

## Local Politics Matter

# The Chickens Have Come Home To Roost

## They Always Do



"The chickens have come home to roost" was first used by Brother Malcolm (Malcolm X) after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. This quote was met with gasps and a backlash of hateful rhetoric.

**THE CHICKENS HAVE COME HOME TO ROOST** -- Chickens scratch around in the barnyard, in the fields and woods during the day. But at night they come home to the hen-house to roost. This saying is comparing a person's evil or foolish deeds to chickens. If a person does wrong, the "payback" might not be immediate. But at some point, at the end of the day, those "chickens" will come home to roost. "One has to face the consequences of one's past actions.

As typically happens in the United States of America when Malcolm X used the phrase we focused more on the messenger than on the message. We blamed Malcolm and accused him

of bigotry. Now we have Charlottesville. Now we have carnage and death. Now we have an opportunity to revisit that famous quote and look at it in a much more introspective manner. We must ask ourselves, how did Charlottesville happen in 2017? In order to answer this question, we have to go back to 2011. Following a successful [Conservative Political Action Conference](#) appearance where he announced that he was considering a run for the presidency, Donald J. Trump began appearing on talk shows urging President Barack Obama to release his birth certificate while questioning if the President was born in the United States. This was a SEMINAL MOMENT in the history of this Country. Need I remind you that President Barack Hussein Obama was the first African American President of the United States of America. While those in African American communities

continued to celebrate this historic moment Donald J. Trump made a calculated decision to flip the coin and play on the other side. We can't overlook the importance of this moment in the history of our Country. This was a moment where Trump and all his supporters officially made it known that they would never accept anyone other than a "White Man" as a legitimate leader of this Country. This was also a moment that legitimized the hateful vision of terrorist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan, the Alt-Right and the Neo Nazis. In fact, this was the moment when Donald J. Trump began building that solid base of support that as he said would not leave him even if he stood out on 5<sup>th</sup> avenue in New York and shot someone. Donald Trump was able to make that statement so boldly because he clearly understood his base supporters. He understood what he was unleashing on the American public much better than

most Americans did at the time. Now we have "Charlottesville". We have Charlottesville because of the rhetoric that Donald J. Trump began spewing in 2011. If you look at Mr. Trump's history his use of the birther movement to advance his agenda should not have been a surprise. What was surprising was the reaction of those white American's who choose to think of themselves as centrist, moderate, liberal or progressive. These Americans chose to stand back and allow the rise of Birtherism. Somehow, they were not able to see the hate and vitriol that fueled the birther movement. Somehow, they were unable to see the ties to the Ku Klux Klan, the Alt-Right, and the Neo Nazis. They chose to sit back and observe the racist attacks on the first African American President of the United States of America. They chose not to condemn, not to fight back and not to dis-associate. They did nothing, "Now we have Charlottesville".

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