

2017

# Trump and Democrats: An uncanny combination

Courtney Carstens

Iowa State University, cec1@iastate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/veritas>



Part of the [Political Science Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Carstens, Courtney (2017) "Trump and Democrats: An uncanny combination," *Veritas*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 1 , Article 3.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/veritas/vol4/iss1/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Iowa State University Magazines and News at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Veritas by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).

# TRUMP AND DE AN UNCANNY CO

# MOCRATS: MBINATION

By Courtney Carstens



Donald Trump won the U.S. presidential election in 2016. Many people, a proportion of them being Democrat, claimed that Donald Trump was not their president. In one broadcast, a news team called those who voted for the president racist, xenophobic and uneducated. The hashtag "not my president" was viral throughout the first few weeks after his presidency was claimed. Listening to the stereotypes, Republicans presumably were the only ones to vote for this man --- but according to BBC, 9 percent of Democrats, those who identified as registered Democrats, voted for Trump. According to a recent study done by National Public Radio, 1 out of 10 Bernie Sanders supporters voted for Trump in 2016. Dr. Mack Shelley, chairman of Iowa State's political science department explained historical reasons help explain Democrats voting for Trump.

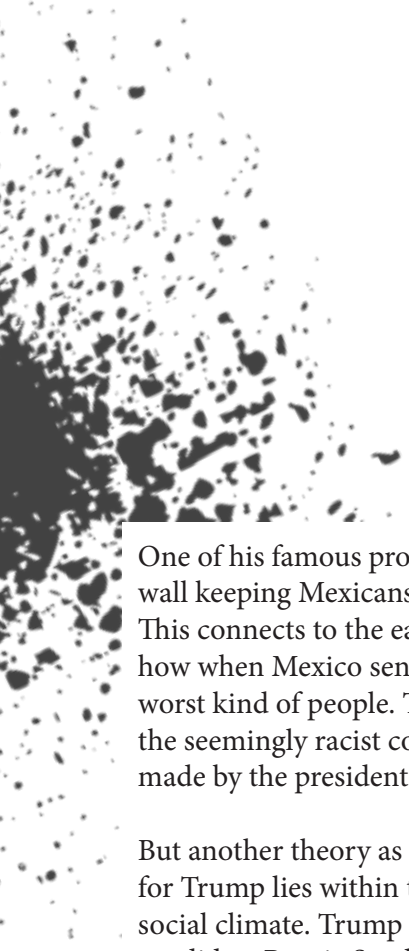
"Going back to the first modern Democratic president, Andrew Jackson was an extreme racist," Shelley said. "The identities of political parties have flipped throughout time, [and] the politics and issues are always evolving. For those who are racist and Democrat, Trump was a prime candidate."

In the South during the earlier days of the Democratic party, members sought to keep slavery; the Democratic party wanted to keep the Jim Crow laws intact. It wasn't the Republicans who were against slavery. Shelley went on to explain that Trump won by appealing to the working class and white men.

"Trump did what [President Richard] Nixon did during [his] presidential race," Shelley said. "They appealed to the working class. Trump did do something that Nixon did not. Trump appeals to upper middle-aged white males who were afraid of losing their superiority....power, too, in society. "

**"These men are afraid that an immigrant, minority, or a woman would take their job whether or not they earned it."**

President Donald Trump has been seen as racist in the past for comments he has made regarding several ethnicities. "I'll take jobs back from China, I'll take jobs back from Japan. The Hispanics are going to get those jobs, and they're going to love Trump." Trump made this comment in July of 2015.



One of his famous promises was to build a wall keeping Mexicans out of the country. This connects to the earlier comments about how when Mexico sends over people, it's their worst kind of people. Those are just a few of the seemingly racist comments that have been made by the president.

But another theory as to why Democrats voted for Trump lies within today's political and social climate. Trump and Democratic primary candidate Bernie Sanders both represented the same thing. This may sound bizarre, a big venture capitalist and a democratic socialist sharing similarities but to many they both symbolized a potential change in government, according to ISU political science professor Stephen Steffen Schmidt. Steffen said that he thought the reason behind Democrats who did vote for Trump had to do with the fact that saw Clinton as status quo for the typical politician. Former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton often have been considered the ultimate political family in the United States, along with the Bushes.

Iowa State student: Hunter Shevers, a registered Democrat, explained why he voted for Trump over Hillary Clinton. "I did it [voted for Donald Trump] because I don't like how Hillary Clinton held herself," Shevers said. "The email thing got me, but it wasn't just that; it was other things in the past.

If anyone else did it, they would have been in big trouble. It's not just the email scandal Benghazi was another incident where she has just messed up too much on the political stage." Shevers went onto explain that he originally supported Sanders, especially because of his education policy. Once Sanders lost the nomination, Shevers says he wasn't ashamed then for his Trump vote and isn't now. "Trump's an idiot but I'd rather have an idiot doing something bad then someone who intentionally does stuff that they know is bad," Shevers said. "Trump is a sheep dressing up as a wolf right now. Hillary was and still is a wolf dressing as a sheep."

Going outside of the Iowa State Community, Tom Godat, a union electrician from Clinton, Iowa voted for President Donald Trump. He voted purely for Democrats in the past. Godat told the Des Moines Register that he wants and hopes that the president can create more jobs like his own throughout America.