Political Nihilism

From The Atlantic, How American Politics Went Insane by Jonathan Rauch

> *Of course, Congress's incompetence makes the electorate even more disgusted, which leads to even greater political volatility. In a Republican presidential debate in March, Ohio Governor John Kasich described the cycle this way: The people, he said, "want change, and they keep putting outsiders in to bring about the change. Then the change doesn't come … because we're putting people in that don't understand compromise." Disruption in politics and dysfunction in government reinforce each other. Chaos becomes the new normal.*
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> *In March, a Trump supporter told The New York Times, "I want to see Trump go up there and do damage to the Republican Party." Another said, "We know who Donald Trump is, and we're going to use Donald Trump to either take over the G.O.P. or blow it up." That kind of anti-establishment nihilism deserves no respect or accommodation in American public life. Populism, individualism, and a skeptical attitude toward politics are all healthy up to a point, but America has passed that point. Political professionals and parties have many shortcomings to answer for—including, primarily on the Republican side, their self-mutilating embrace of anti-establishment rhetoric—but relentlessly bashing them is no solution. You haven't heard anyone say this, but it's time someone did: Our most pressing political problem today is that the country abandoned the establishment, not the other way around.*