

# ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## **Hillary Clinton, goddess of war, knocks Donald Trump, king of hype**

By Doug Bandow

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Hillary Clinton, distrusted by most Americans and generating little enthusiasm even among supporters, has fallen behind Donald Trump in the polls. Her antidote? A brutal attack on his foreign policy views.

Clinton is the Democratic neoconservative, a veritable goddess of war, who backed every major conflict fought by the U.S. over the past quarter century. Her needless foreign adventures turned out badly, creating new crises and consequent demands for more intervention and war.

Clinton's basic message was that Donald Trump is "temperamentally unfit" for the presidency. Nevertheless, common sense occasionally surfaces in the Trump world view. It never makes an appearance as Clinton backs Washington's attempted domination of the globe.

Ultimately, she is most appalled that Trump appears to oppose the conventional wisdom that Washington is destined to micromanage the world. Her dedication to a status quo which has failed so badly warns Americans about her likely (mal-)performance as president.

For instance, she began by posing "a choice between a fearful America that's less secure and less engaged with the world, and strong, confident America that leads to keep our country safe and our economy growing." However, Clinton-backed military interventions have left America poorer and less secure.

In her speech she imagined Trump "leading us into war just because somebody got under his very thin skin." But she apparently doesn't require even that much justification for going to war. She has backed U.S. involvement in virtually every unnecessary, foolish, expensive conflict.

She pushed her husband to remake the Balkans, tearing apart some nations and supporting other artificial states. She strongly supported the Iraq invasion, one of America's worst foreign policy blunders.

She backed doubling down in Afghanistan in a foolish attempt at nation-building. She orchestrated the campaign in Libya, which resulted in a failed state, loose weapons, civil war and a vacuum filled by ISIS. She advocates that the U.S. get more involved militarily in Syria.

Yet she believes this list of mistakes entitles her to the presidency: “I’m proud to run on my record.”

In her speech, she said “we need to stick with our allies,” which make “us exceptional. And our allies deliver for us every day.”

This is one of the silliest things she’s ever said, quite an achievement. America is not exceptional because dozens of whiny dependents expect the U.S. to subsidize, coddle, reassure and defend them. Actually, nations all over the world are begging Washington to do so.

Clinton endorsed diplomacy and, specifically, the Iran nuclear accord. She’s right, but though Trump has been inconsistent on Iran, he appears to be more open to diplomacy elsewhere, especially in dealing with China and Russia. His policy, despite the bluster, appears to be more pacific than Clinton’s.

She also argued that “We need a real plan for confronting terrorism,” but she failed to mention the most obvious point. Stop blowing up other nations. Stop creating enemies around the globe. Terrorism is evil and awful, but it almost always is a political act directed against outsiders, including Americans.

Clinton advocated that Americans “stay true to our values.” Her criticisms of Trump’s grotesque behavior struck home.

Yet her public values are worse: a belief in global social engineering, a willingness to go to war for frivolous reasons, a commitment to power over liberty, a willingness to wreck entire nations while pursuing failed policies. Clinton, too, is not qualified to be commander in chief.

Clinton made a case against herself, as well as against Trump. Whatever happens in November is likely to leave Americans in greater danger.

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