

Free Speech



bridgeND Meeting 9/25

President Trump's Take

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence, on many sides. On many sides. It's been going on for a long time in our country. Not Donald Trump, not Barack Obama. This has been going on for a long, long time."



First Thoughts

To what extent do you agree with President Trump's statement? On what specific points do you disagree with, if at all?

Question:

Assuming Trump was correct in saying that there were “very fine people” in Unite the Right rally at Charlottesville, is that enough to waver from condemning the group as a whole?

Question:

Antifa is an organization that shamelessly endorses the use of violence for political purposes. Undoubtedly, the victimization of innocents for political ends deserves condemnation. Was Trump correct to condemn them in the context of Charlottesville?

Question:

Is the use of violence ever justified to make a political point, however noble and admirable as in the case of civil rights? In what cases should violence be condoned or advocated, if at all?

This is a dated question that was especially relevant in the times of the civil rights era. Here's an excerpt from Malcolm X, who was often at odds with MLK for advocating violence to achieve political ends.

"The question tonight, as I understand it, is "The Negro Revolt, and Where Do We Go From Here?" or What Next?" In my little humble way of understanding it, it points toward either the ballot or the bullet... I myself am a minister, not a Christian minister, but a Muslim minister; and I believe in action on all fronts by whatever means necessary... We want freedom now, but we're not going to get it saying "We Shall Overcome." We've got to fight until we overcome."

Milo: No Limits On Free Speech



Where do universities draw the line on free speech, if at all?

Think about distinguishing the different sort of expressions of free speech, and whether the university ought to have complete neutrality in this matter or express favor to certain expressions.

In what cases is limiting free speech justified?