Negative Portrayals of Trump and Allies in *The Backlash* Podcast

Betrayal of Populist/Nationalist Principles

- **Abandoning "America First":** Hosts argue that Trump **sold out his populist agenda** in favor of foreign interests. One panelist bluntly stated *"the Trump administration, just like… the Obama administration, has completely sold out to Israel. There will be no change of substance, 'America First,' so long as that is the case"*. In their view, Trump's **"America First" promises were betrayed** by yielding to policies beneficial to another country.

- **Ignoring Core Base Demands:** Co-hosts sarcastically note that Trump chased trivial pursuits instead of fulfilling cornerstone nationalist promises. *"Nobody asked for Greenland. Nobody asked for Canada. Nobody asked for Panama. We asked for a wall. We asked to deport them all. And we asked for America first. Hello?"* one host quipped, mocking the administration's misplaced priorities. The joke highlights frustration that **issues like the border wall and mass deportations went unfulfilled**, while Trump entertained side ideas (like buying Greenland). Another host agreed, saying he *"would be a lot cooler about this whole [Greenland] thing if Trump was…tweeting up a storm about how he's going to deport every last illegal immigrant"*. In other words, had Trump fiercely pushed the promised immigration crackdowns, they might forgive distractions – but in their eyes **he did not**, underscoring a **failure to deliver on nationalist priorities**.

- **Failure to Act on Populist Rhetoric:** The show's commentary often implies Trump talked a big game but shrank from truly upsetting the status quo. For example, when discussing post-2020 economic turmoil, they doubted Trump's will to make painful reforms, noting *"Trump wants to avoid pain… I just don't see how it's avoidable… This is a very bad sign… Donald Trump could end up like Hoover"* – a president remembered for economic catastrophe. This coded warning suggests **Trump may betray populist economic promises** (like rebuilding industry or taming debt) by refusing tough choices, potentially resulting in a Hoover-like failure.

Zionist or Donor Influence on Trump's Policies

- **Allegiance to Israel Over Base:** The hosts frequently claim **Trump prioritized Zionist interests over his voters' interests**. In a discussion of Gaza, one host remarked that *"Trump's going to deport more people from Gaza than illegals in America"* because *"his allegiance to Israel is more lucrative than [doing] what's popular"*, concluding *"that's why Trump is a problem"*. This overt criticism suggests Trump put **Israeli priorities (helping Israel resettle Gaza)** ahead of the America-first immigration agenda, **betraying his base at the behest of donors or Israel**.

- **"Deal with AIPAC" and a "Fraud" Administration:** Co-hosts accuse Trump of **striking a bargain with powerful Jewish donors** that subverted his populism. *"It was a charade... the dealmaker... made a deal. And he did. He made a deal to become president. And the deal that he made was with AIPAC and its agents...who all serve...Israel under...Bibi Netanyahu"*, one commentator asserted. He declared *"The Trump administration is a fraud, from top to bottom"*, **portraying Trump's presidency as compromised by pro-Israel lobby interests** from the outset. In this view, **Trump's populism was a façade** hiding donor-driven control.

- **"Parasites" Draining Trump:** The show often uses coded language to describe **Zionist donors as puppet-masters**. In an especially scathing segment, a host rattled off names like Netanyahu, financier Howard Lutnick, and mega-donor Miriam Adelson as *"the parasites...[that] have eaten away down to the bone of Donald Trump"*. He added that if you look at Trump now, *"he doesn't look right... he looks frail, he looks a bit confused, [and] a lot of what's coming out of his mouth is incoherent babble"*. This vivid metaphor implies **Trump's vitality and principles were sapped by Zionist influencers**, leaving him a weakened figure **controlled by those benefactors**.

- **Blunt Accusations of Serving Israel:** Some comments are even more direct. One questioner jibed that Trump **"surrounds himself with the children of Moloch"** (a biblical idol, implying evil influences) and has *"undying support for [a] counterfeit Israel"*. *"America first – was that a question?"* they ask pointedly. This sarcastic remark codes Trump's Israel policy as almost idolatrous, **suggesting his America First slogan was empty rhetoric** given his subservience to what they see as a false or illegitimate Israel. Such remarks combine religiously charged language with political critique to imply **Trump is captive to occult or donor forces rather than his nation**.

- **The "Triumvirate" Behind Trump:** Co-host Cameron MacGregor outlined a theory that **three key insiders and donors effectively ran the Trump White House**. *"I have made reference to something I call the triumvirate...driving the Trump administration"*, he explained. *"Basically, there's three folks."* First is **Jared Kushner**, whom MacGregor calls *"the author of the Gaza resort plan that Donald Trump came out [and] like a senile old man read off of a card"*. (This refers to Trump's bizarre suggestion to build a Middle East peace "city" in Gaza – implying Kushner fed him that idea.) **Second** is **Howard Lutnick**, *"a Wall Street banker...[with] the Rothschilds"* who sought a top job; MacGregor says *"that's the guy right behind Trump at almost every press conference"*. **Third** is **Miriam Adelson**, *"who gave him $100 million and made him president"*. He concludes: *"These are the people...driving the train"* of Trump's agenda. This segment explicitly frames **Trump as a figurehead manipulated by Kushner (his family), global**

finance, and big donors. The hosts see **Zionist mega-donors and insiders steering U.S. policy** – effectively **Trump ceded control to this "cabal."**

- **J.D. Vance's Donor-Driven Zionism:** The podcast extends similar criticism to Trump-aligned politicians like **Senator J.D. Vance**, painting them as beholden to pro-Israel networks. In Episode 33, the hosts reveal that *"The Philos Project – a big backer of J.D. Vance – [has] been working with this Opus Dei group to make Catholics more Zionist, more aligned with the state of Israel."* They note that Vance is closely tied to Opus Dei (a shadowy Catholic organization *"taking money from the CIA since 1971"*) and imply his involvement in schemes favoring Israel. This **indirect commentary suggests Vance, like Trump, has his populist credence undermined by donor agendas** (in this case, a pro-Israel evangelical organization funding him). In the hosts' eyes, **even rising "America First" Republicans end up serving Zionist interests** rather than nationalist principles.

Cabinet Appointments Seen as Establishment/Neocon

- **"All the Wrong People":** The hosts frequently fault Trump for **staffing his administration with establishment figures and poor advisors**. One host declared *"the biggest failure of Trump's administration was the fact that he didn't know how to govern...he didn't put the right people around him, he put **all of the wrong people** around him"*. They argue Trump's outsider excuse ("not a politician") only goes so far – *"you got to learn...quicker than four years"*, the host scolds, noting Trump *"didn't...he lacked a sense of morality and he's a poor judge of character"*. This is a harsh indictment that **Trump chose incompetent or disloyal aides (the "wrong people") due to flawed judgment**, leading to an administration that thwarted his campaign promises.

- **Neoconservatives in the Ranks:** The podcast panel often highlights specific **neoconservative or establishment figures Trump embraced**, to the hosts' dismay. *"There are these appointments that are very obvious, that are very neoconservative, that we're all not very happy with,"* one co-host remarked. For example, they lamented Trump bringing on figures like **John Bolton and Mike Pompeo (hardline hawks)** or **Nikki Haley**, which signaled to them a betrayal of the populist mandate. By contrast, they cheer rare "wildcards" – such as Trump's floated idea of appointing vaccine skeptic **RFK Jr.** or firebrand **Matt Gaetz** – precisely because those picks angered Beltway elites. The implication is that **Trump's cabinet was loaded with establishment "swamp" insiders**, and only a few unpredictable choices gave any hope of real change.

- **Doubting Trump's Loyalty to Allies:** Even when Trump does appoint an acceptable figure, the hosts doubt he'll stand by them under pressure. After praising RFK Jr. as *"the only one...worth his salt in the administration"*, one host asked *"Is [RFK] going*

to get support from Trump once he tries to actually implement real change? That remains to be seen." Another interjects, *"Trump doesn't seem loyal"*, questioning whether Trump would defend an appointee who challenges the establishment. This suggests **Trump is seen as fickle or easily swayed**, perhaps firing good advisors on a whim while keeping the "neocons." In their eyes, **Trump's personnel choices (and firings) skewed toward pleasing donors or avoiding confrontation**, leaving mostly establishment yes-men in power.

- **Examples of Disapproved Picks:** Though not always named directly in transcripts, it's clear the hosts view **"Javanka" (Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump)** as emblematic of Trump's establishment tilt. They blame Kushner for globalist projects (like the Gaza plan) and note his liberal social circle. They also mock figures like **Bill Barr, Jeff Sessions, and Gen. James Mattis**, implying these insiders either undermined Trump's agenda or were chosen due to Trump's poor judgment. One host summed it up: *"He didn't have an alternative party apparatus of people like ourselves... the staffing mechanism...comes from the Ivy League...they're all penetrated by... the Zionist project"*. This coded assessment means **Trump relied on the usual D.C. pool for appointments (think Goldman Sachs alums and Ivy Leaguers), many of whom were globalist in outlook, because he had no populist "bench" to draw on**. The result, as they see it, was **a cabinet full of officials who slowed, opposed, or perverted Trump's nationalist promises** – from hawkish generals to pro-Israel advisors – leaving grassroots supporters feeling betrayed.

Policy Failures and Empty Rhetoric (Wall, Immigration, Jan 6, etc.)

- **"Where's the Wall?"** One of the clearest perceived failures was Trump **not delivering on the border wall**. The hosts repeatedly hammer this point. *"He campaigned to build the wall and he failed to build the wall,"* one said flatly. *"He had the executive power to do so, and he didn't do it."* They even applaud commentator Ann Coulter for relentlessly tweeting *"Where's the wall?"* every day as a reminder of Trump's broken promise. By their account, **the signature populist policy – securing the border – was an empty promise**, and Trump bears full responsibility for not using his authority (e.g. redirecting funds or pressuring Congress) to get it done. This failure is framed not as unfortunate circumstance but as **Trump's personal shortcoming**, reinforcing their loss of faith.

- **Immigration and January 6 Inaction:** The podcast suggests Trump often talked tough but did not follow through. For example, they note **illegal immigration enforcement actually weakened**, with one host complaining *"we're not deporting people anymore; we're releasing people now"* despite Trump's rhetoric. They contrast how swiftly *"1.7 million [Gazans were] moved very quickly"* during the Gaza crisis with the fact that *"our [U.S.] deportation numbers have dropped...below 300 [thousand]"*. This stark comparison implies **Trump's immigration agenda fizzled**

(or was reversed by successors) – a point of cynicism among the hosts that his tough talk yielded little lasting change. Similarly, on January 6th fallout, they insinuate **Trump left his supporters in the lurch**. While discussing pardons of J6 defendants, the hosts lament it *"took a president to be elected to actually pardon these people"* and that relying on Trump was a *"miscarriage of justice"*. They stop short of outright condemning Trump for abandoning J6ers, but the subtext is that **he didn't use his final days in office to help them** – another promise (to *"fight for the forgotten"*) unkept.

- **Defense Spending & Neocon Policies:** In Episode 39, the hosts ridicule Trump's budget priorities as **indistinguishable from a hawkish establishment Republican**. *"Trump doesn't have a good handle on what is causing [our economic problems],"* one host argues, after explaining global de-dollarization. They cite how **Trump's proposed 2024 budget** would pour **$1 trillion into defense (a 13% increase)** while slashing education, health, and aid – *"that would sound good to your average neocon"* the host remarks dryly. The sarcastic tone underscores that **Trump's actual policies (massive military spending) contradicted his populist rhetoric** of prioritizing domestic needs. This point is driven home by noting Trump's plan *"increase[d] defense spending by 13% to $1 trillion"* – a figure that aligns more with the **"donor class" or military-industrial complex** than with the forgotten Americans. The hosts treat this as evidence that Trump's supposedly bold agenda **collapsed into conventional GOP priorities**, betraying those who expected an anti-war, infrastructure-focused approach.

- **Callous "Resort" Comment on Gaza:** The podcast excoriates Trump's handling of humanitarian issues as a moral failure and policy blunder. In late 2023, Trump suggested Gaza could be turned into beachfront real estate, which *The Backlash* hosts found appalling. *"This is reprehensible. And Donald Trump **should be ashamed of himself** for saying what he did,"* Cameron fumed. He noted that *"tens of thousands of people…dying…children who've been killed"* in Gaza, yet Trump's takeaway was *"it's good real estate…maybe you could build a resort because it's beachfront"*. *"That is asinine,"* he declares. The hosts argue **Trump's flippant attitude toward a genocide** (their word) revealed his true priorities. *"The sad thing is…we didn't pull out [of the Middle East]…because this was an America First agenda. We did so in the name of a foreign power that's butchering…people"*, Cameron continues. In his view, Trump's policy (e.g. withdrawing from Syria) wasn't to stop endless wars for America's benefit, but to appease Israel – and **Trump's own words proved he didn't actually care about humanitarian principles or American moral leadership**. *"The fact that the President…would speak in such desensitized terms tells you everything you need to know about who's really driving his administration,"* he concludes – again insinuating that **foreign influence, not American ideals, guide Trump's policies**. This episode solidified the hosts' belief

that Trump's touted policies (like ending wars) were either hollow or done for the wrong reasons.

Mockery and Loss of Faith in Trump

- **"Nothing Ever Happens" – No Trust in Trump:** Perhaps the clearest sign of disillusionment is the hosts openly expressing that they **no longer trust Trump at all**. In Episode 38, after discussing Trump's sudden spat with Netanyahu, co-host Rebecca Hargraves skeptically said Trump was just posturing. Vince James responded: *"He's not really doing anything…he's just saying he's going to do something later, maybe. And this is what he always does to gain popularity, and then he's got no follow-through. So **I'm on Team 'Nothing Ever Happens' – Trump can't be trusted**."*. This blunt statement – *"Trump can't be trusted"* – encapsulates the **loss of faith** among the podcast's right-wing populists. They see Trump's pledges as empty, expecting **no real action behind his words ("nothing ever happens")**. It's a far cry from the hopeful tone of 2016; now their tone is openly cynical and scornful.

- **Portraying Trump as Weak and "Frail":** The hosts don't just criticize Trump's policies – they frequently **mock him personally**, suggesting he's a diminished figure. As mentioned, one described Trump as *"frail…a bit confused"* with *"incoherent babble"* coming out of his mouth. This was in the context of donors "eating away" at him, but it doubles as a **derogatory swipe at Trump's mental and physical acuity**. On other occasions, they've sniped about his age and energy. For instance, when Trump read a scripted proposal (suspected to be Kushner's work), they said he *"came out like a senile old man"* parroting it. Such remarks show the hosts **no longer lionize Trump – they belittle him**. The tone is almost pitying or contemptuous, as one might speak of a **once-powerful figure now "not looking right."**

- **"We can't trust a man like that":** In Episode 8, after cataloguing Trump's failures, co-host Rebecca delivered a damning verdict: *"We can't trust a man like that."* This quote followed a discussion of Trump hiring wrong people and failing on the wall, and it underscores that **even on a basic character level, they feel Trump betrayed their trust**. Far from viewing him as a reliable champion, the hosts suggest Trump lacks the moral compass or judgment to deserve their support. This comment is especially cutting coming from early Trump supporters – it signals a complete **loss of confidence** in Trump's integrity and competence.

- **"Nobody deserves it more than Trump":** In Episode 27, the panel discussed the possibility of Trump facing legal or political consequences (the "sacrificial lamb" of rising public anger). Rather than defend him, one panelist exclaimed: *"And **nobody deserves it more than Trump**, as far as I'm concerned."* This startling line –

effectively cheering that Trump might be punished or "taken down" – shows how bitter the backlash has grown. They believe Trump's own decisions (hiring "children of Moloch," half-measures, etc.) led to his downfall, and they greet it with **sarcasm and schadenfreude**. It's an expression of **betrayal: the movement feels Trump let them down so gravely that his fall from grace is earned**.

- **Slurs and Sarcasm Toward "MAGA" Loyalists:** The hosts even mock **Trump's most ardent followers**, implying that remaining die-hards are fools. In one segment, Vince James recounted how, after he criticized Trump on Twitter, *"I had MAGA-tards...saying 'you just hate Donald Trump.'"* The use of *"MAGA-tards"* (a derogatory slur combining "MAGA" with "retards") illustrates their scorn for blind Trump loyalists. Rather than distance themselves from the insult, the hosts lean into it – an indicator that **they no longer mind alienating the pro-Trump segment of their audience**. This sarcasm also reflects **their frustration that some on the right still defend Trump ("do the 4D chess dance") despite his failures**. By resorting to open insults, the hosts signal that **Trump's aura has faded completely in their circles** – he's no longer a revered leader but a target of jokes and derision.

- **From "God-Emperor" to "Antichrist" Jests:** In the early days of Trump's presidency, alt-right communities half-jokingly called him a "God-Emperor." On *The Backlash*, the tone has flipped. They entertained a question asking if Trump might be the **"forerunner to the Antichrist."** Vince James chuckled that he'd *"heard this theory...that [Trump] is the Antichrist. I've heard that Kushner was the Antichrist"*, though he wasn't convinced. The fact this notion is even raised – however humorously – shows how far Trump's image has fallen in these circles. The **once quasi-messianic expectations have curdled into dark humor** about biblical evil. While the hosts don't literally claim Trump is satanic, the jest that *"America First" was a lie and Trump serves "Moloch"* captures their jaded, scornful mindset. In short, **the podcast's tone toward Trump shifted from hopeful adulation to caustic ridicule**, indicating they've *"lost faith"* in him as a vehicle for nationalist change.

Each of these themes and quotes paints a picture of *The Backlash* podcast's stance: **Trump (and allies like his cabinet and J.D. Vance) are portrayed as having betrayed the populist cause** – whether by **selling out to Zionist donors, hiring the very establishment he vowed to fight, failing to enact promised policies, or simply losing the trust and respect of his base**. The commentary is frequently biting, sarcastic, and openly critical, reflecting a significant **backlash against Trump on the dissident right**. The overarching sentiment is one of **disappointment turning into contempt** – a sense that Trump talked like a revolutionary but governed like "just another politician," leaving his original movement feeling deceived and free to savagely lampoon him.