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# Has DT crossed the line into delirium tremens?

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**“After supper pap took the jug, and said he had enough whisky there for two drunks and one delirium tremens.” – Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain**

With sincere apologies to people who happen to suffer from mental illness, there is fresh evidence that former president Donald Trump (DT) has finally crossed the border into political psychosis. It came out of his mouth during a [campaign speech](#) last month.

At the Oakland County (Mich.) Republican Party’s Lincoln Day, Trump vowed to use “Section 212 (f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act” to “order my government to deny entry to all communists and Marxists.”

Trump was referring a law enacted during a red scare a century ago that bars people who are members of a communist party from becoming naturalized citizens or green card holders. The law says that any immigrant “... who is or has been a member of or affiliated with the Communist or any other totalitarian party (or subdivision or affiliate thereof), domestic or foreign, is inadmissible.”

I realize that it may be offensive these days to choose the words like “crazy” to categorize Donald Trump. It would probably be more politically correct to say that his behavior calls for evaluation by licensed psychologists with advanced degrees to determine if he is suffering from a delusional brain illness. However, because my audience includes all my countrymen and women including Trump’s base, it is critical to describe him using less woke vernacular. Regular people who love America, guns, and the sanctity of life may be confused by fancy terms like schizophrenia, narcissistic personality disorder, or bipolar disorder, but they know the difference between “crazy” and “not crazy.” And “batsh-t crazy,” for that matter.

The immigration rule DT mentioned dates back to 1918 when the U.S. government became concerned about [“external threats of anarchism and communism,”](#) according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services policy manual. As World War I ended and communists took over Russia, political and business leaders were afraid organized labor might do the same here under a similar banner.

The latest imbecility bursting from DT’s lips evokes the mania of Joe McCarthy’s anticommunist 1950s witch hunt and jailing of presidential candidate Eugene Debs by President Woodrow Wilson after the Russian Revolution. Debs was a prominent American labor leader, idealist, and socialist.

Can you imagine living in a country in which Trump-appointed immigration bureaucrats decide who can and cannot be in the United States based on their political beliefs and party labels? For one thing, how would ICE gatekeepers, some no doubt who rose to power by playing golf with ‘the Donald’, determine who was a Marxist or communist? Or the wider category of totalitarian, which the century-old laws also offers as a basis for national exclusion.

These days, both Democrats and Republicans think the other party is an existential threat to national security. They might be on to something judging by the mental states of the parties’ respective presidential candidates. In a country of 330 million citizens, absent the extraordinary mental powers of the former president, it’s hard to find enough communists to count on one hand.

Both socialism and communism are forms of Marxism. Joseph Schumpeter, the great political economist, did not distinguish between these two isms in his classic analysis “Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy.” In a purely socialist or communist state, the government would own and operate all the economic apparatus. At the other end of the spectrum, a society based on economic competition unchecked by government would sink into chaos and civil war. Modern Western countries including the United States [blend](#) market-based economies with redistributive government programs. Is the Social Security program a form of socialism or communism or an adaptation of capitalism?

If DT’s pal Vlad Putin were ousted from power and applied for asylum in the U.S., perhaps offering boxes of state secrets as an incentive for entry, he could make a strong case that Russia operates more like a capitalist kleptocracy than a form of

communism. The same for China. Chairman Xi could point out that state-run capitalism under the Chinese Communist Party has vastly outperformed the [United States](#) since the Reagan years, both in terms of wealth accumulation and economic growth. Once dirt poor, China will have as many [rich citizens](#) as the U.S. in 20 years if current trends continue, according to Branko Milanovic, a leading scholar tracking globalization and economic inequality. “China is tantalizingly close to something that no one would have predicted when Mao died in 1976: that in 70 years, the then impoverished country would have as many rich citizens as does the United States,” Milanovic notes in the latest issue of [Foreign Affairs](#).

So, DT, how would you decide if someone is a communist? Would a member of a labor union qualify? A religious minority? A person living on a commune or kibbutz? What definition would pop into your brain on a Monday? Tuesday? Next week? Could Kevin McCarthy (probably not related to Senator Joe) and his call for work requirements for poor people to qualify for Medicaid coverage betray hidden communist instincts? Didn't Mao use work requirements to reeducate workers and party functionaries during the Cultural Revolution? What about queer people or people with disabilities that you have [mocked publicly](#)?

Should self-described socialists like Senator Bernie Sanders be considered a threat and expelled? What about people from socialist democracies in Europe? Should they be allowed in?

DT could demand that his followers sign a loyalty oath guaranteeing their belief in capitalism. Then again, much of his base might notice that they have no capital or net assets, only debt and low-paying jobs.

In the end, it's up to the American people to decide whether DT's compulsive and often-self destructive drive for attention has crossed the borderline into dangerous lunacy. Does he have the mental capacity to separate facts from lies? Right from wrong? Classified documents from personal belongings and golf balls? Could he steer us clear of nuclear war during a crisis?

Judging by the crazy talk spewing from DT's lips, federal prosecutors could make a case that he lacks the mental competency to stand trial. They could ask a judge to send him to a psychiatric hospital where drugs and talk therapy might help achieve coherence and the capacity to distinguish meanness from madness. While confined, DT could write a modern American version of Mein Kampf in

which, like fellow totalitarian Adolf Hitler, he could lay out his vision of who will qualify as a true citizen and who should be expelled while pining about his political persecution.

But maybe this is crediting him with too much grandeur. All that the country might need is a red-flag rule, or enough common sense, to keep him away from guns, schools, and public office.

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