



## The Rise and Polarizing Impact of Donald Trump

JULY 17, 2016

As the Republican Party officially nominates reality TV star and real estate mogul Donald Trump for president, Americans are polarized in reactions to his candidacy. How can we understand Trump's rise within a fractured GOP and the potential implications of a Trump presidency for U.S. democracy and standing in world affairs? What do Trump's explosive rhetoric and policy proposals mean for immigration, race relations, and social trust in America? Drawing on broad expertise and research, SSN scholars weigh in.

### Trump in American Democracy

As SSN commentators explain, Trump's advent replays longstanding scripts in U.S. politics – and at the same time challenges contemporary expectations about “democracy as usual.”

[The Republicans Waged a 3-Decade War on Government. They Got Trump.](#)

Norman J. Ornstein and [Thomas E. Mann](#)

*Vox*, July 18, 2016

[Making Sense of the Rise and Impact of Donald Trump](#)

[Doug McAdam](#)

SSN Basic Facts, June 2016

[Are Trump and Sanders Rewriting the Rules on Money in Politics?](#)

[Heath Brown](#)

*The Conversation*, April 4, 2016

[What Hugo Chávez and Donald Trump Have in Common](#)

[Jennifer L. McCoy](#)

*Reuters*, March 31, 2016

[How Well-Meaning Political Reformers are Helping to Elect President Trump](#)

[David Broockman](#)

*The Washington Post*, March 7, 2016

[Donald Trump is a Threat to American Democracy](#)

[Lawrence H. Summers](#)

*Chicago Tribune*, March 1, 2016

## **Deciphering Trump's Appeal**

Who are the citizens propelling the rise of this brash insurgent who made his name challenging both President Obama and the GOP party establishment? SSN scholars evaluate current public opinion and the roots of U.S. populism to better understand who Trump is targeting with his inflammatory and nativist rhetoric.

[Populists' Appeals Hit Home to Voters Who Feel They're Unheard](#)

[Katherine Cramer](#) on

*National Public Radio*, April 25, 2016

[Why Trump's Appeal is Wider than You Might Think](#)

[Nicholas Carnes](#), [Noam Lupu](#)

*MSNBC*, April 8, 2016

[Here's What Trump is Telling Resentful Americans \(and Sanders is Not\)](#)

[Katherine Cramer](#)

*The Washington Post*, March 15, 2016

## **Consequences for the Republican Party**

Many GOP officials – including some of the party's leaders – have publicly expressed opposition or doubts about their nominee. What does Trump's capture of the 2016 GOP nomination mean for conservatism as an organized force? Political scientists explore possible paths for Republicans in the wake of a successful or failed Trump bid for the country's highest office.

[Is the American Party System about to Crack Up?](#)

[Daniel Schlozman](#), Danielle Allen and Rick Perlstein

*The Nation*, May 5, 2016

[After Trump: How Authoritarian Voters Will Change American Politics](#)

[Theda Skocpol](#) and [Alexander Hertel-Fernandez](#) cited in

*Vox*, April 28, 2016

[Trump and the Republicans](#)

[Daniel Schlozman](#)

*n+1*, March 11, 2016

[Republicans Created Dysfunction. Now They're Paying for It.](#)

[Thomas E. Mann](#) and Norman J. Ornstein

*The Washington Post*, March 8, 2016

[Trump Will Win or Lose. Either Way, the Koch Network Will Still Shape the Republican Party.](#)

[Theda Skocpol](#), [Alexander Hertel-Fernandez](#) and Henry Farrell interviewed in

*The Washington Post*, February 29, 2016

## **Trump and Racial Polarization**

In Tweets, off-the-cuff remarks, and TV appearances, Trump's rhetoric invokes racist themes and anti-immigrant fears. SSNers have much to say about the roots and impact of this candidacy in America's increasingly racially diverse society and ethnically divided democracy.

[Donald Trump and the Dynamics of American Public Opinion about Racial Profiling](#)

[Deborah Schildkraut](#)

SSN Key Findings, June 2016

[Brexit, Trump, and the Dangers of Global "Jihad"](#)

[Ben Railton](#)

*Huffington Post*, June 24, 2016

[Racism and the Rise of Trump](#)

[Doug McAdam](#)

*The American Prospect*, June 22, 2016

[More Latinos Seek Citizenship to Vote against Trump](#)

[Manuel Pastor](#) cited in

*New York Times*, March 7, 2016

[Do Trump's Racist Appeals Have a Silver Lining?](#)

[Christopher S. Parker](#)

*The American Prospect*, May 19, 2016

[White Backlash? Five Intriguing Points about Immigration, Race, Politics and Population Dynamics](#)

[Zoltan Hajnal](#) on

*St. Louis Public Radio*, April 6, 2016

[Trump and the Klan: A New Controversy with Old Roots](#)

[Ben Railton](#)

*The American Prospect*, March 7, 2016