ask me when I am President." This seems to be her basic response to everything. She is saying, in effect:

"You cannot assume I will be more hawkish than Obama just because I have acted so in the past."

"You cannot assume that I will support the TPP just because I used to call it 'the gold

standard of trade deals'."

"I do not support Keystone anymore, but I am not against it for environmental reasons, so you'll just have to guess where I will stand on future projects like this."

"I don't support private prisons even though the private prison industry is supporting my campaign."

"Just because I defended Wall Street and represented their interests as a Senator does not mean that I will continue to do so as President, and you will just have to trust me on that."

"Just because certain special interests and industries are financing my campaign does not mean that I will be favorable to them as President."

"Just because certain industries have made me a multi-millionaire does not mean I am beholden to them in any way."

Hillary Clinton v. Donald Trump

I believe that the Democrats will take back the Senate in the 2016 elections. This will put a halter on anything that Trump wants to do should he become President. This will also force Trump to nominate moderates to the Supreme Court and other positions requiring Senate confirmation.

Indeed, there are really only 2 areas where a President can act unilaterally with some degree of autocracy: Trade and Foreign Policy. I find Trump's views and positions on both these issues to be much more in line with my own (and those of most Sanders supporters) than those of Hillary Clinton.

If Clinton wins, I am confident that there will be an almost immediate escalation of our involvement in Syria, greatly exacerbating a bad situation and generations even more anti-American sentiment. I am also pretty sure that a Clinton Administration will throw our move towards detente with Iran in reverse and would not be surprised if we are bombing Iran by the end of her first term. In sum, I am sure that a Clinton Presidency will have disastrous consequences for America lasting decades into the future. Trump has criticised the Iraq war and opposes "stupid" interventionist wars that simply do not make financial sense to him. He espouses a more restrained foreign policy and has even expressed a willingness to negotiate or even collaborate with Putin and Russia. He has also said that he will honour the nuclear deal with Iran.

On Trade, I am likewise 99.9% sure that a President Clinton will not only green-light the TPP but will actively promote it, just as she has for so many years. This will be a domestic disaster of epic proportions that will have repercussions extending far beyond the term of her Presidency. Trump opposes "disastrous trade deals" just like Sanders - albeit in a more crude fashion. Trump puts it into the frame of "winning" and "losing" but the message is the same: these trade deals have been a disaster for the American middle class, and he opposes the TPP.



Trump is scary, but more scary to me is getting a phony corporatist Democrat in the WH. If Trump is elected, he will be a one-term President, and will hopefully be defeated in 2020 provided that the Democrats put up a TRULY progressive candidate and not a Corporatist Wall Street tool like Clinton. Hillary, however, would use her first term in office to consolidate her political power and further cultivate powerful allies and forces in the American corporate community. She will be unbeatable in re-election, and so the cause of Progressivism will be set back for decades. This, combined with a disaster trade policy and irresponsible and aggressively adventurist neocon foreign policy make her for me the less attractive candidate.

Hillary Clinton – Ironic Take-Downs

A Reason to Vote for Hillary: As Commander-in-Chief she will keep us safe like no other Democrat would

When it comes to foreign policy, there is no doubt that the Middle East poses the greatest challenge to any would-be American President. Hillary Clinton is in a unique position to defend both the US and our closest allies in the Middle East by virtue of her experience, her proven track record in foreign relations and her unparalleled personal connections and relationships with the major players in the region.

Hillary Supports Israel 110%

Hillary is by far the strongest supporter of Israel, our “special and irreplaceable ally” and the only theocratic Democracy in the world. Her steadfast support for the ruling Likud Party and her personal allegiance to Bibi Netanyahu is unquestioned, and she has for years supported Israel in their efforts defend themselves against the terrorists living in Palestine. For Hillary, there is no “grey area” – there is only the black and white reality that Israel is our ally and that their actions in Palestine are purely based on self defense and a desire to secure their own right to live in peace without fear of terrorist rockets or suicide bombers. In her speech to AIPAC, Hillary was clear, stating that the United States could not be “neutral” in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; could not be neutral when it comes to settlements or land or the need to rout out the terrorists wherever they may hide. She railed strongly against the so-called “BDS” movement (Boycott, Divest and Sanction”) which she sees as nothing more than anti-Semitism and an unfair attack on Israel and the Jewish people.

Bernie Sanders, on the other hand, still talks about the so-called “two state solution” in which the Palestinians should have the right to live in an “economically viable” state of their own, and he is actually on the record as condemning Israeli settlements and the bombing of Gaza and various other operations that Israel has had to conduct in order to protect itself from the terrorists living in Palestine. His positions on these issues clearly put Bernie out of touch with the modern Democratic Party. Indeed, his views are a throwback to the 1970’s and the naïve peacenik policies of Jimmy Carter, who recently has even gone so far as to call the Israeli administration of Palestine an “occupation” and “a modern apartheid.” Clearly, politicians like Bernie Sanders and Jimmy Carter simply do not understand the realities of the Israeli-



Palestinian conflict as they have evolved over the past years, and how the situation has become more grave and more dangerous for Israel since the Likud Party has taken control of the Jewish State. Hillary knows that without the firm and unrelenting leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu Israel would find itself in a very different situation today, and so her strong and unswerving personal loyalty to the Israeli Prime Minister has gained her his trust and his thanks. Having Hillary in the White House will re-establish warm, friendly and close ties with Netanyahu and the Likud Party, which have grown tenuous and weak under President Obama - and would certainly become even more contentious under a President Sanders.

Hillary has a Proven History of Working with our Arab Allies

Hillary's close ties and unqualified support for Israel has not kept her from developing equally close ties with our greatest Arab allies. As Secretary of State she moved decisively to push the Obama Administration to overthrow the Libyan government and remove Muammar Gaddafi from power. The US support for the bombing campaign that ultimately killed that despot was critical to the success of that mission, and Hillary herself described the overwhelming victory when she said "we came, we saw, he died."

This action was not just a humanitarian mission, however. It was also something that our Arab allies in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and elsewhere desperately wanted to see happen, and Hillary's strong leadership in this action earned her the respect and the thanks of the ruling families of those kingdoms. Hillary was also able to cobble together support for the move to overthrow Assad in Syria, something both [the Israelis](#) and [the Saudis](#) wanted to see happen. Clinton thus proved capable of working with our closest Middle Eastern allies in an effective way that reflects well on both her ability to get things done as well as her skill in keeping such initiatives "under the radar" in order to cloak the involvement of our allies and therefore spare them any embarrassment.

Hillary Occupies a Unique Position in World Affairs

Hillary cemented her personal ties with many Arab and Muslim leaders around the world by masterfully leveraging her position in government. Every arms deal must be approved by the State Department, and Hillary made sure that no weapons shipment was made without first ensuring that America and the world would benefit from the transaction.

Alongside her duties as Secretary of State, Hillary also championed the charitable activities of the Clinton Global Initiative, deftly using her arms negotiations [with over 20 countries](#) to cajole sizeable donations from the recipients. While some have criticised her for this, it is obvious that any negotiation resulting in such a "win-win" scenario can only serve to strengthen Hillary's credibility and hence her ability to get things done with our Arab allies. In this way Hillary is uniquely positioned to succeed in enforcing her policies in the Middle East through leverage she can exert both through official channels as well as non-official and even private sector engagement. She is truly a "triple threat" in the world of Realpolitik.

Hillary is Very Right on Anti-Terrorism

As a US Senator, Hillary Clinton was and remains a staunch supporter of the Patriot Act, having voted for it in 2001 and again to re-authorise it in 2006, [when she proclaimed](#) “We understood then, as we do now, that these tools are important in our fight against terrorism.” Democrats need to be strong in this regard, and the good work that is being done by the NSA and other Government agencies are needed to keep us safe. This is the Democratic position.

Bernie Sanders has adopted a radical opposition to the original Patriot Act and its reauthorisation, and in this he is in the company of such Republicans and Libertarians as Rand Paul. Moreover, Hillary realises the danger in having such people as Edward Snowden breach our national security without facing the consequences. While Bernie Sanders seems to want to extend leniency towards Snowden, Hillary will be steadfast and forthright in demanding that the criminal Snowden “face the music” for his traitorous activities.

What Hillary will get done in Foreign Policy

Hillary will continue to be the lion-hearted crusader in Foreign Policy that she has always been. Hillary is not afraid to take on the enemies of America and our key allies like Israel, and she will not hesitate to use America’s military might to extinguish any perceived threat to us or our friends, and she will be pro-active in pursuing a policy of international engagement that fits America’s unique position as the world’s lone Superpower and the “indispensible” country when it comes to international security. Henry Kissinger, though not a Democrat, is still one of the most venerated statesmen in America, and he has rightly praised Hillary for her handling of foreign affairs while at State. This is because Hillary, like Kissinger, understands that America occupies a unique position in the world in terms of its military capability as well as its innate moral superiority.

Moreover, Hillary has a proven track record of bipartisanship in getting things done on Foreign Policy. Kissinger is not the only Republican to have praised Hillary’s performance as Secretary of State: John McCain, [Lindsey Graham](#), [Condoleeza Rice](#), [Cory Gardner](#) and even [Jim Demint](#) have all [praised Hillary’s leadership](#) while at State.

Indeed, Hillary maintains [a “massive” stable of advisors](#) including such luminaries as [Robert Kagan](#) as well as [Kenneth Pollack](#) and [Martin Indyk](#), who share Hillary’s determination to assert America’s rightful position on the world stage as well as to stamp out terrorism and defend Israel at all costs. If elected President there is no doubt that Hillary will indeed “get things done” in the foreign policy arena.

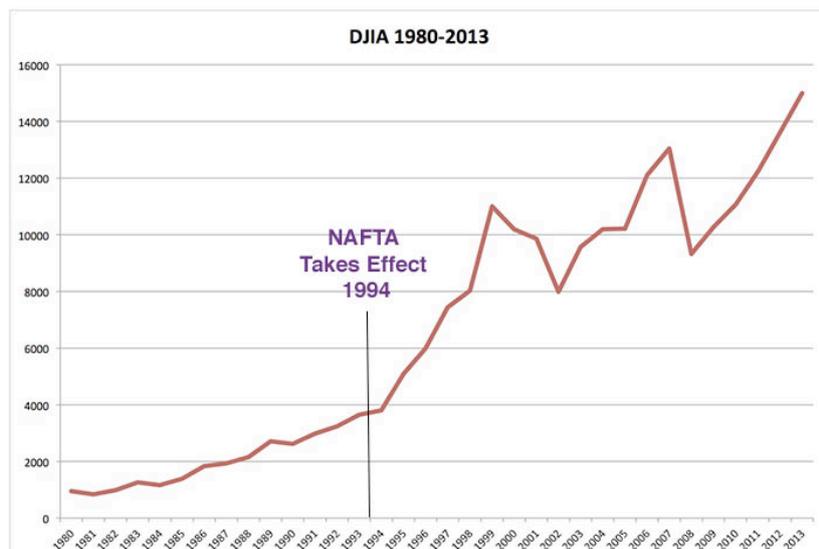
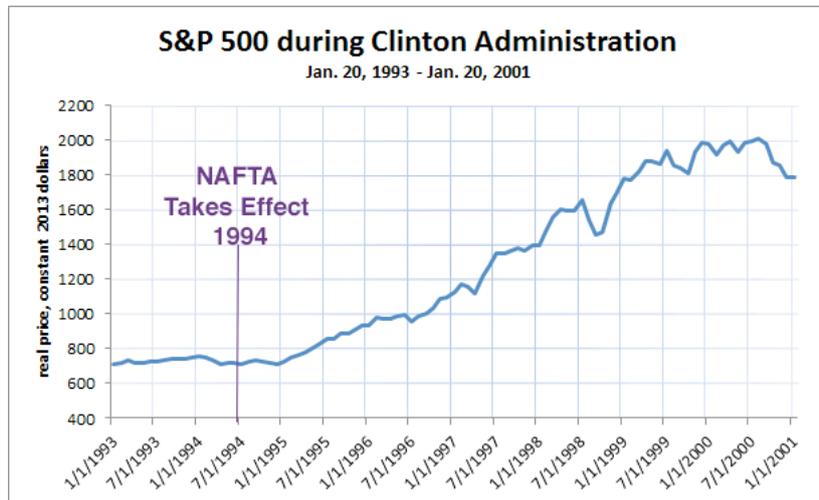
Hillary Clinton’s Trade Policies will Help America Prosper

When it comes to international trade, there has been a lot of misleading and unfair statements put forth about America’s Trade Policy and the relative value and results of our international trade agreements.

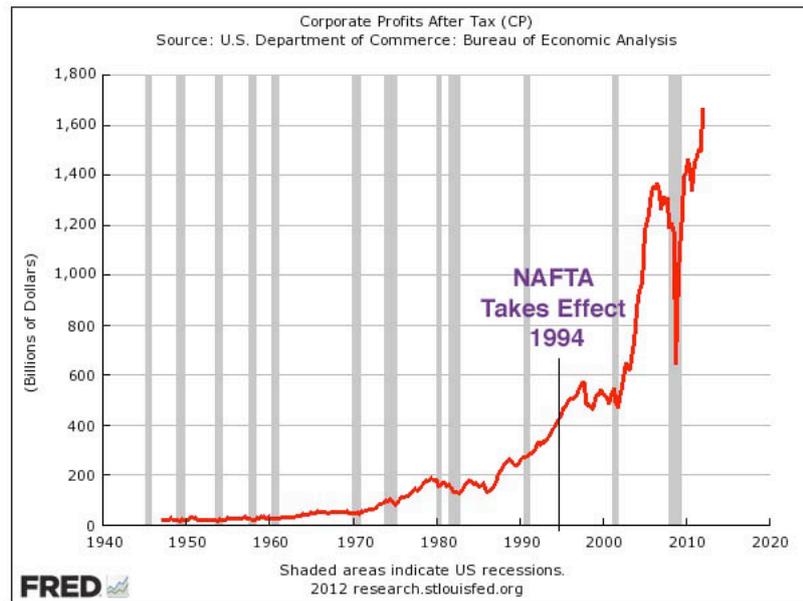
FACT: NAFTA was a boon to the US Economy



Much has been made about the idea that NAFTA was a “disaster” for America, and opponents have criticised Hillary for her support of NAFTA as well as other trade deals. But the fact is that NAFTA succeeded in ushering in a new era of American prosperity:



The plain and simple truth is that the stock market literally took off in the period following NAFTA. American companies did phenomenally well, stock values soared, and everyone’s retirement pensions and 401(k) plans increased in value. NAFTA helped bring prosperity to the American economy, and much of Bill Clinton’s economic “miracle” is due to an enlightened trade policy that brought about a boom in corporate profits.



Trump Condemns NAFTA. Democrats Should Not

Sadly, Donald Trump is not alone in his criticism of NAFTA and the other trade deals that Hillary has supported over the years. Bernie Sanders has also been critical of Hillary for her trade positions. Trump and Sanders would have us believe that trade deals “destroyed the American middle class,” when in fact these deals helped the middle class by creating new business opportunities and increasing the value of our Wall Street investments.

We as Democrats must stand up against anti-trade isolationism and their besmirching of the economic legacy of one of our greatest Democratic Presidents.

Hillary’s Principled Trade Policies

Hillary Clinton has an approach to trade that is at once both more nuanced and more selective than those of her opponents. She did, for example, oppose CAFTA because she wanted to deny Fast-Track authority to the Bush Administration and she felt that American jobs were not well-enough protected.

Hillary also supported Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, which ended up being the crown jewel and a sort of bookend trade deal of her husband’s administration. This deal has allowed America and US companies maintain a premier trading position globally, and has the added bonus of having earned the enthusiastic bipartisan support of both Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

The Truth about the TPP

Hillary has also been criticised about her positions on the [Trans Pacific Partnership](#), or TPP. While Secretary of State, Hillary did indeed promote what she believed and

hoped would be “the gold standard” of trade deals, and [she honestly hoped she would be able to support the pact.](#)

Unlike her opponents, Hillary Clinton is willing to judge the deal on its merits, and she has not “closed the door” on supporting the TPP. Indeed, [Clinton told the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#): “I’m against it now, but we’ll see whether there is any kind of significant changes ... I mean, if Congress adopted my ... proposals” as President, she would be able to support TPP.

But let’s keep it real about the TPP: This deal is strongly supported not only by President Obama, but also by many Democrats, including the [New Democrat Coalition](#) in Congress. America needs to be leading in trade issues globally, and passage of the TPP is a way to ensure that American exporters continue to lead the way in opening up new markets around the world.

Hillary Understands the need for the Export-Import Bank

Hillary also understands that to compete globally, America cannot afford isolationist policies when it comes to offering government assistance to our exporters. Senator Sanders has opposed the funding of the Export-Import bank, which provides valuable funding to such iconic American companies as Boeing, who competes globally not just in the areas of civil aviation but also in defense systems and services. Having access to public financing allows Boeing to compete against state-assisted competitors such as Airbus. The Bank also helps other American companies such as [General Electric, Boeing and Bechtel.](#)

The “Ex-Im Bank” [enjoys significant support](#) among moderate Democrats including the New Democrat Coalition, which [joined forces with Republicans on a bipartisan basis](#) to successfully lead the fight in Congress to re-authorise the Bank in 2014. Hillary is proud to have supported this legislation, which will guarantee that companies like Boeing get the government assistance they need to operate profitably in a competitive global marketplace.

Hillary Supports American Business Abroad

Under Hillary’s leadership, [the State Department worked closely with energy companies such as Chevron](#) to spread new types of energy extraction methods such as hydraulic fracturing (fracking) around the globe. This was part of a broader push to fight climate change through the use of shale gas, as well as to increase global energy supply. This strategy also had the added benefit of reining countries such as Russia that use their energy resources as both a carrot and a stick in international affairs.

In late 2011, Hillary launched the new [Bureau of Energy Resources](#), with the [promise](#) to instruct US embassies around the globe to step up their work on energy issues and “pursue more outreach to private-sector energy” firms, many of which have proved generous donors to our Democratic campaigns, including the campaigns of both Hillary and Barack Obama.

Hillary explained the important ties between energy and foreign policy [in a speech in Georgetown](#) in 2012:



“Energy matters to America’s foreign policy for three fundamental reasons. First, it rests at the core of geopolitics, because fundamentally, energy is an issue of wealth and power, which means it can be both a source of conflict and cooperation. The United States has an interest in resolving disputes over energy, keeping energy supplies and markets stable through all manner of global crises, ensuring that countries don’t use their energy resources or proximity to shipping routes to force others to bend to their will or forgive their bad behavior, and above all, making sure that the American people’s access to energy is secure, reliable, affordable, and sustainable.”

Indeed, the importance of Hillary’s energy initiative cannot be underestimated. The Obama administration has lately been pressing Eastern European countries to fast-track their fracking initiatives so as to be less dependent on Russia. During an April visit to Ukraine, which has granted concessions to Chevron, Vice President Joe Biden announced that the United States would bring in technical experts to speed up its shale gas development. “We stand ready to assist you,” [promised Biden](#), whose son Hunter [now serves on the board](#) of Burisma, a Ukrainian energy company.

A President Hillary Clinton will get things done on Trade

As I mentioned above, Hillary will urge Congress to adopt some of her suggestions on the TPP in order to make it a deal that she can support, and I have every confidence that she will be able to support this important trade deal as President.

Moreover, a Clinton Administration will continue to subsidise and support our energy companies such as Chevron and our [extraction experts such as Halliburton](#) in their efforts to expand fossil fuel production around the globe.

In the end, ***Hillary gets it*** – she understands the way the world works and the need for America to play a leading role in that world. She practices Realpolitik, which today means protecting America’s unique global position by securing the most profitable and successful business conditions for American corporations worldwide.

Jane Sanders

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2015-05-12/getting-to-know-jane-sanders-wife-of-bernie>

Fraud Case

In reality, it appears that in listing the donor pledges needed to secure a \$10 million loan, Jane Sanders may have overstated the amount of money pledged by some \$35,000. This by a Vermont investigative publication:

<http://vtdigger.org/2015/09/13/jane-sanders-overstated-donation-amounts-in-loan-application-for-burlington-college/>

Bernie vs. Trump

Not Equivalent/ No Story

Why do people insist on comparing Bernie Sanders with Donald Trump? I can think of no comparison that is less legitimate. Trump is leading in the polls, Bernie is behind; Trump is a businessman, Bernie is a longtime politician; Trump has never run for office or won an election, Bernie has served 25 years in Congress and is repeatedly reelected with 70% of the vote; Trump spews vague vitriol and attacks his competitors; Bernie offers specific policies and proposals, and steadfastly refuses to attack any of his competitors. In short, they are unlike in EVERY WAY.

Likewise, the profiles of Trump and Sanders supporters are 100% diametrically opposed. The "core" Trump supporters are poorly educated, knuckle-dragging racists, whereas the "core" Bernie supporters (as the press constantly points out) are well educated white liberals.

Finally, and most importantly - Trump, like Hillary, has amazingly high unfavorability ratings, whereas Bernie is the ONLY CANDIDATE that tilts positive when comparing his favorable to unfavorable ratings. This means Trump has 0% chance of becoming President, whereas Bernie already has a viable path to victory.

THERE IS NO EQUIVALENCY!!
PLEASE STOP TRYING TO MAKE THIS A STORY!!!

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Bernie is an Elected Senator

"Political outsider" ???????

I would remind everyone that Bernie Sanders has been re-elected NINE (9) TIMES to Congress. As a socialist, he was re-elected Senator last round with 71% of the vote – including a majority of Republicans: <http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/why-surprising-numbers-republicans-have-been-voting-bernie-sanders-vermont>

Donald Trump has never ever been elected to office.

That fact alone should be enough to kill this ridiculous meme about Trump and Sanders – but the media seem to be ignoring the fact that Bernie is not some random guy with a socialist agenda. He is a sitting United States Senator with a socialist platform that continues to get him re-elected again and again, and with huge margins.



Racial Injustice

Racial Position/Platform

Hmmmm. Regarding African-Americans: Bernie has become very active here, and published a sweeping platform to address racism. I have searched and searched for Hillary Clinton's own "Plan to combat racial inequality" but I cannot find anything anywhere. It must not exist. How can THAT be, when the Black Lives Matter people are steering so far clear of her, and giving her a free pass when she says things like "all lives matter" ? She actually said that in Charleston, and what did we hear from Black Lives Matter? Crickets.

Granted, writing such a "racial justice" plan would be problematic for Hillary, because it would have to start with rolling back and dismantling all of the horrible things she and her husband did to the Black Community in the 1990's – abolishing AFDC, decimating the social safety net, and promoting mass incarceration of minorities through the "Clinton Crime Bill."

<http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/31065-will-hillary-clinton-abolish-the-prison-state-her-husband-created-don-t-count-on-it>

If "Black Lives" REALLY mattered to these people they would be camped out in front of Hillary's office in Brooklyn (not the one in Harlem – she is never there because her big rich donor friends don't like to come uptown).

Response to articles or assertions that "Bernie has a Race Problem"

This is such a blatant and obvious hatchet job by yet another Clintonista. Have you not been following? Bernie has a 97% rating from the NAACP. Hillary only has 96%.

According to a profile article in Essence, Bernie met with Symone Sanders just days after being shouted down at the Netroots Nation in mid-July. During their initial meeting, the two had an hour-long conversation about how the Senator could stay in touch with the #BlackLivesMatter movement. She told him that there was a strong link between racial inequality and economic equality, which he has since integrated into his campaign. Bernie offered Symone the job as his Press Secretary at the end of their meeting. I would imagine her first job was helping to draft his platform on racial equality, which he has now published.

A few days later, on 25 July, Bernie addressed the Southern Christian Leadership Council, one of the premier African-American civil rights organizations, of which MLK was head. I urge you to read Bernie's address to the SCLC here:

<https://berniesanders.com/remarks-senator-sanders-southern-christian-leadership-conference/> .

So Bernie was doing his homework, he was eating his vegetables. He was doing what he needed to do. HE GOT IT.

He did not deserve to be ambushed by some self-described "agitators" in Seattle, who have since been denounced by BLM itself as well as other black groups (most recently Larry Wilmore). In short, you are wrong, and you should stick to writing about whatever you know about rather than shilling so pathetically and transparently for Hillary Clinton.

Hillary is no friend to black folks, and you should know that. Her husband set blacks back a generation. <https://thoughtmerchant.wordpress.com/2007/10/05/how-bill-clinton-hurt-poor-blacks-and-how-hillary-might-to/>



Hillary on Crime

If anyone should be “held accountable for her actions” (as the BlackLivesMatter protesters shout) then it is Hillary Clinton, not Bernie Sanders. Hillary was an ardent and vocal supporter of her husband’s welfare “reform” and “tough on crime” bills that devastated black families and led to the mass incarceration of black youths.

To wit:

“We need more police, we need more and tougher prison sentences for repeat offenders. The ‘three-strikes-and-you’re-out’ for violent offenders has to be part of the plan. We need more prisons to keep violent offenders for as long as it takes to keep them off the streets.”

- Hillary Clinton, speaking on the 1994 Crime Bill.

“We already imprison more people per capita than any other country, and all of the executions in the world, will not make that situation right. We can either educate or electrocute. We can create meaningful jobs, rebuilding our society, or we can build more jails. Mr. Speaker, let us create a society of hope and compassion, not one of hate and vengeance.”

- Bernie Sanders, speaking on the same 1994 Crime Bill.

50 Year Record

Bernie has been campaigning for civil rights for 50 years - he protested segregation, got arrested for protesting police brutality, he marched with MLK.

Bernie has a 97% rating from the NAACP. Hillary only has 96%.

I can understand that maybe he hasn’t communicated on this topic as much as he needed to - but on the other hand, given his 50 years of activism on behalf of African Americans, and his rock solid voting record and history of supporting black causes, he might be forgiven for having thought that he did not have to “prove himself” today. And indeed, this “what have you done for me lately?” attitude that I am picking up from the black community is not becoming.

The fact is, Hillary is no friend of the Black Community, and neither was her husband - not by a long shot! So stop picking on Bernie, get your head on straight and realise who really has your back - cos it ain’t Hillary!

<https://thoughtmerchant.wordpress.com/2007/10/05/how-bill-clinton-hurt-poor-blacks-and-how-hillary-might-to/>

Apology for Slavery

“Obviously nobody in this generation is involved in slavery, but as a nation, slavery is one of the abominations that our country has experienced. There’s no excuse. It was horrific, It killed millions of people, It destroyed just the lives of so many people,” So as a nation ... we have got to apologize for slavery ... As a nation, we have got to apologize for slavery and of course the president is the leader of the nation.”

- *Bernie Sanders on the Joe Madison Show, July 8, 2015*

“And I will also say, that as a nation — the truth is a nation that in many ways was created, and I’m sorry to have to say this from way back, on racist principles, that’s a fact.”

- *Bernie Sanders speaking at Liberty University, September 14, 2015*



Hillary believes “All Lives Matter”

It was Hillary Clinton who was tone deaf this summer, when she travelled to Ferguson Mo. In June and gave a speech in an historic black church there, saying "All Lives Matter."

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/06/24/hillary-clintons-all-lives-matter-remark-stirs-backlash/>

Racial Justice Platform

<https://berniesanders.com/issues/racial-justice/>

Polls Show Bernie Gaining Among Blacks as Hillary “Plunges”

Hillary’s popularity among the African American Community is plummeting, according to a poll by USA Today and Suffolk University on 01 October.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/10/01/hillary-clintons-support-from-black-voters-plunges-in-a-new-poll/>

USSR

Russian Flag in Office

The City of Burlington has a sister city in Russia called Yaroslavl – this is still a big thing:

<http://burlingtonyaroslavl.com>

Sanders had their flag in his office, and the Mayor of Yaroslavl probably had a US flag in his - remember, this was all done under Gorbachev's Glasnost and Perestroika in the late 80's just before the Wall fell. And yes, Bernie went to Russia in 1988 to meet his mayoral counterpart in Yaroslavl, and yes, he took his wife along and turned the trip into a honeymoon. Now, you might criticise Bernie for mixing official business with his personal life, but that's about all you can do.

***Russian Honeymoon**

In 1988, when Sanders was mayor of Burlington, the city formed a “twin” city relationship with a Russian city called Yaroslavl - Remember, this was one year before the Berlin Wall fell, at the height of Gorby's Perestroika and the thawing of East-West relations. The program was a total success and is still going on today - see <http://burlingtonyaroslavl.com>.

That year Sanders traveled on an official trip to meet his counterpart, the mayor of Yaroslavl. The trip, which was made with 10 other people, including prominent businesspeople and city officials, was scheduled for the day after his wedding, so he invited his wife to come along. Now, you can say he was a maybe he should not have taken his wife on a trip for official city business, but you cannot make any more out of it than that.



Nicaragua

Support for Sandinistas

Bernie famously said “Just because Ronald Reagan dislikes these people, doesn’t mean that people in their own nations feel the same way.”

This was certainly true about Nicaragua. The FSLN (Sandinistas) were not our enemy, and let’s not forget they were battling the Contras, whom Reagan funded by selling arms to Iran.

The Contras were murdering nuns. Those were the kinds of guys Reagan was supporting. A Sandinista militiaman interviewed by The Guardian stated that Contra rebels committed these atrocities against Sandinista prisoners after a battle at a Sandinista rural outpost:

“Rosa had her breasts cut off. Then they cut into her chest and took out her heart. The men had their arms broken, their testicles cut off. They were killed by slitting their throats and pulling the tongue out through the slit.”

You know when the side you are backing is guilty of mass murder of clergy and cutting off women’s’ breasts and men’s testicles, maybe - just maybe - you are on the wrong side!!

In any case, Nicaragua filed a suit against the USA in the International Criminal Court and the USA was found guilty. Likewise the Contras were found by Human Rights Watch to be guilty of a plethora of crimes from raping women to torturing and killing civilians.

And, in the end, Bernie was right: While the Contras have long since been relegated to the “dustbin of history,” the FSLN is a major political force in Nicaragua, and Daniel Ortega is a popular leader who won re-election in 2006 and again in 2011. That is because they are and were always on the side of the Nicaraguan people, while the US and the Contras were on the side of United Fruit.

Cuba

Response to Posts about people “fleeing” Cuba for America

So you recognise the proof that 50 years of a US-led trade embargo hurt the Cuban people and made their lives difficult? Good for you!!

But if the number of people fleeing to enter the US is the way we judge a country’s government, then we should be embargoing MEXICO!

The Cubans have nothing

People are “forced” to drive old cars because there was a US-led embargo against Cuba and Cuban goods for 50 years! Anything the Cubans do not have is because of the US and its embargo. Duh.



Quality of Life is Good in Cuba

Life expectancy in Cuba is 79, the same as it is in the US

Literacy rates in Cuba is almost 100% (99.8%); in the US it is 99%

Homicide rate in Cuba is 4.2/100K inhabitants; in the US it is 4.7.

By contrast, the homicide rate in Mexico is 22/100K, and life expectancy is only 77 years. So as a poor Caribbean country, Cuba is doing pretty damn good and a hell of a lot better than its neighbors.

Iran

History / Coup

Look, the Iranians have a good reason to hate and distrust America. They elected a moderate "socialist" secular government in 1953. The government wanted to nationalize the oil industry in Iran, so the CIA had the legitimate, elected leader and his government ousted in a coup, and brought back the Shah, who established a dictatorship with the most vicious secret police the world has ever seen, the SAVAK. Iranians suffered under this regime, and it was open knowledge that this odious regime was forced on them by the US. In yet another instance of "unintended consequences" arising from US intervention in the Middle East, the extreme cruelty and violence of the American puppet, the Shah, led to the rise of the Mullahs.

Just like the US-backed Maliki government in Iraq led to the rise of ISIS.

That is why Bernie is wise to support diplomacy and avoid another disastrous military adventure that will inevitably backfire.

Denmark

Forbes says Denmark is the "No. 1 Best Country for Business"

Bernie is often criticised for saying that the US should learn from Denmark. In the first Democratic debate, Hillary famously said "we are not Denmark."

Well, Forbes recently did a study to rank countries in terms of how business friendly they were, and that study Denmark ranked No. 1 for "Best Country for Business."

"Denmark is one of the most entrepreneurial countries in the world. The government streamlines the startup process with only four procedures needed to start a new business and at minimal costs. The regulatory climate is also one of the most efficient."

"One of the keys to Denmark's pro-business climate is the flexible labor market known as "Flexisecurity," where companies can easily hire and fire workers with out-of-work adults eligible for significant unemployment benefits. Unemployed workers are also eligible for training programs. It creates one of the most productive workforces in Europe."

No, Hillary, we are not Denmark. As a matter of fact, the US ranked 18th in this

same Forbes study. Bernie is right, we could stand to learn a thing or two from the Danes.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/kurtbadenhausen/2014/12/17/u-s-slides-again-as-denmark-tops-forbes-best-countries-for-business/>

Market Cap Comparison

Many Americans – especially those on the Right – love to talk about “American exceptionalism.” They describe the US as “the greatest country on Earth” and the “world’s only Superpower” – and even Bernie himself acknowledges that the US is “the richest country in history.” The argument Bernie is making is NOT that the US should become one big Denmark. The point is that the greatest, and richest country in the history of the world should be able to do what a teeny tiny country of 5 million Danes have been able to achieve.

The Danish Stock Exchange has a market cap of \$230 Billion, or \$41,000 per person. The NYSE and NASDAQ have a market cap of \$20 TRILLION, or \$63,000 per person.

The US is indeed the richest nation on earth. It’s time we started acting like it.

Quick Responses for Online Commenting

Misc. Snippets

Inflation / Tuition

Inflation: my Harvard tuition in 1977 cost \$8000, adjusted for inflation it should be \$28,000. But instead it’s \$60,000.

In 1968, it cost \$300 a year to go to the University of California. Adjusted for inflation, it should now cost \$2014 a year. Instead it costs \$15,000.

Liberty University

I think Bernie Sanders will find a very receptive audience at Liberty University. It is a Christian school, so these kids are already used to absorbing the teachings of a socialist Jew :-)
GO BERNIE!

Pope Francis Video

Bernie Sanders discusses Pope Francis and his views. Amazing, truly amazing!!
https://youtu.be/9_LJpN893Vg

The VOX Interview

<https://youtu.be/S5vOKKMipSA>



Bible Supports Socialism

Mark 12:17:

Regarding Taxes: "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

Matthew 25:40:

On welfare: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Mark 10:25, Matthew 19:24, Luke 18:25:

Wealth and income inequality: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Matthew 21:12:

On Banking and Finance: "And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers"

Jesus was most definitely a socialist. A socialist Jew, like Bernie.

Ann Coulter Spills the Beans: GOP want HRC to run

From Breitbart.com:

Ann Coulter declared, "'I wish Fox News would go a little easier on Hillary Clinton. She's the one we want to run against" on "Lou Dobbs Tonight" on the Fox Business Network. Coulter argued, "I wish Fox News would go a little easier on Hillary Clinton. She's the one we want to run against. Could you guys just back off? Because I feel like I'm living through this, I feel like this is déjà vu again. We used to say, 'Oh, the next president isn't going to be a guy named Barack Hussein Obama.' Our next president could be **Sen. Bernie Sanders** if you people keep this up."

<http://www.breitbart.com/video/2015/08/12/coulter-go-a-little-easier-on-hillary-because-shes-the-one-we-want-to-run-against/>

*Bernie's Legislative accomplishments

According to the Congressional Record, Bernie has Sponsored or Co-Sponsored over 6,000 bills; he Introduced 5,286 of those bills; 704 made it out of Committee; 206 became law - <https://www.congress.gov/member/bernard-sanders/S000033>

Moreover he was the "Amendment King" in that he passed more Amendments than any other member of Congress.

<http://www.alternet.org/election-2016/bernie-gets-it-done-sanders-record-pushing-through-major-reforms-will-surprise-you>

Bernie's Plan will NOT cost \$18 Trillion

The economist that calculated the \$18 Trillion figure actually concluded that Americans would SAVE \$5 Trillion over the 10 year period. The WSJ hit piece is debunked here:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2015/09/15/no-bernie-sanders->



[is-not-going-to-bankrupt-america-to-the-tune-of-18-trillion/](#)

Private Prisons

Private Prison Lobbyists Are Raising Cash for Hillary Clinton <http://interc.pt/1Jhpxww>

Here's why:

"We need more police, we need more and tougher prison sentences for repeat offenders. The 'three-strikes-and-you're-out' for violent offenders has to be part of the plan. We need more prisons to keep violent offenders for as long as it takes to keep them off the streets."

- Hillary Clinton, speaking on the 1994 Crime Bill.

By contrast;

"We already imprison more people per capita than any other country, and all of the executions in the world, will not make that situation right. We can either educate or electrocute. We can create meaningful jobs, rebuilding our society, or we can build more jails. Mr. Speaker, let us create a society of hope and compassion, not one of hate and vengeance."

- Bernie Sanders, speaking on the same 1994 Crime Bill.

Rape

Give me a break. This was a satirical essay written in 1972, and it was meant to expose the deleterious effects of gender stereotypes on both men and women.

Bernie has commented: "It was intended to attack gender stereotypes of the '70s, but it looks as stupid today as it was then."

<http://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2015/05/29/410606045/the-bernie-sanders-rape-fantasy-essay-explained>

Bernie is NOT a Warmonger: He is Historically Anti-Defense Spending

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vabeos-F8Kk&feature=share>

70% of Americans support for Bernie's Positions

<http://reverbpress.com/politics/datalog/americans-agree-bernie-sanders/>

Only 2% of Sanders Supporters are "Anti-Hillary"

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/iowa-poll/2015/08/29/iowa-poll-democrats-august/71387664/?hootPostID=f566866239310c78a602dd7712a622da>

*The Social Election

<http://thesocialelection.tumblr.com>

Did Bernie Suggest Psychological Factors Cause Cancer?

Yes, according to a NY Times article. However, this is not a crackpot theory – see this study by the Journal Oncology:

<http://www.cancernetwork.com/oncology-journal/role-psychological-factors-cancer-incidence-and-prognosis>

***Tweet about Elizabeth Warren and Clinton's Link to the Banks**

Elizabeth Warren in 2003: "Big banks were now part of Senator Clinton's constituency," WAPO details the corruption:

<http://wapo.st/1N18sZ9>

Not surprised at this, but then again, Bernie's campaign is not about Establishment endorsements. I think what makes CWA and the Nurses Association different is that they actually polled their members. The other "endorsements" that went to Clinton were the product of a Board vote or, in the case of AFT (Randi Weingarten) and NEA (Lily Eskelsen García) it was just an autocratic decision by the President.

Electability

Experience and Campaign Performance

I would remind everyone that Bernie Sanders is a "socialist" that has been re-elected NINE (9) TIMES to Congress. As a socialist, he was re-elected Senator with 71% of the vote.

I'll say it again - as a socialist, he won with 71% of the vote.

Show me a Democratic politician who has that record, and running in a state with a higher GUN ownership rate than Nebraska, Ohio, Illinois, North Carolina and Missouri.

Bernie's Accomplishments

If you want to judge the worth of a politician, ask the people who know him. Sure Bernie is well liked on both sides of the aisle, and admired because of his consistency and openness. But the real measure of the man is this: Bernie Sanders is a "socialist" that has served as a big city Mayor for 8 years; he has been elected and re-elected NINE (9) TIMES to Congress. As a socialist, he was re-elected Senator with 71% of the vote statewide, including 25% of the Republican vote.

I'll say it again - as a socialist and a Jew from Brooklyn, he won with 71% of the vote, and that from a rural state with a lot of Republicans, a lot of farmers, no socialists and less than 1% Jews.

Show me a Democratic politician who has that record, and running in a state with a higher firearm ownership rate than Nebraska, Ohio, Illinois, North Carolina and Missouri. You cannot.

That, my friend is quite an accomplishment.

A Legislative History of Bernie's Accomplishments

<https://pplswar.wordpress.com>



US Never Elect a Socialist?

People say that America would never elect a Socialist. And I tell them, they already did: they elected FDR three times! That's right, the "New Deal" was the largest bundle of socialist programs the world had ever seen, establishing, to name just a few, Social Security, the FDIC, the FHA and the SEC.

The socialist trend continued with Lyndon Johnson in the late 60's. He established Medicaid and Medicare, which is still the largest "socialist" medical scheme on earth, in terms of people who get free health insurance from the Government. And what does Bernie want to do? He wants "Medicare for all" - and you think that is such a hard pill to swallow?

Universal Daycare and Family Leave were both passed by Congress on a bipartisan basis in 1971, but vetoed by Richard Nixon.

An the \$15 minimum wage that Bernie is pushing would increase the price of a Big Mac by 17 cents – is that such a disaster?

Free tuition at public colleges and universities was THE NORM in the US until the mid 60's, when Reagan lead a movement to stop it.

Indeed, Ronald Reagan didn't just become President in 1980 - he also led a successful national movement - what was called the "Reagan Revolution" – one which not only won the White House but gave the GOP control in the Senate for the first time in 26 years. I am old enough to remember it, having voted in that election as a liberal - and I remember how shocked everyone was that he won, because he was thought to be too "radical". Remember, Medicare and Medicaid had only been passed 12 years earlier, and the socialist streak in the American consciousness was still thought to be strong. Reagan had to fight for the nomination against the "establishment" GOP, and the RNC limited the primary debates to only 6 because they were so afraid he would get the nomination. Such a move has not been done since, except for this year when the DNC did the same thing to shut out Bernie Sanders.

But Reagan did win. And he won BIG. If anyone had told me in 1979 that a far-right cowboy B-movie actor who was against social security and against Medicare and against unions and against civil rights would win in almost every blue state, including Michigan, Massachusetts, New York, and yes, even Vermont, I would have told them they were CRAZY.

So go ahead. Call us crazy.

GOP Attacks on Bernie as a Socialist – NOT CREDIBLE

Yes, I would dearly LOVE to see the GOP attack Bernie's "socialist" positions. I would HOPE to see them attack the expansion of Social Security, which 65% of Americans support. I would ENCOURAGE them to condemn single payer "Medicare for all", which 67% of Americans support; I would BEG them to dismiss tuition free state colleges, which 63% of Americans support; I would EXPECT them to oppose raising corporate taxes, which 64% of Americans support, just as I would EXPECT them to oppose raising taxes on the wealthy, which 61% of American support. And last, but not least, I would WELCOME them to attack the \$15 minimum wage, which 63% of Americans support.

Yes, by all means, the GOP attack machine would go into overdrive against Bernie, and in every case the move would backfire, because Bernie - and Bernie alone - can get those 60%+ majorities to come out to the polls. Hillary cannot.

Hillary's high negatives - Quinnipiac Poll

From Quinnipiac (Nov. 4, 2015):

"Clinton has the lowest rating for honesty as American voters say 60 – 36 percent she is not honest and trustworthy. Trump is not honest and trustworthy, voters say 58 – 38 percent."

See the poll here:

<http://www.quinnipiac.edu/news-and-events/quinnipiac-university-poll/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2299>

Hillary Clinton is not Viable – 3 factors

There are several key factors to consider:

1. As has been written several places and most recently by James Carville, Hillary supporters would also be happy with Bernie Sanders. BUT THE REVERSE IS NOT TRUE. Many Bernie supporters are virulently anti-Hillary, and still others are simply not attracted to her, so they would just stay home on election day - and we know that is bad for Democrats.
2. Indeed, in a recent Quinnipiac Poll, 11% of Democrats avowed that there was "no way" they would vote for Hillary. <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/news-and-events/quinnipiac-university-poll/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2274>
3. Bernie is pulling in Independents and even Republicans. The "Republicans for Bernie Sanders" page on Facebook has 6000 "Likes". By contrast, the "Republicans for Hillary Clinton" page on Facebook has 4.
4. I would remind everyone that Bernie Sanders is not just a socialist guy with an agenda – he is a sitting US Senator who has been re-elected NINE (9) TIMES to Congress. As a socialist, he was re-elected Senator last round with 71% of the vote – including a large cohort of Republicans: <http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/why-surprising-numbers-republicans-have-been-voting-bernie-sanders-vermont>

If the Democrats are to retake the reins of government and really turn the country around, they will need to attract not only Independents, but that large cohort we used to call "Reagan Democrats" -- Bernie Sanders can do this, Hillary Clinton quite clearly cannot. FEEL THE BERN!!!

Bernie better against GOP

"Hillary Clinton Wins Primary Against Bernie Sanders, But Can't Beat GOP: Poll"
<http://www.ibtimes.com/hillary-clinton-wins-primary-against-bernie-sanders-cant-beat-gop-poll-2112072>

Banks v. Guns - A Tale of Two Constituencies

Hillary goes after Bernie on guns; Bernie goes after Hillary on Wall Street and the Big Banks. It's political tit-for-tat, right?

Unfortunately for Hillary, these arguments are not equal in terms of scope and substance.

As a Congressman and Senator from rural Vermont, Sanders was representing his constituents - hunters and other conservative gun-owners -when he voted the way he did. Likewise, as the junior Senator from New York, Clinton had Wall Street banks as her own constituents, and so one might have understood the fact that she was obligated to represent their interests in the Senate.

The question to be considered NOW, however, is whether a President Sanders would adopt a stronger position gun control when he represents all Americans, and whether a President Clinton would be tough on Wall Street once in the Oval Office. This question is best answered simply:

- To date, Hillary Clinton has received over \$3.5 million in donations from Wall Street banks, with Goldman Sachs giving her almost \$1 million for this election alone.
- To date, Bernie Sanders has received \$0 from the NRA, and has a D- rating by that group.

THIS outlines the big difference between the two candidates: Hillary Clinton is willing to rant and rave all day about Gun Control, Abortion Rights, Gay Rights, Civil Rights and Climate Change because that is what her rich, elite donor base want her to do. The last thing they want is for Hillary to actually do something to curb their power, influence or wealth.

POLLS SHOW BERNIE SANDERS MORE ELECTABLE THAN HILLARY CLINTON

FEBRUARY 18, 2016: The latest Quinnipiac Poll of national voters shows that Bernie Sanders performs MUCH better than Hillary Clinton against potential GOP opponents.

Against Marco Rubio:

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders: **47%**

Marco Rubio: **41%**

CLINTON

Marco Rubio: **48%**

Hillary Clinton: **41%**

Against Ted Cruz:

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders: **49%**

CLINTON

Ted Cruz: **46%**

Ted Cruz: **39%**

Hillary Clinton: **43%**

Against John Kasich:

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders: **45%**

John Kasich: **41%**

CLINTON

John Kasich: **47%**

Hillary Clinton: **39%**

Against Jeb Bush:

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders: **49%**

Jeb Bush: **39%**

CLINTON

Jeb Bush: **44%**

Hillary Clinton: **43%**

Against Donald Trump:

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders: **48%**

Donald Trump: **42%**

CLINTON

Donald Trump: **44%**

Hillary Clinton: **43%**

Favorability Ratings:

SANDERS

Favorable: **51%**

Unfavorable: **36%**

CLINTON

Favorable: **37%**

Unfavorable: **58%**

From the pollster:

“Sanders has the highest favorability rating of ANY candidate and the highest scores for honesty and integrity, for caring about voters’ needs and problems and for sharing voters’ values. “



NEW CNN/ORC POLL: SANDERS BY FAR MORE ELECTABLE

Poll released March 1, 2016

FAVORABILITY

Among all Americans

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Net
 SANDERS	57%	33%	+24%
 CLINTON	42%	55%	-13%

MATCH-UPS vs. REPUBLICANS

	TRUMP	CRUZ	RUBIO
 WINS 55% to 43%	WINS 57% to 40%	WINS 53% to 45%	
 WINS 52% to 44%	LOSES 49% to 48%	LOSES 50% to 47%	
<i>Sanders advantage over Clinton:</i>	+6%	+18%	+11%

NOTES

1. "Sanders fares better than Clinton in each match-up among men, younger voters, and independents."
2. "Sanders...is the only candidate seen favorably by a majority of voters."
3. Among Democrats/Independents, Sanders' net favorability rating is 15% points higher than Hillary Clinton's — 75% to 59%.

Design by Kristen Winstead; Bernie Sanders Illustration by Achille Bianchi; Hillary Clinton illustration by Lorie Shaull

See full results at bit.ly/1L3pKGP



Donald Trump

Is Trump a Fascist? Yes.

Ivana Trump [told reporters from Vanity Fair in 1990](#) that Donald kept a copy of "My New Order" by his bed. The book is a compendium of Hitler's speeches that [you can actually buy on Amazon](#) .

I lived in Germany 9 years, I speak fluent German, I have listened to what Trump is saying and I am very concerned. It is decidedly Hitlerian.

Hitler preyed on the German people, who were suffering under a horrible economy in the 1930's.

He told them that they had been betrayed by their leaders, who were incompetent and corrupt.

He told them that Germany wasn't winning, because Germany's leaders were "losers."

He told them that he would make Germany "win" again.

He told them that Germany would be "great again". That is what "Grossdeutschland" means, after all. And there was the winning.

I recently watched a clip from Trump shouting how he would have "victory" in the next election.

Ah yes, Victory. "Sieg Heil" means "Victory be Praised". Yes, Hitler promised the Germans victory above all else. They would no longer be losing to those other countries. There would be winning. There would be so much winning, that the Germans people would get tired of all the winning.

And they won. Until they didn't. And then they lost. Big.

Trump v. Clinton – Who will I vote for?

Firstly, I believe that the Democrats will take back the Senate in the 2016 elections. This will put a halter on anything that Trump wants to do should he become President. This will also force Trump to nominate moderates to the Supreme Court and other positions requiring Senate confirmation.

Indeed, there are really only 2 areas where a President can act unilaterally with some degree of autocracy: Trade and Foreign Policy. I find Trump's views and



positions on both these issues to be much more in line with my own (and those of most Sanders supporters) than those of Hillary Clinton.

If Clinton wins, I am confident that there will be an almost immediate escalation of our involvement in Syria, greatly exacerbating a bad situation and generations even more anti-American sentiment. I am also pretty sure that a Clinton Administration will throw our move towards detente with Iran in reverse and would not be surprised if we are bombing Iran by the end of her first term. In sum, I am sure that a Clinton Presidency will have disastrous consequences for America lasting decades into the future. Trump has criticised the Iraq war and opposes “stupid” interventionist wars that simply do not make financial sense to him. He espouses a more restrained foreign policy and has even expressed a willingness to negotiate or even collaborate with Putin and Russia. He has also said that he will honour the nuclear deal with Iran.

On Trade, I am likewise 99.9% sure that a President Clinton will not only green-light the TPP but will actively promote it, just as she has for so many years. This will be a domestic disaster of epic proportions that will have repercussions extending far beyond the term of her Presidency. Trump opposes “disastrous trade deals” just like Sanders – albeit in a more crude fashion. Trump puts it into the frame of “winning” and “losing” but the message is the same: these trade deals have been a disaster for the American middle class, and he opposes the TPP.

Trump is scary, but more scary to me is getting a phony corporatist Democrat in the WH. If Trump is elected, he will be a one-term President, and will hopefully be defeated in 2020 provided that the Democrats put up a TRULY progressive candidate and not a Corporatist Wall Street tool like Clinton. Hillary, however, would use her first term in office to consolidate her political power and further cultivate powerful allies and forces in the American corporate community. She will be unbeatable in re-election, and so the cause of Progressivism will be set back for decades. This, combined with a disastrous trade policy and an irresponsible and aggressively adventurist neocon foreign policy make her for me the less attractive candidate.