Is the United States Post-Democratic?
Mobilizing Economic and Racial Grievances in the 2016 Campaign

Most commentators explain the ascent of right-wing politics in the U.S. as a bargain between Republican elites and their party base: the elites give the base their social issues and the base gives the elites their neoliberal economics. The implication is that conservative white voters liked neoliberal capitalism as long as they could restrict abortion, cut welfare programs, and bring guns to school. And yet Donald J. Trump has won the Republican nomination by appealing directly to Tea Party anger about neoliberal economic policies, while also bringing racial resentments out into the open. Reviewing this new electoral terrain, Prof. Newfield argues that the policy regression attributed to working-class whites originated in the university-educated professional class’s own preferred arrangements for race, economics, and national security.

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