Trump Isn’t the Cause, but His Rhetoric Incites

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Sadly, 59 gravesites were vandalized with anti-Semitic symbols and language this week at a Fall River, Massachusetts Jewish cemetery. Is President Donald Trump at least partially accountable for this?

Those who claim his racist discourse and constant appeal to fear and division are unrelated to this kind of behavior should understand that rhetoric empowers,
incites and emboldens despicable people to come out of the shadows. To be clear, there have always been anti-Semites and racists—long before Trump became President—and always will be. He didn’t cause these attitudes. But the increase in the number of disgusting occurrences like this one has risen dramatically during Trump’s time in the White House.

Rather than being part of the problem he could be part of the solution by forcefully denouncing white supremacists, making clear he refuses support from them, and declaring that white nationalism—not the border—is a national emergency. Alas, he probably won’t, since this will erode his base. I fear Trump will continue to exploit racism and anti-Semitism for political purposes, until the Republicans stop him.

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