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The Hancock County Democrat



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Who is Q?

Bruce Workman



There may never be a certain answer to this question, but we can speculate on possible candidates and rank the level of threat that Q's followers represent. Q is the designation of a top-level security clearance in the Department of Energy. Q-clearance is the equivalent of Top-Secret clearance in the Department of Defense. "An employee with a Q sensitive clearance could have access to nuclear weapons design, manufacture, or use data; disclosure could cause exceptionally grave damage to the nation."¹ If Q's self-designation is true—which seems unlikely—then it would not narrow down the list of subjects by much. According to an article in the Washington Post, over 1.5 million held a top-secret or equivalent security clearance in 2014.² If this seems like a lot of people to keep even the most innocent secret, you are not alone. Even assuming that the DOD, Homeland Security, and State Department accounted for the vast majority of the total and Q-clearances throughout the DOE and associated national laboratories only accounted for as little as 5% that would leave a large number of suspects. Individuals with Q-Clearances have to undergo a polygraph every 5 years, so maybe adding 'Are you the Q who has been posting in online forums?' to the list of questions might be a good idea.

There are several reasons to doubt the claims of top security clearance. First, the individual would have to successfully undergo an extensive background check and his or her actions would be periodically under surveillance. Top-secret or Q-level clearance can be worth a lot of money to the individual and violations of secrecy terms could not only lead to loss of income but could also be prosecutable under the Espionage Act. Much of the information leaked in Q-drops concerns law enforcement or is related to departments other than the DOE. There doesn't appear to be a legitimate "need to know" for someone of any security level within the DOE.

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Who is Q?

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Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Q's predictions always prove wrong. Hillary Clinton was not arrested on October 30, 2017, John Podesta was arrested 5 days later, instead of a mass arrest at George H.W. Bush's funeral all attendees exited the National Theater without incident, Donald Trump was not reelected in a landslide and the Supreme Court did not overturn the results. As a prophet, Q sucks, this does not deter die-hard supporters as he simply responds to discredited prophecies with more prophecies and they see no inconsistency in this.

This does not rule out the single source hypothesis. Q could be someone as simple as an unemployed young adult living in the family basement and trying to create the top 4-chan meme. Another possibility is that Q is a gamer and QAnon was created as a LARP (live-action role-playing) game. LARPs were frequently created on the anonymous internet channels and involved clues, called 'breadcrumbs,' hidden 'trophies,' and even costumes sometimes. LARPs can also have more than one creator and I will explore this further when I explore the multiple Q options. There have also been conjectures that the LARP was intended to be a joke on Trump and his supporters and the creator or creators never anticipated that it would continue as it did.³

Qanon could also be the creation of a troll farm staffed by domestic or foreign agents. The Russians have long had a goal of destabilizing democracies in Europe and North America and the Qanon movement has been successful in that respect. There is also some evidence that Qanon is being used as a vehicle to promote the political ambitions of Michael Flynn.³ Although there is no suggestion that Flynn is the original Q, it appears that he and his supporters may have assimilated the movement after it was in full swing and is suggesting that he was the White House insider.

Qanon is a big-tent conspiracy.⁴ Many groups have ostensibly or genuinely incorporated Qanon into their own movements. White nationalist groups such as the Proud Boys or VDARE—named for Virginia Dare, the first white child born in an English colony in North America—have latched onto the group mostly for their opposition to Democrats and other supporters of racial justice. Fascist groups at home and abroad have also adopted the Qanon platform for much of the same reasons. Oath Keepers, 'patriots' that long for the days when negroes were only considered 60% human and only white male landowners were allowed to vote, were also present outside the White House and inside the Capitol on January 6. The group of Christian evangelicals who seem to believe that separation of church and state only refers to sects and denominations, also known as Christian Nationalists, have also joined the Qanon crowd—possibly due to an addiction to craziness in general.

I use terms related to mental illness, like crazy and delusional, because much of the beliefs engendered by the Qanon movement are so preposterous that those possessing even a modicum of skepticism would find it impossible to fathom how anyone could believe them. The core tenet of Qanon is "...that the world is run by a cabal of Satan-worshiping pedophiles."⁴ It is no coincidence that every member of the 'cabal' is a Democrat or a celebrity who supports progressive or leftist causes. Not only do these liberal evildoers molest children, but they also torture the children to produce adrenochrome—despite the fictional accounts in movies and books that it is both psychoactive and can only be produced *in vivo*⁵ if you gave me a test tube, some epinephrine (synthesized), and some silver oxide, I could whip you up a batch, which would be illegal since adrenochrome is currently only used as a systemic hemostatic agent in some countries (not the US).

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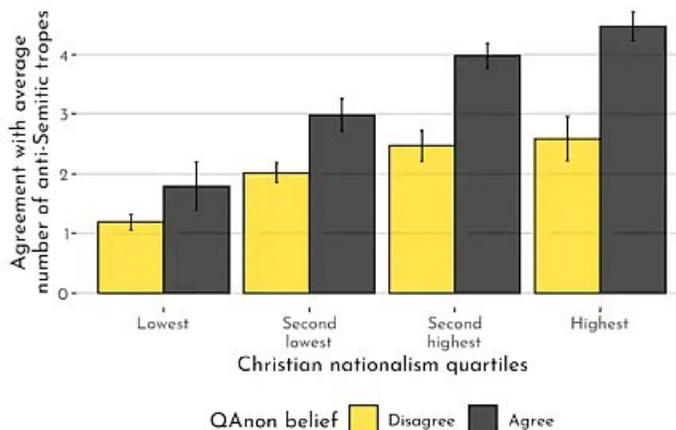
Who is Q?

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After the adrenochrome is extracted, the little tykes are killed and eaten. Does this sound ridiculously far-fetched to you? Are you wondering how anyone could believe this? According to an Isos/NPR poll taken in December 2020, 17% of Americans do.⁴ Assuming that includes all US residents, that would be greater than 56 million people. Spooky, huh? If that isn't enough, he, she, or they needed a way to further dehumanize their targets. Members of the Satanic, world-dominating, pedophilic cabal are also from an alien lizard race and not human at all. The Qanon tent has been enlarged to include conspiracies involving 9/11, school shootings, and many others, like the JFK assassination.

There is a large anti-Semitic element present in Qanon, the white nationalist and Christian nationalist groups.⁶ Christian nationalists believe just what the name implies. They seem to suppose that 'separation of church and state' applies only to sects and denominations and want our nation to become a Christian theocracy. 'The Jews killed Jesus' is a phrase that has reemerged and become popular in Qanon and its associated nationalist groups. There is nothing in the new testament to support the claim that the same people who laid palm leaves and exulted the arrival of Jesus did a complete about-face a week later. The accusation was made popular by Middle Ages passion plays and had more to do with the distribution of wealth than any religious reason. Many of the contemptuous myths from early anti-Semitism have been modified and adopted by Qanon: vampirism—drinking the blood of children—, cannibalism—eating Christian children—, cabals who control finance and government, bizarre secret rituals, etc. George Soros is a frequent target not only for backing Democratic candidates but also due to his Jewish heritage.

Anti-Semitism grows with Christian nationalism, especially among QAnon believers



Source: October 2020 survey
Figure: Paul Djupe and Jacob Dennen

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Who is Q?

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Qanon may have originated on anonymous message boards but has largely increased membership due to the repetition of their messages on mainstream social media. YouTube has been their most successful platform. What motivates so many people to join a movement based on outlandish conspiracy theories? Some actually believe the election was fraudulent. The disinformation campaign launched by Trump and supported by a majority of Republicans was relentless and many found the excuses for the failures in nearly every court believable. Members of groups bemoaning the decline of white privilege and have adopted Qanon as an alliance. There are a surprising number of evangelical Christians who view secularism and religious tolerance as attempts to suppress—substitute ‘Christian’ for ‘white’—privilege. Others may just be ultraconservatives who want to end the progressive movement.

Despite the ridiculous assertions made, Qanon is a serious threat. Their sheer numbers and the violent nature of many of its followers, demand that we not take them lightly. Q may eventually lose supporters and the movement may return to the oblivion that claims many conspiracist movements, but that will not happen soon enough. Adherents have openly encroached upon our institutions, even gaining two congressional seats. Internet chatter indicates that as soon as we let our guards down—National and collective—they will launch further attacks on our democratic system.

We need to deal with Qanon as we would any terrorist organization. Qanon represents a threat more urgent and dreadful than any caliphate or foreign terrorist movement. The Department of Homeland Security should make Qanon its top priority. The military and law enforcement agencies should thoroughly investigate their members for allegiances to Q or nationalist organizations. Frank Meeink, the individual upon whom the movie *American History X* is based, stated in an interview that most of his former skinhead buddies now have careers in police departments. This is the chief peril of domestic terrorist movements; the terrorists are already among us and in positions of authority. Although this is relatively new to us, other nations have more experience with domestic terrorist organizations. We should seek the advice of law enforcement, political, and military officials in dealing with movements like Qanon. A commission needs to be established solely for addressing domestic terrorism. In addition to law enforcement and military, the commission should include behavioral scientists, psychologists, social workers, state government officials, and others needed to address the issues in full. Most of all we need to remain vigilant. In my opinion, capitol police and other law enforcement official connected to the riot should be charged with conspiracy to commit insurrection if sufficient evidence can be presented to connect them with the planning and execution of the attempted insurrection.

- (1) Scientists, Federation of American. “DOE Classification and Security.” *DOE Classification and Clearances*, Federation of American Scientists Project on Government Secrecy, 6 Feb. 1996, 4:28:25 PM, fas.org/sgp/classdoe.htm.
- (2) Fung, Brian. “5.1 Million Americans Have Security Clearances. That’s More than the Entire Population of Norway.” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 24 Apr. 2019, www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2014/03/24/5-1-million-americans-have-security-clearances-thats-more-than-the-entire-population-of-norway/.
- (3) Joonam, Bayan, and Marley Clements. *Qanon: The Search for Q*, Season 1, episode 1-3, VICE TV, 26 Jan. 2021.
- (4) Roose, Kevin. “What Is QAnon, the Viral Pro-Trump Conspiracy Theory?” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 4 Feb. 2021, www.nytimes.com/article/what-is-qanon.html.
- (5) “Adrenochrome.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 1 Feb. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrenochrome.
- (6) Paul A. Djupe, Jacob Dennen. “Analysis | Christian Nationalists and QAnon Followers Tend to Be Anti-Semitic. That Was Seen in the Capitol Attack.” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 26 Jan. 2021, www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/01/26/christian-nationalists-qanon-followers-tend-be-anti-semitic-that-was-visible-capitol-attack/.



Republican Moral Courage: An Oxymoron

Bruce Workman



President Donald Trump meets with Republican leaders, including Sen. Mitch McConnell, center, and Rep. Kevin McCarthy, at the White House on March 1, 2017. (Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post)

I am certain there are still Republicans who genuinely believe in a conservative political philosophy and put the Constitution and the welfare of the nation over party loyalty, but they are becoming an endangered species. The party of Lincoln died in 1966. A new Republican Party emerged that placed emphasis on “trickle-down economics” and a laissez-faire commercial policy. Democrats may have had substantial philosophical differences with them, but we saw little reason to doubt their commitment to the Constitution and the welfare of the nation. After the electoral shellacking, experienced following Newt Gingrich’s “Contract with America”, the party evolved again to focus more on getting elected as a minority party. Republican legislatures began efforts to suppress voting by minorities who historically vote Democrat and used state legislatures to enact computer-assisted gerrymandering. The “moral’ Republicans either voiced mild opposition to the latest tactics or took a ‘the ends justify the means’ approach. They now find themselves in a major quagmire.

Previous versions of the Republican Party no longer exist. The party has become a cult run by Donald Trump. Republican officials, who correctly characterized Trump as an abomination before the 2016 election, have thrown aside any moral values they may have once embraced and become his most obsequious disciples. Racist remarks, xenophobic policies, use of office for personal enrichment, odious conduct, and two impeachments have done little to diminish the hold Trump has over the party. Among Republican officeholders, getting reelected has taken precedence over any moral or ethical concerns. Like a true autocracy, many fear the leader. Republican senators, congresspeople, governors, and other elected officials who may have once been considered center-right, now worry that they may lose their positions—even in gerrymandered districts—by facing a Trump-picked primary opponent. Scumbags, like Jim Jordan and Ted Cruz, continue to look for ways to advance their political careers in whatever situations they find themselves.

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Republican Moral Courage: An Oxymoron

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Even an attempted insurrection did little to deter total submission to Trump by most Republicans. 150 House Republicans voted to overturn results in an election about which a joint statement of the Elections Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council & the Election Infrastructure Sector Coordinating Executive Committees described as "...the most secure in American history." All but 10 Republican representatives voted against impeaching the former President for inciting an insurrection. 199 were okay with Marjorie Taylor Greene, "the Queen of Quazy," holding positions on key committees. Another hyperpartisan denial concerning the riots at the Capitol has been put forth by Ron Johnson, the senator from Wisconsin and notable nutcase. Johnson tried to secure legitimacy for a crazy conspiracy conjecture that suggests left-wing operatives, disguised as Trump supporters were the actual participants in the attack on the Capitol on January 6.

Censuring by state Republican parties of those who dared to stand for the truth is yet another indication that the party has gone over the proverbial moral cliff. Liz Cheney, the most prominent of the Republican representatives to vote in favor of impeachment, was formally censured by the Wyoming Republican Party, and an attempt was made to remove her as the third highest-ranking Republican in the House. I know it seems strange to praise a Cheney, but we should give credit where it is due. Rep. Adam Schiff (D CA), on NBC's "Meet the Press", described House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy as someone who "...stands for nothing except the perpetuation of his won position. He has no values and in my view cares about little except for hoping to be speaker one day. God forbid."¹

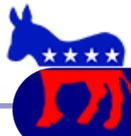
Can the Republican Party return to a level of respectability? It will be difficult, if not impossible. The first step would be to reject the cult of Trump and risk losing the support of his sizeable minority base. Once one has crossed the line of putting party and position over national interests, it is extremely hard to come back. Although forming a new party would benefit Democrats, at least in the short term, it is the only way we can once again have a pre-W. Bush moderate conservative party with which we can respect and compromise.

(1) Rubin, Jennifer. "Opinion | The GOP Is Not a Normal Party." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 8 Feb. 2021, www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/02/08/gop-is-not-normal-party/.

A History of the Broadcast Fairness Doctrine in the United States

Edited by Matthew W. McIntosh

[Readd the article here](#)



You can still run as a write-in candidate . Contact [Lori Miller](#) for more information.

Thank you to Juliette Lawson for her excellent contribution to this newsletter.

COVID-19 vaccinations for those over 65 are in progress with 55, 50, etc. to come soon.

The next meeting of the Hancock County Democratic Party will be on Monday March 8th at 7 PM.
Contact [Nancy Stephani](#) to secure an invitation

The census update will not be available until October or November. This means the redistricting process will be postponed until after the original start date. This is no a done deal. For more information and to participate go to: [All on the Line Ohio](#)

Read AOTL [Ohio Redistricting Process Rules](#)



[Hancock County Democrats Events Calendar](#)

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This Month's Cartoons

TOM the DANCING BUG
PRESENTS:

BY
RUBEN
BOLLING



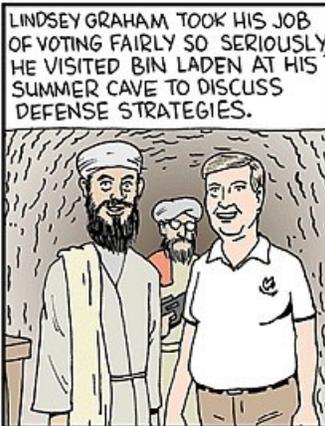
Historical Flashback - September 12, 2001

NEWS of the TIMES

GOP VOTES AGAINST PROSECUTION OF BIN LADEN

Critics Charge It's Because
Osama bin Laden's Approval Rating
Among Republican Voters Nears 90%

CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICANS VOTED AGAINST THE DEMOCRATS' FAILED EFFORT AT LEGISLATION TO FIND AND PUNISH OSAMA BIN LADEN FOR YESTERDAY'S SHOCKING AND DEADLY TERRORIST ATTACK ON A U.S. LANDMARK.



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Guest submissions are welcome. Please submit any work you would like to see published in this newsletter to : [Bruce Workman](#)