

Election [Rev. 20180811]

By J — Latest revision: <http://allis.foundation/Election.pdf>

When Did Our Elites Become Self-Serving Parasites?

Combine financialization, neoliberalism and moral bankruptcy, and you end up with self-serving parasitic elites.

When did our financial and political elites become self-serving parasites? Some will answer that elites have always been self-serving parasites; as tempting as it may be to offer a blanket denunciation of elites, this overlooks the eras in which elites rose to meet existential crises.

[Article] *Following in Ancient Rome's Footsteps: Moral Decay, Rising Wealth Inequality* (September 30, 2015)

As historian Peter Turchin explained in his book *War and Peace and War: The Rise and Fall of Empires*, the value of sacrifice was a core characteristic of the early Republic's elite:

"Unlike the selfish elites of the later periods, the aristocracy of the early Republic did not spare its blood or treasure in the service of the common interest. When 50,000 Romans, a staggering one fifth of Rome's total manpower, perished in the battle of Cannae, as mentioned previously, the senate lost almost one third of its membership. This suggests that the senatorial aristocracy was more likely to be killed in wars than the average citizen...."

The wealthy classes were also the first to volunteer extra taxes when they were needed... A graduated scale was used in which the senators paid the most, followed by the knights, and then other citizens. In addition, officers and centurions (but not common soldiers!) served without pay, saving the state 20 percent of the legion's payroll.

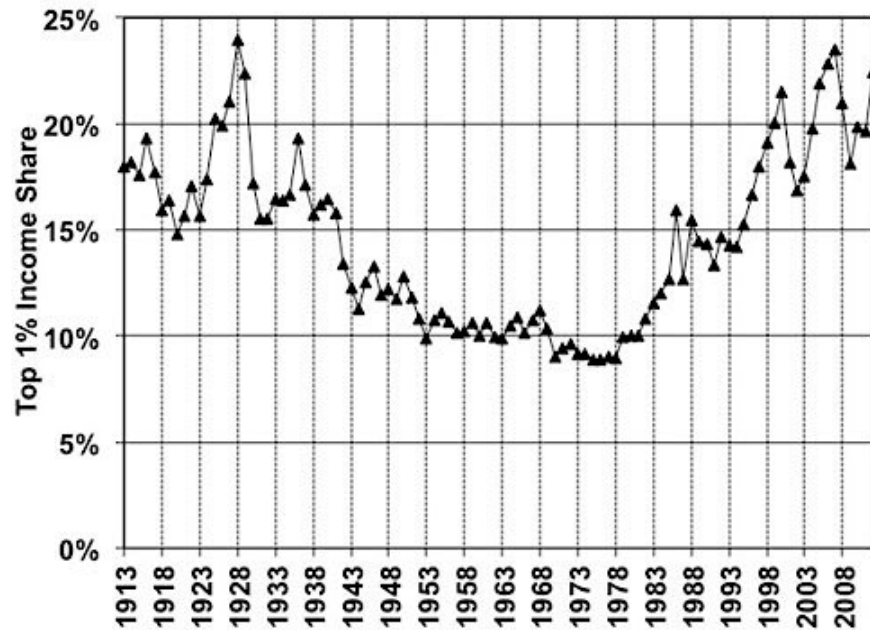
The richest 1 percent of the Romans during the early Republic was only 10 to 20 times as wealthy as an average Roman citizen."

Now compare that to the situation in Late Antiquity Rome when

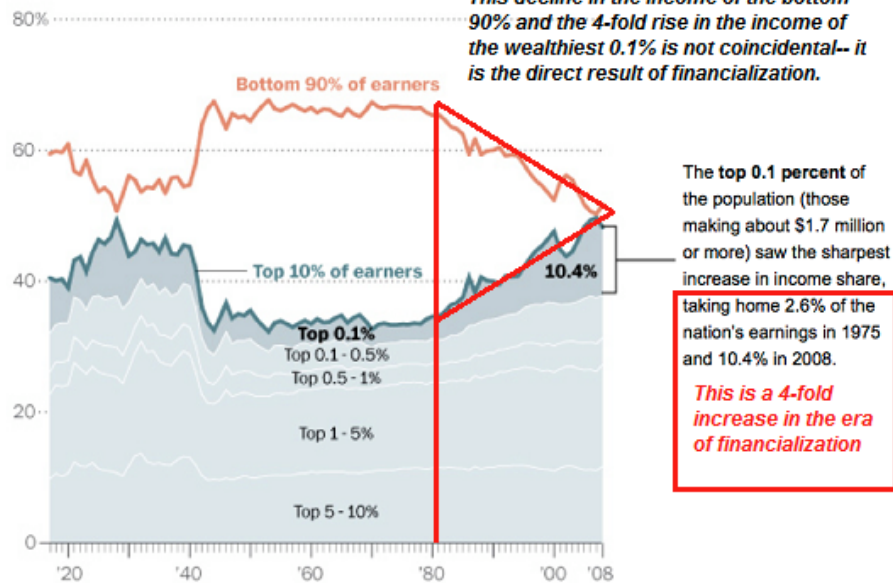
"an average Roman noble of senatorial class had property valued in the neighborhood of 20,000 Roman pounds of gold. There was no "middle class" comparable to the small landholders of the third century B.C.; the huge majority of the population was made up of landless peasants working land that belonged to nobles. These peasants had hardly any property at all, but if we estimate it (very generously) at one tenth of a pound of gold, the wealth differential would be 200,000! Inequality grew both as a result of the rich getting richer (late imperial senators were 100 times wealthier than their Republican predecessors) and those of the middling wealth becoming poor."

Do you see any similarities with the present-day realities depicted in these charts?

Top 1% US Pre-Tax Income Share, 1913-2012



SHARE OF NATION'S INCOME Including capital gains



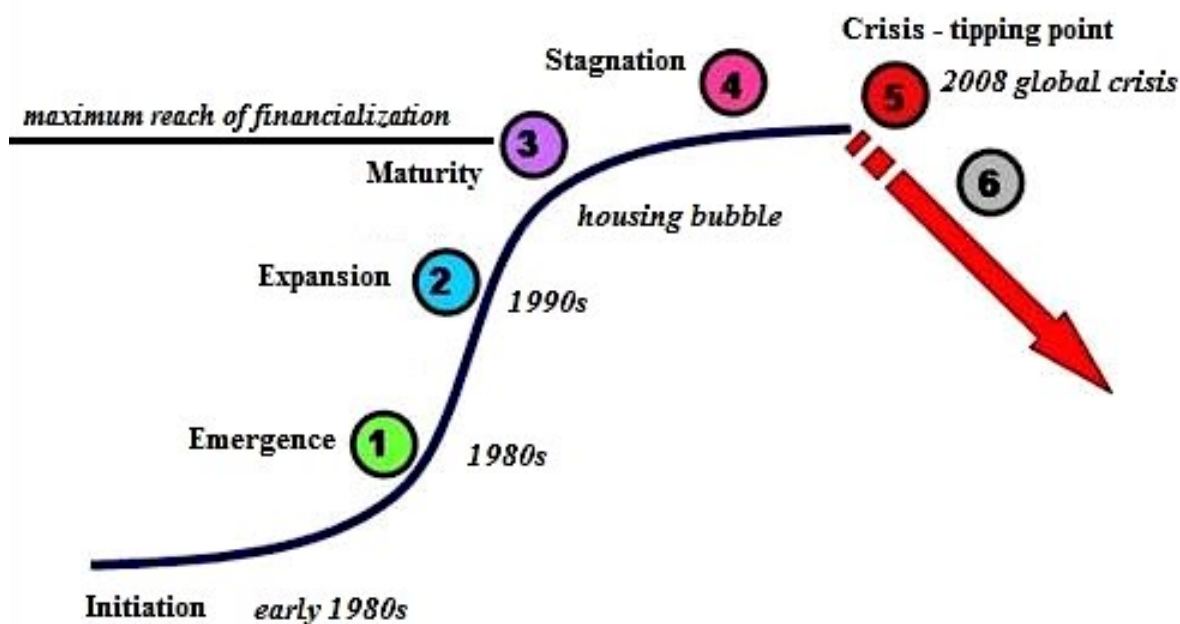
INCOME LEVEL	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	AVERAGE INCOME	OVERALL CHANGE 1970-2008	
Top 0.1%	152,000	\$5.6 million	+385%	<i>Oligarchy</i>
Top 0.1-0.5%	610,000	\$878,139	+141%	<i>New Nobility</i>
Top 0.5-1%	762,000	\$443,102	+90%	
Top 1-5%	6.0 million	\$211,476	+59%	<i>Upper Caste & Nomenklatura</i>
Top 5-10%	7.6 million	\$127,184	+38%	
Bottom 90%	137.2 million	\$31,244	-1%	<i>everyone else</i>

Correspondent Jim B. summarized historian Arnold Toynbee's study of the rise and fall of civilizations: *"Civilizations fail when their elites change from an admired dynamic creative class to a despised Establishment of corrupt rentiers, an entrenched governing class unfit to govern."*

I would trace the slide into self-serving parasites to three dynamics: financialization, neoliberalism and moral bankruptcy. While definitions of financialization vary, mine is:

Financialization is the mass commodification of debt and debt-based financial instruments collateralized by previously low-risk assets, a pyramiding of risk and speculative gains that is only possible in a massive expansion of low-cost credit and leverage.

Another way to describe the same dynamics is: financialization results when leverage and information asymmetry replace innovation and productive investment as the source of wealth creation.



Neoliberalism is the belief that the social order is defined and created by markets: if markets are free, participants, society and the political order are also free.

This conceptual framework is the perfect enabler for the dominance of credit-based, leveraged capital, i.e. Neofeudalism. In a "free market," those with access to nearly-free money can outbid everyone who must rely on savings from earned income to finance borrowing. In a "free market" where those with access to leverage and unlimited credit are *more equal than everyone else*, the ability of wage earners to acquire rentier assets such as rental housing, farmland and timberland is intrinsically limited by the financial system that makes credit and leverage scarce for the many and abundant for the few.

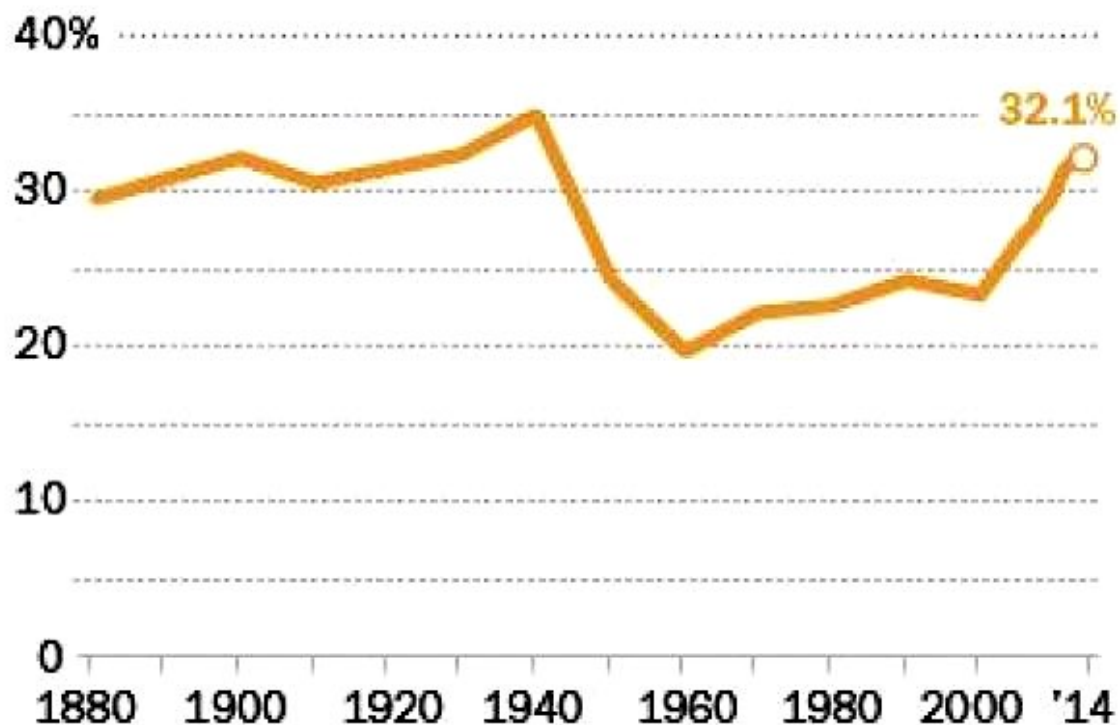
The moral bankruptcy of our financial and political elites is self-evident. Combine financialization, neoliberalism and moral bankruptcy, and you end up with self-serving parasitic elites. ^{*1}

Two Thirds of Young American Adults Live With Their Parents

... The report's findings comply with a recent Pew Research Center analysis, which found more young adults (the Pew study cohort was ages 18-34) in the U.S. living with their parents than at any time since around 1940.

Young adults in U.S. live with parents at highest rate since Great Depression

Share of U.S. young adults (ages 18-34) living in their parent(s)' home



Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 1880-2000 U.S. decennial censuses and the 2006-2014 American Community Surveys (IPUMS).

Without job and income security, the OECD report authors warn, young adults could postpone reaching traditional markers of adulthood. Poor economic prospects could begin to affect health, fertility, crime and even "social cohesion." ²

Liberal Professors Outnumber Conservatives Nearly 12 to 1

A new study confirms what even the most casual observer of higher education has long known—that conservative professors are vastly outnumbered by liberal ones—but it also shows that the problem is getting worse.

Published in *Econ Journal Watch* last month, the study looks at faculty voter registration at 40 leading universities and finds that, out of 7,243 professors, Democrats outnumber Republicans 3,623 to 314, or by a ratio of 11 1/2 to 1.

The study comes after a tumultuous few years at American colleges and universities, marked by campus race protests, the disinvitation of conservative speakers and the popularization of phrases such as “trigger warning” and “safe space.”

Out of five departments analyzed by the authors, the field friendliest to conservative scholars is economics, where there are only 4.5 liberal professors for every conservative.

Conversely, history is by far the least conservative-friendly department, where liberals outnumber conservatives by a 33 1/2-to-1 ratio.

This stands in stark contrast to a 1968 study that put the Democrat-to-Republican contrast in history departments at 2.7 to 1, the study points out. Even reports from as recent as 2004 have estimated liberals outnumber conservatives in the field by a ratio between 9 to 1 and 15 to 1.

The authors of the analysis—Brooklyn College business professor Mitchell Langbert, private sector economist Anthony J. Quain and George Mason University economist Daniel B. Klein—speculate that the rapidly growing disparity is due in part to the rise of academic subcategories, such as the histories of gender, race and class, where a liberal orientation is the foundation for subsequent research.

Kim R. Holmes, a distinguished fellow at The Heritage Foundation, said the ascendance of multiculturalism in the humanities makes it difficult for conservatives to find work teaching.

“If you’re going to have a Gender Studies Department, or something like that, the progressive assumptions are built into the very idea of the department, so you’re not going to hire any conservative professors,” said Mr. Holmes, who is the author of “The Closing of the Liberal Mind.” “Because of this, the imbalance has proliferated.”

The disparity is highest at the most prestigious universities, the study finds. Pennsylvania State University, for instance, has a comparatively balanced faculty ratio of 6 to 1, while Ohio State University enjoys even closer ideological parity at 3.2 to 1. But a pair of Ivy League universities, Columbia and Princeton, both weigh in at 30 to 1.

The university with the most even ratio examined in the report is Pepperdine University, which has a reputation for being a conservative school but still has 1.2 Democrats for every Republican on the faculty...

“Well, I don’t know that there’s a whole lot of news here,” Mr. Warren said. “Since the ’60s, and especially given political circumstances—the war, Watergate and Nixon’s circumstances—it’s pretty evident that college faculty and students became more Democratic.”

While he said he would prefer more intellectually diverse faculties at the schools examined in the report, Mr. Warren said they do not represent the higher education landscape as a whole. He said small, faith-based colleges are just as likely to create campus echo chambers as their Ivy League counterparts...

While there are 10 Democrats for every Republican among professors over the age of 65, the ratio balloons to 22.7 to 1 among scholars under the age of 36, indicating the ideological disparity could continue to grow as more senior professors are pushed out and replaced by a new generation of scholars.

Mr. Warren also minimized this aspect of the report, saying liberals tend to become more conservative as they grow older. Furthermore, he said fields not examined in this report, including business, engineering and the natural sciences, tend to skew more conservative than the humanities and social sciences.

But Mr. Holmes said increasing intellectual homogeneity in academia does not bode well for the health of the American republic, pointing to the Founders' belief in the necessity of a virtuous and well-educated citizenry.

"If the culture at large neither cares about morality anymore and, on top of that, the education is being cheapened, it's no longer about trying to teach people to think critically but about trying to indoctrinate them to a certain point of view," Mr. Holmes said. "The American public over time is going to decline in the ability to be self-governing, and, ultimately, that's a threat to democracy." ^{*3}

Why Hillary is Too Evil for Voters to Comprehend

Many decent Americans' naïveté blinds them to Clinton sociopathyA plurality of American voters—tens of millions—may be about to elect Hillary Clinton, a candidate widely described as the most corrupt person ever to run for the U.S. presidency, preceded by over three decades of wall-to-wall scandals, sleaze, corruption and outright criminality, including an ongoing FBI investigation into the wildly corrupt Clinton Foundation. How is this possible?

... Could it be, Kupelian wondered aloud, that Bill and Hillary Clinton are so sociopathic that the average American can't even comprehend their dark motivations, since they don't harbor such impulses or feelings within themselves?

"I don't think people get criminality," said Kupelian, an award-winning journalist and best-selling author of several books on evil...

Most voters, explained Kupelian, size up candidates according to their politics and worldview. "We are so used to thinking about liberal/conservative, big government/small government, you're against gay rights/you're for gay rights or gay marriage, and so forth. We get that—and then we vote accordingly."

But truly sociopathic or criminal thinking is foreign and opaque to the average voter's thinking, he said.

"We understand people because of what we have in ourselves. We can extrapolate," he said, citing for example: "We understand somebody who's got envy, because we've had envy. We understand a person who got really angry and killed somebody and went to prison. We maybe have never gotten that angry, but we have been *angry*—and so we sort of understand that person." However, he said, "We don't really understand people who dream of controlling entire nations."

It's hard for "everyday Americans" to understand how Hillary Clinton could laugh after declaring, "We came, we saw, he died," referring to the death of Moammar Gadhafi; or how she could lead a NATO bombing effort that killed thousands in Libya and destabilized the country; or how she could look Gold Star parents directly in the eyes at a casket ceremony three days after the Benghazi terror attack and lie to them about why their children died.

"We don't understand," said Kupelian, "the mentality of people who are so into their own ambition and what they want that they are willing to literally sacrifice thousands of people. We don't have thoughts like this, we don't have fantasies like this, and so therefore we don't understand" when such foreign and dark forces motivate others, especially when they have such a cultivated and civilized exterior.

"The danger of this," said Kupelian, is that in Americans' "innocence or naïvete, we give other people that are truly in the grip of evil, we give them a pass, because it's not on our radar—we don't see it in ourselves, we don't understand criminality. I think people don't understand Hillary Clinton and Bill Clinton."

Noting that Hillary's criminality goes far beyond the current email/national security and Clinton Foundation scandals, Kupelian quickly reviewed highlights of the Clintons' decades-long history of scandals, from White House scandals like Filegate, Travelgate, Chinagate and Pardongate to their use of the IRS to target political opponents, to their stealing furniture on the way out of the White House at the end of their time there—when they were actually required to return \$28,000 worth of furniture and art to the White House.

"Bill Clinton is a certified sexual predator," Kupelian added. "He has a credible allegation of rape. Don't talk to me about Donald Trump kissing somebody. We're talking about *forcible rape*. Rape used to be a capital offense. People were put to death for forcible rape. And then we have Hillary Clinton that covers up and abuses the victims further."

Saying the Clintons should be in prison "a dozen times over" for their crimes, Kupelian summarizes his theory: "The Clintons are so dark—they are in the grip of such dark forces and the kinds of thoughts and feelings that most people don't even have at their darkest times, their most angry times—that we give them a pass because we can't—we don't see it inside ourselves, so we can't project it out when we see it in them," the author explained. "So... we believe the crap: 'Oh, well, she's always been for women and children.' It's unbelievable." ^{*4}

The Most Extraordinary Presidential Campaign in Modern History Ends in Utter Humiliation for Hillary, the Pollsters, and Elites of Business, Media and Show Business as the Voters America Forgot Sweep Donald to a Stunning Victory

Donald Trump has sensationally won the White House—taking Pennsylvania to secure 274 electoral college votes in a humiliating defeat for Hillary Clinton and the entire American political class.

The state fell at 1.40am, with its 20 votes putting Trump over the edge. Clinton was in hiding as the result came through.

He won Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida, as well as a series of states he was predicted to win. Clinton had little to show for her campaigning, with Virginia and Nevada offering little consolation.

As her party fell flat and supporters streamed away in tears, she was locked in a hotel suite just round the corner from Trump Tower, protected behind a wall of minders and with aides who refused to speak to the press.

At Trump Tower, the candidate retired to his apartment to 'take a moment' with this wife. At his planned victory celebration, supporters chanted 'lock her up' as states after state fell.

The big breakthrough was the fall of Florida. As a Florida victory looked imminent, young Trump fans chanted at giant TVs: 'Call it! Call it! Call it!'

Then it fell—Clinton had poured millions into the state, but it was not enough. Next came Ohio, with 18 electoral college votes.

As vote-counters put the Buckeye state in Trump's win column, and took it away from Democrat Hillary Clinton—President Obama won it twice—the New York Times' live presidential forecast gave the billionaire builder an 95 per cent chance of winning the White House.

That grew to '>95%', its highest possible number.

Then came North Carolina with 15 votes going to Trump. When its result was set in stone, the Manhattan ballroom where Trump supporters gathered Tuesday night erupted in screams of 'USA! USA!'

As the clock ticked towards midnight, Georgia fell, with another 16 votes. Aides to Clinton, who hoped to become America's first female president, told Fox News that she was 'expecting a long night'...

'Americans have resoundingly rejected the Obama-Clinton agenda of bigger government, intrusive regulation, executive overreach, and lawlessness that is killing innovation and jobs, squandering opportunity for working men and women, marginalizing our freedoms, and compromising our security,' Cruz said in a statement.

'This election astonished the pundits. This was a change election. Americans voted for Republicans because of a promise to go to Washington to reverse our current course, and end the Washington cartel—a promise to drain the swamp. Now is the time to follow through on those words with action. We cannot wait even one day to begin implementing a conservative agenda that fulfills those commitments.'

The bizarre ending to Clinton's political career came after Trump confounded pollsters at every turn, capturing one 'swing' state after another in a line of toppled dominoes that stretched across three time zones and now ends at the White House.

The last to fall was the Keystone State—after Florida, North Carolina, Georgia and Wisconsin all went to the Republican. That gave him 274 votes in the electoral college; the winner is the first to reach 270.

He was also winning the popular vote by more than a 1 per cent margin.

Clinton is contemplating a ruinous end to her career, the potential of a renewed investigation into her and Bill's charity and personal riches by a special prosecutor, and the Democrats bring locked out of not just the White House but both houses of Congress. *5

Praise God! America Has a Chance

He was eviscerated by the media establishment unlike any previous presidential candidate.

It wasn't just "bias" he faced. He battled Democratic apparatchiks posing as reporters, editors, producers and anchors.

He was savaged by the official Democratic Party.

And he was beaten up by his own party's establishment.

Still, Donald Trump fought back. He improvised. He overcame.

No candidate ever had more tangible assets in her political piggy bank than did Hillary Clinton—money, organization, dirty tricks, betrayal by the opposition, the "press" in her pocket.

At the end of the long night, it didn't matter.

America decided it was time for a change.

But, I like to think God smiled on America, maybe because of the prayers of so many forgotten people—people who began to wake up and realize they just didn't recognize their country any more. They thought about their kids and their grandkids and what kind of world would be left for them if we kept going down the same road at 70 mph.

Donald Trump might not have been the first choice of these folks, but they understood what four years of Hillary Clinton would mean for their America.

Then there were the other forgotten Americans:

- When he thought no one was listening, Bill Clinton talked about the white working class that saw no future. It was a rare moment of candor and lucidity.
- Black Americans didn't turn out with the same enthusiasm they did for Barack Obama. Maybe they realized their lives were no better after eight years of Democratic paternalistic rhetoric. Maybe they just didn't like Hillary.
- And the Democrats believed their own propaganda that suggested Hispanics were in the bag and, like Hillary and company, actually believed in open borders and illegal immigration. They really never did. But Donald Trump didn't tell them what he thought they wanted to hear; he told them the truth instead. And they responded better to him than they did to the Republicans who spoke to them in Spanish.

To say I am pleased about the result would be a gigantic understatement. I always believed Trump had it in him.

He challenged political correctness—something no Republican presidential candidate dared to do since Ronald Reagan. He flat-out broke its back...

More than anything, he fought back hard when they came after him—something else unprecedented in Republican politics in decades.

Yes, I believe in him, even though he wasn't my first choice...

It was about shooting straight with people, pulling no punches, calling a criminal a criminal and calling corruption corruption.

The Lord does indeed work in mysterious ways. He doesn't always use the people you would expect him to use to exercise His will.

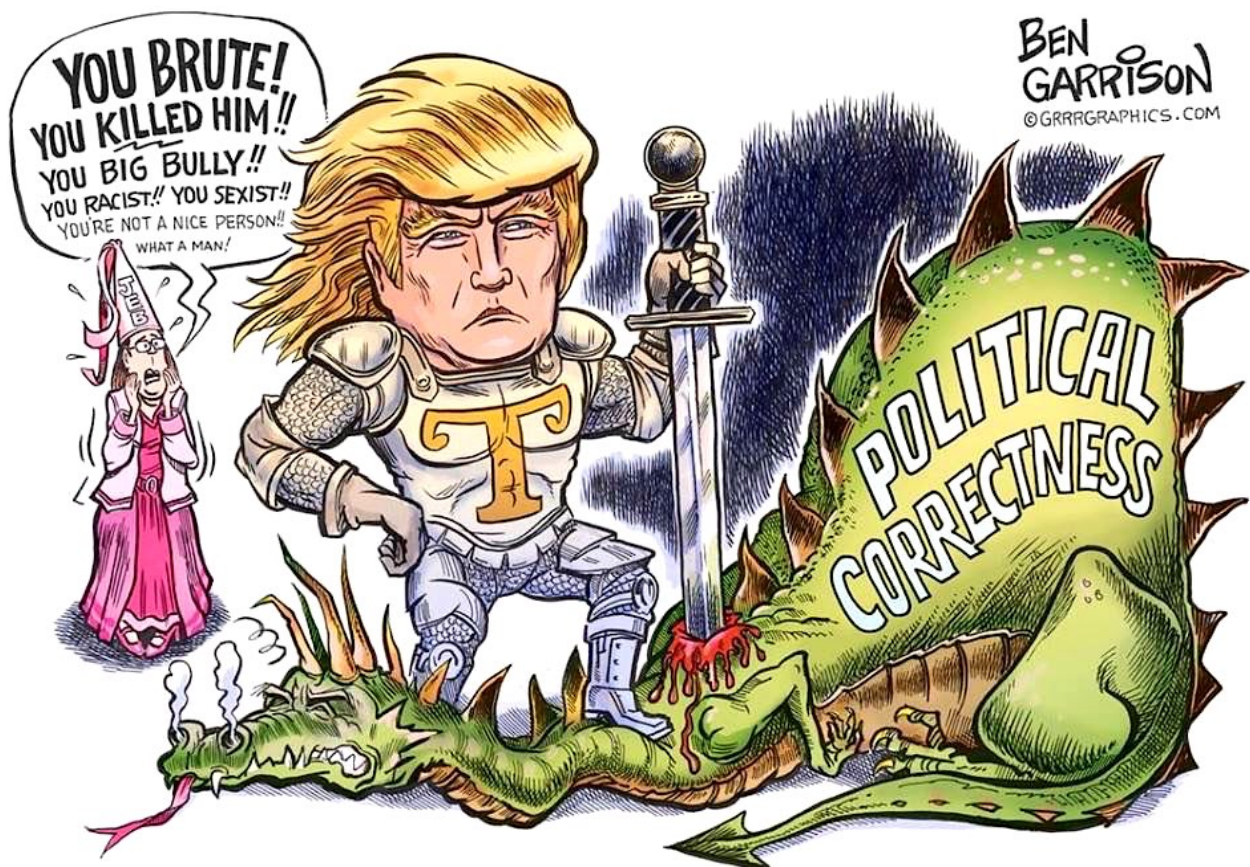
He often uses people who are, shall we say, a little rough around the edges to bring justice, bring relief to the persecuted and answer the prayer of His saints...

I only had one vote to give for my country—because I'm not a Democrat.

But I had lots of prayers to offer—and offer them I did.

I'm more encouraged than ever at just how that works. Maybe that's what America's other believers needed—a little encouragement to turn to God for the desires of their heart, a little encouragement to cry out against the oppression and bondage they feel.

Praise God first. And thank Donald Trump for working so hard. *6



Sources

- *1 = <http://charleshughsmith.blogspot.com/2016/10/when-did-our-elites-become-self-serving.html>
- *2 = <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2016-10-05/two-thirds-young-americans-live-their-parents>
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- *4 = <http://www.wnd.com/2016/11/why-hillary-is-too-evil-for-voters-to-comprehend/>
- *5 = <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3918258/Trump-claims-early-lead-wins-Indiana-Kentucky-Virginia-Georgia-close-call-America-decides.html> (Headline: November 9, 2016)
- *6 = <https://www.wnd.com/2016/11/praise-god-america-has-a-chance/>

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Acknowledgments

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God

The *All* that *IS*.

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