



American Bridge

Trump Policy Brief: Steve Bannon As Member Of The National Security Council

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STEVE BANNON ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

- ✓ President Trump signed an executive order giving White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon a seat on the National Security Council's Principals Committee.
- ✓ The order diminished the role of the Joint Chiefs chairperson and Director of National Intelligence, who from then on would only attend Principals Committee meetings that pertained to their areas of purview.
- ✓ No political adviser had ever been given a formal role on the Principals Committee, including President George W. Bush political adviser Karl Rove. Prior administrations considered the apolitical nature of the NSC as sacrosanct.
- ✓ Bannon had no professional experience in foreign policy at the time of his appointment to the NSC.
- ✓ Bannon has espoused dangerous beliefs that call his ability to make measured foreign policy decisions into question. He considers himself a leader of the "alt-right," a movement defined by its anti-immigrant, anti-feminism, and anti-diversity stances. Bannon himself has a long history of making comments seen as racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, and Islamophobic, and the New York Times commented on his "dark and at times apocalyptic worldview."
- ✓ National security experts called Bannon's involvement on the NSC "stone cold crazy" and "radical."

Trump Gave Chief Strategist Steve Bannon A Seat On The National Security Council's Principals Committee

PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER GIVING CHIEF STRATEGIST STEVE BANNON A FULL SEAT ON THE NSC'S PRINCIPALS COMMITTEE

President Trump Signed An Executive Order That Gave White House Chief Strategist Stephen Bannon A Full Seat On The National Security Council's Principals Committee. According to The New York Times, "The whirlwind first week of Donald J. Trump's presidency had all the bravura hallmarks of a Stephen K. Bannon production. [...] But the defining moment for Mr. Bannon came Saturday night in the form of an executive order giving the ruffled right-wing agitator a full seat on the 'principals committee' of the National Security Council — while downgrading the roles of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the director of national intelligence, who will now attend only when the council is considering issues in their direct areas of responsibilities." [New York Times, [1/29/17](#)]

- **The NSC Principals Committee Was The Top Interagency Group Related To National Security.** According to NPR, "President Trump has reorganized the National Security Council by elevating his chief strategist, Steve Bannon, and demoting the director of National Intelligence and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Bannon will join the NSC's principals committee, the top interagency group for discussing national security." [NPR, [1/29/17](#)]

- **The Principals Committee Under The Trump Administration Also Included The Secretaries Of State, Defense, And Treasury, In Addition To The Attorney General.** According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “The Principals Committee (PC) shall continue to serve as the Cabinet-level senior interagency forum for considering policy issues that affect the national security interests of the United States. [...] The PC shall have as its regular attendees the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, the Assistant to the President and Chief Strategist, the National Security Advisor, and the Homeland Security Advisor. ” [White House, [1/28/17](#)]

Bannon’s Role In The NSC Was At The Same Level As National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

According to The New York Times, “In theory, the move put Mr. Bannon, a former Navy surface warfare officer, admiral’s aide, investment banker, Hollywood producer and Breitbart News firebrand, on the same level as his friend, Michael T. Flynn, the national security adviser, a former Pentagon intelligence chief who was Mr. Trump’s top adviser on national security issues before a series of missteps reduced his influence.” [New York Times, [1/29/17](#)]

THE ORDER ALSO DOWNGRADED THE COMMITTEE ROLES OF THE JOINT CHIEFS CHAIRPERSON AND DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, NO LONGER REQUIRING THEIR ATTENDANCE AT EVERY MEETING

The Order Downgraded The Roles Of The Chairperson Of The Joint Chiefs Of Staff And The Director Of National Intelligence. According to The New York Times, “But the defining moment for Mr. Bannon came Saturday night in the form of an executive order giving the ruffled right-wing agitator a full seat on the ‘principals committee’ of the National Security Council — while downgrading the roles of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the director of national intelligence, who will now attend only when the council is considering issues in their direct areas of responsibilities.” [New York Times, [1/29/17](#)]

- **Under The Trump Administration Order, The Joint Chiefs Chairperson And Director Of National Intelligence Would Only Attend NSC Meetings When The Council Was Considering Issues Under Their Direct Purview.** According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “The PC shall have as its regular attendees the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, the Assistant to the President and Chief Strategist, the National Security Advisor, and the Homeland Security Advisor. The Director of National Intelligence and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall attend where issues pertaining to their responsibilities and expertise are to be discussed.” [White House, [1/28/17](#)]
- **The BBC Reported That The Joint Chiefs Chairperson And The Director Of National Intelligence Attended All NSC Meetings Under Previous Administrations.** According to the BBC, “President Donald Trump is reshuffling the US National Security Council (NSC), downgrading the military chiefs of staff and giving a regular seat to his chief strategist Steve Bannon. Mr Bannon, formerly the head of the populist right-wing, Breitbart News website, will join high-level discussions about national security. The order was signed on Saturday. The director of national intelligence and the joint chiefs will attend when discussions pertain to their areas.” [BBC, [1/29/17](#)]

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer Initially Denied That The New Roles For The Joint Chiefs Chairperson And Director Of National Intelligence Were Downgrades

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer Said That Characterizing The Diminished Roles Of The Joint Chiefs Chairperson And Director Of National Intelligence As A Downgrade Was “Utter Nonsense.” According to U.S. News & World Report, “‘There's been a lot of misreporting this week on what this memo does and does not do,’ White House press secretary Sean Spicer said during his daily press conference on Monday. ‘The idea that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the [director of national intelligence] are being downgraded or removed is utter nonsense. They are at every NSC meeting and are welcome to attend the principals meeting, as well.’” [U.S. News & World Report, [1/30/17](#)]

- **Spicer Said That The Chairperson And Director Were “Not Required” To Attend NSC Principals Committee Meetings, But Were “Certainly Welcome” To Attend.** According to U.S. News & World Report, “‘The idea that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the [director of national intelligence] are being downgraded or removed is utter nonsense. They are at every NSC meeting and are welcome to attend the principals meeting, as well.’ Spicer elaborated: ‘To be clear, the memo lays out if there is a principals meeting that is outside their scope, for example a domestic issue that doesn't pertain to the military, they are not required, but are certainly welcome, to be in attendance.’” [U.S. News & World Report, [1/30/17](#)]

Spicer Said During A Press Conference That Trump’s Executive Order On The Structure Of The NSC Was “Literally 100% The Same” As Those Signed By Presidents Obama And George W. Bush. According to the New York Daily News, “‘Spicer led off the conference by arguing there were no differences in the language between Trump's executive order that promoted his controversial senior advisor Steve Bannon to a position on the National Security Council and past presidents' while calling reports that senior military officials' roles have been downgraded ‘utter nonsense,’ though he later was forced to admit that Bannon's role had been added. ‘It is literally 100% the same,’ Spicer said at the top of the press conference of the new executive order and those under Presidents Obama and George W. Bush, while saying that the change had been to allow senior military officials skip meetings they don't need to attend and that they ‘are welcome’ at every meeting.’” [New York Daily News, [1/30/17](#)]

- **Spicer Later Admitted That Bannon’s Role On The NSC Principals Committee Was New, And That Certain Senior Military Officials Were No Longer Required To Attend All Meetings.** According to the New York Daily News, “‘It is literally 100% the same,’ Spicer said at the top of the press conference of the new executive order and those under Presidents Obama and George W. Bush, while saying that the change had been to allow senior military officials skip meetings they don't need to attend and that they ‘are welcome’ at every meeting. Later, Spicer conceded that Bannon's title had been added to the order — but argued that it was only codifying an arrangement that existed under Obama where senior advisor David Axelrod often dropped by meetings.’” [New York Daily News, [1/30/17](#)]

The Addition Of Bannon, A Member Of The White House’s Political Arm, Threatened The NSC’s Status As An Apolitical Body

NO POLITICAL ADVISER HAD EVER BEEN GIVEN A FORMAL POSITION ON THE NSC’S PRINCIPALS COMMITTEE

The Washington Post Reported That No Other President Had Given A Political Adviser A Formal Position On The National Security Council. According to The Washington Post, “‘But even as the mechanism for full consultation with defense, diplomatic, intelligence and other national security chiefs remains incomplete, Bannon’s policy influence was established late Saturday in a presidential directive that gave him something no previous president has bestowed on a political adviser: a formal seat at the NSC table.’” [Washington Post, [1/29/17](#)]

According To Former Chief Of Staff To President George W. Bush Joshua Bolten, Bush Political Adviser Karl Rove Was Not Allowed At NSC Meetings. According to the Moody Foundation transcription of a Moody Foundation national security forum, “[FORMER WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF JOSHUA BOLTEN:] Meghan, I'm assuming you didn't know this, but the reason you never saw Karl Rove in a national security meeting was that the President told Karl Rove, you may never come to a National Security Council meeting.” [Moody Foundation, [9/23/16](#)]

- **Bolton: President Bush Said That His Decision To Exclude Rove From NSC Meetings Was Intended To Signal That His National Security Decisions Wouldn't Be Influenced By Politics.** According to the Moody Foundation transcription of a Moody Foundation national security forum, “[FORMER WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF JOSHUA BOLTEN:] Meghan, I'm assuming you didn't know this, but the reason you never saw Karl Rove in a national security meeting was that the President told Karl Rove, you may never come to a National Security Council meeting. [...] But the President also knew that the signal he wanted to send to the rest of his administration, the signal he wanted to send to the public, and the signal he especially wanted to send to the military is that the decisions I'm making that involve life and death for the people in uniform will not be tainted by any political decisions.” [Moody Foundation, [9/23/16](#)]
- **Bolton: “The Signal He Especially Wanted To Send To The Military Is That The Decisions I'm Making That Involve Life And Death For The People In Uniform Will Not Be Tainted By Any Political Decisions.”** According to the Moody Foundation transcription of a Moody Foundation national security forum, “[FORMER WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF JOSHUA BOLTEN:] But the President also knew that the signal he wanted to send to the rest of his administration, the signal he wanted to send to the public, and the signal he especially wanted to send to the military is that the decisions I'm making that involve life and death for the people in uniform will not be tainted by any political decisions.” [Moody Foundation, [9/23/16](#)]

NPR Correspondent Mara Liasson Reported That Former White House Senior Adviser David Axelrod Never Sat On A NSC Principals Committee Meeting. According to the NPR transcript of an episode of Weekend Edition Sunday featuring NPR correspondent Mara Liasson and host Lourdes Garcia-Navarro, “[LIASSON:] The executive order process seems driven by a very small group led by Steve Bannon who is Donald Trump's chief strategist and keeper of his nationalist, populist ideology. He has been accused of not coordinating enough with other agencies, which resulted in some of the chaos this weekend. But just to give you an idea of how important he is, Donald Trump has elevated him, by executive order, to a seat on the Principals Committee of the National Security Council at the same time that he downgraded the director of National Intelligence and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This is something that's unusual. David Axelrod, for instance, who had the same position in the Obama White House, said that he never sat on a principals committee meeting.” [NPR, [1/29/17](#)]

According To NPR National Security Editor Philip Ewing, Previous Administrations Set Up A “Great Wall Of China-Separation Between The Political Team At The White House” And The NSC. According to NPR, “As NPR national security editor Philip Ewing explains, Trump ‘is shaking up the wonky process by which the executive branch makes its toughest decisions on national security — the big question is how much that will matter.’ Here's more: ‘On paper, these are big changes: Past administrations ran their National Security Councils with a Great Wall of China-separation between the political team at the White House and the nonpartisan specialists who help with decision-making.’” [NPR, [1/29/17](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY EXPERTS DEEPLY OPPOSED BANNON'S INCLUSION ON THE NSC

Former Defense Secretary And CIA Director Leon Panetta Said That The NSC Was The “Last Place You Want To Put Somebody Who Worries About Politics.” According to The New York Times, “But the defining moment for Mr. Bannon came Saturday night in the form of an executive order giving the rumpled right-wing agitator a full seat on the ‘principals committee’ of the National Security Council — while downgrading the roles of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the director of national intelligence, who will now attend only when the council is considering issues in their direct areas of responsibilities. [...] ‘The last place you want to put somebody who worries about politics is in a room where they’re talking about national security,’ said Leon E. Panetta, a former White House chief of staff, defense secretary and C.I.A. director in two Democratic administrations.” [New York Times, [1/29/17](#)]

Former National Security Adviser Susan Rice Tweeted That Bannon’s Role In The NSC Was “Stone Cold Crazy.” According to a tweet by former National Security Adviser Susan Rice, “[RICE:] This is stone cold crazy. After a week of crazy. Who needs military advice or intell [*sic*] to make policy on ISIL, Syria, Afghanistan, DPRK? [@]RIVERA64: Trump loves and trusts the military so much he just kicked them out of the National Security Council and put in a Nazi in their place.” [Susan Rice – Twitter, [1/29/17](#)]

Sen. John McCain Called Bannon’s Appointment To The NSC A “Radical Departure.” According to CBS News, “Sen. John McCain on Sunday criticized President Donald Trump’s ban on immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries, saying it has been a ‘confused process’ that will only give the terror group ISIS ‘more propaganda.’ [...] ‘The appointment of Mr. Bannon is something which is a radical departure from any National Security Council in history,’ he said.” [CBS News, [1/29/17](#)]

Republican Leaders Criticized The Diluted Role Of The Joint Chiefs Chairperson And Director Of National Intelligence In The NSC’s Principals Committee

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates Called The Demotions Of The Joint Chiefs Chairperson And Director Of National Intelligence Within The NSC A “Big Mistake.” According to NPR, “President Trump has reorganized the National Security Council by elevating his chief strategist, Steve Bannon, and demoting the director of National Intelligence and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. [...] Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who served under Obama and George W. Bush, called the demotions a ‘big mistake’ in an interview with ABC News.” [NPR, [1/29/17](#)]

Sen. John McCain Said That The Joint Chiefs Chairperson Was “The One Person Which Is Indispensable” To The Council. According to CBS News, “Sen. John McCain on Sunday criticized President Donald Trump’s ban on immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries, saying it has been a ‘confused process’ that will only give the terror group ISIS ‘more propaganda.’ [...] ‘The appointment of Mr. Bannon is something which is a radical departure from any National Security Council in history,’ he said. ‘...And the role of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has been diminished, I understand, with this reorganization. The one person which is indispensable [*sic*] would be the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in my view.’” [CBS News, [1/29/17](#)]

Sen. Susan Collins Said That The Restructuring Of The NSC Principals Committee Was “Entirely Inappropriate” Because Bannon Didn’t Have The Same Expertise As The Joint Chiefs Chairperson Or The Director Of National Intelligence. According to Maine Public, “In addition to Trump’s refugee order, Collins says what she’s most upset about is his decision to restructure the principals committee of the National Security Council, the senior intra agency group that considers policies affecting national security. President Trump is coming under fire for appointing his chief strategist, Steve Bannon, to the committee and diminishing the involvement of the director of National Intelligence and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who will be excluded from most meetings. [...] ‘Bannon...does not have the expertise that the director of National Intelligence or the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have and this is entirely inappropriate,’ Collins said.” [Maine Public, [1/30/17](#)]

- **Collins Said She Was “Very Surprised” And “Disappointed” With President Trump’s NSC Principals Committee Restructuring.** According to Maine Public, “In addition to Trump's refugee order, Collins says what she's most upset about is his decision to restructure the principals committee of the National Security Council, the senior intra agency group that considers policies affecting national security. [...] ‘I am very surprised, disappointed and very much disagree with the president's decision to restructure that important committee,’ Collins said.” [Maine Public, [1/30/17](#)]

BANNON HAD BEEN CIRCUMVENTING THE TRADITIONAL ROLE OF THE NSC SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Bannon Helped Shape The Trump Administration’s Ban On Refugees From A Number Of Muslim-Majority Countries Without Formal Input From The NSC. According to The Washington Post, “Stephen K. Bannon — whose nationalist convictions and hard-line oppositional view of globalism have long guided Trump — was directly involved in shaping the controversial immigration mandate, according to several people familiar with the drafting who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. The order, which has ignited sweeping domestic and international backlash, came without the formal input of Trump’s National Security Council, the committee of top national security aides designed to ensure the president examines all policy issues from different perspectives.” [Washington Post, [1/29/17](#)]

- **The Department Of Homeland Security “Suggested Green Card Holders Be Exempted From The Order,” But Bannon Overruled Them.** According to the New York Times, “The hasty drafting of the immigration order, and its scattershot execution, brought a measure of Mr. Bannon’s chaotic and hyperaggressive political style to the more predictable administration of the federal government. Within hours of the edict, airport customs and border agents were detaining or blocking dozens of migrant families, some of whom had permanent resident status, until John F. Kelly, the new homeland security secretary, intervened. Mr. Kelly’s department had suggested green card holders be exempted from the order, but Mr. Bannon and Mr. Miller, a hard-liner on immigration, overruled him, according to two American officials.” [New York Times, [1/29/17](#)]

“Two Obama Administration Officials Said Trump Transition Officials Inquired About Expanded National Security Roles For Mr. Bannon [...] At The Earliest Stages Of The Transition In November.” According to the New York Times, “Two Obama administration officials said Trump transition officials inquired about expanded national security roles for Mr. Bannon and Mr. Kushner at the earliest stages of the transition in November — before the younger Mr. Flynn became a liability — but after Mr. Flynn had begun to chafe on the nerves of his colleagues on the team.” [New York Times, [1/29/17](#)]

The New York Times Reported That The Promotion Of Bannon And White House Homeland Security Adviser Thomas Bossert Within The NSC “Essentially Layered Over” The Influence Of National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. According to The New York Times, “The move involving Mr. Bannon, as well as the boost in status to the White House homeland security adviser, Thomas P. Bossert, and Mr. Trump’s relationships with cabinet appointees like Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, have essentially layered over Mr. Flynn.” [New York Times, [1/29/17](#)]

According To Trump Administration Insiders And National Security Officials, Bannon Had More Influence Over Trump Than Anyone Except His Son-In-Law, Jared Kushner. According to The New York Times, “But in terms of real influence, Mr. Bannon looms above almost everyone except the president’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, in the Trumpian pecking order, according to interviews with two dozen Trump insiders and current and former national security officials.” [New York Times, [1/29/17](#)]

Bannon Had No Prior Professional Experience In Foreign Policy Before Trump Appointed Him A Full Member Of The NSC

WASHINGTON POST: BANNON HAD “NO JOB EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN POLICY”

The Washington Post Reported That Bannon Had “No Job Experience In Foreign Policy.”

According to The Washington Post, “Bannon has no job experience in foreign policy. After serving in the Navy for seven years in the late 1970s and early 1980s, his eclectic career took him to Goldman Sachs, to consulting to documentary filmmaking and then to the running of Breitbart News, a far-right website known for peddling conspiracy theories.” [Washington Post, [1/29/17](#)]

Trump Administration Officials Defended Bannon’s Role On The NSC Principals Committee, Citing His Experience As A Naval Officer More Than 30 Years Prior

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer Claimed That Bannon Had A “Tremendous Understanding Of The World.” According to the Los Angeles Times, “Bannon is a former Naval officer, said White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer, adding that it’s only right for the president’s top strategist to ‘come in and talk about what the strategy is going forward.’ Bannon has a ‘tremendous understanding of the world,’ said Spicer.” [Los Angeles Times, [1/29/17](#)]

White House Chief Of Staff Reince Priebus Used Bannon’s Time As A Naval Officer More Than 30 Years Prior As Evidence Of Bannon’s National Security Expertise. According to Newsday, “The president is making a ‘big mistake,’ agreed former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who said on NBC’s ‘Meet the Press’ that the chairman and the DNI both bring a perspective and judgment and experience to bear that every president, whether they like it or not, finds useful. On the same show, White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus defended the changes, pointing to Bannon’s experience more than 30 years ago as a naval officer.” [Newsday, [1/30/17](#)]

A Senior NSC Official Explained Bannon’s Inclusion In The Council By Saying That “Everything” In Washington Was Political, And That Bannon Didn’t “Have To Be” At Council Meetings “All The Time.” According to The Washington Post, “A senior NSC official said Sunday that negative interpretations of both measures misunderstood both the intention and the effect of a directive whose overall aim was to make policy formation more inclusive and more efficient. [...] ‘I think, candidly, that things in Washington, everything is political,’ this official said. ‘We wanted to make sure that all viewpoints were considered at critical points.’ Despite his listing in the NSC organizational chart, Bannon ‘doesn’t have to be there all the time,’ the official said.” [Washington Post, [1/29/17](#)]

Bannon Has Espoused Dangerous Beliefs That Call His Ability To Make Measured Decisions On Foreign Policy Into Question

BANNON CONSIDERS HIMSELF A LEADER OF THE “ALT-RIGHT,” A MOVEMENT DEFINED BY ITS ANTI-IMMIGRANT, ANTI-FEMINIST, AND ANTI-DIVERSITY STANCES

Bannon “Describes Himself As A Leader Of The Alt-Right.” According to the Washington Post, “President-elect Donald Trump’s new chief strategist and senior counselor, Stephen K. Bannon, has been called a racist, an anti-Semite and a white nationalist. And that’s just since Sunday, when Trump announced

that he would be giving Bannon, the former head of the far-right website Breitbart News, a central White House role. [...] Bannon describes himself as a leader of the alt-right, a loose term describing a far-right ideology that includes opposition to immigration and ‘globalism.’” [Washington Post, [11/14/16](#)]

- **NPR: The Alt-Right Is Against “Multiculturalism, Immigration, Feminism And, Above All, Political Correctness.”** According to NPR, “The views of the alt-right are widely seen as anti-Semitic and white supremacist. It is mostly an online movement that uses websites, chat boards, social media and memes to spread its message. (Remember the Star of David image that Trump received criticism for retweeting? That reportedly first appeared on an alt-right message board.) Most of its members are young white men who see themselves first and foremost as champions of their own demographic. However, apart from their allegiance to their ‘tribe,’ as they call it, their greatest points of unity lie in what they are against: multiculturalism, immigration, feminism and, above all, political correctness.” [NPR, [8/26/16](#)]

BANNON “HAS ATTRACTED LEGIONS OF FOLLOWERS WHO DESCRIBE THEMSELVES AS WHITE SUPREMACISTS”

Bannon “Has Attracted Legions Of Followers Who Describe Themselves As White Supremacists.” According to the Washington Post, “It’s true that Bannon has attracted legions of followers who describe themselves as white supremacists. It’s less clear whether Bannon’s own actions and words prove that he is one, too.” [Washington Post, [11/14/16](#)]

“Some Of The Highest Praise For Bannon’s Appointment Came From White Nationalists And White Supremacists.” According to the Washington Post, “Yet some of the highest praise for Bannon’s appointment came from white nationalists and white supremacists. According to SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors far-right and far-left activity on the Internet, a trove of comments celebrating the news have posted on Stormfront, a website for the ‘White Nationalist Community,’ including this one from a reader called ‘Pheonix1993:’ ‘Stephen Bannon: racist, anti-homo, anti-immigrant, anti-jewish, anti-establishment. Declared war on (((Paul Ryan))) Sounds perfect. The man who will have Trump’s ear more than anyone else. Being anti-jewish is not illegal.’” [Washington Post, [11/14/16](#)]

Bannon’s Selection As Chief Strategist Was Called “Excellent” By Former Ku Klux Klan Leader David Duke. According to CNN, “The leaders of the white nationalist and so-called ‘alt-right’ movement — all of whom vehemently oppose multiculturalism and share the belief in the supremacy of the white race and Western civilization — publicly backed Trump during his campaign for his hardline positions on Mexican immigration, Muslims, and refugee resettlement. Trump has at times disavowed their support. Bannon’s hiring, they say, is a signal that Trump will follow through on some of his more controversial policy positions. ‘I think that’s excellent,’ former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke told CNN’s KFile.” [CNN, [11/15/16](#)]

BANNON HAS HIMSELF MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS SEEN AS RACIST, SEXIST, ANTI-SEMITIC AND ISLAMOPHOBIC

Bannon: “The Women That Would Lead This Country [...] Wouldn’t Be A Bunch Of Dykes.” According to the New York Times, “Here, in his own words, are a selection of Mr. Bannon’s public statements about the country, the Republican Party and his own political philosophy. [...] Referring to Ann Coulter, Michele Bachmann and Sarah Palin in a 2011 radio interview on Political Vindication Radio, he said: ‘These women cut to the heart of the progressive narrative. That’s why there are some unintended consequences of the women’s liberation movement. That, in fact, the women that would lead this country would be pro-family, they would have husbands, they would love their children. They wouldn’t be a bunch of dykes that came from the Seven Sisters schools up in New England. That drives the left insane, and that’s why they hate these women.’” [New York Times, [11/14/16](#)]

Bannon Described Islam As “A Political Ideology” And Praised Pamela Geller, Whose Organization Has Been Named An Anti-Muslim Hate Group By The Southern Poverty Law Center. According to Mother Jones, “Bannon's views often echo those of his devoted followers. He describes Islam as ‘a political ideology’ and Sharia law as ‘like Nazism, fascism, and communism.’ On his Sirius XM radio show, he heaped praise on Pamela Geller, whose American Freedom Defense Initiative has been labeled an anti-Muslim hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Bannon called her ‘one of the leading experts in the country, if not the world,’ on Islam. And he basically endorsed House Speaker Paul Ryan's primary challenger, businessman Paul Nehlen, who floated the idea of deporting all Muslims from the United States.” [Mother Jones, [8/22/16](#)]

Bannon Wrote That After The Orlando Shooting, “The Obama Administration [...] Intoned Against Guns And ‘Hate,’ And Is Now Back To Importing More Hating Muslims.” According to an opinion by Stephen Bannon for Breitbart, “It’s the same cynical process we saw in the case of Omar Mateen, the jihadist shooter at the gay nightclub in Orlando on June 12. And let’s realize: That horrific mass-murder took place not even a month ago, and yet already, it’s slipped down the MSM memory hole, to apply another Orwellism. In the wake of Orlando, the Obama administration, with Hillary Clinton cheering it on, intoned against guns and ‘hate,’ and is now back to importing more hating Muslims.” [Stephen Bannon – Breitbart, [7/10/16](#)]

Bannon Wrote That New York Magazine Writer Gabriel Sherman Was “Making Up” Charges Of Roger Ailes’ Sexual Harassment. According to an opinion by Stephen Bannon for Breitbart, “As if it were needed, further proof that the anti-Ailes forces are deeply synchronized is the reappearance of Gabriel Sherman. You remember him: He’s the longtime Ailes-hater at New York magazine, who attempted to ruin Ailes with his sludgy biography, published to flat sales two years ago — it didn’t even make paperback. Yet tellingly, Sherman had a lot of PR firepower behind that book, including a boiler room of partisan Democratic operatives — and by the way, who paid for them? And now Sherman is back dusting off — or is it, making up? — charges of Ailes sex-harassment from 30, 40, even 50 years ago.” [Stephen Bannon – Breitbart, [7/10/16](#)]

Bannon: “What If The People Getting Shot By The Cops Did Things To Deserve It?” According to an opinion by Stephen Bannon for Breitbart, “In the meantime, here’s a thought: What if the people getting shot by the cops did things to deserve it? There are, after all, in this world, some people who are naturally aggressive and violent.” [Stephen Bannon – Breitbart, [7/10/16](#)]

Bannon Has Cited Nazi-Affiliated Philosopher Julius Evola. According to the New York Times, “For all the examination of those remarks, a passing reference by Mr. Bannon to an esoteric Italian philosopher has gone little noticed, except perhaps by scholars and followers of the deeply taboo, Nazi-affiliated thinker, Julius Evola. ‘The fact that Bannon even knows Evola is significant,’ said Mark Sedgwick, a leading scholar of Traditionalists at Aarhus University in Denmark. Evola, who died in 1974, wrote on everything from Eastern religions to the metaphysics of sex to alchemy. But he is best known as a leading proponent of Traditionalism, a worldview popular in far-right and alternative religious circles that believes progress and equality are poisonous illusions. Evola became a darling of Italian Fascists, and Italy’s post-Fascist terrorists of the 1960s and 1970s looked to him as a spiritual and intellectual godfather.” [New York Times, [2/10/17](#)]

- **Evola “Caught On In The United States With Leaders Of The Alt-Right Movement” And Has Been Praised By White Nationalist Leader Richard Spencer.** According to the New York Times, “More important for the current American administration, Evola also caught on in the United States with leaders of the alt-right movement, which Mr. Bannon nurtured as the head of Breitbart News and then helped harness for Mr. Trump. ‘Julius Evola is one of the most fascinating men of the 20th century,’ said Richard Spencer, the white nationalist leader who is a top figure in the alt-right movement, which has attracted white supremacists, racists and anti-immigrant elements. In the days

after the election, Mr. Spencer led a Washington alt-right conference in chants of 'Hail Trump!' But he also invoked Evola's idea of a prehistoric and pre-Christian spirituality — referring to the awakening of whites, whom he called the Children of the Sun." [New York Times, [2/10/17](#)]

Bannon's Ex-Wife Accused Him In A Court Statement Of Not Wanting Their Children To Attend A Private School Because It Had Too Many Jewish Students

Bannon's Ex-Wife Accused Him In A Court Statement Of Not Wanting Their Children To Attend A Private School Because It Had Too Many Jewish Students. According to the Washington Post, "Direct evidence of racist or anti-Semitic statements by Bannon is harder to find. According to a 2007 court statement, Bannon's ex-wife accused him of not wanting their twin daughters attending a California private school because its student body included too many Jews." [Washington Post, [11/14/16](#)]

WHILE BANNON WAS THE HEAD OF BREITBART, THE WEBSITE PUBLISHED ARTICLES SUCH AS "BIRTH CONTROL MAKES WOMEN UNATTRACTIVE AND CRAZY" AND "BILL KRISTOL: REPUBLICAN SPOILER, RENEGADE JEW"

Bannon Was The Head Of Breitbart News Until August 2016. According to CNN, "Steve Bannon led Breitbart News before taking leave in August to run Trump's campaign." [CNN, [11/15/16](#)]

Bannon Referred To Breitbart As "The Platform For The Alt-Right." According to Mother Jones, "By bringing on Stephen Bannon, Trump was signaling a wholehearted embrace of the 'alt-right,' a once-motley assemblage of anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, ethno-nationalistic provocateurs who have coalesced behind Trump and curried the GOP nominee's favor on social media. In short, Trump has embraced the core readership of Breitbart News. 'We're the platform for the alt-right,' Bannon told me proudly when I interviewed him at the Republican National Convention (RNC) in July. Though disavowed by every other major conservative news outlet, the alt-right has been Bannon's target audience ever since he took over Breitbart News from its late founder, Andrew Breitbart, four years ago." [Mother Jones, [8/22/16](#)]

While Bannon Was The Head Of Breitbart, The Website Published Racist And Sexist Articles Such As "Birth Control Makes Women Unattractive And Crazy." According to CNN, "Here's a sampling of Breitbart's most incendiary headlines: [...] 'Birth control makes women unattractive and crazy' [...] A December 2015 article made a case against birth control and concluded, 'We need the kids if we're to breed enough to keep the Muslim invaders at bay.' The article was one of many blasted by critics of Breitbart." [CNN, [11/15/16](#)]

Breitbart Published An Article Titled "Hoist It High And Proud: The Confederate Flag Proclaims A Glorious Heritage." According to CNN, "Here's a sampling of Breitbart's most incendiary headlines: [...] 'Hoist it high and proud: The Confederate flag proclaims a glorious heritage' [...] An article published in July 2015, weeks after a mass shooting at a historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina, slammed critics of the Confederate flag, a symbol embraced by the gunman. 'Those who initiated identity politics are attempting to obliterate the Southern identity,' the author of the Breitbart piece wrote. 'Every tree, every rooftop, every picket fence, every telegraph pole in the South should be festooned with the Confederate battle flag.'" [CNN, [11/15/16](#)]

Breitbart Published An Article Titled "Bill Kristol: Republican Spoiler, Renegade Jew." According to CNN, "Here's a sampling of Breitbart's most incendiary headlines: [...] 'Bill Kristol: Republican spoiler, renegade Jew' [...] A post in May described a 'third party effort to block Trump's path to the White House' that Breitbart claimed was orchestrated by the prominent conservative and Trump critic Bill Kristol. The

headline is one of the site's most infamous, and was featured this fall in a Democratic political ad.” [CNN, [11/15/16](#)]

Breitbart Published An Article Titled “World Health Organization Report: Trannies 49 Xs Higher HIV Rate.” According to the New York Times, “Here is a sampling of some articles published during Mr. Bannon’s tenure that drew criticism: [...] ‘World Health Organization Report: Trannies 49 Xs Higher HIV Rate’ [...] A December 2015 article by Austin Ruse, using a slur for transgender people in the headline, argued that a public health study on sexual health in the transgender community was actually a warning about ‘how dangerous it is to become ‘transgender.’ The site called it a rebuke to ‘the ‘transgender’ narrative that is sweeping American culture.’” [New York Times, [11/14/16](#)]

Breitbart Used The Tag “Black Crime” As An Article Category



[Breitbart.com/tag/black-crime, accessed [3/1/17](#)]

BANNON HAS EXPRESSED A “DARK AND AT TIMES APOCALYPTIC WORLDVIEW”

The New York Times Referred To Bannon’s “Dark And At Times Apocalyptic Worldview.”

According to the New York Times, “Those trying to divine the roots of Stephen K. Bannon’s dark and at times apocalyptic worldview have repeatedly combed over a speech that Mr. Bannon, President Trump’s ideological guru, made in 2014 to a Vatican conference, where he expounded on Islam, populism and capitalism.” [New York Times, [2/10/17](#)]

Huffington Post: Bannon Is “An Apocalypticist” Who Believes “We Are In The Midst Of An Existential War.”

According to the Huffington Post, “Bannon, who’s now ensconced in the West Wing as President Donald Trump’s closest adviser, has been portrayed as Trump’s main ideas guy. But in interviews, speeches and writing — and especially in his embrace of Strauss and Howe — he has made clear that he is, first and foremost, an apocalypticist. In Bannon’s view, we are in the midst of an existential war, and everything is a part of that conflict. Treaties must be torn up, enemies named, culture changed. Global conflagration, should it occur, would only prove the theory correct. For Bannon, the Fourth Turning has arrived. The Grey Champion, a messianic strongman figure, may have already emerged. The apocalypse is now.” [Huffington Post, [2/8/17](#)]

The Telegraph: Bannon “Is Obsessed With The 1999 Book The Fourth Turning [...] Which Posits That Every Generation In American History Responds To The Failure Of Its Institutions By Cataclysmic But Ultimately Necessary Violence.”

According to The Telegraph, “According to last week’s Time Magazine feature, Bannon once described himself to a fellow party guest as a Leninist, who wanted to ‘bring everything crashing down, and destroy all of today’s Establishment.’ He is obsessed with the 1999 book The Fourth Turning, by sociologists William Strauss and Neil Howe, which posits that every generation in American history responds to the failure of its institutions by cataclysmic but ultimately

necessary violence: the American Revolution, the Civil War, the Second World War.” [The Telegraph, [2/7/17](#)]

- **2011: Bannon Said That “This Is The Fourth Great Crisis In American History.”** According to the Huffington Post, “‘This is the fourth great crisis in American history,’ Bannon told an audience at the Liberty Restoration Foundation, a conservative nonprofit, in 2011. ‘We had the Revolution. We had the Civil War. We had the Great Depression and World War II. This is the great Fourth Turning in American history, and we’re going to be one thing on the other side.’” [Huffington Post, [2/8/17](#)]

Bannon Has Repeatedly Claimed That “America’s At War.” According to the Huffington Post, “War is coming, Bannon has warned. In fact, it’s already here. ‘You have an expansionist Islam and you have an expansionist China,’ he said during a 2016 radio appearance. ‘They are motivated. They’re arrogant. They’re on the march. And they think the Judeo-Christian West is on the retreat.’ ‘Against radical Islam, we’re in a 100-year war,’ he told Political Vindication Radio in 2011. ‘We’re going to war in the South China Seas in the next five to 10 years, aren’t we?’ Bannon asked during a 2016 interview with Reagan biographer Lee Edwards. ‘We are in an outright war against jihadist Islamic fascism,’ he said in a speech to a Vatican conference in 2014. ‘And this war is, I think, metastasizing far quicker than governments can handle it.’ In a 2015 radio appearance, Bannon described how he ran Breitbart, the far-right news site he chaired at the time. ‘It’s war,’ he said. ‘It’s war. Every day, we put up: America’s at war, America’s at war. We’re at war.’” [Huffington Post, [2/8/17](#)]

Bannon “Wrote A Draft Movie Treatment For A Documentary Depicting A ‘Fifth Column’ Of Muslim Community Groups, The Media, Jewish Organizations And Government Agencies Working To Overthrow The Government And Impose Islamic Law.” According to the Huffington Post, “In 2007, Bannon wrote a draft movie treatment for a documentary depicting a ‘fifth column’ of Muslim community groups, the media, Jewish organizations and government agencies working to overthrow the government and impose Islamic law.” [Huffington Post, [2/8/17](#)]

Bannon Once Called Himself A “Leninist,”

Bannon: “I’m A Leninist [...] Lenin Wanted To Destroy The State, And That’s My Goal, Too.”

According to the New York Times, “‘I’m a Leninist,’ Mr. Bannon was quoted as saying by a writer for The Daily Beast who met him at a party in 2014. He later said he did not recall the conversation. ‘Lenin wanted to destroy the state, and that’s my goal, too,’ the site quoted him as saying. ‘I want to bring everything crashing down, and destroy all of today’s establishment.’” [New York Times, [11/14/16](#)]

- **Vladimir Lenin Encouraged The Execution Of Tens Of Thousands Of People As Part Of The “Red Terror” Campaign.** According to Lenin’s Terror: The Ideological Origins of Early Soviet State Violence by James Ryan, “The assassination of Moisei Uritskii, head of the Petrograd Cheka, and another attempt on Lenin’s life on the same day, 30 August, led to the official declaration of Red Terror on 5 September 1918. [...] In 1996 historian Richard Pipes published an undated note from Lenin that he estimated to have been written on 3 or 4 September, secretly ordering the preparation of the Terror. The editors of a Russian volume of documents subsequently dated this note sometime before 22 February 1921, noting that Lenin did not engage in political activity so soon after being shot. On 5 September Sovnarkom officially adopted mass terror, to be centrally organized by and entrusted primarily to the Vechecha. [...] Estimates of the total number of executed victims of the Terror vary. Rat’kovskii puts the figure at 8,000 for the period from 30 August until the end of the year, Nicolas Werth at between 10 and 15,000.” [James Ryan – Lenin’s Terror: The Ideological Origins of Early Soviet State Violence, [2012](#)]

- **Lenin Demanded That Opponents Of His Political Movement Be Subject To “Show” Trials, Many Of Which Resulted In The Death Penalty.** According to the Encyclopædia Britannica, “Now that peace had come, Lenin believed that their opposition was more dangerous than ever, since the peasantry and even a large section of the working class had become disaffected with the Soviet regime. To repress opponents of Bolshevism, Lenin demanded the harshest measures, including ‘show’ trials and frequent resort to the death penalty.” [Encyclopædia Britannica, accessed [3/2/17](#)]

Bannon Once Compared Himself To Darth Vader And Satan

Bannon Has Said, “Darkness Is Good” And Compared Himself To Darth Vader And Satan.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, “In these dark days for Democrats, Bannon has become the blackest hole. ‘Darkness is good,’ says Bannon, who amid the suits surrounding him at Trump Tower, looks like a graduate student in his T-shirt, open button-down and tatty blue blazer — albeit a 62-year-old graduate student. ‘Dick Cheney. Darth Vader. Satan. That’s power. It only helps us when they’ — I believe by ‘they’ he means liberals and the media, already promoting calls for his ouster — ‘get it wrong. When they’re blind to who we are and what we’re doing.’” [Hollywood Reporter, [11/18/16](#)]