

Age of Iron

On Conservative Nationalism

BY COLIN DUECK

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Different aspects of conservative American nationalism have been incorporated into the Republican Party from its creation.

Every Republican president since Theodore Roosevelt has tried to balance elements of this tradition with global US foreign policy priorities.

Donald Trump was able to win his party's nomination and rise to the presidency, in part, by challenging liberal internationalist assumptions. Yet in practice, he too has combined nationalist assumptions with global US foreign policy priorities.

The long-term trend within the Republican party, predating Trump, is toward political populism, cultural conservatism, and white working-class voters — and this has international implications. Republican foreign policy nationalism is not about to disappear. The book concludes with recommendations for US foreign policy, based upon an understanding that the optimism of the post-Cold War quarter-century is over.

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