The Good, The Bad, and The Sticky:

Of MAGA, Witch Hunt, and Fake News, which is the greatest Stick of the Trump Covfefe?

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Abstract: Building from topics in the authors previous paper, 'Trump's Matryoshka Method of Forced Perspective Concerning Russia', presented for the panel, 'Re-narrating Conflict: Media, Military and Public Translations of Strategic Narratives', at ISA 2018; this paper will explore the stickiness of the phrases 'Make America Great Again', 'Witch Hunt', and 'Fake News', by President Trump. This paper will act as preliminary research towards a larger manuscript by the author. Towards that end, this paper will establish and test three discursive hypotheses; with the ultimate goal of narrowing down which hypothesis (a rhetorical narrative of President Trump) is most ripe for further research. By identifying discursive components surrounding certain phrases that have already risen to popularity, and 'stuck' within mainstream conversation, this paper seeks to identify how the phrases MAGA, Witch Hunt, and Fake News, may be anticipated to either stick to the Trump Presidency past its tenure, or which have sell-by date upon which they may fall into silence.

Introduction

Why do some phrases, templates, frames, or narratives, thrive in the digital media ecology when others do not? How do scholars define, measure, and anticipate 'success' concerning contemporary communication? With increasingly urgent and erratic discourse being thrown into the chaos of mainstream communication, how can we begin to understand why certain phrases seem to stick? This line of questioning has expanded in recent years, specifically surrounding the effectiveness and accuracy of political posts on social media. However, before exploring specific phrases, especially the more interesting ones, a brief understanding of contemporary research methodologies and focuses is necessary.

Some contemporary research methods include identifying and tracking the 'attributes that are common to successful political posts.'[1] Others look specifically at statistical measurements of interactions by users on specific platforms as an effective gauge of message success.[2] And, naturally, considerable amounts of research have been aimed at understanding marketing effectiveness, looking at how to optimize advertising campaigns.[3] However, as we begin to more clearly map out the discursive terrain of the twenty-teens (soon to be twenty-twenties), a worrying trend has emerged surrounding the almost predictable stickiness of singularly negative discourse and phrases which perpetuate messages of enmity. This paper will explore these discursive conditions that have given fertile ground to such crops of negativity, examining why certain negative terms and hashtags of President Trump have been granted power and resonance. Specifically, this paper serves as a preliminary research effort to see which of three specific queries developed herein might prove the most fruitful for a larger project (i.e., manuscript efforts,) by the author.

Literature Review

Nave, Shifman, and Teneboim-Wainblatt, found that certain components of social media posts contribute either to the success or lack of resonance of a post; success being defined and determined by the number of engagements (likes, comments, shares) a post receives. In this study, focused on Israeli political actors during the run-up to the 2015 election, the four most influential factors were found to be: implied emotions (found to increase the likely success of a post 16 times over), personal stance (eight times more likelihood of success), and then the lesser effective factors

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[1] Nave, N., Shifman, L., Teneboim-Weinblatt, K., 2018, 'Taking it Personally: Features of Successful Political Posts on Facebook', *Social Media + Society*, July-September 2018: 1-12, Sage p. 1. Political Posts on Facebook', *Social Media + Society*, July-September 2018: 1-12, Sage p. 1. doi.org/10.1177/2056305118784

[2] Cvijijkj, I. P., & Michahelles, F., 2013, 'Online engagement factors on Facebook brand pages', *Social Network Analysis and Mining, 3*(4), pp. 843-861.

[3] Murdough, C., 2009, 'Social Media Measurement: It's Not Impossible', *The Journal of Interactive Advertising, 10*(1), pp. 94-99.

of explicit emotions and personal exposure.[4] Other influential factors identified were anger-evoking cues, use of first person, reference to the in-group, humor, operational ideas, the author's appearance in visual means (a picture or video), and an out-group reference. The authors examined right-wing versus left-wing success factors, and found that 'out-group reference' is a strong predictor of success in right-wing posts; whereas 'humor' is as strong an indicator of success for left-wing posts. (Humor, however, has little success for right wing-posts.)[5] This specific attribute; out-grouping (in its most extreme form; enmity), is not a new component of political discourse; however, the extent to which enmity can be disseminated via online platforms represents a relatively new field of communications research.

> Although the notion of an enemy-he or she who is not us and who threatens us-constituted what Kenneth Boulding (1959, 130) called "the last stronghold of unsophistication," it nonetheless permeates in times of political uncertainly, disarray, and crisis, promoting behavior that sharpens distinctions between what is and is not seen as appropriate for the time.[6]

Concerning President Trump's predominant online medium of communication, his Twitter account, in recent years there has been an increase in research aimed towards understanding how contemporary political candidates' and leaders' social media presence functions, and how they come to be successful or not. Some of this research has looked into the concepts of authenticity in a user's portrayal of self.[7] Other research has focused on the social climate and political landscape in the United States that contributed to the outcome of the 2016 Presidential race.[8] Pertinent to this paper,

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[4] Nave, N., Shifman, L., Teneboim-Weinblatt, K., 2018, p. 6.

[5] Nave, N., Shifman, L., Teneboim-Weinblatt, K., 2018, p. 8.

[6] Zelizer, B., 2018, 'Why Journalism in the Age of Trump Shouldn't Surprise Us', in Boczkowski, P. J., & Papacharissi, Z., 2018, *Trump and the Media,* The MIT Press, Cambridge MA, p.9.

[7] Shane, T., 2018, 'The Semiotics of Authenticity: Indexicality in Donald Trump's Tweets', *Social Media + Society,* July-September 2018: 1-14, doi: 10.1177/2056305118800315

[8] Rohlinger, D. A., and Bunnage, L., 2017, 'Did the Tea Party Movement Fuel the Trump-Train?

the digital means through which President Trump communicates with the American People, and the world, is of the utmost importance. Some communications scholars describe President Trump's popularity on Twitter as owing to the technological 'affordances' of the platform, particularly concerning his use of hashtags.[9] Gibson originally defined 'affordances' (in the broadest sense) as any means through which an individual may interact with their perceived world relative to their interactions with others.[10] "Within a Twitter Context, the technological affordance of hashtags serves to coordinate large-scale discussion spaces that many can engage in at once. Hashtags blend elements of technological affordances with communicative approaches."[11] More recent research hones this concept of technological affordances by looking specifically at their impact on digital democracy.

Expanding on the Social Identity Deindividuation Effect (SIDE) model[12] (which states that perceived anonymity online encourages the adoption of group-level norms and like-minded identity coalescence), Rösner and Krämer determine that aggressive (and violent) online discussions and behaviors are in fact influenced by a combination of perceived anonymity and peer influence.[13] This is not far divorced from the theory of homophily, wherein social media users are noted to associate and interact more with other users of similar ideological orientations.[14] What this expanding vein of

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The Role of Social Media in Activist Persistence and Political Change in the 21st Century', *Social Media + Society*, April-June 2017, doi: 10.1177/2056305117706786

[9] Eddington, S. M., 2018, 'The Communicative Constitution of Hate Organizations Online: A Semantic Network Analysis of 'Make America Great Again', *Social Media + Society*, July-Sept 2018: 1-12. doi.org/10.1177/20563051187907

[10] Gibson, J. J., 2015, *The Ecological Approach to Visual Preception*, New York NY: Psychology Press, Introduction.

[11] Eddington, S. M., 2018, p. 3.

[12] Postmes, T., Spears, R., & Lea, M., 1998, 'Breaching or Building Social boundaries? SIDE-effects of Computer-mediated Communication', *Communication Research*, 25(6), 689–715.

[13] Rösner, L., & Krämer, N. C., 2016, 'Verbal Venting in the Socialweb: Effects of Anonymity and Group Norms on Aggressive Language use in Online Comments', *Social Media + Society*, 2(3), pp. 1–13. Sage Publications.

[14] Himelboim, I., Sweetser, K. D., Tinkham, S. F., Cameron, K., Danelo, M., & West, K., 2016,

research establishes, is that President Trump's Twitter effectively exists as a perfect storm for volatile discourse. Its technological affordance permits equal-access and engagement amongst the platforms' 66 million Americans (321 million active users globally in the fourth quarter of 2018), who are equally susceptible to SIDE-model behaviors, all becoming or being exposed to potential perpetuators of aggressive and derisive discourse.

It is not only online forums of political discussions (or other online interactions) that have been observed to showcase increased hostility in recent years. Research into the American Alt-Right movement and other openly racist fronts has increased in the years surrounding the 2016 Presidential race. These movements have gained traction with the discursive and rhetorical support of President Trump (predominantly through his Twitter account) as he continually belittles and critiques Democrats and the Left, as well as the notion of being politically correct. "Trump often suggests being "politically correct" is not an effort to use language that includes different peoples and acknowledges systemic injustices, but rather a weak bureaucratic sugarcoating of inherent truths—pandering to populations for the sake of a political career."[15] So in a digital media ecology wherein the most powerful office in the United States holds a formidable discursive presence in reality and online, what happens if that presence is more negative and divisive than it is positive and inclusive?

Specific Concerns and Discussions

How Did 'Make America Great Again' Become a Negative Phrase?

Make America Great Again (occasionally abbreviated and interchangeably represented online as #MAGA), as well as America First, are not inherently negative words or statements when

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'Valance-Based homophily on Twitter: Network Analysis of emotions and political talk in the 2012 election', *New Media & Society, 18,* 1382-1140.

[15] Shafer, J. G., 2017, 'Donald Trump's "Political Incorrectness": Neoliberalism as Frontstage Racism on Social Media', *Social Media + Society,* July-September 2017: 1-10. doi: 10.1177/2057305117733226 p. 2.

removed from the context of the Trump Presidency. However, as President Trump's #1 and #2 most frequently used hashtags, they require reflection. Contemporary research has established that hashtag generated discussions are significantly more uncivil and negative than other types of online communication.[16] But when looking for answers, one must remember that President Trump's rhetoric is not simply uncivil; it is also deliberately politically incorrect.

> In early March 2016, for twenty-four hours the public Snapchat mobile application showed live videos from Trump rallies in which similar young white men in Make America Great Again hats chanted, "build that wall", outside a rally. Later, supporters inside the rally cheered in unison with Trump as he declared the wall should be "ten feet higher!" White supporters in these videos seem happy to dismiss the idea of being "politically correct," which according to Trump hinders progress and wastes valuable time (Trump, 2016).[17]

What is so appealing about President Trump's specific discourse and overall rhetoric that motivates so many Americans to support someone who had never so much as held a public office before running for the highest office in the United States of America? Is President Trump simply offering an empowering notion of identity that naturally attracts disenfranchised persons?[18] As the majority of his supporters are middle-class white Americans, the idea of a struggling contingency 'raised from the ashes' doesn't sit well.[19] Some academic research suggests a more emotional reason for his support: carefully cultivated, but unfocused, anger. This anger has surrounded and largely defined his public discourse long before he announced his campaign for the Presidency.

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[16] Groshek, J., & Cutino, C., 2016, 'Meaner on mobile: Incivility and impoliteness in communicating contentious politics on sociotechnical networks,' *Social Media + Society*, 2, 1–10. Sage Publications.

[17] Shafer, J. G., 2017, p. 1.

[18] While not specifically empowering, President Trump's notion that his supporters have suffered at the hands of immigrants and the federal government are expensively researched in Hochschild, A. R., 2016, *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right. New York: New Press.*

[19] For why Trump's supporters may argue otherwise, see Petray, T. L., & Collin, R., 2017, 'Your Privilege is Trending: Confronting Whiteness on Social Media, *Social Media +Society*, 3, pp. 1-10. doi:10.1177/2056305117706783

…The image that emerges from the media coverage [of Trump's speeches, specifically during his Presidential campaign] is that anger is essential to their (Trump supporters') identity and their world view. This essentialising of anger is central to understanding the place of angry populism as the emotional regime of the Trump Era: It suggests that the particular brand of exclusionary populism cultivated by Trump depends on the performance of anger as a way of dramatising grievances. Analysts suggested that Trump appealed to voters in large part because he saw the utility of a new and angrier form of political discourse.[20]

Indeed, this has been called the 'golden age of anger' by some researchers.[21] So can anger, strategically applied, be fuel enough to deliver a phrase such as 'Make America Great Again', from a benign compilation of words, to a negative insinuation of a victimized and vandalized America, in desperate need of repair and restoration to greatness? It would seem, delivered through his Twitter and rallies, that anger can truly change the meaning of language across reality and virtual reality, and significantly impact voting practices in the United States.

Beyond simple anger and emotionally charged discourse, there is debate in the US and amongst scholars about the degree of racism that accompanies President Trump and his administration. (This is not to say that other negative typologies of speech associated with President Trump aren't significant, or the topic of various civil and academic research efforts. These areas include but are not limited to President Trump's: sexism (caught on audio recording) and numerous accusations of sexual harassment and assault by multiple women, mockery of disabled persons, anti-Semitic comments, Islamophobia [re: the Muslim Ban], anti-environmentalism, and hyper-nationalism.) This paper has singled out racism for discussion as preliminary research has indicated that the anger conveyed in both President Trump's Tweets, and in the discussions surrounding his

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[20] Wahl-Jorgensen, K., 2018, 'Media Coverage of Shifting Emotional Regimes: Donald Trump's Angry Populism', *Media, Culture & Society,* Vol. 40(5) 766-778, p. 774 doi: 10.1177/0163443718772190

[21] Mishra, P., 2017, *Age of Anger: A History of the Present.* London: Macmillan.

tweets, are frequently accompanied moreso by racism than other non-politically correct concepts (or –isms).

> There is nothing about Trump's public pronouncements that indicates that he has welcomed these moral advances (of minorities in the United States in recent decades); his language, his tone, his personal behavior, and his policies all suggest, and foster, a politics of resentment. It is the Other – the ethnic minority, the immigrant – who has closed your factory, taken your job, threatened your safety.[22]

There is a less than eloquent connecting-of-the-dots made by President Trump, between the idea that America *needs* to be made great again, and the *Others* who threaten the safety of good, hardworking Americans. In many Tweets, the implication and insinuation of racist ideas are unapologetically overt. Such instances include repeatedly calling Hispanic persons 'animals' and 'rapists',[23] calling an African American NFL player a 'son-of-a-bitch',[24] stating that a judge of Mexican-decent could not perform his judicial duties specifically because of his race,[25] and that, 'the U.S. has become a dumping ground for everyone else's problems' wherein 'problems' was later elucidated to mean immigrants from 'shithole countries'.[26] While Americans enjoy legally protected freedoms of speech, when the person espousing racist rhetoric is an elected official, the derision he is able to incite due to the power held in his office demands scrutiny. "Immediate and grave concerns arise when the President is celebrated by white citizens as he repositions racist framing as

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[22] Remnick, D., 2017, 'One Hundred Days', *New Yorker Magazine*, May 1st, 2018. Pp. 17-22. p. 20.

[23] Fritze, J., 2018, 'Trump Doubles Down on Calling MS-13 Gang Members 'Animals,' Praises Rod Rosenstein', *USA Today Online,* published May 23, 2018.

[24] Gottlieb, J., and Maske, M., 2017, 'Roger Goodell responds to Trump's call to 'fire' NFL players protesting during national anthem', *The Washington Post* online, published September 23, 2017.

[25] Said by Trump during an interview CNN's Jake Tapper June 3, 2016, detailed in wider context in Collins, E. 2016, 'Trump on Judge Curiel: He's very 'pro-Mexico'', *USA Today* Online, published June 3, 2016.

[26] Dawsey, J. 2018, 'Trump Derides Protections for Immigrants from 'Shithole' Counties', *The Washington Post* online, published January 12, 2018.

truth telling at the forefront of public discourse."[27] It is the first hypothesis of this paper that it is this racist quality of President Trump's overarching discourse that makes #MAGA and #AmericaFirst, negative, whereas detached from his contexts, they are not inherently negative phrases.

Witch Hunt –Why is a millionaire white American male claiming to be a victim?

Anger and racism are not, however, the only discursive tools President Trump uses to prompt emotional responses in his supporters (and his critics). Twitter truly is the digital affordance of the multi-millionaire seeking direct, efficient, and free publicity.[28] Brian L. Ott said of Twitter, that the platform demands simplicity, promotes impulsivity, and fosters incivility (a reoccurring trend in research findings concerning the platform).[29] This seems to be the perfect medium then for a President who seeks to express himself and his opinions in 140, and now 280-characters, or less. 'Different modalities of online communication (e.g., email, chat, video) and different environments (e.g., social, vocational, fantasy) may facilitate diverse expressions of self. Each setting allows us to see a different perspective on identity.'[30] However, the identity President Trump frequently correlates to his disposition in Washington is that he is the victim of a Witch Hunt, referring to the official investigations surrounding the alleged Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential Election that brought him into power.[31]

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[27] Shafer, J. G., 2017, p. 4.

[28] The 'free to use' aspect of Twitter means Trump not only saved campaign money by using his personal social media outlets, but some estimates also place the free media coverage he received during the 2016 elections between $2-3 Billion. Confessore, N., and Yourish, K., 2016, '$2 Billion worth of free media for Donald Trump', *New York Times*, March 15, 2016. Available at http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/16/upshot/measuring-donald-trumps-mammoth-advantage-in-free-media.html

[29] Ott, B. L. 2017, 'The Age of Twitter: Donald J. Trump and the Politics of Debasement', *Critical Studies in Media Communication,* 34:1, 59-68, doi:10.1080/15295036.2016.1266686

[30] Suler, J., 2004, 'The online disinhibition effect' in *Cyber Psychology & Behavior,* 7, 321–326. p. 325.

[31] *The Atlantic* reported that Trump used the moniker 'Witch Hunt' 84-times on Twitter in first nine-

The main question that arises from this behavior: Why? Why would the President of the United States *need* to propagate the idea that he is a victim of the powers that be, especially right after winning a Presidential Election? If one holds what is arguably the most powerful office in the world with no prior political, legal, or military experience to speak of, what possible justification can be made that that same person is a victim of a plot? It is a hard sell – (which is perhaps why it is a narrative that is actively being sold by someone whose resume singularly reads: salesman). Within an academic context, can this narrative be labeled as a strategic one? 'Strategic narratives are representations of a sequence of events and identities, a communicative tool through which political actors – usually elites – attempt to give determined meaning to past, present, and future in order to achieve political objectives.'[32] In this sense, 'Witch Hunt' absolutely is a strategic narrative, because it is a deliberate, consistent, and repetitive phrase, singularly employed to narrate a sequence of events surrounding an ascent to power that is being questioned as dubious by opponents of the President.

To what end? Less academic research has been conducted on Trump's use of the phrase 'Witch Hunt' than 'Fake News', though the President uses each phrase prolifically.[33] This paper's second hypothesis is, that the two phrases (Witch Hunt and Fake News) ultimately serve similarly negative, but quintessentially different rhetorical functions. Witch Hunt refers to more macro-level concepts of conspiracy against the President, with most Tweets containing the phrase being broad and unspecific in nature. This is juxtaposed to the very specific calling-out (and individual naming) of certain reporters, networks or other persons of (either) being or spreading 'fake news'.[34] This

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months 2018 alone. Paschal, O., 2018, 'Trump's Tweets and the Creation of 'Illusory Truth'', *The Atlantic* Online, published August 3, 2018.

[32] Miskimmon, O'Loughlin, Roselle, 2013, *Strategic Narratives: Communication Power and the New World Order*, Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, New York and London, p. 5.

[33] This claim is made after searching the Sage Journals website for articles containing each phrase '+Trump', respectively; and getting a return of 108 articles for 'Witch Hunt + Trump', versus 476 articles for 'Fake News + Trump'.

[34] See subheading 'Direct Accusation' Ross, A. S., and Rivers, D. J., 2018, 'Discursive Deflection:

hypothesis will be tested later in this paper under the section headed 'Finding The Bad In The Bad: A Brief Query Into Trump's Twitter Content.' Finally, for this section on 'Specific Concerns and Discussions', this paper will touch on the very widely researched and scrutinized phrase, 'Fake News'.

Fake News – Replacing 'You're Fired!' with 'You're Fake!'

Perhaps the most concerning element of President Trump's Twitter feed, is that the most frequently used word is 'fake'. Meaning, the most mentioned word is in fact negative *accusation* by the President onto others of an implied malicious nature.[35] It is used so frequently, that the term 'has now been co-opted by politicians and commentators to mean anything they disagree with—making the term essentially meaningless and more of a stick to beat the mainstream press with than a phenomenon in itself.'[36] This is not to say that actual fake news is not a real and damaging discursive phenomenon that had a particularly firm grasp on the 2016 Presidential Campaign. Actual fake news, those stories and rumors that are untrue, unfounded and un-researched before being shared, is critically harmful to democratic practice because of its effect on the voting population. You cannot pollute the most vital source of democratic legitimacy (voting) and expect anything less than skepticism towards leadership. However, that skepticism, if properly managed can be directed along partisan lines, for the benefit of one person's narrative over another's. It is the third hypothesis of this paper, that President Trump very narrowly aims any doubt surrounding his leadership directly towards his critics and opponents, versus attempting to dispel those discussions that sow confusion and doubt in his office altogether.

Accusation of "Fake News and the Spread of Mis- and Disinformation in the Tweets of Presidents Trump', *Social Media + Society*, April-June 2018, doi: 10.1177/2056305118776010, p. 6.

[35] See subheading 'Direct Accusation', Ross, A. S., and Rivers, D. J., 2018, pp. 6-8.

[36] Carson, J., 2017, 'What is fake news? Its origins and how it grew in 2016', *The Telegraph,* Retrieved from https://grassrootjournalist.org/2017/06/17/what-is-fake-news-its-originsand-how-it-grew-in-2016/, published June 17, 2017. Paragraph 21.

Substantial literature exists concerning the propagation of fake news and the political influence rumor have, including why people engage in sharing rumors, and how it can be an act of solidarity amongst sharers.[37] Additional research looks specifically at fake news and its influence courtesy of the affordances of social media.[38] Pertinent to this paper, there is extensive research specific to the quantity, quality, and contexts of the use of 'fake news' by President Trump on his Twitter feed, eliminating the need to duplicate such statistical efforts here.[39] However, what this paper seeks to observe in a small sample of days of Twitter activity by the President, is if (and how) the three concepts subheaded in this paper of MAGA, Witch Hunt, and Fake News, are ever, even in a small sample of Tweets, not negative.

Finding The Bad In The Bad: A Brief Query Into Trump's Twitter Content

Academic research has already firmly established that President Trump's Twitter is predominantly negative. "Trump's Tweets are overwhelmingly 'negative in connotation - and the majority of them are outright insults.'"[40] The few Tweets researchers have identifyed as not being inherently negative typically included attributes noted at the beginning of this paper, specifically, references to (and positive reinforcement of) the 'in group', and 'the author's appearance in visual means.'[41] Building on this vein of research, this paper will sample nine random days of Tweeting by President Trump following his inauguration. While sampling methodologies of big data social media entities (such as Twitter) continues to be hotly debated amongst researchers (and will likely remain

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[37] Fine, G.A., 2007, 'Rumor, trust and civil society: collective memory and cultures of judgment', *Diogenes* 54 (1): 5–18.

[38] Brummette, J., DiStaso, M., Vafeiadis, M., and Messner, M., 2018, 'Read All About it: The Politicization of "Fake News" on Twitter', *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, Vol. 95(2) 497-517, doi: 10.1177/1077699018769906, Sage.

[39] See Table 4 and Table 5 Ross, A. S., and Rivers, D. J., 2018, p.7.

[40] Crockett, Z., May 16, 2016, 'What I learned analyzing 7 months of Donald Trump's Tweets', *Vox,* Retrieved from http://www.vox.com/2016/5/16/11603854/donald-trump-twitter as quoted in Ott, B., 2017.

[41] Nave, N., Shifman, L., Teneboim-Weinblatt, K., 2018, p. 8.

an unresolved issue in communications and social research for the foreseeable future), random sampling has been found by contemporary research methods specifically aimed at quantitative and qualitative Twitter analysis, to be a more efficient and effective sampling method than week sampling, which is more typical of print media analysis, in establishing the topics and contexts of news from a certain period of time.

> While previous research on sampling of newspaper articles (Hester & Dougall, 2007; Riffe et al., 1993) reported that a constructed week sampling would be in general more efficient than an SRS, our findings indicated the opposite, showing that an SRS is more efficient than a constructed week sampling in terms of obtaining a more efficient and representative sample of Twitter data.[42]

This paper will not employ any statistical programming or data mining tools such as FireAnt, AntConc, or others; because the purpose of this sampling is for exploratory, qualitative purposes that seek to establish preliminary foundations for future research by the author directly surrounding the concepts embodied by the following hypothesis:

1: Racism is the primary contributor of negative connotation surrounding 'Make America Great Again' (or MAGA).

2: 'Witch hunt' operates as a macro-level discursive tool, serving as a generalized short hand for any efforts against the President, with little specific mention or naming of individuals/groups. Conversely, 'Fake news' is predominantly used as a narrow (micro-level) accusation against specific individuals/groups.

3: President Trump redirects doubt in his administration onto his adversaries, rather than outright dispelling the accusation or rumor.

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[42] Kim, H., Jang, S. M., Kim, S., and Wan, A., 2018, 'Evaluating Sampling Methods for Content Analysis of Twitter Data', *Social Media + Society*, April-June 2018 1-10. p. 7. doi: 10.1177/2056305118772836

Design

This paper will ultimately serve as a spring-board for future research efforts, testing three hypotheses to see which vein of questioning is the most substantial in terms of quantitative and qualitative materials. This paper has first established the aforementioned hypotheses based on contemporary academic and social research efforts concerning the subject matter of negative discourse and President Trump's Twitter feed, and will now look at all Tweets by President Trump via his official Twitter handle, @realDonaldTrump, for the following days.

Sample Set:

January 30, 2017, June 15, 2017, October 1, 2017, February 15, 2018, May 30, 2018, August 19, 2018, November 1, 2018, January 1, 2019, and March 5, 2019.

Note: The sample will not include re-Tweets – only original content. Pictures and video posted as original Tweets will herein be described as objectively as possible.

Method:

Date specific searches were conducted through Twitter's Advanced Search Feature.

The resulting line in the search box after an advanced search was performed read, '(from:realDonaldTrump) since:2019-03-03 until:2019-03-07', to acquire all March 5, 2019 Tweets, as an example.

This paper searched two days prior and two days following the desired sample date in order to not miss tweets for any reason. All content was individually extracted based on its return in the Advanced Search Feature, then exported to an excel sheet for analysis by the author. Again, no formal statistical or social media analysis programs were used at this point in the research process, as the goal of this paper is to identify which of the three hypotheses will yield the most substantial research direction.

Phrase Occurrence & I.D.	Jan 30, 2017	June 15, 2017	October 1, 2017	Feb 15, 2018	May 30, 2018	August 19, 2018	November 1, 2018	January 1, 2019	March 5, 2019
Tweets	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**13**	**6**	**6**	**13**	**10**
MAGA	1 (Made America Safe Again)	1 (#MAGA)	0	0	1 ('Make America Great Againa')	0	2 ('Making America Safe and Great Again!', #MAGArally')	1 (MAGA)	1 (MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN)
Witch Hunt	0	1 ('Lead by some very bad and Conflicted People)	0	0	1 (The Phony Witch Hunt)	2 ('Rigged and Disgusting', 'Rigged')	0	0	0
Fake News	1 ('FAKE NEWS')	0	1 ('Fake News')	0	0	3 ('Failing NYtimes wrote a Fake piece', 'fake News', 'Fake News Media')	0	1 ('Fake News Media',	0

Results

Concerning the hypothesis that racism is the quality of President Trump's overarching discourse that makes #MAGA negative; within the set of 72 sampled Tweets, there were seven references to MAGA or Make American Great Again. However, the presence of racism in those specific Tweets is not as obvious as anticipated. The Tweets were as follows:

In reference to travel disruptions caused by the media labeled 'Muslim Ban' in the first few days of his Presidency, President Trump said across a two-part Tweet on January 30, 2017:
> Only 109 people out of 325,000 were detained and held for questioning. Big problems at airports were caused by Delta computer outage,…..protesters and the tears of Senator Schumer. Secretary Kelly said that all is going well with very few problems. MAKE AMERICA SAFE AGAIN!

In a rare combination of MAGA and Witch Hunt – on June 15, 2017:
> You are witnessing the single greatest WITCH HUNT in American political history - led by some very bad and conflicted people! #MAGA

Endorsing a campaigning Republican on May 30, 2018:
> @RepDanDonovan, who is strong on Borders & Crime, loves our Military & our Vets, voted for Tax Cuts and is helping me to Make America Great Again. Dan has my full endorsement!

Accompanied by videos sponsored by the GOP in separate Tweets on November 1, 2018:
> On my way to Columbia, Missouri for a #MAGARally. Look forward to seeing everyone soon!
> Together, we are Making America Safe and Great Again! (link: http://Vote.GOP) Vote.GOP

Backing a Washington media outlet who supported him:
> Washington Examiner - "MAGA list: 205 'historic results' help Trump make case for 2020 re-election." True!

Finally, with un-cited poll numbers:
> Republican Approval Rating just hit 93%. Sorry Haters! MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!

Ultimately, what these findings and their absence of any racist mentions or insinuations means, is that any racist connotations or implications associated with MAGA and the Make America Great Again slogan, may not originate from the President himself in every instance (at least as

evidenced by this sample of Tweets. Other tweets, such as those mentioned in the subheading 'How did 'Make America Great Again Become a Negative Phrase?' are authentically the President's words, and are racist; meaning a larger sample is required for future research). However, as discovered by previous research by Eddington, S. M., (2018), Rösner, L., & Krämer, N. C., (2016), Himelboim, I., Sweetser, K. D., Tinkham, S. F., Cameron, K., Danelo, M., & West, K., (2016); racist remarks, discussions, threads, threats, links, and references to hate groups, will attach onto and thereby become associated with President Trump's Twitter account through comments on these Tweets and hash tag links.

Concerning the hypothesis that the phrases 'Witch Hunt' and 'Fake News' ultimately serve similarly negative, but ultimately very different rhetorical functions. Of the sampled Tweets, 14 referenced Fake News and/or Witch Hunt specifically. The Tweets are as follows:

Directly attacking a media outlet, on Jan 20, 2017:
> Somebody with aptitude and conviction should buy the FAKE NEWS and failing @nytimes and either run it correctly or let it fold with dignity!

June 15, 2017, combining Witch Hunt and MAGA but would any specific references to individuals:
> You are witnessing the single greatest WITCH HUNT in American political history – led by some very bad and conflicted people! #MAGA

Responding to criticism on the post-hurricane clean up operations in Puerto Rico, on October 1, 2017, (in a three part Tweet when limits were still at 140-characters), a rare use of 'Fake News' without specifically naming a person or organization:
> We have done a great job with the almost impossible situation in Puerto Rico. Outside of the Fake News or politically motivated ingrates,...
> ...people are now starting to recognize the amazing work that has been done by FEMA and our great Military. All buildings now inspected.....
> ...for safety. Thank you to the Governor of P.R. and to all of those who are working so closely with our First Responders. Fantastic job!

Simultaneously endorsing a book and belittling the Witch Hunt in vagaries on May 30, 2018:
> The soon to be released book, "The Russia Hoax, The Illicit Scheme To Clear Hillary Clinton And Frame Donald Trump," written by Gregg Jarrett, looks like a real deal big hit. The Phony Witch Hunt will be opened up for the world to see! Out in 5 weeks.

In a unique two-part Tweet that used 'Fake' and 'Witch Hunt' together on August 19, 2018. There is a first for this paper's sample, a specific naming of who the 'hunters' of the Witch Hunt might be. In this instance, 'Mueller and his gang of Dems'. 'Mueller and his gang' made an encore appearance in the day's Tweets, and get compared to McCarthy himself. 'Fake News' is once again attributed by the President to the New York Times, indeed, twice in one day.
> The failing @nytimes wrote a Fake piece today implying that because White House Councel Don McGahn was giving hours of testimony to the Special Councel, he must be a John Dean type "RAT." But I allowed him and all others to testify - I didn't have to. I have nothing to hide......
> ....and have demanded transparency so that this Rigged and Disgusting Witch Hunt can come to a close. So many lives have been ruined over nothing - McCarthyism at its WORST! Yet Mueller & his gang of Dems refuse to look at the real crimes on the other side - Media is even worse!

> Some members of the media are very Angry at the Fake Story in the New York Times. They actually called to complain and apologize - a big step forward. From the day I announced, the Times has been Fake News, and with their disgusting new Board Member, it will only get worse!
>
> The Failing New York Times wrote a story that made it seem like the White House Councel had TURNED on the President, when in fact it is just the opposite - & the two Fake reporters knew this. This is why the Fake News Media has become the Enemy of the People. So bad for America!
>
> Study the late Joseph McCarthy, because we are now in period with Mueller and his gang that make Joseph McCarthy look like a baby! Rigged Witch Hunt!

President Trump took a vague jab at Fake News Media while wishing 'them' a Happy New Year, on January 1, 2019:

> HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE, INCLUDING THE HATERS AND THE FAKE NEWS MEDIA! 2019 WILL BE A FANTASTIC YEAR FOR THOSE NOT SUFFERING FROM TRUMP DERANGEMENT SYNDROME. JUST CALM DOWN AND ENJOY THE RIDE, GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING FOR OUR COUNTRY!

Finally, two loose references to the Witch Hunt are made March 5, 2019:

> The greatest overreach in the history of our Country. The Dems are obstructing justice and will not get anything done. A big, fat, fishing expedition desperately in search of a crime, when in fact the real crime is what the Dems are doing, and have done!

> And

> PRESIDENTIAL HARASSMENT!

The findings from this series of Tweets are two fold. First, there was a chronological evolution from the Witch Hunt being conducted by an enigmatic (unnamed) entity, to a specific group, being 'Mueller and his Gang of Dems' (i.e. The Witch Hunt Narrative went from being a macro-functioning to a micro-functioning discursive tool of President Trump over the course of this sample). 'Fake News' however behaved in the complete opposite manner, and went from narrow attributions to the New York Times, to a very broad 'Fake News Media'. However, as this paper only drew from 72 Tweets, to more acutely detail the evolution of the Witch Hunt, and the devolution of 'Fake News', a considerably larger sample of Tweets would be needed.

Concerning the final hypothesis, that President Trump very narrowly aims any doubt surrounding his leadership directly towards his critics and opponents, versus attempting to dispel that confusion or doubt in his office all together; the following Tweets were selected as relative from the sample set of 72. The bold emphasis (added) show where this paper would argue blame was being implied.

Concerning travel disruptions following his travel-ban, blame is placed on 'Delta computer outage, protesters, and the tears of Senator Schumer' on Jan 30, 2017:

> Only 109 people out of 325,000 were detained and held for questioning. **Big problems** at airports were caused by Delta computer outage,.....

protesters and the tears of Senator Schumer. Secretary Kelly said that all is going well with very few problems. MAKE AMERICA SAFE AGAIN!

Singling out Hillary Clinton and arguing that collusion and obstruction charges against him were unfair on June 15, 2017:

Why is that Hillary Clintons family and Dems dealings with Russia are not looked at, but **my non-dealings are?**

Crooked H destroyed phones w/ hammer, 'bleached' emails, & had husband meet w/AG days before she was cleared- & they talk about obstruction?

They made up a **phony collusion** with the Russians story, found zero proof, so now they go for **obstruction of justice** on the phony story. Nice

Arguing crowd sizes again following the inauguration crowd disputes on May 30, 2019:

The Failing and Corrupt @nytimes estimated the **crowd** last night at "1000 people," when in fact it was many times that number - and the arena was rockin'. This is the way they demean and disparage. They are very dishonest people who don't "get" me, and never did!

The President does not have to mention any investigations, special council testimony, or other conflicts surrounding his Administration. However, he choose to use four Tweets to highlight such conflicts on August 19, 2018:

The failing @nytimes wrote a Fake piece today implying that because White House Councel Don McGahn was giving hours of testimony to the **Special Councel**, he must be a John Dean type **"RAT."** But I allowed him and all others to testify - I didn't have to. I have nothing to hide......

....and have demanded transparency so that this Rigged and Disgusting Witch Hunt can come to a close. So many lives have been ruined over nothing - **McCarthyism at its WORST**! Yet **Mueller & his gang of Dem**s refuse to look **at the real crimes on the other side** - Media is even worse!

No Collusion and No Obstruction, except by Crooked Hillary and the Democrats. All of the resignations and corruption, yet heavily conflicted Bob Mueller refuses to even look in that direction. **What about the Brennan, Comey, McCabe, Strzok lies to Congress, or Crooked's Emails!**

Study the late Joseph McCarthy, because we are now in period with **Mueller and his gang** that make Joseph McCarthy look like a baby! Rigged Witch Hunt!

Acknowledging that the Government Shut Down was problematic, but not taking responsibility, the President directly blames the Democrats and critiques the Speaker of the House for border issues at large on January 1, 2019:

Border Security and the Wall "thing" and Shutdown **is not where Nancy Pelosi wanted to start her tenure** as Speaker! Let's make a deal?

The Democrats, much as I suspected, have allocated **no money** for a new Wall. So imaginative! **The problem is,** without a Wall there can be no real Border Security - and our Country must finally have a Strong and Secure Southern Border!

One thing has now been proven. **The Democrats do not care** about Open Borders and all of the crime and drugs that Open Borders bring!

Accusing 'The Dems' of the exact charges against him, and listing specific 'culprits' on March 5, 2019:

The greatest overreach in the history of our Country. **The Dems are obstructing justice** and will not get anything done. A big, fat, fishing expedition desperately in search of a crime, when in fact **the real crime is what the Dems are doing**, and have done!

Now that they realize **the only Collusion with Russia was done by Crooked Hillary Clinton & the Democrats,** Nadler, Schiff and the Dem heads of the Committees have gone stone cold CRAZY. 81 letter sent to innocent people to harass them. They won't get ANYTHING done for our Country!

What these Tweets consistently show is that the President is never vague (at least in this sample set) about asserting blame or making accusations; he names specific individuals and groups, and the predominant group to blame is the Democrats and Hillary Clinton. While he has every opportunity to simply ignore or not publically mention any of the challenges to his administration (official investigations, controversial remarks, etc.), he not only acknowledges the controversies at

hand, but very acutely guides any reader's notion of blame away from himself, onto specific individuals in his opposition's party (and sometimes members of his own party and former members of his own Administration, but that is beyond the scope of this paper). This is one of the most striking behaviors of President Trump – in the face of controversy, where he could try to suppress and disregard the existence of any challenges to his office; he directly addresses, disputes, and then blames.

Conclusion

This paper resulted in some unexpected findings based on the sample of tweets used for its research. First, it found that 'MAGA' and the 'Make America Great Again' was never used in racist contexts by the President (indeed race was not mentioned in this sample of Tweets with the associated motto), nor were the Tweets sampled for this paper directly racist. This was unexpected as there is a general consensus (in academia and in society) that public racism and hate-crimes have increased under Trump's Presidency. Second, 'Witch Hunt' and 'Fake News', as phrases used by the President, behaved in unanticipated ways; with 'Witch Hunt' decreasing in scope from an enigmatic anti-Trump inclination by persons unknown, to a very narrow action by 'Mueller and his gang of Dems' - whereas 'Fake News' went from narrowly referring almost exclusively to the New York Times (within this sample of Tweets) to being an enigmatic anti-Trump inclination of media-related persons and groups unknown. Finally, President Trump never dispelled controversy, nor tried to 'steer-away-from-the-storm', rather, he very carefully and consistently laid all blame against him at the feet of others; while unsurprising given his other public behavior before and after taking office, the nature of this behavior is interesting, particularly for a sitting President.

This paper's primary purpose was to act as a preliminary research investigation into which discursive patterns and narratives of President Trump might prove the most fruitful for a larger research project or manuscript. Based on the particularly unanticipated findings of the second

hypothesis, concerning the changes in the narratives of 'Witch Hunt' and 'Fake News' respectively, the author will begin exploring means to process, analyze and statistically manage, what will hopefully encompass a more complete representation of each narratives' life span – as these phrases have already proven to 'stick' not only with the President, but with the mainstream media, and beyond. This paper and its subsequent research project, will ultimately seek to expand upon such comparative discursive analysis research as Karin Wahl-Jorgensen; perhaps through directly comparing Presidents' Obama and Trump, and furthering communications research on party-line narrative understanding. Ideally, further in-depth, and considerably more quantitative research along these lines of questioning into the specific queries and hypothesis established herein may occur at the conclusion of President Trump's tenure in office, in order to present a more robust understanding of what has already proven to be an interesting Presidency.

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Appendix

January 30, 2017 6	1. There is nothing nice about searching for terrorists before they can enter our country. This was a big part of my campaign. Study the world! 2. I have made my decision on who I will nominate for The United States Supreme Court. It will be announced live on Tuesday at 8:00 P.M. (W.H.) 3. Only 109 people out of 325,000 were detained and held for questioning. Big problems at airports were caused by Delta computer outage,….. 4. protesters and the tears of Senator Schumer. Secretary Kelly said that all is going well with very few problems. MAKE AMERICA SAFE AGAIN! 5. Somebody with aptitude and conviction should buy the FAKE NEWS and failing @nytimes and either run it correctly or let it fold with dignity! 6. The American dream is back. We're going to create an environment for small business like we haven't had in many, many decades! {Ingroup Picture}
June 15, 2017 6	1. You are witnessing the single greatest WITCH HUNT in American political history - led by some very bad and conflicted people! #MAGA 2. Why is that Hillary Clintons family and Dems dealings with Russia are not looked at, but my non-dealings are? 3. Crooked H destroyed phones w/ hammer, 'bleached' emails, & had husband meet w/AG days before she was cleared- & they talk about obstruction? 4. They made up a phony collusion with the Russians story, found zero proof, so now they go for obstruction of justice on the phony story. Nice 5. Thank you Wisconsin! Tuesday was a great success for #WorkforceWeek a @WCTC w/@IvankaTrump & @GovWalker Remarks: (link: http://45.wh.gov/BXYooL) 45.wh.gov/BXYooL{Video Montage of Trump} 6. #CongressionalBaseballGame {Video of Presidential Address concerning the shooting during the previous Congressional Baseball Game]

October 1, 2017 **6**	1. We have done a great job with the almost impossible situation in Puerto Rico. Outside of the Fake News or politically motivated ingrates,... 2. ...people are now starting to recognize the amazing work that has been done by FEMA and our great Military. All buildings now inspected..... 3. ...for safety. Thank you to the Governor of P.R. and to all of those who are working so closely with our First Responders. Fantastic job! 4. I told Rex Tillerson, our wonderful Secretary of State, that he is wasting his time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man... 5. Being nice to Rocket Man hasn't worked in 25 years, why would it work now? Clinton failed, Bush failed, and Obama failed. I won't fail. 6. ...Save your energy Rex, we'll do what has to be done!
February 15, 2018 **6**	1. So many signs that the Florida shooter was mentally disturbed, even expelled from school for bad and erratic behavior. Neighbors and classmates knew he was a big problem. Must always report such instances to authorities, again and again! 2. The Schumer-Rounds-Collins immigration bill would be a total catastrophe. @DHSgov says it would be "the end of immigration enforcement in America." It creates a giant amnesty (including for dangerous criminals), doesn't build the wall, expands chain migration, keeps the visa... 3. ...lottery, continues deadly catch-and-release, and bars enforcement even for FUTURE illegal immigrants. Voting for this amendment would be a vote AGAINST law enforcement, and a vote FOR open borders. If Dems are actually serious about DACA, they should support the Grassley bill! 4. While the Republicans and Democrats in Congress are working hard to come up with a solution to DACA, they should be strongly considering a system of Merit Based Immigration so that we will have the people ready, willing and able to help all of those companies moving into the USA! 5. In times of tragedy, the bonds that sustain us are those of family, faith, community, and country. These bonds are stronger than the forces of hatred and evil - and these bonds grow even stronger in the hours of our greatest need. (link: http://45.wh.gov/ParklandFL) 45.wh.gov/ParklandFL 6. Presidential Proclamation Honoring the Victims of the Tragedy in Parkland, Florida: (link: http://45.wh.gov/POTUSProclamation) 45.wh.gov/POTUSProclamat…
May 30, 2018 **13**	1. With the #RightToTry Law I signed today, patients with life threatening illnesses will finally have access to experimental treatments that could improve or even cure their conditions. These are experimental treatments and products that have shown great promise...{Video of Trump surrounded by children impacted by medical complications} 2. Bob Iger of ABC called Valerie Jarrett to let her know that "ABC does not tolerate comments like those" made by Roseanne Barr. Gee, he never called President Donald J. Trump to apologize for the HORRIBLE statements made and said about me on ABC. Maybe I just didn't get the call? 3. Today I am proud to keep another promise to the American people as I sign the #RightToTry Legislation into law. ...{Video of Trump surrounded by children impacted by various medical complications} 4. Great meeting with @KimKardashian today, talked about prison reform and sentencing. {Picture of President Trump with Kim Kardashian in the Oval Office} 5. The soon to be released book, "The Russia Hoax, The Illicit Scheme To Clear Hillary Clinton And Frame Donald Trump," written by Gregg Jarrett, looks like a real deal big hit. The Phony Witch Hunt will be opened up for the world to see! Out in 5 weeks. 6. Rep.Trey Gowdy, "I don't think so, I think what the President is doing is expressing frustration that Attorney General Sessions should have shared these reasons for recusal before he took the job, not afterward. If I were the President and I picked someone to be the country's.... 7. ....chief law enforcement officer, and they told me later, 'oh by the way I'm not going to be able to participate in the most important case in the office, I would be frustrated too...and that's how I read that - Senator Sessions, why didn't you tell me before I picked you..... 8. ....There are lots of really good lawyers in the country, he could have picked somebody else!" And I wish I did! 9. The Failing and Corrupt @nytimes estimated the crowd last night at "1000 people," when in fact it was many times that number - and the arena was rockin'. This is the way they demean and disparage. They are very dishonest people who don't "get" me, and never did! 10. There is no one better to represent the people of N.Y. and Staten Island (a place I know very well) than @RepDanDonovan, who is strong on Borders & Crime, loves our Military & our Vets, voted for Tax Cuts and is helping me to Make America Great Again. Dan has my full endorsement! 11. Very importantly, @RepDanDonovan will win for the Republicans in November...and his opponent will not. Remember Alabama. We can't take any chances on losing to a Nancy Pelosi controlled Democrat! 12. "The recusal of Jeff Sessions was an unforced betrayal of the President of the United States." JOE DIGENOVA, former U.S. Attorney. 13. Moments ago, it was my great honor to sign #RightToTry into law! ...{Video of Trump surrounded by children impacted by various medical complications}
August 19, 2018 **6**	1. The failing @nytimes wrote a Fake piece today implying that because White House Councel Don McGahn was giving hours of testimony to the Special Councel, he must be a John Dean type "RAT." But I allowed him and all others to testify - I didn't have to. I have nothing to hide...... 2. ....and have demanded transparency so that this Rigged and Disgusting Witch Hunt can come to a close. So many lives have been ruined over nothing - McCarthyism at its WORST! Yet Mueller & his gang of Dems refuse to look at the real crimes on the other side - Media is even worse! 3. Some members of the media are very Angry at the Fake Story in the New York Times. They actually called to complain and apologize - a big step forward. From the day I announced, the Times has been Fake News, and with their disgusting new Board Member, it will only get worse! 4. The Failing New York Times wrote a story that made it seem like the White House Councel had TURNED on the President, when in fact it is just the opposite - & the two Fake reporters knew this. This is why the Fake News Media has become the Enemy of the People. So bad for America! 5. No Collusion and No Obstruction, except by Crooked Hillary and the Democrats. All of the resignations and corruption, yet heavily conflicted Bob Mueller refuses to even look in that direction. What about the Brennan, Comey, McCabe, Strzok lies to Congress, or Crooked's Emails! 6. Study the late Joseph McCarthy, because we are now in period with Mueller and his gang that make Joseph McCarthy look like a baby! Rigged Witch Hunt!
November 1, 2018 **6**	1. Just had a long and very good conversation with President Xi Jinping of China. We talked about many subjects, with a heavy emphasis on Trade. Those discussions are moving along nicely with meetings being scheduled at the G-20 in Argentina. Also had good discussion on North Korea! 2. Together, we are Making America Safe and Great Again! (link: http://Vote.GOP) Vote.GOP {Video from the GOP} 3. @WalkerStapleton will be an extraordinary Governor for the State of Colorado. He is strong, smart, and has been successful at everything he has ever done.... 4. ....His opponent, Jared Polis, is weak on crime and weak on borders – could never do the job. Get out and VOTE – Walker has my Complete and Total Endorsement! 5. Illegal immigration affects the lives of all Americans. Illegal Immigration hurts American workers, burdens American taxpayers, undermines public safety, and places enormous strain on local schools, hospitals and communities...{Video from PSCP.TV titled 'President Trump Addresses the Illegal Immigration Crisis and Gives an Update on Border Security} 6. On my way to Columbia, Missouri for a #MAGARally. Look forward to seeing everyone soon! (link: http://Vote.GOP) Vote.GOP {Picture of Trump Boarding Air Force One}
January 1, 2019	1. General" McChrystal got fired like a dog by Obama. Last assignment a total bust. Known for big, dumb mouth. Hillary lover! 2. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE, INCLUDING THE HATERS AND THE FAKE NEWS MEDIA! 2019 WILL BE A FANTASTIC YEAR FOR THOSE NOT SUFFERING FROM TRUMP DERANGEMENT SYNDROME. JUST CALM DOWN AND

13	ENJOY THE RIDE, GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING FOR OUR COUNTRY! 3. Border Security and the Wall "thing" and Shutdown is not where Nancy Pelosi wanted to start her tenure as Speaker! Let's make a deal? 4. The Democrats, much as I suspected, have allocated no money for a new Wall. So imaginative! The problem is, without a Wall there can be no real Border Security - and our Country must finally have a Strong and Secure Southern Border! 5. For FAR TOO LONG Senate Democrats have been Obstructing more than 350 Nominations. These great Americans left their jobs to serve our Country, but can't because Dems are blocking them, some for two years-historic record. Passed committees, but Schumer putting them on hold. Bad! 6. "Kim Jong Un says North Korea will not make or test nuclear weapons, or give them to others - & he is ready to meet President Trump anytime." PBS News Hour. I also look forward to meeting with Chairman Kim who realizes so well that North Korea possesses great economic potential! 7. Do you think it's just luck that gas prices are so low, and falling? Low gas prices are like another Tax Cut! 8. Dr. Sebastian Gorka, a very good and talented guy, has a great new book just out, "Why We Fight." Lots of insight - Enjoy! 9. Gas prices are low and expected to go down this year. This would be good! 10. Washington Examiner - "MAGA list: 205 'historic results' help Trump make case for 2020 re-election." True! 11. Happy New Year! 12. Congratulations to President @JairBolsonaro who just made a great inauguration speech - the U.S.A. is with you! 13. One thing has now been proven. The Democrats do not care about Open Borders and all of the crime and drugs that Open Borders bring!
March 5, 2019 **10**	1. Scott Gottlieb, who has done an absolutely terrific job as Commissioner of the FDA, plans to leave government service sometime next month.... 2. ....Scott has helped us to lower drug prices, get a record number of generic drugs approved and onto the market, and so many other things. He and his talents will be greatly missed! 3. Just a few moments ago, I signed an EO addressing one of our nation's most heartbreaking tragedies: VETERANS SUICIDE. To every Veteran—I want you to know that you have an entire nation of more than 300 million people behind you. You will NEVER be forgotten. a) {{{VIDEO FROM PSCP.TV 'LIVE NOW: President Trump Signs Executive Order to Empower Veterans and End Veteran Suicide' 4. "HIV Is Cured In 2nd Patient, Doctors Report." @nytimes. Such great news for so many. Tremendous progress being made! 5. "(Crooked) Hillary Clinton confirms she will not run in 2020, rules out a third bid for White House." Aw-shucks, does that mean I won't get to run against her again? She will be sorely missed! 6. Republican Approval Rating just hit 93%. Sorry Haters! MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! 7. The greatest overreach in the history of our Country. The Dems are obstructing justice and will not get anything done. A big, fat, fishing expedition desperately in search of a crime, when in fact the real crime is what the Dems are doing, and have done! 8. Our great First Lady (@FLOTUS) will be doing a LIVE show TODAY at 1:00 PM PT with the terrific @EricBolling at the @WestgateVegasResort. She's on her #BeBest Tour, helping address the #OpioidCrisis. Free admission for the first 1,500 people! 9. Now that they realize the only Collusion with Russia was done by Crooked Hillary Clinton & the Democrats, Nadler, Schiff and the Dem heads of the Committees have gone stone cold CRAZY. 81 letter sent to innocent people to harass them. They won't get ANYTHING done for our Country! 10. PRESIDENTIAL HARASSMENT!