President Donald Trump, amplified by the media’s thirst to create drama, has rhetorically framed the upcoming 2020 Democrat primary campaign as an either/or choice between “progressive” and more “moderate” candidates—and the general election as a binary choice between those advocating “socialism” (whatever that means) and those for whom “socialism” is a devil term.

It would be a mistake if we accept this all or nothing narrative. The real issue confronting Democrats is not whether to choose between two arguably exaggerated and artificial extreme options. Rather, it is how they publically debate their differences—which are fewer than their shared beliefs and values—and what they do to construct a unified message.

If as I have warned many times they decide to eat their own, Democrats will succeed in playing into the President’s hands, allowing him rhetorically to set the agenda, perhaps leading to four more years of Trump.

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