

# Essay

## The Trump Phenomenon

Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



The Trump phenomenon is a maudlin reaction to an effete and futilitarian leadership. The old career politicians whether Democrats or Republicans are the two sides of the same coin. The Americans are tired of traditional politicians who speak in cliché and do nothing to move the country forward. For decades the nation seems to be stuck in neutral. To the voters, Trump is a scintillating oasis despite the possibility that he may just turn out to be a mirage.

Despite the popular belief, Trump supporters aren't just a bunch of crazy, angry white people nor is his constituency made up only of uneducated who feel marginalized. Throughout Trump's cadre of supporters there is a profound sense of betrayal from career politicians who have disappointed them for decades. The leaders have disavowed the citizens who aspire for progress and results. The people of the United States of America have suffered in silence for too long. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. watched the 'unleashed dogs,' 'the firehoses,' 'the lynching and bombings,' the civil rights leader said something we should keep in mind today: 'History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.'

History is being written again as good people are breaching their silence now. They are swaying voters from career politicians and are joining the Trump Train. They are ignoring huge, blatant character issues of Trump because they think the trade-off will get them something greater.

Trump started with immigration which caused a watershed of panic among his supporters. All of a sudden people realized that they had a country without

border and their country was no longer governed by the rule of law. Trump capitalized on the general sense that our leadership has done little to nothing to stop the flood of illegal immigrants who are a drain on our resources.

Right now, many Americans have this frantic feeling that if they don't do something drastic they're going to be trapped in the vicious circle of presidential elections without any consequence. This frustration has made Trump the drastic and desperate solution. In him people see a champion, a straight-talker, a savvy businessman who can get things done, someone who will stand up for American workers and a guy who can get things done whatever it takes.

Right now Trump's supporters are in the honeymoon phase of the campaign. They think that they have found a strong leader who can and will protect them, and will use his power to make things right. There is a grave risk, and real possibility, however, that Trump just might be worse than the disease for which they think he is the cure.



'A lack of concern for consequences, are the natural fuel of revolutions—easy to start and soon impossible to stop.' Imagine how good it must feel to finally have hope and relief after years of watching leaders who do nothing. They've been waiting a long time for a leader to come and reverse all this inertness, and pull our nation out of decline. They are intractably loyal, and to their minds no other candidate comes close to Donald Trump. It remains to be seen if Trump can or will be able to do any of those things along his spectrum of promises. I say this without any malice to the candidate.