

A message to my cousins, kin and neighbors in Kansas

By Warren M. Hern

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My roots are in Abilene. I was born here in the Dickinson County Hospital in 1938. My father, John, delivered newspapers to the Eisenhower family in the 1920's and graduated from Abilene High School in 1930. He met my mother at a dance in Salina, and they were married in Abilene in 1935. I have memories of our house just south of the railroad track in Abilene when I was very young and visiting the family farm out south of town in the early 1940's when the roads were pretty muddy. The cars got stuck. My Grandpa Hern drove a horse-drawn wagon with Uncle Karl to bring in hay. In 1948, I spent two weeks hanging out with my cousin Virgil as we caught crawdads in the crick and went to a pond to catch catfish. It was a great time except that I got a boil on my bottom from an infected chigger bite. There was an outhouse at the farm, no running water or electricity, and a crank phone that my uncle Floyd ("Barney," as he was affectionately known by my dad) would shout in after the operator connected him. My cousins Joann and Betty were a little older than Virgil and me. Aunt Wilda made amazingly good food, and everybody worked hard from dawn till dusk. Virgil was already making money by raising and selling hogs. We got water from the cistern and took shelter in the potato cellar when we thought a tornado was coming.

When I was three years old, we were living in Wamego, and my dad was working at my Uncle Eustace's grocery store (he was my mother's brother). My mom was very sick with strep throat and almost died. Just after World War II broke out, we got on the train in Wamego with a sack of fruit and sandwiches made by Aunt Helen (Jeffcoat), Eustace's wife (she was

From Abilene, also), and rode the train to Denver. When we got on the train, my folks had five dollars, part of which they spent on a glass of milk for me and two cups of coffee, and they had \$3.50 when we got off the train in Denver. My dad got a job at Remington Arms making weapons and bullets for the war. We lived in a basement apartment for a while then moved to a garage on Race Street that my father remodeled and turned into a home for us. I walked to Asbury School about two miles away.

Several times a year, we drove back to Kansas to visit: the Hern family in Abilene and the Divilbiss family at their farm near Salina, where my mother had grown up. Aunt Audrey was three years older than my mom; she was born in 1914 just before World War I broke out. Their mother, a very beautiful young woman, died from the Spanish flu when my mom was two years old and Audrey was five. Eustace was the oldest.

Audrey's husband, Uncle George, was a lanky, athletic, plain-spoken man with little education who kept a fascinating diary and was some kind of a genius. He could invent or fix anything, and he was a champion softball pitcher. Audrey and George raised five kids on their farm just north of New Cambria under very difficult conditions, but Audrey always had a smile on her face. The Divilbiss family came to Colorado to visit us in the winter of 1946 with the kids riding in the back of the truck under blankets in sub-zero weather. They were tough. My cousins Dave and Julie live in Salina and the others around Kansas and Texas. The last time I saw Audrey was when we drove to Salina for Christmas in 2013 so I could give Audrey and their family the presentation I made at my mom's memorial service a few weeks before. I had photo slides of her going back to her childhood and lots of other photos of our family.

My mother, Edna, had died at the age of 96 in November, and the weather was too bad for Audrey to travel to Colorado, so we went to Dave's house for a family gathering and a small memorial service for my mother. A few

months later, just short of her 100th birthday, Audrey died, and we all miss her.

Now the world is very different than it was back in the 1930's, 40's and fifties. There is too much information, and a lot of it is bad. We are in the middle of the worst pandemic in over 100 years. The Spanish flu (although the first known case occurred at a military base in Kansas on March 11, 1918) killed 50 million people worldwide, 675,000 people in the United States, and my grandmother Bertha on March 27, 1919. It was a devastating loss for my mother, her sister and brother, and their father.

The 1918 influenza was a terrible disease that killed a lot of young, otherwise healthy, people. There was no modern medicine much less antibiotics in 1918. More men died from the influenza during World War I than from enemy bullets on the battlefield.

Covid-19 may be worse. In spite of modern medicine, there is no really effective treatment. It can only be prevented by wearing face masks and keeping physical (social) distance between people since it is spread primarily by aerosols or droplets coming from people who are infected, and they may not be sick or even know they are infected. Estimates of the death rates for those who are infected range from 1% to 5% and depend on how healthy people are when they become infected. Certain things like age, obesity, high blood pressure, and pre-existing lung disease can increase the chances of dying from the Covid-19. The Affordable Care Act – “Obamacare” - covers these pre-existing conditions for the 21 million people who are on it.

A “pandemic” means that everybody in any population is at risk of getting infected with what may be a fatal disease. The epidemic affects the entire society and is worldwide in distribution. Sooner or later, almost everyone gets the disease. The more people who get sick, the more people die, and the more likely it is that everyone gets sick.

“Herd immunity” means that about 70% or more of the entire population has either had the disease and become immune or has been vaccinated.

Some viral diseases confer lifetime immunity: once you get it or have been vaccinated, you can’t get it again. That does not appear to be the case with Covid-19, but we don’t know yet.

Covid-19 affects mainly the lungs, but that’s not all. In many cases, it destroys every organ in the body including the brain. For many victims, there is no full recovery, and the disease may leave permanent effects such as brain damage. Those who do survive may take months to recover, and they can’t function very well during that time.

This has catastrophic effects on the families of those who become sick as well as those who are sick.

It means a complete disruption of family life, businesses, social activities, recreation, and important events such as school, funerals, weddings and church attendance. Businesses fail and jobs are lost – permanently. That’s what’s happening in the United States right now.

The front page of the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle on September 25 carries an article by Kathy Hageman that reports a spike in Covid-19 cases in Dickinson County. That means to me that people in my family, my cousins in particular, are at risk. The Saline County Health Department has reported that another spike has occurred in Salina, where more of my cousins live.

More than 7.7 million Americans have become infected with Covid-19 – maybe many more – and more than 215,000 Americans have died. That’s ten times the total population of Dickinson County, Kansas and more than four times the population of Salina, Kansas. Three percent of everyone who got the disease died. That’s a minimum estimate. All these may be a fraction of the real numbers. We don’t know. Donald Trump ordered the

federal government to stop testing for coronavirus because the tests discovered too many cases. “If we don’t test, we don’t have so many cases,” he said. Really.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) estimates that we are heading for over 370,000 Americans dead by the end of this year. That’s nearly as many deaths in ten months as all the Americans who died in all the wars in the 20th century.

This did not have to happen.

The United States has the highest number of deaths from Covid-19 of any country including India and Brazil and one of the highest death rates among industrial countries. We have 4% of the world’s population and more than 20% of the the deaths from Covid-19. Many countries stopped the epidemic when it began, have had very few deaths, and life is back to normal.

In the United States, more than 20 million people are unemployed, millions of small businesses are gone, schools are closed, children cannot attend school, working parents can’t go to work, up to 40 million people are in danger of being evicted from homes or apartments for lack of rent money, millions of people are losing their homes because they can’t make mortgage payments, people are dying because they don’t have health insurance or money to pay for health care, or because they’re afraid to go to the hospital, and the pandemic means that many people are dying alone because their families can’t visit them. A thousand health care workers have died because they don’t have enough protective equipment that could have been manufactured eight months ago and given to them. Donald Trump had the power to make that happen. He didn’t.

People who think that Donald Trump brought a lot of jobs ought to know that he inherited the great job growth that resulted from the Obama - Biden administration policies that kept the Great Recession from becoming a

global calamity. When President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden took office in January 2009, the unemployment rate was 13.2%. When they left office, it was 4.1%. That's what it was when Trump took office in January 2017. Trump's failure to lead in stopping the Covid-19 pandemic has destroyed the economy, and the unemployment rate rose to 14% by May 2020. It has dropped back to 8%, but that's twice as high as when Trump took office. That doesn't count the millions of unemployed people who aren't looking for work because the jobs they held before are gone.

The Kansas unemployment rate in August 2019, was 3.1%. By April 2020, it was almost 12% and by July 2020, it was 7.2%.

The farmers and farm economy have suffered, first, because of Trump's tariffs, which have cut American agricultural exports to China by two thirds from almost \$16 billion to less than \$6 billion. Farmers have the highest bankruptcies since 2011. American soybean farmers have been crushed by Trump's tariffs. Trump is sending 46 billion dollars of government handouts to farmers in the last few weeks before the election, but this subsidy can't replace markets that Trump has destroyed with his trade wars and incoherent foreign policy. So much for "free markets." Farmers can't pay their debts.

Are the votes, independence and integrity of American farmers for sale? Trump thinks so.

The collapse of the rest of the economy and businesses such as restaurants and hotels has hurt the farmers who supply these businesses with food for their customers. Those businesses are also going under because of Trump's incompetence and criminal negligence of the pandemic.

There is one important reason why we have this national catastrophe: Donald Trump.

Donald Trump was told in January 2020 that the Covid-19 pandemic

would be dangerous, catastrophic, and the worst security threat to the United States in his presidency.

One week later, Trump told the public that the pandemic would go away “miraculously” by itself. “It will go away like a miracle,” he said, as he waved his hands in imaginary curve.

He lied. He knew it wasn’t true. He lied to the American people.

He lied to the people he is sworn to defend. He keeps lying.

Trump has repeated this lie, and others, dozens of times, including calling it a “Democrat hoax.”

It is not a hoax. 215,000 people are dead. One thousand or more people are dying every day. By the end of the year, more than 3,000 people may be dying every day. Medical scientists predict that more than a quarter of a million people will be dead from coronavirus by then.

To counter epidemics, President Obama set up a Pandemic Response Office in the White House National Security Advisor’s office so there could be a swift, coordinated, and effective response to deadly diseases such as the Ebola Virus, which killed up to 50% of those who became infected.

When Donald Trump took office, he closed this Pandemic Response Office. There was and has been no effective national response to the coronavirus pandemic, which is the main reason that over 215,000 people have died.

Trump set up a coronavirus task force but didn’t attend the meetings except for once, when he spent 45 minutes telling the group that he wanted them to call Fox news and complain that he wasn’t getting enough praise from the network. He didn’t talk about what to do about the pandemic.

At the same task force meeting, Trump said, “Maybe Covid is a good thing. I don’t like to shake hands. I don’t have to shake hands with those

disgusting people.” Trump was referring to the ecstatic and mesmerized fans who come to his packed in, no-mask, open air or closed space rallies where he ridicules people like Joe Biden and others who treat the virus seriously and respect the advice of doctors and scientists.

After one task force meeting, Trump told the public that people ought to consider injecting bleach or disinfectants such as Clorox or Lysol into their bodies or breathing or drinking them. One man died because he followed Trump’s medical advice. Drinking bleach is not a good remedy for Covid-19. It will kill you instantly. Breathing Lysol would be fatal. But that’s Trump’s advice. He did not learn this in medical school because he never attended one. He doesn’t believe in science. His attitude toward expert physicians and medical scientists is contempt and scorn.

Trump also urged everyone to take hydroxychloroquine, a malaria medicine that causes heart attacks and has no proven effect on coronavirus infection. Expert physicians and scientists urged the public not to follow Trump’s advice.

A study by Cornell showed that Donald Trump is the single greatest source of false information about coronavirus.

If Donald Trump were a doctor, all his patients would die.

If you need an emergency life-saving operation, do you want it to be performed by an expert surgeon who has performed the same operation thousands of times, or do you want a corrupt, incompetent businessman who has bankrupted all his businesses and has never been to medical school? If you choose the latter, you get Donald Trump. 63 million Americans made that choice in 2016.

The doctors and scientists on the coronavirus task force, people like Dr. Tony Fauci, who is an internationally recognized world expert on virus diseases and who has studied them for forty years, have been excluded from

giving advice or being present when Trump lies about this matter at his press conferences. Trump replaced them with a neuroradiologist, Dr. Scott Atlas, who knows nothing about public health, epidemiology, or infectious disease, and who advocates “herd immunity,” which could mean that *several million* Americans will die from coronavirus before the pandemic is over. That assumes that “herd immunity” will work with the coronavirus. There is no evidence that it will. Atlas’s only qualification for his powerful position is that he tells Trump dangerous nonsense, which is exactly what Trump wants to hear. Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control, has stated that everything Atlas says “...is wrong.”

Most of these Covid-19 deaths will occur among older people in nursing homes and members of minority communities that have little or limited access to health care of any kind. People in rural communities all over the country are having a hard time getting adequate medical care for this disaster.

Many of these people depend on coverage under the Affordable Care Act, often called “Obamacare.” Two weeks after the election on November 3, the US Supreme Court will hear the Trump administration’s arguments to repeal the entire Affordable Care Act, which, if successful, will immediately deprive over 21 million vulnerable Americans of medical care. Trump has vowed to get rid of the Affordable Care Act. People with pre-existing medical conditions will lose their health care coverage. That includes the complications of Covid-19 for those of the 7 million people who survive having the disease during this pandemic.

Donald Trump has no plan to replace the Affordable Care Act. Getting rid of it was a campaign promise. He doesn’t care that it helps 21 million people.

One of the reasons for Trump and Mitch McConnell’s haste to install a new conservative Supreme Court justice before the election is so that the new member of the Court will support the administration’s determination

to repeal Obamacare along with anything good done by the Obama-Biden administration. Trump's nominee is against the ACA and abortion. Appointment of that justice will also please his most fanatic anti-abortion supporters.

Before *Roe v. Wade*, thousands of women died each year in the United States from unsafe abortion. Abortion is a fundamental component of women's health care in the 21st century. One out of three American women will have had an abortion by the time their reproductive lives are over.

Pregnancy is not a benign condition. Women die from being pregnant. Every pregnancy is unique, and a lot of things can go wrong. Donald Trump and the anti-abortion fanatics want to take women back to the 19th century and back alley abortions in which women died by the thousands. They're living in the wrong century.

Does Donald Trump really oppose abortion? Or is he just pretending to oppose it to get the votes of 81% of the white Evangelical Christians who voted for him in 2016 because he said he was. In most of his public statements before he ran for president, he said he was pro-choice. That doesn't matter. He's paying off his political supporters with anti-abortion appointments to the US Supreme Court. That's what matters. If the Trump court overturns *Roe v. Wade*, women will die.

That matters a lot.

In addition to ridiculing people who wear masks and going without one when he should be wearing one, Trump has encouraged members of the public to resist orders to wear masks. He encouraged heavily armed supporters of his to go to the Michigan state capitol and menace members of the state legislature who were working on the problem. Trump's people were carrying long guns including AR-15 military rifles. What's the message? Intimidation. "Do what we tell you to do or we'll kill you."

This is the behavior of a third world dictator.

Thirteen of the same thugs encouraged by Trump have now been arrested for threatening to kidnap and kill Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, kill police officers and attack the state capitol. Trump's response: condemn the (woman) governor and take credit for the arrests. Not a word against the armed vigilante thugs - Trump's brownshirts.

Instead of following the advice of medical scientists and doctors who are trying to stop the epidemic and unnecessary deaths of tens of thousands of people, Trump is having several political rallies each week that are "super-spreader" events because his fans are tightly packed together in closed auditoriums or airplane hangars and few of the people are wearing masks. Trump's response to a reporter's question about whether this was dangerous for people was that he was standing quite a way from the crowd, so nothing to worry about. He won't get sick from being close to the crowd, and that's what matters. He doesn't care if his supporters got sick. Their lives don't matter to him. What matters to Trump is the image on the evening news of his thousands of supporters screaming their ecstasy at being in the presence of The Chosen One.

Donald Trump is now a dangerous religious death cult to whom his followers have sacrificed their minds and identities and, in many cases, their very lives. This was true for Mark Anthony Urquiza, whose daughter, Kristin, said after her father's death from coronavirus, "My father's only pre-existing condition was believing Donald Trump."

After Trump's similar rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma with no masks, one of his supporters, former Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain, got sick with Covid-19 and died. The spike in deaths in Oklahoma is attributed to this event.

For the families of over 215,000 Americans who have died because of Trump's malevolence and incompetence, the fatal consequences of Trump's death cult are real, horrifying, and unbearably painful.

For Republicans, Trump's death cult means the looming prospect of overwhelming political defeat, permanent shame and disgrace, a rebuke to their loss of integrity, and the collapse of a once-proud important political party with solid principles and reasonable public policy goals. Those qualities are gone along with any reasons for Republicans ever to hold political office at any level of government in the United States. Having fully embraced the incredible depravity and global destructiveness of Donald Trump, the Republican party needs to disappear into richly deserved oblivion. There is nothing left to justify its existence.

Nine months into the most dangerous pandemic in over 100 years, Donald Trump does not have a plan to help American citizens stop it and get society back to normal. He has abandoned any effort to stop the epidemic. He is concentrating on installing an anti-abortion justice on the Supreme Court so he will have the support of the white Christian Evangelicals who think he was sent by God to be our president in spite of the fact that he is an amoral, dishonest, corrupt person who is the opposite of what the Christians say they believe. Trump believes that controlling the Court through this puppet will allow him to disregard the election next month.

Donald Trump was not sent by God to be president. He ran for president as a marketing strategy for his Trump business brand including Trump Towers all over the world because he's deeply in debt and needs the money. He didn't expect to win and didn't know what to do when he did. He still doesn't know what to do. He just plays the role of president on TV. He spends much of the day watching himself on TV.

Donald Trump was and is uniquely unqualified to be president. He just wants attention and power, which he uses in irrational, vindictive, and capricious ways. In this, he displays all the characteristics of what psychiatrists call "malignant narcissism," an especially dangerous

characteristic when combined with total power. His alarming behavior has caused many to question his mental stability even though he calls himself a “very stable genius.” “I alone can fix it,” he announced at the 2016 Republican National Convention that nominated him for president. This is delusional behavior. It is psychotic.

Trump’s bizarre behavior, which is marked by cruelty, vindictiveness, paranoid delusions, and impulsiveness, has caused legions of alarmed mental health professionals, including psychiatrists and psychologists, to attempt to understand his obvious psychopathology. This alarm has stimulated a library full of books on Trump’s personality, which includes all the traits of a sociopath and someone with “antisocial personality disorder,” which is another way of saying the same thing. A sociopath may know the difference between right and wrong but doesn’t care. A sociopath displays no empathy and ruthless indifference toward the existence much less well-being of others and will destroy anyone in his or her path. This puts Trump in the company of the most notorious and brutal dictators who have ever lived.

Here is the Mayo Clinic’s definition of antisocial personality disorder:

Antisocial personality disorder, sometimes called sociopathy, is a mental disorder in which a person consistently shows no regard for right and wrong and ignores the rights and feelings of others. People with antisocial personality disorder tend to antagonize, manipulate or treat others harshly or with callous indifference. They show no guilt or remorse for their behavior.

Individuals with antisocial personality disorder often violate the law, becoming criminals. They may lie, behave violently or impulsively, and have problems with drug and alcohol use. Because of these characteristics, people with this disorder typically can't fulfill responsibilities related to family, work or school.

Symptoms of antisocial personality disorder:

Antisocial personality disorder signs and symptoms may include:

- Disregard for right and wrong
- Persistent lying or deceit to exploit others
- Being callous, cynical and disrespectful of others
- Using charm or wit to manipulate others for personal gain or personal pleasure
- Arrogance, a sense of superiority and being extremely opinionated
- Recurring problems with the law, including criminal behavior
- Repeatedly violating the rights of others through intimidation and dishonesty
- Impulsiveness or failure to plan ahead
- Hostility, significant irritability, agitation, aggression or violence
- Lack of empathy for others and lack of remorse about harming others
- Unnecessary risk-taking or dangerous behavior with no regard for the safety of self or others
- Poor or abusive relationships
- Failure to consider the negative consequences of behavior or learn from them
- Being consistently irresponsible and repeatedly failing to fulfill work or financial obligations

Sound familiar? This is a close-fitting description of Donald Trump.

Recent books that have explored Trump's psychopathology include:

The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump: 37 Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts Examine a President. Bandy Lee, M.D., Editor.

Trump on the Couch: Inside the Mind of the President. By Justin A. Frank, M.D.

Dangerous Charisma: The Political Psychology of Donald Trump and His Followers. By Jerrold Post, M.D.

The Cult of Trump: A Leading Cult Expert Explains How Trump Uses Mind Control. By Steve Hassan.

The Strange Case of Donald J. Trump: A Psychological Reckoning. By Dan P. McAdams

Too Much And Not Enough: How My Family Created The World's Most Dangerous Man. By Mary Trump, Ph.D. (Trump's niece, a Ph.D. psychologist).

Further questions about his mental status were raised when he gave a “word salad” response to the New York Times’ question of what he wanted to accomplish in a second term as president: “But so I think, I think it would be, I think it would be very, very, I think we’d have a very, very solid, we would continue what we’re doing, we’d solidify what we’ve done, and we have other things on our plate that we want to get done.”

This response shows seriously impaired thinking. This is dangerous in a person with Trump’s responsibilities as president.

Donald Trump’s complete failure to lead the country with an effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic is only one of the problems with his presidency. An experienced journalist who has reported on nine US presidents, Bob Woodward, called Trump’s record “a catastrophic leadership failure.”

On January 20, 2017, Donald Trump swore an oath to “protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.” Trump has been in violation of his oath since the moment he finished taking it. He has violated the US Constitution constantly in hundreds of ways since that day, and he made it plainly evident during his campaign that he would do just that. 63 million people voted for him anyway. He lost the popular vote by over 3 million votes but won the Electoral College vote by 77,000 votes in three states out of 130 million votes cast. The Electoral College was designed to protect slavery and the minority of states that had it. Then Trump claimed without any evidence whatsoever that he really won the popular vote because there were millions of illegal, fraudulent votes for his opponent. This was a

figment of his fevered imagination. It was delusional. That's a sign of psychosis, which means really off the edge crazy.

This was the same kind of lie he told on the day of his inauguration when he claimed that he had the largest attendance ever of any inauguration. Photographs showed clearly that most of the mall in front of the US Capitol was largely empty. It was an announcement on the first day of his presidency that he had no regard for facts and that he is completely dishonest, but we all knew that before he announced his candidacy for the highest office in the land. Well, those who were paying attention knew it and had known it for years.

Donald Trump's presidency has been marked by constant violations of the Constitution and subversion of the US government. He does not believe in the separation of powers or any legitimate function of the Congress, which is the most important and first branch of government under the Constitution. There is no evidence that Trump has ever even read the Constitution.

Trump refused to say on September 24, 2020, that he would agree to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the election in November, and he has refused twice before to make this commitment. This is in total violation of our form of democratic government and a principle for which hundreds of thousands of people have given their lives to protect.

Trump has committed criminal acts both before and during his time as president of the United States, and he has surrounded himself with criminals who have been, one by one, convicted and sent to prison. The sentences of one of the worst, Roger Stone, who was convicted of 7 felonies, were commuted.

Following violence that he has encouraged, Trump calls for "law and order," but he is the most lawless and criminal president ever to hold the office. He has nothing but contempt for the law as he has demonstrated on

innumerable occasions such as pardons for Joe Arpaio and war criminals. In this, he is supported by his corrupt Attorney General, Bill Barr, who believes in the “unitary theory of executive power” – dictatorship – which is why Trump gave him the job.

Trump ignores Congress and regards it as irrelevant. This is a violation of his oath of office and grounds for impeachment and removal.

Trump has total contempt for the dedication and sacrifice of those who have fought our wars including those who died in them. In refusing to go to a US military cemetery in France because it was raining and his hair would get wet, Trump asked why he should go to a cemetery full of “losers” and “suckers.” This was where 1,800 US marines died defending Paris during World War I. He has nothing but contempt for the millions of men and women wearing the uniform to defend our country.

After all, he did spend \$70,000 getting his hair styled. Got to protect that perfect hairdo from the rain.

John McCain, critically injured and captured when his plane was shot down in Vietnam, spent five years as a prisoner of war being tortured in a Hanoi prison. Trump said McCain is a “loser,” not a hero. Dismissing McCain’s sacrifice and years of suffering with a wave of his hand, Trump said, “I like people who weren’t captured, okay?” Trump, who was an athlete in college, got five draft deferments including one for a “bone spur” on his heel, although he couldn’t remember which heel.

Trump’s “personal Vietnam,” as he described it in a radio interview with Howard Stern, was trying to keep from getting a venereal disease in New York from all his sexual conquests of many women.

Trump has refused to condemn Vladimir Putin and the Russian government for putting bounties on the heads of American soldiers in Afghanistan. Trump values Putin’s approval more than the lives of

courageous members of the American military. This is treason.

Why does Trump want to protect Putin, a murderous KGB thug and dictator? Why does Trump want to please him? Why?

Over 500 former US generals, cabinet members, security experts, and other high government officials have stated that Donald Trump is a risk to the security of the United States. Those who have stated that he is unfit for office and is hopelessly ignorant as well as unwilling to learn anything include former members of his own cabinet and inner circle. Trump's former Secretary of Defense, General Jim Mattis, who resigned in disgust, said that Trump is a threat to democracy, dividing the nation as no other president has done, and is making a mockery of the Constitution. "He is unfit," said Mattis. His views are echoed by Dan Coats, a Republican former Senator from Indiana and Trump's former Director of National Intelligence, who stated that Trump doesn't know the difference between the truth and a lie. Coats regards Trump as a threat to national security and stability.

On numerous occasions, starting before he was elected president, Donald Trump has committed treason by inviting foreign powers, especially our adversary, Russia, to help him by interfering with American elections and making agreements that are dangerous for the United States. He has scrupulously concealed his dealings and exchanges with Vladimir Putin, who seeks to destabilize the Western democracies and who played a highly effective role in seeing that Donald Trump became president of the United States in 2016. Trump is widely regarded by experts on national security as the principal threat to our security followed by his armed white supremacist thugs who have been threatening people who are going to vote in early voting.

These are the earmarks of a brutal fascist dictator who is unfit to serve in any public office in the United States.

What does Vladimir Putin have on Donald Trump? What does Trump owe him? Why does Trump conceal his tax returns and corrupt financial dealings, many of them with Deutsche Bank, which launders money for Russia? Trump's recently exposed tax returns showed he has paid no taxes for 10 of the last 15 years on hundreds of millions of dollars and paid only \$750 in income taxes each year in 2016 and 2017. He says he's worth \$10 billion and that not paying taxes "...makes me smart." He said that during a debate with Hillary Clinton during the 2016 campaign. He has \$421 million worth of personal loans coming due within the next few years. Any other government employee would be denied a security clearance because of the risk of blackmail. To whom does he owe the money? Russia? Have his extraordinary debts compromised US foreign policy? Has his income during his presidency from businesses and foreign governments all over the world caused conflicts of interest? This income violates the Emolument Clause of the US Constitution.

Trump is a tax cheat and a fraud, and he has used his office to enrich himself and his family.

Donald Trump was impeached for his abuse of power and attempting to bribe an official of a foreign government to interfere in our election. This is prohibited by the US Constitution. The articles of impeachment did not include the dozens of other instances of his violation of his oath of office and the Constitution.

The spineless abdication of their own responsibilities and oath of office by the Republican majority of the United States Senate will live in infamy when the history of this time is written. It was the supreme example of cowardice in public office in the history of this country. This includes both US Senators from Kansas, Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran.

If Donald Trump's purpose for running for president was to destroy the United States as a functioning democracy and healthy society, what would

he have done differently than what he has done as president? Nothing.

Donald Trump ran for office as an enemy of the United States determined to destroy it, and that is what he is doing. He is doing it to please Vladimir Putin, to whom he owes a lot, but we do not know how much. Trump's hundreds of millions of dollars in loans are about to come due. He has made more than \$2 billion since starting his campaign for president, partly because he has spent one third of his time at his own properties, for which he charges the US taxpayers a fortune including \$650 a night for Secret Service rooms. Foreign governments and business interests compete to stay at his hotels, which is a violation of the Emoluments Clause of the US Constitution.

Trump lied during his presidential campaign when he said he had no business dealings with Russia. Meanwhile, he was directing his agents such as Michael Cohen to make business deals in Russia and with Putin when he said so.

Trump has made an alarming amount of progress in destroying this country. Unless he is defeated at the polls on November 3, that is what he will continue doing, and then it will be too late to do anything about it.

But wait. What about the election?

What election?

When asked whether he would agree to a peaceful transition of power, which is and has been a fundamental feature of American democracy since 1792, Trump again declined to say that he would. Instead, he said, we will "get rid of the ballots." There will be "no need for a transition because there will be a continuation." In other words, he will ignore the results of the election and seize power regardless of the results. He has openly stated that he will use the courts, including the US Supreme Court, to consolidate his power, which is why he wants to install before November 3 a puppet

Supreme Court justice who will follow his instructions to declare him re-elected even if he loses. He states that he wants 12 more years as president, which is prohibited by the twenty-second amendment to the US Constitution, which he holds in contempt. If he succeeds with this plan, that will be the end of democracy in the United States.

When given an opportunity during the first presidential debate to condemn post-election violence and an armed white supremacist group that supports him, “Proud Boys,” Trump not only refused to do that but encouraged the group by giving it a new motto: “Stand Back and Stand By.” He is openly encouraging armed insurrection by domestic terrorist groups and a race war if he does not win the election. He wants a civil war.

Trump’s inappropriate and uncontrolled aggressiveness, bullying, and raging behavior in this “debate” with Joe Biden on September 29 appeared to be a spectacular and alarming sign of serious emotional disturbance. This was intentional vandalism of the political system by a sitting president that is likely to have violent and dangerous consequences for the election and its aftermath. No sane, reasonable person would do this.

We are in the middle of a pandemic. People need to be safe and vote by mail. Many states, starting with Colorado, have used mail-in ballots for years. Trump himself always votes with an absentee (“mail-in”) ballot. But Democrats are more likely to use them than Republicans. Trump’s solution: destroy the US Postal Service so ballots from Democrats don’t get counted. Trump’s corrupt new Postmaster General appointee, Louis DeJoy, began destroying the Postal Service soon after he was appointed in May 2020. Mail delivery has come nearly to a stop in some places, especially rural areas, because of DeJoy’s actions. DeJoy has removed hundreds of corner mailboxes and destroyed many of the 671 high-speed mail-counting machines worth millions of dollars. Then Trump states that mail-in ballots are fraudulent and a “Democrat scam.” On election day, Trump says we

just “get rid of the ballots” so he can stay in power. He is depending on the Supreme Court to declare that he has won re-election. That’s one of the reasons why he and McConnell are rushing through Amy Coney Barrett’s confirmation to the US Supreme Court before the election – so she can rule in his favor in a disputed election, which Trump will dispute when he doesn’t win. This is a direct threat to constitutional democracy in the United States. This is how dictators become dictators.

One of Trump’s enablers, Republican Senator Mike Lee, stated on October 8, 2020, “We’re not a democracy.....’rank democracy’ threatens liberty and prosperity.” Republican officials throughout the country are suppressing the vote among minority groups and Democratic voting districts – a long-standing policy of the Republican party – because they can’t win a fair election, and Trump is doing his best to sabotage the 2020 election because he knows he can’t win.

At this moment, there are more cases of Covid-19 in the White House, the center of US executive power, than there are in the entire country of Taiwan, and that doesn’t include the top brass in the Pentagon infected by Trump. The chief spreader of Covid-19 in the White House? Donald Trump, who caught Covid-19 because of his own reckless behavior and then blamed it on visiting Gold Star families that had tested negative before their visit with him. Meanwhile Trump is sponsoring super-spreader events at the White House and elsewhere, refuses to follow medical advice, and is callously indifferent to the health and safety of those around him including his Secret Service detail and personal attendants.

Trump’s underlying mental illness is obviously exacerbated by the steroids that his doctors used to treat his Covid-19 illness. This was vividly illustrated by his “Mussolini Moment” when, upon returning against medical advice from Walter Reed Hospital for emergency treatment of a rapidly deteriorating condition from Covid-19, Trump stood on the White

House balcony, breathing with difficulty but full of himself with the spotlight on him, and ostentatiously ripped off his face mask. It was the juvenile act of a madman. It sent a deadly message to his fanatic followers to defy good advice and to ignore the reality of grave health issues that are killing their fellow Americans. It was the height of irresponsibility.

If you voted for Donald Trump in 2016, that's what you voted for – a mentally ill bully, thug and dictator - and that's what you got. Vote for him again, and you may not need to vote after that. 2020 may be your last presidential election if Donald Trump has his way.

Vote for Joe Biden, an honest man who cares about the lives and freedom of his fellow Americans and who respects the US constitution.

Vote for Joe Biden and save the country from Donald Trump, the most ignorant, racist, corrupt, incompetent, dishonest, immoral, cruel, dangerous person ever to hold public office in the history of the United States of America.

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