



Trump-Hitler comparisons not out of line

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Honoring victims of past atrocities calls me to respond whenever authority gives license to the denigration of fellow human beings. One does not turn away and leave the most vulnerable to face their enemies alone.

In Nazi-occupied Europe there were the indignities, incremental in nature, beginning with language that served to create the perception that some people were, in fact, not people at all, the “animals” and “infestation” of Donald Trump’s rhetoric.

The concept of “the other” invariably precedes the implementation of policy that strips people of human rights.

Do we recognize evil only precisely as it existed in another place and time or do we call out moral bankruptcy when values we espouse here and now are being forsaken?

Hitler called the Jewish people vermin. He falsely accused them of criminal behavior.

President Trump calls people seeking refuge at our borders rapists and gangsters, proposing to dispense with due process, banishing war-weary souls with immediacy to a fate about which he does not care.

Just last week he held a ceremony for the families of people killed by undocumented immigrants, implying that they are by and large violent criminals when, according to the nonpartisan Cato Institute, this population is far less likely to engage in such behavior than those born here.

In every interview, press conference, speech and tweet from the inception of Trump’s presence on the world stage, parallels to Nazi propaganda have been abundantly evident.

In my lifetime, this is the first president of the United States who has unabashedly sought to turn American against American.

Those who are offended by comparisons between the words of Donald Trump and Nazi propaganda are either unfamiliar with the Hitler/Goebbels playbook or guilty of willful ignorance.

In the face of the immense human suffering being perpetrated by our current administration, I find an expression of such outrage at those who point to the glaring parallels sorely misplaced.