



IMPROVING INTELLIGENCE TO ADDRESS THE RISING THREAT OF WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALIST VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE UNITED STATES

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Purpose of the research

Without a doubt, January 6th insurrection at the Capitol building was unprecedented and in many ways was a snapshot of the broader domestic violent extremist threat facing the United States.

After January 6th:

How should the FBI address the rising threat of white Christian nationalist domestic violent extremism?

What is white Christian nationalist (WCN)?

WCN is a movement that draws participants from various domestic terrorism groups under one common purpose, to unite the white race and reclaim the nation for God.

In their views, WCN sees the white race as being on the brink of extinction by the increase of non-white citizens and immigrants.

Foundations and Evolution of white Christian nationalist domestic violent extremism



During the 1980s and 1990s, right-wing extremists were galvanized by several national issues such as the perceived erosion of parental rights and authority through court rulings, expanding multiculturalism, abortion rights, and the decline of the American family farm, and a perceived attack on their Judeo-Christian beliefs (Johnson, 2017).

Those beliefs led to standoffs between extremists against government institutions.

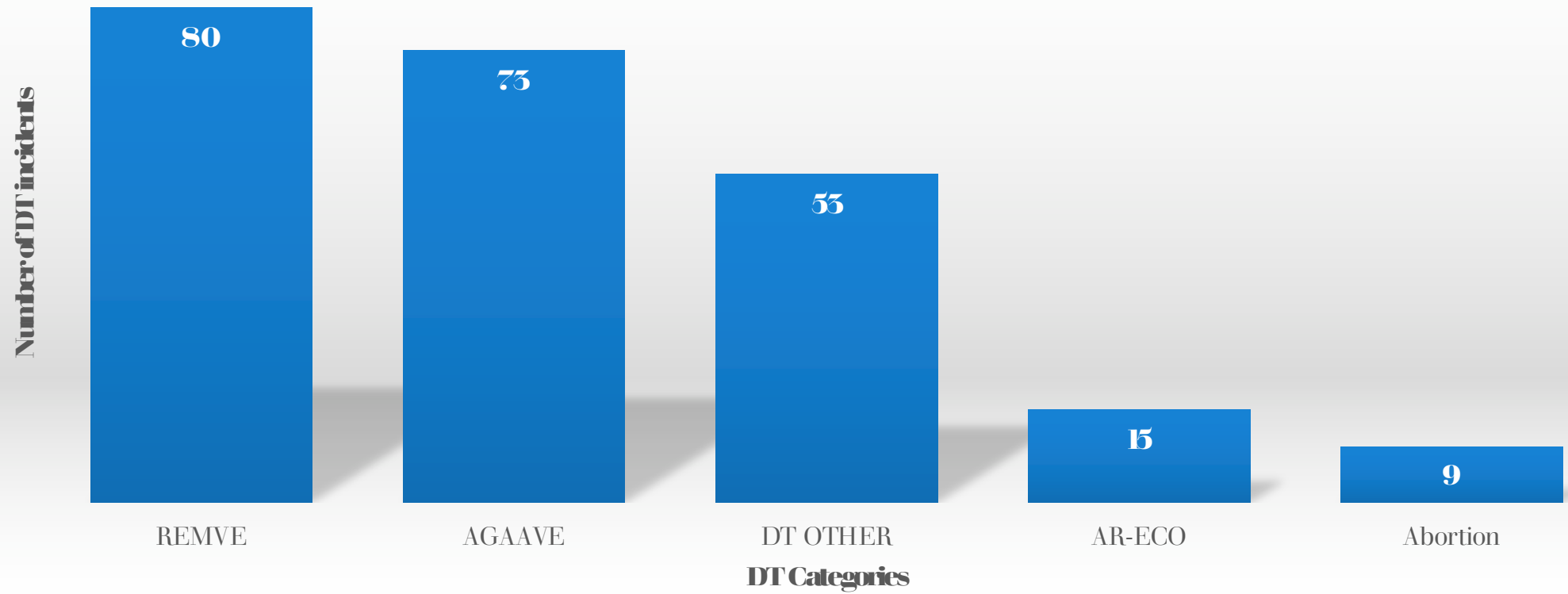
Barack Obama was elected President of the United States

- Rising political polarization
- Growing economic challenges
- Growing concerns about immigration



WCN on the rising

Domestic Terrorism-related incidents by Category from 2010 through 2021



TRUMP ERA





UNITE THE RIGHT CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

“The “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2017, was a harbinger of increasing unlawful militia activity. But it was more than that, the alliances, networks, and blended ideologies united in a movement that initiated what can be described as the road to insurrection on January 6.”

(Mary McCord, 2022)



TREE OF LIFE SYNAGOGUE- PITTSBURG, PA

- In October 2018, Robert Gregory Bowers killed eleven people and wounded six others – including some Holocaust survivors- in what has been identified as the most lethal attack against the Jewish community.



El Paso Shooting

In August 2019, a racially motivated violent extremist after traveling from his hometown shot and killed 23 individuals mostly of Hispanic descent at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas.



COVID-19





GEORGE FLOYD

- BLM



STOLEN ELECTIONS



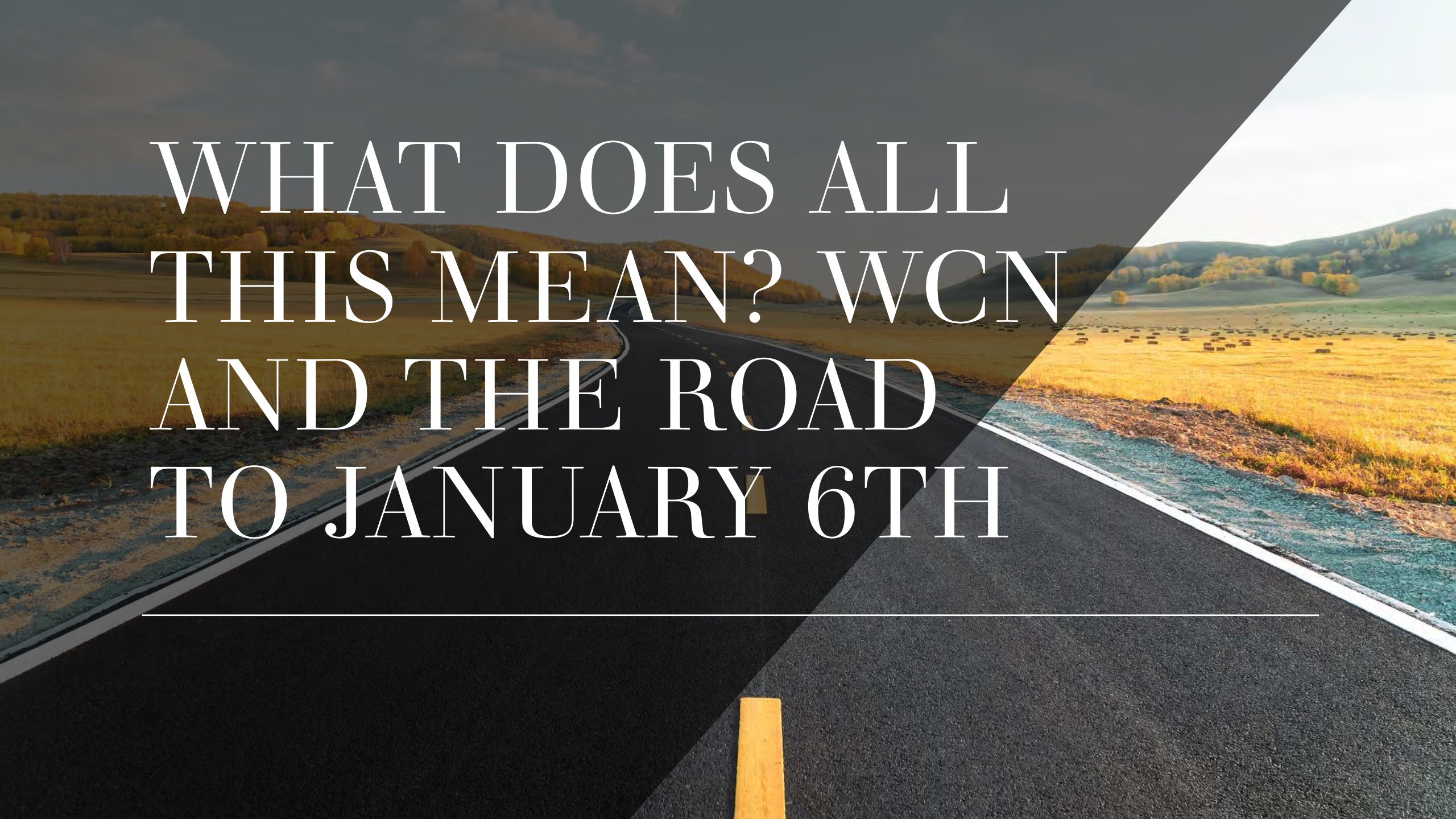
PROUD BOYS STAND AND STAND DOWN



PORTLAND PROTESTS AND STANDOFFS



BUFFALO SHOOTING



WHAT DOES ALL
THIS MEAN? WCN
AND THE ROAD
TO JANUARY 6TH

FBI failures on January 6th

- Limited actionable intelligence
- The intelligence was not shared nor pursued nor actioned upon
- There were at least two seditious conspiracies unknown to the FBI

A photograph of the J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building at night. The building is illuminated, and the name "J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building" is visible on a blue sign above the entrance. The sky is dark, and there are some lights visible on the building's facade.

J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building

Methodology

Interviews

Literature review

Books readings

Podcast

Hearings



POLICY ANALYSIS



A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and blue patterned tie is speaking at a podium. He is pointing his right index finger directly at the camera. The background consists of several American flags. The image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay with a diagonal line running from the top right to the bottom left.

**THE FBI NEEDS TO CHANGE THE WAY IT
APPROACHES THE DOMESTIC
TERRORISM THREAT**

**ENHANCE THE CAPABILITIES
OF THE INTELLIGENCE
PROGRAM AND RESOURCES**



"What do we do with all this data we collect on you? Sorry, that's privileged information."



**THE FBI NEEDS TO TAKE ACTION TO
ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES FROM
SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**

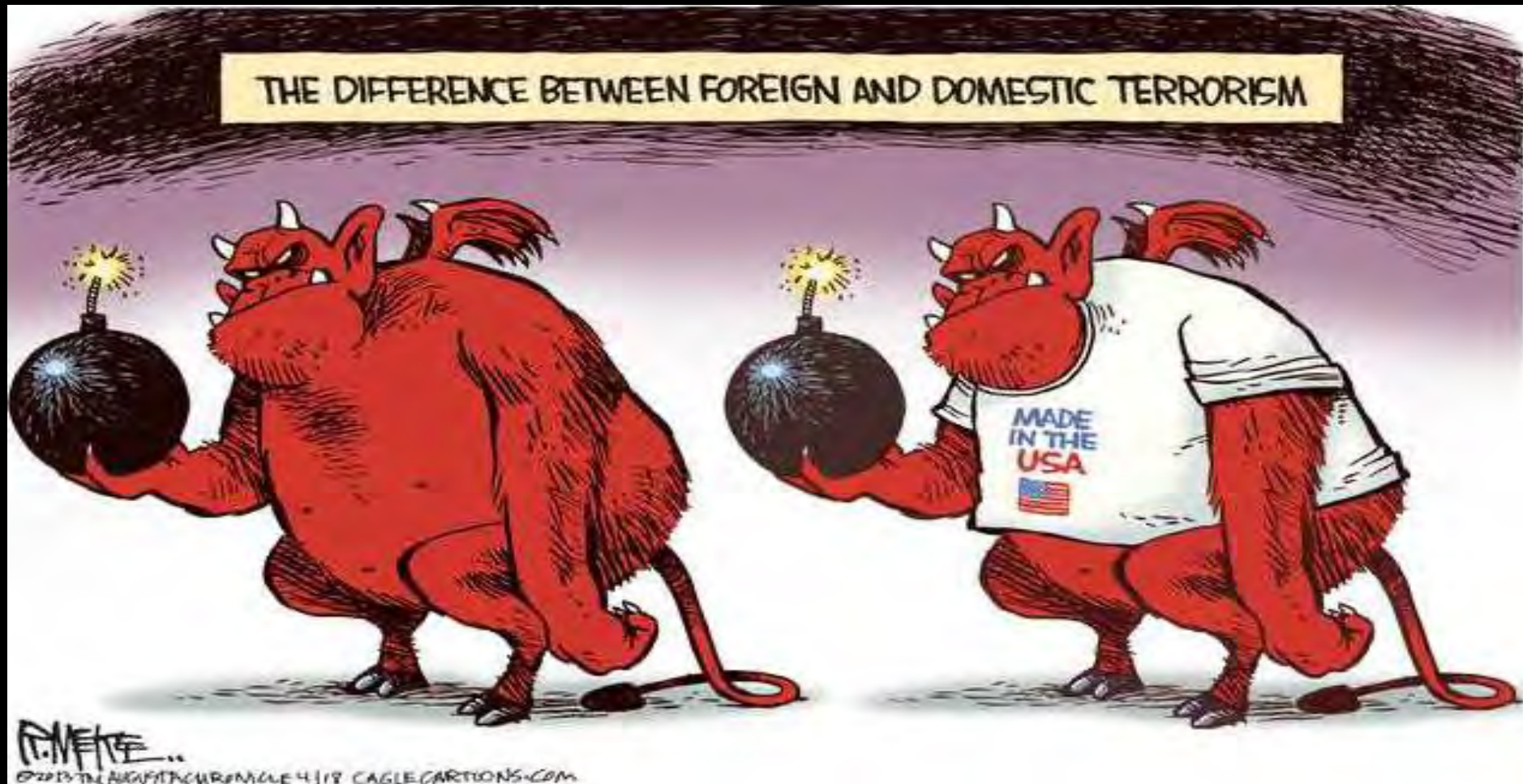


**THE FBI NEEDS TO REDUCE THE
THRESHOLDS FOR OPENING ASSESSMENTS
ON DOMESTIC TERRORISM**



**THE FBI SHOULD INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF AGENTS WORKING ON
DOMESTIC TERRORISM AND
OVERSIGHT AT THE HEADQUARTERS
LEVEL**

The FBI should elevate the domestic terrorism program to the same level as international terrorism



**The FBI needs to invest in the communities
they served through prevention**





**CONGRESS SHOULD PASS
LEGISLATION MAKING DOMESTIC
TERRORISM A CRIME**



QUESTIONS