Michael Anton, Trump's Pick For A Top State Department Position, Espouses White Nationalist and Islamophobic Views And Claimed The U.S. Should Only Accept Immigrants Who Are Deemed Culturally Compatible With White America

SUMMARY: Michael Anton, President-elect Trump's pick for Director of Policy Planning at the Department of State, has a long history of penning conflagratory essays riddled with white nationalism, islamophobia, and conspiracy theories about Democrats' supposed efforts to rig elections and plan military coups.

Most notably, in 2016, Anton penned a 6,000-word essay titled "Toward A Sensible, Coherent Trumpism," in which he railed against racial diversity, Islam, and immigration from regions he deemed culturally undesirable to the United States.

- Anton wrote that "'Diversity' is not 'our strength'; it's a source of weakness, tension and disunion," and that "the modern conservative believes the leftist lie that his natural affinity for people who look, think and speak like himself is shameful and illegitimate, to be internally repressed and publicly denied."

- Anton railed against U.S. immigration policies using racist stereotypes: "The burden is forced on Americans to prove that Muhammed is a terrorist or Jose is a criminal, and if we can't, we must let them in."

- Anton wrote that "Islam is not a 'religion of peace,'" but "a militant faith that exalts conversion by the sword and inspires thousands to acts of terror—and millions more to support and sympathize with terror."

- Anton: "Not all Muslims are terrorists, blah, blah, blah, etc. Even so, what good has Muslim immigration done for the United States and the American people?"

Anton's public writing track record includes his infamous "The Flight 93 Election" piece, an essay that compared a possible Hillary Clinton presidential victory in 2016 with the terrorist plane hijackings on September 11, 2001. It also includes pieces in which he called Joe Biden's victory in 2020 a "steal," alleged that Democrats and military officials—supposedly including a group funded by George Soros—were scheming to depose Donald Trump if Biden lost in 2020, and peddled conspiracy theories about Democrats rigging elections.

Trump State Dept. Nominee Michael Anton Has Espoused White Nationalistic And Islamophobic Views And Has Written Numerous Conspiracy Theory-Laden Articles About Democratic "Coup" Attempts And Supposed Widespread Voter Fraud

December 2024: Donald Trump Named Former Aide And Conservative Writer Michael Anton As Director Of Policy Planning For The Department Of State

December 2024: President-Elect Donald Trump Named Michael Anton As Director Of Policy Planning For The Department Of State. "President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday unveiled a trio of picks for top State Department roles, elevating conventional national security hands to key policy roles in Foggy Bottom… Trump also named Michael Anton, who POLITICO reported was under consideration to be deputy national security adviser, as director of policy planning for the department." [Politico, 12/8/24]

- **During The First Trump Administration, Michael Anton Served As A Senior National Security Official And Was Later Appointed To The National Board For Education Sciences.** "Anton served as a senior national security official in Trump's first administration and was later appointed to the National Board for Education Sciences." [The Hill, 12/8/24]

- **Michael Anton Is Longtime Senior Fellow The Claremont Institute, A Far-Right Think Tank.** "Michael Anton is a lecturer and research fellow at Hillsdale College, a senior fellow at the Claremont Institute, and a former national security official in the Trump administration." [The Claremont Institute, accessed 12/13/24]

In 2016, Using A Pen Name, Michael Anton Published An Essay Riddled With White Nationalism, Islamophobia, And Racist Immigration Stances

March 2016: Under A Pen Name, Michael Anton Published An Essay Titled, "Toward A Sensible, Coherent Trumpism." "In September, using the pseudonym Publius Decius Mus, a Roman consul who died on the battlefield, Anton published his Flight 93 essay at the Claremont Review of Books and followed it up with additional posts responding to his critics. While those got noticed, he had actually written a far longer article in March that few people had read, and its edges were even sharper. Bearing the title 'Toward a Sensible, Coherent Trumpism…'" [The Intercept, 2/12/17]

The Weekly Standard First Exposed Michael Anton As The Writer Behind "Publius Decius Mus" In February 2017. "The Anonymous Pro-Trump 'Decius' Now Works Inside The White House
Michael Anton is a senior national-security official for President Trump." [The Weekly Standard via the Wayback Machine, 2/2/17]

Michael Anton's 2016 Essay Was Riddled With White Nationalist Views And Support For European Settler Colonialism.

- **Michael Anton: "'Diversity' Is Not 'Our Strength;' It's A Source Of Weakness, Tension And Disunion."** "'Diversity' is not 'our strength'; it's a source of weakness, tension and disunion. America is not a 'nation of immigrants'; we are originally a nation of settlers, who later chose to admit immigrants, and later still not to, and who may justly open or close our doors solely at our own discretion, without deference to forced pieties." [The Unz Review, 3/10/16]

- **Michael Anton Claimed That "America Is Not A 'Nation Of Immigrants,'" But A "Nation Of Settlers" Who "Later Chose To Admit Immigrants."** "'Diversity' is not 'our strength'; it's a source of weakness, tension and disunion. America is not a 'nation of immigrants'; we are originally a nation of settlers, who later chose to admit immigrants, and later still not to, and who may justly open or close our doors solely at our own discretion, without deference to forced pieties." [The Unz Review, 3/10/16]

- **Michael Anton: "The Modern Conservative Believes The Leftist Lie That His Natural Affinity For People Who Look, Think And Speak Like Himself Is Shameful And Illegitimate, To Be Internally Repressed And Publicly Denied."** "Like the atheist caricature of the devout husband guilt-wracked for coveting his own wife, the modern conservative believes the leftist lie that his natural affinity for people who look, think and speak like himself is shameful and illegitimate, to be internally repressed and publicly denied." [The Unz Review, 3/10/16]

Michael Anton Espoused Islamophobia Numerous Times In His 2016 Essay, In Which He Called Islam A "Militant Faith" That "Inspires Thousands Of Acts Of Terror" And Wrote, "Not All Muslims Are Terrorists, Blah, Blah, Blah, Etc. Even so, what Good Has Muslim Immigration Done For The United States And The American People?"

- **Michael Anton: "Islam Is Not A 'Religion Of Peace,'" But A "Militant Faith" That "Inspires Thousands Of Acts Of Terror—And Millions More to Support And Sympathize With Terror."** "Islam is not a 'religion of peace'; it's a militant faith that exalts conversion by the sword and inspires thousands to acts of terror—and millions more to support and sympathize with terror." [The Unz Review, [3/10/16](#)]

- **Anton Wrote That "Only An Insane Society" Would Have Taken In Muslim Immigrants After The September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks.** "Only an insane society, or one desperate to prove its fidelity to some chimerical 'virtue,' would have increased Muslim immigration after the September 11th attacks. Yet that is exactly what the United States did. Trump has, for the first time, finally forced the questions: Why? And can we stop now? Yes, of course, not all Muslims are terrorists, blah, blah, blah, etc. Even so, what good has Muslim immigration done for the United States and the American people?" [The Unz Review, [3/10/16](#)]

- **Anton: "Not All Muslims Are Terrorists, Blah, Blah, Blah, Etc. Even So,What Good Has Muslim Immigration Done For The United States And The American People?"** "Yes, of course, not all Muslims are terrorists, blah, blah, blah, etc. Even so, what good has Muslim immigration done for the United States and the American people?" [The Unz Review, [3/10/16](#)]

Michael Anton's White Nationalism And Islamophobia Were Woven Into Claims About Immigration And Who Could Become "A Good American."

- **Michael Anton Railed Against U.S. Immigration Policies Using Racist Stereotypes: "The Burden Is Forced On Americans To Prove That Muhammed Is A Terrorist Or Jose Is A Criminal, And If We Can't, We Must Let Them In."** "Immigration to the United States—by Muslims or anyone else—is presented as a civil right for foreigners: the burden is forced on Americans to prove that Muhammed is a terrorist or Jose is a criminal, and if we can't, we must let them in. Trump alone among major political figures has stood up to say this is nonsense." [The Unz Review, [3/10/16](#)]

- **Michael Anton Railed Against A "Bipartisan Consensus Not To Enforce Any Law That Results In Less Immigration—At Least From Non-European Sources."** "The first task is a simple reassertion of American nationhood and sovereignty. Which begins, yes, with regaining control over our borders and dismantling our insane immigration policies, both formal (e.g., the idiotic visa lottery) and informal (the bipartisan consensus not to enforce any law that results in less immigration—at least from non-European sources)." [The Unz Review, [3/10/16](#)]

- **Michael Anton: "Yes, It Is True That 'All Men Are Created Equal,'" But "Lincoln Adds The Crucial Caveat: All Men Are Not 'Equal In All Respects'... They Are Not 'Equal In Color, Size, Intellect, Moral Developments Or Social Capacity'... Why Then Do We Americans Continue To Import Millions Upon Millions Who Have Never Known Republican Life And Do Not Care For It?"** "Yes, it is true that 'all men are created equal.' But Lincoln adds the crucial caveat: all men are not 'equal in all respects' (emphasis in the original). They are not 'equal in color, size, intellect, moral developments or social capacity.' People from different nations with different circumstances, histories, beliefs and traditions will—by definition—hold very different conceptions of good government, some irreconcilably opposed to our own. It has been said that a principal cause of Rome's fall was that "many men who never knew republican life and did not care for it … became Roman citizens." Why then do we Americans continue to import millions upon millions who have never known republican life and do not care for it? In doing so, we do not uphold our Founding creed; we hasten and enable its oblivion." [The Unz Review, [3/10/16](#)]

- **Michael Anton: Even If You Believe That All Humans Were Created Equal, You Cannot "Take Anyone From Anywhere And Make Him, Overnight, A Good American."** "This fact—and it is a fact, observable in every corner of this country where mass immigration has overwhelmed, eroded, and de-Americanized formerly American communities—must be faced squarely… Equality means that we may not rule another without his consent. It does not mean that you can take anyone from anywhere

and make him, overnight, a good American simply on the basis of his natural right not to be ruled without his consent." [The Unz Review, 3/10/16]

2016: Anton Wrote An Infamous Essay Titled "The Flight 93 Election" In Which He Analogized A Possible Hillary Clinton Presidency With The 9/11 Terrorist Attacks

September 2016: Michael Anton Published An Essay Titled, "The Flight 93 Election." "The Flight 93 Election [...] The election of 2016 will test whether virtù remains in the core of the American nation. [...] Publius Decius Mus was the pseudonym of Michael Anton" [The Claremont Review of Books, 9/5/16]

- **Flight 93 Was The Third Plane Hijacked On 9/11, Which Was Intended For The Capital But Was Instead Recaptured By Passengers And Crashed In Pennsylvania.** "September 11, 2001 began as an ordinary, late-summer day. As the sun rose, fair weather and blue skies prevailed over much of the country and thousands of commercial airliners prepared for flight. But, in less than two hours' time, this seemingly routine day was transformed when 19 terrorists boarded and hijacked four commercial airplanes to attack America. Nearly 3,000 people were killed when the hijacked planes were flown into the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon near Washington, DC, and when United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in the Pennsylvania countryside outside of Shanksville, PA. Flight 93 did not arrive at the hijackers' intended target - the Nation's Capital - because of the selfless and courageous actions of the 40 passenger and crew members on board. When Flight 93 was hijacked, the passengers and crew members used airfones on the plane to contact the authorities and their loved ones." [Friends of Flight 93, accessed 12/12/24]

Michael Anton's "The Flight 93 Election" Essay Equated A Democrat Presidential Victory In 2016 With Terrorists Successfully Crashing A Plane On 9/11. "2016 is the Flight 93 election: charge the cockpit or you die. You may die anyway. You—or the leader of your party—may make it into the cockpit and not know how to fly or land the plane. There are no guarantees. Except one: if you don't try, death is certain. To compound the metaphor: a Hillary Clinton presidency is Russian Roulette with a semi-auto. With Trump, at least you can spin the cylinder and take your chances." [The Claremont Review of Books, 9/5/16]

- **Anton: "A Hillary Clinton Presidency Is Russian Roulette With A Semi-Auto."** "2016 is the Flight 93 election: charge the cockpit or you die. You may die anyway. You—or the leader of your party—may make it into the cockpit and not know how to fly or land the plane. There are no guarantees. Except one: if you don't try, death is certain. To compound the metaphor: a Hillary Clinton presidency is Russian Roulette with a semi-auto. With Trump, at least you can spin the cylinder and take your chances." [The Claremont Review of Books, 9/5/16]

- **Anton Argued That, Like The Passengers On The Aircraft Hijacked By Al Qaeda On September 11, 2001, Americans In 2016 Needed To "Charge The Cockpit" And Prevent Hillary Clinton From Winning The Election—Or Die.** "As Publius, Anton is best-known for his September 2016 article, 'The Flight 93 Election,' which argued that, like the passengers on the aircraft hijacked by al Qaeda on Sept. 11, 2001, Americans in 2016 needed to 'charge the cockpit' and prevent Hillary Clinton from winning the election — or die." [HuffPost, 2/8/17]

2020: Michael Anton Penned A Conspiracist Theory Essay Called "The Coming Coup" In Which He Claimed Democrats Were Planning A Military Coup Against Donald Trump In The Event That Joe Biden Lost

2020: Michael Anton Penned A Conspiracist Essay Titled, "The Coming Coup," That Reportedly "Was Among The Most Shared Links By Communities Trafficking In Hate Speech." "An essay written by a former national security adviser to President Trump about an impending Democratic coup tied to George Soros has swept online spaces popular with conspiracy theorists and QAnon believers, and also penetrated more mainstream publications over the last two weeks. The Institute for Strategic Dialogue, a London-based think

tank that studies extremism, reported in a newsletter released this week that the piece by Michael Anton, called 'The Coming Coup?' was among the most shared links by communities trafficking in hate speech." [Forward, 9/18/20]

- **Anton Claimed That Democrats And Military Officials Were Conspiring To Stage A Coup Against Donald Trump.** "As if 2020 were not insane enough already, we now have Democrats and their ruling class masters openly talking about staging a coup. You might have missed it, what with the riots, lockdowns and other daily mayhem we're forced to endure in this, the most wretched year of my lifetime. But it's happening. It started with the military brass quietly indicating that the troops should not follow a presidential order… So why are the Democrats—publicly—talking about the conspiracy? Because they know that, for it to succeed, it must not look like a conspiracy. They need to plant the idea in the public mind, now, that their unlawful and illegitimate removal of President Trump from office will somehow be his fault." [The American Mind via the Wayback Machine, 12/13/24]

- **Anton Claimed That A George Soros-Funded Democratic Group Was Mapping Out Plans That Involved Refusing To Concede The General Election, Pressuring States Not To Certify Results, And Trusting "That The Military Would Take Care Of The Rest."** "Over the summer a story was deliberately leaked to the press of a meeting at which 100 Democratic grandees, anti-Trump former Republicans, and other ruling class apparatchiks got together (on George Soros's dime) to 'game out' various outcomes of the 2020 election. One such outcome was a clear Trump win. In that eventuality, former Bill Clinton White House Chief of Staff John Podesta, playing Biden, refused to concede, pressured states that Trump won to send Democrats to the formal Electoral College vote, and trusted that the military would take care of the rest." [The American Mind via the Wayback Machine, 12/13/24]

- **Anton Claimed, Without Evidence, That Democrats Were Planning To Commit Widespread Voter Fraud Using Mail-In Ballots.** "The second part of the plan is either to produce enough harvested ballots—lawfully or not—to tip close states, or else dispute the results in close states and insist, no matter what the tally says, that Biden won them. The worst-case scenario (for the country, but not for the ruling class) would be results in a handful of states that are so ambiguous and hotly disputed that no one can rightly say who won. Of course, that will not stop the Democrats from insisting that they won. The public preparation for that has also already begun: streams of stories and social media posts 'explaining' how, while on election night it might look as if Trump won, close states will tip to Biden as all the mail-in ballots are 'counted.'" [The American Mind via the Wayback Machine, 12/13/24]

In A 2021 Essay, Michael Anton Repeated His Claim That Democrats "Openly" Talked About Staging A Coup Against Donald Trump "Literally Using The Military To Yank Trump From Power." "The Democrats used the pandemic as an excuse to accelerate and intensify their decades-long effort to loosen and change American election practices in ways that favor their party. In the spring, they began openly talking about staging a coup: literally using the military to yank Trump from power." [The Claremont Review of Books, Winter 2021]

Michael Anton Called Biden's 2020 Victory A "Steal" And Claimed Half The Country Wouldn't Accept It And Would Instead Believe "The Reality That Power Is Now In The Hands Of A Party That Took It By Fraud"

Michael Anton Wrote That Biden's 2020 Victory Was A "Steal" That "Half The Country Won't Accept" Because They Will Allegedly "Accept The Reality That Power Is Now In The Hands Of A Party That Took It By Fraud." "By this point, Anton found the idea of a legitimate Biden victory implausible, partly because no one could possibly believe Biden could win: 'Even if the steal [i.e., Biden's victory] can be made to stick, half the country won't accept it. That is, they'll accept the reality that power is now in the hands of a party that took it by fraud. But they won't believe that the election was fair or the outcome real. They will believe, or be confirmed in a belief that's been brewing for a long time, that the system is rigged, the process is fake, the ruling class are liars, the government is illegitimate, and that they themselves are subjects and not citizens—anything but a free people with a say over its own destiny.'" [The Bulwark, 7/13/21]

Michael Anton Has Peddled Numerous Conspiracy Theories About Democrats Committing Voter Fraud In The Last Three Presidential Elections

In A 2021 Essay, Michael Anton Peddled Claims That "Several Million [...] Illegal Immigrants" Voted For Hillary Clinton In 2016. "As far back as the 2016 election, Trump had complained that Hillary Clinton's popular vote total had been padded by *several million* votes by illegal immigrants. Yet he and the GOP did very little to tighten state election procedures." [The Claremont Review of Books, [Winter 2021]]

2021: Michael Anton Penned An Essay Rife With Conspiracy Theories That Democrats Had Rigged The 2020 Presidential Election. "Then came the election itself. Unsurprisingly, the 'Red Mirage' did appear. But was it a mirage? There are reasons to doubt. (Perhaps the single-best summary of the irregularities is 'Memorandum: How the 2020 Election Could Have Been Stolen,' by Claes Ryn, a professor of politics at the Catholic University of America, published online at the American Conservative.)... There are numerous eyewitness reports of election officials in the affected precincts telling the Republican observers to go home, because no more counting would be done that night, only to resume counting as soon as said observers were out of sight. Then suddenly, when the count was made public again, Biden was ahead in all five states. Officials 'found' huge tranches of ballots that overwhelmingly—and in some cases exclusively—favored Biden. Sometimes the dead 'voted,' along with other ineligible people (e.g., felons and people who had moved to other states). Meanwhile, registered voters showed up to vote in person only to be told that they had already voted absentee despite having never requested an absentee ballot." [The Claremont Review of Books, [Winter 2021]]

- **Anton Complained That "Big Tech And The Media" Set An Unfair Standard Of Proof For Republicans To Claim That Democrats Were Committing Voter Fraud And That "The Battle To Demonstrate Fraud" And Reverse The 2020 Election "Was Uphill At Best."** "Big Tech and the media have made clear that the matter is closed, the science (as they say) 'settled,' and will brook no questions. Irregularities that our own State Department considers sufficient proof to declare third-world elections fraudulent are, here at home, not even enough to quality as 'evidence.' The standard of proof for Republicans is set so high as to be (deliberately) unmeetable. All this is to say, the battle to demonstrate fraud in such a way as to force a reversal of the outcome was uphill at best—the system wasn't going to allow a change to a result it liked—and not helped by the wilder claims made on Trump's behalf." [The Claremont Review of Books, [Winter 2021]]

2024: In An Essay, Anton Claimed, Without Evidence, That Democrats Were Planning To Commit Widespread Voter Fraud Using Mail-In Ballots. "The second part of the plan is either to produce enough harvested ballots—lawfully or not—to tip close states, or else dispute the results in close states and insist, no matter what the tally says, that Biden won them. The worst-case scenario (for the country, but not for the ruling class) would be results in a handful of states that are so ambiguous and hotly disputed that no one can rightly say who won. Of course, that will not stop the Democrats from insisting that they won. The public preparation for that has also already begun: streams of stories and social media posts 'explaining' how, while on election night it might look as if Trump won, close states will tip to Biden as all the mail-in ballots are 'counted.'" [The American Mind via the Wayback Machine, [12/13/24]]

Michael Anton Downplayed The January 6 Attack On The Capitol, Comparing The Rioters' Behavior Inside The Capitol To A "'College Football Tailgate'"

In A 2021 Essay, Michael Anton Downplayed The January 6 Rioters' Behavior At The Capitol, Spreading Claims That Once They Had Breached The Doors And Forced Entry Into The Capitol Building, "'The Mood Was Less Coup And More College Football Tailgate.'" "Once inside, the majority of protestors did not burn, smash (apart from, as far as I know, a few windows), loot, or steal. In the aftermath, the unsympathetic New York Times published an account of the damage to the building and found little. Instead, they mostly…wandered around. A few hammed it up for the cameras. In the words of an equally unsympathetic eyewitness account published in the Nation, 'the mood was less coup and more college football tailgate.'" [The Claremont Review of Books, [Winter 2021]]

###