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Trump: Victim or Executioner? : Analysis of the
Witch Hunt from the Perspective of Arthur Miller's
The Crucible and the U.S. President Donald Trump

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Abstract

Las cazas de brujas han existido desde el siglo XVII, sin embargo, el término debe su popularidad a las cazas de brujas que tuvieron lugar en Salem, Massachusetts y, no ha sido hasta tres siglos más tarde, cuando el término caza de brujas ha comenzado a ser utilizado con una connotación política. El principal objetivo de este estudio es analizar el uso que se le ha dado al término caza de brujas a lo largo de la historia. Éste ha sido utilizado por diversas figuras como el autor Arthur Miller, quien lo utilizó para representar las persecuciones que estaban teniendo lugar en los Estados Unidos durante los años 50, y hasta por el actual presidente del país, Donald Trump, quien se ha apropiado del término para acusar a aquellos que, a través de una investigación sobre su supuesta colaboración con Rusia en las elecciones de 2016, intentan derrocarlo. Además, el estudio también profundiza en las diferentes opiniones que han surgido a partir del uso del término caza de brujas por parte del presidente. Los seguidores de Donald Trump defienden al presidente alegando y ofreciendo pruebas de que todas las evidencias proporcionadas tras la investigación son falsas. Para muchos críticos, Donald Trump está siendo injustamente juzgado. Por lo tanto, muchos alegan que se asemeja a John Proctor, uno de los protagonistas de *The Crucible*, quién es injustamente acusado de brujería y llevado a la horca por no confesar ser culpable. Por otro lado, los opositores del presidente determinan que no es éticamente correcto que Donald Trump haga uso del término caza de brujas cuando en realidad es él quien está llevando a cabo una caza de brujas contra aquellos que, según él, no encajan en la sociedad americana. Además, estos mismos hacen una comparación entre el actual presidente de los Estados Unidos y el personaje de Abigail Williams de la obra anteriormente mencionada. Por lo tanto, el término “caza de brujas” ha sido utilizado a lo largo de los siglos con diferentes connotaciones políticas reflejando a su vez la sociedad de aquel momento.

Comentario [U1]: He añadido brevemente que los seguidores de Trump lo comparan con Proctor porque los dos son juzgados injustamente para que sepa que esta comparación va a aparecer en el texto

Comentario [U2]: También he añadido la comparación entre Abigail y Trump debido a las características que tienen en común que son explicadas más adelante en el texto

Comentario [U3]: Aquí he añadido la conclusión del trabajo

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1. Introduction

Witch hunt is a quite popular term in the history of the United States of America. From historians, celebrated authors and even the presidents of the United States, the term witch hunt has been used so as to describe distinct events that have gone and will go down in history. According to Erin C. Cassese, a witch hunt can be considered an endeavour that has as its main aim to identify, hunt and punish those who are considered to be 'unorthodox, subversive and potentially threatening to society' (7). Historically speaking, the expression was first used in Salem, in 1692. Salem was a former British colony located in the State of Massachusetts. In early 1692, a few colonists began to exhibit strange behaviour, concretely, constant screaming and extreme movements. Many started investigating about this topic but, at the end, they all came to the same conclusion: witchcraft. Ginny Lowe Connors asserts that around 200 people were arraigned on bewitchment. Furthermore, 20 men and women were found guilty and sentenced to death. Although the selected word 'witch' only applies to females, historians claim that 'witch' was used as an umbrella term due to the fact that it denominates all the victims, from men, women and children (Schweigert, 8). Nobody can or will deny that the term witch hunt gained its popularity due to repercussion and consequences of Salem witch trials. Nevertheless, the significance of the phrase has recently taken a 180-degree turn. According to Colleen Shalby, in the early 1920s, the term witch hunt became politically active. In other words, witch hunt was embraced in order to discredit those political and social movement considered to be likely harmful. One of the most well-know jeopardous political and social movements which history remembers is the Red Scare of the early and mid-twentieth century. The prestigious and renowned American author Arthur Miller talked about this event in his play *The Crucible* (2003). Despite the fact that he describes what happened in Salem, he was

secretly speaking about McCarthyism (Chamberlain). Nonetheless, sixty-six years later, the term has returned to our lives. However, this time, it has been used by another person and to refer to another event. President Donald Trump has been under the public eye since he was elected in 2016. Many have found the results of the 2016 election to be suspicious. Thus, an investigation was launched so as to ascertain the results' veracity and the lack of any foreign aid. Upon becoming aware of the investigation, Donald Trump rushed to Twitter, where he expressed his opinion on the investigation. Nonetheless, his opinion was not positive since he declared the investigation to be a witch hunt. Therefore, in this essay, I am going to analyse the term witch hunt and how its connotation has changed over history. Thus, I will focus on two key elements related to the phrase witch hunt: Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* and the investigation that Robert Mueller is carrying out about the alleged collaboration between Donald Trump and Russia in the elections of 2016. Arthur Miller made use of the term so as to present us the Red Scarce, which resembles Salem's witch hunt because, in both events, many people were persecuted and unjustly accused. In the case of Muller's investigation, President Donald Trump uses the same term due to the fact that he sees himself as the victim of an unfairly persecution. Opinions are divided on Donald Trump's position. Many people agree with the President; however, many others claim that he is actually the one who is carrying out an unjust persecution. Therefore, I will also develop and support the different perspectives and opinions about President Donald Trump's position in this investigation in order to demonstrate how the actual president has used the term witch hunt so as to draw people's attention either in a positive or in a negative manner. Finally, at the same time, I will compare how the characters Abigail Williams and John Proctor share similar characteristics with President Donald Trump.

Comentario [U4]: La razón por la cual analizó las diferentes opiniones que han surgido tras el uso del término caza de brujas por parte de Donald Trump

Comentario [U5]: La comparación con Abigail y Proctor

2. *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller

The Crucible is a four act-play written by the American author Arthur Miller in 1953. According to Robert A. Martin, the play outstands due to the parallelism between two historical and social issues: Salem witchcraft trials and McCarthyism (279). As Ginny Lowe Connors has previously said, a large number of people were found guilty for alleged witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts in 1662. However, only 20 were condemned to be hanged. Historically speaking, Salem witch trials are a quite remarkable event. Many have been marvelled by this distinctive and shocking event. Arthur Miller stated that he had always been interested in witch trials. He had read about them in college; however, it was not until he found a two-volume study by Charles W. Upham, former mayor of Salem that he realised that he had to write about Salem witch trials. Furthermore, he decided to visit Salem in order to discover further details of the characters of his upcoming work (Miller, 'Why I Wrote ...'). At first sight, *The Crucible* is a dramatic play that starts presenting a Puritan community to us living in Salem, Massachusetts. As history states, a few girls begin to behave strangely. After repeatedly thinking about the reason for their strange behaviour, the characters of the play discover that the girls' behaviour is being caused by witchcraft. Gradually, hysteria starts spreading throughout the community and people begin to unfairly accuse each other. According to Robert A. Martin, although the play is based on a historical and real event, the author decided to add some new details mainly to attract the audience's attention and help us to understand better the 'underlying forces of hatred, hysteria and fear' (Martin, 284) represented in the play. Among the main new elements, we find the relationship between Abigail and Proctor, which is the main prompt for Abigail to hate Proctor's wife (282).

Nevertheless, although *The Crucible* is settled in the 17th century, it is believed that Arthur Miller's playwright was deliberately written to be an allegory and protest against McCarthyism (Popkin, 139). In American history, the 1940s and 50s stand out for the public investigations that were carried out in order to discover 'communist sympathizers' (Connors) among the American population. Two official figures were in charge of this investigation, The House of Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and Joseph McCarthy. However, according to Connors, it was the second one who receded into history. McCarthy was the 'chairman of an important congressional subcommittee' (Popkin, 139) who was well-known for his tendency to accuse without any proper evidence. His behaviour created an atmosphere where any activity could be suspect of being anti-American. Thus, nobody dared to speak against McCarthy and his investigations. It could be stated that this atmosphere may be the main reason for Arthur Miller's decision to hide his criticism towards McCarthy under a story that would not draw any attention.

Furthermore, in accordance with Wayne Madsen, he put together these two events in order to show the hysteria that fuelled the tensions in the 1950s was no different than the one that ruled over Salem. According to Aamir Aziz, the American author may have chosen Salem witch trials as the main plot of his playwright due to the several characteristics that both historical events share (169). First of all, as Rachel Hutchins-Viroux claims, both shared the same method so as to obtain forgiveness. First, the defendants who wanted to show their innocence had to 'repent of the sin of witchcraft' (145). Furthermore, not content with that, they also had to give other names. In other words, they had to accuse others even though they were as innocent as the accused. This situation was repeated in the 1950s. In order to discover hidden communists, McCarthy used the method of confession, which resulted quite efficacious.

Moreover, they also asked for names (145). Arthur Miller, who was one of McCarthy's victims, refused to give names. Thus, he was sentenced to prison. Nevertheless, at the end, he was absolved (Popkin, 140).

The last characteristic that both events have in common is fear. Salem, as well as the 1950s North America, was characterised for being a strict community with even further strict norms. Everybody was forced to follow them thus, at the time when someone did not comply with the rules, he or she was inevitably seen as a threat. Gradually, fear spread throughout the community because everybody was afraid of those rebellious people or even worse, being labelled as one of them (Hughes, 4). According to Andreanna Hughes, those individuals were denominated scapegoats. In the case of Salem, women who did not behave as they were expected were considered scapegoats. In accordance with Puritanism, women were meant to marry, have numerous children and obey their husbands. Nevertheless, there were many women who went against this former gender role. Thus, as a punishment, they were accused of witchcraft (4). Andreanna Hughes notices that empowerment was seen as a striking behaviour by Puritans. Susanna Martin and Katherine Harrison were accused of witchcraft because it was discovered that both were owners of their own lands. In general, only men were able to inherit land. However, Martin and Harrison inherited it due to the fact that they were the only inheritors left. After people realised their situation, they were not able to detach themselves from the witchcraft accusations (8).

By comparison, in the 1950s North America, not only women but also men and children were seen as potential scapegoats. During this decade, the United States of America were involved in the Cold War. This war is historically well known for confronting two major powers: the United States and the Soviet Union. The first super power defended Capitalism while the second one stood up for Communism. Due to the

war, the American government tried to persuade the population to fear and reject Communism. Thus, as it happened in Salem, as fear propagated, people started suspecting that anybody could be a communist (Hughes, 6).

3. Robert Mueller's investigation

Today, many people believe that history is currently repeating itself. Once again, the situation experienced in Salem as well as in the 1950s is returning to our days. Nevertheless, unlike in the past, there is only one victim: Donald Trump, the current President of the United States of America. According to Gregg Jarrett, everything started in April 2016. The attorney of record of Clinton's presidential campaign contacted with the company Fusion GPS in order to gather negative information about the presidential candidate Donald Trump. Subsequently, the company hired Christopher Steele, a former British spy who, allegedly, had certain contacts with Russia. Therefore, he was commanded to collect enough information so as to create a dossier (44). At the end of June 2016, he finished the dossier which demonstrated that the 'Russian regime has been cultivating, supporting and assisting Trump for at least 5 years' (Jarrett, 45) and handed the evidence to the FBI. James Comey, former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), kept the dossier; however, it was leaked to the press after Trump's victory on the 2016 elections (6). Rumours about Russia's support to Donald Trump began circulating and, as these started raising suspicion, it was decided to appoint a Special Counsel in order to investigate the alleged relation between Donald Trump and Russia (Whitfield, 199). Therefore, on May 17, 2017 Robert S. Mueller III was appointed Special Prosecutor so as to command and coordinate the whole investigation (Acevedo, 33).

Once the president heard the news, he rushed to twitter so as to express his opinion about the investigation. As Paul Levinson claims, Donald Trump chooses twitter as the tool for communication because the application avoids possible misinterpretations or manipulation of his own word (35). According to Devon Simmons, Donald Trump's Twitter is highly negative. Among all the tweets that the president has written as a demonstration against Mueller and his investigation, there is one that outstands (12). In September 30, 2019, he wrote 'The Greatest Witch Hunt in the history of our Country!' (@realDonaldTrump, 'The Greatest Witch Hunt...'). Many were attracted by this tweet mainly because of two specific words: witch hunt. As it has been previously explained, this is a term that has been used over history and by different figures. However, it has never been used by the highest organization of the United States. Donald Trump denominated the investigation a witch hunt because both processes have in common the fact that innocent people, also known as scapegoats, are unfairly persecuted and judged. In the case of Mueller's investigation, Trump may be the scapegoat (Hughes, 4).

During almost 2 years, Mueller has been investigating Donald Trump and his inner circle in order to discover any evidence of Russia's infiltration in the elections. Therefore, after concluding his investigation, he submitted his report. Apparently, Mueller's report stated that Trump allied with Russia in order to manipulate the 2016 Presidential elections. Furthermore, it also described very accurately all the evidence which supported the alliance between Russia and the current President of the United States Donald Trump (*The Mueller Report*, 3). The first proof presented by the dossier consists in the interference of Russia in US electoral campaign through social media ('United States v. Internet Research Agency LCC et al.', 3). Yevgeniy Viktorovich Prigozhin is a Russian entrepreneur and owner of several companies. Among them, the

Internet Research Agency (IRA) is clearly the most important one. It is claimed that the IRA conducted certain active measures which may be described as operations conducted so as to influence ‘the course of international affairs’ (*The Mueller Report*, 22). These active measures started to be carried out at the beginning of 2014, when IRA employees created several false media accounts, which allegedly belonged to American activists which dealt with ‘U.S. political and social issues’ (*The Mueller Report*, 22). In 2016, these accounts were reactivated in order to begin posting supporting messages towards the presidential candidate Donald Trump. Furthermore, they discouraged Americans to vote for Hillary Clinton. From November 2017 to August 2018, around 4,000 IRA’s accounts were found in platforms as Facebook and Twitter. Even though at the beginning these accounts were supposedly personal accounts, IRA went beyond and developed several social media groups and websites where they continued supporting Trump (24). The report states that IRA’s actions are a clear evidence of Russia’s interference as they influenced American voters (28).

Secondly, the report continues with the Russian Hacking. In March 2016, the ‘Russian Federation’s Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff’ (*The Mueller Report*, 32), which can be abbreviated as GRU, hacked the ‘computer networks’ (*The Mueller Report*, 32) of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) and the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Furthermore, the computers involved in Clinton’s campaign were also hacked and, consequently, around hundreds of private and compromising documents were robbed. It is believed that the GRU conducted this operation through different malwares especially created to attack organizations outside Russia. After stealing the documents, the GRU publically released them through two websites: DCLeaks and Guccifer 2.0. Among the information which was published we can highlight emails belonging to employees of Clinton’s campaign and ‘memorandums

analyzing potential criticisms of candidate Trump' (*The Mueller Report*, 33). Nevertheless, in order to have a greater impact in the 2016 elections, the GRU contacted with WikiLeaks. Julian Assange, Wikileaks' owner, opposed to the idea of Hillary Clinton becoming the next President. Thus, when he received GRU's offer to publish the stolen information, he obviously accepted. It is believed that, on October 7, 2016, over 50,000 documents were released by Wikileaks (34). Several days later, the press asked Donald Trump to share his thoughts on Wikileaks and the then presidential candidate criticized Julian Assange's actions as well as denied any rumours about Russia's aid to win the elections (107).

The third evidence provided by Robert Mueller consists in the several meetings between members of Trump and Putin's inner circles (*The Mueller Report*, 44). Concretely, there were two encounters which shared the same objective: gather harmful information about Hillary Clinton (53). First of all, George Papadopoulos, Donald Trump's political advisor, was informed about the fact that the Russian government had negative information about Hillary Clinton. In turn, he arranged a meeting between the members of Trump Campaign and the Russian government with the purpose of learning about this alleged dirty information. Eventually, the Trump Campaign refused to attend the meeting. Nevertheless, they initially arranged the meeting with ill intentions (47). Two months later, rumours about the possession of damaging information about Hillary Clinton started circulating once again. However, on this occasion, it was Donald Trump Jr who decided to learn about the information. At the beginning of June 2016, Trump Jr received an email from Rob Goldstone, a British publicist who had links with Russia. In sum, Goldstone claimed that he knew somebody who was in the possession of negative information. Moreover, this individual was willing to share this information with Trump Jr. Immediately, Trump Jr responded that 'if it's what you say I love it' (*The Mueller*

Report, 53) and a meeting was arranged for June 9, 2016. Trump Jr met with Natalia Veselnitskaya, who stated that Hillary Clinton had received money from ‘illegal activities in Russia’ (*The Mueller Report*, 53). *The New York Times* found out about the meeting and had the intention of writing a story about the meeting. However, before writing it, they interviewed Donald Trump’s son. He asked for help to his father, who recommended him to declare that he had attended that meeting so as to discuss the adoption of Russian children (123). Later, Donald Trump tweeted the following ‘My son Donald did a good job last night, he was open, transparent and innocent [...]’ (@realDonaldTrump ‘My son Donald...’).

Furthermore, the Mueller’s report details how two member of the Trump Organization were caught lying (*The Mueller Report*, 130). The first one was Michael Cohen. After the elections, he decided to close all the deals that Donald Trump had with Russia so as to eliminate any suspicions. He particularly focused on the Trump Tower in Moscow. He claimed that the deal has ended in January 2016. However, it is known that the deal did not end until June 2016 but, without considering the consequences, he submitted to Congress a false statement. Later on, his lies were discovered. Cohen claimed that he had only lied with the purpose of avoiding misinterpretations about Trump and Russia’s relationship. Furthermore, he also stated that he had revised his false statement with the President, who has given his approval (131).

The second member who was also found guilty for his lies was Michael T. Flynn. He was the former foreign policy and ‘national security adviser’ (Jarrett, 64) to the Trump Campaign. Shortly after the elections of 2016, former President Barack Obama imposed certain sanctions against Russia as a punishment for interfering in the elections. Michael T. Flynn heard about the sanctions and, after discussing it with Donald Trump, he called Moscow in order to ask them ‘not to escalate the situation and

only respond ... in a reciprocal way' (Statement of the Offence, 3). Later on, when he was asked about this conversation, he denied having talked with Moscow. However, Robert Mueller knew Michael T. Flynn was lying because the Obama administration had recorded the phone call (*The Mueller Report*, 65). After Flynn's actions became public, President Donald Trump forced him to resign. This called the press' attention, who stated that Donald Trump had fired Michael T. Flynn so as to end 'the whole Russia thing' (*The Mueller Report*, 112). Nevertheless, the wave of job cuts did not end with Michael T. Flynn. When the current President of the United States heard about the investigation, he instructed the FBI Director James Comey to stop the process. However, Comey refused and consequently, Donald Trump fired him (Ingram, 4).

The fifth and last evidence that Robert Mueller found that shows the interaction between Donald Trump and Russia consists in Donald Trump's attempts to remove Robert Mueller. President Donald Trump learnt about Mueller's investigation due to former Attorney General Jeff Sessions. It is said that Donald Trump's immediate answer consisted in shouting to Jeff Sessions: 'This is terrible. This is the end of my Presidency. I'm fucked' (*The Mueller Report*, 118). Since James Comey, former FBI director, has not followed Trump's order, the President decided to take action. On June 17, 2017, he called his lawyer, Donald F. McGahn and commanded him to call the 'Acting Attorney General Rosenstein' (*The Mueller Report*, 118) aiming to convince him to fire Robert Mueller (119). According to Dareh Gregorian and Julia Ainsley, the exact words used were 'Mueller has to go' (1). Furthermore, Donald Trump committed an Obstructive act, which consists in an individual obstructing an investigation. As Robert Mueller stated in his report, the President, as the rest of America's citizens, has no right to interject in any kind of political process (*The Mueller Report*, 167).

Robert Mueller finished his investigation on March 22, 2019. He handed the two-volume report to the Attorney General. Later on, he shared his discoveries (*The Mueller Report*, 3). First of all, he began stating that, beside all the evidences provided, the Trump Campaign has not associated with Russia in order to interfere in the 2016 elections. However, when Robert Mueller was asked about the President committing ‘obstruction of justice’ (Harriger, 1), he claimed that ‘the report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him’ (Mueller, 2). In other words, Donald Trump is neither guilty nor innocent. Nevertheless, it has to be clarified that, due to a ‘Justice Department precedent, a President cannot be charged with a federal crime while in office’ (Abrams, 2). Thus, although President Donald Trump had been declared guilty, Robert Mueller would not have been able to take action. Thus, he decided not to take risks. Even though, he encouraged Congress to go beyond and ‘start impeachment proceedings’ (Abrams, 2). Thus, this encouragement could suggest that the Trump Campaign and Russia ‘had a shared motive’ (*The Mueller Report*, 3).

4. Donald Trump as the victim

In spite of the multiple evidence gathered by Robert Mueller’s report, Donald Trump has a powerful group of supporters who will fight tooth and nail for their President and defend his innocence. They believe that President Donald Trump is innocent and they even have their own evidence so as to prove that Trump is the victim, as the President denominated, of a witch hunt. Among his advocates, we can find Theodore Roosevelt Malloch, who gave his opinion about Robert Mueller’s investigation: it is believed that the relationship between Russia and President Donald Trump is only a simple story invented by the media (17). There has never been any proof of the alleged corruption of

Donald Trump and collaboration with Russia (Jarrett, 34). Therefore, according to Michael Savage, it can be claimed that this story has only been created as an attempt to destroy Donald Trump since many believe that he is 'the Antichrist' ('Stop Mass Hysteria...'11). This false belief consists in a product of disinformation, which can be defined as 'false information deliberately and often covertly spread [...] in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth' (Disinformation). Regarding the dossier provided by Robert Mueller, Theodore Roosevelt Malloch believes that Mueller was under huge pressure to find any hidden evidence of Russia's collusion. Nevertheless, there were none. Therefore, he was forced to take desperate measures and invent the evidence. The only real and true connection between Donald Trump and Russia involves the construction of Trump Tower in Moscow. As is well known to everybody, Donald Trump is a businessman. Thus, he only met with Vladimir Putin, the Russian President, in order to do businesses. They did not gather so as to plot against Hillary Clinton, as it has been falsely implied (120).

Regarding the fake proofs, Theodore Roosevelt Malloch starts commenting on Russian hacking. In March 2016, it was discovered that the computers of several members of the Democratic Party and Clinton's campaign had been hacked. CrowdStrike, a 'private cybersecurity firm' (Malloch, 50) was responsible for reporting this discovery. Moreover, the firm claimed that Russia was behind this action. Immediately after hearing the findings, the media published the news without contrasting the information. Therefore, there is a possibility that CrowdStrike lied (50). Michael Savage believes in this possibility since Google, which has always supported the Democratic Party, paid CrowdStrike, an anti-Russian firm, to investigate the hacking (94). Furthermore, in any case if Russia had hacked the DNC computer network; the National Security Agency would have known it and they did not report it

(Savage, 'Trump's War...' 94). Donald Trump commented on this issue, claiming that DNC had invented the hacking (Malloch, 51). Immediately, the media began to criticize him stating that Donald Trump knew about Russia's action and even allowed Russia to give all the leaked information to Julian Assange (88).

Gregg Jarrett comments on the second evidence of the dossier: George Papadopoulos. The young consultant only wanted to improve the relationship between the US and Russia. Thus, he tried to arrange the meeting between the two countries. However, in the end Donald Trump refused to attend in order to avoid any assumptions. Moreover, regarding the dirty information that he received about Hillary, it has been demonstrated that there is no evidence of the existence of this alleged information since Joseph Mifsud, the owner of the information, denied meeting with Papadopoulos (Jarrett, 41). Nonetheless, if by any chance the meeting had occurred, it is unnecessary to make false supposition because it is not a crime to tell and listen to dirty information (42).

The third evidence provided by Robert Mueller is the meeting between Donald Trump Jr and Natalia Veselnitskaya. Donald Trump Jr met her believing that they were going to discuss 'the adoption of Russian children by US citizens' (Roosevelt, 46), which has been banned due to the Magnitsky Act. This act was released in 2012 after former President Barack Obama punished Russia for the death of Sergei Magnitsky. In sum, he prohibited the entrance of several Russian individuals to the US and, in response to this ban, Vladimir Putin forbade the adoption of Russian children by American citizens. Therefore, it is believed that Natalia Veselnitskaya wanted to meet Donald Trump Jr so as to solve this situation. It is true that, during the meeting, she raised the subject of the negative information of Hillary Clinton. However, Donald Trump Jr dismissed it because he found the information useless. Thus, it is unnecessary

to make meaningless assumptions and start spreading false evidence of this meeting (Malloch, 46). Furthermore, as Gregg Jarrett states, being in contact with Russia is not illegal. The First Amendment allows American citizens to meet with whoever they desire. It is also allowed to share ideas and information as long as it is not harmful for the United States of America (58). Before Donald Trump Jr, there were other important American figures that also travelled to other countries for political purposes. Some months before the 2008 elections, Barack Obama flew to Germany in order to converse with Chancellor Angela Merkel. People knew about this meeting and, still, nobody accused him of collusion. Moreover, if by any chance Obama had met with Vladimir Putin; there would still have been no assumptions about Barack Obama plotting with Putin. Thus, the main problem here is Donald Trump (Jarrett, 40).

Regarding Michael Flynn's dismissal, Theodore Roosevelt Malloch does not believe that he was fired so that Donald Trump could escape from Robert Mueller's investigation. In fact, Flynn lied to the FBI; thus, President Donald Trump was forced to make Flynn resign. Some days later, he commented on Twitter about the dismissal saying 'I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pled guilty to those lies [...]' (@realDonaldTrump, 'I had to fire...') (85). Talking about dismissals, Gregg Jarrett delivers his opinion about former director of the FBI. It is common knowledge that James Comey has always behaved corruptly. One year before the 2016 elections, both the Democratic Party as well as the Republican one denounced him for abusing his authority; however, none of them dared to fire him. One of his major actions consists in telling his close friend certain details about his conversations with President Donald Trump so that he could leak this information. Finally, justice was done since Donald fired the corrupt director of the FBI (79).

Gregg Jarrett believes that Hillary Clinton is behind Robert Mueller's investigation. Actually, the investigation is only a distraction from her actual relationship with Russia. Back in 2009, Hillary Clinton made a deal with Russia. Vladimir Putin wanted to purchase uranium mines; however, he needed the approval of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). Coincidentally, Hillary Clinton presided over the CFIUS during this time. Therefore, she allowed Vladimir Putin to purchase the uranium mines in exchange for \$2.6 million (29, 30). Thus, ironically, it seems that, at the end, it was Hillary Clinton who had a suspicious link with Russia.

In sum, as Michael Savage points out, Donald Trump is just the victim of a plot that has been created so as to destroy the actual President of the United States ('Stop Mass Hysteria...', 11). Due to his alleged innocence, Donald Trump could be compared to Arthur Miller's character John Proctor who, together with Abigail, is one of the central characters of *The Crucible*. As William J. McGill states, Miller presents John Proctor as a common farmer (260). However, he eventually becomes the unquestionable hero of the play because he dies 'to make a stand against the tyranny' (Abbotson, 16) that has spread all over Salem. Even though at first sight, Donald Trump and John Proctor seem to be two total different characters, both actually share some similarities. However, among all the similarities, I will only focus on their inability to defend themselves of a charge.

As Marino Stephen claims, they are 'characters who are accused [...] by false weight' (493). Moreover, they are not able to fight back these accusations because they are voiceless characters. In the case of Proctor, he learns that he is not capable of escaping the charges of witchcraft because his defences are useless since 'the accusations are so innately intangible that they ward off any proof' (Ronner, 241).

Comentario [U6]: He añadido la comparación de John Proctor y Donald Trump. Los dos comparten el hecho de que son, en el caso de Trump, supuestamente inocentes. Además, son dos personajes que no pueden defenderse porque sus palabras no son escuchadas o tomadas en serio.

Moreover, in the case of Donald Trump, he cannot defend himself because, as it has been previously stated, as soon as he speaks, the media accuses him of lying. Therefore, at the end, despite their efforts, they are not heard neither taken seriously.

5. Donald Trump as the executioner

Nonetheless, not everybody in America supports Donald Trump. **If we take a closer look at Donald Trump, we may reach the conclusion that he is the perpetrator of a witch hunt.** It is widely known that, since Donald Trump has been in office, he has attacked those who do not fit in American society. In other words, he has persecuted scapegoats. Thus, his principal victims are African Americans, immigrants in general and women (Ortner, 176). According to Mary Anne Franks, Donald Trump was mainly elected President due to his racism (131).

Comentario [U7]: Donald Trump está llevando a cabo una caza de brujas contra todo aquel que no es blanco y americano.

The first group that has suffered his attacks is the Black community. Since the colonial days, African Americans have suffered from stigma (Lajevardi and Oskooii, 4). According to Pescosolido and Martin, stigma ‘involves separating ‘us’ from ‘others’ (91). Even though many believe that this stigma has been eradicated, it is known that African Americans still nowadays are forced to bear hatred (Lajevardi and Oskooii, 4). One of those individuals who still stigmatize the Black community is the President Donald Trump. First of all, he has demonstrated a racist attitude since it has been known that he used to deny any services or facilities to African Americans back in 1973. Moreover, he has also labelled them as criminals since, in 1987, he paid New York’s newspapers to publish that five innocent black male adolescents were guilty of raping a white woman. Even though he is now the President of the United States, he has not stopped. Recently, he criticised the actions of several National Football League players, who used to kneel as a protest against racism (Whitfield, 197). **Ironically, he is not able**

to recognise that racism still exists in the United States. For instance, instead of showing solidarity with the recent protests that were triggered after the African American George Floyd was murdered by a police officer, he just insulted and threatened the protesters by calling on the army to take matters into their own hands (Dakss).

Nonetheless, Donald Trump is particularly known for his hatred against immigrants, concretely, those coming from Mexico and Arab countries. First of all, we will focus on Mexicans, since they are Trump's main target. According to Monica Vereá, Donald Trump has been labelled Anti-Mexican since he has discriminatorily stated that Mexicans are rapists, criminals and drug dealers (11). Nevertheless, Donald Trump is not the first President of the United States to attack Latin Americans. As Hillary Parsons Dick claims, during the 1950s, the US government already labelled Mexicans as dangerous individuals (180). The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda immediately responded to Donald Trump's statement. They condemned his speech and claimed that it only helped to create a false representation of Mexican immigrants (Subtirelu, 325).

However, his hatred towards Latin Americans does not only consist in insults and misrepresentations. In fact, as Donald Trump promised during his electoral campaigns, he is going to pursue several measures so as to control illegal immigrants who daily cross the border that separates Mexico and the US. The first measure consists in building the wall in the US-Mexico Border (Joshi). According to Paula Ioanide, Trump's followers highly support its construction since they believe that it will lead to 'the US nation as non-racially white' (38). President Donald Trump has already signed the order for construction of the wall but he still needs the authorization of the Congress (Dick, 79). The Congress has not responded yet but it is believed that they will probably

Comentario [U8]: He añadido la reacción de Donald Trump ante las protestas contra la violencia policial para así seguir demostrando que es racista porque no apoya y reconoce la violencia policial y encima amenaza a los manifestantes.

not allow Donald Trump to build the wall because of its tremendous cost, which may vary from \$10 to \$12 billion (Savage, 'Trump's War...', 32).

The second and last measure he keeps below his sleeve consists in Family Separation (Silva and Flynn, 2). When Donald Trump became President, he commanded the Justice Department to persecute and arrest illegal immigrants who had entered the US through the US-Mexican border. As a consequence, many children were separated from their parents. It is known that many Americans have condemned this anti-immigration measure. They depict the policy as 'racist, cruel, dishonest, foolish, or otherwise reprobate' (13). Moreover, they highlight the innocence of immigrants. Unlike many may believe, they do not cross the border in order to attack American citizens. In fact, they risk their lives to provide a better future to their children (12).

Due to his hatred, Donald Trump resembles another main character of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*: Abigail Williams. Although at the very beginning of the play, she seems to be an innocent girl, she is quite the opposite (Stevenson, 213). Just like Donald Trump, she is driven by her hate. However, in the case of the female character, she concretely hates Elizabeth Proctor. Since Abigail is deeply in love with Proctor, she falsely accuses Elizabeth of witchcraft. Therefore, when she is dead, she will be able to lively happily ever after with John Proctor.

Nonetheless, according to Nazita Lajervardi and Kassra A. R. Oskooii, another group who has suffered the wrath of Donald Trump are Muslims. They have always been seen from a negative perspective, concretely, since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. This event began the so-called 'War on terror' (Lajervardi and Oskooii, 7), which led to the widespread assumption that all Muslims are terrorists (2). While former President Barack Obama asked for tolerance and denied that Islam equals terrorism, Donald

Comentario [U9]: Trump es racista porque odia a todo aquel que no sea blanco y americano y ha llegado tan lejos como atacar y discriminar a los inmigrantes. Ese odio hacia otras personas hace que pueda ser comparado con Abigail porque ella también se deja llevar por su odio a Elizabeth y hacer locuras.

Trump added fuel to the fire as he publically announced a ban that forbade citizens from certain Arab countries to enter the United States (Tesler, 153; Konrad, 7). Predictably, he was highly criticised. Senator Lindsey Graham commented that Donald Trump ‘has taken xenophobia and religious bigotry to next level’ (In Sullivan and Weigel, 325).

Nevertheless, it was not only Trump’s racism which attracted his supporters. In fact, he is also well-known for his sexism. As William Benoit claims, he already demonstrated a sexist attitude before becoming President of the United States. On October 17, 2016, *The Washington Post* published a piece of news where Donald Trump was having a public conversation with the TV host Billy Bush (244). In the interview, Donald Trump made several disrespectful and sexist comments, such as ‘grab them by the pussy’ (Allen and Schouten, 2016). Many public figures, as the Republican Paul Ryan, protested against Trump’s words. He said ‘no woman should ever be described in these terms or talked about in this manner’ (In Allen and Schouten, 244). Ironically, rather than damaging Donald Trump’s image, his comments became the motto of his electoral campaign. For instance, several of his supporters took the streets carrying signs in which it could be read ‘Don’t be a pussy Vote for Trump’ (Harp, 195).

Nonetheless, Donald Trump’s sexism does not stop after the release of his interview. In fact, there are other events which serve as examples of this on-going sexist behaviour. The American author Marie Brenner stated that Donald Trump had had an improper behaviour as he poured wine down her back. Donald Trump immediately denied the statement and, for no reason, said that she was ‘extremely unattractive’ (Rosenberg). Furthermore, in 2013, he tweeted that female soldiers are guilty of ‘their own sexual assaults because the military allows men and women to serve together’ (Mehta). Indeed, he went as far as calling his opponent Hillary Clinton ‘such a nasty woman’ (Chen, Pain and Zhang, 371). However, the worst part of this situation consists

in the fact that this sexist attitude has been adopted by his followers, as they wear graphic t-shirts with messages such as ‘Trump that Bitch’ or ‘Hillary Sucks but not like Monica’ (Harp, 195).

Ironically, Donald Trump and John Proctor share the same sexist attitude. As Susan C.W. Abbotson claims, although John Proctor is depicted by Arthur Miller as a hero, he is not as good as he seems (15). Among his many sins, he commits adultery with Abigail. Moreover, he ridicules her stating that ‘the promise that a stallion gives a mare I gave that girl!’ (Miller, *The Crucible*, 56).

6. Conclusion

To conclude, witch hunt is a term that has been widely used throughout history. The term, which was originated in 1692 after the incidents which occurred in Salem, was used by the American author Arthur Miller in one of his most remarkable works *The Crucible*. The play seems to recount the events that took place in Salem; however, Arthur Miller was using Salem witchcrafts as an allegory of the events that were taking place in the 1950s in the US. The author chose to compare Salem witchcrafts and McCarthyism due to the several characteristics that both events shared. Nowadays, the term has resurfaced. However, on this occasion, President Donald Trump has used it in order to defend himself from the investigation that Robert Mueller conducted so as to find out if Russia, prompted by President Donald Trump, influenced on the 2016 Presidential elections. After years of research, Robert Mueller presented his dossier, which showed the different evidence on Donald Trump and Russia’s engagement. Donald Trump’s supporters reacted to the dossier claiming that all the evidence was false and the only aim of the investigation was to destroy Trump. Conversely, his opponents believed the evidence. Moreover, Donald Trump’s opponents state that it

Comentario [U10]: He añadido una nueva comparación entre Donald Trump y Proctor porque Proctor, a pesar de ser presentado como un héroe, también es sexista. Esto lo demuestra a través de los comentarios que hace de Abigail. Por lo tanto, los dos tienen en común el sexismo.

quite ironic that the President denominated the investigation a witch hunt when, in fact, it is Donald Trump who is conducting a witch hunt against African Americans, Latin Americans, Muslims and women in general. Robert Mueller's dossier does not clear up whether Donald Trump is innocent or guilty of the crime of collusion he is accused of. In fact, Robert Mueller is not able to give a definite answer because he is not powerful enough so as to take actions against the President. Therefore, although the term witch hunt has changed its connotations over the years, Donald Trump can still be compared to two characters of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. That is to say, he may be compared to Proctor due to the fact that both characters are in a position in which they are not able to be found innocent. Moreover, Abigail could be also compared to the President because both are seized by hatred. Thus, it can be claimed that *The Crucible* is a timeless play. Nobody knows if in the near future, other important figure of the US will be compared to Abigail Williams and John Proctor. Nonetheless, what is clear is that President Donald Trump has used historical term in order to defend himself from the investigation which cannot be denominated witch hunt. However, he has done that in order to eliminate any suspicions about his relationship with Russia and continue making America Great Again.

Comentario [U11]: A pesar de que la obra de Arthur Miller cuentan una caza de brujas que hoy en día ya no existe, muchos de sus personajes parecen atemporales porque pueden ser comparados con muchas figuras de hoy en día, como Donald Trump, con el que los personajes tienen características en común. Por lo tanto, a pesar de que el término ha cambiado su connotación, hoy en día aun se puede utilizar una obra que desarrolla el antiguo significado del término .

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