

Open Source Intelligence Report: Steve Bannon

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Abstract

This report provides an analysis of Steve Bannon, a former advisor to President Donald Trump, based on Open Source Intelligence (OSINT). It outlines his history, political activities, public statements, and recent controversies, including accusations of incitement to violence and the use of divisive rhetoric. Additionally, recommendations for constructive discourse are provided.

1 Introduction

Steve Bannon is a prominent political figure known for his role in the Trump administration, his leadership at Breitbart News, and his influence within the populist and nationalist movements. However, his rhetoric and actions have frequently been associated with incitement to violence, dehumanization, and extremist narratives.

2 Background

2.1 Career and Influence

Stephen Kevin Bannon was born on November 27, 1953, in Norfolk, Virginia. He has served as:

- White House Chief Strategist (2017)
- Executive Chairman of Breitbart News
- Co-founder of the far-right media platform Breitbart News
- Advisor and strategist for nationalist political movements

Bannon has been a major advocate for economic nationalism, staunchly opposing globalization, immigration, and free trade agreements.

3 Controversial Statements and Actions

3.1 Incitement to Violence

In November 2020, Bannon made inflammatory remarks suggesting extreme measures against public officials:

”I’d put the heads of Fauci and Wray on pikes outside the White House as a warning to bureaucrats.”

This statement led to his permanent suspension from Twitter for glorifying violence.

3.2 Dehumanizing Language

Bannon has used divisive rhetoric, particularly targeting Islam:

- In 2010, he stated: *”Islam is not a religion of peace. Islam is a religion of submission.”*
- He has described Islam as *”something much darker”* than Nazism.
- He criticized former President George W. Bush for referring to Islam as a *”religion of peace.”*

3.3 Recent Controversy (CPAC 2025)

At the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in February 2025, Bannon concluded his speech with an outstretched arm gesture that many perceived as a Nazi salute. This action led to:

- The cancellation of French far-right leader Jordan Bardella’s speech in protest.
- Accusations of alluding to Nazi ideology.
- Bannon defending the gesture as a simple wave of gratitude to the audience.

4 Recommendations for Constructive Discourse

To encourage a more respectful and inclusive public dialogue, the following approaches are recommended:

4.1 Promote Unity

Public figures should avoid divisive *”us vs. them”* rhetoric and instead emphasize shared goals and values.

4.2 Respectful Dialogue

Political discourse should focus on policy and ideological differences without resorting to personal attacks or dehumanizing language.

4.3 Condemn Violence

It is imperative for public figures to denounce violence unequivocally and avoid any language that could be interpreted as incitement.

5 Conclusion

Steve Bannon remains an influential but controversial figure in global politics. His rhetoric has fueled nationalist and populist movements while also drawing criticism for incitement and extremist narratives. The adoption of constructive communication strategies would serve to reduce polarization and foster more productive discourse.

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