



“Challenging People to Shape
a Better Future Now”

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Demonizing ‘Black Lives Matter’

Led by Fox News, conserva-
tives are trying to discred-
it the Black Lives Matter
movement by claiming, incorrect-
ly, that it is a Black hate group that
encourages the killing of police
officers.

On the Aug. 31 edition of “Fox
& Friends,” Elizabeth Hasselbeck
asked, “Why has the Black Lives
movement – Black Lives Matter
movement – not been classified
yet as a hate group? I mean, how
much more has to go in this di-
rection before someone actually
labels it as such?”

Conservative pundit Katie
Pavlich, without a thread of evi-
dence, told Fox’s Megyn Kelly
on Sept. 2 that Black Lives Matter
is “a movement that promotes the
execution of police officers.”

At a news conference on Aug.
30, the Harris County Sheriff Ron
Hickman acknowledged that no
motive had been established for
the fatal shooting of Deputy Sher-
iff Darren H. Goforth outside of
Houston. But that did not prevent
him from linking the brutal cop
murder to the grassroots group
dedicated to curtailing violence.

He said, “This rhetoric has got-
ten out of control.” So much so, he
said, “to the point where calculat-
ed, cold-blooded assassination of
police officers happen.” Hickman
added, “We’ve heard ‘Black lives
matter,’ ‘all lives matter.’ Well,
cops’ lives matter, too. So, how
about we drop the qualifier and
just say lives matter?”

Of course, there is not a scintilla
of evidence that the Black Lives



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Matter movement has at any point
remotely supported the killing of
law enforcement officers. Rather,
they have highlighted the trou-
bling number of unarmed African
Americans killed by police offi-
cers. And for that, they should be

‘This is about people whining and bitching and moaning about nonsense’

commended, not condemned.

After studying FBI data, *USA-
Today* found, “Nearly two times
a week in the United States, a
white police officer killed a Black
person during a seven-year peri-
od ending in 2012...The reports
show that 18 percent of the Blacks
killed during those seven years
were under age 21, compared to
8.7 percent of whites.”

Despite the highly-publicized
killing of police officers in Texas
and Illinois, the number of law
enforcement officers killed over
the first eight months of 2015 is
16 percent lower than it was over
a similar period in 2014, accord-
ing to FBI figures compiled by the
National Law Enforcement Offi-
cers Memorial Fund.

So far, 26 officers have been
killed this year by firearms, down
from 31 over a similar period last
year. More officers – 38 – died this
year in traffic-related incidents
than by gunfire and another 21
died from other causes.

In an attempt to shift the em-
phasis from the unjustified police
killing of unarmed African Ameri-
cans, conservatives are raising the
issue of so-called Black-on-Black
crime – as if that’s an issue that
truly concerns them.

Fox reporter Doug McKelway
said on Sept. 1, “The often heard
mantra that ‘Black Lives Matter,’

pointed out that just as most Blacks
kill other Blacks, most Whites kill
other Whites. Yet, there is no men-
tion of White-on-White crime.

According to 2013 figures com-
piled by the FBI, of the 3,005
White homicide victims, 2,509
– 83 percent – were killed by
Whites.

Of the 2,491 Black homicides
that year, 2,245 – 90 percent –
were committed by Black assail-
ants.

It’s not just a matter of Blacks
killing other Blacks and Whites
killing other Whites – most ho-
micides are committed by people
who know their victim. The as-
sailant is usually an acquaintance,
spouse, or other family member.

In its annual report on Black
homicides, issued in January, the
Washington-based Violence Pol-
icy Center found that in cases
where the relationship between
the killer and victim was known,
70 percent of the victims were
killed by someone they knew.

Furthermore, 52 percent of the
homicides involved an argument.

In an editorial, the New York
Times accused “the Republican
Party and its acolytes in the news
media” of trying to demonize the
Black Lives Matter Movement.

It said, “They [Black Lives Mat-
ter] are not asserting that black
lives are more precious than white
lives. They are underlining an in-
disputable fact – that the lives of
black citizens in this country his-
torically have not mattered, and
have been discounted and deval-
ued.”

GOP Reaching New Depths of Bigotry

Karl Marx famously wrote,
“History repeats itself,
first time as tragedy, sec-
ond as farce.”

So, his ghost must have eagerly
joined the many living in this di-
mension who last week thorough-
ly enjoyed the two spectacles that
underscore the chaos within – and
perhaps even the coming-apart of
– the Republican Party.

One was Donald Trump’s play-
ing the same racist trick on Jeb
Bush that three decades ago Jeb’s
dad, George H.W. Bush, used to
grievously damage the 1988 pres-
idential candidacy of his Demo-
cratic opponent, Massachusetts
Gov. Michael Dukakis, and cap-
ture the White House.

That’s the “soft-on-a-colored”-
criminal gambit.

During the 1988 campaign, the
elder Bush released an ad blaming
Dukakis for the rape of a White
woman committed by the convict
Willie Horton, an African Ameri-
can, while he was out of prison on
a state-sponsored furlough pro-
gram Dukakis had supported.

On Monday, Aug. 31, Trump
posted a video implying that Jeb
Bush’s past statements of compas-
sion for undocumented immigrant
families translated to support for
allowing undocumented immi-
grant criminals to remain in the
U.S.

The Trump video showed pho-
tos of three Latino men who were
charged with murder this year.
Two are awaiting trial; one was
convicted and given a 50-year



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sentence. The video ends with the
banned words: “It’s time to get
tough!”

Jeb Bush’s response that day
was a statement touting his “eight-
year record of cracking down on
violent criminals” as Florida’s
governor and blasting Trump for
his past support of “liberal politi-
cians” and proposing an unconsti-
tutional and unworkable scheme
to deport all of the nation’s 11-

“Jeb Bush left office in 2006 as
indisputably the most conserva-
tive governor in the U.S.,” said
Schmidt, who had managed John
McCain’s 2008 presidential cam-
paign. “That was a moment in
time when conservatism was de-
fined by the positions you held and
the actions you took.”

Now, he went on to say, Trump
has shown that “For huge sections
of the [conservative] electorate,
the definition of who is a conser-
vative is based on who’s making
the most incendiary comments.
What Trump is conveying in ev-
ery speech he makes is strength.
If you respond to someone who is at-
tacking your character by talking
about issues, you’re in the wrong
type of fight.”

Just as the GOP has ignored

servative rule was unchallenged.

The “trick bag” that reality has
put the GOP in led to the week’s
second spectacle.

On Thursday, Sept. 3, Reince
Priebus, chair of the Republican
National Committee, journeyed
to Trump’s gaudy business head-
quarters in Manhattan to sign, in
effect, the GOP’s articles of sur-
render to Trump’s insurgent cam-
paign.

The document Trump signed
was his pledge to not mount a
third-party campaign for the pres-
idency. But all the optics of the
event told the real story. No other
contender was personally visited
by Priebus; and when, after the
private signing in Trump’s office,
Trump held a, in the words of
the *New York Times*, “deeply the-

Trump’s supporters show little or no interest in the GOP’s facade of ‘philosophical conservatism’ or its time-honored traditions of choosing a nominee

12 million undocumented immi-
grants.

The former Florida governor’s
response seemed to garner almost
no traction.

Instead, a comment veteran
GOP operative Steve Schmidt
made to the online publication *Pol-
itico* the very day Trump’s ad and
Bush’s response appeared suc-
cinctly identified the devastating
predicament of both Bush and the
GOP as a whole.

the American political tradition
of being the “responsible opposi-
tion” to the party that occupies the
White House, Trump’s supporters
show little or no interest in the
GOP’s facade of “philosophical
conservatism” or its time-honored
traditions of choosing a nominee.

They just want someone who
promises the “strength” – read:
bigotry and callousness – to “take
our country back” to a time when
(they like to believe) White con-

atrical and meandering press con-
ference,” Priebus was nowhere in
sight – as if he were a mere under-
ling unworthy to share the spot-
light with the GOP’s new boss.

Now that Trump is in the driv-
er’s seat, the question that must be
considered is this: How low-down
will the Republican Party prima-
ry campaign get and how will that
affect the 2016 general election
campaign for the presidency it-
self?