## The Road to Tyranny

The individual named Donald Trump has, beyond all imaginings, managed to marshal people and resources, whereby the Republican Party is now in an unfettered position to, essentially, carry out any of the wishes that Donald Trump chooses to pursue ... at his leisure!

Somehow, the people of the United States of America have been sold the promise that his leadership will bring prosperity for the People, the citizens of that ... *supposedly once great* ... nation.

Clearly, to all those with eyes to see, his few actions so far, setting the tone of his Presidency, give a clear signal that the much-touted promise was nothing more than a sham!

And if that wasn't bad enough, there is clear evidence that the delusional individual, who has somehow managed to find himself elevated to the highest position in the land, is hell bent on a plan to subjugate its most loyal and trusted neighbour. This act, if none other, is a clear signal to any other country having poorer relations with USA, that it has set itself on a path to gain what it wants ... regardless of the impact that such actions will have on them.

The worst of it is that there is a clear disregard for the impact that such will have on its own citizens or its own industries. Has any previous President dared to impose upon the nation's people the way this latest President has?

So ... as an outsider ... the picture being painted by the above "newsreel" is dire indeed.

And if that wasn't bad enough, all the recent "strongarm" tactics are clearly signs of two underlying conditions:

- someone is in a hurry to get things to where he wants them, and
- that someone refuses to take "no" for an answer!

It begs the question: WHY?

But here's the thing: everything is going according to plan, Trump's plan (or that of his as yet unidentified puppet masters'), that will result in a state of affairs that could never have been imagined by the country's founders. George Washington himself *refused*, *categorically*, the establishing of any monarch for the governance of that country. And yet ... that is where all the behavioural signs are pointing to!

If we compare the situation to Russia, Putin truly reigns as King/Tsar in that country, in all but name. There is a semblance of democracy, where voting is coerced under threat of harsh reprisals, if not the extreme consequence of murder under the guise of any other circumstance. Giving Putin credit, if that is what anyone could *inadvisably* call it, he represents the modern template of the ultimate "strongarm" leader. And this is the man that, in Feb 2022, Trump called Putin a "genius" and "savvy" **for having invaded Ukraine!** What does that tell you about Trump's mindset?

But the team surrounding Putin did all they could to learn from the worst of the worst, *because there* was much to learn **for anyone aspiring to be a despot**: Hitler, his henchmen and his propaganda machine.

The few off-hand comments that have come to light about Trump's admiration for Hitler and Musk's comment that the German people need to lift the "yoke of guilt" from the Holocaust, must give pause to anyone as to what playbook they are using. And, if that wasn't enough, having retired Marine General John Kelly come out to say, and reported on PBS (October 23 2024), that

... Trump seeks a second term vowing to dramatically expand his use of the military at home and suggesting he would use force to go after Americans he considers "enemies from within."

should send shivers up the spine of every American citizen, including those that *currently* consider themselves as the "in crowd".

Don't let yourselves be fooled into thinking that *that* is not where this is all going. Clearly, it is!

So, the march to dictatorship has begun. If so, how is he going to get away with it?

Easy!

Again, lessons from history! *Gladiator Games!* 

That is, figuratively, not literally. What was the primary purpose of the Games? Distract the people, keep their eyes focused where you want them to be, don't leave them to their own devices, feed them everything you want them to take in!

He has given a "plausible" story for his current actions:

• territorial security in an insecure world!

To that end, he has stated

- Canada would make a great 51<sup>st</sup> State of the Union!
- Jess Rubio stated that the intention to buy Greenland "is no joke"!
- Trump wants to finish the wall at Mexico's border that he previously could not finish.

To make all that happen, he wants money, because the U.S. is cash-strapped from previously legislated financial obligations. So, what does he do? He takes the easy (thoughtless) way out, which is nonetheless in line with all his bluster of "making others pay" for things he wants done:

- 25% tariffs on Mexico
- 25% tariffs on Canada, exluding oil which is at 10% tariffs (because Canada supplies 55% of the U.S.'s imported oil and gas; can we say self-serving?)
- 10% tariffs on China (why would a country with which you have been at odds be slapped with a lower tariff rate than you longest and best trading partner, Canada?)

The NAFTA, and more recently the USMCA, have both recognized the extent of integration of the two countries and the need to cooperate respectfully in trade.

The newly imposed tariffs not only disrespect the efforts of the many teams of individuals, over the

decades, to ensure that the commercial success of one is not a the expense of the other, they dare to recast those historical efforts and milestones as nothing more than pitiful jokes! If you think the man could have any ounce of consideration for anyone on any matter, you need only to look back to the training grounds from where he came:

• Trump Management, which owned racially segregated middle-class rental housing in New York City's outer boroughs.

This is a man of "quid pro quo": scratch my back and I'll scratch yours!

We've heard the mentions of an exchange between Trump and Trudeau about Canada being a 51<sup>st</sup> State. I am sure that Trudeau, in the most diplomatic language possible, adamantly replied that hell would freeze over before that would happen!

Well, he told us what he wanted: territorial acquisitions!

Now he's going after those with those tariffs as his stick, hoping that the victim will accept the "advantage" of submission as the carrot!

And the *purported* justification for the tariffs? During fiscal 2024, U.S. customs agents seized 43 pounds of fentanyl, as compared to 21,100 pounds at the Mexican border! **That ratio, 490 to 1, puts paid to the lie which he gives as the basis for the tariffs on Canada!** Unless you want to consider the unlikely explanations that:

- either the U.S. customs agents at the Canadian border are *so less competent* than their counterparts at the southern border, or
- Canadian-based fentanyl smugglers are so much smarter than their Mexican counterparts.

Neither of those two scenarios is anywhere close to being realistic!

Some possible true motivations:

- He wants unfettered access to all those resources in buried in Canada's soil.
- He wants unfettered access to all that fresh water in Canada.
- He wants the U.S. to be the country hosting the future Electric-Vehicle infrastructure plants, which many countries, so far, have opted to choose Canada instead, on multiple occasions, taking the shine of the image that the U.S. is the country of the future.
- He wants to make use of the future arctic ocean shipping and doesn't believe Canada can ensure the security of those, by itself, to "his" satisfaction.
- Partly to ensure those arctic shipping lanes, and partly to ensure the security of "Fortress America" (I hope I can be allowed to mention the NORAD's effectiveness since inception in 1958), Trump is making moves to amalgamate Greenland to the U.S. of A. You can well imagine the misplace jokes about Alaska and Greenland being ear-muffs on the "jewels" which Canada represents! The strategic desire to acquire Greenland dates back to 1946, which is when the U.S. made its first offer of purchase.
- As for Greenland itself, there have been studies regarding the likely potential of <a href="https://high.com/high-benefit\_natural\_resources">high-benefit\_natural\_resources</a> in a large territory where the harvesting could conceivably (in Trump's mind) be pursued without concern for impact on the environment. And if ice harvesting becomes a necessity, having claim to that much of the resource "close to home" would be of strategic advantage over trying to haul that resource from the Antarctic. Another strategic advantage for the U.S. is the economic one, of potentially being able to ignore Canada's resources because of

- the newfound alternates in Greenland, with the added benefit of keeping those resources out of European hands which could potentially challenge U.S. supremacy on the manufacturing stage. He could then "starve" Canada into statehood, if the tariff ploy didn't work.
- Trump likely perceives the U.S. as being on the cusp of not being able to prevent China's rise to economic and currency supremacy, sees the world as a game of *Risk*, and is making his move, taking his country with him, in an attempt to prevent that from happening. Furthermore, his willingness to "bet the farm" is clearly evident in that he will pursue existing plans to place a permanent base on the moon, but is adding the addition of a base (safe haven?) on Mars as a survival bolt-hole if things really turn ugly on Earth. To achieve those goals, he desperately needs either the Canadian or Greenlandian resources.

But those only represent the whys on the surface!

Basically, Trump wants to play hardball and doesn't want to leave any territory that could be used as a launchpad against the U.S. in foreign hands. Trump has talked about U.S. Military going after cartels in Mexico, because he wants to clean up Mexico, likely in anticipation of acquiring *that* territory as well. How far south could his vision take him? *Visions of a "Modern Roman Empire"*? Who knows? But adding those territories will create the buffer zone that the "Iron Curtain" countries provided to the U.S.S.R.: land that can be *sacrificed* to prevent ground-based aggression on the heartland itself!

Getting back to the instigation for this "deep-dive", what is the outcome of this tariff war? **Pure chaos** ... **on a widespread scale!** And what did we say earlier about focusing everybody's attention on what you want them to look at?

Well, from that chaos, people and businesses will be so massively disrupted that **people will find themselves in a purely survival mode!** How could it result in anything else? The majority are already living "on the edge" with barely affordable food, lodgings or mortgages, without mentioning that too large a fraction of personal/corporate credit cards are bumping against their ceilings on a regular basis!

The general population won't be able to afford the time, or effort, it takes to go looking for the news. They will *opt for the easy route* of continuing to follow their previously-chosen social media channels, to which they have developed an unstinting loyalty because past history showed them they reliably told them what they *wanted* to hear. To put it another way, they will succumb, unwittingly, to the seductive ways of social media, drowning out the "voice of thoughtful discourse and reason" offered by traditional news channels. The propagandists have worked long and hard to work those multiple channels, often having diverging views on a host of issues, getting the various groups subliminally "enslaved" to those channels, so that they could then begin to "migrate" the viewpoints of those disparate communities towards a even-closer shared view, portraying the "world-view" according to the Trump administration.

That is when they will have the noose around everyone's neck, in such a way that they will no longer be able to recognize that something, which is being done in **their** name, **is just plain wrong!** 

To some extent, this has already happened! Three glaring events have occurred:

• **Trump did not have his hand on the bible** during the swearing-in ceremony. The first President to do so! That act is **pregnant** with meaning and *speaks volumes about his devotion to the Constitution of the U.S.* It also reveals, more than anything else, to all those of the

Christian Right that they have been hoodwinked by this new President's lies and propaganda. Yes, there are precedents ... but what does it say when did so for his first term, but does not feel that need to do so for his second term. Is it because he feels he no longer needs to accommodate anyone because he has what he wanted?

- Trump wants to institute a pledge of loyalty to him, personally! All government employees take an oath of service to the Constitution; not the person. The loyalty is given to the role or position, and NEVER to the person, because of the possibility of corruption. Treason can happen at any level, because it is a human failing. But then again, what do you expect from a convicted felon who beats the system to become President! Loyalty to the person is "Mob Loyalty", akin to the Mafia's Omertà. This is a sign of a slippery slope towards an inner circle that is not exposed to the critical eye of the remainder of the Government. Trump is already showing his true colours in trying to set himself above the Constitution. He only wants to surround himself with people who will blindly follow him, never stopping even for an instant to question whether they should, or should not, do what is being asked. There is nothing more sinister, or Hitler-like, than to institute a requirement for such a pledge, when the context is a democratic institution, such as the Presidency! George Washington himself saw no need for such and, most likely, would have spoken against any such act.
- **Both Trump and Milania have established their own crypto-currencies!** Going into office, a new President is directed by the process to divest of all personal involvement in matters commercial to prevent abuse of privilege. Well, if there is one thing we know about the Trump clan, it is ALL about the money and control. In his view, he now has the control, as President to do as he pleases. Let there be no doubt about that. But now he wants to profit from that, by having a mechanism to receive "kickbacks" in exchange for decision-making that will be favourable to individual parties. Here again, the Christian Right got it completely wrong. Let's call those kickbacks for what they really are, by their statutory legal name: bribes! But since bribes are illegal, he and his wife have given themselves the tools to circumvent, as he plans to do with everything else, the constraints imposed by sound minds after much deliberation and compromise, over the history of the country. And contrary to the intent for formation of such crypto-currencies, it is **not** about how much its value will rise over time, so much as **how well it can prevent making the linkage between a bribe and a Presidential decision.** This is clearly spelled out in an article published January 25, 2025, by UK's **The Guardian**.

There will be need to ensure that people on the street "don't stray from the straight and narrow" in regards to how Trump wants things to be. So, over the next little while, keep your eyes peeled for the a first wave of "goon squad" being formed into "Citizen protection" groups, along the lines of Hitler's **Brownshirts**. Any doubts that such will happen can cast aside by the fact that Trump openly stated on January 1, 2025, that **there could be a place in American politics for the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers!** Those will likely grow into a social menace, nation-wide. The state of affairs, under Pinochet (Chile) and Perón (Argentina), are not that far off in history, nor is the fact that the CIA had a hand in facilitating those regimes for U.S. interests.

That will set the stage for the second wave of "goon squad", à la paramilitary *Schutzstaffel* (Nazi SS), which will take things to a whole other level, while giving the appearance of coming in to "clean up" the mess brought on by those "Citizen protection" groups. Citizens won't balk, thinking that they are meant, on the surface, to make things better, when in fact the exact opposite will be true.

Those will set the stage for the final phase:

• removing the guardrails (or as he likely views them, handcuffs) of Government!

At first, many of the Representatives and Senators of the Republican Party will kowtow to the President, mistakenly thinking that facilitating his demands will ensure that their own demands will be granted! They ignore the fact that Trump learned one important lesson from the Asians:

- Keep relationships transactional.
- Maximize benefits for yourself at each transaction.
- Don't give, but offer bait of gifts, to keep them submissive to your demands.
- Don't rely on promises of future considerations, because those are all empty promises. If you were "stupid" enough to bank on such promises, "that's your problem, not mine!" "I got what I wanted; I'm not obligated to give you anything more to get what I want!"

They will discover to their horror, too late to do anyone any good, that they have been had.

So, some questions that need answers are:

- Can any American Citizen be **arrested on Presidential Order**, regardless of the protections offered by the Constitution ?
- Can any American Citizen be **assassinated/killed on Presidential Order**, regardless of the protections offered by the Constitution ?

It might be a good time for people to review what came out during the **Nuremberg Trials**, regarding the slippery slope of "*doing what you were ordered to do*", and the finding by that Panel of Judges that such an order does not negate individual responsibility to refuse what is now recognized internationally as an "illegal order"! However, the vaguely worded and long-outdated 1792 Insurrection Act appears to leave the door open to potential abuse by the President.

The only potential saving grace, would be each soldier's Oath of Service which includes:

- "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.", and
- "follow orders ... according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice"

We already know, from Trump's own words (<u>CNN article</u>, <u>PBS article</u>, <u>Just Security article</u>), that he plans to test/push the limits of what can be done using U.S. Military to address the "domestic" reference in the Oath of Service. Once that door is opened, we *know* that "all bets are off!"

Which, unfortunately puts the weight of "the buck stops here" for "pulling the trigger" squarely on the individual soldier who has the least to gain, and the most to lose, from refusing such illegal orders! It boils down to what each soldier perceives, individually, to be a legal order. We know from history that such is far to prone to context and the individual's willingness to act on his perception of the fallibility of his superiors! The following article from www.military.com is very illuminating, and an urgent call to legislators to act before things get out of hand!

• What happens if the President Issues a Potentially Illegal Order to the Military?

More food for thought ...

If an emergency was declared, say Capital Hill was destroyed by some unknown act, would *all* surviving members of the two Houses be entitled to a place at the governing table (in the PEOC. Mount Weather, Cheyenne Mountain or elsewhere), or is it only a select few, chosen by the President, who vetoed the names of the admission list to those who gave their oath of personal allegiance? And for those who think that is too far fetched, history has shown, on two separate occasions, that tyranny rises from the "casting aside" of the democratic structures:

- Rome's *appointment* of Julius Ceasar as Dictator, only to have him ignore the limits of his designated mandate and *appointing himself dictator in perpetuity* (hints of things to come?).
- Hitler's propaganda machine and undercover agents manipulated a Dutch loner to set fire to the German Government buildings, the Reichstag, using that event as a launchpad to coerce enactment of *laws that began to oppress the people of Germany* (alternate link).

If that is too far fetched, imagine a future where everyone on Capital Hill and on the Supreme Court is under threat of assassination, unless they comply with the new President's wishes. The U.S. would find itself in exactly the same situation that is dominating Russia today. *Not a pleasant thought!* 

As a final thought for all those on the Christian Right who let themselves be blinded by the consistent stream of lies that come from the man's mouth, a man whose every behaviour is so non-Christian, *I* dare to suggest ...

The Prophesied Anti-Christ Has Arrived! Nobody is safe!