

STEVE BANNON

IMPACT: As the head of Breitbart, Steve Bannon provided a platform for stereotypes and falsified information about Muslims. As chief strategist in the Trump administration, Bannon helped promote anti-Muslim policies, most notably the Muslim Ban.

- Bannon had a **key role in writing the Executive Order** banning immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries that many have called a **“Muslim Ban.”**
- Breitbart is **described** as a **“far-right” media establishment that provides a platform for the “alt-right.”** A 2016 Time article **found** that the site “pushed **racist, sexist, xenophobic, and anti-Semitic** material into the vein of the alternative right.” Bannon **served as its executive chairman** from 2012 until August 2016, when he **joined** the Trump campaign. He went on to join the **Trump administration as Chief Strategist**. This appointment was **celebrated by the American Nazi Party and the Klu Klux Klan (KKK)**.
- Numerous religious and civil rights groups, along with elected officials, **criticized** Bannon’s appointment in the administration because of his role at Breitbart, which provided a platform for views they consider racist, anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim, and misogynistic.
- As USA Today **reported**, Bannon **“has entertained claims that a ‘fifth column’ of Islamist sympathizers had infiltrated the US government and news media.”** Under Bannon’s leadership, **Breitbart published falsified claims about Muslims** — like the **debunked myth** of **“no-go zones.”** It also gave voice to the **unfounded accusation** that American Muslim organizations and Democratic **politicians** are **connected** to the Muslim Brotherhood. Under Bannon, Breitbart amplified the **voices** of those who want the government to **label** the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization. The Trump administration is **reportedly considering** an executive order on this matter.
- **Bannon believes Pamela Geller, Robert Spencer, and Frank Gaffney to be experts on Islam, and has given voice to their perspectives in Breitbart forums since at least 2013.** In 2016, Bannon **called** Robert Spencer “probably the most renowned, or among the most renowned, of folks that are on the watch tower to make sure that we’re fully aware of this threat, this existential war — with the Frank Gaffneys and Pamela Gellers.” He **considers Spencer’s website, Jihad Watch, a “go-to site.”** The Center for American Progress **considers** these **individuals part of the “Islamophobia network,”** and the Southern Poverty Law Center **considers** the organizations and **websites run by Geller, Spencer, and Gaffney anti-Muslim hate groups.**
- In 2007, Bannon drafted an outline of a **three-part movie titled, “Destroying the Great Satan: The Rise of Islamic Fascism in America,”** tracing “the culture of intolerance” and the threat posed by “radical Muslims” and their “enablers among us” in America. On-air experts would **include Walid Phares** and Robert Spencer.
- In a 2015 interview with Geller, who **writes** for Breitbart, Bannon observed that Donald Trump’s views on Islam closely resemble Pamela Geller’s. He **said**, **“It looks like [Trump] to some degree [has] been reading your website and been reading all your writings on Breitbart,** because a lot of what his logic is today is really some of the logic that you’ve been putting out there for many, many years.” Bannon has also **described Geller as “one of the top experts on radical Islam and Sharia law and Islamic supremacism.”**

- Bannon has **described the largest Muslim civil rights and liberties organization** in America, the Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), as a **“bunch of spin,”** and a **“bunch of lies.”**
- In October 2017, BuzzFeed News published an **expose** outlining the connections and **working relationships between Bannon, anti-Muslim speaker Milo Yiannopoulos, Breitbart, and self-avowed white supremacists and Neo-Nazis.**
- Bannon rejoined the far-right media outlet in August 2017 following his **departure** from the Trump administration, telling **Bloomberg News**, “I’m leaving the White House and going to war for Trump against his opponents,” and **stating** “I’ve got my hands back on my weapons.”
- In 2016, **Bannon referred to Islam as “the most radical” religion.** In the same year, when discussing Islam in Europe on his Breitbart radio show, he **said** that “Islam” today is “something much darker” than Hitler and the Nazis during the 1930s.
- In 2015, **Bannon said that “if you’re Sharia-compliant...we don’t want you here.”** In a USA Today **piece** on Bannon, Susan Hennessey, a lawyer, notes that he “seems to use the term **‘sharia-compliant’ as shorthand for observant Muslim**” and thus implies that observant Muslims “don’t belong in the US.” Bannon has also **accused** major American newspapers of being “Sharia-compliant.”
- In 2015, Bannon **referred** to the father of Ahmed Mohamed, a then-14-year-old boy who was arrested after his homemade clock was mistaken for a bomb, as “his radical Islamic dad.” He has also spoken of the refugee crisis as a **“Muslim invasion,”** **using** exaggerated or unverified figures.
- Bannon sees an **“existential war” between the West and “radical Islam.”** In 2014, Bannon **gave** a talk at a Catholic think tank in Rome, saying “...we’re now, I believe, at the beginning stages of a global war against Islamic fascism.” There he also said, “I believe you should take a very, very, very aggressive stance against radical Islam,” and **praised** how “our forefathers” kept Islam “out” of the “Judeo-Christian West.”
- Bannon has stated he is a **“Leninist,”** intent on destroying all of today’s establishment. Right-wing political pundit **Glenn Beck previously compared Bannon to the Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels.** According to **Beck**, Bannon is “quite possibly the most dangerous guy in all of American politics.”
- In January 2018, Bannon officially resigned from Breitbart following the publication of excerpts from Michael Wolff’s book, Fire & Fury. In the excerpts, Bannon was **critical** of Trump and his family. In response to these revelations, **the Mercer family, Bannon’s longtime political and financial backers, publically severed ties with him.** Following his departure The Washington Post published a piece **stating**, “it leaves him [Bannon] with no evident platform to promote his views and no major financial backer for his preferred candidates.”