The University Conservative

A collection of ideas, experiences, and articles from the vibrant network of conservative-thinking students.

Theodore: America's Cowboy Statesman

By Garrett Smith

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Far from a perfect politician, but a great man.

Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt is often remembered by many Americans as a true man of vision, an assertive statesman, and the embodiment of masculinity. Many people on both the right and the left admire his legacy, and during his presidency, he enacted policies that would have pleased both Republicans and Democrats. From a conservative perspective, how should Teddy be remembered? Let's take a brief look at the history of Theodore Roosevelt, from Rough Rider to Bull Moose.

The year is 1898. For a little over two months, the United States and Spain have been at war. Theodore Roosevelt, commander of the "Rough Riders," is on the front lines with his men. The Rough Riders, tough as they sound, were America's famous cowboy regiment, and many of the soldiers were volunteers that Teddy had previously met during his trips through the American West. On July 1, 1898, the Rough Riders, under the command of Theodore Roosevelt, would heroically take San Juan Hill from Spanish forces. The war would end around a month and a

half later, and Roosevelt won the Medal of Honor, though he would not be awarded it until 2001. He is currently the only U.S. president to be awarded the Medal of Honor, though he would not be awarded it until 2001. He is currently the only U.S. president to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

How does Roosevelt's presidency stack up, and how should it be remembered by Conservatives? Teddy was a mixed bag. A Republican, though a progressive, he held some views that would please conservatives, while liberals would be pleased by some of his stances on taxation and government regulation. As a progressive, he believed that taxation through a gradual income tax and the inheritance tax were appropriate for his "Square Deal" agenda. He also believed in certain corporate regulations. On the issue of railroad regulations, Teddy said this: "The proposal to make the National Government supreme over, and therefore to give it complete control over, the railroads and other instruments of interstate commerce is merely a proposal to carry out to the letter one of its prime purposes, if not the prime purpose, for which the Constitution was founded. It does not represent centralization. It represents merely the acknowledgement of the patent fact that centralization has already come in business." On these big-government-styled beliefs, many of today's conservatives would have disagreed with Teddy.

On the other hand, Teddy was a conservationist when it came to the outdoors. He loved hunting and exploring, and he frequently enjoyed traveling through the American West, the jungles of South America, or the African Savannah. He was a renowned big game hunter, and during his hunting years, he killed several types of dangerous game, including grizzlies, lions, and rhinos. A conservationist, Teddy understood that hunting was often an effective way of con-

On international relations, Teddy's view is summed up perfectly by his famous statement: "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Somewhat of an imperialist, Teddy wanted the world to experience Americanism. Rather than let them experience it on their own accord, however, he often embarked on missions to take Americanism to them. On this, conservatives such as Rand Paul would have disagreed, while George W. Bush would have most likely approved. In many cases, however, Teddy would leave the foreign nation once he felt the mission was accomplished. In a speech delivered in Norway, 1910, he acknowledged what he once said in regard to getting involved in another nation's affairs: "We will stay in Cuba to help it on its feet, and then we will leave the island in better shape to maintain its permanent independent existence. And before I left the presidency Cuba resumed its career as a separate republic, holding its head erect as a sovereign state among the other nations of the earth. All that our people want is just exactly what the Cuban people themselves want – that is, a continuance of order within the island, and peace and prosperity, so that there shall be no shadow of an excuse for any outside intervention." He also spoke the same of San Domingo. Another notable aspect of Teddy's presidency, in concern to foreign relations, is that he became the first president to win the Nobel Peace Prize, due to his attempts to bring peace between the warring empires of Russia and Japan.

On regarding patriotism, Teddy was a strong advocate of American Exceptionalism. Liberals who heavily criticize President Trump would be appalled to hear that Teddy did not believe in a "hyphenated American." In 1919, he stated, "In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American…There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag…We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language…and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

Theodore Roosevelt's presidency ended in 1909. Following this comes his unfortunate shift to the Progressive "Bull Moose" party for a short time. His protégé, William H. Taft, who assumed the presidency following Roosevelt, tried following in his Republican footsteps. While giving a speech for the Progressive Party in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1912, Teddy was shot in the chest with a .32-caliber handgun by a mentally-disturbed saloon keeper. The bullet did not strike any vital organs, however, and Teddy finished a 12-minute speech before receiving medical attention. He addressed the crowd by saying, "I don't know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot – but it takes more than that to kill a Bull Moose!"

The "Bull Moose" Party, as it became known, although embracing certain aspects from the Republican platform, supported many ideas that Republicans would not such as socialized medicine and government-controlled healthcare. Due to this, many members of the Republican Party, including his former protégé, walked away from him. My good friend Austin von Henner, from UNC Asheville, states that it must have been tragic for Teddy, to have his party and protégé walk away from him near the end of his life, due to the fact that he began supporting left-wing ideas that he once fought against.
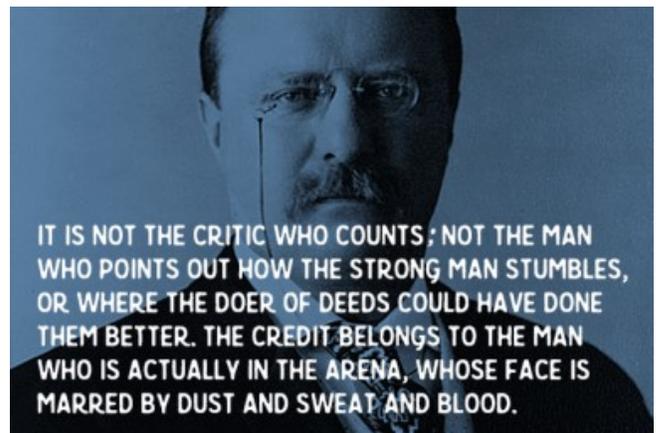
Teddy returned to the Republican Party in 1916, but it was too late. In the 1912 election, he picked up Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota, Washington, and California for the Bull Moose Party, securing many votes that would have otherwise gone to Taft, therefore giving the election to Democratic candidate Woodrow Wilson. An attempt to defeat Wilson in the 1916 election due to the Republican Party's attempted reunification was unsuccessful. Theodore Roosevelt passed away in 1919. He had lived a great life, full of courage and adventure. Although he made a political mistake near the end, Teddy was still admired and loved by many people, and he continues to be.

Theodore Roosevelt is remembered as a great statesman for many reasons. At the beginning of this article, I asked a question that I would quickly like to reflect on: From a Conservative perspective, how should Teddy be remembered? Theodore Roosevelt, like any veteran, will always be admired by conservatives for his bravery and heroism in battle. The fact that he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at San Juan Hill and the Nobel Peace Prize for his attempts to end

the Russo-Japanese War will always be a tremendous part of his legacy.

From a Republican standpoint, Teddy had some views that conservatives should love, while others that they should refrain from. His stances on land conservation, strong love for putting America first, and helping bring an end to the Russo-Japanese War should be embraced by conservatives; his stances on taxation and certain government regulations, as well as certain aspects of spreading Americanism, should not be.

Is it fine for a conservative to like Teddy Roosevelt? Of course! No person to walk this earth, other than Jesus Christ, has been perfect. Everyone has their select favorite political heroes, and they are entitled to like someone while disagreeing with them and criticizing them on certain issues simultaneously. It is important to remember that every politician, at some point or another – especially the ones you love – will occasionally let you down. Although Teddy was a mixed bag, we can criticize some of the policies he enacted while president, as well as his stance on big-government ideas from the Progressive Party, while appreciating the fact that he encouraged all Americans to put America first, love your land, and love your country.

IT IS NOT THE CRITIC WHO COUNTS; NOT THE MAN WHO POINTS OUT HOW THE STRONG MAN STUMBLES, OR WHERE THE DOER OF DEEDS COULD HAVE DONE THEM BETTER. THE CREDIT BELONGS TO THE MAN WHO IS ACTUALLY IN THE ARENA, WHOSE FACE IS MARRED BY DUST AND SWEAT AND BLOOD.

"Blue Wave" Splashes Short

By Matt Zupon

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As most of the results from the record-breaking 2018 midterm roll in, it appears that the "Blue Wave" expected to destroy the right in its entirety. With the hype from the mainstream media about Democratic challengers Beto O'Rourke, Jacky Rosen, Phil Breseden, and many others, one would believe that this blue tide decimated whatever chance conservatives possessed of maintaining a narrow majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate. While Republicans lost the House by a standard margin, we gained historic numbers in the U.S. Senate and witnessed some upset gubernatorial elections. Let's briefly analyze how wrong the pundits ended up on Tuesday night:

Florida:

What's an election night without a harrowing, down-to-the-wire finish in Florida? For the United States Senate race, the Governor, Rick Scott (R-FL), challenged incumbent Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL). While the polls went back and forth the entire year, the final Real Clear Politics (RCP) average showed Bill Nelson with a 2.2 advantage. Despite this, Rick Scott narrowly captured Florida by under a .4 win. As of Wednesday, November 7th, a recount will happen for this race.

Florida also saw the extremely close and un-predicted Governor race. Congressman Ron DeSantis (R-FL) won a primary everyone predicted he would lose. Instead, he received the President's endorsement and carried the primaries with almost 20 points. To make matters even more interesting, RCP put Tallahassee Mayor and profound socialist Andrew Gillum (D-FL) at a 3.6 advantage. In the end, DeSantis edged Gillum out with a .7 win.

North Dakota:

Self-proclaimed moderate Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) never really stood a chance according to early polls. One early result in February showed Heitkamp up 3, but every poll thereafter showed Representative-at0large Kevin Cramer (R-ND) dominating. Sen. Heitkamp's refusal to vote for Kavanaugh most likely sealed the nail in the coffin for her Senatorial career. By the end of the night, Rep. Cramer won with 10.8. RCP predicted him to win with 9.8.

Indiana

Another interesting statewide race: while the incumbent Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN) knew from the beginning that his race with Mike Braun (R-IN) would become competitive, he never expected the end results. RCP put Donnelly at a 1.3 advantage heading into election day. The final results showed Mike Braun, the challenger, winning by 8.4 points. Another Democrat in a conservative state that voted against Kavanaugh.

Missouri:

Yet another Democrat in a highly conservative state dogged by her vote against

Kavanaugh. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) faced off with Missouri's Attorney General Josh Hawley (R-MO) and lost brutally. While every poll showed them tied or gave Hawley a narrow advantage, the actual voters delivered Hawley with an impressive win. At the end of the night, Josh Hawley won the US Senate seat, beating McCaskill by 6 points.

Arizona:

Possibly the most correct of the polls came from Arizona's Senate race, where Martha McSally (R-AZ) faced off with Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ). Both Congresswomen in the United States House of Representatives, the whole nation predicted a close race. And just like RCP predicted (McSally +1), the results with 99% in show McSally with +.9 and gaining. Though not officially called, it feels safe to say that McSally pulled off the W here.

Amazingly, though never predicted to end as a close race, Arizona governor Doug Ducey (R-AZ) won with 17% more than his opponent.

Texas:

A race that nobody expected to become competitive became just that. But as soon as Congressman Beto O'Rourke (D-TX) seemed like a valid threat to Senator Red Cruz (R-TX), he seemed to lose momentum. After dropping $70 million from celebs in California and the predicted "Democrat victory" in Texas, Cruz carried the state with almost a three-point advantage. Not nearly as good as a Republican should do, but not a "Blue Wave" by any means.

Georgia:

Another highly conservative state that nobody expected to get heated, Georgia's gubernatorial election came down to the wire. Though Brian Kemp (R-GA) only narrowly won, he still beat Stacey Abrams (R-GA), another Beto-style candidate that received large sums of money from Hollywood. Kemp won the state with a 1.6 advantage.

Michigan

Though the Republican lost here, John James (R-MI) gave Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) a run for her money. Polls this entire season predicted Stabenow winning by double digits, but by the end, this impressive veteran brought the race down to under a 7 point difference. Quite impressive for a Republican in Michigan.

And while we Republicans did celebrate these victories, we must acknowledge the loss of Governor Scott Walker (R-WI), Senator Dean Heller (R-NV), gubernatorial candidate Kris Kobach (R-KS) and the aforementioned House of Representatives. By January 2019, though, will anybody consider this anything more than an American stalemate?

MOON'S TAKE: My Personal Examination of the 2018 Midterms

By Peter Moon

Warren Mott High School

Last night, November the 6th, was one of the most hectic midterms I've ever seen. Granted, this is my first midterms where I actually cared what the outcome was. However, I feel I can still claim my previous statement as my subjective and truthful opinion. The following analysis will be completely my own opinion; I hope you enjoy my take.

OVERALL OUTCOME

I think we all know what has happened: Currently, we can safely say that, whatever happens with the last two unannounced returns (Arizona and Mississippi's Special), Republicans will maintain control of the Senate. Currently, there are 29 races left to the unannounced. Republicans undoubtedly have lost the House; no matter the way you look at it, even if they swept all 29 (which would never happen), they'd only gain a small majority in the House. Let's take a gander and say at least half (~14 R's, 15 Dem seats) go to the GOP. We still lose. Give it up, Conservatives: The numbers are just not in our favor. In gubernatorial races, we lost quite a few states. Kansas, Michigan, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Maine, and Illinois were the majority of these losses. We narrowly won Florida, but on the other hand, safely kept Texas in our party's grasp. California, Oregon, Minnesota, New York, and Colorado held blue;

Georgia still hasn't come in because Abrams doesn't want to conclude defeat while less than 100% of the vote is in. (I have the same sentiments, but with other races; I'll get into that later)

HUGE WINS/BIG DEFEATS

During the night, several Democrats lost their races in widely publicized races. O'Rourke lost in Texas (he was the media's darling), Gillum lost in Florida (he was the next Obama in some Conservative's eyes; he was popular among the MSM, and was groomed as a potential 2020 runner if he'd won; of course, this is all speculation and inference), and Donnely was unseated in Indiana. On our side of the aisle: James and Shwette both lost in Michigan, as well as Bishop in his re-election race for Michigan's House Rep.; Cox lost to Newson in California's Gubernatorial race, while several Republicans look to not be entering the House who were running along in that state; in many, many Trump-won, solid-red districts, Democrats unseated their Republican rivals. Some of these, such as the tip of the Panhandle in Florida, were not surprising; a lot of the races in that state were very tight. However, in other states such as Oklahoma, our candidates were unseated. Oklahoma, which, in 2016, was handily won by Trump, elected a Democratic House member!

Some key victories were: DeSantis in Florida's Governor race, Scott in Florida's Senate race, and, of course, Keith Ellison and his win in Minnesota. While the last one was more predictable, both Florida races should be seen by all as 'upsets'. Scott, who was

1) Made unpopular by many state youth voters due to the MarchForOurLives movement, and 2) Was running against an incumbent, which is sort of difficult.

ONE MAJOR ISSUE I HAD WITH THE COVERAGE
Fox News: What the heck is wrong with your reporting?

Early in the night, at around 10:00 Eastern to 12:00 eastern, Fox News announced that they "projected" the Democrats would take the House. Now, while predicting something isn't an issue (I could just as easily predict the network lost around 15% of it's core base with that move), predicting such a huge loss so early in a race is not very ethical, or very smart. At the time, Bill Mitchell on Twitter pointed out two different things: First, Fox News didn't call the Florida races until more than 95% of the votes were in for both races, despite both Republicans having a good lead over their opponents; all the while, they called races left and right for Democrats all throughout the night, even when less than 50% of the vote was in. There is a method to all of this, but, it does make you think: In a race such as Florida, where the margins stopped shifting after the 85 percent line, why wouldn't you determine the race at that point? John James was projected to lose his race when only around 45%-49% of the vote was in; he had only been losing by 5 or 6 points at the time. With over half the votes remaining, why would you project a loss that soon? Second, at the time of this projection, Mitchell also pointed out the fact that the Democrats had, at that point in time, only picked up 2 Republican seats, and that only

around 1/3 of the actual House finals were in. So, it brings up the question: Why in the world would the network call the national race-final so soon? Especially when people in West Coast states were still voting? Do not get me wrong: I have a lot of other issues with this midterm; however, I can only flesh this one gripe out this far.

MY TIPS FOR THE FUTURE
USE DIFFERENT POLLING DATA/ SOURCES
If you get your data from MSM sources, please stop. Look, I love the "major Trump disapproval ratings" polls CNN puts out every hour (it seems like), but as Styxhexenhammer pointed out 2 days before the race finals: Some of these pollsters are predicting races based on data that is, in some cases, up to a month old. According to Styx, a person wanting a fairly accurate reading of the race should not go off of old data like these. If you want to try and pull a Nate Silver, use several different polling sources. RealClear-Politics is a great website for just this; they take polling data from many different sources, usually within days or weeks of each other (updating the poll numbers), and aggregate them. Many races, such as Gillum v. DeSantis, were more updated. However, some races, like one of the Michigan House Reps., had no recent polls! How can you seriously take a "Dem win" when there are races that no one has cared enough about to pre-poll on?

Another thing: On Election Night, avoid just using the TV or YouTube as your main source. I'll mention them again: RCP (Real Clear Politics) had, all throughout the night,

the best numbers on each race. While Fox and other MSM networks held off on predicting the Florida races when 85% of the data was already in, it was clear that RCP had a clear winner. The trends for the Scott race, in specific, was so on-the-line maintained that, by the time it hit 95%, we all knew DeSantis had won….except apparently Fox News. I suggest at least three other sources of information for you to check out Election Night in 2020: Anthony Brian Logan (if he does a stream that night; this time he did), Styxhexenhammer (who always does a Election Night stream), and Bloomberg.com, as well as RCP. You do your own research; I pulled a Fox News at least 5 times during the Election Night, and, I hate to brag, but, I was right all five times. Listen, I'll give you some good advice (which I learned as the night went on): some races are, in fact, not "too close to call". When it's 48.5 to 50.5, and 90% of the vote is in (I'm using Georgia as an example), I think we can all agree that it's clear who will win. Yet, Fox never called Kemp the winner, for whatever strange reason. At some point, it stops being "too close to call", and it just changes to "just give it up; they won."

Another tip: In your classes the following day, if a teacher starts spewing some false rhetoric like, "I think we can all agree racism still exists in the south", (referring, no doubt, to the loss of two black candidates in Southern states to white men, despite the fact that the men in the races were not running on the fact that the color of their skin made them viable choices for their seats), don't be afraid to speak up. If the teacher is talking about

something that is obviously a lie, you have the truth on your side. Oh, and if they mention the "Trump will shortly be impeached" line, inform them that to impeach a President, one needs both a majority in the House and the Senate. Then inform them that, in fact, for the next 2 years, Republicans have the majority in the second.
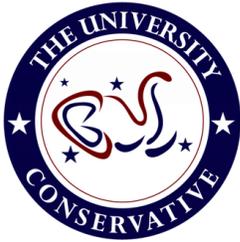
I hope all of you had a wonderful election day as I had; please remember that, even if we did lose the House, we still maintain a majority in the Senate, as well as own the Presidency, and have a majority in the Governorships. Also, for your friends or family who may be Democrats: Don't start fights over who you voted for. Trust me, the last thing I need at a family reunion is a tag-team of my liberal or Democrat relatives bashing me for what I think.

Student Writings

The University Conservative is calling all conservative-thinkers, especially college students and recent graduates, to join the movement! Visit theuniversityconservative.com and click on the "Join The UC" tab, subscribe to the newsletter, and you can now submit your articles directly through the submission form on the website. Most articles make it onto the website if they align with The University Conservative's values, and the best writers are chosen to be part of the newsletter. To get your voice heard and learn new ideas from other conservative minds, The University Conservative is the ultimate platform. Check out the website to see the writings from students all around the country.

In God We Trust.

Chad P. Quigley, Founder

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