

Presidency

Donald Trump did not — and does not — recognize any distinction between himself and the office of the presidency.

He is it, and it is him.

This view is as close a fundamental rejection of American constitutionalism as you can imagine — and it helps explain much of the former president's behavior in and out of office. It is why he could not abide any opposition to anything he tried to pursue, why he raged against the "deep state," why he strained against every limit on his authority, why he rejected the very idea that he could lose the 2020 presidential election and why he decided he could simply take classified documents to his home in Florida.

Jamelle Bouie, New York Times, June 23, 2023