
Letter**President Trump has legitimate frustrations**

From Daniel J Aronoff, Birmingham MI US

YESTERDAY

Sir, I share the FT's alarm over Donald Trump's unsubstantiated claim that President Barack Obama wiretapped his phones during the 2016 election, along with his many other reckless and self-serving attacks on US government institutions (["Trump is straining the system of government \(http://next.ft.com/content/df424724-0287-11e7-aa5b-6bb07f5c8e12\)"](http://next.ft.com/content/df424724-0287-11e7-aa5b-6bb07f5c8e12), editorial, March 7). Nevertheless, President Trump and his supporters do have some legitimate grounds for frustration. The violent protests staged by liberal students at [Middlebury College \(https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/03/us/middlebury-college-charles-murray-bell-curve-protest.html?_r=0\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/03/us/middlebury-college-charles-murray-bell-curve-protest.html?_r=0), which aimed — and succeeded — in silencing Charles Murray, who is a respected conservative scholar, highlight that the US left is every bit as intolerant of reasoned debate as is the so-called "Alt -right". The open acts of defiance and protest among many employees in US government agencies, along with the suspected subterranean fomenting of resistance to following the direction of the president, raise questions about the point at which free expression crosses over to disrespect of democratic authority.

These matters do not excuse Mr Trump's disregard of the responsibility a president has to speak truthfully and to respect the laws, customs and institutions of the government he was elected to lead. But to ignore, or whitewash, the excesses and transgressions of some of Mr Trump's opponents creates an incomplete picture of the conflicts that are currently raging across the US.

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