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Assassination Culture:

How Burning Teslas and Killing Billionaires
Became a Meme Aesthetic for Political
Violence



Assassination Culture: How Burning Teslas and Killing Billionaires Became a Meme Aesthetic for Political Violence

Introduction

Political violence targeting Donald Trump and Elon Musk is becoming increasingly normalized. Following the July 13, 2024 attempted assassination of President Trump, tolerance - and even advocacy - for political violence appears to have surged, especially among politically left-leaning segments of the population. This pattern builds on a broader trend NCRI identified in two December 2024 reports which analyzed how viral social media narratives were legitimizing political violence, particularly in the aftermath of the UnitedHealthcare CEO's assassination.¹ The reports found widespread justification for lethal violence - including assassination - among younger, highly online, and ideologically left-aligned users. A spillover effect into offline domains is already occurring, as illustrated by a ballot measure recently submitted in California that is macabrely named "the Luigi Mangione Access to Health Care Act."²

A broader "assassination culture" appears to be emerging within segments of the U.S. public on the extreme left. NCRI empirically assessed this shift with original survey data and open source intelligence analysis to assess how normalized and justified violence against the administration has become in public discourse. The findings signal a threat to political stability and public safety. Key data points include:

- **Murder Justification:** 31% and 38% of respondents stated it would be at least somewhat justified to murder **Elon Musk** and **President Trump**, respectively.
 - These effects were driven by respondents that self-identified as left of center,³ with 50% and 56%⁴ at least somewhat justifying murder for Elon Musk and President Trump, respectively.
- **Property Destruction:** Nearly 40% of respondents stated it is at least somewhat acceptable to **destroy a Tesla dealership** in protest.
- **Psychological/Ideological Correlations with Assassination Culture:** These beliefs are highly correlated with one another, as well as with the justification of the **murder of the UnitedHealthcare CEO** and **hyper-partisan left-wing ideology**.

¹ In December 2024, NCRI released "[Praise for United Healthcare CEO Assassination Goes Viral](#)", outlining the positive response many had online when Luigi Mangione murdered UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson. Additionally, "[Killing With Applause: Emergent Permission Structures for Murder in the Digital Age](#)", focused on original survey research, analyzing what made respondents more likely to support the assassination of Brian Thompson.

² <https://www.newsweek.com/luigi-mangione-inspired-ballot-initiative-targets-health-insurance-denials-2052789>

³ Respondents were asked to classify their political ideology, given the choices; Far Left, Liberal, Slightly Liberal, Middle of the Road, Slightly Conservative, Conservative, Far Right, No Affiliation and Something Else. We defined left of center as those who chose "Far Left", "Liberal", and "Slightly Liberal."

⁴ The original report (published April 2025) stated "48% and 55%" based on an incomplete dataset. The numbers here have been updated to their correct values.

- We hypothesize that support for violence is part of a **broader assassination culture**, underpinned by psychological and ideological factors.
- **Online Amplification of Radical Ideation:** Our analysis supports the belief that **BlueSky** plays a significant and predictive role in amplifying radical ideation.
 - Users are increasingly associating the **memeification of Luigi Mangione** with **calls for political violence** against Musk, Trump, and others, reflecting the growing **cyber-social presence** of assassination culture.

Survey Results

To assess support for political violence, we surveyed 1264 U.S. residents, balanced to reflect Census data on race/ethnicity, gender, age, and education.⁵ Respondents were asked demographic information, political identity, several political and psychological scales, and questions concerning their acceptance of specific forms of political violence. A score of 1 meant that the respondent considered political violence completely unjustified. Scores from 2 to 7 indicated that they believed there was at least some justification for political violence, and, in the case of those choosing 7, that it was completely justified.

The survey revealed several troubling trends. Over half of those who self-identified as left of center (56%) reported that if someone murdered Donald Trump, they would be at least somewhat justified (see Figure 1; similar proportions supported murdering Musk and destroying Tesla dealerships). This includes 14.1% who said this murder would be “Completely Justified.” Similarly, half (50.2%) of those who self-identified as left of center said the murder of Elon Musk would be somewhat justified (or greater), with about 10.7% saying this is “Completely Justified” (see Figure 3). Over ⅓ of all respondents believe it is at least somewhat acceptable to destroy Tesla dealerships to protest Elon Musk’s involvement in the Presidential administration.

⁵ Using Prime Panels, we collected 2651 respondents. Based on attention checks and those who took the survey in unreasonable amounts of time, we cleaned the dataset down to a final dataset of 1264 responses. Additionally, we weighted the survey using post stratification of the following demographics: race/ethnicity, age, gender, education, and political party. Race/ethnicity, age, gender, and education were balanced based on Census Bureau data, and party identification based on Pew Research.

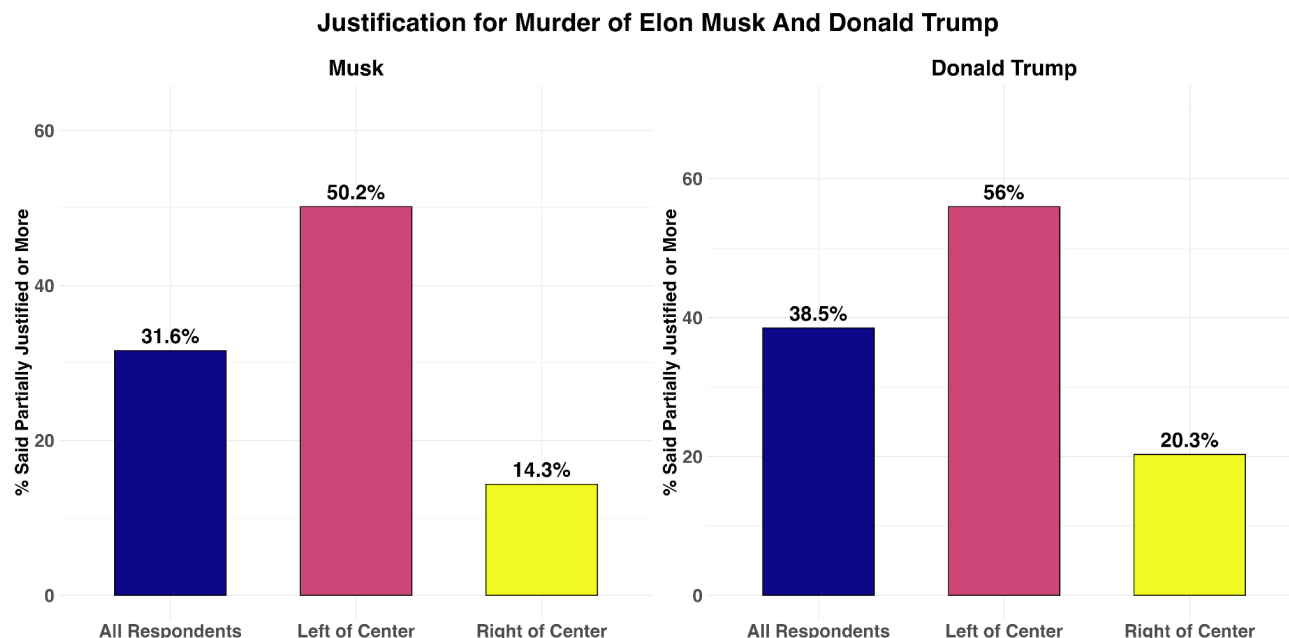


Figure 1: Percent of respondents overall and those self-identifying as left and right of center who find murder of the respective individuals at least partially justified. The bar graphs here show the percentage of people in each group selecting scores from 2 to 7 on the scales assessing support for murdering Musk and Trump. Scores of 1 were excluded because such scores meant that the respondent considered the respective form of political violence was not at all justified.

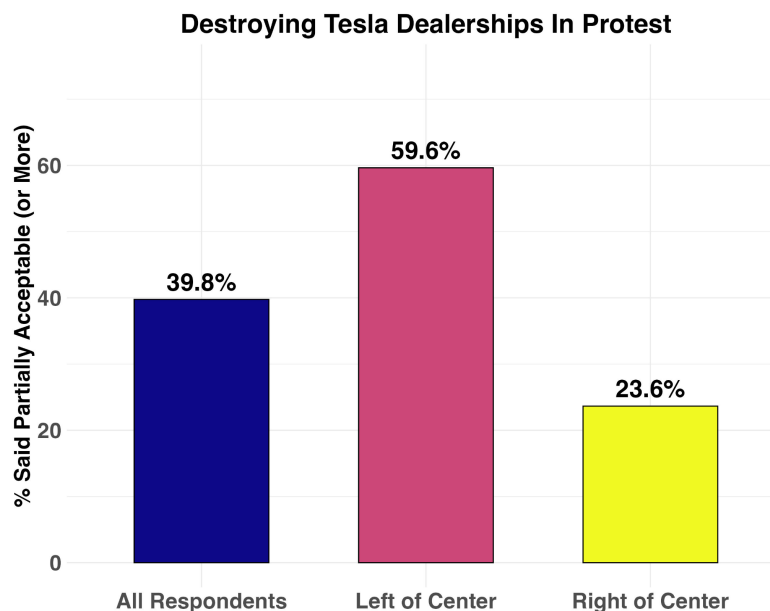


Figure 2: Percent of respondents overall and those self-identifying as left and right of center who find destroying Tesla dealerships in protest at least partially acceptable. The bar graphs here show the percentage of people in each group selecting scores from 2 to 7 on the scales assessing support for destroying Tesla dealerships in protest. Scores of 1 were excluded because such scores meant that the respondent considered the respective form of political violence was completely unacceptable

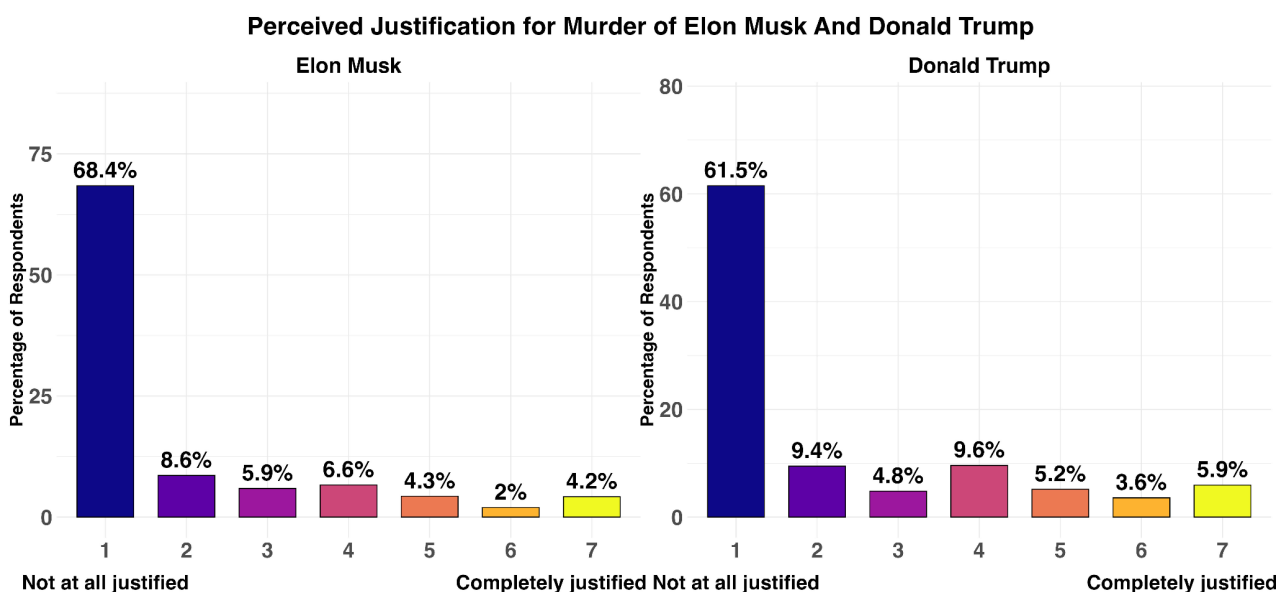


Figure 3: Percent of the sample and their varying degrees of justification for murder of Elon Musk and Donald Trump. For both of these questions, a score of 1 meant that the respondent considered the murder of Elon Musk or Donald Trump to be “Not at all justified,” while a score of 7 meant the respondent considered the murder of Elon Musk or Donald Trump to be completely justified.

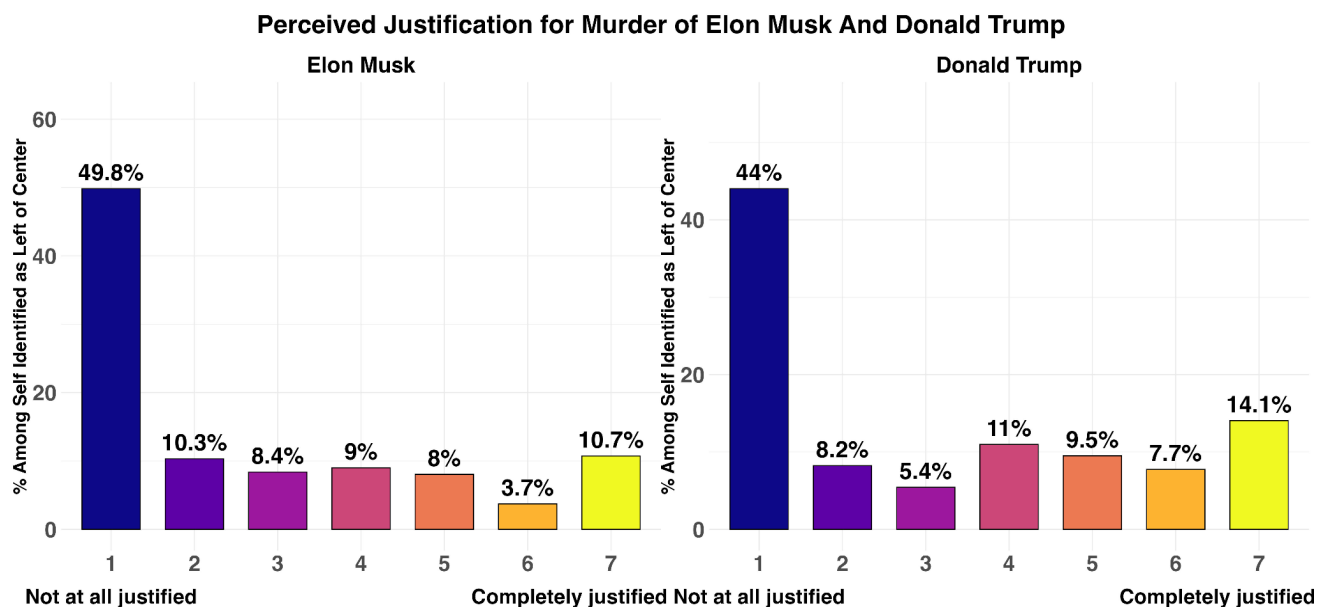


Figure 4: Percent identified as left of center and their varying degrees of justification for murder of Elon Musk and Donald Trump. For both of these questions, a score of 1 meant that the respondent considered the murder of Elon Musk or Donald Trump to be “Not at all justified,” while a score of 7 meant the respondent considered the murder of Elon Musk or Donald Trump to be completely justified.

Next, we sought to explore the underlying structure of support for political violence—specifically, whether attitudes justifying actions like assassination or property destruction are isolated opinions or part of a broader ideological framework. Rather than treat support for violence against Elon Musk or Donald Trump as unique cases, we asked a deeper question: Are these beliefs symptoms of a larger, coherent worldview that increasingly tolerates political violence? To quantify potential coherence, we correlated several relevant survey items and scales, which we portray in Figure 4.

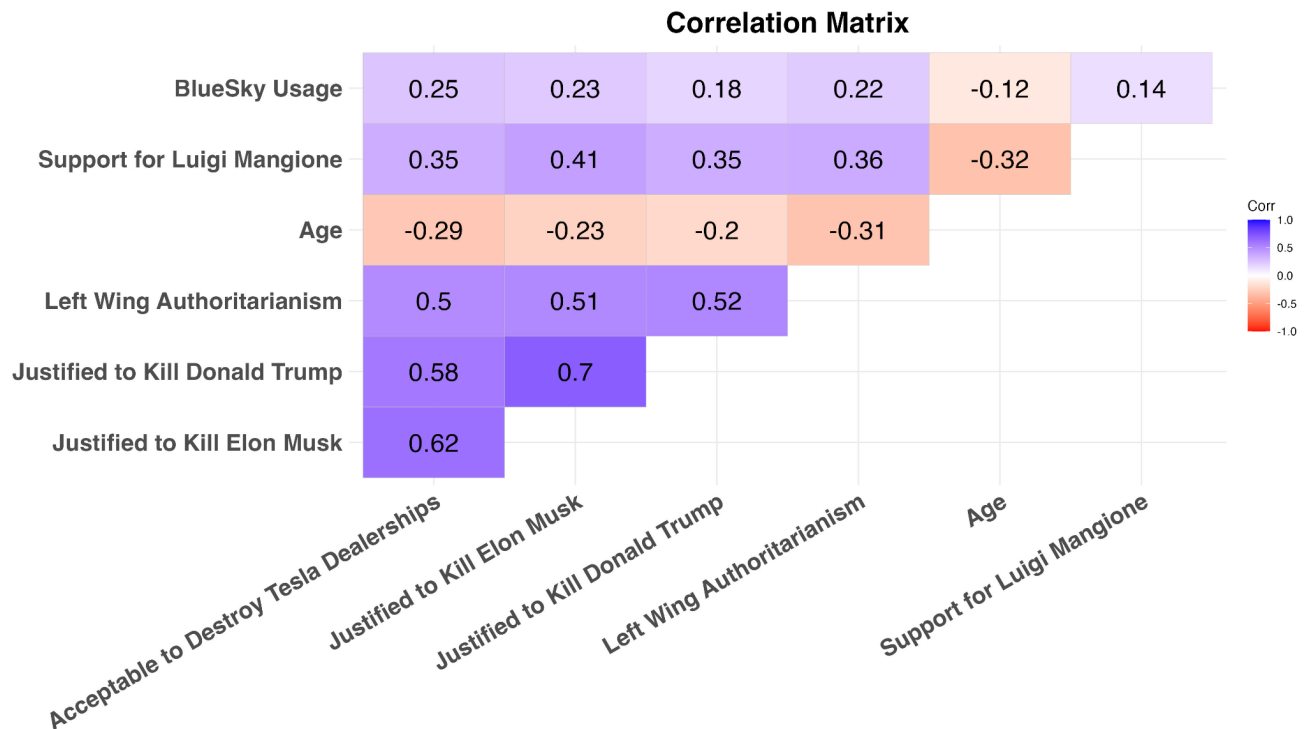


Figure 5. Correlation matrix of political violence attitudes and ideological traits. Left-Wing Authoritarianism, usage of BlueSky, and support for Luigi Mangione are strongly associated with justification of different acts of violence against Tesla, Trump, and Musk. We utilized a Spearman Rho’s correlation here to adjust for the non normal distribution of the data. All of these are statistically significant with a p-value below .01.

The correlation matrix reveals that support for political violence—including property destruction and assassination—is not expressed in isolation, but as part of a tightly interconnected belief system. Those who justify the murder of Elon Musk or Donald Trump are also more likely to support Luigi Mangione’s killing of Brian Thompson ($r = .36$ and $.31$, respectively). This pattern suggests a broader worldview in which violence is seen as a legitimate political response—not just a reaction to individual figures. Central to this belief system is Left-Wing Authoritarianism (LWA), characterized by moral absolutism, punitive attitudes toward ideological opponents, and a willingness to use coercion for progressive aims.⁶ LWA strongly correlates with support for both assassinations ($r = .47$ for Musk, $r = .49$ for Trump), support for Mangione ($r = .34$), and endorsement of destroying Tesla dealerships ($r = .51$). Furthermore, support for the three types of political violence we assessed

⁶ We use the brief 13-item measure of Left-Wing Authoritarianism by Costello and Patrick (2021): <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35767681/>

(murdering Trump and Musk, destroying Tesla dealerships) were highly correlated with one another ($r = .53$ to $.69$). We believe these results point to a structured ideological framework—what we term *assassination culture*—in which revolutionary action is valorized, particularly when directed at symbols of wealth, power, or conservative politics.

We next sought to identify which factors *predict* support for political violence. While correlations we performed above reveal potential structure, a multivariate model allows us to assess the unique contribution of each variable—clarifying which psychological and ideological traits **predict** justification for violent action when considered together. In our multivariate models, we sought to predict justification for the murder of Donald Trump and Elon Musk, as well as the belief that “Destroying a Tesla Dealership” in protest is acceptable. In order to control for all factors and predict these outcomes, we used the following as independent variables: age, gender, race/ethnicity, education levels, party identification, political ideology, social media usage, and a psychological scale, Locus of Control.⁷

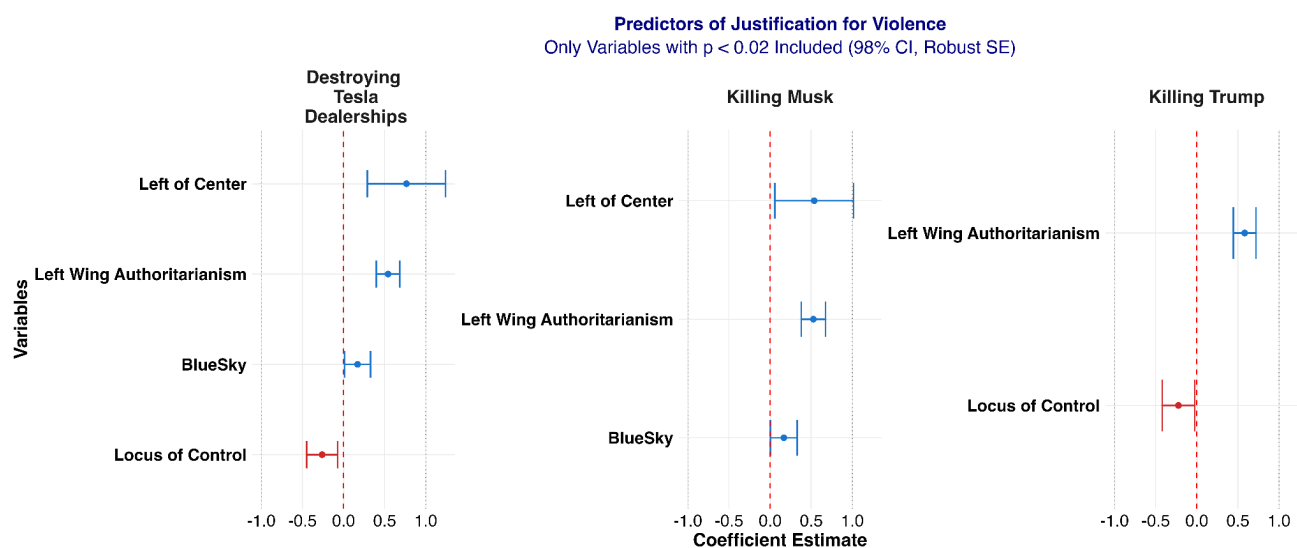


Figure 6. Three multivariate regression analyses on the predictors for justification for murder of Musk/Trump and the acceptability of destroying Tesla dealerships.⁸ Being left of center⁹ and authoritarian emerged as a key predictor of all models, use of Blue Sky and external locus of control were common predictors as well. All variables shown here were statistically significant, with p -values less than .02.

⁷ A higher score on the Locus of Control scale (Iles-Caven et al., 2020) indicates that one has a higher external locus of control, meaning that they ascribe less control to themselves and more to forces outside themselves. In the multivariate model, there is an inverse relationship between locus of control and justification for the murder of Donald Trump, revealing that a belief that outside forces control one's life is predictive of justification for the murder of Donald Trump.

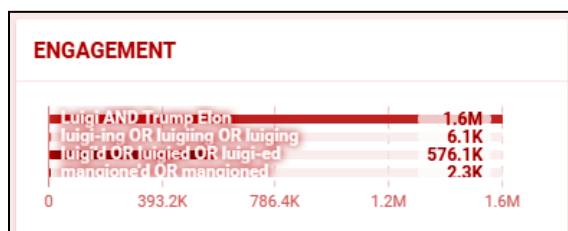
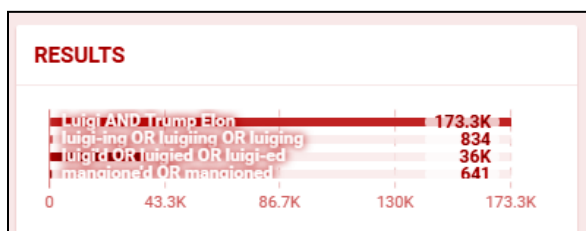
⁸ All coefficients shown in the body of the paper are unstandardized. See the Appendix for both the unstandardized and standardized coefficients.

⁹ For the breakdown of political ideology, we divided the 9 options into three groups: “Left of Center,” “Right of Center,” and “Middle of the Road/Other.” See the Appendix for the models with the original political ideology variable with all choices kept as the respondents saw them.

The regression analysis reveals that support for assassinating Elon Musk¹⁰ is predicted by a clear set of ideological and psychological factors. The strongest predictors are far-left political identity¹¹ and Left-Wing Authoritarianism (LWA)—suggesting this justification of violence is underpinned by politics and ideology. Time spent on BlueSky also emerged as a significant predictor suggesting a potential role for the cyber social domain in justification of violence¹², a trend that mirrors NCRI's earlier findings on Luigi Mangione.¹³ Finally, external locus of control—the belief that one's outcomes are shaped by outside forces—was linked to greater support for violence, suggesting that feelings of powerlessness may fuel justification for extreme action. These findings support the hypothesis that assassination culture is not random, but structured, ideological, and amplified in specific digital environments.

Assassination Culture on Social Media

The matrix of opinions feeding into assassination culture that were highlighted in the survey data are also manifested in recent social media chatter. A series of queries we ran on BlueSky containing mentions of Trump, Musk, and various formulations of Luigi Mangione produced over 200K results and over 2M engagements. Four spikes in chatter can be observed on the time series graph below, namely 1) the arrest and initial virality of Mangione in December 2024; 2) the Presidential Inauguration on January 20th, 2025; 3) a viral @0 post¹⁴ highlighting an assassination threat that received 50M impressions and sparked robust cross-platform chatter; and 4) a sustained increase over the course of March 2025. Below, recent examples of target chatter on BlueSky testify to how mentions of Luigi Mangione are being used as a coded callsign to make allusions to or even calls to action for political violence.



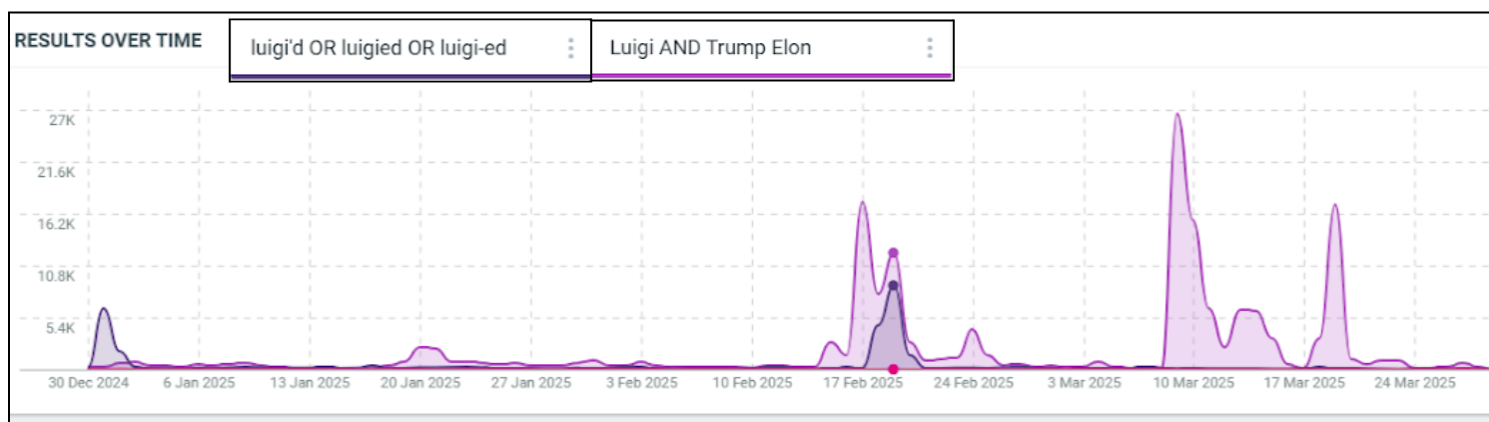
¹⁰ Musk is used as an example here, but we also produced regression analysis for the justification of the murder of Donald Trump, which reveals similar findings (see Appendix).

¹¹ To include self-identified political ideology in the model, we treated it as a factor variable, setting "Middle of the Road" as the reference category. This means the model compares all other political groups to people who identify as "Middle of the Road." The p-values tell us whether each group is statistically different from this baseline, while the model coefficients show the direction and strength of that difference. In this analysis, individuals who identify as Left of Center are consistently more likely—compared to "Middle of the Road" respondents—to justify the killings of both Trump and Musk.

¹² For the three models we tested each with the 13 social media platforms we asked about in order to ascertain which platforms had consistent impacts on justifying and accepting violence. To avoid multicollinearity, we ran the three models with one social media platform as an independent variable. The two social media platforms that were consistently predictive of violence related beliefs, were BlueSky and 8chan. However, 8chan is no longer an active social media platform. Therefore, we only left BlueSky in the models.

¹³ <https://networkcontagion.us/reports/12-18-24-killing-with-applause-emergent-permission-structures-for-murder-in-the-digital-age/>

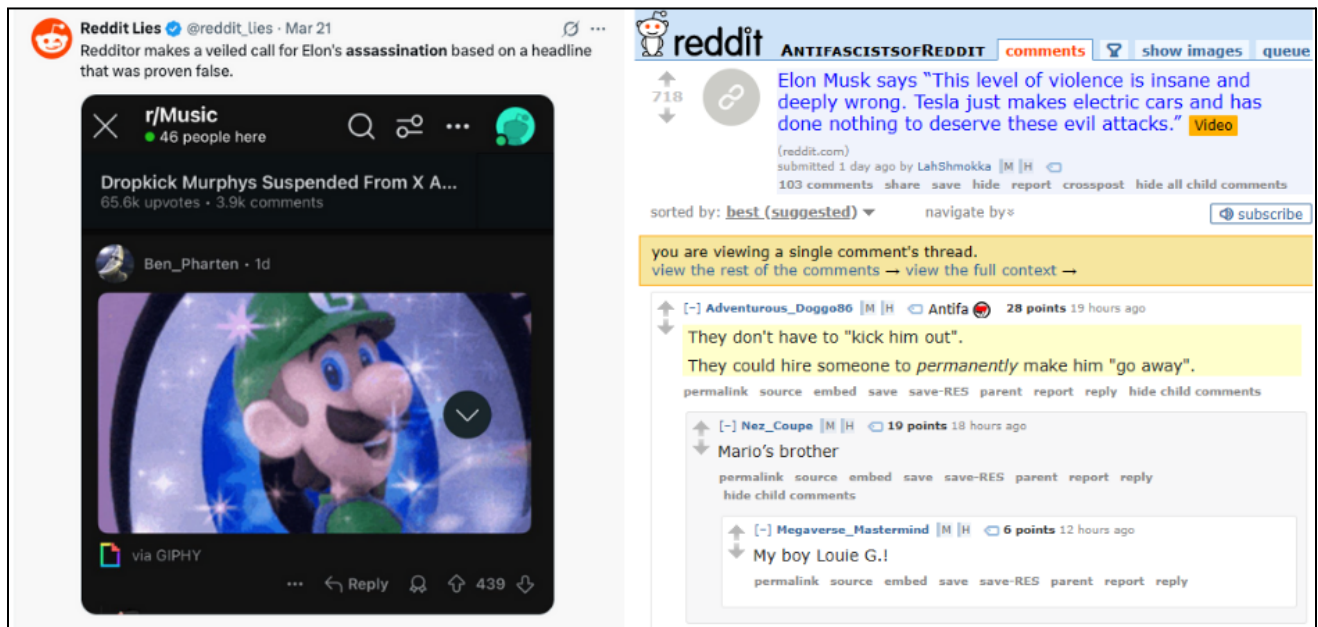
¹⁴ <https://x.com/libsoftiktok/status/1891307729144217919>



Though the survey results indicate that time spent on BlueSky is a significant predictor in justification of violence, robust chatter on other platforms illustrates how assassination culture is trending across internet culture more broadly. A case in point is Reddit, which according to reporting has stepped up moderation efforts in a yet-unsuccessful attempt to clamp down on posts and communities that are either glorifying or even making concrete calls for acts of political violence.¹⁵ Nonetheless, dedicated subreddits such as r/FreeLuigi (37K members) and r/LuigiMangioneJustice

¹⁵ <https://gizmodo.com/reddit-is-cracking-down-on-luigi-mangione-content-2000576229>

(14K members) continue to host robust, if not increasingly coded, discussions that are reflective of a broader online assassination culture.



Beyond the use of Luigi Mangione as a memefied symbol of political violence, some users have even made explicit calls for acts of violence against Trump, Musk, and government institutions. Some of these threats explicitly echo the "Deny, Defend, Depose" mantra inscribed by Mangione on the shell casing that killed Brian Thompson.



 **Clairenator** OP • 1d ago • Edited 1d ago

I'm organizing a group right now and packing my gun*.

Ape together strong.

Edit- *bringing my daily carry pistol. Not my entire collection.

Edit 2- I bring my daily carry pistol any time I go more than 5 mins down the road. A DC road trip would have a longer travel time, therefore I will bring my pistol. That is my right as an American.

729 1 Share ...

 **kekehippo** • 1d ago

Perhaps by chance that saying you're armed and marching on DC on reddit isn't the smartest statement to share on the internet.

582 Reply Award Share ...

 **Clairenator** OP • 1d ago

It's time. It's a class war.

Deny. Defend. Depose.

705 1 Share ...

X has also been witness to viral discussion around political violence that has generated tens of millions of views and, on a qualitative level, served as a catalyst for public opinion—both against and in favor of—extreme acts against figures such as Trump, Musk, and Tesla.

 **tanya**
@Tanya_Sabrinaaaa

2025 predictions:

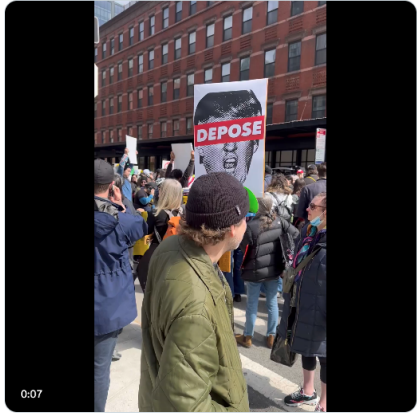
- Biden dies (old age)
- Trump dies (7th assassination attempt)
- anti-aging billionaire dies (chokes on a carrot)
- Taylor Swift dies (private jet is a boeing)
- Drake dies (testicular cancer)
- Musk dies (tesla explodes)

4:14 PM · Jan 1, 2025 · 2.5M Views

844 10K 148K 7.2K

 **Andy Ngo** @MrAndyNgo · Mar 23

A leftist protester at the Tesla in Manhattan calls for President Trump to be "deposed" Luigi Mangione-style. Leftists have been urging and celebrating those who seek to kill the president and those in his administration. Video by @elaadeliahu:



From Elad Eliahu

395 1.2K 3.5K 149K

This sample of social media chatter illustrates how the opinions measured in our survey results manifest in online discussion that are contributing to a broader contagion of justification for and memeification of extreme acts of political violence targeting Trump, Musk, Tesla, and symbols of political and economic power more generally. Capturing a quantitative metric for this phenomenon on social media remains a challenge due to a number of factors including platform moderation, intentional obfuscation, and use of coded language by users to avoid detection. That said, the examples presented herein illustrate how the assassination culture described in our survey results manifests in an increasingly gamified and memeified online discourse.

Discussion

The data reveal a structured endorsement of political violence targeting figures like Donald Trump and Elon Musk. These attitudes are not fringe—they reflect an emergent assassination culture, grounded in far-left authoritarianism and increasingly normalized in digital discourse.

Cyber-social platforms—particularly BlueSky—play a strong predictive role in amplifying this culture. References to Luigi Mangione now function as coded endorsements of political violence, cloaked in irony, memeification, and plausible deniability. In these ecosystems, violence is not just justified—it is stylized, gamified, and embedded within a broader ideological narrative. Combined with psychological drivers such as external locus of control, these dynamics create a permissive environment in which users feel morally licensed to advocate or celebrate extreme acts.

These findings should be interpreted in light of several limitations. Self-reported attitudes do not necessarily reflect actual behavior, and though we sought simplicity in survey design, minor framing differences in survey or question design can alter responses and margins of error. The brief's exclusive focus on violence targeting right-leaning figures was driven by recent high-profile incidents and did not address the significance of threats of violence directed at left-leaning figures. However, the Appendix also reports results from surveys assessing support for political violence in the abstract (e.g., targeting “political leaders” rather than specific people) and also finds significantly more support among respondents identifying as Democrats than as Republicans. We caution that current differences in Democratic support for violence may serve as a response to loss of federal power, a claim buttressed by our models which show external locus of control as a key predictor. We also note that support for assassination still shows a concerning, if not as-large, prevalence among Republican respondents.

Conclusion

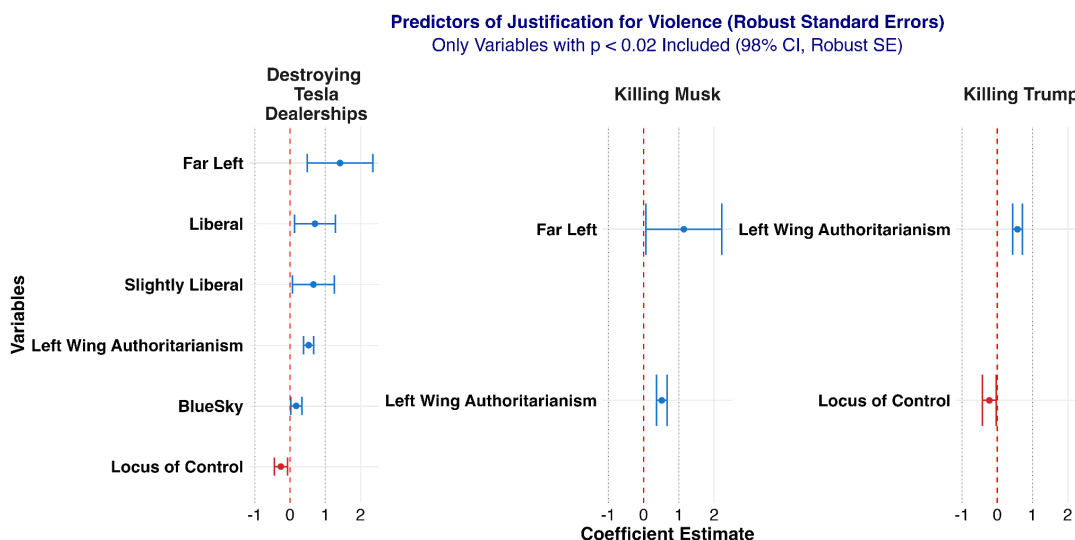
This report points to disturbingly high levels of support for political violence, particularly targeting President Donald Trump and Elon Musk. Across survey responses, nearly one-third of respondents—and a significantly higher share of left-leaning respondents—expressed some degree of justification for acts of lethal violence.

Unless political and cultural leadership explicitly confronts and condemns this trend, NCRI assesses a growing probability of real-world escalation. Given the current economic volatility and institutional distrust, the online normalization of political violence may increasingly translate into offline action.

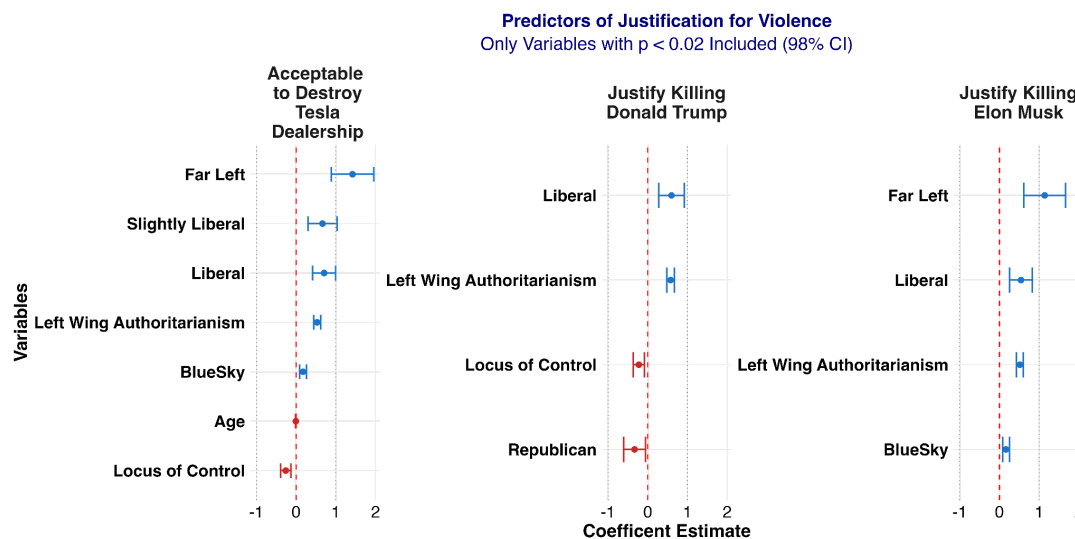
Taken together, the findings underscore the erosion of democratic norms and the growing acceptability of political violence in American discourse, particularly among ideologically extreme communities online. Continued monitoring and broader measurement efforts are urgently needed.

Appendix

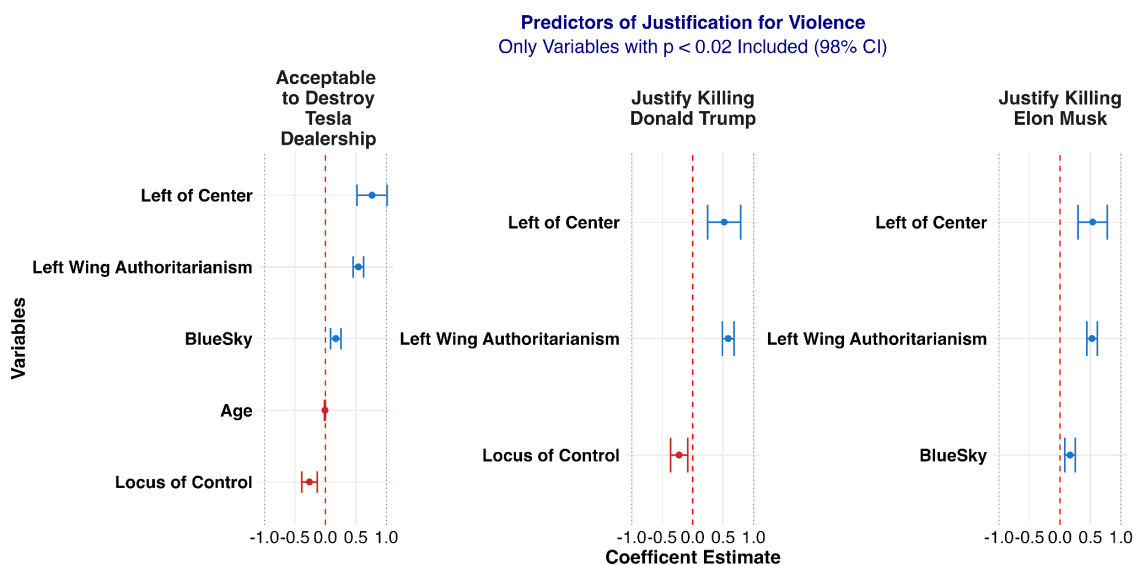
Appendix Figure 1: Model with Robust Standard Error (7-category political ideology)



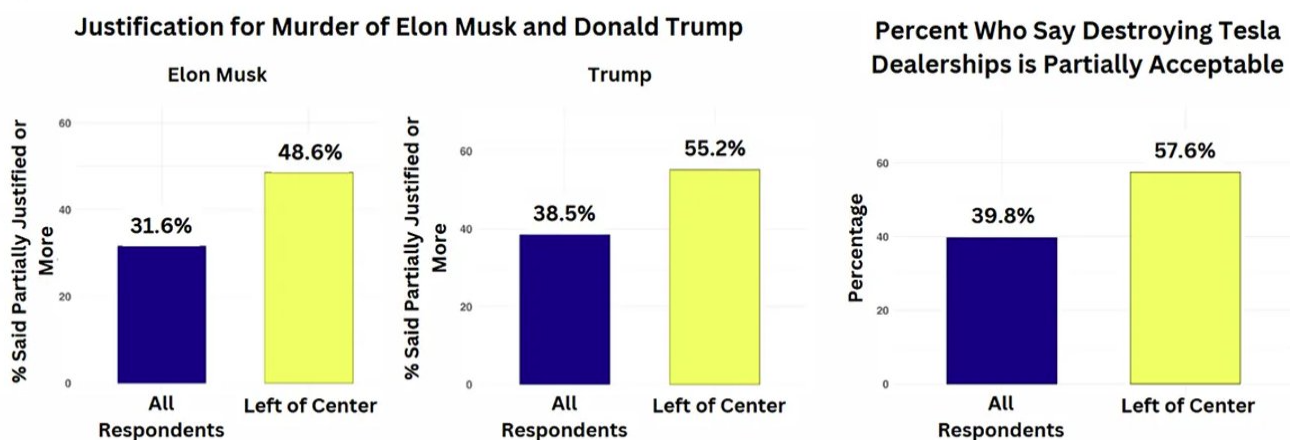
Appendix Figure 2: Models without Robust Standard Errors (7-category political ideology)



Appendix Figure 3: Models without Robust Standard Errors (3-category political ideology)



Appendix Figure 4: Justification for Violence by Political Leaning



*This chart overlaps with Figures 1 & 2 in the report above. The statistics here are slightly different from the table above, as they were based on an earlier dataset that was not complete.

Appendix Table 1: Regression Results for Predicting Killing Elon Musk, Killing Trump, Destroying Tesla Dealerships, With 3-Category Political Ideology (Standardized and Unstandardized)

Term	Kill Musk	Kill Trump	Destroy Tesla	Kill Musk (Standardized)	Kill Trump (Standardized)	Destroy Tesla (Standardized)	Robust SE: Kill Musk	Robust SE: Kill Trump	Robust SE: Destroy Tesla

(Intercept)	0.4783 39	1.3015 28	1.6123 60	NA	NA	NA	0.478	1.302	1.612
Social Media Use	0.0192 99	0.0216 30	0.0091 26	0.0384 45	0.0381 201	0.0170 10	0.019	0.022	0.009
Left Wing Authoritarianism	0.5253 76	0.5823 34	0.5406 80	0.3684 59	0.3613 079	0.3548 03	0.525	0.582	0.541
Gender: Male	0.0572 25	-0.1259 02	-0.0771 64	0.0172 45	-0.0335 661	-0.0217 58	0.057	-0.126	-0.077
Gender: Other	0.6638 78	0.6796 41	0.1717 45	0.0296 85	0.0268 849	0.0071 85	0.664	0.680	0.172
Age	-0.0019 09	0.0011 95	-0.0074 57	-0.0195 65	0.0108 397	-0.0715 26	-0.002	0.001	-0.007
Locus Of Control	-0.1072 32	-0.2237 85	-0.2614 74	-0.0467 95	-0.0863 967	-0.1067 67	-0.107	-0.224	-0.261
BlueSky	0.1654 89	-0.0060 91	0.1700 53	0.0993 51	-0.0032 352	0.0955 25	0.165	-0.006	0.170
Republican	-0.1108 45	-0.2970 26	-0.2335 58	-0.0311 64	-0.0738 792	-0.0614 42	-0.111	-0.297	-0.234
Democrat	-0.1555 67	0.1562 44	-0.1521 94	-0.0420 99	0.0374 064	-0.0385 37	-0.156	0.156	-0.152
Black	-0.3064 28	-0.2795 98	0.0311 85	-0.0627 94	-0.0506 889	0.0059 80	-0.306	-0.280	0.031
Hispanic/Latino	0.0753 94	-0.0772 12	0.2242 12	0.0159 24	-0.0144 278	0.0443 12	0.075	-0.077	0.224
Ethnicity/Race: Other	-0.1460 52	-0.2122 88	-0.1684 61	-0.0199 76	-0.0256 872	-0.0215 59	-0.146	-0.212	-0.168
White	-0.2324 60	-0.4096 85	-0.3406 54	-0.0685 24	-0.1068 393	-0.0939 59	-0.232	-0.410	-0.341
Left of Center	0.5359 20	0.5171 23	0.7647 64	0.1348 35	0.1151 018	0.1800 35	0.536	0.517	0.765
Right of Center	0.0127 06	-0.0038 73	0.2473 44	0.0034 92	-0.0009 417	0.0636 09	0.013	-0.004	0.247
Graduate School	0.0431 39	0.0263 95	-0.0621 97	0.0075 53	0.0040 883	-0.0101 89	0.043	0.026	-0.062
HS or Less	-0.0276 23	0.1263 91	0.0170 80	-0.0078 15	0.0316 345	0.0045 21	-0.028	0.126	0.017
Some College	-0.0677 75	0.0199 39	-0.0287 48	-0.0198 60	0.0051 689	-0.0078 82	-0.068	0.020	-0.029

Appendix Table 2: Model Fit Statistics for Appendix Table 1 Regression				
Outcome Variable	Adj. R ²	F-Statistic	Residual Std. Error	p-value
Kill Elon Musk	0.251	24.55	1.436	< 2.2e-16
Kill Elon Musk	0.272	27.20	1.601	< 2.2e-16
Destroy Tesla Dealerships	0.322	34.35	1.460	< 2.2e-16

Appendix Table 3: Regression Results for Predicting Killing Elon Musk, Killing Trump, Destroying Tesla Dealerships, With 7-Category Political Ideology (Standardized and Unstandardized)									
Term	Kill Musk	Kill Trump	Destroy Tesla	Kill Musk (Standardized)	Kill Trump (Standardized)	Destroy Tesla (Standardized)	Robust SE: Kill Musk	Robust SE: Kill Trump	Robust SE: Destroy Tesla
(Intercept)	0.555619	1.4684720	1.663192	NA	NA	NA	0.556	1.468	1.663
Social Media Use	0.020514	0.0201399	0.009515	0.040866	0.0354935	0.017735	0.021	0.020	0.010
Left Wing Authoritarianism	0.514720	0.5742060	0.528739	0.360986	0.3562649	0.346967	0.515	0.574	0.529
Male	0.053803	-0.1286252	-0.091140	0.016214	-0.0342921	-0.025699	0.054	-0.129	-0.091
Gender: Other	0.424477	0.6065856	-0.057531	0.018980	0.0239950	-0.002407	0.424	0.607	-0.058
Age	-0.001794	0.0004522	-0.007355	-0.018394	0.0041007	-0.070548	-0.002	0.000	-0.007
Locus of Control	-0.108380	-0.2248322	-0.260278	-0.047297	-0.0868008	-0.106278	-0.108	-0.225	-0.260
BlueSky	0.164431	-0.0146633	0.174772	0.098716	-0.0077879	0.098175	0.164	-0.015	0.175
Republican	-0.119739	-0.3328534	-0.227766	-0.033665	-0.0827905	-0.059918	-0.120	-0.333	-0.228
Democrat	-0.169718	0.1289627	-0.153383	-0.045929	0.0308750	-0.038839	-0.170	0.129	-0.153

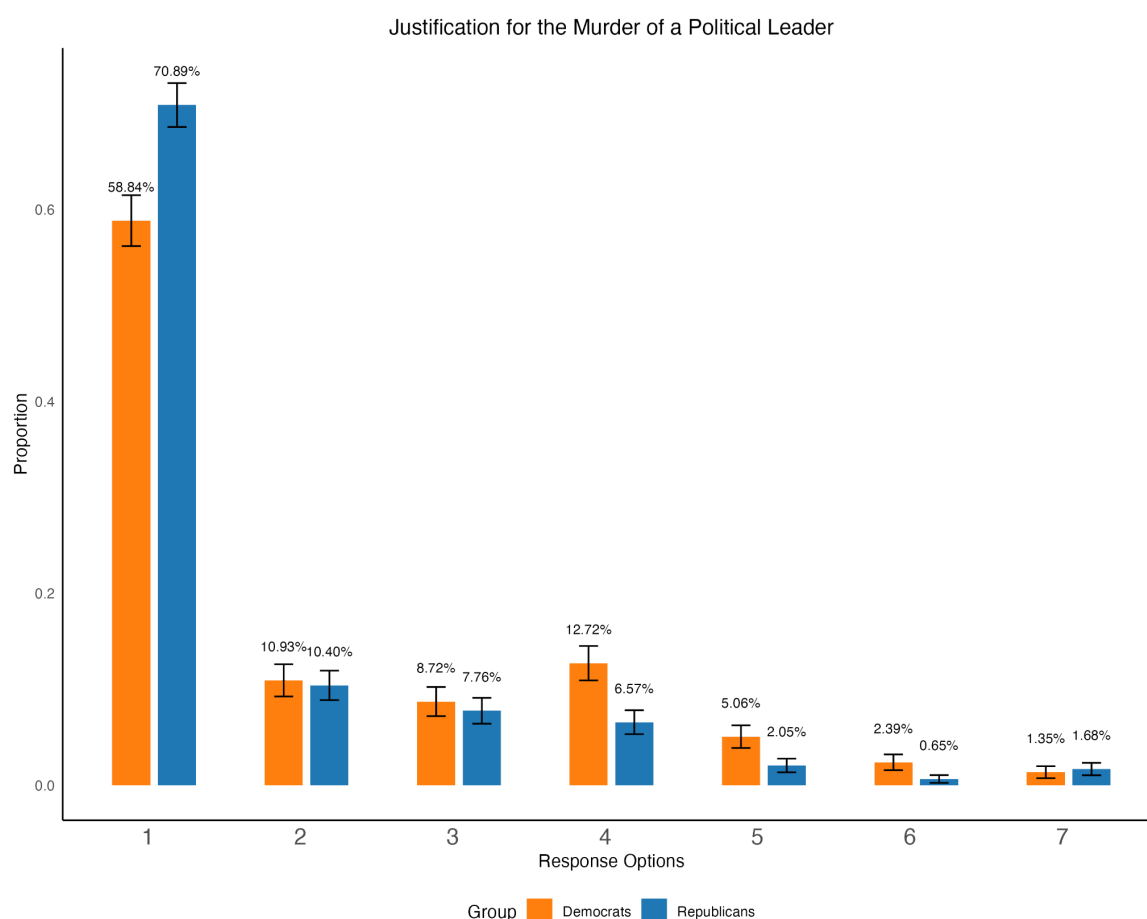
Black	-0.3289 21	-0.3081 974	-0.0069 40	-0.0674 04	-0.0558 737	-0.0013 31	-0.329	-0.308	-0.007
Hispanic/Latino	0.0665 40	-0.0844 369	0.2225 63	0.0140 55	-0.0157 779	0.0439 86	0.067	-0.084	0.223
Ethnicity: Other	-0.1650 41	-0.2246 942	-0.2039 55	-0.0225 73	-0.0271 883	-0.0261 02	-0.165	-0.225	-0.204
White	-0.2700 82	-0.4335 072	-0.3817 02	-0.0796 14	-0.1130 518	-0.1052 80	-0.270	-0.434	-0.382
Conservative	0.0114 78	0.0248 120	0.2998 08	0.0026 41	0.0050 504	0.0645 43	0.011	0.025	0.300
Far Left	1.1403 63	0.5481 757	1.4210 73	0.1126 30	0.0478 979	0.1313 27	1.140	0.548	1.421
Far Right	0.0287 98	-0.0023 318	0.4995 52	0.0021 98	-0.0001 574	0.0356 72	0.029	-0.002	0.500
Liberal	0.5430 76	0.5979 596	0.7059 84	0.1108 18	0.1079 466	0.1347 95	0.543	0.598	0.706
No Affiliation	-0.0651 13	-0.1509 057	0.1003 00	-0.0136 98	-0.0280 850	0.0197 43	-0.065	-0.151	0.100
Slightly Conservative	-0.0321 98	-0.1773 023	0.1145 06	-0.0058 62	-0.0285 577	0.0195 06	-0.032	-0.177	0.115
Slightly Liberal	0.2673 25	0.2011 448	0.6647 61	0.0397 48	0.0264 587	0.0924 84	0.267	0.201	0.665
Something Else (political affiliation)	0.0808 98	-0.2730 736	-0.2570 91	0.0084 72	-0.0253 010	-0.0251 93	0.081	-0.273	-0.257
Graduate School	0.0665 05	0.0459 794	-0.0348 88	0.0116 44	0.0071 217	-0.0057 15	0.067	0.046	-0.035
HS or Less	-0.0234 04	0.1454 263	0.0102 27	-0.0066 21	0.0363 988	0.0027 07	-0.023	0.145	0.010
Some College	-0.0594 34	0.0269 385	-0.0219 94	-0.0174 16	0.0069 833	-0.0060 30	-0.059	0.027	-0.022

Appendix Table 4: Model Fit Statistics for Appendix Table 2 Regression

Outcome Variable	Adj. R ²	F-Statistic	Residual Std. Error	p-value
Kill Musk	0.2532	18.84	1.434	< 2.2e-16
Kill Trump	0.272	20.66	1.601	< 2.2e-16

Destroy Tesla Dealerships	0.325	26.34	1.457	< 2.2e-16
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This next figure shows results of an NCRI national survey (n=1233) asking “How justified or not justified would someone be if they killed a powerful political leader?” Summing over all responses except 1 (“not at all justified”), high levels of both Republicans (29%) and Democrats (41%) indicated that it is at least somewhat justified. These findings indicate that there is 41% more support for justifying assassination (at least somewhat) among Democrats than Republicans, but this finding should be interpreted with caution. Elections have been shown to be associated with heightened polarization for months following results and such sentiments may be prone to change.¹⁶



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¹⁶ Fasching, N., Iyengar, S., Lelkes, Y., & Westwood, S. J. (2024). Persistent polarization: The unexpected durability of political animosity around US elections. *Science Advances*, 10(36), eadm9198. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adm9198>.

¹⁷ This data is based off a follow up to the original survey discussed above. Using Prime Panels, we collected 2200 respondents. Based on attention checks and those who took the survey in unreasonable amounts of time, we cleaned the dataset down to a final dataset of 1233 responses. Additionally, we weighted the survey using post stratification of the following demographics: race/ethnicity, age, gender, education, and political party. Race/ethnicity, age, gender, and education were balanced based on Census Bureau data, and party identification based on Pew Research.

