

Leon Czolgosz, Birthright Revocation

Leon Czolgosz was born in Alpena, Michigan, in 1873. His parents were Polish immigrants to the United States, and his father, Paul Czolgosz, had immigrated from the Russian Empire. Leon Czolgosz was therefore American-born, not Russian-born.

Czolgosz assassinated U.S. President William McKinley on September 6, 1901, at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. He shot McKinley with a revolver concealed beneath a bandage, and McKinley died from his wounds on September 14, 1901. Czolgosz was executed by electric chair on October 29, 1901.

Czolgosz identified with anarchist ideology and had been influenced by anarchist activism and writings circulating at the time. His case demonstrates that extremist political ideologies can inspire acts of violence even when the individual carrying them out is an American citizen.

I support policies designed to protect the United States from individuals who engage in terrorism, political violence, foreign-directed hostile activity, or other demonstrable acts against the nation. Citizenship policy should be considered alongside strong national security measures, which is why I support the revocation of birthright citizenship in cases involving activism that may pose an ideological risk to the safety of American citizens.

I consider this experience the long war with Russia that never ended, yet Americans never knew until they became targets themselves. This experience is not shared among many Russian and American families who are friends, family and community members, yet sadly, the war continued nevertheless.

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