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Response essay

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There are multiple parallels that can be found in Robert Penn Warren’s “All the Kings Men” with political policies and agenda’s in todays present time. Notions that can allude to politics and politicians such as Governor Willie Stark’s campaign in comparison to now U.S. president Donald Trump’s campaign with both pleading to the public that their non-traditional politicians. An article written by Sanford Pinsker of the “Virginia Quarterly” that the actual basis of the novel depicts to Willie Stark as a representation of an actual politician Huey Pierce Long. The Louisiana Senator was a member of the populist party during the age of former president Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “New Deal policy”, and was in a great deal of controversy during his administrative office.

Out of the many similarities the novel has with current day politics one that stuck out with me was the alleged building of undesirable infrastructure. **One could equate the failed attempt at building a school house in chapter two of the novel with the controversial building of a bordering wall with the U.S. and Mexico where minorities played a major role in the decision making.** In the Novel Willie stark has become Mason County’s Treasurer and wants to higher outside contracted work for the new school. The contracted workers happen to mainly be Black folk from the city and the locals at the Mason city Café have a conversation about the major issue of “**foreign niggers**”, taking away jobs from white citizens of Mason County. According to an article written by Phillip L. Martin from MigrationLetters.com President Donald Trump finds the influx of Mexican people into America to be dangerous.

After the nomination from the republican party President Trump made the comment that unauthorized Mexican migrants were bringing in drugs, crime and raping the citizens of America. Trump spoke of them as unprofitable for the people of America and the people of Mason County speak of Urban African Americans as free loaders and job takers. The differences in the novel when comparing legislation of The Boss “Wilie Stark”, and Donald trump in some instances are oddly reversely paralleled. Trump is a republican and Willie is a democrat but before the party re-alignment they would have more than likely represented the same party. Willie stark has plans to build something new a great in the beginning of chapter two pg. (51) of the novel and his plans fail but somehow in the end he appeases the people of mason city when the news of the school burning to the ground and collapsing and killing several children has got to the public.

Donald Trump has plans of his own and made it the forefront of his campaign. Trump and his administration are very anti-immigrant and shape policy change around the topic of immigration into America. In the beginning the Majority of Americans especially those whom voted for Trump back the idea of “The Wall”, now there’s a higher percentage that despise the idea of tax payer’s money being spent on a 2,000-mile border and the deportation of over 11 million migrants.

Both characters fictional and non-fictional received backlash for decisions concerning funding towards new buildings both of which carried prejudice undertones that ultimately made and will make the determining factor for said structures being built.

Martin, P. L. (2017). Election of Donald Trump and migration. *Migration Letters*, *14*(1), 161-171.

Pinsker, S. (2004). Willie Stark and the Long, Thinning Shadow of Robert Penn Warren's "All the King's Men": American Politics and the New Populism. *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *80*(4), 222-232.