

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, December 11, 2015

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Article Title: *Worldwide, Trump's plan elicits condemnation, admiration, despair*

Section: Main, A3

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **befuddlement**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence using your own words.

"After Republican candidate Donald Trump called for a ban on the entry of Muslims into the United States, much of the rest of the world looked at the American presidential election on Tuesday with a mix of **befuddlement** and despair."

Comprehension Questions

1. After Republican candidate Donald Trump called for a ban on the entry of Muslims into the United States, much of the rest of the world looked at the American presidential election on Tuesday with a mix of befuddlement and despair. Why?
2. Trump's position had its admirers, but in many other places, it ignited widespread condemnation that crossed ideological and social lines. What did Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron, of the Conservative Party, call his words?
3. Prime Minister Manuel Valls of France, which is still reeling from deadly attacks by Islamic extremists, wrote on Twitter: "Mr. Trump, like others, fuels _____," and "Our only enemy is radical Islamism."
4. "Many Italians think Trump is a sort of American version of Silvio Berlusconi, a big personality without the background of what it means to be a politician," said Sergio Fabbrini, director of the school of government at Luiss Guido Carli University in Rome. How are the two leaders compared?
5. In the Arab world, Trump's anti-Muslim comments have yielded what?
6. But in a world in which terrorism has come to be associated with _____, Trump's stance resonated among people who perceive a similar threat.

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

Grant added that Trump conveyed an ignorance of world affairs that Europeans found hard to stomach from a contender in a national election in the United States.

"Donald Trump strikes me as a very different kind of populist right-winger than the kind we've grown used to in Europe in that he shows a complete ignorance about the world," Grant said.

"Too many Europeans," he added, "it is deeply alarming that he is doing so well." In France, which is grappling with the challenges of integrating a large Muslim population, the newspaper Le Monde called Trump's comments "unprecedented."

- How do you feel about Trump's call to ban Muslim's into the United States?
- Will his behavior and philosophy hurt/help his election?
- Why do you think he's getting so much media coverage?

But observers in France, where the National Front won the first round of regional elections last weekend, also noted that Trump reflected a familiar nationalist and anti-immigrant impulse, extending from Paris to Budapest. After the recent influx of migrants to Europe, many of them from the Middle East, Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary repeatedly said that his country had a right to protect its Christian traditions by refusing to accept large numbers of Muslims.

“Many Italians think Trump is a sort of American version of Silvio Berlusconi, a big personality without the background of what it means to be a politician,” said Sergio Fabbrini, director of the school of government at Luiss Guido Carli University in Rome. “Both are outsiders with a politically incorrect style, dividing American politics as Italian politics were divided.”

- Is there an issue with overall immigration into the United States? Why or why not?
- In the article, it stated that many Italians thought Trump has a “politically incorrect style, dividing American politics.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

“There is something disturbing about where the Americans are going in their relations with the outside world in general and with the Arab and Islamic world in particular,” said Abdulkhaliq Abdulla, a retired professor of political science from the United Arab Emirates. “All of a sudden it seems that America, or at least some segments of America, have forgotten what America stands for.”

Hafez Al Mirazi, the director of the Kamal Adham Center for Television and Digital Journalism at the American University in Cairo and who lived in the United States and whose children attended American schools, said he was worried that Trump’s positions could also create a “disenfranchised generation” of Arabs in the United States, who are for the most part better integrated than their counterparts in Europe.

Dar al-Ifta, the authority that issues religious edicts in Egypt, released a statement calling Trump’s comments “extremist” and warned that they “threatened societal peace” in the United States.

“He’s not just a regular guy or some fanatic,” said Ibrahim Negm, a spokesman for the authority. “He would be the president of one of the most powerful countries in the world that hosts 6 to 8 million American Muslims. This is indeed alarming.”

- “Trump’s positions could also create a “disenfranchised generation” of Arabs in the United States.” What does this statement mean to you?
- Are Trump’s comments “Extremist?” Why or why not?

Essay

- ***What do you believe America stands for, in terms of immigration and its laws?***
- ***Do you believe changes and or regulations need to be made? What kind?***
- ***Should there be a limit to how many people we let in, from all nations?***
- ***Should there be a particular number allowed in each year? How can that be controlled?***
- ***Look through the lens of Americans that are scared. Where do their fears stem from?***
- ***What is your opinion on bringing refugees from war-torn countries into the United States?***

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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