



# The Trump Effect: Impacts of Political Rhetoric on Minorities and America's Image

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The Trump Effect:  
Impacts of Political Rhetoric on Minorities and America's Image

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## Abstract

This thesis addresses the impact of President Donald Trump's negative rhetoric on minority groups in the United States and how this has a ripple effect on America's global image and international relations. This research is on the national stability of the United States following the Trump campaign with an analysis of the effects of Trump's divisive political rhetoric. It begins with a brief background on Trump's path to presidency and follows up by distinguishing between hate speech and free speech. Next, it introduces the five main minority groups most affected by Trump's political rhetoric. Following the identified minorities, the research method is introduced followed by the findings and a final conclusion on the impact of Trump's language on the studied groups and the implications this has on US global affairs.

Trump set the precedent of normalizing hate speech as president of the United States and this research reveals the impact of language on national stability and security. This study examines the impact of Trump's political rhetoric on women, religious, and racial minorities based on an analysis of crime statistics motivated by racial, religious, or ethnic intolerance. This research sheds light on the violence minorities have become more susceptible to since the commencement of the divisive 2016 campaign. Through an assessment of these data, the impact of Trump's political language on the stability of the diverse United States population can be observed. This was accomplished by comparing the number of reported hate crimes and violence towards minorities throughout the Trump presidential election to the reports of hate crimes and violence targeting minorities resulting from prior presidential terms. My hypothesis is that Trump's Presidential

ongoing campaign has not only marginalized minorities within the US, but that it has also started to marginalize America from the rest of the world.

Through an analysis of events that took place during the campaign and into Trump's first year in office, incidents of violence and hate crimes that targeted minorities he specifically rebuked in his speeches, and the correlations found between Trump's rhetoric and hate crimes, a conclusion that the Trump effect is detrimental on the overall stability and security of the country can be reached.

This research will help in regulating policies regarding free speech and hate speech, informing policy makers on what should and should not be considered acceptable political discourse particularly when running campaigns. This thesis also sheds light on some of the drastic consequences that are taking place internationally provoked by increasingly harsh political rhetoric, and specifically, I contend, due to the shift from America being perceived as a world leader of change and humanitarian causes to being only "American First."

## Dedication

Alhamdulillah. All Praise is to God.

This work is dedicated to my loving family and friends for their unwavering love and support that has enabled me to achieve so many of my goals and dreams. Their belief and confidence in me is the fuel that keeps me going.

I'd also like to dedicate this work to all the "Others" in America, who seem to never be accepted as American-enough. To Muslim-American brothers and sisters tackling the battles of Islamophobia during such critical times, and African-American and Native-American brethren who have fought the battles of injustice and hate in the United States since its inception, this is for you.

Finally, to all those who experience any sort of injustice, discrimination, marginalization, or hate, based on race, religion, ethnicity, or gender, you belong. When those elected to serve and lead fail at guiding their people in the direction of peace and justice for all, it is up to us as the people of our nations to speak up and hold them accountable for their behaviors and actions. This work is for you.

## Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank Professor Ousmane Kane for his guidance and priceless expertise and contribution in this work. It is truly an honor learning from such a great wealth of knowledge. Thank you for your time, wisdom, and the opportunity to grow under your wing.

I'd also like to thank Professor Doug Bond for his support and insightful feedback in beginning this research. Thank you for your time and guidance.

I could not have accomplished such a hefty task without the direction of you both.

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## Definition of Terms

Anti-Semitism: a term used to depict a fear, dislike, hatred, or contempt towards Jews or those espousing the Judaic faith.

Brexit: Britain's choice to leave the European Union, which was decided by a direct popular vote and passed by just over 50%.

Black Lives Matter: the name of a movement founded in 2013 in response to the disparity in value for black lives in the United States and to bring awareness to police brutality targeting black men across the nation.

Hispanophobia: a term used to depict a fear, dislike, hatred, or contempt towards those who originate from Latin America, more often lumped into the category of xenophobia.

Islamophobia: a term used to depict a fear, dislike, hatred, or contempt towards Muslims or those espousing the Islamic faith.

Misogyny: a term used to depict a dislike or contempt towards women, especially used in describing efforts to suppress women/women's rights.

Stop-and-Frisk: a policy that allows police to stop anyone they suspect of criminal activity for a pat down over their clothing. Stop-and-Frisk has become a contended policy in large urban cities because of the large number of complaints of police brutality and abuses of power in large urban cities with high numbers of

minorities. Many reports of discrimination by police targeting of people of color have surfaced due to Stop-and-Frisk.

People [person] of color: a term used to identify those who are not of European heritage.

Racial Battle Fatigue: the emotional, physical, and psychological toll a person of color experiences due to constant discrimination, micro-aggressions, and stereotype threat.

Xenophobia: a term used to depict a fear, dislike, hatred, or contempt towards those who are different from oneself, especially those from different nations, ethnic backgrounds, or countries.

## Chapter I. Introduction

America rightly prides itself on preserving the values of liberty and equality for all. It has long been idolized as the land of the free, just, and brave for as far back as its tumultuous history takes us. The American first amendment and its protection of free speech is a constitutional right that sets America apart from most countries across the globe. From countries like North Korea to Saudi Arabia, citizens of the greater part of the world could only dream of this form of freedom of expression. Many people throughout the world would give anything for the liberty to express their thoughts and feelings freely outside the confines of their own home. Expressing dissent with government officials and political leaders offers citizens the power to challenge unjust policy and laws and take part in the progress of any nation.

It is assumed that protecting this right unconditionally could only bring forth good for a nation assuring that it continues to evolve with the time and demographics of its population. However, reality proves otherwise. History has taught us that words are extremely powerful and can have very dangerous impacts if expressed unchecked, exponentially so when spoken by political leaders. Although a crucial element of true freedom, the first amendment does not regulate the type of free speech Americans are entitled to. In life, everything has its price and the price of the extension of one entity's liberties includes a natural infringement of the rights of another's.

Striking the balance between one's freedom and another's security has proven to be a difficult task. Insuring that the rights of equality and stability within a nation as

racially, ethnically, and religiously diverse as the American Melting Pot is even so. Accomplishing such a feat may come at the price of regulating absolute freedom of speech. For an infringement of the rights of one upon another defeats the underlying purpose of equality behind the first amendment.

The 2016 Presidential election, challenged the first amendment's confines of the exercise of free speech. Preserving the right that allows public statements that target entire populations of one's own citizens, comments that stir up civil strife or threaten a nation's stability and its international relations defies the unspoken boundaries of free speech. The inception of the 2016 Presidential campaign had the world over questioning what exactly American free speech is and how far its umbrella will stretch to protect hate driven rhetoric that poses serious threats to the security of groups of its citizens and the rest of the world.

### Hate Speech vs. Free Speech: Where do we draw the line?

The American First Amendment has paved the way to justice and equality for Americans for centuries. It is a golden rule that protects all citizens from the abuse of power by the government and allows them to express themselves without fear of persecution or harm. The protection of free speech is essential to progress in any organization, society, or government and this right, promised to all American citizens, has been protected for as far back as it dates. However, when does the protection of this right become a disservice to the American people? As all things are in this world, if this liberty is not regulated it can surely be abused and taken to an extreme. So, at what point should the American people label free speech as hate speech? Is there a barometer of

language use that we can put to the test of questionable rhetoric that can redefine what constitutes free speech as opposed to hate speech? And if so, can we outlaw divisive language that fits the definition?

The 2016 Presidential campaign definitely brought these questions to the limelight of political and legal discussions regarding the rights to free speech. In June 2017, the Supreme court affirmed that any legal regulations of free speech would pose a threat to the freedom of it and consequentially make legal regulation of speech unconstitutional.<sup>1</sup> However, the spike in reports of hate crimes that swept the nation with the racist rhetoric employed by Donald Trump during his campaign and into his Presidency lead us to question the impacts of unregulated speech on the well-being of a nation.

In this thesis, we will explore the impacts of Trump's language use on the security and stability of the United States with an emphasis on the impacts of his rhetoric on minorities in the United States. First, a brief background of the events leading to his run for presidency will be introduced, then a synopsis of the American demographic and how it has evolved, followed by the approach to this research and its findings, and finally reaching a conclusion on the impacts of Trump's rhetoric on the domestic stability of the United States and the implications of his language on American global affairs.

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<sup>1</sup> Volokh, 2017

## Background

On June 16, 2015 news releases across the country flooded with reports of Donald Trump's bid for United States Presidency. After 8 years of Barack Hussein Obama's leadership, the first African-American President with Muslim lineage,<sup>2</sup> Trump felt inclined to commence his presidential campaign stating that the country needed somebody that could make America great again, and expressed that he would take on the task.<sup>3</sup> Although Trump had no background in politics, law, or international affairs, he had the wealth to fund his own campaigning and the fame and following through his celebrity status to drive it forward. His billionaire prestige and popularity gave him the head start he needed to jump right into the run for United States Presidency.

Throughout his campaign, Trump repeatedly called on his supporters to use violence, saying that protesters should be taken out on stretchers, he would foot any legal bills should they arise from such violence, and that he, when met with a protester, would personally like to have "punched him in the face."<sup>4</sup> When a black man was attacked at one of his rallies for protesting for the Black Lives Matter movement,<sup>5</sup> Trump justified the attack, by tweeting that the protester "should have been roughed up."<sup>6</sup> The list goes

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<sup>2</sup> Holan, 2010

<sup>3</sup> DelReal, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> O'Connor & Marans, February 29, 2016.

<sup>5</sup> Black Lives Matter: the name of a movement founded in 2013 in response to the disparity in value for black lives in the United States and to bring awareness to police brutality targeting black men across the nation.



on to include the bombing of a mosque in Canada,<sup>7</sup> a Sikh man being shot in 2016 in Seattle having been mistaken for a Muslim,<sup>8</sup> and two men being stabbed to death by a white nationalist as they defended a Muslim girl wearing a head scarf on a train in Portland from a barrage of insults by a nationalist, who demanded she go back to Saudi Arabia.<sup>9</sup> All these incidents, and plenty more occurring with the fervor of Trump's political rhetoric throughout his bid for presidency and into his term in office.

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<sup>6</sup> O'Connor & Marans, February 29, 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Dougherty, January 31, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Moshtaghian, Wu, & Cullinane, March 6, 2017.

<sup>9</sup> CNN Wire, May 30, 2017.

## Chapter II. The Illustrious American Identity: A Brief History of US Demographics

The United States of American is a nation built upon diversity. It is a nation that promises people of all ethnicities, religions, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and background equality and the opportunity at reaching the heights of success and prosperity. Because of this promise, many people from all across the globe have bought into this American dream and immigrated to this country either to flee persecution or in pursuit of an opportunity at a better life. As far back as the history of the United States takes us, we see that immigration has been one of the central traits of this country. Scholars and Researchers unanimously concur on this note. “From the founding days of the republic to present times, international migration has been the defining attribute of American society.”<sup>10</sup> If this feature of American demographics distinguishes it from most other developed nations across the globe, why has immigration become such an issue of great dissent in modern American politics and why do we see such a magnitude of social fragmentation across the United States even in this modern day and age? To better understand the demographic of modern day America and the perceived threats associated with immigration, let’s briefly revisit America’s immigration history. America’s foundation was based on immigrant populations building a new life, oceans away from their native land. With the exception of Native Americans, who now comprise

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<sup>10</sup> Hirschman, Kasinitz, & Dewind, 1999, 1.

only a minute segment of today's American population, all other citizens today are either immigrants, descendants of immigrants, or descendants of Africans brought to the America's forcefully through slavery.

In 1492 Europeans stumbled upon the Americas en route to the Near East and began its colonization of the land, killing off the majority of its indigenous population with the establishment of the new nation. In 1776 the United States of America was founded, on the principles of equality and liberty mentioned above. Although the founding fathers were of European descent, they built the nation on the backs of enslaved Africans, a large proportion who were Muslim.<sup>11</sup> Within 85 years, the principles enshrined in the constitution were challenged and civil war across the young nation erupted. In January of 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation granted African slaves their freedom and led the United States one step in the direction of its current demography.<sup>12</sup>

As the Age of Mass Migration<sup>13</sup> swept the nation and no restrictions on international migration initially established, waves of immigrants from all over the world filled the labor force, again transforming the national population.

America's door was essentially open to all immigrants willing and able to come. It was not until 1917 that the U.S. Congress took measures to restrict immigration with literacy requirements and an expanded prohibition of Asian immigration. A few years later, the Quota Law of 1921 imposed numerical restrictions for the first time on immigration from

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<sup>11</sup> Derosa, 2016

<sup>12</sup> Schwartz, 2015

<sup>13</sup> Carter & Sutch, 2006, 5.

non-Western Hemisphere countries and then these quotas were reduced in 1924. The impact was dramatic.<sup>14</sup>

Due to unregulated immigration policies and an appetite for growth, the country's immigrant population continued to transform. Within just a few generations, the growing nation's racial and cultural image became a weave of diverse threads.

Today's number of recent immigrants is rapidly growing. *The Handbook of International Migration* tells us that "[m]ore than 50 million Americans – one-fifth of the total population – are immigrants or the children of immigrants."<sup>15</sup> With a nation founded on the immigration of its people from all across the globe, it is inconceivable to define such a country with a homogeneous race, culture, or uniform identity. This is exactly what makes America so exceptional; its strength through its diversity, promise for equal opportunity, and evolution of a global identity.

It is hard to imagine any part of American history or popular culture that has not been touched by immigration. The Statue of Liberty is perhaps the most widely understood cultural icon of American society, both at home and abroad...The notion that almost any person from anywhere can "make it in America" has had a powerful impact on the image of America abroad and at home.<sup>16</sup>

However, due to this unique American trait and an evolving image of an American, many Americans with early European ancestry feel that their idea of an American identity is being threatened by an influx of immigrants. They fail to realize that a distinguished characteristic of what defines an American is that it is based on an

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<sup>14</sup> Carter & Sutch, 2006, 5.

<sup>15</sup> Hirschman, Kasinitz, & Dewind, 1999, 1.

<sup>16</sup> Hirschman, Kasinitz, & Dewind, 1999, 1.

evolving, malleable culture that has no uniform color or face. This perceived threat to an identity that is not truly defined is what drives much of the political discussion surrounding immigration policies as well as the struggles for social equality battled by minority communities in America. “The debates over immigration law are part of the larger question of national identity that influences almost every aspect of political, social, and cultural life.”<sup>17</sup>

So, if America is truly just a melting pot of cultures or a salad bowl of races, how does that look? If equal opportunity is promised to all, does a particular image drive the policies and social privileges that favor certain segments of the American public than others? Why are some opportunities more accessible to Americans that fit that certain envisioned image of who an American is and who created that image to begin with? Finally, how does the American dream truly manifest itself in reality and who is getting marginalized?

### African-Americans

According to the 2010 United States Census, African-Americans account for 12.6% of the U.S. population.<sup>18</sup> African-Americans have a deep and painful history in the United States. There is a small percentage of African immigrants that came to the land freely and do not share the American history of slavery and the struggle for human and civil rights that most African-Americans do. A greater number of African-

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<sup>17</sup> Hirschman, Kasinitz, & Dewind, 1999, 8.

<sup>18</sup> US Census, 2010

Americans in the United States are descendants of slavery, brought across the Atlantic in bondage, on slave ships to be owned by white European-Americans. The chapter of this period in world history is grim and carries a huge burden of collective guilt on the world for all the suffering endured by millions of Africans that fell victim to this atrocity. The United States is especially admonished for this grave racial injustice because the nation was established through the blood, sweat, and tears of this oppressed group of people, and the consequences of this era of injustice remain until today.

African-American history dates back to the 16th century. Estimates suggest that roughly 14,650,000 African slaves were shipped across the Atlantic to the New World between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>19</sup> After the liberation of slaves in the United States, black people in the US continued to be enslaved through a system of oppression that ensured they would never experience the same levels of equality as their white counterparts. These include Jim Crow legislation, social restrictions, and institutional barriers. With remnants of white supremacy alive and widespread, African-Americans still continue to face institutionalized racism from achieving true freedom and equality alongside their fellow white Americans. Today, the African-American minority battles structural and cultural violence, gross misrepresentation in the media that fuels policies and brutal treatment towards them, and racism of all forms in every aspect of their day to day lives.

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<sup>19</sup> Curtin, 1972, 5.

Policies including “Stop and Frisk”<sup>20</sup> targeting black and Latino diasporas across the country, agendas that perpetuate police brutality and mass incarceration, voter suppression tactics targeting black communities, and little to no sentencing for law enforcement taking innocent black lives during traffic stops are all symptoms of the inherited anti-black racism that continues to plague the United States until today.

The Black minority has seen a 2016 political campaign unfriendly to them. Besides self-proclaiming himself to be the man who started the Birther Movement, Trump refused to acknowledge that President Barack Obama was indeed a citizen until September 2016. He also refused to indicate that he no longer believed Obama was a Muslim, implying that being Muslim was un-American. Trump also refused to condemn David Duke, a former KKK leader at least three times during a live CNN Interview with Jake Tapper.<sup>21</sup> As he took office he responded to racial justice issues with extreme leniency towards violent white nationalists and severe intensity towards peacefully protesting black athletes. Trump’s response to the Charlottesville murder that ensued due to protests pertaining to the removal of controversial confederate statues trivialized the magnitude of the crime. White supremacist, Neo-Nazi James Alex Fields Jr. rammed his vehicle at full speed into a crowd of counter protestors injuring 19 people and killing one.<sup>22</sup> Other reports of violence erupting during this protest were also reported.

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<sup>20</sup> Elkins, 2015

<sup>21</sup> Collinson & Diamond, September 16, 2016.

<sup>22</sup> CNN, August 13, 2017.

Trump's Presidential address was directing equal blame for the bloodshed on both parties and dismissing the alt-right's accountability for initiating such a violent event. Rather than condemning the death of an innocent protestor in support of racial equality, the president further described the alt-right protesters as including "very fine people," and justifying the actions carried out by the alt-right through implications that they were provoked to carry out such acts of violence by the opposing group. In regards to admonishing peaceful demonstrations of racial injustice by black athletes, Trump had no hesitation reproaching numbers of these national stars.

Trump expressed a blatant pre-dispositioned response towards black NFL players taking a knee during the national anthem in silent protest towards police brutality targeting people of color.<sup>23</sup> Although these athletes committed no crime by merely exercising their right to protest, Trump unleashed an infuriated and enraged response referring to the athletes in derogatory terms on public television and suggesting they be fired for this exercise of free speech.<sup>24</sup> In striking contrast, the white nationalists in Charlottesville violated many laws, broke out in riots of violence, and their actions resulted in murder and domestic terrorism. However, Trump's stance towards the white supremacists was dismissive due to the race of the protestors.<sup>25</sup> His obsessive criticism of the first black president or black athletes standing for social justice in comparison to his

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<sup>23</sup> People [person] of color: a term used to identify those who are not of European heritage

<sup>24</sup> Tatum, September 23, 2017

<sup>25</sup> Brownstein, September 25, 2017



complacent approval towards white nationalist reveals the algorithm to Trump's values system towards equality and social justice for Americans. The disparity in the President's responses to each event that took place reveals the means of determining Trump's perceptions of right and wrong as President of the United States and leader of the free world. Leadership that basis its value system on this type of racial inequality paves the way for hate crimes and violence towards anything other than white nationalists.

### Hispanics

Latino-Americans are descendants of Spanish speaking territories and states including Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Spain. They are also commonly referred to as Hispanic-Americans. At 16.3% of total United States population,<sup>26</sup> Hispanic-Americans are the second largest ethnic minority group in the United States following those who identify as white. Whites, however, also include different unspecified non-Hispanic sub-groups such as Arabs in this census. This indicates that Anglo-American whites, actually comprise a smaller percentage of US population than that which is indicated in the 2010 US Census.

Hispanic-Americans have been in the United States since as far back as the land has had its earliest European explorers. With early Spanish explorers reaching all the way to the West coast, Hispanic-Americans have a deep-rooted history on American land.

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<sup>26</sup> US Census, 2010

Although a significant proportion of this American minority can trace themselves back to the foundation of the nation, a large fragment of the Hispanic-American population today are recent immigrants from the neighboring country Mexico. Mexican Latinos comprise over half of all Hispanic-Americans.<sup>27</sup> With a high demand for seasonal farm labor along the western United States, many Mexicans were able to find work in these western states and chose to migrate.

Although the abundance of low wage labor helped farmers sustain their industry, the influx of new Mexican immigrants posed a threat to the pre-existing culture in the region, instigating tensions between white and Hispanic Americans and propelling anti-Mexican sentiments by white Americans across the US.

Donald Trump made headlines when he commenced his campaign with a call to deport Mexicans, stating “When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best...They’re bringing drugs; They’re bringing crime; They’re rapists, and some, I assume, are good people.”<sup>28</sup> The call was heard, and many Americans, resentful of economic disparity, gladly accepted that their economic strife was a result of illegal immigration and joined in on his chants to build a border wall along the southern US border, with the promise of Mexico footing the bill. Although Trump offered no material plans as to how he intended to accomplish this outlandish guarantee of protecting the United States from the unsubstantiated infiltration of criminals from the Mexican border, scapegoats quickly cheered him on. This heated assertion began paving the path to

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<sup>27</sup> Gutrel, 2008

<sup>28</sup> Washington Post Staffer. June 16, 2015.

normalizing racist rhetoric and marginalizing a significant population of the American people.

As Trump's campaign continued unchecked and his divisive demeanor defended and applauded, Trump was emboldened by his followers and reciprocated their support by promising to protect those who acted out in violence towards those he opposed. When his supporters beat up a Hispanic homeless man, one saying to police, "Donald Trump was right-all these illegals need to be deported," rather than denouncing their actions, Trump responded with praise that his followers (these men) were passionate and loved this country.<sup>29</sup> To further his prejudice claims towards Mexicans, Trump went on to attack the veracity of an esteemed United States Judge. In response to a judicial ruling against his failed University, Trump accused Judge Gonzalo Curiel of Mexican descent of an inability to be impartial as a direct result of his Mexican heritage. "He's a Mexican. We're building a wall between here and Mexico. The answer is, he is giving us very unfair rulings-rulings that people can't even believe."<sup>30</sup> The reality that a Presidential candidate would publicly insult the integrity of an honorable Judge by employing such racist statements was responded to with shock. Outcries against Trump's speech were heard immediately following each statement. But Mexicans were not alone.

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<sup>29</sup> O'Connor & Marans, February 29, 2016.

<sup>30</sup> Washington Post Staffer, June 16, 2015.

## Women

The 2010 United States census suggests that women make up 51% of the national population.<sup>31</sup> American women are equally as racially and ethnically diverse as the entire US demographic. Women also comprise 55.2% of college students although men in the United States continue to earn significantly more than women with equal or similar qualifications.<sup>32</sup> According to the Center for American Women and Politics,

In 2017, 105 (78D, 27R) women h[e]ld seats in the United States Congress, comprising 19.6% of the 535 members; 21 women (21%) serve[d] in the United States Senate, and 84 women (19.3%) serve[d] in the United States House of Representatives.<sup>33</sup>

That's a significant underrepresentation of women in United States government. Hillary Clinton was the first female presidential candidate to reach the primaries. She faced much harsh sexist criticism and attacks from adversary Donald Trump and his followers during her run for presidency.

Women in the United States have set precedent for women's rights for many others throughout the globe, even so, the struggle to get women to the point they have reached in America today was no easy task. The beginning of the women suffrage movement dates back to 1848 but efforts towards women's equal rights can be traced

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<sup>31</sup> Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2016 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Release Date: June 2017

<sup>32</sup> US Census, 2016

<sup>33</sup> Center for American Women and Politics, 2017

back all the way to 1807.<sup>34</sup> Women in America have been fighting for equal rights for centuries. In this study, they are identified as a minority group because they are underrepresented in government and leadership and like other groups, were targeted by Trump's hate speech during his 2016 presidential campaign.

Women were repeatedly objectified and victimized by Trump during his Presidential Campaign. Trump was unrelenting on vocal females, often attacking them personally or insulting them based on their physical appearance. Trump demeaned women publicly since 2015, with amplified rage towards his female opponents or those who he felt were attacking him. Starting with suggestions that Carly Fiorina, his Republican primary opponent, could not attain votes because of her looks, Trump shamelessly continued fueling his campaign by attacking the personal life of his primary opponent Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate. Trump claimed Clinton was to blame for her husband's past infidelity in reference to the Monica Lewinsky scandal. He asserted that Mrs. Clinton lacked the ability to fulfill her role as a wife by stating she could not satisfy her husband and enabled him to cheat. Trump continued his run for presidency ignorantly addressing highly sensitive policy issues concerning women's rights using an equally sexist tone and insular approach to evaluating national policies. He blatantly stated that women who get abortions should face criminal punishment with a complete disregard for the pertinent discussions surrounding this

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<sup>34</sup> Fawcett, 1912, 8.

critical issue. Trump's sexist rhetoric goes on to him calling journalist Megyn Kelley a bimbo and reigniting a feud with former Miss America, Alicia Machado, again reiterating that she "gained a massive amount of weight." He then continued by tweeting that Machado had a sex tape.<sup>35</sup> He built momentum by fueling his campaign through language he referred to as mere "locker-room talk" rather than addressing real issues with solid arguments and operative politically relevant dialogue. This vile campaign delivered him his Presidency, taking him to the most powerful leadership role in the world, albeit based on faulty and divisive foundations.

### Jews

It is believed that along with Muslims and Christians, some Jews accompanied Columbus when he sailed to America.<sup>36</sup> The Jewish American demographic also has deep roots in American colonial history. The Jewish community grew in number in the 1800s as immigration to the United States grew. Many German Jews fleeing the Holocaust found refuge in the United States in the early to mid 1900s. They began growing their communities by building places of worship and small businesses, specifically along the United States east coast. Many Jews were politically engaged, and pursued higher education, climbing the American social ladder of success rapidly. Today,

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<sup>35</sup> Cohen, January 20, 2017.

<sup>36</sup> Peters, 1905.

Jewish Americans are 3% of the United States population, concentrated in diasporas within urban cities along the east coast.<sup>37</sup>

With antisemitism targeting many people of the Jewish faith, this minority has faced its share of struggles. Along with other marginalized communities, Jews were objects of discrimination throughout American history.

Is the American milieu ready to fuel a poisonous political climate, where demonizing an entire ethnic or religious community is seen as acceptable? America's history clearly speaks to severe discrimination against other groups, such as African Americans, Hispanics, women, gays and lesbians, and many others. But perhaps no community in the West has been the victim of millennia-long persecution and "othering" campaigns as have the Jews.<sup>38</sup>

Although there has been a drastic shift of prejudicial focus since the events that took place September 11, 2001, persecution for religious identity is nothing new to United States hate trends.

Jews saw many attacks and stereotypes hurled their way during the Trump presidential campaign as well. While speaking to the Republican Jewish Coalition in a December 2015 fundraiser, Trump repeatedly made comments regarding Jews and money. In July 2016, Trump retweeted a picture of Hillary on a magazine cover from a white supremacist/neo-Nazi forum, with money in the background, and the Star of David in front, insisting that it was a harmless figure that he himself had created. Upon taking office, Trump refused, on multiple occasions, to denounce the anti-Semitic violence that

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<sup>37</sup> Pew Research Center, 2015 & Jewish Virtual Library, 2017

<sup>38</sup> Aslan & Tapper, 2011.

was making national headlines. Then as a final blow, while speaking at the Holocaust Memorial on Holocaust Remembrance Day, he did not mention Jews as being the main targets of the Holocaust altogether.<sup>39</sup> Shortly, thereafter, a forthcoming surge in desecration of Jewish synagogues and bomb threats seized Jewish communities nationwide.

Trump's attitudes towards Jews demonstrate his xenophobic views regarding this group of people domestically. However, with his hate towards Muslims evidently stronger, Trump made the divisive decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital on December 6, 2017.<sup>40</sup> This controversial decision shook the world, jeopardizing nearly half a century of peace talks and undermining one of the central components of the two-state solution that had long been discussed. This bold and reckless move sparked protests and violence to erupt in Jerusalem and earned the condemnation of 128 nations in the United Nation's emergency assembly addressing this decision. This further proved to be another poorly executed decision by Trump in marginalizing the US from the greater part of the international community.<sup>41</sup> This heedless decision instigated anger and hate towards people of the Jewish faith domestically and further expanded the divide between Muslims, Jews, Arabs and Israelis on the global stage.

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<sup>39</sup> Collinson & Diamond, September 16, 2016.

<sup>40</sup> Landler, 2017

<sup>41</sup> Chacar, 2017 & Gaouette, 2017



## Muslims

Of all the marginalized minorities, none have faced so much discrimination and attacks as the Muslim community throughout the Trump campaign and into his presidency. In recent years, Muslims have become the most targeted people in the United States with reports of hate crimes continuously increasing towards this group. Due to the events that took place September 11, 2001 and the media's continuous racial profiling of Muslims, xenophobes throughout the country have redirected their hate towards Muslims. Muslim Americans also became the group most targeted by Trump's hate speech and divisive political rhetoric. However, Muslims are an integral part of American society and have been on the land since as far back as American foundational history can be traced.

As a matter of fact, Thomas Jefferson's copy of the Quran that was referenced prior to his drafting of the Declaration of Independence was used for swearing in Senator Keith Ellison, the first Muslim to be elected to Congress, and also the first African American elected from Minnesota to serve in the United States House.<sup>42</sup> Reports of Islam in America dates back to pre-Columbus days indicating that Muslim explorers, mostly Berber-Africans and Moors had already explored this part of the globe centuries prior to Columbus's infamous voyage to the Americas. Muslims can also be traced back to the Portuguese and Moor explorers that accompanied Columbus on his expedition across the Atlantic.<sup>43</sup> With the spread of Islam throughout North Africa and

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<sup>42</sup> Robson, 2006

<sup>43</sup> Curtis, 2009, 4.

the Iberian Peninsula, the region consisted of many Muslims, some who took part in Columbus's journey. Funded by Queen Isabella of Spain just after the fall of Muslim Andalusia, Spain, reports of Columbus's crew being racially and religiously diverse indicate that Muslim and African seamen sailed the Great Atlantic in 1492. Once in the new world, some continued to explore and travel west in search of treasures and gold.<sup>44</sup>

Within a couple of centuries, the transatlantic slave trade would bring more African Muslims to the Americas, however in bondage. Along with explorers, many Africans that were brought to the new world as slaves were Muslim. Most slaves brought to America through the transatlantic slave trade were shipped from West Africa and the Senegambia.<sup>45</sup> Islam was spreading widely in the region at the time and reports of Arabic-speaking Muslim Africans and their stories are recorded. Although rarely referenced, the stories of historical figures such as (Ayuba) Job Ben Solomon and Abdulrahman Ibrahim Ibn Sori, Muslim African-American slaves, are well documented in American history and serve as clear indicators of the presence of Muslims in early America.<sup>46</sup>

With the abolition of slavery and the termination of the transatlantic slave trade in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, African Muslim slaves were no longer being forced to America. The

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<sup>44</sup> Curtis, 2009, 5.

<sup>45</sup> Curtin, 1972.

<sup>46</sup> Austin, 1997 & Diouf, 2013.

ones that had already arrived had struggled to maintain their religious identity and beliefs or forced out of their religious practices, converting to Christianity or losing their Muslim identity without embracing another religious practice. However, the population of Muslims in America continued to grow through immigration.

History reveals that people of all faiths and colors have always played a major role in great global shifts, yet white supremacists and ethnocentrics continue to omit the details that show the relevance of other races or faiths in the making of American history. Today, most Americans have internalized these racially and religiously exclusive narratives and are ignorant of these historical foundational realities.

Surges of Muslim immigrants can be traced back to the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Immigrants have been coming to America for many reasons. Like all other immigrants, Muslims came in search of better opportunities. Many came for economic reasons, while others came in pursuit of education. Some were fleeing war, religious, or political persecution. Others came as seamen and disembarking, residing and building lives in America.<sup>47</sup> Large numbers arrived to New York and intermarried African and Mexican Americans, weaving their ethnicities into the diverse threads of past generations of Americans. With Muslims migrating from Europe and Asia followed by Arab-Muslim immigration, Muslim immigration to the United States is nothing new.

Today, Muslim Americans comprise of an estimated 1% of the United States population.<sup>48</sup> They work in all fields and contribute to American society in Education,

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<sup>47</sup> Curtis, 2009, 50.

<sup>48</sup> Pew Research Center, 2015.

Technology, Engineering, Science, Medicine, Business, and Government. As all other aforementioned minorities, Muslim Americans have deep seeded roots in American soil. Migration push and pull factors also contributed to the growth of the Muslim population in America. With the decline of Muslim powers throughout the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and the Asian subcontinent, many Muslim populated nations began to experience a shift in emigration trends. With wars, religious persecution, and political strife impacting these Muslim populated regions, many immigrants were pushed to leave their home countries.<sup>49</sup>

Some were fleeing violence while others sought out better educational and economic opportunities. Compounded by the pull of America's religious liberties, promising future, and lax immigration policies at the time, many Muslims migrated to the US. Many of these early Muslim American immigrants were met with the harsh realities of surviving as first-generation immigrants once they arrived to the country. Moving to a foreign land where the culture, language, beliefs, and way of life was drastically different limited their job opportunities and they struggled for economic survival. Although most of these early immigrants intended on returning to their ethnic lands prior to their emigration, the realities of economic hardship consumed that dream. Instead, they were forced to leave behind parts of the ethnic and religious identities and assimilate into the new world they were a part of.<sup>50</sup> In attempts of blending into mainstream American culture, most changed their names, adopting more Euro-Christian sounding conversions

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<sup>49</sup> Smith, 2010, Chapter 3.

<sup>50</sup> Smith, 2010, Chapter 3.

instead, and abandoned religious practices they once held dear. Interfaith families slowly stripped younger generations of traditional religious practices and Muslim American immigrants slowly evolved a new cultural identity, that was more American than anything else.<sup>51</sup>

In more recent waves of Muslim immigration, we see large numbers of refugees fleeing war and violence from corrupt and failed states. Although they too suffer similar challenges as early Muslim American immigrants, they have the religious and cultural support of fellow Muslim Americans that have been here for generations before. In the era of Trump, Muslim Americans have come to learn that the push and pull factors that lead them to their new home country are the points of contention Trump uses to target them in his speech and push forth his Anti-Muslim policies and bans.

Initially, Trump began by calling for a ban against all Muslims entering the United States during his presidential campaign. In March 2016, Trump declared in a CNN interview “Islam hates us,” and thereafter issued a call for the surveillance of mosques in the US, and indicated he favored creating a database of Muslims in the US.<sup>52</sup> This language ignited an irrational fear towards Muslims that empowered Trump to make promises of policies that would discriminate against this faith group. He went on to attack the family of a Gold Star Army Captain by claiming that the bereaved mother’s Muslim faith prevented her from speaking about her son while on stage alongside her grieving husband.

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<sup>51</sup> Smith, 2010, Chapter 3.

<sup>52</sup> Lee, May 23, 2017.

Once in office, Trump attempted to actualize his ban on Muslims entering the US by signing three executive orders, two of which have been stricken down by Appeals Courts across the nation. His rhetoric, adopted and espoused by his administration, began citing fictitious events as rationale for the ban; events such as the “Bowling Green Massacre,” which according to US Counselor to the President, Kellyanne Conway, purported that Muslims attacked and killed Americans, but was never reported on in the media (because no such event had ever occurred); a claim which she was later forced to walk back.

Shortly thereafter, the administration released a list of attempted and successful attacks in the US, which were deemed terrorist attacks, with the list including only non-White perpetrated, mostly Muslim, offenses, a departure from the Obama administration’s policy of labeling crimes as terrorism without regard to the race of the perpetrator. Then on May 26, 2017, President Trump issued a statement intended on wishing Muslims a Happy Ramadan, but that included a chastisement and berating of Muslims not doing enough to fight terrorism in three of the four paragraphs of the message.

In November 2015, the South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) organization began collecting data on hate crimes targeting minority groups most often associated with Muslim identity. SAALT conducted a study on the impacts of xenophobic political rhetoric towards South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern and Arab communities finding that anti-Muslim violence significantly increased within

the time span of Trump's campaign.<sup>53</sup> A collection of xenophobic political rhetoric gathered indicated that 30% of anti-Muslim hate speech came from or was inspired by President-elect Trump.<sup>54</sup> This violent language inspired a surge of aggression targeting those that racially or culturally identify with any characteristics of Muslim identity. Along with the incitement of direct violence, political opponents vied for votes with promises for the implementation of structurally violent policies targeting Muslims or minorities often perceived as Muslim. With political leaders normalizing hate speech and transforming it into official systematic policy, hate groups felt empowered and hate crimes towards Muslims and related minorities soared. The direct result of this rhetoric was that hate crimes against Muslims increased by 67% (according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation) from 2014 to 2015, the year Trump commenced his campaign.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> SAALT, 2017, 3.

<sup>54</sup> SAALT, 2017, 16.

<sup>55</sup> US Department of Justice, 2015.

### Chapter III. The Problem with White Supremacy

White Supremacy is an ideology based around the notion that the white race is superior to all other races, particularly in relation to blacks. Skin color is used as a measuring standard towards the treatment of people; the lighter skinned a person or group is, the closer they resemble those of white European descent and therefore the less inferior they are deemed by white supremacists and the less chance of them falling victim to aggression caused by this ideology. It is a bigoted belief that is the root to many of the racist and discriminatory behaviors and policies enacted towards people of color. People who are visibly different than the image set by white supremacists either by shade of skin or religious attire, such as the Jewish yamaka or a Muslim hijab, are usually targets of white supremacist violence. Places of worship and neighborhoods with high concentration of minorities are also commonly targeted by these individuals through hate crimes involving acts of vandalism, arson, or physical violence or systematic policies that aim to keep the communities marginalized. However, when people who hold white supremacist ideologies are elected into office, their violence towards minority groups is manifested in different forms and carried out from a higher level. It is emboldened, given a platform to exercise, and has an indirect, yet greater detriment on society. These bigoted officials are then able to act upon these xenophobic beliefs through systems of institutionalized racisms, structural violence, and marginalization policies.

The constant struggle of coping with such various forms of racism and discrimination often takes a significant psychological and emotional toll on many of these



targeted people. In 2003, researcher William Smith of the University of Utah coined the term *racial battle fatigue*<sup>56</sup> upon his findings from a study on the impacts of racially charged micro-aggressions towards black male students in predominantly white universities.<sup>57</sup> Through surveys and interviews, Smith gathered data from 36 students throughout the United States regarding the racial stressors they face and the toll these stressors take on them. The study revealed that black males and people of color face daily micro-aggressions that build up and have a taxing impact on their productivity, overall well-being, and potential for success. This is excluding policies, quotas, and structural forms of marginalization that minority communities face. Through this study, we see how the cultural acceptance of white supremacist ideologies weave into the fabric of a society and succeed in marginalizing minorities that identify as anything but white. Although the ideology may not be specifically incorporated into the law, it finds its way into the marginalization of groups through psychological conditioning and micro-aggressive social behaviors.

The ideology of white supremacy contradicts the American constitution and undermines the pillars of justice and equality the nation was established upon. With the United States being a land of liberty and peace for all, there is no space for ideologies that favor one race above all others or beliefs that deem entire faith groups as targets for hostility. White supremacy is un-American and causes a divisive rift throughout a nation built on the shoulders of diversity.

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<sup>56</sup> Racial Battle Fatigue: the emotional, physical, and psychological toll a person of color experiences due to constant discrimination, micro-aggressions, and stereotype threat.

<sup>57</sup> Smith, 2007

## Chapter IV. Research Problem

Trump's campaign and ongoing hate speech is marginalizing minorities in the United States and creating a negative view of the United States of America to the rest of the world. Minorities in any country face an uphill battle in asserting their rights and constantly struggle for acceptance by the societies in which they live. They face intolerance continuously as the vicious cycles of discrimination and violence come and go. Minorities are often scapegoated unjustly when anything in a nation goes wrong. Any drastic change in a country's economy, national policies, or demographics poses a perceived cultural threat to the majority population. This triggers a re-emergence of previously buried sentiments of racism, xenophobia, misogyny, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism, feelings of racial, ethnic, or gender superiority that were believed to have been resolved in past cycles of social intolerance resurface in the views of society, causing a new series of violence and discrimination targeting the most vulnerable minority groups. Politicians have exploited the fears of the majority populations to fuel their campaigns and win votes. President Donald Trump particularly capitalized on this distasteful campaigning strategy to win the 2016 Presidential election. Whereas in the past, waves of discrimination were usually instigated by major acts of injustice or drastic events, the main reason for the 2015-2017 spikes of violence and negative public sentiments

targeting minority groups has been directly attributed to the 2016 Presidential Campaign.<sup>58</sup>

Following the 2016 Presidential campaign of repeatedly negative rhetoric against minorities, the FBI released its annual Hate Crimes Report and revealed that hate crimes had surged by a whopping 7%; from 5462 in 2014 to 5850 in 2015.<sup>59</sup> The following year, reports continued to rise to 6121 incidents reported in 2016.<sup>60</sup> To directly link the rise of hate crimes to the political rhetoric, we need to examine the surrounding political events that may have spurred the violence to erupt. The rise in violence towards specific groups or changes in policies that target particular minorities will inform the impact of Trump's hostile language towards these people.

### Research Methods

An analysis of hate crime reports gathered over the past four presidential terms will reveal the impact of each political leader's presence on society's sentiments towards particular groups. The fluctuation of hate crimes towards certain groups will inform us on the change of public hostility towards these groups over the years. Assessing the change in levels of hostility towards minorities throughout the terms being studied in relation to major events that occurred will determine the measure of impact these events had on

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<sup>58</sup> Bouie, 2016.

<sup>59</sup> US Department of Justice, 2015.

<sup>60</sup> US Department of Justice, 2017

public sentiments towards groups. Of these events, the catastrophic attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 are included.

The data gathered are based on reported incidents of discrimination or violence that targeted the aforementioned groups. Reports of a spike in hate crimes targeting groups Trump rebuked during his campaign or offenders attributing the motivation for their crimes to Trump speeches or his policy changes are considered evidence of indications of Trump's rhetoric inciting violence towards minority groups. Due to a variation in minority populations, hate crime reports were plotted based on their percentage of change to demonstrate how the events that unfolded each year affected the levels of hostility each minority group faced. These findings are displayed in graphs and tables found in the Research Findings section of this study.

Data gathered through surveys conducted regarding negative opinions and reports of violence towards domestic minority groups that were targeted by Trump's negative rhetoric and post-election discriminatory policy changes also inform the findings of this study. Survey and poll data collected from national think tanks and social service organizations that service targeted minority groups as well as civil rights and anti-discrimination organizations are incorporated into the findings. These data are plotted along line graphs spread out over years, corresponding with elaborations on the sequence of national events that may have spurred variations in the data. An examination of events in which Trump publicly issued statements vilifying minority groups will also be included as national events that may have triggered any changes. Events are selected based on an observation of media reports, survey findings of well-reputed organizations, and critical issues that were most prevalently discussed throughout the years.

A comparative analysis is then done to evaluate the impact of Trump's hate speech on domestic stability, international relations, and security based on the data found as opposed to the results found during past presidential leadership. Based on those findings, conclusions regarding Trump's political language and the impact it has on national stability and international security for the United States are drawn.

Data are gathered from organizations including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), American Civil Liberty Union (ACLU), South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), and the Pew Research Center.

The FBI releases an annual publication of data on hate crimes that are reported across the country based on an array of traits. Of those, race, ethnicity, gender, and religion are included. A selection of this collection of data was used to compare the variation in reports of hate crimes prior to Trump's campaign, to the year of its commencement, 2015, and into the year of his election, 2016.

The ISPU is a well-established think tank that collects data that impacts Muslim Americans. It was established in 2002 and continues to be one of the most significant databases for gathering information pertaining to the Muslim American community. Considering that much of Trump's immigration and foreign policies, along with his political rhetoric directly and significantly impacted the Muslim American minority, ISPU serves as a reliable and relevant source for gathering data for this study.

The ACLU was founded in 1920 to preserve civil rights of all Americans and offer protection from the abuse of power and violation of constitutional rights by the government against citizens. It has become a well-reputed organization at the forefront of

the fight to preserve civil liberties. This organization has a history of civil rights advocacy and a history of reports tracking violations of civil rights by the government. The ACLU has been addressing Trump's efforts at implementing unconstitutional policies targeting all minority groups and has compiled data on all related incidents since the beginning of the Trump campaign.

SAALT is a non-profit organization that works towards racial justice and civil rights advocacy for South Asians. Due to Trump's emphasis on anti-Muslim rhetoric and the large number of Muslim South-Asian Americans as well as the overwhelming resemblance of South-Asian Americans with Muslim and Arab Americans, SAALT has conducted a research to gather statistics regarding the growth of hate towards this minority group during the 2016 Presidential campaign.

The Pew Research Center provides empirical evidence on opinions as well as reports of violence that minorities experienced throughout the era of Trump's campaign and his first year in office. Pew Research Center is well-reputed for its non-biased, fact-based, and highly credible statistical reporting that is often referenced regarding policy making domestically as well as internationally. Data gathered from the Pew Research Center's database is generally recognized as highly reliable and valued.

Reports from major news sources such as *CNN* and *The New York Times* have also been referenced for the sake of this study. Since media plays an integral part in influencing public opinion, observing news sources are key to this study. The data gathered are analyzed and used to draw conclusions about the impact of Trump's political rhetoric on the aforementioned minorities. Statistics of hate crimes reported over the past four presidential terms serve as the primary measuring tool in this study for the effects of

negative rhetoric on minority groups. An investigation of the data in relation to national events will inform whether specific domestic issues were addressed by past Presidents in a manner that may have triggered the insurgence of violence towards minorities that reported a change in number of hate crimes. For instance, due to the significant increase in crimes targeting Muslims in 2001, I investigated the language used by President Bush during that time in addressing the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. I researched news articles to assess President Bush's approach in regards to the national crisis and compared it to the language use of Trump regarding issues of terrorism. The statistics reported for the 2015 and 2016 hate crimes towards Muslims following Trump's rhetoric inform the impact of Presidential language on the public.

Similar findings for other mentioned minority groups such as African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and Jews are also included. The findings reveal the impacts, if any, of President Trump's hostile rhetoric towards these groups. This information is then projected to shed light on the international perception of America's image and any lasting effects Trump's language will have on international relations. It is also used to assess the role Trump's rhetoric played in pushing discriminatory policy changes towards the mentioned groups and how these policy changes impacted Americans domestically as well as America abroad.

After analyzing the data, if there is little to no significant statistical evidence of violence or weakening of America's international perception resulting from Trump's rhetoric, then it can be concluded that Trump's political rhetoric and hate speech does not impact national stability or international relations. This would indicate that Trump's rhetoric is not as harmful as originally hypothesized to be. On the other hand, if a

correlation between national violence, international security, and Trump's choice of language is found, then it can be concluded that hate speech by political leaders can incite acts of domestic violence and threaten international stability.

### Research Limitations

This research will be limited to existing statistics on reported crimes against minorities over the last decade and a half. Data on hate crimes are often inaccurate due to a variety of reasons. Many victims of such crimes often do not come forward and report these crimes due to fear or lack of support. Many of the crimes that are reported are dismissed as minor offenses and not categorized as hate crimes motivated by prejudice when they often are due to a lack of evidence regarding the motivation or an aim at a lesser sentencing for the offender. Due to this reality, many of the statistics reporting on crimes committed towards minority groups are often under-representative of their reality. Furthermore, since undocumented immigrants are a large number of those targeted by Trump's speech and many consequent hate crimes; the fear of deportation prevents them from reporting incidents of violence they experience. Minorities in general tend to experience higher levels of fear and distrust towards law enforcement and are more reluctant to report crimes. This undoubtedly hinders the ability to gather an accurate measure of data regarding the impact of Trump's rhetoric on minority groups in the United States. Another limitation regarding the data used for this study include the amount of data available at the time of the study. Considering that this research has been conducted within the first year of Trump's Presidential term, hate crimes statistics for the year 2017 were unavailable as of the date of this research and the impacts of his first year



of leadership could not be thoroughly measured. The data are limited to the hate crime reports available throughout his campaign and election year and we must rely on other means of assessing impact for the years that follow.

Another limitation of this study is regarding the classification of those targeted by hate crimes. Minorities with Middle Eastern and North African roots are categorized as “white” on most national databases, and in the FBI’s record of hate crime reports. This drastically impacts the findings because these groups do not visibly identify as white and are often targeted due to their non-white physical identity through hate crimes. However, their attacks are often reported under the classification of anti-white incidents due to a classification of their ethnic roots being categorized as white. This detracts from the data that could inform anti-Muslim sentiments and inaccurately feeds into higher reports of hate-crimes fueled by anti-white sentiments

It is important to effectively and critically analyze the data gathered for this research in relation to other reports available and events unfolding to ensure that it is interpreted in a way that best reveals the impact of Trump’s rhetoric on marginalized minorities and domestic stability rather than its influence merely on public opinion. This can be done effectively by concentrating our conclusions on the statistics of the crimes, analysis of polls, and the effects of policy changes that have followed his campaign and presidency.

## Chapter V. Research Findings and Data Analysis

The data reveal the impact of Trump's language on minorities and America's global image. The series of events that took place starting in 2015 during Trump's campaign influenced events that unfolded on into the year after. The data evidently reveal that Trump's hate-inspired comments directly incited people towards violence. The statistics bare the change in violence towards minorities as Trump began his campaign. We start with data at the beginning of President George W. Bush's term in 2000. The data demonstrate that hate crimes reached an all-time high in the year 2001. It is evident that the events of September 11, 2001 played a significant role in these results. As we assess the data thoroughly, it is important to keep in mind that different minorities throughout the country comprise of different sizes of the population.

Table 1 gives a breakdown of population sizes of the US demography based on recent collections of data through the US Census and Pew Research Center. It is important to note that the white category includes many people who don't physically identify as mainstream white. For instance, Arabs, Lebanese, and Moroccans are often targeted in anti-Muslim violence, however, they may identify as white based on US Census data. Therefore, categorizing hate crimes may not be as accurate as we would like. Furthermore, because different size populations constitute different minorities, the impact of violence specifically targeting each group may have a larger magnitude depending on the size of the minority population. For instance, looking at Table 3 may give the impression that Whites were more severely impacted by hate in 2001 than

Muslims were because the number of anti-White incidents was nearly twice as much as anti-Muslim, however, because Muslims are a very small minority of the US, only about 1%, the magnitude of the hate targeting this minority is much greater. Violence directed at this minority is impacting a greater portion of its population than that of a much larger group. Therefore, using percentages of change also serves as a useful measure of hate trends over the years.

<b>Table 1</b>		
<b>US Demographic Populations<sup>61</sup> by Minority</b>		
<b>Minority Group</b>	<b>Most Recent Minority Population Estimates</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
White <sup>62</sup>	248,485,057 <sup>63</sup>	76.90%
Black	45,672,250 <sup>64</sup>	14.13%
Hispanic	58,000,000 <sup>65</sup>	17.95%
Jews	5,700,000 <sup>66</sup>	1.76%
Muslims	3,300,000	1.02%
Females	164,148,777	50.80% <sup>67</sup>
<b>Total US Population</b>	<b>323,127,513<sup>68</sup></b>	<b>100%<sup>69</sup></b>

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<sup>61</sup> Calculations are estimates based on data available.

<sup>62</sup> “White: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes people who indicate their race as "White" or report entries such as Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Arab, Moroccan, or Caucasian.” (US Census, 2014)

<sup>63</sup> US Census, 2014

<sup>64</sup> US Census, 2014

<sup>65</sup> Pew Research Center, 2017

<sup>66</sup> Pew Research Center, 2013

<sup>67</sup> US Census, 2016

<sup>68</sup> US Census, 2014

<sup>69</sup> Totals may not add up to exactly one hundred percent.

Table 2 and Figure 1 display the trends of hate crimes reported across the country from the year 2000 until the year of Trump’s election, 2016. A sharp rise in hate crimes peaks in the year 2001. This is likely due to the events of 9/11 that are believed to have provoked many Americans to direct their frustrations and fears towards Muslims. However, after the decline of reported hate incidents in 2001, we see hate crimes peaking again in 2008, the year President Obama was elected into office, and after steady decline, incidents again begin to rise in 2015 and 2016, the years Trump leaderships began to surface.

Incidents reported on the following tables and figures are based on data collected from the FBI’s National Annual Hate Crime Reports.

Table 2	
Total Annual Hate Crimes	
Year	Incidents Reported
2000	8063
2001	9730
2002	7462
2003	7489
2004	7,649
2005	7,163
2006	7,722
2007	7,624
2008	7,783
2009	6,604
2010	6,628
2011	6,222
2012	5,796
2013	5,928
2014	5,479
2015	5,850
2016	6,121

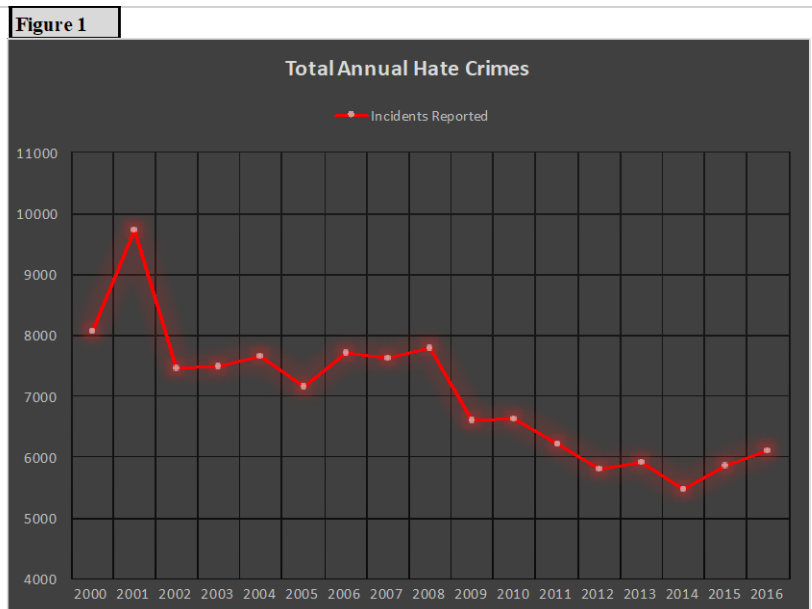
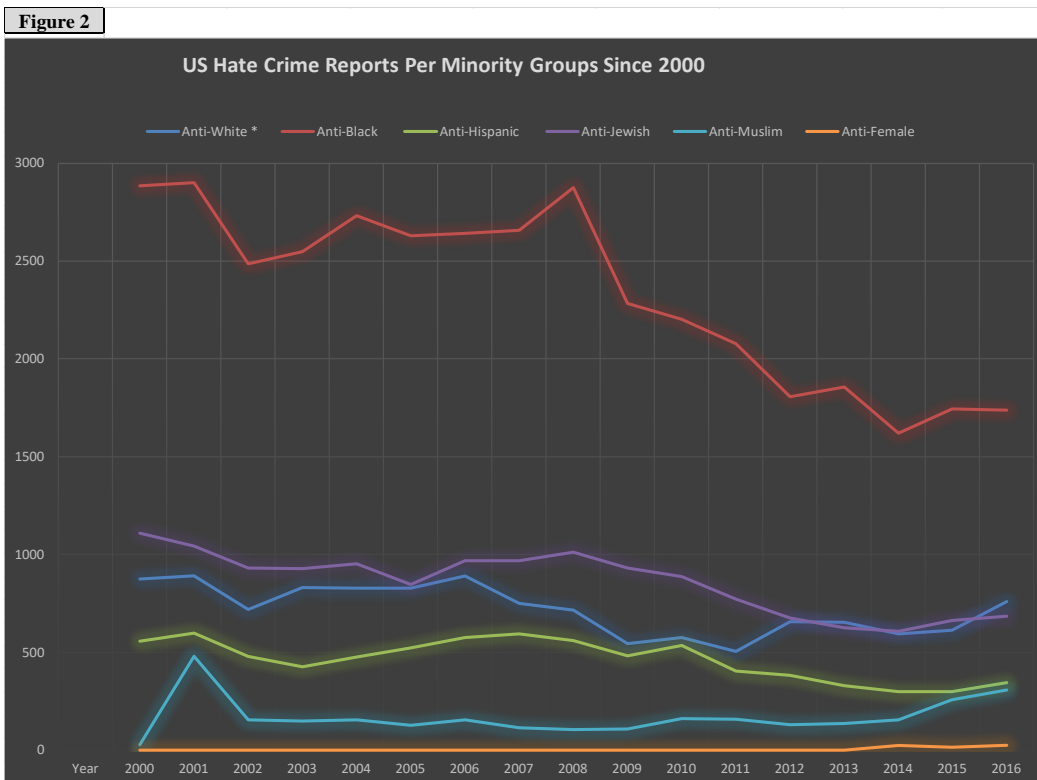


Table 3 and Figure 2 display the number of incidents targeting the different groups throughout the country from 2000-2016. It is evident that Black or African Americans suffer the most hate incidents across the country, however, hate targeting this group is at a steady decline. In 2008, we see the incidents targeting Black/African

Americans increased drastically after steadily declining in relation to the first black president being elected into office. Following Obama's inauguration, hate crimes dropped and continued to drop at a significant rate, particularly towards Black/African Americans. This reveals a lot about the effect of political leadership and its impact on minority groups in the US. It sheds light onto the Trump effect regarding 2015-2016 hate crime trends.

Incidents reported on the following tables and figures are based on data collected from the FBI's National Annual Hate Crime Reports.

<b>Table 3</b>						
<b>Hate Crime Reports by Group Bias</b>						
<i>Bias Motivation</i>	<b>Anti-White *</b>	<b>Anti-Black</b>	<b>Anti-Hispanic</b>	<b>Anti-Jewish</b>	<b>Anti-Muslim</b>	<b>Anti-Female</b>
<b>Year</b>						
2000	875	2884	557	1109	28	N/A
2001	891	2899	597	1043	481	N/A
2002	719	2486	480	931	155	N/A
2003	830	2548	426	927	149	N/A
2004	829	2731	475	954	156	N/A
2005	828	2630	522	848	128	N/A
2006	890	2640	576	967	156	N/A
2007	749	2658	595	969	115	N/A
2008	716	2876	561	1013	105	N/A
2009	545	2284	483	931	107	N/A
2010	575	2201	534	887	160	N/A
2011	504	2076	405	771	157	N/A
2012	657	1805	384	674	130	N/A
2013	653	1856	331	625	135	N/A
2014	593	1621	299	609	154	23
2015	613	1745	299	664	257	16
2016	760	1739	344	684	307	24
*WHITE includes people having origins in Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes those of Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Arab, Moroccan, or Caucasian decent.						



Although Black/African American hate incidents are higher than any other minority, Table 4 shows that Black/African American hate is decreasing at an average rate of about 2.75% a year, dropping from 2884 to 1621 reported incidents a year, until the year Trump launched his divisive campaign. In 2015, anti-Black incidents began to rise again after following a decline.

Table 4 and Figure 3 of our data demonstrate that the highest percent increase of hate crimes from the year 2000 to 2001 were towards Muslims. With an astounding increase of nearly 1618% in hate crime incidents targeting Muslims that year, it is evident that this minority group became the central focus for negative public sentiment following the events of 9/11 and the media's coverage of the War on Terror. Along with hate crimes, many policies targeting this minority such as efforts in Countering Violent

Extremism through surveillance of Muslim communities continued to perpetuate hate towards this small group. Table 4 and Figure 3 display the impact on each minority over the 16 years being studied. As all other minority groups declined in hate crime incidents throughout the first four presidential terms of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we see that hate incidents targeting Muslims continued to rise with an average increase of 103.5% over the 16 years.

Incidents reported on the following tables and figures are based on data collected from the FBI's National Annual Hate Crime Reports.

Table 4										
Percent of Change of Hate Crimes for Each Group										
	Anti-White *		Anti-Black		Anti-Hispanic		Anti-Jewish		Anti-Muslim	
Year	Incidents	Percent change	Incidents	Percent change	Incidents	Percent change	Incidents	Percent change	Incidents	Percent change
2000	875		2884		557		1109		28	
2001	891	1.83%	2899	0.52%	597	7.18%	1043	-5.95%	481	1617.86%
2002	719	-19.30%	2486	-14.25%	480	-19.60%	931	-10.74%	155	-67.78%
2003	830	15.44%	2548	2.49%	426	-11.25%	927	-0.43%	149	-3.87%
2004	829	-0.12%	2731	7.18%	475	11.50%	954	2.91%	156	4.70%
2005	828	-0.12%	2630	-3.70%	522	9.89%	848	-11.11%	128	-17.95%
2006	890	7.49%	2640	0.38%	576	10.34%	967	14.03%	156	21.88%
2007	749	-15.84%	2658	0.68%	595	3.30%	969	0.21%	115	-26.28%
2008	716	-4.41%	2876	8.20%	561	-5.71%	1013	4.54%	105	-8.70%
2009	545	-23.88%	2284	-20.58%	483	-13.90%	931	-8.09%	107	1.90%
2010	575	5.50%	2201	-3.63%	534	10.56%	887	-4.73%	160	49.53%
2011	504	-12.35%	2076	-5.68%	405	-24.16%	771	-13.08%	157	-1.88%
2012	657	30.36%	1805	-13.05%	384	-5.19%	674	-12.58%	130	-17.20%
2013	653	-0.61%	1856	2.83%	331	-13.80%	625	-7.27%	135	3.85%
2014	593	-9.19%	1621	-12.66%	299	-9.67%	609	-2.56%	154	14.07%
2015	613	3.37%	1745	7.65%	299	0.00%	664	9.03%	257	66.88%
2016	760	23.98%	1739	-0.34%	344	15.05%	684	3.01%	307	19.46%
Percent of Change Averages over 16 years	0.13%		-2.75%		-2.22%		-2.68%		103.53%	
*WHITE includes people having origins in Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes those of Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Arab, Moroccan, or Caucasian decent.										

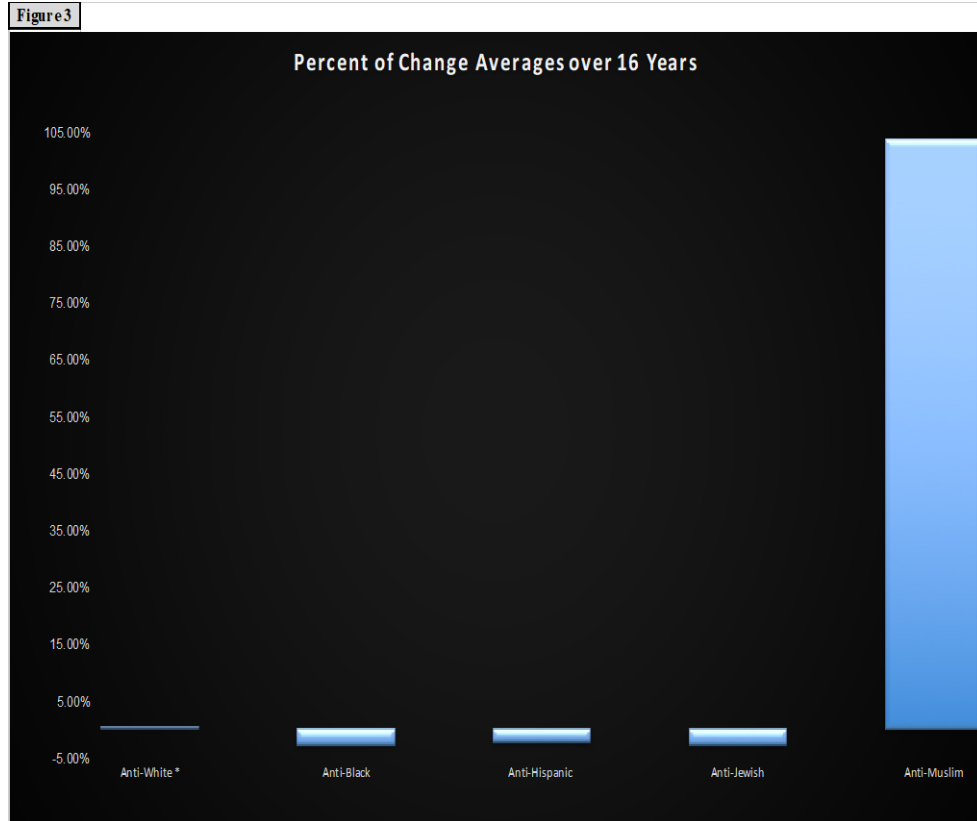
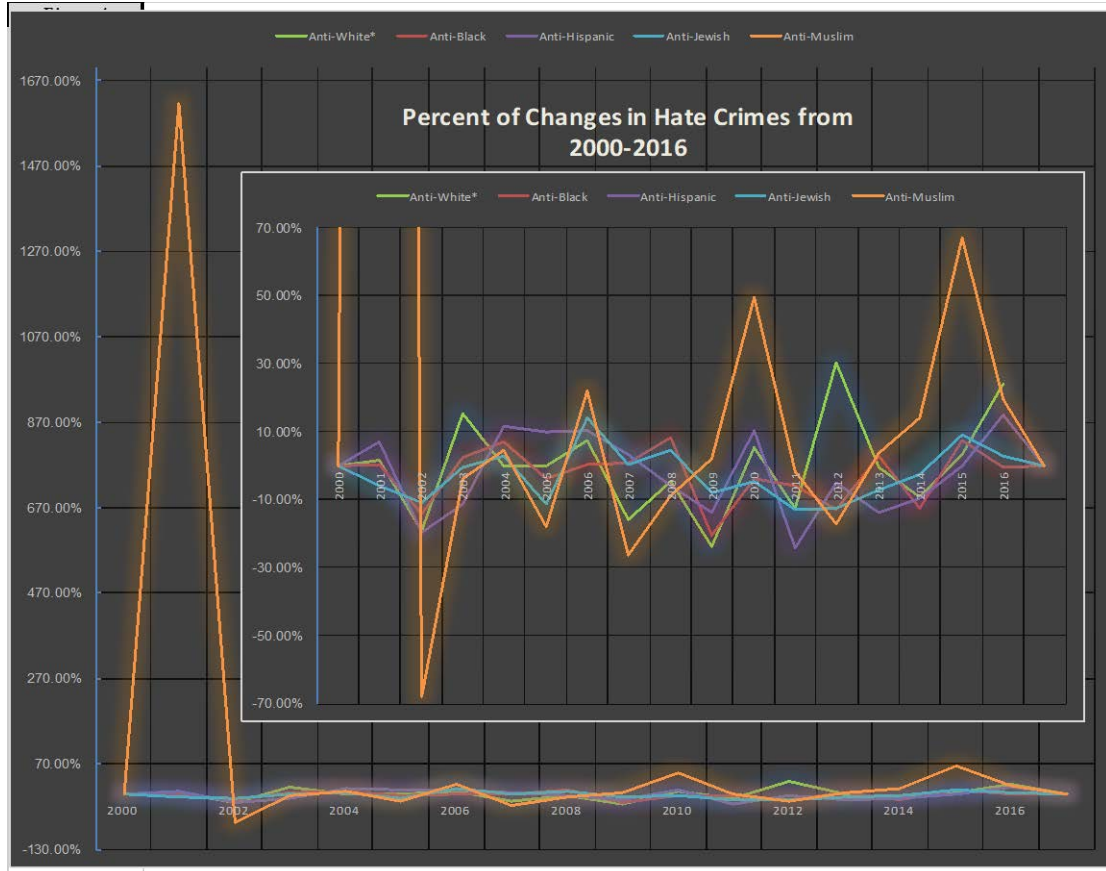


Table 5 and Figure 4 display the percentages of change in hate crimes over the 16 years analyzed. This shows the trends for each minority painting a clearer image of the impacts of hate on each group. It is apparent that Muslims are the group most impacted by an increase of hate over the 16 years of this study.

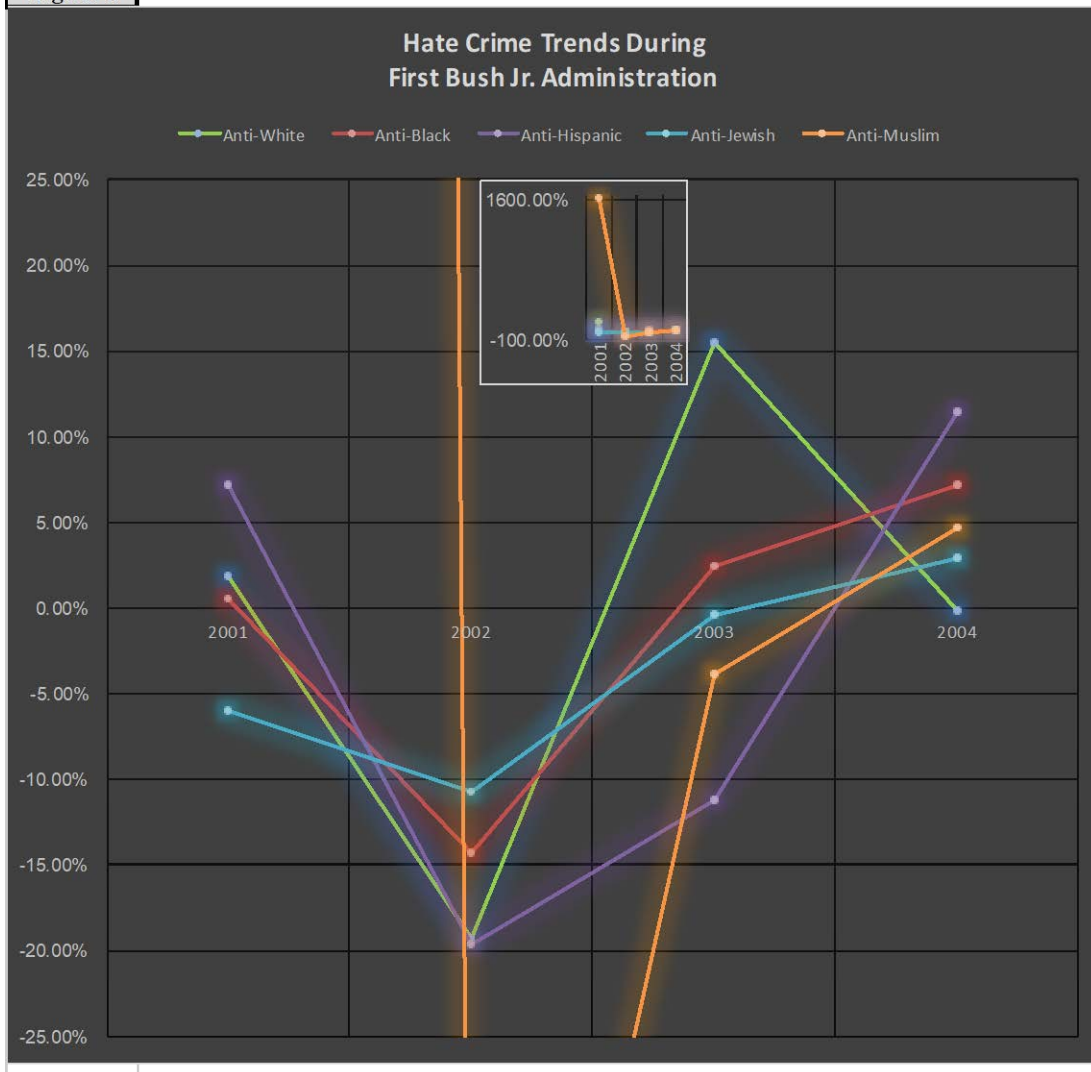


Table 5					
Percent of Change of Hate Crimes for Each Group					
Year	Anti-White*	Anti-Black	Anti-Hispanic	Anti-Jewish	Anti-Muslim
2000					
2001	1.83%	0.52%	7.18%	-5.95%	1617.86%
2002	-19.30%	-14.25%	-19.60%	-10.74%	-67.78%
2003	15.44%	2.49%	-11.25%	-0.43%	-3.87%
2004	-0.12%	7.18%	11.50%	2.91%	4.70%
2005	-0.12%	-3.70%	9.89%	-11.11%	-17.95%
2006	7.49%	0.38%	10.34%	14.03%	21.88%
2007	-15.84%	0.68%	3.30%	0.21%	-26.28%
2008	-4.41%	8.20%	-5.71%	4.54%	-8.70%
2009	-23.88%	-20.58%	-13.90%	-8.09%	1.90%
2010	5.50%	-3.63%	10.56%	-4.73%	49.53%
2011	-12.35%	-5.68%	-24.16%	-13.08%	-1.88%
2012	30.36%	-13.05%	-5.19%	-12.58%	-17.20%
2013	-0.61%	2.83%	-13.80%	-7.27%	3.85%
2014	-9.19%	-12.66%	-9.67%	-2.56%	14.07%
2015	3.37%	7.65%	0.00%	9.03%	66.88%
2016	23.98%	-0.34%	15.05%	3.01%	19.46%
*WHITE includes people having origins in Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes those of Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Arab, Moroccan, or Caucasian decent.					



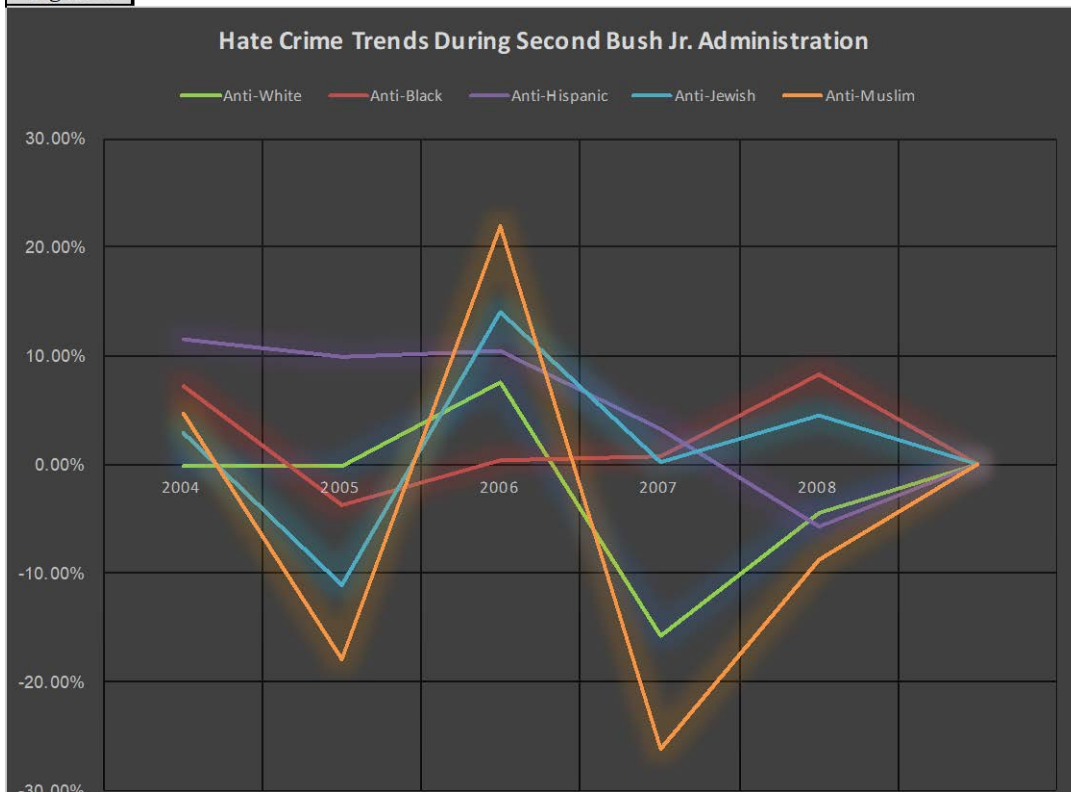
Tables 6-10 and Figures 5-9 give a closer look of these trends throughout each presidential term. Again, we can see that the greatest increase of hate is experienced by Muslims and continues to increase with Trump's election.

Table 6					
Hate Crime Trends During First Bush Administration					
Year	Anti-White	Anti-Black	Anti-Hispanic	Anti-Jewish	Anti-Muslim
2001	1.83%	0.52%	7.18%	-5.95%	1617.86%
2002	-19.30%	-14.25%	-19.60%	-10.74%	-67.78%
2003	15.44%	2.49%	-11.25%	-0.43%	-3.87%
2004	-0.12%	7.18%	11.50%	2.91%	4.70%

**Figure 5**

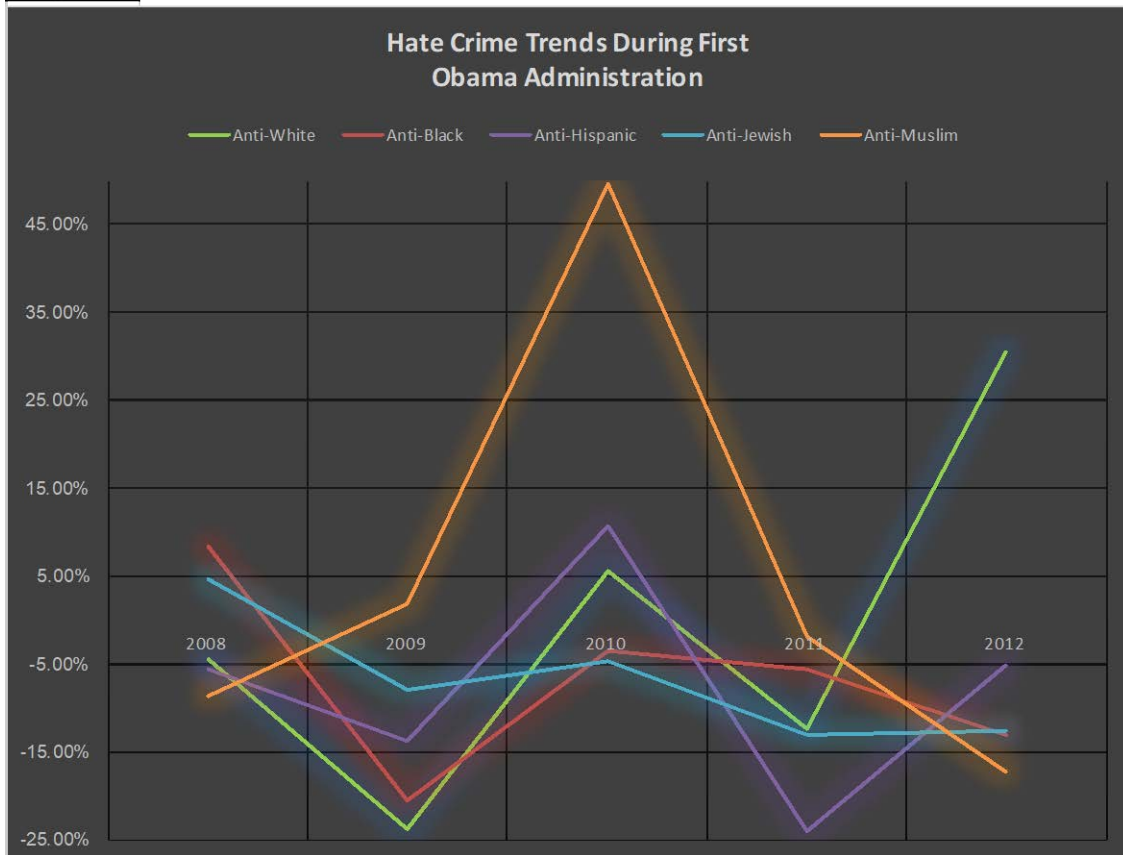
With Bush's first term, we can attribute much of the hate directed towards Muslims to the events of 9/11, but then in 2006 we see another rise of hate towards that group.

Table 7					
Hate Crime Trends During Second Bush Administration					
Year	Anti-White	Anti-Black	Anti-Hispanic	Anti-Jewish	Anti-Muslim
2004	-0.12%	7.18%	11.50%	2.91%	4.70%
2005	-0.12%	-3.70%	9.89%	-11.11%	-17.95%
2006	7.49%	0.38%	10.34%	14.03%	21.88%
2007	-15.84%	0.68%	3.30%	0.21%	-26.28%
2008	-4.41%	8.20%	-5.71%	4.54%	-8.70%

**Figure 6**

As President Obama took office, we saw a decrease in hate crime incidents throughout most of his first term. In 2010, there is a sharp rise in anti-Muslim incidents followed by a rise in anti-white incidents in 2012.

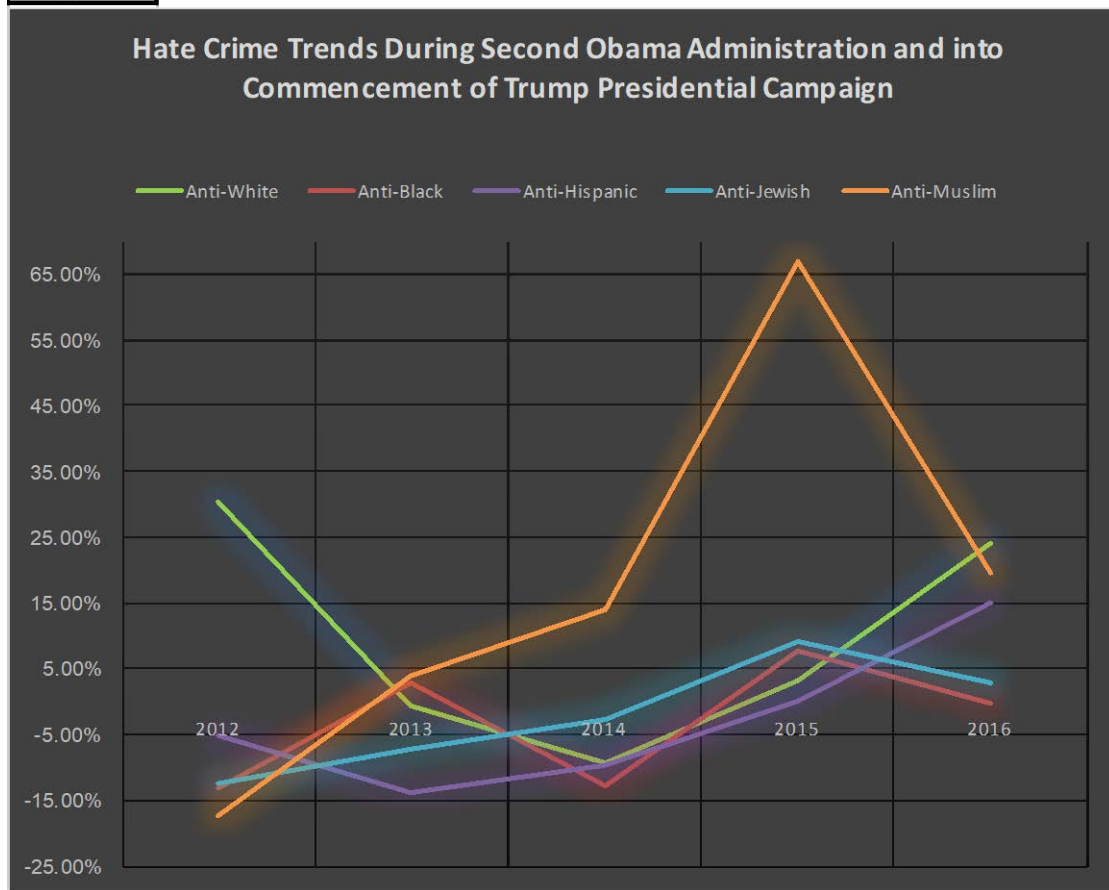
Table 8					
Hate Crime Trends During First Obama Administration					
Year	Anti-White	Anti-Black	Anti-Hispanic	Anti-Jewish	Anti-Muslim
2008	-4.41%	8.20%	-5.71%	4.54%	-8.70%
2009	-23.88%	-20.58%	-13.90%	-8.09%	1.90%
2010	5.50%	-3.63%	10.56%	-4.73%	49.53%
2011	-12.35%	-5.68%	-24.16%	-13.08%	-1.88%
2012	30.36%	-13.05%	-5.19%	-12.58%	-17.20%

**Figure 7**

Otherwise, hate incidents seem to continue to decline during Obama's second term until 2015, the commencement year of Trump's campaign, where they begin to pick back up, particularly towards Muslims, Whites, and Hispanics.

Table 9					
Hate Crime Trends During Second Obama Administration					
Year	Anti-White	Anti-Black	Anti-Hispanic	Anti-Jewish	Anti-Muslim
2012	30.36%	-13.05%	-5.19%	-12.58%	-17.20%
2013	-0.61%	2.83%	-13.80%	-7.27%	3.85%
2014	-9.19%	-12.66%	-9.67%	-2.56%	14.07%
2015	3.37%	7.65%	0.00%	9.03%	66.88%
2016	23.98%	-0.34%	15.05%	3.01%	19.46%

**Figure 8**

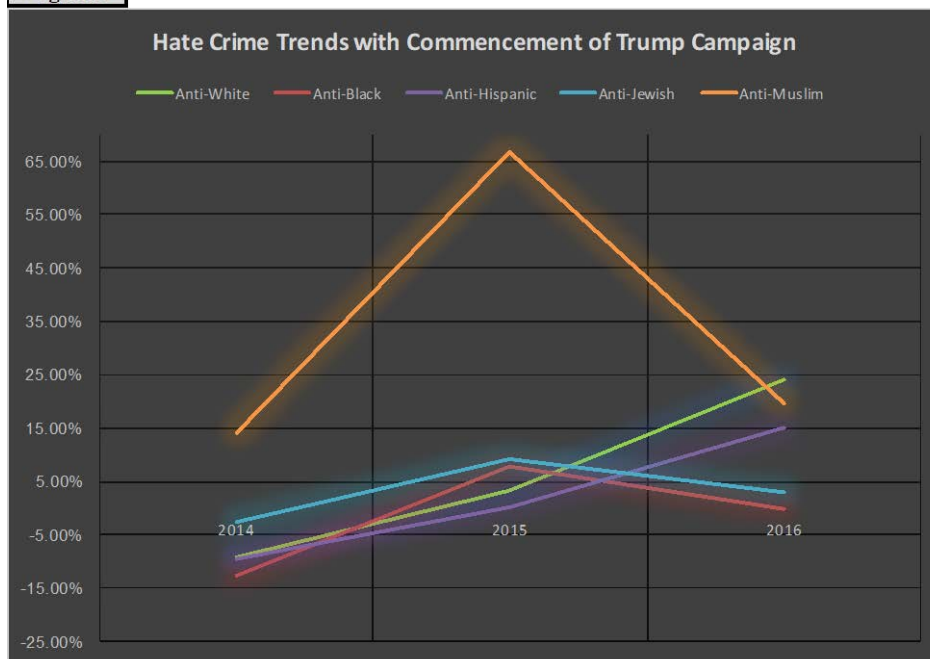


In 2016, Hispanics, a group targeted by Trump’s immigration reform and deportation efforts, experienced a 15% increase in hate incidents. An interesting and alarming increase of nearly 24% of reported hate incidents targeting white people also appears on our 2016 table and graph. This could either indicate a retaliation of hate by other groups towards whites, or a representation of increased hate towards minority groups who identify as white but are socially targeted for a different identifier such as ethnically being Arab. As in the case of Khalil Jabara, a White, Christian-Arab, murdered

for being thought of as being Muslim.<sup>70</sup> It could also include hate crimes that involved white victims standing up to perpetrators attacking nonwhite targets. Either way, the rise of reports indicates the effects of a divisive campaign and hate-driven presidential leadership.

Table 10					
Hate Crime Trends Surrounding Trump Campaign					
Year	Anti-White	Anti-Black	Anti-Hispanic	Anti-Jewish	Anti-Muslim
2014	-9.19%	-12.66%	-9.67%	-2.56%	14.07%
2015	3.37%	7.65%	0.00%	9.03%	66.88%
2016	23.98%	-0.34%	15.05%	3.01%	19.46%

Figure 9



<sup>70</sup> D'Amours & Tahhan, 2016.

Tables 11, 12, and 13 calculate estimates of the populations of each minority that were directly targeted by hate crimes. These tables show that Jews, followed by Muslims, and Black Americans experienced the most hate crimes between 2014-2016. Incidents reported on the following tables and figures are based on data collected from the FBI's National Annual Hate Crime Reports.

<b>Table 11</b>			
<b>Impact of Hate Crimes on Each Minority</b>			
<i>Year</i>	<b>2014</b>		
<b>Minority</b>	<b>Most Recent Minority Population Estimates</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Percent of Minority Impacted</b>
Jews	5,700,000	609	0.010684%
Muslims	3,300,000	154	0.004667%
Black	45,672,250	1,621	0.003549%
Hispanic	58,000,000	299	0.000516%
White *	248,485,057	593	0.000239%
Female	164,148,777	23	0.000014%
*WHITE includes people having origins in Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes those of Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Arab, Moroccan, or Caucasian decent.			
<b>Table 12</b>			
<b>Impact of Hate Crimes on Each Minority</b>			
<i>Year</i>	<b>2015</b>		
<b>Minority</b>	<b>Most Recent Minority Population Estimates</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Percent of Minority Impacted</b>
Jews	5,700,000	664	0.011649%
Muslims	3,300,000	257	0.007788%
Black	45,672,250	1,745	0.003821%
Hispanic	58,000,000	299	0.000516%
White *	248,485,057	613	0.000247%
Female	164,148,777	16	0.000010%
*WHITE includes people having origins in Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes those of Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Arab, Moroccan, or Caucasian decent.			
<b>Table 13</b>			
<b>Impact of Hate Crimes on Each Minority</b>			
<i>Year</i>	<b>2016</b>		
<b>Minority</b>	<b>Most Recent Minority Population Estimates</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Percent of Minority Impacted</b>
Jews	5,700,000	684	0.012000%
Muslims	3,300,000	307	0.009303%
Black	45,672,250	1,739	0.003808%
Hispanic	58,000,000	344	0.000593%
White *	248,485,057	760	0.000306%
Female	164,148,777	24	0.000015%
*WHITE includes people having origins in Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes those of Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Arab, Moroccan, or Caucasian decent.			



Table 14 sums up the Trump Effect. From 2014 to 2015, we see that Jews experienced an increase of about 9% in hate incidents while Muslims suffered nearly a 67% rise in hate. Black Americans also experienced a rise in hate by nearly 8%. With Trump's victorious election, Jewish hate slowed to a rise of 3%, while Muslim hate continued to increase by nearly 20%. Anti-Black/African incidents began to drop by 0.34% and we see a significant rise in anti-Hispanic hate from 0% to a rate of 15%. With Trump's anti-Mexican rhetoric and build-a-wall vision, it is evident that hate targeting this minority was perpetuated by Trump's anti-Hispanic political rhetoric. Although reports for anti-Female hate was limited to only a few years involved in this study, we see a significant rise of anti-female incidents by 50% from 2015-2016. Considering that there has never been a US president that has disparaged women openly in the way Trump has, we can conclude that his anti-female rhetoric has also emboldened criminals to act out in violence against this segment of American society as well.

Incidents reported on the following tables and figures are based on data collected from the FBI's National Annual Hate Crime Reports.

<b>Table 14</b>		
<b>Percents of Change</b>		
<b>Minority</b>	<b>2014-2015 Percent</b>	<b>2015-2016 Percent</b>
<b>Jews</b>	<b>9.03%</b>	<b>3.01%</b>
<b>Muslims</b>	<b>66.88%</b>	<b>19.46%</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>7.65%</b>	<b>-0.34%</b>
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>15.05%</b>
<b>White *</b>	<b>3.37%</b>	<b>23.98%</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>-30.43%</b>	<b>50.00%</b>

## Conclusion

In *Peaceful Persuasion*, Ellen Gorsevki and Tom Hastings's discuss the power of language on minimizing or perpetuating hate. They elaborate on how the use of language can create systems of oppression and marginalize groups of people and how this occurred time and again throughout American history.

Despite foundational ideals of freedom, United States history is rife with discrimination against certain groups of people or individuals who exhibit defining attributes. Prejudices and hatreds on the basis of religious affiliation, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, to name a few, have a long legacy that continues to haunt Americans today. Hate crimes are on the rise throughout the United States.<sup>71</sup>

By recognizing this reality alongside Trump's rhetoric and the re-emergence of violence directed towards minorities during the 2016 campaign, it is evident that political language plays a significant role in the aggression marginalized communities face. Rhetoric often times transforms into policy if not acts of direct violence. Although structural violence is often invisible and therefore less addressed, it is a key perpetrator of direct violence and systems of oppression; it acts as the bedrock to a system of cultural and direct violence. Trump's xenophobic rhetoric and intentions to enforce discriminatory policies specifically targeting minorities in the US strip these groups away of equality and set these marginalized communities behind. It then perpetuates acts of direct violence to be carried out towards these groups, adding a further layer of

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<sup>71</sup> Gorsevki & Hastings, 2004, 134.

oppression and injustice towards the marginalized. The attempts at implementing structural methods of discrimination such as the Muslim Ban or building a wall at the Mexican border further feed into white supremacist and violent nationalist ideologies that target minorities in acts of violence. This further divides the country and weakens the nation as a whole.

Domestic issues targeting minority groups and immigrants directly impact America's global image and US international relations as well. Trump's initial Muslim Ban on the entry of immigrants was signed to ban refugees and immigrants from seven Muslim majority countries. Trump's pompous display of signing the initial executive order quickly spread across national and international news channels as well as social media channels.<sup>72</sup> Although the executive order was clearly unconstitutional and quickly overruled by courts, it sent a message across the globe. It clearly stated that the new American President of the United States held strong anti-Muslim sentiments and would violate sanctified U.S. constitutional rights to fulfill his white supremacist ideologies.

The Muslim Ban in its original form as well as its revised versions, implies that Islam is un-American, and those with Muslim or Arab countries of origin are by default, un-American. Although the first versions of the Muslim ban were rejected by courts, the Trump administration continued pushing forth revised versions that still targeted Muslim majority countries. This caused extensive scrutiny of those traveling from any of the listed countries, including Americans with any connections to countries named on the list. The ban quickly incited an uproar domestically, instigating new reason to question fellow

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<sup>72</sup> Smith, 2017

Americans of Middle Eastern decent or Muslim faith and disrupted the lives of legal immigrants that were traveling internationally. Protests at airports broke out across the United States and immigration and civil rights lawyers were spending their time at airports advocating for legal immigrants to be allowed back in to the country. Orders such as the Muslim Ban do not only impact those living in the U.S.

When the President attempts to carry out executive orders such as this one, he overlooks the fact that Islam is the world's second largest faith and that this narrow-minded approach to our domestic policy speaks volumes to a greater part of the world.<sup>73</sup> It also hinders US relations with our Muslim-majority ally nations such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. When the leader of the world's most powerful country attempts to carry out orders that deem an entire faith group of over 1.6 billion<sup>74</sup> people as un-American, the larger part of the world will naturally deem America as inhuman. This will not only impact our global image, but it will also give rise to anti-American extremist ideologies abroad.

Anti-American sentiment has drastically increased over the past two decades. However, as our data demonstrate through a measure of hate crimes, the Trump effect has divided the nation even further through xenophobia and hate and perpetuated a bigoted image of the United States to the greater part of the world. Offensive and prejudice language by American political leaders sends the world the message that America is a racist, ethnocentric and religiously intolerant nation. This image impacts American

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<sup>73</sup> Desilver & Masci, 2017

<sup>74</sup> Pew Research Center, 2015

international relations with other governments and feeds into the propaganda used by extremist ideologies to recruit more members to their cause.

The image of the United States has deteriorated significantly abroad since 2001, particularly in the Muslim world...The spread of anti-American feeling in the Islamic world is a serious problem for the United States. The growth of hostility to America in Muslim countries increases recruitment and support for extremism and terror.<sup>75</sup>

The rise in anti-American sentiment puts Americans abroad at risk and negatively impacts interactions between the U.S. and other nation states. Trumps rhetoric also drastically undermines efforts to counter violent extremism. Extremism spreads at a faster rate when extremists are able to quote American leaders spewing out hate speech. Many people across the world are not introduced to Americans beyond what they are exposed to through the media. They are limited to only the image of our public officials. When they see the top-ranking American representative loudly spewing hate language directed at specific faiths or minority groups, it is highly unlikely that they are also seeing the domestic discourse refuting his speech made by the rest of the American people. Many people abroad will likely adopt the impression that Americans are generally xenophobic people who hate certain religions or cultures, and are waging war against them simply for their faith or diverse ethnicities. This will cultivate a deep resentment of the American people all together, further fueling the hate that feeds extremist ideologies. Trump's campaign and presidential language is the type of discourse that creates these hate-inspired ideologies.

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<sup>75</sup> Robichaud & Goldbrenner, 2005

Trump's calls for building a wall and derogatory remarks about Mexicans have also fueled hate from our neighbors. Not only has his reckless language instigated a rise for hate towards Hispanics across the nation, it has also deteriorated American relations with Mexico.

Trump's leniency towards white supremacists and support for racist policies such as Stop-and-Frisk have also reignited a new blaze of racism that has long been battled in this country. His support for racist white supremacists and threats of violence towards others during his campaign has only proven to embolden and empower bigotry that has long been silenced in the nation.

Racism and direct expressions of it are against the American value system, whether those values are enshrined into law or not. A large number of the American people were outraged at the audacity that anyone, let alone a Presidential candidate, would have the insolence to instigate a new wave of hate that would target entire groups of people. Trump's efforts to explain himself resulted in him digging himself into a deeper hole with surrogates doubling in their efforts to defend him each and every time. Counter intuitively, his popularity continued to increase. Violating America's spirit of respect and value for diversity, Trump continued with his divisive rhetoric on his path throughout the remainder of his campaign and eventually into his Presidency.

The increased violence was not the only result of an especially divisive and marginalizing campaign. The importance of the change in the way that America is becoming reputed as an intolerant nation cannot be emphasized enough, primarily because it is one of the main propaganda techniques used by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant/Syria (ISIL/ISIS) in recruiting its followers. This research reveals how the Trump campaign feeds into that

notion. America cannot afford to lend itself to aiding in this propaganda by stroking the fears of intolerance on both sides, therefore abetting in its own demise in the War on Terror.

The current state of affairs has directly and immediately impacted our neighboring countries and even allies halfway across the globe. Aside from the effect on ISIS, the changing image of America from being the beacon of hope for immigrants from around the world to come and achieve “The American Dream” to one that favors nationalism and populism over globalization has had world altering effects from Brexit, Britain’s choice to leave the European Union (EU), to worsening relations with our southern neighbor, Mexico, which helps the US in the War on Drugs and is a major contributor to our economy via being a consumer of US goods and products as a part of the Transpacific Partnership (TPP).

The UN’s condemnation of Trump’s declaration of Jerusalem as Israel’s new capital also proved to earn the US severe disapproval from the greater international community. President Trump’s statement initiated violence throughout the world and demonstrated a deep disregard for the decades of diplomatic efforts put forth regarding this extremely sensitive international issue.

It is my hope that this research has provided a better understanding of how the reckless and angry rhetoric of a political leader can have immediate and significant effects worldwide on a scale of issues. It is evident through the findings of our data that language can be extremely powerful. This truism suggests that people in power should only use powerful language to create positive change in the world. Political leaders are given a platform that billions across the world are not. They are granted authority with

that and entrusted to lead the people in a way that will work towards greater peace and the well-being of all the people at large. President Donald Trump fails to realize the potential of his influence or the impact of his words on the world at large. His dialogue reveals much about his lack of understanding of the magnitude of his position as President of the United States and leader of the world. Communities, faith groups, and entire nations must cope with the effects of his words on their lives and work hard to repair the damage his words cause. Whether it be a surge in hate crimes or a rise in extremism, his choice of words in addressing our national and global issues is severely detrimental to the well-being of the millions and billions of people under his umbrella of leadership.

“The human capacity for hatred is terrifying in its volatility.”<sup>76</sup> Throughout history we have observed hate-inspired leaders rally their people into monsters that have thoughtlessly persecuted millions of innocent lives, time and again, leaving us baffled at how we allowed such atrocities to occur within our human account. From Zedong to Hitler to Stalin<sup>77</sup>, political leaders were able to take the lives of tens of millions of people using the words they speak. Trump’s hate-fueled rhetoric cannot be dismissed as merely empty words. Rather it must be identified based on its malicious tone as a call to all sorts of violence to be directed towards anyone that may fall short of the ethnically and religiously exclusive standards he deems to be American. This dangerous sentiment that

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<sup>76</sup> Gopnik, 2017

<sup>77</sup> Jones, 2014



he perpetuates in his leadership has demonstrated dire effects on American domestic stability as well as the United States' international relations with nations across the globe.

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