

COMMENTARY WND NEWS CENTER

## TRUE BELIEVERS

# How Borderline Personality Disorder helps explain the left

**Exclusive: Brad Lyles, M.D., on difference between psychological projection & political projection**



By **WND Guest Columnist**

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**By Brad Lyles, M.D.**

One way of understanding the increasingly outlandish beliefs and behaviors of the left is through the lens of Borderline Personality Disorder. The Borderline diagnosis is among the most infamous diagnoses in psychiatry. It is the diagnosis that keeps therapists up at night, covered in sweat, fearful of every encounter with this sort of patient.

Understanding the long-researched processes driving Borderline Disorder provides unique insights into the processes driving the more extreme politics of the left. The Borderline model explains not only the often inexplicable behaviors of the left – but also why the left is so legitimately dangerous.

The most dangerous feature of the Borderline model – and the process most dangerous in our politics – is "psychological" projection – as distinct from the "political" variety.

Psychological projection hardens a patient's mere belief or suspicion that the *other* (person, organization) is bad into a *conviction* the other person is bad. In particular the patient *knows* the other person is bad.

On the contrary, political projection – "accusing the other guy of what you are doing" – is merely a *strategy*. A prominent – and execrable – example would include the three years Democrats accused President Trump of

"colluding with the Russians" while they themselves were in fact colluding with the Russians.

Psychological projection is not a strategy. It is a threat.

With psychological projection there are no gray areas in the belief structure: The other person is *all* bad. There is no circumstance in which a person (or political party) is understood to possess a combination of both good and bad features.

Psychological projection is also an *unconscious* process. It is not a choice. It is not subject to self-reflection (other than in therapy). The belief "just is." Like air.

A patient believes his or her own accusations – no matter how ridiculous they may be. Similarly, many Democrats do not merely "claim" MAGA Republicans are domestic terrorists; they are not merely "convinced" they are; they *know* they are. And they project this unchallenged belief upon Republicans without doubt or misgiving.

Since many Democrats *know* MAGA supporters are the evil, racist, scheming, gun-loving, white-supremacist yokels they believe them to be, they also *know* that a spontaneous rag-tag mob of Trump supporters stumbling through the Capitol on Jan. 6 was not a one-off incident of fired-up rabble but instead a full-fledged insurrection and "the greatest assault on our Capitol and democracy since the Civil War."

And since Democrats *know* this to be the true nature of the occasion, they *know* they are justified – *compelled* – to mete out harsh justice to these traitors; for they *know* our democracy might fail if they do not.

Consequently, they are unmoved by the suffering of many hundreds of otherwise unremarkable American citizens – Trump supporters who have been arrested and jailed, kept in pretrial detention for months, often locked down in isolation cells 23 hours per day, abused by guards, denied medical

care or visitation, families hundreds of miles away, despised by their far-left "public defender" attorneys and sentenced more harshly than violent felons by activist judges – when/if they go to trial.

Even Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, inquired of President Biden, "How is this different than anything you accuse us Russians of doing?"

Without understanding the process of psychological projection, it is impossible to understand how some everyday Americans could treat other everyday Americans so despicably – and with such conviction and self-righteousness. Moreover, it would be hard to understand how many everyday Americans could otherwise justify to themselves *endorsing* such treatment of other Americans.

Before it is too late Republicans must quickly come to understand that based on the workings of psychological projection, much of the left *knows* Republicans are evil, *knows* Republicans are an existential threat to all they hold dear, *knows* that Republicans are somehow less than human, *knows* Republicans must therefore be crushed or exterminated and *knows* they are compelled by honor to any means necessary to achieve this end.

It is no longer about rhetoric or political gamesmanship.

It is about survival.

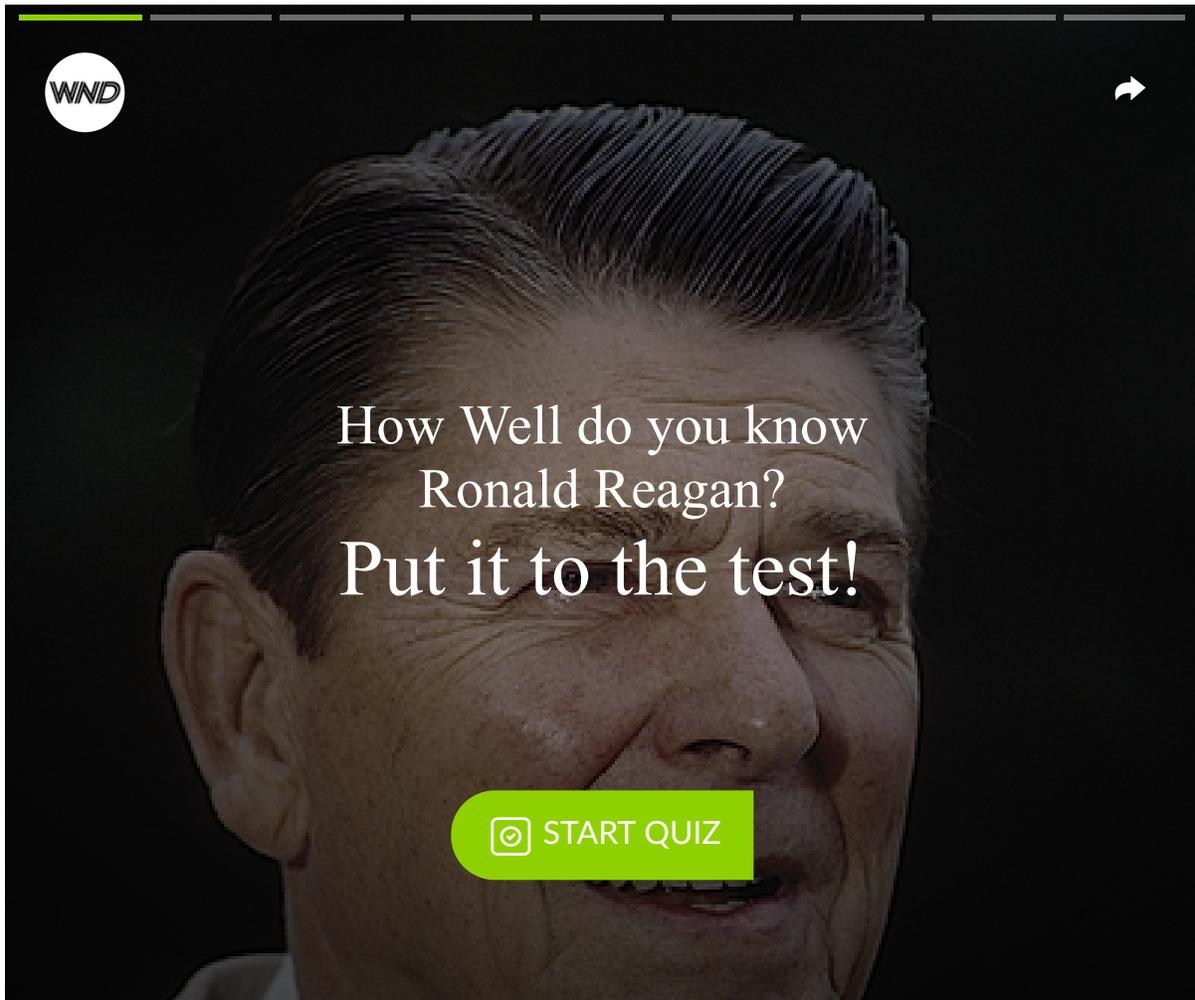
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A promotional banner for a quiz. It features a close-up, black and white photograph of Ronald Reagan's face. In the top left corner, there is a circular logo with the letters 'WND'. In the top right corner, there is a white right-pointing arrow. Centered over the image is the text: "How Well do you know Ronald Reagan? Put it to the test!". At the bottom center, there is a bright green button with a white camera icon and the text "START QUIZ".

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**WND Guest Columnist**

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