

psychology of trump supporters

Psychology of Trump Supporters: Understanding the Mindset Behind a Movement

psychology of trump supporters is a topic that has fascinated political analysts, psychologists, and the general public alike since Donald Trump emerged as a dominant figure in American politics. Beyond the headlines and campaign rallies, there lies a complex web of emotions, beliefs, and social factors that shape why millions of people continue to support Trump passionately. Exploring this psychology offers a window into how identity, group dynamics, and cognitive biases interplay in the modern political landscape.

What Drives the Psychology of Trump Supporters?

At its core, the psychology of Trump supporters involves a mix of emotional and cognitive elements. Unlike simple political preference, this phenomenon is deeply tied to self-identity, perceived social status, and reactions to cultural change. Understanding these drivers helps explain why support for Trump often transcends traditional political boundaries.

Identity and Group Belonging

One of the most significant psychological factors is the role of identity. Many Trump supporters see themselves as part of a group that feels overlooked, marginalized, or disrespected by mainstream culture and political elites. This sense of "us versus them" bolsters a strong in-group identity, where supporting Trump becomes a statement of allegiance and self-worth.

This can be connected to the concept of social identity theory, which suggests that people derive part of their self-esteem from their group memberships. Aligning with Trump provides a clear marker of belonging to a community that shares similar values and grievances.

Fear and Threat Perception

A considerable number of Trump supporters express concerns about economic insecurity, cultural shifts, and changing demographics. These fears can create a heightened perception of threat, which in turn influences voting behavior and political attitudes. Psychologically, when people feel threatened, they often gravitate toward leaders who appear strong, decisive, and willing to challenge the status quo.

Trump's rhetoric, which frequently underscores themes of protecting the nation, securing borders, and prioritizing American interests, resonates with individuals experiencing such anxieties. This connection between threat perception and political support is a well-documented psychological phenomenon.

The Role of Cognitive Biases in Supporting Trump

Cognitive biases shape how we process information, and in the context of politics, they can heavily influence opinions and decisions. The psychology of Trump supporters is no exception, involving several notable biases.

Confirmation Bias

Confirmation bias occurs when individuals favor information that aligns with their existing beliefs and disregard contradictory evidence. Trump supporters, like many political adherents, often consume news and media that reinforce their worldview. This creates an echo chamber effect, where their beliefs are continuously validated, making it difficult to change opinions even in the face of opposing facts.

In-Group Favoritism and Out-Group Hostility

Psychologically, humans have a tendency to favor their own group and view outsiders with suspicion or negativity. Among Trump supporters, this manifests in strong loyalty toward fellow supporters and skepticism or hostility toward political opponents and certain social groups. This dynamic feeds into political polarization and intensifies emotional investment in the cause.

Motivated Reasoning

Motivated reasoning is the process by which people rationalize decisions or beliefs to maintain consistency with their desires or identity. For Trump supporters, this might mean interpreting ambiguous events in ways that favor Trump or dismissing criticisms as biased attacks. This cognitive process helps maintain psychological comfort and reduces cognitive dissonance.

Social and Cultural Influences on Trump Support

Beyond individual psychology, social and cultural environments play a pivotal role in shaping Trump support. These contextual factors interact with psychological tendencies to create a powerful political force.

Economic Anxiety and Social Change

Many Trump supporters come from communities that have experienced economic decline, job losses in manufacturing or traditional industries, and a sense of being left behind by globalization. This economic anxiety often coincides with rapid social changes around race, immigration, and national identity. Together, these pressures foster a desire for political leaders who promise to restore

stability and prioritize "forgotten" Americans.

Media Ecosystems and Information Consumption

The rise of alternative media platforms, social media echo chambers, and partisan news networks has transformed how people receive political information. Trump supporters frequently engage with media outlets that present news through a particular ideological lens, reinforcing their worldview. This media environment amplifies emotions and strengthens group cohesion, which are essential components in the psychology of Trump supporters.

Psychological Insights for Engaging with Trump Supporters

Understanding the psychology behind Trump support is not about labeling or dismissing individuals but finding pathways for constructive dialogue and bridging divides. Here are some insights that can help when engaging with Trump supporters thoughtfully:

- **Recognize Identity Importance:** Acknowledge the importance of group identity and respect the values that shape their worldview.
- **Address Fears Compassionately:** Understand the fears and anxieties that underpin their support, whether economic or cultural, and respond with empathy.
- **Avoid Confrontational Language:** Heated debates often entrench existing beliefs. Instead, use open-ended questions and seek common ground.
- **Encourage Critical Thinking:** Gently challenge confirmation biases by exposing supporters to diverse perspectives in a non-threatening way.
- **Highlight Shared Goals:** Emphasize areas where interests overlap, such as community safety, economic opportunity, or family values.

How Personality Traits Influence Support for Trump

Research into personality psychology offers additional layers of understanding. Certain traits appear more common among Trump supporters, albeit with considerable variation.

Authoritarianism and Need for Order

Some studies link support for Trump to higher levels of authoritarianism, characterized by a preference for order, conformity, and strong leadership. This may explain why Trump's assertive style and emphasis on law and order appeal to these voters.

Openness to Experience

Lower levels of openness to new experiences often correlate with conservative political views. This trait reflects comfort with tradition and resistance to rapid change, aligning with the desire to preserve established social norms present among many Trump supporters.

Extraversion and Social Identity

Extraverted individuals may be more engaged in political activism and community involvement, contributing to the visible enthusiasm at rallies and social events supporting Trump.

The Influence of Social Networks and Community

Social psychology highlights the role of peer groups and community in shaping political beliefs. In areas where Trump support is high, social networks tend to reinforce political identity through shared experiences and collective narratives.

Social Reinforcement and Norms

When a person's immediate social circle strongly supports Trump, diverging opinions can lead to social friction or exclusion. This dynamic makes political identity a key part of social belonging, reinforcing support through social validation.

Role of Religious and Cultural Institutions

Religious and cultural organizations often provide frameworks for values and moral perspectives, which can align closely with Trump's messaging on issues like family, patriotism, and national pride.

Exploring the psychology of Trump supporters reveals a multifaceted landscape shaped by emotions, cognitive processes, and social environments. This understanding not only sheds light on the political phenomenon itself but also offers pathways to empathy and communication in an increasingly divided society.

Frequently Asked Questions

What psychological factors contribute to the support of Donald Trump?

Support for Donald Trump can be influenced by factors such as group identity, perceived threats to social status, authoritarian attitudes, and a desire for strong leadership.

How does social identity theory explain Trump supporter behavior?

Social identity theory suggests that Trump supporters may strongly identify with certain social groups, such as political or cultural groups, leading to in-group favoritism and out-group derogation, reinforcing their support.

Are there personality traits commonly found among Trump supporters?

Research indicates that some Trump supporters tend to score higher on traits like authoritarianism, social dominance orientation, and lower openness to experience.

How does the concept of motivated reasoning relate to Trump supporters?

Motivated reasoning means individuals favor information that confirms their beliefs; Trump supporters may selectively accept information that supports their views while dismissing contradictory evidence.

What role does economic anxiety play in support for Trump?

Economic anxiety, such as fears about job security or economic decline, can drive individuals to support Trump, who often positioned himself as a champion for economic revitalization.

How do media consumption habits influence the psychology of Trump supporters?

Trump supporters often consume media that aligns with their beliefs, such as conservative news outlets, which can reinforce their worldview and increase polarization.

Can cognitive dissonance explain why Trump supporters maintain their support despite controversies?

Yes, cognitive dissonance leads people to rationalize or justify conflicting information to maintain consistency in their beliefs, helping supporters continue backing Trump despite controversies.

What is the impact of perceived social and cultural change on Trump supporters?

Perceived rapid social and cultural changes can create feelings of threat or loss among Trump supporters, motivating them to support policies and leaders who promise to preserve traditional values.

How does fear influence the psychological profile of Trump supporters?

Fear of immigration, crime, or societal decline can heighten emotional responses and drive support for Trump, who often used fear-based messaging in his campaigns.

Are there differences in the psychological profiles of Trump supporters across different demographic groups?

Yes, psychological factors such as economic status, education level, age, and geographic location can influence the motivations and attitudes of Trump supporters, leading to varied psychological profiles within the group.

Additional Resources

****Understanding the Psychology of Trump Supporters: An Analytical Perspective****

psychology of trump supporters has become a focal point of political and social research in recent years, particularly following Donald Trump's unprecedented rise in American politics. The phenomenon transcends mere political affiliation, delving into complex psychological motivations, social identities, and cognitive mechanisms that influence voting behavior and political allegiance. Analyzing this group through a psychological lens offers insights into not only their support for Trump but also the broader dynamics of contemporary political polarization.

Exploring the Foundations of Trump Support

To understand the psychology of Trump supporters, it is essential to explore the underlying factors that shape their worldview. Several psychological constructs such as identity, values, and group dynamics contribute to their political engagement.

Identity and Social Belonging

One of the most significant drivers is the need for social identity. Trump supporters often see themselves as part of a distinct cultural or social group that feels marginalized or threatened by rapid societal changes. This group identity provides a sense of belonging and purpose. The psychology of Trump supporters frequently involves a defensive posture toward perceived

encroachments on traditional values, which can manifest as resistance to globalization, immigration, and progressive social policies.

Authoritarianism and Desire for Order

Research in political psychology suggests a correlation between authoritarian tendencies and support for Trump. Individuals exhibiting higher levels of authoritarianism tend to favor strong leadership, clear rules, and order, often as a reaction to perceived social chaos or insecurity. Trump's rhetoric, emphasizing law and order and national sovereignty, resonates with this psychological preference. The appeal of a decisive leader who promises to restore control can be particularly compelling for those experiencing economic or social uncertainty.

Cognitive Biases and Information Processing

The psychology of Trump supporters also involves cognitive biases that influence how information is processed. Confirmation bias, for example, leads individuals to seek out and trust information that reinforces their preexisting beliefs while dismissing contradictory evidence. This phenomenon is amplified by selective exposure to media that aligns with their ideological stance, creating echo chambers that reinforce group cohesion but limit critical engagement with opposing views.

Psychological Traits and Demographic Correlates

Beyond identity and cognition, certain personality traits and demographic factors have been linked to Trump support, offering a more nuanced understanding of this political phenomenon.

Personality Dimensions

Studies often highlight traits such as high conscientiousness, which aligns with a preference for tradition and stability, and low openness to experience, indicating discomfort with change and novelty. These traits correlate with conservative political attitudes, which form a significant base among Trump supporters. Additionally, traits like social dominance orientation—preference for hierarchical social structures—may explain support for policies perceived as reinforcing social order.

Economic Anxiety and Perceived Threats

Economic factors play a crucial role in shaping the psychology of Trump supporters. Many express concerns about job security, economic decline, and the impact of globalization on local industries. This economic anxiety is often intertwined with cultural fears, such as immigration altering community demographics. The combination of economic and cultural threat perception creates a potent psychological mix that drives political allegiance.

Demographic Insights

Demographically, Trump supporters have been found to include a substantial proportion of white, working-class individuals, many of whom reside in rural or suburban areas. Age and education levels also factor in, with older and less formally educated voters showing higher rates of support. Understanding these demographics is vital for contextualizing the psychological factors at play, as life experiences and social environments shape political psychology.

Media Influence and Group Dynamics

The role of media consumption and social networks cannot be underestimated in analyzing the psychology of Trump supporters.

Media Ecosystem and Echo Chambers

Trump supporters often rely on conservative-leaning media outlets that frame political narratives in ways that reinforce group identity and political beliefs. This media environment fosters selective exposure and confirmation bias, which solidify attitudes and increase polarization. The psychological impact of these echo chambers contributes to a heightened sense of “us versus them,” deepening political divides.

Group Cohesion and Social Identity Theory

According to social identity theory, group membership is a fundamental source of self-esteem and psychological security. For Trump supporters, belonging to a political movement that challenges the status quo provides a sense of empowerment and collective purpose. This dynamic can lead to in-group favoritism and out-group derogation, explaining some of the intense emotional reactions observed in political discourse.

Psychological Benefits and Challenges of Trump Support

Support for Trump offers psychological benefits such as identity affirmation and emotional connection to a community. However, it also presents challenges, including susceptibility to polarization and cognitive rigidity.

Pros

- **Sense of Belonging:** Being part of a shared political identity fosters community and social support.
- **Empowerment:** Supporters often feel they are contributing to political change that aligns with their values.
- **Clarity and Order:** The preference for strong leadership can reduce anxiety related to uncertainty and societal change.

Cons

- **Polarization:** Strong in-group identification may increase social divisions and reduce openness to dialogue.
- **Cognitive Bias:** Confirmation bias and selective exposure can limit critical thinking and adaptability.
- **Emotional Reactivity:** Heightened emotional investment may lead to difficulties in managing political disagreement.

The Broader Implications of Understanding This Psychology

Analyzing the psychology of Trump supporters extends beyond academic interest; it has practical implications for political communication, social cohesion, and democratic processes. Recognizing the psychological needs and fears that underlie political support can inform more effective dialogue strategies and policy approaches, aiming to bridge divides rather than exacerbate them.

As political polarization continues to shape the American landscape, insights into the psychological profiles of different voter groups, including Trump supporters, highlight the importance of empathy and nuanced understanding in fostering constructive political engagement. This approach encourages moving past stereotypes and simplistic explanations toward a more comprehensive grasp of the complex interplay between individual psychology and broader sociopolitical forces.

Psychology Of Trump Supporters

psychology of trump supporters: *The Real Psychology of the Trump Presidency* Stanley Renshon, 2020-09-14 The United States has never had a president quite like Donald J. Trump. He violated every rule of conventional presidential campaigns to win a race that almost no one,

including at times he himself, thought he would win. In so doing, Trump set off cataclysmic shock waves across the country and world that have not subsided and are unlikely to as long as he remains in office. Critics of Trump abound, as do anonymously sourced speculations about his motives, yet the real man behind this unprecedented presidency remains largely unknown. In this innovative analysis, American presidency scholar and trained psychoanalyst Stanley Renshon reaches beyond partisan narrative to offer a serious and substantive examination of Trump's real psychology and controversial presidency. He analyzes Trump as a preemptive president trying to become transformative by initiating a Politics of American Restoration. Rigorously grounded in both political science and psychology scholarship, *The Real Psychology of the Trump Presidency* offers a unique and thoughtful perspective on our controversial 45th president.

psychology of trump supporters: *The Psychology of Political Polarization* Jan-Willem van Prooijen, 2021-03-30 *The Psychology of Political Polarization* was inspired by the notion that, to understand the momentum of radical political movements, it is important to understand the attitudes of individual citizens who support such movements. Leading political psychologists have contributed to this important book, in which they share their latest ideas about political polarization – a complex phenomenon that cannot be traced back to a single cause, and that is associated with intolerance, overconfidence, and irrational beliefs. The book explores the basis of political polarization as being how citizens think and feel about people with a different worldview, how they perceive minority groups, and how much they trust leaders and experts on pressing societal issues such as climate change, health, international relations, and poverty. The chapters are organized into two sections that examine what psychological processes and what social factors contribute to polarization among regular citizens. The book also describes practical strategies and interventions to depolarize people. The book offers a state-of-the-art introduction to the psychology of political polarization which will appeal to the academic market and political professionals.

psychology of trump supporters: *The Psychology of Political Behavior in a Time of Change* Jan D. Sinnott, Joan S. Rabin, 2020-10-23 This volume seeks to add a unique perspective on the complex relationship between psychology and politics, focusing on three analytical points of view: 1) psychology, politics, and complex thought, 2) bio/psycho/social factors of masculinity and power, and 3) underlying factors in political behavior. Contributors examine recent political events worldwide through a psychological lens, using interdisciplinary approaches to seek a deeper understanding of contemporary political ideas, psychologies, and behaviors. Finally, the book offers suggestions for surviving and thriving during rapid political change. Among the topics discussed: Biopsychological factors of political beliefs and behaviors Understanding political polarization through a cognitive lens Impact of psychological processes on voter decision making Motivations for believing in conspiracy theories Nonverbal cues in leadership Authoritarian responses to social change *The Psychology of Political Behavior in a Time of Change* is a timely and insightful volume for students and researchers in psychology, political science, gender studies, business and marketing, and sociology, as well as those working in applied settings: practitioners, government workers, NGOs, corporate organizations.

psychology of trump supporters: *Trump and Us* Roderick P. Hart, 2020-02-14 Why did 62 million Americans vote for Donald Trump? *Trump and Us* offers a fresh perspective on this question, taking seriously the depth and breadth of Trump's support. An expert in political language, Roderick P. Hart turns to Trump's words, voters' remarks, and media commentary for insight. The book offers the first systematic rhetorical analysis of Trump's 2016 campaign and early presidency, using text analysis and archives of earlier presidential campaigns to uncover deep emotional undercurrents in the country and provide historical comparison. *Trump and Us* pays close attention to the emotional dimensions of politics, above and beyond cognition and ideology. Hart argues it was not partisanship, policy, or economic factors that landed Trump in the Oval Office but rather how Trump made people feel.

psychology of trump supporters: *The Psychology of Extremism* Katherine V. Aumer, 2021-04-25 This volume examines the psychological factors, environments, and social factors

contributing to identification with extremist identities and ideologies. Incorporating recent findings on interpersonal relationships, emotions, and social identity, the book aims to improve understanding of what makes individuals vulnerable to extremism. It concludes with a discussion of the intricacies of identification with extremist groups, a proposal for de-radicalization, and a call for awareness as a means to resist polarization. Chapters highlight interdisciplinary research into specific concepts and behaviors that can lead to extremism, addressing topics such as: ● Homogamy, tribalism and the desire to belong ● Shared hatred in strong group identities ● The impact of emotional contagion on personal relationships ● Dehumanization across political party lines An in-depth exploration of an increasingly divisive modern issue, *The Psychology of Extremism* is an essential resource for researchers and students across social psychology, sociology, political psychology, and political science.

psychology of trump supporters: The Securitarian Personality John R. Hibbing, 2020-08-05 The *Authoritarian Personality*, which was published by Theodor Adorno and a set of colleagues in the 1950s, was the first broad-based empirical attempt to explain why certain individuals are attracted to the authoritarian, even fascist, leaders that dominated the political scene in the 1930s and 1940s. Today, the concept has been applied to leaders ranging from Trump to Viktor Orban to Rodrigo Duterte. But is it really accurate to label Trump supporters as authoritarians? In *The Securitarian Personality*, John R. Hibbing argues that an intense desire for authority is not central to those constituting Trump's base. Drawing from participant observation, focus groups, and especially an original, nationwide survey of the American public that included over 1,000 ardent Trump supporters, Hibbing demonstrates that what Trump's base really craves is actually a specific form of security. Trump supporters do not strive for security in the face of all threats, such as climate change, Covid-19, and economic inequality, but rather only from those threats they perceive to be emanating from human outsiders, defined broadly to include welfare cheats, unpatriotic athletes, norm violators, non-English speakers, religious and racial minorities, and certainly people from other countries. The central objective of these securitarians is to strive for protection for themselves, their families, and their dominant cultural group from these embodied outsider threats. A radical reinterpretation of the support for Trumpism, *The Securitarian Personality* not only provides insight into a political movement that many find baffling and frustrating, but offers a compelling thesis that all observers of American political behavior will have to contend with, even if they disagree with it.

psychology of trump supporters: Winners and Losers Diana C. Mutz, 2021-07-27 From acclaimed political scientist Diana Mutz, a revealing look at why people's attitudes on trade differ from their own self-interest *Winners and Losers* challenges conventional wisdom about how American citizens form opinions on international trade. While dominant explanations in economics emphasize personal self-interest—and whether individuals gain or lose financially as a result of trade—this book takes a psychological approach, demonstrating how people view the complex world of international trade through the lens of interpersonal relations. Drawing on psychological theories of preference formation as well as original surveys and experiments, Diana Mutz finds that in contrast to the economic view of trade as cooperation for mutual benefit, many Americans view trade as a competition between the United States and other countries—a contest of us versus them. These people favor trade as long as they see Americans as the winners in these interactions, viewing trade as a way to establish dominance over foreign competitors. For others, trade is a means of maintaining more peaceful relations between countries. Just as individuals may exchange gifts to cement relationships, international trade is a tie that binds nations together in trust and cooperation. *Winners and Losers* reveals how people's orientations toward in-groups and out-groups play a central role in influencing how they think about trade with foreign countries, and shows how a better understanding of the psychological underpinnings of public opinion can lead to lasting economic and societal benefits.

psychology of trump supporters: Handbook of Social Psychology Jan E. Stets, Karen A. Hegtvedt, Long Doan, 2025-08-31 This third edition of the highly successful handbook is presented for the first time in two volumes, covering the field of social psychology more comprehensively than

earlier, including applying social psychology to different areas in sociology. It showcases the dynamics of social psychological phenomena across the micro level (Volume 1), and meso and macro levels of social reality (Volume 2). The reader will see how social psychology can be leveraged at the interactive level, within groups and larger units, and across many aspects of society, thus showing the expansiveness of social psychology in understanding social behavior, social organization, and social structures. Volume 2 highlights the relevance of social psychological principles and processes to social categories, groups, and organizations at the meso level, and to institutions and inequality that reflect social life at the macro level. Chapters pertaining to the meso level analyze individuals' memberships in social categories such as gender, race, class, age, and sexuality. Additionally, meso-level concerns spotlight the context of work and organizations. Chapters at the macro level consider social psychologically oriented work in such institutions as the family, education, and religion and examine other areas such as crime and deviance, the media, immigration, and health. Together, the two volumes provide the reader with theoretical tools useful in understanding the basics of individual behavior while highlighting how social psychological processes emerge in a variety of contexts. The connections among micro, meso, and macro levels, through the lens of social psychology, forge new pathways to understanding the various forms of inequality plaguing the social world.

psychology of trump supporters: *The Twitter Presidency* Brian L. Ott, Greg Dickinson, 2019-01-24 *The Twitter Presidency* explores the rhetorical style of President Donald J. Trump, attending to both his general manner of speaking as well as to his preferred modality. Trump's manner, the authors argue, reflects an aesthetics of white rage, and it is rooted in authoritarianism, narcissism, and demagoguery. His preferred modality of speaking, namely through Twitter, effectively channels and transmits the affective dimensions of white rage by taking advantage of the platform's defining characteristics, which include simplicity, impulsivity, and incivility. There is, then, a structural homology between Trump's general communication practices and the specific platform (Twitter) he uses to communicate with his base. This commonality between communication practices and communication platform (manner and modality) struck a powerful emotive chord with his followers, who feel aggrieved at the decentering of white masculinity. In addition to charting the defining characteristics of Trump's discourse, *The Twitter Presidency* exposes how Trump's rhetorical style threatens democratic norms, principles, and institutions.

psychology of trump supporters: *The Political Psychology of Populism* François Bafail, 2025-07-16 This book examines the underlying social pathology of Trump and Putin's political orientations. The assault on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, and Russia's war on Ukraine in February 2022 both reveal a disturbing drift towards new forms of populism. Drawing on the theoretical insights of Sigmund Freud and Norbert Elias regarding the impulses of the masses and the social trauma triggered by the quest for lost origins, Trump and Putin's populist policies are revealed in a new light: shaped by love and hate, feeding on the frustrations and resentments of the masses, the two figures—and their followers—are driven to violence. For these leaders violence even fuels belief in a renewal of democracy—a democracy by the people and for the people, at the service of the masses. It is based on the idea that a single, pure truth is the source of appeasement and well-being that excludes outsiders. The book is a continuation of work previously published with Palgrave (*The politics of destruction*) and is the result of several years of interdisciplinary research and a dialogue between psychoanalysis and the social sciences.

psychology of trump supporters: *Unfreedom of the Press* Mark R. Levin, 2020-08-11 Six-time New York Times bestselling author, FOX News star, and radio host Mark R. Levin "trounces the news media" (*The Washington Times*) in this timely and groundbreaking book demonstrating how the great tradition of American free press has degenerated into a standardless profession that has squandered the faith and trust of the public. *Unfreedom of the Press* is not just another book about the press. In "Levin's finest work" (*Breitbart*), he shows how those entrusted with news reporting today are destroying freedom of the press from within—not through actions of government officials, but with its own abandonment of reportorial integrity and objective journalism. With the

depth of historical background for which his books are renowned, Levin takes you on a journey through the early American patriot press, which proudly promoted the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. This is followed by the early decades of the Republic during which newspapers around the young country were open and transparent about their fierce allegiance to one political party or another. It was only at the start of the Progressive Era and the 20th century that the supposed “objectivity of the press” first surfaced, leaving us where we are today: with a partisan party-press overwhelmingly aligned with a political ideology but hypocritically engaged in a massive untruth as to its real nature.

psychology of trump supporters: *Social Psychology of Leadership and Crowds* Mete Sefa Uysal, Sara Vestergren, Yasemin Gulsum Acar, 2025-09-26 This timely volume brings together research on leadership and social movements, exploring the psychological and social processes at the intersection of crowd psychology and leadership studies. Featuring perspectives from around the globe, the book examines collective action, social movements and change, identity construction, repression and power. It includes case studies of leadership and crowd behaviour from various countries, including political rallies in Turkey, the Capitol Assault in the US, aboriginal movements in Australia, identity construction of Tibetans in exile, resistance in Iran, community leadership in Ghana and riots in Greece. Chapters examine the mutual influence between leaders and crowds in the pursuit of social change or stability. The book takes a unique angle to dissect how leadership-followership dynamics evolve during pivotal crowd events and social movements worldwide. The book is a novel exploration that illustrates how leaders shape the course of history and how crowds, in turn, redefine the landscape of power. It will be highly relevant for academics and students in the fields of social and political psychology, as well as political science, sociology and communication studies. The book will also be of interest to policymakers and activists, and anyone interested in understanding the interplay between leadership and crowds.

psychology of trump supporters: *Ideological and Political Bias in Psychology* Craig L. Frisby, Richard E. Redding, William T. O'Donohue, Scott O. Lilienfeld, 2023-09-13 This book examines the traditional assumptions made by academics and professionals alike that have embedded sociopolitical biases that impede practice, and undermine efforts to achieve an objective scientific status. If allowed to go unchallenged, the credibility of psychology as a discipline is compromised. This contributed volume thoroughly and comprehensively examines this concern in a conceptually and empirically rigorous manner and offers constructive solutions for minimizing undue political influences within the field of psychology. Societies in the 21st century desperately need reliable psychological science, but we don't have it. This important volume explains one of the main reasons why we are making little progress on any issue that gets contaminated by the left-right culture war: because the field of psychology is an enthusiastic member of one of the two teams, so it rejects findings and researchers who question its ideological commitments. The authors of this engaging volume also show us the way out. They diagnose the social dynamics of bias and point to reforms that would give us the psychology that we need to address 21st century problems. Jonathan Haidt, Thomas Cooley Professor of Ethical Leadership, NYU—Stern School of Business and author of *The Righteous Mind* The boundaries of free speech, censorship, moral cultures, social justice, and ideological biases are among the many incendiary topics discussed in this book. If you are looking for a deep-dive into real-world contemporary controversies, *Ideological and Political Bias in Psychology* fits the bill. The chapters are thoughtful and thought-provoking. Most readers will find something to agree with and something to rage at in almost every chapter. It just may change how you think about some of these topics. Diane F. Halpern, Professor of Psychology Emerita, Claremont McKenna College and Past President, American Psychological Association Unless the political left is always correct about everything (in which case, we wouldn't need to do research; we could just ask a leftist), the growing political monoculture of social science is a major barrier to our search for the truth. This volume shows how ideological bias should be treated as a source of research error, up there with classic methodological flaws like non-random assignment and non-blind measurement. Steven Pinker, Johnstone Professor of Psychology, Harvard University, and the author of *Rationality*

An important read for academics curious about how their politics fashions beliefs that too often are uncritically taken for granted, and for non-academics wondering why we can't shake off the politics that so influences scientific work. Vernon Smith, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences and George L. Argyros Chair in Finance and Economics, Chapman University Advances and deepens empirically rigorous scholarship into biased political influences affecting academic and professional psychology. Offers constructive solutions for minimizing undue political influences within psychology and moving the field forward. Serves as a resource for psychological academicians, researchers, practitioners, and consultants seeking to restore the principles of accurate science and effective practice to their respective areas of research.

psychology of trump supporters: Authoritarian Nightmare John Dean, Bob Altemeyer, 2021-06-22 Donald Trump may be gone from the White House, but the 75 million people who voted for him are still out there . . . Updated to reflect election results, this is a look at the entirety of the Trump phenomenon, using psychological and social science studies, as well as polling analyses, to understand Donald Trump's followers, and what they will do now that he's gone. To find out, John Dean, of Watergate fame, joined with Bob Altemeyer, a professor of psychology with a unique area of expertise: Authoritarianism. Relying on social science findings and psychological diagnostic tools (such as the Power Mad Scale and the Con Man Scale), and including exclusive research and analysis from the Monmouth University Polling Institute (one of America's most respected public opinion research foundations), the authors provide us with an eye-opening understanding of the Trump phenomenon — and how it may not go away, whatever becomes of Trump.

psychology of trump supporters: The Politics of Antagonism Georg Löffmann, 2024-03-05 This book demonstrates how populist security narratives served as the driving force behind the mobilization of Republican voters and the legitimization of an 'America First' policy agenda under the Trump presidency. Going beyond existing research on both populism and security narratives, the author links insights from political psychology on collective narcissism, blame attribution and emotionalization with research in political communication on narrative and framing to explore the political and societal impact of a populist security imaginary. Drawing on a comprehensive range of sources including key interviews, campaign and policy speeches, presidential addresses, and posts on social media, it shows how progressives, political opponents, immigrants, racial justice activists, and key institutions of liberal democracy collectively became an internal Other, delegitimated as 'enemies of the people'. Developing an innovative conceptual-analytical framework of nationalist populism that expands on established concepts of political identity and ontological security, the book will appeal to students of critical security studies, critical constructivist approaches in International Relations, and US politics.

psychology of trump supporters: Trump Effect Karina V. Korostelina, 2016-10-14 Professor Karina V. Korostelina presents insights into the Trump effect and explains how the support for Trump among the American general public is based on three complementary pillars. First, Trump champions a specific conception of American national identity that empowers his supporters. Second, Trump's leadership has, to an extent, been crafted from his ability to recognize where and with whom he can get the most return on his investment (e.g. his political comments) and address the perceived general malaise in the U.S. Trump also mirrors the emotions of a disenfranchised American public, and inspires the use of frustration based anger and insults to achieve desired aims. He addresses the public's intolerance of uncertainty and ambivalence by providing simpler solutions to complex national problems and by blurring the boundary between the leading political parties. Further, Trump employs existing political polarization and has established a new kind of morality. Third, Trump challenges the existing political balance of power within the U.S. and globally. The overarching goal of this book is to show how the popularity of Trump has revealed substantial problems in the social, political, and economic fabric of American life. Aimed at the general public and students in the U.S. and internationally, the book goes beyond many explanations of the Trump Effect. Using a multidisciplinary theoretical lens, it provides a systemic multifaceted analysis based on multiple theories of social identity, emotions, cognitions, morality, and power to explain the

broader social phenomena of the rise of individuals in society.

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