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Donald Trump’s Win: Shocked?

“Right now, a historic moment,” says Wolf Blitzer, CNN’s lead political anchor. “We can now project the winner of the presidential race. CNN projects Donald Trump wins the presidency. Donald J. Trump will become the 45th president of the United States.” A shock blew through the country, every viewer swept into their core. Donald Trump is now the president elect for the United States of America. Should this reality have been expected? Should the polls have accounted for the silent majority? Donald Trump preached a simple message to the citizens of this country; “Make America Great Again,” he says. Donald Trump is a business man and a celebrity. In the eyes of many Americans, he bleeds power and success. He constantly rages war with both members of the republican and democratic party. The 2016 presidential race had a unique set of candidates that creates a huge contrast between Donald Trump and his opponents. The media also painted a picture of racism, sexism and an overall misogyny towards Donald Trump. Seen as negatives to most, these are the main factors on why Donald J. Trump won the 2016 presidential race. Using a simple message, his past clear of political correctness, the separation between Donald Trump and his party, the candidates he was up against and how the media portrayed him are all reasons why Donald J. Trump is our current president.

‘In the Blood,’ a play written by Suzan-Lori Parks, follows the life of Hester, a woman of the street with five children from five different fathers. The play looks deeply into poverty, family, and corruption. The play dives into her past, analyzing how the past can arrive at the future. With most tragedies, there is a single event, a decision, that directs the character toward a path of failure. Hester, a woman that lets life pass by her, finds happiness within her kids. She says, “my 5 treasures, my 5 joys (1628).” Hester decided when she was merely 17 to keep a child she was pregnant with. She did not come from a family with money, she did not have a supporting boyfriend/husband to support the baby with. This is a core issue that leads to many problems within society. During Trump’s inauguration speech, he says “Together, we will make America strong again. We will make America wealthy again. We will make America proud again. We will make America safe again. And, yes, together, we will Make America Great Again. Thank you, God Bless You, And God Bless America.” The slogan ‘Make America Great Again’ has had a lot of controversy over his campaign. When was America great? Does he think America was great when blacks were discriminated against in almost every restaurant? When women were not respected and discouraged to go to school? What this quote does is break down his slogan into what he wants to do. He wants to go back to a time when people were proud to be American. When people cared for each other, stood together, and prospered together. What ‘In the Blood’ shows are the struggles of the impoverished. How do we transition people to live healthy lives, and carry their genes to the future children of the world with support and basic needs? What made Donald Trump radiate so much with people is that he admits that there needs to be change. There needs to be orders written and amendments passed to bring us into a safer, fair tomorrow. There needs to be change. What is so significant about his message is that it is different to many of his opponents, which is wanting to build upon what we have. ‘Make America Great Again’ captures both the fear and hope in people. It stretches to the 1950s when the industries in America were booming, unemployment rates were at their minimum and when people were proud to be Americans. It is a direct appeal to the heart, not the head. Hester interacts with many different people within her community. The welfare lady said to her on page 1635, “We put you in a job and you quit. We put you in a shelter and you walk. We put you in school and you drop out.” There are people in our society that relate to this. They are handed things but quit. It takes will to pull yourself out of a terrible situation, but it also takes courage. What is so enticing with Donald Trump’s message is that it touches upon so many of our society’s problems in one sentence (Barry). Like in ‘In the Blood,’ it exposes many things that are wrong with our current society and we need a leader that identifies the problem and promises to change it. Donald Trump is a man that is not a politician; he is a celebrity and successful businessman. He is a household name, and through his lifetime he has built an aura that radiates to many people that makes him a desirable, out of the establishment candidate.

On June 16th, 2015, Donald Trump announced his candidacy to be the 45th President of the United States. With no actual political experience, history says that he had no chance to be the republican nominee (Candidates). People did not understand that over his years as a ‘big-time’ businessman, he accumulated both financial and celebrity capital. People knew of his success around the country. Trump biographer Gwenda Blair said: “It gave him 10 years of being in front of the American public being the boss, being CEO, hiring people, famously firing people, being the guy who can fix it, the one who knows everything, being the big authoritarian patriarchal guy.” In the minds of many, he had power. This type of power was unmatched by any of the other candidates in the race. In 2003, Donald Trump became the host of the reality TV show ‘The Apprentice,’ where applicants competed for a chance to work for him. He showed the living rooms of America that he has the power to hire people; that he has the power to say, ‘you’re fired!’ The unconscious and conscious implications of seeing this causes people to understand that he has the power to hire when someone performs well, and most importantly, fire them when they do a bad job. This already established feeling of Donald Trump and his attitude to current politics let him push his voice to the public.

During Donald Trump’s campaign, he ridiculed many people in his party, including: House speaker Paul Ryan, the Bush family, former nominees Mitt Romney and John McCain to name a few (Quigly). A common goal of a party is to unify, but Trump seemed to have been doing the opposite. He declared war on his own party. What is so peculiar is the increase in support from the public. It seemed that they were fed up with the current establishment. John Bazemore of AP said “Donald Trump had no political debts or party loyalty. And he had no compunctions—which made him the perfect vector for anti-establishment sentiment.” The timing of Trump’s campaign landed perfectly. The silent majority was tired of the constant broken promises. In August Wilson’s ‘Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,’ Ma Rainey, an African American singer, and her 4 band members expose questions of prejudice and the problems facing the black community. It is true when people say that this country was built from immigrants. We are all descendants of voyagers. Ma Rainey, a popular singer in the 1920’s, was pushing the barrier of what African Americans were able to do at the time. Like Donald Trump’s campaign, Ma Rainey and her band were sick of the established view of what they should be. ‘Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,’ exposed a lot of the struggles of an African American living in America at the time. There is no justification to sit idle when you are not being treated equally. Richard Rahn of the Washington Times says “would you vote for someone who you believe knowingly lies to you? The problem for the American people is that candidates from both parties lie on a regular basis, and so it is all too rare that a voter has a choice between someone who will honor his or her promises and someone who will not.” There is a voter base that feels the way that Richard Rahn explains here. Clearly, it represents a significant amount of the silent majority that made their voice heard on November 7th. It is essential to fight the ‘usual.’ Fight the fights that are worth your humanity and rights. With this clear separation of the ‘typical’ republican candidate and Donald Trump, his opponents become targeted as ‘the establishment.’ Most other candidates in the races, Republican and Democratic, have been part of Capital Hill and state government for their whole adult lives.

Hillary Clinton is the wife of a former president, and running to continue a two-term democratic president. Clinton was the face of ‘the establishment’ in a race that was all about change. A long political career like Clinton’s does come with baggage: a lot of it. Whether it be her past as a lawyer, FBI investigations on private emails or past footage that shows her true view on minorities around the country, Clinton has past events that make her seem extremely unattractive as president. In ‘A Raisin in the Sun’ by Lorraine Hansberry, it exposes the issues within 1950’s America of a low income African American family. The Youngers receive an insurance check for $10,000 and need to decide what to do. Dreams flow into every member of the family as doors open inside their mind. The play then exposes the issues of the barriers of ‘race specific’ neighborhoods. They decide to buy a house in a ‘white’ neighborhood, only to be encouraged to leave. The mother of the family states “that was a way of telling us we wasn’t fit to walk the earth” (143). A recorded trend of Hillary Clinton’s speeches was the difference when speaking to different minority groups (Jones). Do blacks not care about educating their children instead of equality? Do Mexicans not want to hear how their tax dollars are being spent in national defense instead of immigration? The 2016 campaign landed perfectly in Trumps favor on who he was up against. Trump represented a new government, a change. Hillary Clinton represented ‘the establishment,’ and she represented ‘the lies.’ “Sometimes it’s like I can see the future stretched out in front of me- just plain as day…Just waiting for me- a big, looming blank space-full of nothing…” (73). Although you may create your own conclusion of this quote from ‘A Raisin in the Sun,’ in context, it says so much. Walter, a man overworked, always has his mind on scraping by. He considers the future and sees, well, “a blank space full of nothing.” He needs something to change so he can focus his life on something more important than ‘scraping by.’ Communities and neighborhoods like the one represented in ‘A Raisin in the Sun’ represent the people who have been treated badly their entire lives. They are Americans living every day with racism breathing down their neck. People needed a change from this lifestyle. As the 2016 campaign approached, they needed to find a candidate with a real personality. A personality not plagued by history and commitments. Trump acted the same everywhere. He had a personality that was unchanging, which is rare in a presidential candidate. When he tweets a comment against Hillary Clinton, he also tweets a comment against Jeb Bush. He does not target someone because of race, or sex, but because who he is. This was the difference between the candidates and Donald Trump. Racism, Sexism and Misogyny also play a huge role in the 2016 Presidential Race.

“You shut up or I’m gonna put a screw in your chest” (p240), says a police officer as he glares at a black man. Have you ever heard this expression said by a person of the law? Most would agree that that threat is not a common thing to say to a black man driving a nice car. In ‘Twilight- Los Angeles: 1992,’ a man’s beating causes an outburst of anger and riots. We constantly ask ourselves as a society if racism still exists and the answer is clearly yes. For the past year, Donald Trump has been accused of being racist, sexist, homophobic, and every other term you can accuse someone of being. The question truly becomes if it is true, and what people think of the accusations. With respect to ‘Twilight- Los Angeles: 1992,’ we see that racism is still prevalent today. At least once a month there is a police brutality in the media (Dantes). The Washington Post says that an unarmed black man is more likely to die to a police officer than an unarmed white man (Bandler). So, is this a growing problem? What is so new about the 21st century is how easy it is to relay information and footage. No one can argue with an unedited video. Donald Trump is not afraid to address the tender topics of society that many shy away from. He is a man who speaks and especially tweets exactly what is going through his head, no matter how controversial it may be. The media can capture exactly what he says and put them into short convenient videos for Facebook scrollers. Do these speak the ‘truth?’ What the media shows can be thought of as racist or sexist comments. What is important to know is the context and understanding who Trump is. During a republican debate, a quote by Donald Trump was brought up in reference to Carly Fiorina, “Look at that face, would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that? The face of our next president.” Out of context, it sounds like Donald Trump feels that her appearance should make her be unable to be president. If you put this in context, you would see that he was in reference to her persona. You will also notice that he says these kind of comments to all other candidates; in reference to Rand Paul, “I never attacked him or his looks, and believe me, there’s plenty of subject matter right there.” There is evidence of Donald Trump making rude comments everywhere on the media. What is so important is that it shows every American that he is not afraid to call people out on anything. Donald Trump is not afraid to notice the faults in our establishment and call out the fixes that need to be made.

In conclusion, there were many subtleties to predict the win of Donald J. Trump. His slogan created a rich undertone of his purpose as President. His celebrity and successful businessman status pushed his name to the front of people’s minds. He took the movement of political correctness and a corrupt establishment to separate himself from his opponents. He used the most ‘established’ candidate to win the general election by her long and corrupt past. The media made giant strides to discredit him as a racist or sexist only to bring more hope into his campaign. The combination of these major factors brought out the silent majority of this country and landed the winning tickets into the ballet.

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