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DONALD TRUMP

A UNIQUE THREAT TO AMERICA

DONALD J. TRUMP, until now a Republican problem, this week became a challenge the American nation must confront and overcome.

The real estate tycoon is uniquely unqualified to serve as president, in experience and temperament. He is mounting a campaign of snarl and sneer, not substance. To the extent he has views; they are wrong in their diagnosis of America's problems and dangerous in their proposed solutions. Trump's politics of denigration and division could strain the bonds that have held a diverse nation together. His contempt for constitutional norms might reveal the nation's two-century-old experiment in checks and balances to be more fragile than any one knew.

*Aliyah Frumin of NBC writes: Any one of these characteristics would be disqualifying; together, they make Mr. Trump a peril. We recognize that this is not the usual moment to make such a statement. In an ordinary election year, we would acknowledge the Republican nominee, move on to the Democratic convention and spend the following months, like other voters, evaluating the candidate's performance in debates, on the stump and in position papers. This year we will follow the campaign as always, offering honest views on all the candidates. But we cannot salute the Republican nominee or pretend that we might endorse him this fall. **A Trump presidency would be dangerous for the nation and the world.***

US voters are facing a new experience. It has been 64 years since a major party nominated anyone for president who did not have electoral experience. That experiment turned out pretty well, but Mr. Trump, to put it mildly, is no Dwight David Eisenhower. Leading the Allied campaign to liberate Europe from the Nazis required strategic and political skills of the first order, and Eisenhower, though he liked to emphasize his common touch as he faced the intellectual Democrat Adlai Stevenson, was shrewd, diligent, humble and thoughtful.

In contrast, there is nothing on Mr. Trump's resume to suggest he could function successfully in Washington. He was staked in the family business by a well-to-do father and has pursued a career marked by some real estate successes, some failures and repeated episodes of saving his own hide while harming people who trusted him. Given his continuing refusal to release his tax returns, breaking with a long bipartisan tradition, it is only reasonable to assume there are aspects of his record even more discreditable than what the Americans know.

The lack of experience might trounce Mr. Trump, he displays no curiosity, reads no books and appears to believe he needs no advice. In fact, what makes Mr. Trump so unusual is his combination of extreme neediness and rampant arrogance. He is desperate for affirmation but contemptuous of other views. He also is contemptuous of fact. Throughout the campaign, he has stated *one lie after another...* that Muslims in New Jersey celebrated after 9/11, *Bull-Shit* ... that his tax-cut plan would not worsen the deficit, ... that he opposed the Iraq War before it started, and when confronted with contrary evidence, he simply repeats the lie. It is impossible to know whether he convinces himself of his own untruths or knows that he is wrong and does not care. It is also difficult to know which trait would be more frightening in a commander-in-chief.

With much heartache and pain I wish to write that Trump's deeds and acts are just like our politicians.

Given his ignorance, it is perhaps not surprising that Mr. Trump offers no coherence when it comes to policy. In years past, he supported immigration reform, gun control and legal abortion; as candidate, he became a hard-line opponent of all three. Even in the course of the campaign, he has flip-flopped on issues such as whether Muslims should be banned from entering the United States and whether women who have abortions should be punished. Worse than the flip-flops is the absence of any substance in his agenda. Existing trade deals are "stupid," but Mr. Trump does not say how they could be improved. The Islamic State must be destroyed, but the candidate offers no strategy for doing so. Eleven million undocumented immigrants must be deported, but Mr. Trump does not tell, how he would accomplish this legally or practically.

What the candidate does offer is a series of prejudices and gut feelings, most of them erroneous. Allies are taking advantage of the United States ... Immigrants are committing crimes and stealing jobs ... Muslims hate America ... In fact, Japan and South Korea are major contributors to an alliance that has preserved a peace of enormous benefit to Americans ... Immigrants commit fewer crimes than native-born Americans and take jobs that no one else will ... etc. etc; without any knowledge, without any proof and without any conclusion.

The Trump litany of victimization has resonated with many Americans whose economic prospects have stagnated. They deserve a serious champion, and the challenges of inequality and slow wage growth deserve a serious response. But Trump has nothing positive to offer, only scapegoats and dark conspiracy theories. He launched his campaign by accusing Mexico of sending rapists across the border, and similar hatefulness has surfaced numerous times in the year since.

In a dangerous world, Trump speaks carelessly of abandoning NATO, encouraging more nations to obtain nuclear weapons. For eight years, Republicans have criticized President Obama for “apologizing” for America and for weakening alliances. Now they put forward a candidate who mimics the vilest propaganda of authoritarian adversaries about how terrible the United States is and how unfit it is to lecture others. He has made clear that he would drop allies without a second thought. The consequences could be global disastrous.

Most alarming is Mr. Trump’s contempt for the Constitution and the unwritten democratic norms upon which American system depends. He doesn’t know what is in the nation’s founding document. When asked by a member of Congress about Article I, which enumerates congressional powers, the candidate responded, “I am going to abide by the Constitution whether it’s number 1, number 2, number 12, number 9.”

The charter has seven articles.

Worse, he doesn’t seem to care about its limitations on executive power. He has threatened that those who criticize him will suffer when he is president. He has vowed to torture suspected terrorists and bomb their innocent relatives, no matter the illegality of either act. He has vowed to constrict the independent press. He went after a judge whose rulings angered him, exacerbating his contempt for the independence of the judiciary by insisting that the judge should be disqualified because of his Mexican heritage. Trump has encouraged and celebrated violence at his rallies.

Trump campaigns by insult and denigration, insinuation and wild accusation: Ted Cruz’s father was involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy ... Hillary Clinton may be guilty of murder ... Mr. Obama is a traitor who wants Muslims to attack. The Republican Party has moved the lunatic fringe onto center stage, with discourse that renders impossible the kind of substantive debate upon which any civil democracy depends.

Most responsible Republican leaders know all he speaks is rubbish that is why Mr. Trump had to rely so heavily on testimonials by relatives and employees during this week’s Republican convention. All the living Republican presidents and presidential nominees of the past three decades stayed away. But most current office holders, even those who declared Mr. Trump to be an unthinkable choice, only months ago, have lost the courage to speak out.

The party’s failure of judgment leaves the nation’s future where it belongs, in the hands of voters. Many Americans do not like either candidate this year. We have criticized the presumptive Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, in the past and will do so again when warranted. But we do not believe that she represents a threat to the Constitution.

Mr. Trump is a unique and present threat to the United States and to the world as well, they all think so.

Donald J. Trump suggested in an interview on 17th July that he would expand his proposed immigration restrictions to include anyone entering the United States from

countries or territories “compromised” by terrorism, including allies such as Germany and France.

Mr. Trump’s comments, in an appearance on the NBC program “Meet the Press” appeared intended to clarify portions of his speech at the Republican convention indicating that he might be rolling back his earlier proposed ban on Muslim immigration. Mr. Trump indicated that the United States needed to protect itself from the failures of countries like France, which he said had allowed itself to be infiltrated by terrorists.

“I actually don’t think it’s a rollback. In fact, you could say it’s an expansion,” Mr. Trump said in the interview with the NBC host Chuck Todd. “I’m looking now at territory.” In the coming weeks, Mr. Trump told Mr. Todd, he would be unveiling a detailed list of countries and territories from which immigrants would be subject to “extreme vetting.”

Trump Could Cause Record Muslim-American Voter Turnout.

Now that the anti-Muslim rhetoric has punctuated the campaign season, his candidacy could propel Muslim-Americans to head to the polls and vote against him.

The rhetoric that Trump is putting out there is creating a lot of mobilization, is said by Amaney Jamal, a politics professor at Princeton University who has studied Muslim American political participation and voting behavior.

In short, to help defeat Trump, Muslim organizations are banding together on Eid al-Adha to hold a national voter registration day at mosques and community centers in hope of reaching their goal to register one million new voters. And on Election Day, there will be plenty of buses on hand to take voters to cast their ballots.

The U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations doesn't endorse a particular candidate, but the choice for Muslims will be obvious, said Osama Jammal, secretary general of the council, who predicted Muslim American voter turnout would hit a historic high this year. "Trump's rhetoric has awakened the Muslim American community to their obligation and their right," he said. So far, more than 300,000 new Muslim Americans have registered to vote.

Those voters are galvanized by what they see as a frightening and loathsome feature of Trump's presidential campaign and troubled by the fact that never before in modern American history has this country had a major party presidential nominee whose campaign and supporters seem so hostile to Muslims.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a key Trump surrogate who was being considered as a vice presidential candidate, recently called for the U.S. to test Muslims to see if they believe in Sharia law and deport those who do.

Muslims have previously been the least likely faith group to be politically engaged, according to the nonpartisan Institute for Social and Policy Understanding. A recent

study found only 60 percent of Muslims who said they could legally vote were registered to do so, compared to a combined 86 percent of Jews, Catholics and Protestants. But could Muslim Americans, who represent approximately 1 percent of the population in the United States, make a difference?

The American-Muslim community is well positioned in swing state and Muslims knowing that one presidential candidate is directly opposed to their community's interest will be a driving factor in getting Muslims to turn out the vote.

Before the 2000 election, Muslim Americans tended to vote Republican. In fact, approximately 70 percent voted for George W. Bush that year. But since the 9/11 terror attacks, the vote has swung largely to Democrats. In 2008, a CAIR poll showed almost 90 percent voting for Barack Obama.

"You're going to see a similar trend, if not more this year," said Jamal. "I wouldn't be surprised if it was 95 percent this upcoming election."

Mr. Trump is a unique threat to the United States as well as to the world. He would surely cause Record Muslim-American Voter Turnout.

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