



From the Editor

Presidential Politics

For generations, as The New American's senior editor William F. Jasper explains in his cover story article, "Trump vs. the Establishment" (page 10), the power elites have exercised significant control over both major political parties, particularly at the presidential level. The Republican Party may appeal to conservatives and the Democratic Party to liberals, but at the top, both parties have ultimately supported more government at home and more intervention and nation building abroad, the rhetoric notwithstanding.

Thus, the voters may at times "throw the rascals out" by replacing a Republican president with a Democrat, or a Democratic president with a Republican, without a substantive change in the direction of our ship of state toward more government and internationalism actually taking place. Consider, for example, that during the presidency of liberal Democrat Bill Clinton, the budget of the U.S. government actually grew at a slower rate than it did during either of the two "conservative" Republican presidencies that bookended his administration — those of George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush.

But the political insiders who claim to support the people while advancing their own interests do not exercise complete control. In 1964, Bill Jasper points out, someone the insiders viewed as a real threat to their agenda became the standard-bearer of the Grand Old Party. That nominee, of course, was Barry Goldwater, and he was targeted for destruction by the establishment-controlled media echo chamber, resulting in a landslide victory for Lyndon Johnson.

And now, history seems to be repeating itself with the smear campaign being waged against Donald Trump.

This is not to say that Trump is the perfect candidate challenging the power elites who seek the consolidation of economic and political power on a global scale. "From a solid, constitutionalist perspective, he has many faults, warts, and deficiencies," Jasper acknowledges in his article. "However, it should be clear from the unprecedented magnitude and ferocity of the attacks leveled against him that Trump represents an existential threat to the CFR [Council on Foreign Relations] insiders' grand schemes for a New World Order." Those schemes include, of course, the so-called free trade agenda to submerge the sovereignty of our country in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership supported by both the Obama administration and top Republican leaders, as well as overwhelming the country with both legal and illegal immigration. Opposition to both these schemes, as anyone who has been paying any attention whatsoever to the news knows, has been a signature part of Trump's campaign.

We encourage you to read Bill Jasper's cover story to gain a much better perspective on the attacks on Trump and the rationale behind those attacks. But we have three other recommendations as well.

First, please read the other articles in this issue on presidential politics, including the three articles about third-party nominees for president and vice president — the Libertarian Party's Gary Johnson and William Weld (page 21), the Constitution Party's Darrell Castle and Scott Bradley (page 23), and the Green Party's Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka (page 25). After all, there are more people running for president and vice president than Trump-Pence and Clinton-Kaine, and anyone who is planning to vote should be familiar with them, regardless if they plan to vote for the best candidates who have a realistic



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chance of winning, or the best candidates on the ballot — period. (The New American does not endorse candidates. Our purpose is to better inform, recognizing that better understanding on the part of involved Americans will ultimately translate into better government.)

Second, please keep in mind that even though the presidential race gets mega publicity and attention every four years, under our system of government, the Congress possesses more power than the president. “All legislative Powers herein granted,” the Constitution explicitly states, “shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.” Thus, it is extremely important who is elected to Congress.

Finally, please take full advantage of the issues now being debated in the presidential campaign to create understanding about those issues — from TPP to immigration.

— Gary Benoit



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