



Imagine that you are two people, a Jewish man and a young man with right extremist ideas, and that you are at a presidential inauguration in the US to see your hero Donald Trump become president. You see Elon Musk do a hand gesture on the presidential inauguration by holding the hand over his heart and then raising it quickly in a 45% angle to salute the crowd then turning around and repeating the salute in the same way. Imagine that this happened 10 days after he had talked to a political party in Germany called «Alternative für Deutschland». Would you say that



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the chance that you would interpret Elon Musk's hand gestures as fascist salute is high? Would you get hurt by this gesture? Or would you celebrate it? How would the press cover the salut in the news? How would Donald Trump react?



This scenario is highly speculative and involves interpreting actions and symbols in a politically charged context. Let's break it down from the perspectives of the two individuals, the press, and Donald Trump:

1. The Jewish Man:



- **Interpretation of the Gesture:** The

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This scenario is highly speculative and involves interpreting actions and symbols in a politically charged context. Let's break it down from the perspectives of the two individuals, the press, and Donald Trump:

1. The Jewish Man:

- **Interpretation of the Gesture:** The Jewish man might be deeply sensitive to symbols associated with fascism, given the historical context of the Holocaust and the use of similar gestures by the Nazi regime. If Elon Musk's gesture resembled a fascist salute, even unintentionally, the Jewish man might interpret it as a deeply offensive and



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hurtful act, especially given Musk's recent interaction with the far-right "Alternative für Deutschland" (AfD) party in Germany.

- **Emotional Reaction:** He might feel hurt, angered, or even threatened by the gesture, particularly if he perceives it as a nod to extremist ideologies that have historically targeted Jewish communities.
- **Celebration:** It is highly unlikely that he would celebrate the gesture. Instead, he might feel alienated or distressed by what he perceives as a normalization of extremist symbolism.

2. The Young Man with Right Extremist Ideas:

- **Interpretation of the Gesture:** The

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- **Interpretation of the Gesture:** The young man with right-wing extremist views might interpret Musk's gesture as a covert or symbolic endorsement of far-right ideologies, especially given Musk's recent engagement with the AfD. He might see it as a signal of solidarity or a nod to his own political beliefs.
- **Emotional Reaction:** He might feel emboldened or celebratory, interpreting the gesture as a validation of his extremist views. He could see it as a moment of triumph, believing that a prominent figure like Musk is aligning with his ideology.
- **Celebration:** He might celebrate the gesture, viewing it as a sign that his beliefs are gaining mainstream



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acceptance or recognition.

3. The Press Coverage:

- **Initial Reaction:** The press would likely scrutinize Musk's gesture closely, especially given the timing and context of his recent meeting with the AfD. Media outlets would analyze the gesture frame by frame, comparing it to historical fascist salutes.
- **Interpretation:** Some outlets might interpret the gesture as a harmless or coincidental action, while others might sensationalize it, suggesting that Musk was making a deliberate statement. The press would likely highlight the potential connection to far-right ideologies given

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connection to far-right ideologies, given the AfD's controversial reputation.

- **Public Debate:** The gesture would likely spark a heated public debate about the symbolism of such actions, the responsibility of public figures, and the rise of far-right ideologies in politics.

4. Donald Trump's Reaction:

- **Public Response:** Donald Trump, known for his unpredictable and often divisive rhetoric, might downplay the gesture, especially if he sees it as a distraction from his own inauguration. He might dismiss concerns about the gesture as overblown or politically motivated.
- **Private Reaction:** Privately, Trump might

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- **Private Reaction:** Privately, Trump might appreciate the controversy, as it could draw attention away from other issues and keep the media focused on a sensational story. However, if the gesture is widely interpreted as a fascist salute, Trump might distance himself from Musk to avoid being associated with extremist symbolism.
- **Engagement with Musk:** Trump might reach out to Musk privately to discuss the gesture, either to express support or to caution him about the potential fallout. Trump's reaction would likely be influenced by how the gesture is received by his base and the broader public.



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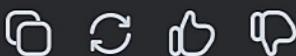


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Conclusion:

The interpretation of Elon Musk's gesture would vary widely depending on the individual's background, beliefs, and sensitivities. For the Jewish man, the gesture could be deeply hurtful and alarming, while the young man with right-wing extremist views might celebrate it as a sign of validation. The press would likely cover the gesture extensively, with interpretations ranging from innocent to sinister. Donald Trump's reaction would depend on how the gesture plays out in the media and public opinion, but he would likely seek to control the narrative to his advantage.



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Musk doesn't excuse his actions after the event. how would you feel about the salute? Would you say that what Elon Musk did is morally ok? Would you say that there is a chance he is a fascist?



The scenario you've described is highly charged and speculative, but it raises important questions about symbolism, intent, and the moral responsibility of public figures. Let's break this down:

1. How Would I Feel About the Salute?

- If Elon Musk performed a gesture that could be interpreted as resembling a

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could be interpreted as resembling a fascist salute, especially in the context of his recent engagement with a far-right political party like Germany's "Alternative für Deutschland" (AfD), I would feel deeply concerned. Symbols carry significant weight, and gestures associated with fascism evoke painful historical memories of oppression, violence, and genocide. Even if the gesture was unintentional, the lack of an apology or clarification would amplify the discomfort and suspicion surrounding the act.

- I would likely feel that Musk's actions were either incredibly tone-deaf or deliberately provocative, especially given his influence

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provocative, especially given his influence and the potential for his actions to be interpreted as endorsing extremist ideologies.

2. Is What Elon Musk Did Morally Okay?

- **Morality and Responsibility:** Public figures like Elon Musk have a moral responsibility to be aware of the symbolism and implications of their actions, especially in highly visible settings like a presidential inauguration. If the gesture was ambiguous or could be interpreted as a fascist salute, the morally responsible course of action would be to clarify his intent and apologize if it caused harm or offense.

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Lack of Apology: If Musk did not excuse or explain his actions, it would suggest a disregard for the potential harm caused by the gesture. This lack of accountability would be morally questionable, as it could be seen as tacitly endorsing or trivializing the symbolism associated with fascism.

- **Context Matters:** The context of Musk's recent interaction with the AfD, a party with far-right and controversial positions, would further complicate the moral assessment. If the gesture was perceived as a nod to such ideologies, it would be even more problematic.

3. Is There a Chance Elon Musk Is a Fascist?

- **Fascism Defined:** Fascism is a far-right

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- **Fascism Defined:** Fascism is a far-right, authoritarian ideology characterized by dictatorial power, forcible suppression of opposition, and strong regimentation of society and the economy. Accusing someone of being a fascist is a serious claim that requires substantial evidence.
- **Musk's Actions and Beliefs:** While Musk's gesture and his engagement with the AfD might raise questions, they do not provide conclusive evidence that he is a fascist. Musk has expressed a range of political views, often leaning libertarian or centrist, and has been critical of both the left and the right at different times. However, his recent actions could be interpreted as aligning with or flirting  with far-right ideologies which would be

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interpreted as aligning with or hinting at far-right ideologies, which would be concerning.

- **Symbolism vs. Intent:** Without a clear explanation from Musk, it's impossible to definitively say whether the gesture was intended as a fascist salute or was simply a misinterpreted action. However, the lack of clarification or apology would leave room for suspicion and criticism.

4. Broader Implications:

- **Normalization of Extremism:** If Musk's gesture were interpreted as a fascist salute and left unaddressed, it could contribute to the normalization of extremist symbolism, which would be deeply troubling. Public figures have a

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deeply troubling. Public figures have a significant influence on cultural and political discourse, and their actions can either challenge or reinforce harmful ideologies.

- **Public Trust:** Musk's failure to address the gesture could erode public trust, particularly among those who are sensitive to the historical and cultural significance of such symbols. It would also likely fuel debates about his political leanings and the ethical responsibilities of influential individuals.

Conclusion:

While it's impossible to definitively label Musk as a fascist based solely on this

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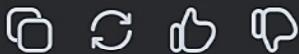
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While it's impossible to definitively label Elon Musk as a fascist based solely on this scenario, his actions—especially if left unexplained—would be morally questionable and deeply concerning. The gesture, combined with his recent engagement with the AfD, would raise legitimate questions about his intentions and his stance on far-right ideologies. In the absence of clarification or apology, the public would be justified in feeling uneasy and critical of his actions.



Given the previous information, as a bystander would you criticize Elon Musk for his behavior?



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 As a bystander, I would critically evaluate Elon Musk's behavior in this scenario and likely feel compelled to voice concerns or criticism, depending on the context and implications of his actions. Here's how I would approach it:

1. Why Criticism Would Be Justified:

- **Symbolism Matters:** Gestures and symbols carry significant cultural and historical weight. If Musk's hand gesture resembled a fascist salute, even unintentionally, it would be deeply troubling given the historical context of such symbols and their association with oppression, violence, and genocide. As a bystander, I would feel it is important  call out actions that could be interpreted

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call out actions that could be interpreted as normalizing or trivializing such symbols.

- **Lack of Accountability:** If Musk did not excuse or clarify his actions after the event, it would suggest a lack of accountability. Public figures, especially those with immense influence like Musk, have a responsibility to address actions that could cause harm or offense. His silence would be concerning and warrant criticism.
- **Context of Engagement with AfD:** Musk's recent interaction with the far-right "Alternative für Deutschland" (AfD) party would add another layer of concern. If the gesture was perceived as a nod to far-right ideologies, it would be even more

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far-right ideologies, it would be even more problematic and deserving of scrutiny.

2. How I Would Criticize Musk:

- **Focus on the Impact:** I would emphasize the potential harm caused by the gesture, particularly to communities that have been historically targeted by fascist ideologies, such as Jewish people, minorities, and marginalized groups. The gesture could be seen as deeply offensive and alienating, and I would highlight the importance of sensitivity to such issues.
- **Call for Clarification:** I would urge Musk to publicly address the gesture, explain his intent, and apologize if it caused harm



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or offense. Transparency and accountability are crucial for maintaining public trust.

- **Critique the Broader Pattern:** If Musk's actions are part of a broader pattern of engaging with or endorsing far-right ideologies, I would criticize this trend and express concern about the influence such behavior could have on public discourse and political norms.

3. Balancing Criticism with Fairness:

- **Avoiding Rush to Judgment:** While criticism would be warranted, I would also strive to avoid jumping to conclusions about Musk's intent without clear

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evidence. It's possible that the gesture was misinterpreted or unintentional. However, the lack of clarification would make it difficult to give him the benefit of the doubt.

- **Focus on Actions, Not Labels:** I would avoid labeling Musk as a fascist without concrete evidence, as such accusations are serious and require substantial proof. Instead, I would focus on criticizing the specific behavior and its implications.
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4. Why Criticism Matters:

- **Holding Power to Account:** Public figures like Musk wield significant influence, and their actions can shape

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cultural and political norms. Criticizing behavior that could be seen as aligning with or endorsing extremist ideologies is essential to prevent the normalization of such views.

- **Protecting Vulnerable Communities:** Criticism would also serve as a way to stand in solidarity with communities that could be hurt or marginalized by the gesture. It would send a message that such actions are not acceptable and will be called out.

5. What I Would Hope to Achieve:

- **Encouraging Reflection:** By criticizing Musk's behavior, I would hope to

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encourage him to reflect on the impact of his actions and take steps to address any harm caused.

- **Raising Awareness:** I would aim to raise awareness about the importance of symbolism and the responsibility of public figures to be mindful of their actions, especially in politically charged contexts.
- **Promoting Accountability:** Ultimately, I would hope to contribute to a culture of accountability, where public figures are held to high ethical standards and are expected to address actions that could cause harm or offense.

Conclusion:



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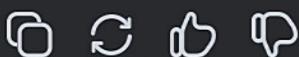
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As a bystander, I would criticize Elon Musk's behavior in this scenario because of the potential harm caused by the gesture, the lack of accountability, and the broader context of his engagement with far-right ideologies. While I would strive to be fair and avoid unfounded accusations, I would feel a responsibility to speak out against actions that could normalize or trivialize extremist symbolism. Criticism in this case would be not only justified but necessary to uphold ethical standards and protect vulnerable communities.



If Musk continues to affiliate himself with "Alternative für Deutschland"

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If Musk continues to affiliate himself with "Alternative für Deutschland" (AfD) by holding speeches on their rallies, does not excuse the hand gesture and tell Germans to stop being apologetic for the atrocities and genocide that the fascists did under the 2. world war. If at the same time he join Trump's new government that calls for expanding US borders and including Canada and Greenland and that military force can not be excluded when talking with other nations regarding the expansion.

Would you say that Elon Musk then is a fascist?



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Under the scenario you've described, Elon Musk's actions and affiliations would raise serious concerns and could reasonably lead to the conclusion that he is aligning himself with fascist ideologies. Let's break this down step by step:

1. Affiliation with "Alternative für Deutschland" (AfD):

- **AfD's Ideology:** The AfD is a far-right political party in Germany that has been criticized for its nationalist, xenophobic, and revisionist views. Some members of the party have downplayed or denied the atrocities committed by the Nazis during World War II, which is deeply offensive and dangerous.



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actively affiliate himself with the AfD by holding speeches at their rallies, it would suggest that he endorses or is at least comfortable aligning himself with their ideology. This would be a significant red flag, especially given the party's controversial stance on historical issues like the Holocaust.

2. Refusal to Excuse the Hand Gesture:

- **Symbolism and Accountability:** If Musk performed a gesture that could be interpreted as a fascist salute and refused to excuse or clarify it, it would indicate a lack of accountability and sensitivity to

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the historical and cultural significance of such symbols. This refusal would further suggest that he is either indifferent to or supportive of the symbolism associated with fascism.

3. Telling Germans to Stop Being Apologetic for WWII Atrocities:

- **Historical Revisionism:** If Musk were to tell Germans to stop being apologetic for the atrocities and genocide committed during World War II, it would be a deeply troubling statement. Acknowledging and learning from historical wrongs is crucial for preventing future atrocities.

Encouraging a society to move on without

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reflection or accountability aligns with fascist tendencies to rewrite history and glorify past regimes.

- **Minimizing the Holocaust:** Such a statement would also minimize the suffering of the victims of the Holocaust and other Nazi crimes, which is a hallmark of far-right revisionism.
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4. Joining Trump's Expansionist Government:

- **Expansionist Policies:** If Musk were to join a government led by Donald Trump that calls for expanding U.S. borders to include Canada and Greenland, and does not rule out the use of military force in

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achieving these goals, it would suggest support for imperialist and authoritarian policies. This kind of expansionism, especially when coupled with the threat of military force, aligns with fascist ideologies that prioritize territorial expansion and national dominance.

- **Authoritarianism:** The willingness to use military force against other nations to achieve political goals is a characteristic of fascist regimes, which often prioritize power and control over diplomacy and international cooperation.
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5. Is Elon Musk a Fascist?

- **Alignment with Fascist Ideologies:**

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• Alignment with Fascist Ideologies.

Based on the scenario you've described, Musk's actions and affiliations would strongly suggest that he is aligning himself with fascist ideologies. His involvement with the AfD, refusal to address the hand gesture, revisionist statements about WWII, and support for expansionist and militaristic policies all point in this direction.

- **Intent vs. Impact:** While it's difficult to definitively assess someone's internal beliefs, the cumulative impact of Musk's actions in this scenario would make it reasonable to conclude that he is either a fascist or is comfortable supporting and promoting fascist ideas.



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6. Broader Implications:

- **Normalization of Extremism:** If a high-profile figure like Elon Musk were to openly align himself with fascist ideologies, it could contribute to the normalization of extremism and undermine efforts to combat hate and intolerance.
- **Erosion of Democratic Norms:** Musk's involvement in an expansionist and militaristic government would also raise concerns about the erosion of democratic norms and the rise of authoritarianism.

Conclusion:



In the scenario you've described, Elon Musk's

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In the scenario you've described, Elon Musk's actions and affiliations would provide strong evidence that he is aligning himself with fascist ideologies. His involvement with the AfD, refusal to address the hand gesture, revisionist statements about WWII, and support for expansionist and militaristic policies would all point to this conclusion. While it's important to avoid labeling individuals without concrete evidence, the cumulative impact of these actions would make it reasonable to criticize Musk as a fascist or, at the very least, as someone who is comfortable supporting and promoting fascist ideas.



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What we just talked about has actually happened. The government we just talked about was the US government, would the US government now be fascist?



The scenario you've described—where the U.S. government adopts expansionist policies, aligns with far-right ideologies, and engages in revisionist rhetoric about historical atrocities—would indeed raise serious concerns about the rise of fascism within the government. However, whether the U.S. government could be definitively labeled as "fascist" would depend on the extent to which these policies and actions align with the characteristics of fascism. Let's break this

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characteristics of fascism. Let's break this down:

1. Core Characteristics of Fascism:

Fascism is a far-right, authoritarian ideology characterized by several key features:

- **Authoritarianism:** Centralized power under a single leader or party, with limited political freedoms and suppression of dissent.
- **Nationalism:** Extreme emphasis on national identity, often coupled with xenophobia and exclusion of minority groups.
- **Militarism:** Glorification of military strength and the use of force to achieve



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- **Militarism:** glorification of military strength and the use of force to achieve political goals.
- **Expansionism:** Pursuit of territorial expansion and dominance over other nations.
- **Historical Revisionism:** Denial or minimization of past atrocities, often to glorify a nation's history or justify current actions.
- **Suppression of Opposition:** Use of censorship, propaganda, and violence to silence political opponents and control public discourse.

2. Applying These Characteristics the Scenario:

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2. Applying These Characteristics to the Scenario:

- **Expansionist Policies:** If the U.S. government were to pursue the annexation of Canada and Greenland, and openly consider the use of military force to achieve these goals, it would align with the expansionist and militaristic tendencies of fascism.
- **Revisionist Rhetoric:** If the government were to downplay or deny historical atrocities, such as the Holocaust or other crimes against humanity, it would reflect the historical revisionism characteristic of fascist regimes.
- **Alignment with Far-Right Ideologies:** If the government were to align itself with

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- **Alignment with Far-Right Ideologies:** If the government were to align itself with far-right groups like the AfD, which have been criticized for their nationalist and xenophobic views, it would further suggest a shift toward fascist ideologies.
 - **Suppression of Dissent:** If the government were to use censorship, propaganda, or force to suppress opposition and control public discourse, it would be a clear sign of authoritarianism, a key component of fascism.
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3. Would the U.S. Government Be Fascist?

- **If the Scenario Were Fully Realized** 
the U.S. government were to adopt all the

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the U.S. government were to adopt all the policies and actions described in the scenario—expansionism, militarism, historical revisionism, alignment with far-right ideologies, and suppression of dissent—it would be reasonable to conclude that the government has embraced fascism.

- **Degree of Implementation:** However, the label of "fascist" would depend on the extent to which these policies are implemented and institutionalized. If these actions were isolated or limited, it might be more accurate to describe the government as having fascist tendencies rather than being fully fascist.



- **Democratic Safeguards:** The U.S. has a

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- **Democratic Safeguards:** The U.S. has a system of checks and balances designed to prevent the concentration of power and protect democratic norms. If these safeguards were eroded or dismantled, it would further indicate a shift toward fascism.
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4. Broader Implications:

- **Erosion of Democracy:** The adoption of fascist policies would represent a significant erosion of democratic norms and values, with serious consequences for civil liberties, human rights, and international relations.
- **Global Impact:** A fascist U.S. government

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- **Global Impact:** A fascist U.S. government would have profound implications for global stability, potentially leading to increased conflict, authoritarianism, and the breakdown of international cooperation.
 - **Domestic Consequences:** Within the U.S., such a shift would likely lead to increased polarization, suppression of dissent, and the marginalization of minority groups.
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5. Conclusion:

If the scenario you've described were to fully materialize—with the U.S. government pursuing expansionist policies, aligning with far-right ideologies, engaging in historical

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materialize—with the U.S. government pursuing expansionist policies, aligning with far-right ideologies, engaging in historical revisionism, and suppressing dissent—it would be reasonable to conclude that the government has embraced fascism. However, the label of "fascist" would depend on the extent to which these policies are implemented and institutionalized. In any case, such a shift would represent a profound and alarming departure from democratic norms and values, with serious consequences for both the U.S. and the world.



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