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Natalie Harp is Donald Trump's constant companion. In the White House and on the road, she surfs right-wing websites, printing and handing the president a steady stream of Trump-favorable reportage and sycophancy. This is the stuff of Trump's gaslighting—his successful assertion of “alternative facts” that has kept his MAGA base in thrall for a decade.

Eleven months into his second presidency, cracks are appearing in this cultish support. Persistent inflation and rising unemployment rock Trump's claims about the “greatest economy.” Military adventures overseas rock the promises of America First foreign policy. More and more, it seems, MAGA voices are saying this is not what they voted for. Unprecedented resistance—deep red Indiana's defiance of Trump's gerrymandering demands!—is appearing in the heart of the Republican Party. MAGA's refusal to capitulate to Trump's backtracking on releasing the Epstein files now seems to have been a gateway drug to overcoming devotion to Trump's fictions.

Currently MAGA faces the arrival in full of tariff-inspired inflation and ruinous health insurance costs. Can denial or routine bromides like scapegoating immigrants withstand the unparalleled challenge the material world is now presenting Trumpism? Does reality in fact bat last? Can Trump's astounding ability to survive politically through impeachment, loosing a mob on the Capitol, felony conviction, and unmatched self-dealing hold? Testing these questions seems to be in the offing.

In this context, looking back at the history of the right wing in America—its persistence, its successes, and its failures—seems particularly opportune. This is the aim of this special double issue of the *Journal of Right-Wing Studies*, guest edited by Olivier Burtin and Kathryn Olmsted. We invite our readers to consider the articles here as contributing to collective understanding of both our past and present.

Lawrence Rosenthal

December 16, 2025