

Criminology on Trump

America's outlaw and racketeer-in-chief

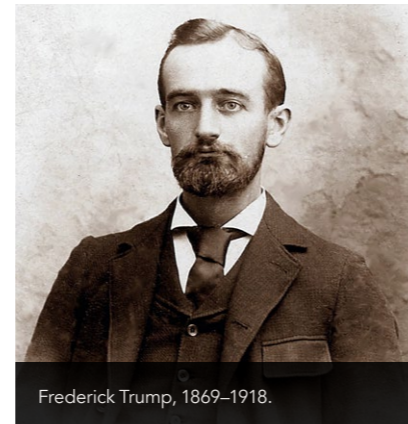
Criminology on Trump is an investigation of the world's most successful political and criminal outlaw, Donald J Trump. Emeritus Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Eastern Michigan University, Gregg Barak, has undertaken a unique analysis of Trump's background and business ventures using criminological research methods and frameworks to examine Donald Trump's history of crime and social impunity. The crimes of this infamous entrepreneur have only recently begun to surface, but Barak shows that the accusations of sexual assault, tax evasion, money laundering, non-payment of employees, racketeering, and obstruction of justice have been accumulating for decades.

Donald J Trump has been given many names throughout his rise to infamy. According to Professor Gregg Barak's criminological analysis of Trump's lifetime of criminality, the most suitable label would be the Houdini of White-Collar Crime. Barak's research explains how Trump as a con artist, cunning racketeer, and master gaslighter, used the Trump Organization as a legitimate front for criminal activities for more than four decades. Trump's entry into the White House was an opportunity to pursue his lust for power and wealth and to orchestrate a kleptocracy.

Barak's research has been published in his latest book: *Criminology on Trump*. In this work, he demonstrates that rather than being irrational, unhinged, or crazy, Trump's background and business ventures from a framework of criminological analysis, show him to be none other than a calculating and compulsive liar.

FAMILY MONEY

The Trump family wealth began in the 1890s when Donald's grandfather, Frederick Trump, amassed a fortune when he founded a restaurant-hotel-brothel in British Columbia and a restaurant



Frederick Trump, 1869-1918.

and hotel in Yukon County, Canada. Money trickled down the family line until Donald's father – Fred Senior – and his maternal grandmother founded E Trump & Son in 1923, which was taken over by Donald Trump in 1971.

Lucky for Donald, he had already accumulated many millions of dollars of inheritance before he started his own business ventures – many of which would go bankrupt. To be exact, Donald Trump has had over 20 businesses go bankrupt, and Trump golf courses have lost more than \$315 million over the last two decades.

To illuminate Trump's failure to create structurally sound and profitable businesses, Barak says that even before Trump's father died, 'conventional banking or lending institutions had stopped doing business with Donald, and that Trump had become dependent on the underground economy, money laundering, and syndicated criminals for raising venture capital.'

MOB BOSS

Donald Trump's relationship with crime is increasingly obvious when a closer look is taken at the financial performance of his businesses. Barak says that an



Trump is sworn in as president by Chief Justice John Roberts.



Trump and Dennis Rodman, *Celebrity Apprentice*, 2009.

analysis of his financial records reveals that he used his intelligence and deceit to operate a criminal enterprise.

The parallels between Donald Trump and famous mobsters like Bugsy Siegel and John 'Teflon Don' Gotti are not a coincidence, according to Barak's analysis. Instead, they exhibit the ability for a powerful, albeit maniacal, businessman to exert influence over other people's behaviour. Symbolically feared for his ruthlessness as a businessman, Trump not only embodies characteristics of famous American mob bosses – authority, charisma, corruption, intelligence, and persuasion – but he has done business with numerous organised-crime figures.

According to Distinguished Criminology Professor Henry Pontell of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Barak uses 'a broad criminological perspective that draws on issues central to white-collar and elite offending', providing an importantly 'deep and novel analysis of Donald Trump's behaviours before, during, and after his presidency.'

POLITICAL RISE

Anyone who was not following Donald Trump's rise to political infamy likely believes that his presidency came out of the blue. Although Trump had never held any political office before he became president of the United States, he had been eyeing the Oval Office for several decades. Professor Steve Tombs of the Open University, UK, says that this 'scholarly, rigorous and meticulously researched book' informed by criminology, political economy and psychology reveals a 'forensic' and 'terrifying analysis' of Trump.

In documenting Trump's repeated attempts to usurp the ultimate position of power, Barak says that in 2000, Trump ran his first bid for presidency under the Reform Party, but quickly realised that trying to become a US president under a third party had little to no chance for success. Returning to Trump Tower, he continued to pursue a career in television in the hopes of gaining America's adoration with his devilish charm.

Trump ran for president a second time in 2012, hoping that the American people would take him seriously but there was a great deal of speculation on his motives for gaining control of

the White House. In the end, Trump dropped out of the 2012 race because his *Celebrity Apprentice* show provided a greater payout than a lost bid for the US presidency.

In 2016, Trump's ambition to rise to political power started to become a reality when he launched his campaign for this ultimate position of power. Although he was initially met with great skepticism and low ratings, Trump managed to stir reactionary America into a frenzy of nationalism, white supremacy, and organised violence. Despite his incredible wealth, Donald Trump used none of his own money to pay for his political campaign. Instead,

Criminology on Trump delivers a razor-sharp criminological analysis of the dark and illegal activities that Donald Trump pursued to obtain social and political power in the United States.





An analysis of Trump's background and business ventures from a framework of criminological analysis, show him to be none other than a conman.

he used campaign funds to pay for the use of his Boeing 757, his smaller jet, his helicopter, his Trump Tower office space, and several other Trump Organization services.

LOBBYING CORRUPTION

White-collar crime and governmental corruption reached new heights during Trump's four years as US President. Shady business deals with Ukraine, China, and Russia, hundreds of millions of dollars speculated to be held in offshore accounts, trillion-dollar tax cuts to the wealthy, and racketeering scams were all used to benefit Trump himself, those in his cabinet, and the ultra-wealthy billionaires of the US, while continuing

to fool Trump's Republican supporters into believing that they benefit from his schemes as well.

Barak's analysis expertly uncovers the depth of political corruption during Donald Trump's four years in office. This astute analysis shows that Trump pardoned significantly fewer imprisoned offenders during his presidency in comparison to the previous five presidents. Rather, he favoured giving pardons to lobbyists who helped him secure his position or influenced foreign political relationships.

Trump's pardon considerations were auctioned off to people willing to pay

the price of their freedom: starting at bids of \$50,000. There are several noted accounts of lobbyists paying \$100,000 and all the way up to \$750,000 to a variety of lobbying firms that supported Donald Trump's political party.

According to Barak, the people that were personally pardoned by Trump lobbied 'the United States illegally and regularly on behalf of foreign interests such as the convicted and pardoned Paul Manafort and the indicted Tom Barrack. Neither were ever registered as lobbyists or publicly advertised their lobbying services. Not only were their transactions with Trump "off the books" but they also were clearly in violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (1938).'

Paying huge sums of money towards Donald Trump's political empire not only could get someone out of prison, but it even landed one man a place on Trump's trust fund board for the Library of Congress. He was only one of many of Trump's lobbyists to land a government position.

INSURRECTION

Trump's incitement of political insurgency and the orchestrated assault on Capitol Hill is likely the greatest display of Trump's power. In his attempt to stop the certification of Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States, masses of Trump supporters and allies stormed the Capitol building with weapons and firearms. While the rest of the world watched on live television, many believed that this would be the final straw and an opportunity to end Trump's political career once and for all. Alas, the Republican-held Congress once again denied, downplayed, and excused the behaviours of the ex-Commander-in-Chief, and Trump so far has slithered away with apparent impunity.

Criminology on Trump delivers a razor-sharp criminological analysis of the dark and illegal activities that Donald Trump pursued to obtain social and political power in the US. It shows how he used his position to perpetuate his own criminal agenda, and finally, the lengths that he would go to keep the power that he spent decades socially constructing.



Behind the Research Professor Emeritus Gregg Barak

E: gbarak@emich.edu T: +1 734 717 1376 W: www.greggbarak.com
W: www.emich.edu/sac/faculty/g-barak.php twitter.com/greggbarak?lang=en

Research Objectives

Gregg Barak's *Criminology on Trump* is a criminological investigation of Donald Trump's rise to power.

Detail

Bio

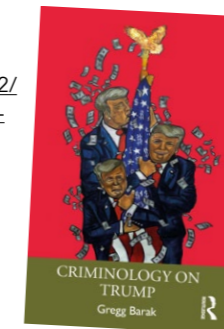
Gregg Barak is former Visiting Distinguished Professor and emeritus Professor of Criminology and Criminal

Justice, a Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient from two divisions of the American Society of Criminology, and the author of three award-winning

books: *Gimme Shelter* (1991), *Theft of a Nation* (2012), and *Unchecked Corporate Power* (2017).

References

- Barak, G, (2022) *Criminology on Trump*. Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group) www.routledge.com/Criminology-on-Trump/Barak/p/book/9781032117904
- Barak, G, (Jan 5, 2022) In his years as president, Donald Trump acted like 'Racketeer-in-Chief' www.yahoo.com/news/years-president-donald-trump-acted-001247618.html
- Barak, G, (Jan 6, 2022) A Criminologist Assesses the 'Racketeer-in-Chief' thecrimereport.org/2022/01/06/a-criminologist-assesses-the-racketeer-in-chief
- Barak, G, (Feb 2, 2022) Why Trump-Era Kleptocracy Still Haunts Our Justice System thecrimereport.org/2022/02/02/why-trump-era-kleptocracy-still-haunts-our-justice-system
- Barak, G, (Feb 18, 2022) Why Did Trump's Accounting Firm Fire Him? thecrimereport.org/2022/02/18/why-did-trumps-accounting-firm-fire-him
- www.greggbarak.com



Personal Response

How do you think Donald Trump's behaviour will affect US politics in the next decade?

|| I would contend that unless Trump is indicted and prosecuted for various crimes by the states of New York, Georgia, the District of Columbia, and/or the Department of Justice before the upcoming 2022 midterms, and/or Trumpian-backed candidates take a shellacking in those elections, then the Donald will be all in trying his best to recapture the White House in 2024. Either way, but particularly in the case of the latter, US democracy and traditional politics will be bordering on an existential crisis. ||

Other Books by Gregg Barak

- *Chronicles of a Radical Criminologist: Working at the Margins of Law, Power, and Justice* (2020)
- *Class, Race, Gender, and Crime: The Social Realities of Justice in America* (2018)
- *Unchecked Corporate Power: Why the Crimes of Multinational Corporations are Routinized Away and What We Can Do About It* (2017)
- *Theft of a Nation: Wall Street Looting and Federal Regulatory Colluding* (2012)
- *Criminology: An Integrated Approach* (2009)
- *Violence and Nonviolence: Pathways to Understanding* (2003)
- *Integrating Criminologies* (1998)
- *Gimme Shelter: A Social History of Homelessness in Contemporary America* (1991)
- *In Defense of Whom? A Critique of Criminal Justice Reform* (1980)



Gregg Barak is an award-winning author and editor of books on crime, justice, media, violence, criminal law, homelessness, and human rights.