

Trumpists are a cult?

-- This checklist points that way

The following checklist is an excerpt from the book "Captive Hearts, Captive minds", by Madeline Tobias and Janja Lalich adapted from information compiled by Dr. Micheal Langone. [via anandainfo.com] *Comments in italics are mine. ~ R B Shreve.*

1) The group is focused on a living leader to whom members display excessively zealous, unquestioning commitment.

Trump is such a "leader."

2) The group is preoccupied with bringing in new members and/or making money.

Trumpists are indeed focused on building the base of Trumpist voters.

3) Questioning, doubt, and dissent are discouraged.

Those who question policies and actions are insulted, given unflattering nick-names and shunned. Critical press is vilified.

4) Mind-numbing techniques (for example: meditation, chanting, denunciation sessions, or debilitating work routines) are used to suppress members' doubts.

The rallies Trump leads are certainly geared to suppress members doubts and violently suppress dissent.

5) The group's leadership dictates how members should think, act, and feel (for example: members must get permission from leaders to date, change jobs, or get married;) leaders may determine types of clothes to wear, where to live, how to discipline children, and so forth.

This doesn't really apply, but members do wear MAGA hats, and sport MAGA swag.

6) The group is elitist, claiming a special, exalted status for itself, its leader(s), and members (for example: the leader is considered the Messiah or an avatar; the group and/or the leader has a special mission to save humanity).

The anti-immigration, pro white, racist, themes, nationalism, isolationism, and other exclusionary ideology is extreme. Trump is seen as the savior who will "drain the swamp" and "take back America."

7) The group has a polarized we-they mentality that causes conflict with the wider society.

Very self-evident both here and to other nations.

8) The group's leader is not accountable to any authorities (as are, for example, military commanders and ministers, priests, monks, and rabbis of mainstream denominations).

He seeks to avoid accountability, never admits error, makes up stuff, distracts, ... he's surely accountable, but he maintains he's entitled to immunity.

9) The group teaches or implies that its "superior" ends justify means that members would have considered unethical before joining the group (for example: collecting money for bogus charities).

Unethical political dirty tricks, disinformation, vote suppression, stacking the courts with sympathizers, and more are justified in service of the cause.

10) The group's leadership induces guilt feelings in members in order to control them.

Trump marginalizes or fires those he deems disloyal, surrounds himself with sycophants, and attacks, shames and demeans those who oppose him.

11) Members' subservience to the group causes them to give up previous personal goals and interests while devoting inordinate amounts of time to the group.

The willingness of evangelicals to give up basic Christian principles of behavior or at least ignore DJT's many transgressions speaks for itself.

12) Members are encouraged or required to live and/or socialize only with other group members.

The insider vs. outsider business manifests in the rallies