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The Devil and Hillary Clinton

By Rob Urie
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With all of the handwringing over neo-fascist buffoon and likely next President of the United States Donald Trump, very little of value is being written about the circumstances that are fueling his candidacy. America has long been the land of rich, white, racist, xenophobic cranks. They are even referred to on occasion as the Founding Fathers. In normal times, whatever that might mean, the constituency for explicit cranks like Mr. Trump is limited because people are busy with their lives. Following four decades of economic evisceration of the American middle and working classes through engineered competition with low-wage overseas labor, large numbers of likely voters don't appear to have much of their former lives left to be busy with.

While it is wholly appropriate to call Mr. Trump and his minions out for their racism and xenophobia, the American political establishment has at least as much to answer for in this regard as Mr. Trump. A more nuanced explanation for ascendant xenophobia can be found in the economic competition that this establishment has inflicted from above. Sequential 'free-trade' agreements were intended to lower middle and working class wages. The predictable result is widespread economic disenfranchisement in former high wage countries. Mexican peasants displaced by NAFTA have been at least as victimized as displaced American workers, but this

hardly finds the real malefactors in the American political establishment placing blame where it lies— with themselves.

Pitting the victims of imperial policies against one-another to preclude organized rebellion is as old as capitalism. It is important to note that Donald Trump isn't talking about resurrecting a vibrant labor movement when he (correctly) argues that economic disenfranchisement explains much of the popular disillusion with the political establishment. His call for 'better' trade negotiators is to redirect exploitation, not to end it. Passage of NAFTA led to the hostile takeover of the indigenous Mexican economy by heavily subsidized U.S. based multi-nationals sending millions of economic refugees fleeing north— the entire program was cynical bullshit from the start. 'Better' cynical bullshit is the only thing that Donald Trump is offering.

Much has been made of the cover given the Clintons by the Black misleadership class for their punishingly racist and classist policies like 'three strikes, you're out,' mandatory prison sentences for minor drug offenses, deregulating Wall Street to let it engage in predatory finance, welfare 'reform' and the wanton murder of hundreds of thousands of Brown children in Iraq through sanctions. Mr. Trump's most potent xenophobic rhetoric comes via Hillary Clinton's creation of around ten million refugees from Syria, Libya and Iraq— all wars directly or indirectly supported by Mrs. Clinton in her own right as a prominent American politician. Mrs. Clinton has hardly stepped forward to claim credit for this human destruction and misery. But the refugees exist to be demonized by Mr. Trump thanks to specific policies that are her handiwork.

One of the points made when Barack Obama refused to prosecute the (George W.) Bush administration's war crimes was that 'we,' the humans that inhabit the planet, were only a few short years away from having someone else assume the role of President of the U.S. With Mr. Trump in ascendance, that particular chicken is coming home to roost. To be clear, Donald Trump needs a body count in the high hundreds of thousands to begin to compete with Mrs. Clinton in terms of creating human death and misery. Might it have been a good idea for Mr. Obama to have re-criminalized war crimes for humanity's sake? And might it have been a good idea for him to have worried a bit more about the tens of millions of people being tossed onto the economic garbage heap and less about restoring the bankers who put them there?

The American politics of Immaculate Conception, of placing these carefully engineered economic and political outcomes in a distant past so that ideological differences can be put forward as substance, is central to the modern political process. The proverbial fly-in-the-ointment for this program is that now long displaced autoworkers in Detroit and furniture makers in North Carolina understood by the late 1980s that 'f