

The Hitler Rubric: An Historical Effort to Establish a Political Morality



Figure 1: President Trump conflated with Hitler

Adolf Hitler, the German dictator of the 1930s and 1940s, is still viewed as the great villain of modern American history. Conservatives find Hitler's hatred of free enterprise and the Judeo-Christian heritage deplorable. Liberal-democracy abhorrent. Therefore, if one wants to really pull an American leader into the mud, one can compare him to Adolf Hitler. With the case of Donald Trump,

remarkably he has also tried to Hitlerize others. Trump attacked conservative commentator Pat Buchanan who was running against him in 1999 as a "Hitler lover." It is almost inconceivable that any other brutal dictator from world history could work like this. People would not go overboard comparing Barack Obama to Joseph Stalin, or Bill Clinton to Mao Zedong. This paper

have more similarities with Hitler than we might want to admit, by placing them in the Hitler

measured by pH where an inverse scale is used, a Hitler Rubric could use distance away from Hitler as a positive sign of Americanism.

The Hitler Rubric is an effort to build on what consensus Americans do have. The Rubric is based on a President's actions and words about racism, and any other perceived alienation from democracy and free enterprise (Figure 2). In the graph below, the colors represent the categories. Blue for racism, red for anti-democratic orientations, and yellow for anti-free-enterprise orientations. The vertical axis represents the numbers from one to ten, how similar each President is to Hitler in the following categories. The horizontal axis represents the three American Presidents, Roosevelt, Nixon, and Trump. (From left to right) And all the way at the right, we are able to recognize Hitler with the perfect score of 30. He receives 10/10 in each category for being an anti-free enterprise, anti-democratic racist.

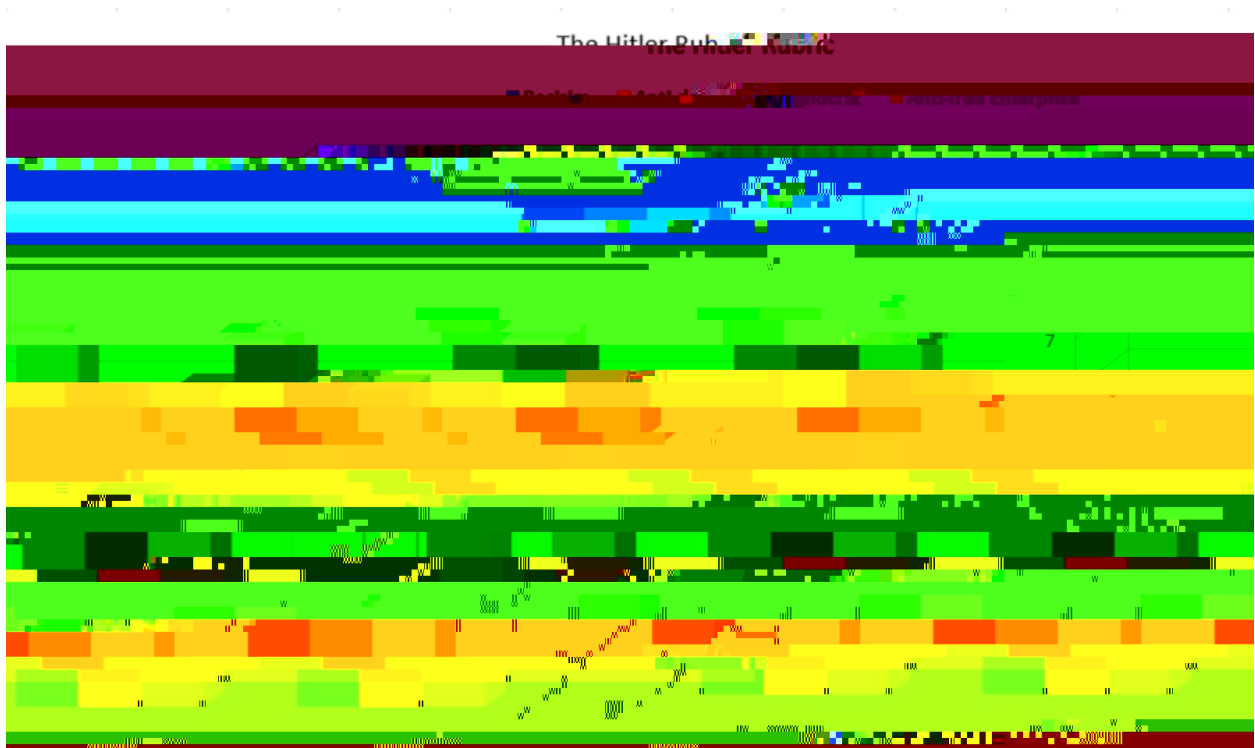


Figure 2: Hitler Rubric

Franklin Roosevelt is the first President that I placed on the Hitler Rubric. In some studies he appears as the Great Anti-Hitler, and

he scored higher (7) in that since he seemed to want to experiment with wage-and-price systems,

Quotes are a way of seeing the true intentions, opinions, and values of people, which is why the essay will look more deeply into quotes by Hitler, Roosevelt, Nixon, and Trump. They are primary sources that show how the leaders actually thought about racism, democracy, and free enterprise. Quotes show that the gulf between American Presidents and the anti-American Adolf Hitler is not that great. The first category was racism, and Hitler did not just kill six million Jews, he could say some incredibly insulting things about them. For example, when he was talking about depraved theater production, sleazy art, and communist politics, he said “And whenever you cut, even cautiously into such an abscess, you find like a maggot in a rotting body, as if dazzled by a sudden light—a Kike!”⁴ Kike is a derogatory term for a Jew and by using this term as a synonym for ‘maggot’, he showed a complete contempt for Jews. It gets way worse than this. His first written comment on Jewish question was on September 16th, 1919 when he

resistance."⁶ Here he once again refers to Jews. He believed that democracy was too slow for him, and he wanted things done, fast. This is why he found great appeal in the Socialist ~~State~~ of his, because the pace was faster. He said "The essence of leadership as conceived by the National

many^{po} citizens. In the 1940s, the United States was in a war against Japan, Italy, and Germany but it only rarely put Italian- or German-Americans in concentration camps. The Japanese, however, were sent as a group. This political cartoon below also expresses the same situation about racism and works as a piece of evidence against Roosevelt's score in the rubric.

Figure 3 : Roosevelt implying that the Japanese deserve to be punished.

Secondly, we are able to justify his very low score on Hitler's totalitarian index. Roosevelt was not like Hitler when it comes to the will of being the only dominant strong dictator. Roosevelt really wanted the best for the lives for Americans. His big achievement was the Social Security Act. He also tried hard to end the misery that the Great Depression had brought. He did this through income taxes. He raised them high for the rich, which made them support the poor. According to politico.com, "He knew the ideological threats of communism and fascism -brought.

power to a point where it becomes stronger than the democratic state itself. That in its essence is fascism: ownership of government by an individual, by a group, or any controlling private power.”¹⁰ Roosevelt decided that by assisting people, he was establishing confidence in the American system.

Lastly, Roosevelt received a very high score (7) in being anti-free enterprise, which is pretty similar to Hitler’s score (10). This meant that Roosevelt, just like Hitler, did not believe in the right to pursue business without any government control. One authority notes that, “Roosevelt believed that the government had the right and the responsibility to regulate big business so that its actions did not negatively affect the general public.”¹¹ The big part of him receiving the number 7, comes from the previous quote. Roosevelt believed in government control over businesses but his differences with Hitler explain the reasons behind his belief. Roosevelt was thinking about the general public whereas Hitler only wanted to control everything he could. Roosevelt has even been quoted as saying “Men may differ as to the particular form of governmental activity with respect to industry and business, but nearly all men are agreed that private enterprise in times such as these cannot be left without assistance and without reasonable safeguards lest it destroy not only itself but also our processes of civilization.”¹²

¹⁰ “Franklin D. Roosevelt Quotes (Author of Fireside Chats).” *Goodreads*, Goodreads, www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/219075.Franklin_D_Roosevelt.

¹¹ Milkis, Sidney, et al. “Theodore Roosevelt: Impact and Legacy.” *Miller Center*, 27 Nov. 2017, millercenter.org/president/roosevelt/impact-and-legacy.

¹² *Franklin D. Roosevelt Quotes*, www.notable-quotes.com/r/roosevelt_franklin_d.html.

The next American President in the rubric was Nixon. He received 6 in racism, 7 in anti-democracy, and 6 in anti-free enterprise. These results as well as the previous results from Roosevelt are easily justified by quotes. Nixon had racist comments against Jews, but it does not reach Hitler's level of racism against Jews, which is why he received a 7. Jews were not his only bigoted topic though. His time in the oval office has many recorded conversations where he reveals that

through fear. One time, Nixon jumped out of his limo, and told his camera-man to start filming. He gave the protestors a victory sign. As they responded with jeers, and a thrown piece of trash, he got the camera-man to record the way people were attacking him.¹⁴ Nixon never reached Hitler's level (10). For example, he did not burn down the *Reichstag* building or the Capitol, as with Hitler, but he tried to subvert the process in other ways which brought his score up. His CREEP committee, Committee to Reelect the President, that was chronicled in the Watergate hearings, showed other manipulative approaches. CREEP paid men posing as half-nude homosexuals to scream support for his opponent. CREEP got jocks to beat up campus protesters. CREEP found a way to open first-class mail, and plant bugs in psychiatrist offices.

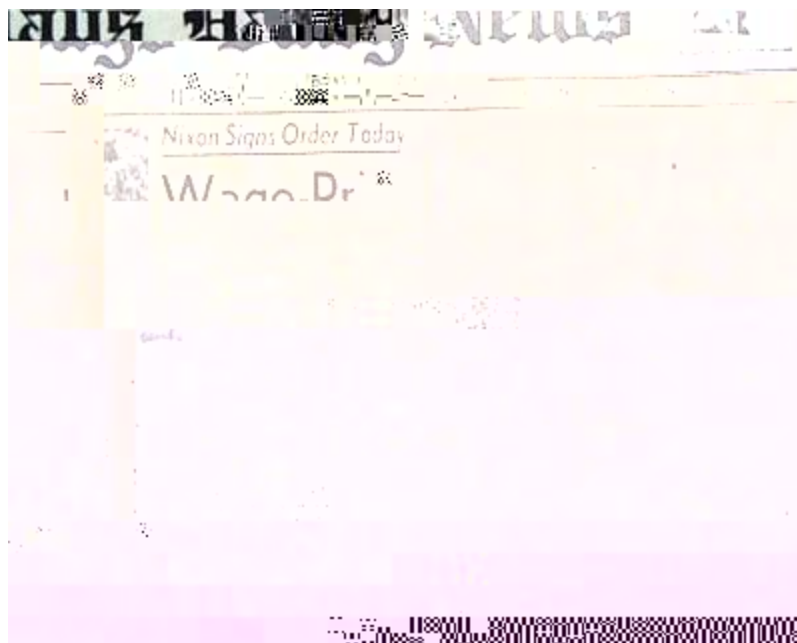


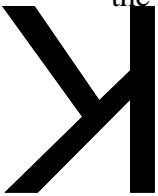
Figure 4: A paper in 3 X E O L F shows that President Richard Nixon understood the costs of wage and price controls, but implemented them to secure his re-election in 1972.

¹⁴ History.com Editors. "Watergate Scandal." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 29 Oct. 2009, www.history.com/topics/1970s/watergate.

The last category that needs explanation is Nixon's take on free enterprise, where he received a 6. Nixon showed some contempt for free enterprise and capitalism when he imposed wage and price controls in the Economic Stabilization Act of 1971.¹⁵ He had previously described wage and price controls as a Socialist idea. Experts think that he imposed these guidelines in order to get elected in 1972 (Figure 4). Because of trade imbalances due to American reliance on oil, The United States was going off the gold standard, and Nixon was worv.

biased solely because of his Mexican heritage. A lot of people are also already familiar with the recent twitter “scandal” about congresswomen. He tweeted that these black and brown women are “from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe,” and that they should “go back” to those countries. He even added “you can’t leave fast enough. I’m sure that Nancy Pelosi would be very happy to quickly work out free travel arrangements!”¹⁷ Nixon was at least discreet. Trump cannot seem to refrain from even public racist remarks.

President Trump, ever since elected, has created a kind of media circus. People around the world have multiple questions about him. Is



America's free enterprise system.”²⁰ Trump does not abide with the market, he tries to control it. The GM boss, Marry Barra let the President know that they were going to cut jobs as well as production, and all he said was "I heard you're closing your plant. It's not going to be closed for long, I hope, Mary, because if it is you have a problem." This incident was followed by another

cause to wonder whether America might yet become what it has set out not to be.

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