

# THE BANALITY OF EVIL

## ACCESS JOURNALISM

A tweet from a talented, but maybe Stockholm'd, journalist favorite of Mr. Trump:



He has not automatically agreed w everything Trump does. And he does care about the job of AG being performed well <https://t.co/ctl6N0xuMb>

– Maggie Haberman (@maggieNYT) [July 24, 2017](#)

This reporter is old enough and smart enough to know and understand exactly what Rudy and Trump are, but still evinces this blithe acceptance bullshit?

Please stop, yer killing me. With every passing day, the initial criticisms as to the lameness of [Haberman, Baker and Schmidt's on and off duality of record "interview" of Trump](#) look smarter. [Greg Sargent was early with this](#):

President Trump's extended, rambling new interview with the New York Times provides perhaps the clearest picture yet of his conviction that he is above the law – a conviction, crucially, that appears to be deeply felt on an instinctual level – and of his total lack of any clear conception of the basic obligations to the public he assumed upon taking office.

There are numerous worrisome moments in this interview, from his incoherence on

the health-care debate (“preexisting conditions are a tough deal”) to his odd asides about history (Napoleon “didn’t go to Russia that night because he had extracurricular activities, and they froze to death”).

But, frankly, the entire tenor and credulity of the interviewers – and the interview – as a whole is simply beyond belief. [NYU Journalism Professor Jay Rosen hit on the latter](#) in a very cogent tweetstorm, as to the interview itself.

But I have to ask the same questions about the journalists conducting this interview. There were a lot of knee jerk defenses, mostly by other journalists, of the manner in which the interview was conducted sans followup questions and factual corrections of Trump’s blatant and rampant absurdity and lying, early on Twitter. The thin skinned “interviewers” of course blanched and professed how much they were just “doing their job”.

At what point does it become journalists’ “job” to stand up for truth, have the guts to speak it to power actually *during their access*, and not just in seeking it? But, hey, maybe these NYT journalists can deflect it all by comparing the current American crisis to the not even close to analogous bogosity from 20 years ago in the Clinton era. You know, the same misdirection horse manure their access point Donald Trump relentlessly tries to foster.

The United States is not dealing with the same paradigm of politics it was even as recently as seven months ago. Both the citizen public, and the press that supposedly serves them, need to understand the fundamental change and adapt. The presumption of normality still being afforded Trump and his Administration is a disservice to both the people and their democracy. It is, in this critical living breathing moment, the banality of evil.