

## Supporters of Donald Trump Say They Love America, But That's an Oxymoron

I had an “aha moment” last week when a reader asked if I remembered him. I said, “Yes, you support Donald Trump.” He responded, “That’s right, I love my country,” which frankly pissed me off because it suggested that I didn’t love my country because I don’t support Trump.

Although he denied that implication, it got me thinking. Is it really possible that a supporter of Donald Trump loves America? In a twisted way, I suppose that’s possible, but let’s analyze what supporting Donald Trump really means.

To support Donald Trump is to support a man who incited insurrection because he didn’t accept his electoral defeat. At least his supporters are consistent, because many of them think it’s fine to display the confederate battle flag and to preserve statues of men who

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### Talking Turkey



By Jim Smith

mounted actual armed conflict against our country in support of the continued enslavement of African American men, women and children.

Those same people applaud the appointment of “originalists” to the U.S. Supreme Court. An originalist is someone who supports the original intent of the founding fathers, which included the disenfranchisement not only of enslaved people but of women and, it should be noted, of men who didn’t own property.

What version of America do these supporters of Donald Trump love? It’s not the America I love, which is a land of opportunity for all, not just for a select few. I love the America which welcomed immigrants and no longer imprisons and kills native Americans.

America has always been a work in progress, always striving toward a “more perfect union.” Trump supporters talk about “making America great again,” but they are really talking about turning back the clock on the social progress that enfranchised women and persons of color (albeit 100 years after passage of the 13th Amendment), that

allowed women to control their own bodies, and that recognized the rights of LGBTQ citizens to exist, to express their love for each other, and to be safe.

To support Donald Trump is to support a man whose rhetoric has emboldened white supremacists and racists (including anti-Semites), who he called “very fine people.” To “live and let live” is not in their lexicon.

True Americans recognize and accept that we are not perfect now and never have been and choose to learn from history instead of ignore or bury it. Yes, our ancestors committed the Sand Creek massacre, the Tulsa massacre, the imprisonment of Japanese Americans in concentration camps, the Tuskegee experiment which involved leaving syphilis untreated in African

Americans to see how it damages the human body, and more. Supporters of Donald Trump don’t want our children to know the dark side of our history because it will make them “uncomfortable.”

To support Donald Trump is to support a man who evaded the draft by getting a doctor’s note about bone spurs and derided Sen. John McCain, a war hero, in life and even upon his death because McCain didn’t like him.

To support Donald Trump, above all, is to honor a man who *always* puts his interests above those of his country. His decision to downplay Covid-19 because it might hurt his re-election is an example, and it cost countless American lives. He has yet to urge vaccination, despite secretly getting his own.

### Please, Congress: Raise My Taxes — and Yours!

I am a fiscal conservative. Like most people, I like low taxes, but I also support paying my own bills and I think government should do the same. If I decide to buy a car or a home, I expect to pay for it myself, not to pass the cost off on others.

Our federal government is not work-

ing that way. We are spending money we don’t have, when we should be taxing ourselves to cover our debts and our expenditures.

The wealth gap in our country is not right and not sustainable. We must raise taxes on the wealthy and especially the ultra-wealthy to finance government.