

Why won't Trump stand up to Putin?

Why would Donald Trump say and do nothing about Vladimir Putin paying the Taliban a bounty for killing American soldiers in Afghanistan? Trump and Putin both deny this was happening, but they both lie about everything and the bounty has now been verified by both the CIA and the Taliban. Even though Trump routinely insults and condemns anyone and everyone, he has nothing but fawning praise for the murderous Vlad "The Impaler" Putin.

As a disabled veteran, I find

such treacherous betrayal of our own sons and daughters in the military to be as inexplicable as it is despicable. Nevertheless, I have developed several possible reasons for such contemptible behavior. First, Trump, a wanna-be authoritarian leader, so admires Putin that he will say nothing negative about his hero, no matter what. Second, that he desperately needs Putin's help – again – to win reelection. Third, that Putin has damaging evidence of Trump's sexual or financial moral turpitude that he is using to blackmail the POTUS. Fourth, that he's looking for a place to seek refuge from U.S. criminal prosecutors after he is deposed in November. Fifth, any combination or all of the above. Whatever the reason, there is no excuse for his cowardice and lack of leadership.

As a veteran of one disastrous war in Vietnam and a severe critic of a similar war in Afghanistan, I am no fan of endless military interventions, but condoning Putin's treachery with his silence could not be more reprehensible and it deserves the condemnation of everyone in the country.

Tom Riddering
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