Twitter Thread by Lawrence Glickman



Lawrence Glickman
@LarryGlickman

This is a good piece on fissures within the GOP but I think it mischaracterizes the Trump presidency as “populist” & repeats a story about how conservatives & the GOP expelled the far-right in the mid-1960s that is actually far more complicated. /1

I don’t think the sharp opposition between “hard-edge populism” & “conservative orthodoxy” holds. Many of the Trump administration’s achievements were boilerplate conservatism. Its own website trumpets things like “massive deregulation,” tax cuts, etc. /2

https://t.co/N97v85Bb79

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Ga.) from two House committees after the unearthing of social media posts in which she endorsed the assassination of prominent Democrats, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi; promulgated conspiracy theories involving the same; and claimed mass shootings in Las Vegas and Florida were "false flag" operations staged by supporters of gun control.

At the center of the pressure is McCarthy (R-Calif.), who has maintained his position as the top House Republican leader by hewing closely to Trump and an evolving GOP electorate that eagerly embraced the former president's hard-edge populism while casting aside much of the party's conservative orthodoxy.

After unexpected GOP gains in November's elections, McCarthy is well-positioned to succeed Pelosi as speaker in the upcoming midterm elections, but he is now facing an intra-party crisis following the Capitol riot — one that some Republicans say has been exacerbated by McCarthy's own vacillations in the four weeks since.



The claim that Buckley and "key GOP politicians banded together to marginalize anti-Communist extremism and conspiracy-mongering" of the JBS has been widely repeated lately but the history is more complicated. /3

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could throw that plan into doubt — and it is in McCarthy's hands to navigate a path through the turmoil. On one side are Trump loyalists who make up the bulk of the House GOP — two-thirds of whom voted to reject state electoral votes and endorse Trump's baseless voter fraud claims — while a significant minority are eager to move the party away from Trump and toward a more policy-driven foundation.

In the latter camp are many Republicans who see the moment as akin to the mid-1960s reckoning when journalist William F. Buckley Jr. and key GOP politicians banded together to marginalize the anti-Communist extremism and conspiracy-mongering of the John Birch Society. The echoes of that moment could be heard in the statement from McConnell, who dismissed Greene's statements as "loony lies" that have "nothing to do with the challenges facing American families or the robust debates on substance that can strengthen our party."

Sen. John Thune (S.D.), the No. 2 GOP leader, said House Republicans faced a simple choice: "Do they want to be the party of limited government . . . or do they want to be the party of conspiracy theories and QAnon?" he asked, referring to the extremist ideology that Greene embraced during her campaign and has been linked to violent incidents culminating in the Capitol riot.

Said Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah), "Our big tent is not large enough to both accommodate conservatives and kooks."

Robert Doar, president of the American Enterprise

This tweet by @ThePlumLineGS citing a paper by @sam_rosenfeld and @daschloz on the "porous" boundary between conservatives, the GOP and the far-right is relevant in this context. /4

https://t.co/N8Q35jH44e

> There's a great paper called "The Long New Right" that tells the story of the GOP/conservative movement's failure to police extremists for the last 50 years.
>
> It's highly relevant to the insurrection and Marjorie Greene's lunacy.
>
> I summed it up here:https://t.co/DTlzGomy5h pic.twitter.com/Dhc38CDuE2
>
> — Greg Sargent (@ThePlumLineGS) January 28, 2021

This is a separate point but I find it interesting that Gaetz, like Roy Moore did In his failed Senate campaign, disses McConnell. What are their actual policy differences? MM supported taking health care away from millions, a tax cut for the rich, conservative judges, etc. /5

days.

"If I was a Republican at risk of losing a primary, I do not know that Mitch McConnell's endorsement would be the first I would seek," Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.), first elected alongside Trump in 2016, told reporters Monday evening. He flew to Wyoming last week to campaign against Cheney.

"I listed Mitch McConnell right along the establishment figures like Joe Biden and Liz Cheney and Nancy Pelosi and Mitt Romney who want to return our government to its default setting of screwing the American people to their benefit," Gaetz said of his trip to Wyoming.

Next week, the Senate is set to try Trump on the impeachment charge that he incited the Jan. 6 riot by inviting his supporters to rally in D.C. as Congress tallied the electoral votes after spreading the false claim that he did not lose the November election.

But because most Republican senators have signaled that they plan to sidestep the question of Trump's culpability and acquit him on constitutional grounds, the fates of Cheney and Greene have become the most important proxy battles for the party's future.

Cheney's fate as a GOP leader will be debated in Wednesday evening's private meeting of Republican lawmakers. While some Trump loyalists have made clear they intend to turn the meeting into a session to air long-simmering grievances, it will be largely up to McCarthy how the challenge will be resolved. Many Republicans say he is likely to

And, by the way, Ronald Reagan hardly tried to "marginalize" the John Birch Society when he ran for CA Governor in 1966. Indeed, he refused to repudiate the group./6

https://t.co/FrOnThUWTd

This despite CA Republican Sen Thomas H. Kuchel's demand the previous year that all "forward-looking" Republican candidates for Governor " must repudiate the John Birch Society. /7
https://t.co/nKuEPU1zd7

Indeed, Reagan apparently played footsie with the JBS during his 1966 Gubernatorial campaign. /8
https://t.co/54wlvmhPRk

Here is one columnist's judgement in Oct 1966./9 https://t.co/0f6xAjkbSg

There is _a lot_ of scholarship, with much more forthcoming, on the porous boundary between conservatives and the far-right in this period, and so I think we should be cautious in asserting that the far-right was expelled from the conservative movement in the mid-1960s. /10