

Cultural Criticism Piece

Make America—the Right—Great Again

The Red Hat symbolizes a winning campaign and, thus, the support of the majority of the nation. It seemingly markets for something every American should want—a great country. In my years growing up in a rural farming town, I began to see more and more classmates, neighbors, and friends with the Hat—until the whole town became a sea of Red Hats. The Red Hat owners couldn't understand how someone could not support Him and His plan for making America as *great* as it supposedly once was. As I watched everyone join the sea of Red, I found it hard to understand. My family had never supported Him and the things He stood for, but we learned to keep quiet as to not pick a fight with something as *great* as the sea.

Before the election, we saw Him everywhere, the creator of the Red Hat. We saw the countless debates, campaign ads, infamous tweets, and new reports, and with it, we saw the truth in the Red Hat. He talked about building a wall, claiming it would protect us from Mexico—telling us that we should fear our differences with the people there. *When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending the best. They're not sending you; they're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems.* He told us that that they are not like us. He told us that they are a problem, and their absence is what will make America great. *They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime. They're rapists...* As if there are no American drug dealers or criminals or rapists, He deems them all our enemies because they are not one of us—telling citizens this is the way we should think of immigrants, families trying to escape their country for a better life. This talk doesn't deter the buyers of the Red Hat though; it only urges them to buy more, to spread the word.

But this is not the only form of injustice He has favored. As the election pushed nearer, more and more women spoke out about harassment, verbal and not, that He has dealt. These women who showed courage for speaking out about this injustice were made a source of mockery and had their validity tested. Still, He gained supporters and sold more Red Hats. Eventually, the media gained proof of His disrespect for women and disregard for consent. He bragged, *I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait. And when you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything.* Brushing it off as locker room talk, or missing headline completely in their bubble Fox news, the owners of the Red Hat still gave their support. Boys will be boys.

Once He gained his office and power, we continued to see this disrespect of people different than Him. Just last summer, He took to Twitter to argue that a few Democratic members of Congress, who are *from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe*, should *go back* to their countries. Three out of the four Congress members were in fact born in the United States, but regardless of this, He discriminated against respected members of the government for the color of their skin and political party. Those congress members spent their lives' committing themselves to our country, but with His words, He stole that away, and made them seem like they weren't one of us. Because these officials were on the other side of a fight between two parties, the Red Hat owners did not mind His injustice and disrespect.

The congress members are not the only public figures to face His racism though. Again, as the next election drew closer, He took to Twitter to bash his opponents for the 2020 presidential election and repeatedly called Elizabeth Warren *Pocahontas* for her Native American heritage. In a Tweet, he welcomed her to the race saying, *See you on the campaign TRAIL, Liz!* His reference to the Trail of Tears aims to degrade Warren as a presidential

candidate based on her heritage. Even worse, He found humor in the stain in United States' history as the white man forced the Natives out of their land, comparing their historical pain and suffering to her loss in the election. But once again, because she was on the other side, the Red Hat wearers brushed this aside.

In bold white embroidery the Hat says, *Make America Great Again*. The Hat is red with hatred. It advertises a future in which America is as great as its past—a future that backtracks on the progress we have made in the long fight for representation and justice for minorities. It markets a future in which white men regain the unshared power they once had, power that guarantees status over minorities no matter the wealth or respect they have earned—a birth right of America. A reality in which leadership is idolized for their disrespect and oppression of entire groups of people. The Red Hat and its wearers support the disrespect He has shown to these groups of people and on countless other occasions. It is time for our society to regret His idea of greatness and remove the sea of Red hate it has created. This oppression does not make America great; it is what our country should be escaping.