

**Article Title:**

“If This Isn’t Impeachable, Nothing Is”

**Summary:**

In response to a *Wall Street Journal* report alleging that President Donald Trump sought the help of a foreign government against a U.S. citizen, Tom Nichols, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College, argues that if these allegations were found to be true then President Trump should be impeached and removed from office immediately. Nichols, who has not been a fan of President Trump, notes that prior debates over whether or not Trump should be impeached, such as what was revealed by the Mueller Report, while extremely unpatriotic did not pass his standard for impeachment. Yet, the latest allegation that Trump pressured the Ukrainian president to investigate Democratic frontrunner and former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, is cause to impeach. Nichols contends in the article that the allegations against Trump’s leading rival for the 2020 election have been proven false repeatedly and that regardless Trump’s behavior is “fearsome and [gives him] nearly uncheckable power for his own ends.” Nichols points out that Trump’s former campaign manager Paul Manafort is currently serving seven years of a prison sentence partially for his involvement with the Ukraine as further link to Trump’s corrosive pasts. He even notes that Trump confidant and legal advisor, Rudy Giuliani admitted that Trump did what was alleged. In the end Nichols believes that Trump’s actions are unprecedented and requires the people of the United States to demand action from their government in order to rid the nation of the current president. (242 words)

**Significance:**

Throughout the article, Nichols provides historical examples of presidential scandal and corruption in order to put the current issues into context. He notes that if Bill Clinton or George W. Bush has used their executive power to influence a foreign nation to dig up dirt on their political opponents, it would have no doubt led to them being “put on trial in the Senate, and likely chased from office.” He notes that Clinton was impeached for his sexual misconduct, a crime Nichols argues is far less than the allegations against Trump. He calls out Republicans for not standing up and joining Democrats in their calls for impeachment. He also criticizes Democrats for both being slow to use their new house majority out of fear of voter backlash in 2020 and for failing to unite more forcefully during the primary elections against the threat of a Trump reelection. Overall Nichols is worried that Trump’s actions not only weaken American foreign policy but put national security at risk. (166 words)

**Digital Literacy:**

In searching into Nichol’s background, beyond his extensive work on international affairs and several book publications, he describes himself as a “Never Trump conservative.” From a 2016 article in the New York Times, he argued that “conservatives should vote for Hillary who he detested” because he felt Trump was “too mentally unstable.” Despite his Republican-leaning views, Nichols offers up critiques of both conservative and liberal responses to the threat posed by President Trump. (73 words)

**Three Questions:**

1. How will Trump and the administration respond to these allegations? It seems they have already admitted that it occurred, but how will they then say what he did was constitutional or somehow warranted?
2. Should Americans be concerned with the increasing involvement of foreign countries in the country's elections?
3. Why do think more Republicans, like Nichols, have not come forward to condemn or criticize Trump? Wouldn't it be possible, if Trump was removed from office, that they could put another candidate up for the election in 2020?

**Reference:**

Nichols, Tom. "If This Isn't Impeachable, Nothing Is." *The Atlantic* 21 September 2019. Web. 26 September 2019.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/09/trumps-ukraine-call-clear-impeachable-offense/598570/>