

With the warnings ignored, the question still remains: IS TRUMP DANGEROUS?



From the early warnings throughout Donald Trump's presidential campaign, to the latest book, *The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump* by 27 psychiatrists, mental health professionals—calling it their ethical obligation and duty to warn the public—have been sounding off these and similar alarms upon deaf ears:

“... we all agree that there is something really wrong.”

“... we all agree that there is something really wrong. There is a mental pervasive disorder characterized by self-interest, aggression, instability, lying, stealing, cheating, and grandiosity; and it actually has a deteriorating cost, so he would just get worse.” — Lynne Meyer, P.h. D., Clinical Psychologist.

“He is a danger to our very democracy. He would destroy it if he could. . . . I would say it's, it's, incredibly ironic, but not an accident, that his campaign slogan was 'Make America Great Again,' when in fact, he is the greatest danger to America in my lifetime.” — Lance Dodes, M.D., Boston Psychoanalytic Society.

“Someone with a narcissistic personality disorder is extremely fragile. They are holding together their sense of self. Through inflating their self-worth. Through bragging. Through getting people around them to admire them at all times. . . . Think of Donald Trump's boast about being the best in everything [‘I will be, the greatest job president that God ever created. I tell you that.']; as a clinician, when you hear that, you have to assume the opposite is what is being feared.” — Harry Segal, P.h. D., Cornell University

In the 2016 Republican primary, Senator Ted Cruz—although not a psychiatrist, psychologist, or mental health professional—said of Donald Trump in a [CNN interview](#): “*This man is a pathological liar. He doesn't know the difference between*

truth and lies. He lies, practically every word that comes out of his mouth. And in a pattern that I think is straight out of a psychology textbook. . . . The man cannot tell the truth, but he combines it with being a narcissist. A narcissist at a level, I don't think this country has ever seen.” (Since this statement, Senator Cruz has been relatively silent.)

Does President Trump have Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD)? That was the question asked in a 2016 live stream [video](#) where a clinical psychologist emphasized that a person with NPD would be a danger if they were in a position of power; such as our president and commander-in-chief. Stressing, if the president has NPD, the concern would be for his lack of stability, impulsivity, and ability to be quickly angered; but most concerning would be “Narcissistic Rage”—when a narcissist, in order to protect him or herself when they feel threatened or attacked, retaliates in explosive and volatile outbursts; reacting maliciously and vindictively, and not considering the implications or consequences of their actions; often holding onto the grudge.



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And for each criticism and slight the president has received, we've seen him lash out in explosive and vindictive attacks; retaliating against media publications, journalists, Goldstar Families, entertainers, U.S. and world leaders, retailers, his past and present administration, government agencies, company executives, athletes, and countries. No one critical of the president, not even Pope Francis, has been spared. His behavior leaving me and my peer group of educators and business professionals asking how the unfathomable—from the president's temperament, outbursts, lack of empathy, divisive rhetoric, pension for lying, extreme grandiosity, and

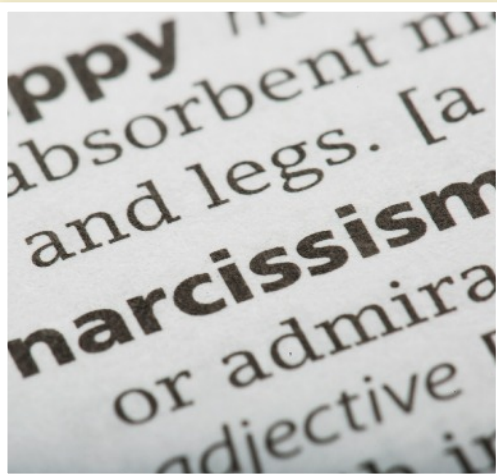


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NPD Symptoms

- Has an exaggerated sense of self importance. Exaggerates talents and achievements.
- Is preoccupied with fantasies of unlimited success, power, beauty, brilliance, or ideal love.
- Believes he/she is unique and can only be understood by, or associate with other special or high status people.
- Requires constant attention and excessive admiration.
- Has a sense of entitlement. (Expects special favors and unquestioning compliance with wishes and expectations.)
- Is interpersonally explosive. (Monopolizes conversations and belittles people they see as inferior.)
- Lacks empathy: is unwilling to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others. (Takes advantage of others to get what they want.)
- Is envious of others or believes others are envious of him/her.
- Shows arrogant, haughty behaviors or attitudes.

Symptoms as defined within The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM - 5, Cluster B) for "Narcissistic Personality Disorder" by The American Psychiatric Association (APA)

narcissistic behavior—continues to be accepted, legitimized, and normalized without rhyme or reason. All of us in disbelief that very few are questioning his mental wellbeing, let alone fitness to be president. Only commenting on his behavior as being “*bizarre*” and “*unstable*,” according to Joe Scarborough of *Morning Joe*; “[r]eckless, outrageous, and undignified” according to Sen. Jeff Flake; “*not normal*” according to Chris Cuomo of *New Day*; to “*crazy*” according to Shep Smith of Fox News.

“Why are my peers and I at a heightened level of concern?”

Why are my peers and I at a heightened level of concern? Because we’ve seen Trump’s type of leadership (questionable business practices, shameful self-promotion, callous decision-making, and massive upheaval) before in corporate America—where Trump comes from—and recall the same conversations about Albert J. Dunlap, Kenneth Lay, Bernard Ebbers, and Bernie Madoff, to name a few. All of which self-destructed and toppled their organizations, if not outright destroyed them. Trump having a similar disposition to that of disgraced businessman, Albert J. Dunlap; the bigger-than-life business icon and author of the book, *Mean Business: How I Save Bad Companies and Make Good Companies Great*.

Known as “Chainsaw Al,” Dunlap slashed company expenses (regardless of their impact), fired employees (while hiring employees based on their loyalty), shuttered facilities (destroying lives and ruining local economies), and caused irreparable damage to the companies he was in charge of turning around. All of which came crashing down following an internal investigation by Sunbeam (the maker of small household appliances, not bread), leading to a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation for “violating the antifraud, reporting, books and records, and internal controls provisions of the

federal securities laws,” according to the SEC. Vehemently denying the charges; Dunlap stated, in a statement released by his attorney as reported by CNN Money, “The accusations made against me by the SEC are totally false.”

The Mental Health Community

Despite the mental health community’s letters to Congress, Duty to Warn conferences, media interviews, articles, petitions, and meetings with congressional members directly, the community’s warnings have continued to go unheard, and the president’s behavior—becoming more brazen, bolder and reckless—continues to go unchallenged. In fact, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WIS), as reported by the [Washington Post](#), in an interview with Fox News’ Brian Kilmeade, indicated that the Republican Party was with Trump. “We’re with Trump. We got together with Donald Trump when he was President-elect Trump and walked through what is it we want to accomplish in the next two years. We all agreed on that agenda. We’re processing that agenda.”



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“Everybody knew that Trump was bizarre. Strange. Was unreliable. Unfit to be president.”

Republicans, to further their party’s political goals, have become the president’s enablers. Refusing to address the danger they’ve been warned about and know exists; and as stated by Dr. Robert Jay Lifton in a [Democracy Now! interview](#), “Everybody knew that Trump was bizarre. Strange.

According to the Mayo Clinic (www.mayoclinic.org), people with narcissistic personality disorder have trouble dealing with criticism or anything (or anyone) they perceive as a threat, and can:

- Become impatient or angry when they don't receive special treatment
- Have significant interpersonal problems and easily feel slighted
- React with rage or contempt and try to belittle the other person to make themselves appear superior
- Have difficulty regulating emotions and behavior
- Experience major problems dealing with stress and adapting to change
- Feel depressed and moody because they fall short of perfection
- Have secret feelings of insecurity, shame, vulnerability and humiliation

Was unreliable. Unfit to be president. It's been known by the hypocritical Republicans for a very long time. But, putting it forward by psychologists and psychiatrists, gives it a certain, greater authority . . ." And as the president's enablers, politicians (both Republicans and Democrats alike), have thrown the American people under the bus. They've become defiant (and complacent) to the fact that he would just get worse as the mental health community has warned. "Power not only corrupts," says Drs. Judith Herman and Bandy Lee in [*The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump*](#), "but also magnifies existing psychopathologies, even as it creates new ones."

So, why has the mental health community's alarms and warnings gone mostly ignored despite the president's behavior and actions substantiating them? The most notable answer—aside from legislators using Trump to promote their own political agenda(s)—lies in the power in numbers, or lack thereof. The mental health community's lack of voices attributed to the 1964 Barry Goldwater campaign where Goldwater ran an identical, vitriolic campaign as Trump did in 2016. Goldwater—it's as if Trump lifted Goldwater's playbook and ran the exact, same, strategies and plays—held massive, stadium-packed rallies (devoid of minorities) which were noted in a [1964 New Yorker](#) article as nothing more than "great carnivals for white supremacy." And although many did not take Goldwater's campaign seriously (as with Trump's), to everyone's astonishment, Goldwater clinched the Republican nomination by the strength of his base and mass following. But his ascension to the presidency would come to a halt after *Fact Magazine* surveyed members of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) for their professional assessment of him. The result was the scathing article, "1,189 Psychiatrist Say Goldwater Is Psychologically Unfit To Be President!" which the magazine emblazoned in bold letters across its cover.

Defeated by Johnson; Goldwater sued *Fact Magazine*, its

publisher Ralph Ginzburg, and the APA for libel as a result of the unauthorized diagnosis of him. Soon after, the APA put forth a statement discouraging its members from making unauthorized diagnosis of public figures which became known as the Goldwater Rule. This



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was reiterated by the APA almost two months after President Trump was sworn into office.

History Mirrored Itself

History has a way of mirroring itself. Whether the reflection is identical, a near reflection, or has glaring imperfections, or is totally unrecognizable, relies on the decisions we make and the environment we create. 52-years-ago, fate was on the side of the American people. Lyndon Baines Johnson was elected the 36th president and his administration became an additive administration—adding value to American citizen's lives—ushering in nearly 200 pieces of legislation, aimed at helping citizens, which included the Civil and Voting Rights Acts, Medicaid and Medicare, and the establishment of consumer safety and environmental regulations.



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One year after Donald Trump's election, we've seen a debasing of our society to its lowest levels. Witnessed reversals on consumer safety and environmental regulations; attacks on the Affordable Health Care Act and Medicaid; and attempts to erode civilian's freedoms, and their civil and voting rights. We've become a more divisive, polarized, and racially charged nation; and the world view of the U.S. has diminished. Many countries believing President Trump will not do the right thing concerning international affairs per a [Pew Research Center survey](#) of 37 countries. (The survey taken before the decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.) Every position, policy, executive order, [budget cut](#), and poised legislation from the Trump administration is tinged with subtractive value; despite campaign promises to help ordinary Americans and "Make America Great Again."

Dr. James Gilligan stated at a [2017 "Duty to Warn" conference at Yale University](#), "You don't have to be an expert on dangerousness, or spend fifty years studying it like I have, in order to know how dangerous this man [Trump] is." And almost one year later, the questions still linger: Is Donald Trump dangerous? Should America—particularly those in Congress, the president's administration, and those within the rank and file of the national Republican and Democratic parties—listen to, or continue to ignore the warnings?

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