

How did we get here? Conservative perspective on recent events

KAITLYN MUNSIL

For some young adults, the 2016 election was their first time casting a vote for the president of the United States, myself included. Although President Donald Trump won more votes from the Electoral College, it's clear the citizens of the U.S. are unhappy with the decisions he's made thus far.

There's no denying this election was one for the books. After Trump won, most of the NAU student population was in dismay. However, the more conservative students silently cheered. After Barack Obama's presidency, many conservatives were ready for a change.

I won't deny it, I was one of the people who voted for Trump. I'm a conservative. I grew up in a household with two conservative parents, but as I grew older I began to make my own decisions about politics. I won't hide my political views from readers or fellow peers, nor should anyone feel they have to.

Just because someone is a conservative doesn't mean it's easy for them to say they support all of Trump's decisions. Just as

someone who is liberal can't say they disagree with all of them. I can say that I don't base my opinions of Trump's decisions solely on my political views. Rather, I take in all the information I can, then make an educated decision on whether or not I support the decision he made.

Since Trump has been in office, there has been no shortage of news. People have been in an uproar over the decisions Trump has made as chief executive. From the light shed upon most of the decisions, there is no difficulty in seeing why many people are protesting.

Now, allow me to explain Trump's immigration ban from the perspective of a conservative. The most prevalent question is: Is this a ban on people who are Muslim?

I don't see this as the case.

"The ban includes seven majority Muslim countries, but by no means are these states the most populous Muslim countries," writes Krishnadev Calamur from *The Atlantic*. This ban applies to all people living within these countries, not just Muslims. Calamur continues by saying that, "Nor

are they among the top sources of Muslim immigration to the U.S., nor have they produced terrorists in the same numbers as other Muslim countries not on the list." Obviously, this is where most people have issues. Even I found myself questioning why Trump is banning these countries if this is the case.

Well, the list of countries Trump banned came from the travel policy the Obama Administration drafted in 2011. Although Obama never put a ban into effect, Trump feels this is necessary until he can figure out the best methods to ensure the safety of the citizens of the U.S.

Right now, the ban seems to only be tampering with the image we have as a nation. If most of the terrorist threats we faced as a country were not from within our nation, it's difficult for me to think the U.S. is sending people away from having a chance at better lives. However, I believe after this is all resolved, the ban is removed

and the new measures are put into place for people from those countries entering the U.S., things will get better.

Those who voted for Trump may be questioning his choices. Even those who didn't vote for him may be, as well. However, as one nation united, it's critical the people stand behind him.

He was elected to be the president of our country for the next four years.



A CONSERVATIVE'S
PERSPECTIVE

ILLUSTRATION BY ALANNA SECREST

What does the 'All' in the All Lives Matter movement really mean?

ALIE WILKINS

In case you missed it, or you're one of the hip, Republican millennials who voted for President Donald Trump to piss off everyone on your liberal campus (great job, by the way), our beloved dictator has issued a ban on all people travelling from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. This was the eighth executive order from the White House since he took office three weeks ago.

Travelers who had been previously approved to enter the country were detained upon arrival into the United States. And it took less than an hour after the ban was announced for airports around the country to become flooded with protesters demanding the release of international travelers. What's especially noteworthy about these protests isn't their spur-of-the-moment nature, lack of planning or peaceful nature — it's the pitiful attendance from groups who have previously claimed to care about these issues.

I'm talking about you, All Lives Matter.

When the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement was at its peak in the country, an opposing set of voices came out of nowhere to insist all lives matter and all lives should be treated equally.

Despite the obvious tone-deaf nature of this claim and the complete disregard for the marginalized groups of people in the U.S. who need help, the All Lives Matter movement doesn't actually seem to show up for anyone but themselves. You can find them at pro-life rallies and anti-BLM protests, but that's about it.

Unborn fetuses that are nothing but a bunch of cells inside a woman's stomach? Absolutely, that "life" matters. Syrian baby whose parents died trying to flee their country? Absolutely not, keep it out.

Jan. 27, when the tyrannical Trump put the Muslim ban into effect, people all over the world raised their voices in protest. And yet, there was no word from the All Lives Matter movement on this blatantly-racist move by the White House. Doesn't a Muslim life fall under the incredibly passive-aggressive umbrella of "all lives"?

Apparently not.

To better put this into perspective, here's an analogy Macklemore put in his song *White Privilege II*. The song was released in response to the BLM movement, and in it he sums up the problem with All Lives Matter perfectly. He says, "Black Lives Matter is like... if there was a subdivision and a house was on fire, the fire department wouldn't

show up and start putting water on all the houses because all houses matter. They would show up, and they would turn their water on the house that was burning because that's the house that needs the help the most."

Let's say we simplify this country into a subdivision of houses. The Muslim house is on fire, the black house is on fire and the refugee house is on fire. Every minority's house is on fire, but there are still people continuing to insist that all houses

deserve the attention of the fire department.

The next four years are already shaping up to be one hell of a fight, and that fight would be a whole lot easier if we didn't have people like the All Lives Matter movement getting in our way. So, here's your homework for the week: Next time you hear someone say the phrase "All Lives Matter," give them a quick lesson in empathy and see if they'd like to carpool to the next travel-ban protest.

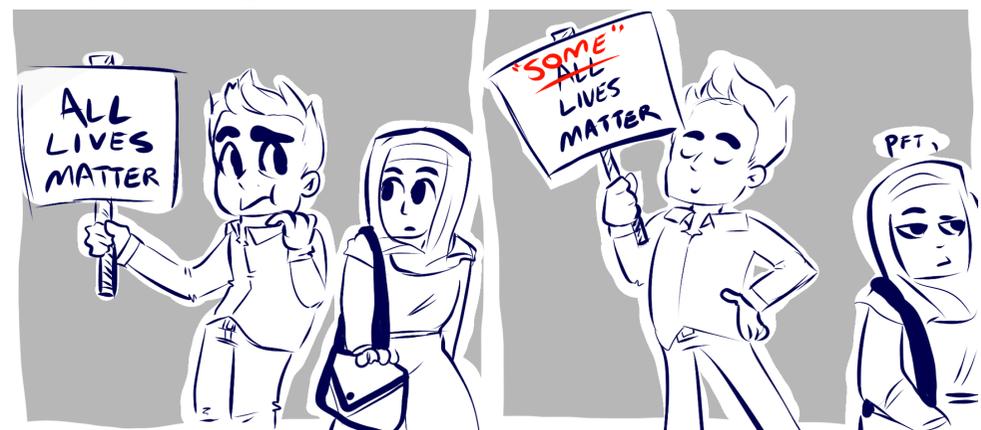


ILLUSTRATION BY ALANNA SECREST