



# ALL THE WAY DOWN:

HOW OUR LEADERS  
ARE TAKING OUR  
NATION TO DEPTHS  
KNOWN OVER A  
CENTURY AGO

Allan Rodgers

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Depths Known Over a Century Ago.**

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arodgers08@comcast.net  
November 2025

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# THE NEW YORKER



*New Yorker* Cover by Barry Blitt

## CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Welcome, readers, to my 12th annual book commenting on current events. As before, I have three major objectives with these books.

- Criticize the activities and beliefs of extreme right wingers.
- Suggest ways to improve our democracy.
- Make fun of right wingers through satires, puns and other observations

This year, the right wingers have “flooded the zone” (their words) with so many outrageous actions and statements that it is nearly impossible to keep track of them, not to say understand them. I collect documents during the year that might be cited in my book. They number nearly 1000 for this one. It is then a prodigious job to sort through them and select which to use. That has led me to be selective in what I discuss. In many cases I merely cite articles by others that address these topics with the detail they deserve

The names of the books already published and how to get copies are listed at the end of this book under the heading, About the Author. The chapters cover more discreet topics that are important to learn about in depth. The Acknowledgement section of the Introduction lists the many individuals and sources I have relied upon and trust. Chapter 2 is where I satirize Trump and Musk. Included in this chapter is a compilation of Trump mock executive orders (he calls them odors because they stink) by my brother, David. Chapter 3, by far the longest, describes how Donald Trump and Elon Musk have ruined our country. Chapter 4 catalogs those who are fighting back and what activities have promise to turn things around. Chapter 5 focuses on establishment institutions such as prestigious universities; large law firms; and the media Trump has targeted with funding cuts and restrictions, and what these targets are doing (or not doing) to resist Trump. Chapter 6 covers Trump’s major victim, immigrants, and he admits that he demonizes them to keep his supporters in line. Chapter 7 explains what Trump has done with tariffs and how they are bound to backfire on the country. Chapters 8 and 9 are like those with which I have ended my recent books: Short Takes and Good News.

There are several major topics I have decided not to cover in detail because they are overwhelming. These are the 2024 federal election, the Congressional Budget Reconciliation Act, much of foreign policy, the crypto craze and the many horrendous

things that go on under the radar. Instead, I list some quotes and articles that describe these tactics in much more detail than I can hope to do

"No matter how cynical, it's almost impossible to keep up". Lily Tomlin, quoted in Jim Hightower's 4/5/25 newsletter.

"Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable" John F Kennedy, quoted in The Lever email of 12/1/24

Outstanding comments from others.

I rely on many other opinions for my observations about what is going on. Here are some of the most outstanding of these that give a continuing overview of what we should heed.

Ralph Nader - Trump's lying produces deadly, costly and soon, calamity on us. Progressive Populist of 7/25/25

Dana Milbank-The bully gets punched for the nose - Progressive Populist of 7/25/25

Robert Reich - This is fascism 7/3/25 email

David Corn Our Land- July 4 Reflection 7/4/25 email

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute: MLRI responds to historic federal cuts to SNAP and Medicaid. 7/4/25 email

Christopher Cook. America's Worst Legislation" Trump's horrific, harmful, horrendous bill and our future. 7/3/25 email

Representative Alexandria Ocasio- Cortez; In a fiery speech, Ocasio- Cortez rips GOP budget bill as a "deal with the devil". Common Dreams email of 7/2/25

Representative Ilhan Omar: House approved bill is "one of the most catastrophic pieces of legislation in modern history." Common Dreams email of 7/3/25

Common Dreams: Trump Social Security Chief applauds budget bill that will cut Social Security finances. Email of 7/4/25

Heather Cox Richardson email of 7/5/25: summarizing the budget reconciliation law.

Tom Englehardt: Donald J. Trump, President of Bankruptcy and Decline. 4/8/25 email

Common Dreams: Is the US on the path to becoming a fascist state? 6/9/25 email

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First, I want to thank my printer, AlphaGraphics of Watertown. They assembled the pieces of the book that I gave them, made printed copies and mailed them to those who want them in paper form. They also sent me an electronic copy, which I forward in that form to those who ask for it. AlphaGraphics has produced all 13 of my books. I appreciate their essential help.

I rely on many sources for the articles in this book. I cite them when I refer to their work. Here are some of the most prominent, in three different categories.

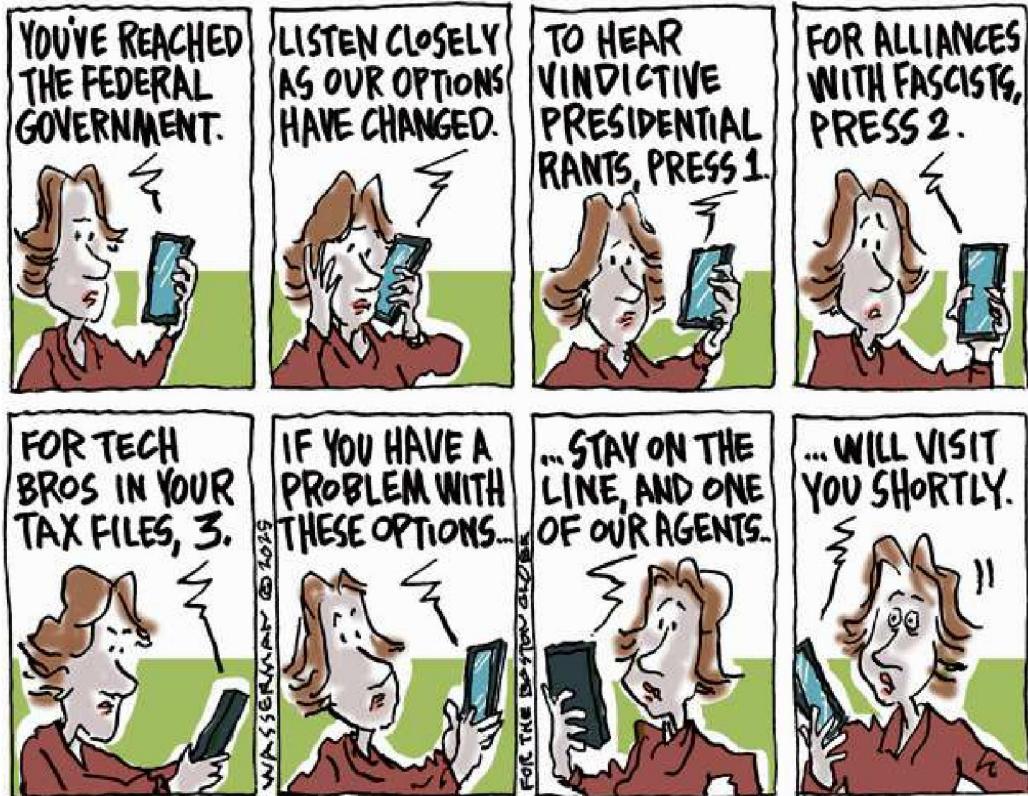
A Friends and Relations	The Atlantic
Gale Halpern	Boston Globe
David K Rodgers	Brennan Center for Justice
Judy Summersby	Common Dreams
Mary Tracy	In These Times
B Journalists	Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights
David Corn -Our Land	Mother Jones
Thom Hartmann	The Nation
Jim Hightower	The New Yorker
Robert Reich	The Progressive Populist
Heather Cox Richardson	The Progressive
C Publications	Public Citizen
ACLU Report	The Guardian

There are many other publications and individuals who provide information and opinions on these subjects. It's heartening to see so many of these.

I dedicate this book to my colleagues, past and present, at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute. These include staff, board members and law students. They are an amazing group, capable and dedicated to representing poor people and members of other disfavored groups. In 2013, I self-published a history of MRI's work during the time I was Executive Director for some 40 years. It's called RapUps of a Retired Reformer. MLRI alums have gone on to serve in many capacities, including judges (two justices of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court), law professors, government officials and leaders of other legal services programs. We have helped create a nationwide legal movement and it is still going strong.

CHAPTER 2.  
HUMOR AS PUN-ISHMENT:  
THE RIGHT WING HATES TO BE MADE FUN OF

DAN WASSERMAN



*Boston Globe Cartoon of 2/26/25 Drawn by Dan Wasserman.*

You'll note that in my books I use extensive plays on words to emphasize my beliefs. You may wonder where that comes from. "It puns in the family". Starting with our father and mother, our meals together were full of witticisms and good humor. That trend has been carried on by my two sisters, my brother and me. Some of our relatives did not get with the program and professed that they did not enjoy the humor. It may be that those who do not concoct these remarks do not appreciate those who do. One of my college roommates, Arthur Allen, used to say that he enjoyed his puns because he made them up.

Trump and Musk are lucrative targets for puns and other forms of humor. They hate them, just as if they hate anyone who does not agree with their opinions. Instead, they try to destroy everything they hate. As forwarded to me by Judy Summersby, Elon Musk and others founded a faux group that destroyed many of the outstanding programs of the federal government: Deranged Oligarchs Getting Everything, Common Grounds email of 4/10/25.

I suggest a coordinated approach which uses humor to confront Trump and Musk when they speak in public. This involves putting together a program which I will call Laugh- Out, a play on the name of the Laugh-In TV program which was very popular in the 1980s. People in many parts of the country should organize their own Laugh-Out program that would include a local group attending a rally or speech by Trump or Musk and in the middle of a speech start laughing. If possible, the process would be triggered by someone who has a particularly infectious laugh. The group would keep on laughing until either the speaker gave up, or law enforcement tried to arrest or evict the group. If the latter happened, it would be important for those apprehended to challenge those actions in court. It would be a goal to help produce court opinions that laughter is protected free speech, which I think it surely is.

To illustrate that this idea has resonance elsewhere as well, the Progressive Populist had a cartoon in its 2/15/25 issue, entitled Executive Odors. U.S Representative Alexandria Ocosio-Cortez recently wrote about how the right wing hates to be made fun of. She encourages us to laugh at them whenever we have the chance.

Many writers have made fun of Trump and Musk by employing humorous critiques of them. One of my favorites is Dana Milbank, a Washington Post journalist who has an article in every nearly issue of the Progressive Populist. On the second to last page of the 5/1/ 2025 issue, he has a hilarious piece relating how Trump can deport all those migrant predators at the National Zoo.

The best satirist in our family is my brother, David. He has long been a cultural critic for the state in which he lives, Vermont. David has produced many faux Trump executive orders, which he calls executive odors because they stink. They have been published in the regional newspaper, The Hardwick Gazette. Set forth below are the four sets of odors published so far, on April 1 (April Fool's Day, you'll note), June 11, June 18 and September 10 of this year. David's short bio is here. David K. Rodgers was born in Rochester, NY (1942), attended the Loomis School and Yale University, was in the Peace Corps in India for two years and went to architecture school at the University of Pennsylvania. His main work has been as a mason, a reviewer of arts for a local paper and as a collector. He lives in East Craftsbury, Vermont.

# Faux Gnus Presents: Some Executive Odors (sic) by President-for-Life© Trump That You May Have Missed:

by David K. Rodgers

#7,891 I approve the sale of Donald Trump to Elon Musk for 240 +/- million dollars and as a consequence of this merger, I have changed my name to Elon Trump and he has correspondingly revised his name to Donald Musk. It turns out that according to DNA tests we are actually identical twins separated at birth.

#2,918 Change all currency (coins and paper) to have President-for-Life© Elon Trump's profile on them (as well as all postage stamps), and the phrase In God We Trust should be changed to In Trump We Trust.

#6,352 Require all cities, towns and villages to erect a statue of the Fearless Leader© in a prominent place at their expense.

#10,589 My birthday will become a national holiday.

#7,025 Make Vladimir Putin's birthday a national holiday.

#51,702 Change the name of Washington, D.C. to Trumpville.

#53,179 Deport my lovely wife Melanoma back to wherever she came from for refusing to join me on the campaign trail in the 2024 election.

#9,215 Anyone who mentions the fact that the Fearless Leader© is incontinent and wears Depends will be sent to jail for life without a trial.

#1,738 The singing of "Trumpty Dumpty Sat On A Wall" in public or private will be punished by summary execution.

#2,071 Tear down the Statue of Liberty.

#5,271 Repeal the 13th Amendment and re-enslave all people of Afro-American descent, so we can compete better with China for having free labor.

#10,853 Repeal the Amendment limiting the Presidency to two terms.

#4,283 Repeal the clause in the Constitution that allows for the dismissal of any President that is insane.

#83,256 Repeal the clause in the Bill of Rights that bars "cruel and unusual punishment."

#102,539 Reverse Brown versus Board of Education and let the states decide about segregation.

#41,803 Bar all future elections.

#9,075 Change the name of the Supreme Court to the Supreme Corpse, since now they have no function except to rubber stamp my executive odors (sic).

#5,028 There will be absolutely no dissent allowed in the Republican Party, which will be the only legal political party.

#2,081 Donald Musk will be appointed to a new position in the executive branch of government, entitled President-for-Vice.

#2,961 Everyone will be required to buy a Tesla and a one-way ticket to Mars, or you will be ineligible to vote. All other vehicles will be banned after January 1, 2026.

#76,901 Reintroduce public executions, using local sports stadiums. Profits from the ticket sales will go to the many Trump charities.

#67,034 Give Alaska back to Russia.

#53,157 Require all cats to be licensed at \$10,000 each to discourage cat ladies.

#17,250 Make Israel the 51st State.

#3,192 Change rape to a misdemeanor.

#8,509 Men will be banned from exposing the nipples on their chests in public or private and will be required to wear bras, lest people think they are transgendered, with a fine of \$100,000 for any violation.

#14,723 Annex Greenland and float it to Gaza to provide water as it melts for the grass of Elon Trump's golf courses and for the Mediterranean shore front properties of billionaire oligarchs.

#100,000,000 President-for-Death© Trump can use nuclear weapons against all enemies, foreign or domestic.

*Brought to you by the Democracy Demolition Derby©, the Neo-Barbarians©, the Gundamentalists for War© and the Aryans Für Die Fuehrer©.*

# FAUX GNUS

DAVID K. RODGERS

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## Executive Orders To Expect Soon

Faux Gnus Presents More Malodorous Executive Odors (sic) from the (Some Cards Missing) deck (sic) of the Oval Orifice (sic) in the Whites Only House of President-for-Life-Trump.

CRAFTSBURY – #51,037. Build a wall along the U.S.-Canadian border to prevent white Americans from escaping from this country.

#2,691. Require all school children to say 2,000 "Heil Trumps" at the beginning and end of each day.

"Heil Trump, Full of(expletive deleted), Blessed is the fruit of thy Goons."

#9,257. Annex Panama and blow up the isthmus with nuclear bombs so that ships can go directly from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific.

#35,609. Change the National Anthem to "Trump Uber Alles" (sung in German).

#102,473. Build a Trump National Monument on the Mall taller than the Washington Monument.

#59,728. Establish an old age home for criminally insane politicians.

#3,196. Make January 6 National Attack the Police Day.

#5,709. Any use of lie detectors is forbidden.

#115,721. All blue haired/ blonde eyed boys between the ages of 3 and 21 will join Trump Youth.

#3,845. All Republicans in the

Senate and House of Representatives will be required to undergo a simple operation, called M.E. (Moral Eunuchification), with the exception of those who never had any morality.

#91,503. There will be no tariffs on anything imported that is marked MAGA or TRUMP.

#7,326. The American flag will be redesigned with a circle of stars (51) around a large T in the blue area.

#20,480. The Presidential Seal will be changed to a fan of playing cards indicating a trump hand.

#5,174. Everyone will be required to take a test to determine who are the winners or losers and all the losers will be deported.

#1,359. Donald Musk's birthday will become a national holiday.

#23,051. All golf courses will become the property of Trump Turf.

#9,375. The children of liberals will be separated from their parents and sent to re-education camps.

#271,360. The official motto of King Donald The Last will be, "After Me, the \_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank) will hit the fan!"

#32,763. The Supreme Corpse will issue a decision that the Executive branch of government does not have to obey the Judicial branch, including the Supreme Corpse itself.

#19,308. All funds in the

Social Security System will be invested in the stock market in Trump and Musk companies.

#276,509. The Seven Deadly Sins will be repealed; Morality is for losers.

#90,138. The Ten Commandments will be suspended for President-for-Life Trump, because he is above any laws.

Brought to you by the Banana Republicans, the 2025 Friendly Fascism Project, Nails in the Coffin of Democracy, Mindless Puppets of Fox News, Immunity = Impunity, 1984 + 40, the Trumpenstein Corporation, the Kook Brothers and Endless Evil.

And remember: "Every day is April Fools Day!"

# FAUX GNUS

DAVID K. RODGERS

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## More Executive Orders To Expect Soon

by David K. Rodgers

Faux Gnus Presents More Malodorous Executive Odors (sic) from the (Some Cards Missing) deck (sic) of the Oval Orifice (sic) in the Whites Only House of President-for-Life-Trump.

CRAFTSBURY – #101,728. Take a Billionaire-to-Lunch Program: Everyone earning less than a million dollars a year will be required to take a billionaire oligarch to lunch once a week at the most expensive restaurant in the area.

#53,907. Since transgendered kids playing sports and using bathrooms is the most important problem facing this nation today, I am declaring a National Emergency, suspending the Constitution and banning all future elections.

#2,931. Make a Constitutional Amendment preventing transgendered kids from using any bathrooms, public or private.

#98,503. Ban all news media except Fox Noose (sic), Truth Social and Musk's X.

#703,295. Anyone who laughs at President-for-Life Trump, in public or private, will immediately be arrested and sent to El Salvador. A special Laugh Police will enforce this through the Surveillance State.

#2,063. Anyone drawing short mustaches on pictures of the Friendly Fuhrer will be sent to a concentration camp.

#701,395. Everyone will be required to have a copy of Mein Kampf on their bedside table. Aryan women who have a dozen or more Aryan children will get a substantial monetary award and a gold (plated) medal.

#173,296. No one can tell me what to wear to a funeral!

#5,602. Any company or organization that gets money from the Federal Government must remove all = (equal) signs from their mathematical equations.

#207,536. The Surveillance State (S.S.) will henceforth monitor all cell phone and computer activity through the Thought Police and the new office of the Grand Inquisitor.

#507,913. The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) will be renamed the Klueless Klutz Klan, now that Donald Musk, President-for-life No. 2 has left.

#173,852. All officers arresting immigrants and enemies of the Fearless Leader will wear masks, black clothing without identification and use unmarked vehicles.

#995,073. A new edition of the Old and New Testament will be printed, called the Trump Bible (The Revised Standard Perversion),

taking out all the woke words like love, peace, compassion, charity, etc., and previous editions will be confiscated and burned.

#729,853. Change MAGA to MRGA (Make Russia Great Again).

#217,304. Give the Presidential Meddle (sic) of Honor to the Heritage Foundation for its 2025 Friendly Fascism Project.

#50,738. All future taxes and expenses owed to the Federal Government will have to be paid with Trump Family Cryptocurrency.

Brought to you by the Banana Republicans, the 2025 Friendly Fascism Project, Nails in the Coffin of Democracy, Mindless Puppets of Fox News, Immunity = Impunity, 1984 + 40, the Trumpenstein Corporation, the Kook Brothers and Endless Evil.

And remember: "Every day is April Fools Day!"

## Even more malodorous executive odors (sic) by President-for-life Trump

by David K. Rodgers

#201,795 - Sculptors will immediately begin carving my face on Mount Rushmore.

#759,361 - American citizens returning from abroad with any items critical of President-for-Life Trump on their cell phones or computers will be denied entry at the border.

#937,205 - There will be strict monthly quotas for arresting immigrants (legal or illegal) by ICE officers to meet, and those that fail to meet them will be deported.

#531,917 - There will be a Loyalty Oath, which all Americans must sign pledging never to question the absolute authority of President-for-Life Trump, and anyone who refuses to sign will be deported to prisons in South Sudan.

#387,258 - South Sudan will become the 56th state, after Israel (51), El Salvador (52), North Korea (53), Russia (54) and Qatar (55).

#764,867 - Repeal all government regulation of corporations, at both the federal and state level.

#73,081 - Since Musk has betrayed me and failed to be completely loyal to the Supreme Leader Trump, I will reverse our first name exchange (see Executive Order (sic) #7,891) and have him deported to South Africa.

#2,318,795 - Move the United States capitol to Mar-a-Lago, Florida.

#309,752 - President-for-Life Trump will write a new U.S. Constitution eliminating the legislative and judicial branches of government, giving all power to the executive branch.

#835,961 - Steven Miller will become head of a new cabinet position entitled the Department of Evil Ideas.

#193,057 - Anyone who says publicly or privately that I am the anti-Christ will be burned at the stake.

#283,915 - The "White House" will be renamed the "Whites Only House."

#471,290 - Future demonstrations against President-for-Life Trump will be banned and all participants will be deported to Russian prisons in Siberia.

#530,793 - The United States will be supplying Russia with drones, cruise missiles and other weapons to use in their "Special Military Operation" against Ukraine.

#726,305 - The United States will import Russian oil and gas tariff free.

#218,057 - The words "climate change," "global warming" etc. will be banned from all newspapers, magazines, radio, television and internet media.

#290, 531 - Children will be taught in school how to spy on their parents and report any disloyalty to the Supreme Leader and to the Supreme Violence Police for substantial financial rewards

#59,207 - Negative thoughts and even dreams at night about Demagogue-for-Life Trump are considered felony crimes and offenders will be arrested by the Thought Police of the Surveillance State and deported without trial.

#301,915 - My new book, "The Art of the Steal," shows how to destroy democracies and create ever-friendly dictatorships around the world and will become compulsory reading for all Americans. Periodic testing will uncover those who have met, read and memorized the lessons of this invaluable guide. Those who fail will be deported to one of the new states.

#376,729 - Any references to the Emperor's Nude Clothes will be punished to the full extent of secret laws.

#193,071 - The Big Beautiful Bill signed into law on July 4, 2025, demonstrated what the great German philosopher Goebbels said, which is that you can use democracy to destroy democracy. July 4 will become a double national holiday of celebration.

#261-735 - My inspiring autobiography, "Mein Life" (translated from German) will come out soon and be required to be purchased and read by all American citizens.

#702,481 - Anyone who asserts that I am running the federal government the way I ran my own businesses, i.e. into multiple bankruptcies, will be arrested and imprisoned for life.

#109,683 - Anyone who votes to impeach me will be summarily executed along with their families.

#793,105 - All the money collected by tariffs will go into my personal businesses.

#582,619 - Anyone who says I am in the terminal stage of syphilis will be deported to the moon, which will become the 58th state.

#157,092 - Make pedophilia a misdemeanor.

#902,673 - The Trump School of Business-As-Usual will soon publish my new book, "The Art of Multiple Bankruptcies," and it will become the Bible for corporate practices.

#137,501 - The United States will withdraw from the United Nations and force it to leave New York City.

#536,003 - Trump University will take over Harvard University.

#279,158 - The 32nd of January will become National Mafia Manners day to celebrate my New York City mentors.

#530,961 - There will be a Presidential Pardon for all pedophiles, including myself.

#209,731 - All laws against hate speech will be annulled.

#973,018 - Everyone living in the United States, except myself, both legal and illegal residents as well as foreigners, will have a barcode tattoo on their foreheads to ensure ready identification by the Surveillance Police.

#231,705 - The United States Postal Service will be privatized and all stamps will feature a portrait of President-for-Life Trump. Payments must be made using Trump Family crypto-currency.

#710,932 - It is forbidden for Whites to get tanned lest they be mistaken for one of those other races by the Surveillance Police.

#291,603 - Victor Orban of Hungary will receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for showing the Republican Party how to systematically destroy democracy and establish a dictatorship.

Sponsored by Political Cowards-for-Trump, Phony Christians-for-Trump, Conservative Stink Tanks, Fascists-for-Father Figures, Sycophants for Trump, Thugs for Theocracy, The Supreme Psychopaths Third Term Campaign, Robots-for-Trump, The National Fleabites Foundation, Proud Bigots-for-Trump, Lets-Put-The-Fun-Back-In-Fundamentalism, Eunuchs-to-Power, Used-Casket-Salesmen-for-Trump, Endless-Evil, Old-Sadists-for-Trump, Spineless-Politicians-for-Trump, God-Is-On-Our-Sides-for-Trump and Demagogues-for-Trump.

And remember: Satire is fighting insanity with absurdity.

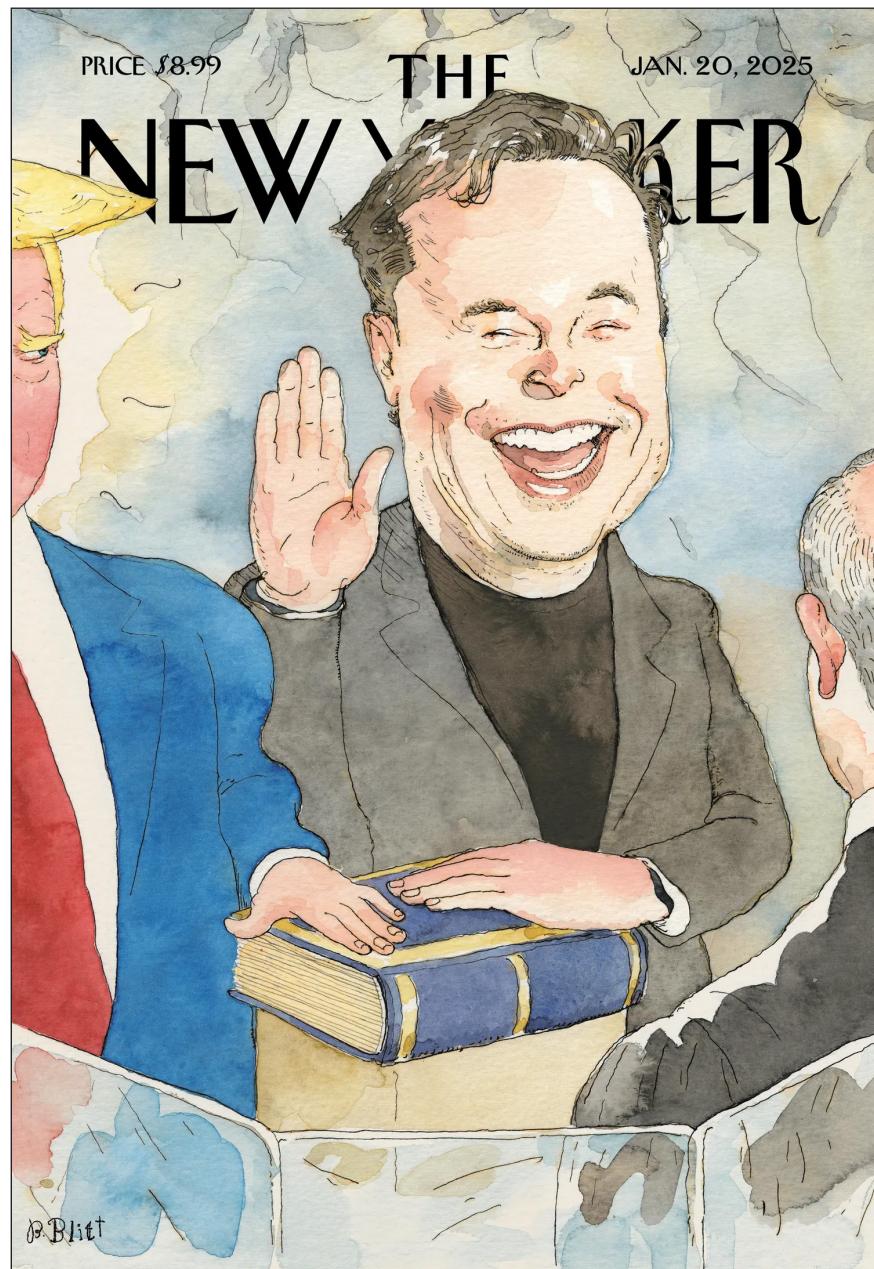
Here are more examples of satire and other humorous pieces aimed at Trump and Musk.

- a. Robert Reich has a caption contest every Sunday and his readers contribute comments on the drawing Reich presents. In his 6/23/25 email, he depicts Trump standing in an open space in the midst of anti-Trump signs on the ground. One of the comments said this: "We won't stop parading on his reign."
- b. Rose Sorensen has a satire in most issues of the Progressive Populist. In the July 2025 issue, she has a mock story complaining about a child psychologist who found that Trump has the intelligence of a 5-year-old and responds to tests similarly as does a cuttlefish.
- c. Robert Reich, in his 2/10/25 email, describes a spoof Nixon letter to Musk with fascist proclivities.
- d. Jim Hightower's 5/6/25 email report depicts Trump as a clown in an article headed: the big fool says to push one better yet, push back against him
- e. Jim Hightower, in his 5/8/25 email report, talks about: Amazing discovery, some Washington lobbyists have sludge for brains.
- f. My son John sent me a mock ad for a lawyer: Did your grocery store break a treat in half and try to pass it off as a whole treat? You may be entitled to compensation. Sounds like Trump would call this fake news.
- g. Jim Hightower's 5/27/25 email report: What starlings could teach Trump about government.
- h. Robert Reich's email of 4/1/25, Today on April 2, describes a Trump executive order with all months as 30 days long. Thus, April 1 is really April 2.
- i. Robert Reich email of 3/25/25: Contest to name things after Trump.
- j. Robert Reich 3/24/25 email. How to organize an "empty chair" town hall for your Republican representative.

- k. Among Trump's first actions upon becoming president was to dismiss the head of the Kennedy Center in Washington and replace all the members of its board. We wondered why he made this such a priority and what he wanted the Center to do. In the 3/24/25 New Yorker, Eddie Feldman and Bill Scheft give their spoof opinions about an updated Kennedy Center 2025 schedule.
- l. Jim Hightower's 3/18/25 email report asked and answered the following: Why is Trump such a scaredy cat about words?
- m. Jim Hightower issued a 3/13/25 report: "corporate morality" is a biblical oxymoron.
- n. In the 6/25/25 New Yorker, Benjamin Wallace- Wells wrote about Elon Musk's faux DOGE approach. Move fast and break things.
- o. Robert Reich, in his 8/30/24 email, wrote about Trump's inappropriate talk at the Arlington National Cemetery, calling Trump's speech GRATE
- p. Ralph Nader did a piece in the 8/31/24 Common Dreams email laying out the many nicknames Trump has accumulated: "Loser Donald" and forty other nicknames "Trump the Grifter" many like that. He also added to this in the August 2024 Progressive Populist: "Wrecking America and the purpose of nicknames for Trump"
- q. Tom Mela forwarded to me the Onion's satiric amicus brief in an appeal to the U.S .Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in a case involving immunity of law enforcement officials. The Court took the brief all too seriously and said it was actionable because it lacked a disclaimer that it was a parody
- r. The Boston Globe of 9/14/25 has a wonderful satire of the Trump administration's change in the name of the Department of Defense to the Department of War. By Peter Grosz. It takes the form of a press release from the Secretary War. Read it!

## CHAPTER 3. THE TRUMPETEERS AND MUSKETEERS: WHAT ARE THEY DOWN TO?

Here are many quotes and cartoons which portray Trump and Musk for what they really are.

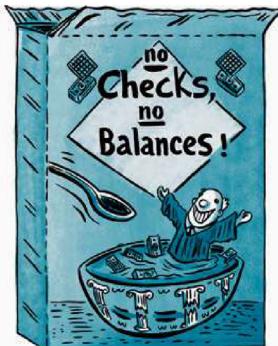


*New Yorker Cartoon Drawn by Barry Blitt*

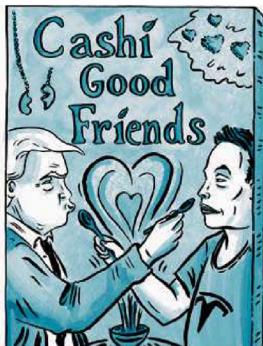
## Cereals for the new Trump administration

By Miriam Jayaratna and Ali Fitzgerald

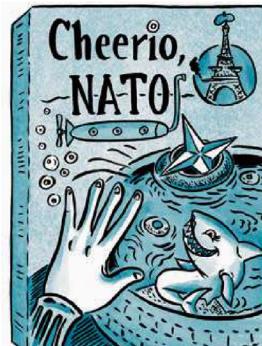
Rise and shine, America! You've probably heard that there's a new administration in town, but did you also know that it's part of a well-balanced breakfast? Here are the new cereals hitting the shelves on Jan. 20:



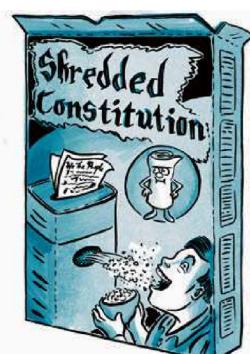
**No Checks, No Balances**  
Now fortified with 90 percent more corrupt Supreme Court justices.



**Cashi Good Friends**  
Just an ordinary guy and his first buddy who want what's best for their country.



**Cheerio, NATO**  
Wholesome, isolationist goodness in every bite.



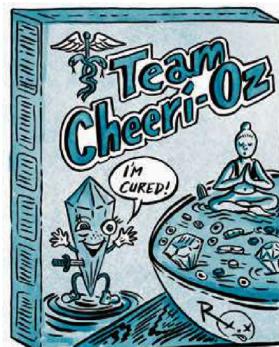
**Shredded Constitution**  
The sun may have set on democracy, but you can still rise and shine with these bite-sized pillows of fascism.



**Special RFKo**  
An all-natural choice with no toxins or fluoride and best paired with raw milk, these delicious flakes will worm their way into your heart.



**Dirty, Dirty Tricks**  
The cereal that convinced half the country to buy it even though it's completely toxic and anti-rabbit/child/human.



**Team Cheerioz**  
Fortified with 56 different supplements and the number 1 most recommended cereal by reiki healers.



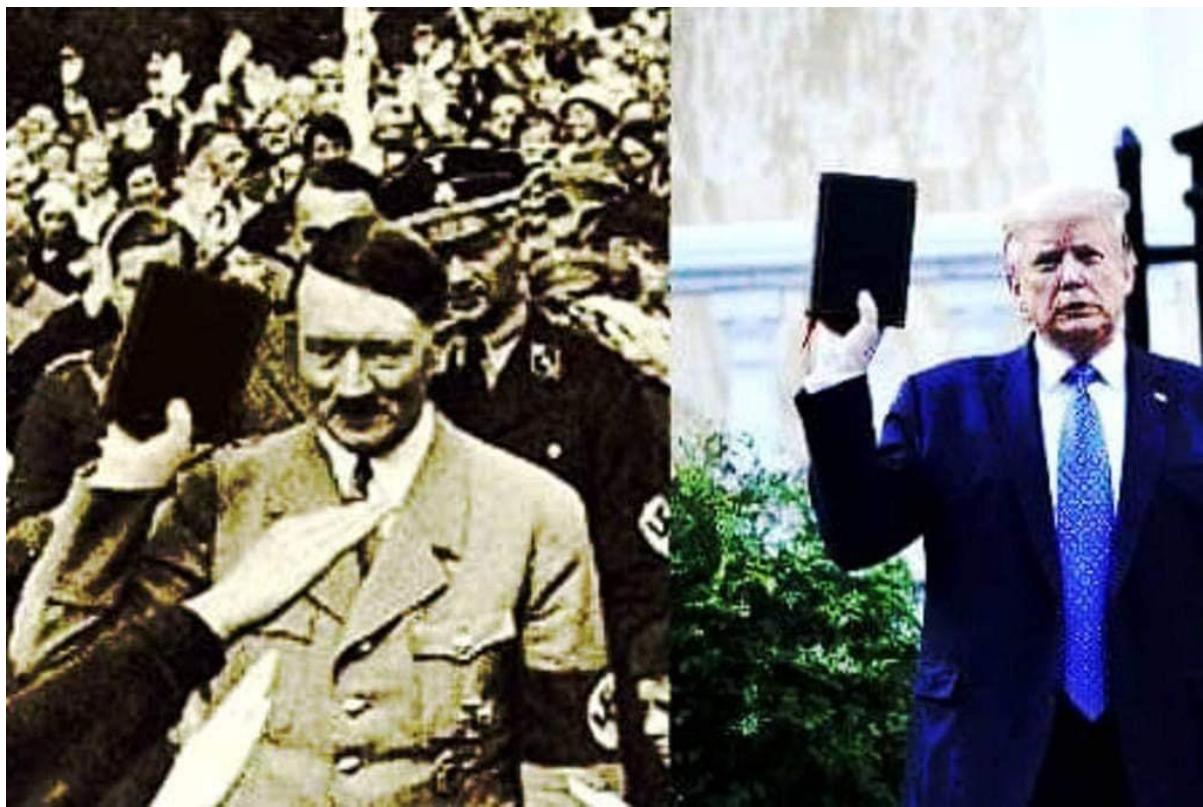
**All-Stan**  
Hear that crunch? This cereal erodes your backbone and replaces all your cherished principles with fealty to the Supreme Leader.

*Miriam Jayaratna is a clinical psychologist and writer. Ali Fitzgerald is an artist and author living in Paris.*

*Cereals for the New Trump Administration*



*What to do About a Tinpot Dictator: 7/8/25 cartoon by Robert Reich.*



4/21/25- Trump Standing beside Hitler. Sent to me by Judy Summersby.

Let's play a game.

Below are three quotes: one is from **Adolf Hitler**, one is **Benito Mussolini**, and one is from **Donald Trump** over the weekend.

*Can you tell which is which?*

**“He who saves his country does not violate any law.”**

**“The good of the state stands above the law.”**

**“Everything within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state.”**

*It's hard, right?*

**And that scares the \*\*\*\* out of us.** It shouldn't be difficult to tell between history's most brutal, despicable dictators and the president of America.

**P.S.** The first was Trump. The second was Hitler. And the third Was Mussolini.  
Scary, *isn't it?*

*Stand Up PAC email of 2/15/25. Comparing Quotes from Trump. Hitler and Mussolini*

PRICE \$9.99

THE

SEPT. 29, 2025

# THE NEW YORKER



B.  
Blitt

*New Yorker* cover drawn by Barry Blitt



*Is Trump Boxed in or Boxed Out? Brazilian Cartoon sent to me by Mary Tracy*

“Wherever Law Ends, Tyranny Begins”, John Locke. Quoted in Rohde, Where Tyranny Begins, 2024.

(Quote: Some of you may die, but that's a sacrifice I'm willing to make” Lord Farquand, quoted in U.S. Senator Chris Murphy's email of 4/25/24)

(Quote: “To Know Him is to Loathe him”. From People for the American Way's Trumpastrophe of 10/27/24.)

“The only stock that Donald Trump should be allowed to own is laughingstock.”

Allan Rodgers

## A. General Comments

Since January 20 of this year this country had been ruled by two very sick men. The 2024 election was a shock to many of us who could not understand how voters would support such an unqualified candidate. There are many theories about how this happened. The most authoritative study of the numbers I have seen was created by the Pew Research Center in June of 2025. it concludes that the most likely telling factor in Trump's victory was the increased votes he got with certain groups, compared with his performance in the 2020 election. These groups normally voted for Democrats but this time for Trump by larger margins: people of color, Hispanics, women and younger voters. See also the Boston Globe article of 6 / 27 / 25 on the report issued by Pew. These conclusions and another look at the numbers convinced the Liberal Patriot largely to concur in an email article of 7/15/25.

Musk came out of almost nowhere to the attention of the public when he formed a group, called the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE. Not an entity or formally part of the federal government. Its recruits swarmed in swiftly and terminated the employment of many federal agency employees. It operated in a totally chaotic way, with agents chiefly characterized by their ignorance of the agencies they were destroying. Musk and Trump had a falling out in the spring of 2025, but most of the destructive actions remain in effect.

I've been renaming DOGE by reversing its letters, or EGOD. That suggests agents and supporters think they are part of a higher calling. Another variation, to represent that exclamation point people think of when they learn about them, is EGAD.

I spend the rest of this chapter exploring in more detail what Trump and Musk and

their collaborators have done and their consequences. First on my list are some of the more inciteful observations that I have seen.

- a. Heather Cox Richardson, in her 11/24/25 email, right after the 2024 election, explores Trump's claim of a "landslide", writing that this really was a very close election and it was a misleading excuse for all of the efforts he was already making to consolidate his power and to do whatever he wanted.
- b. Thom Hartmann, in his 10/18/24 email, asked: "How vicious a second Trump Presidency would be? Let me walk you through it."
- c. The Guardian report on 12/1/24: The deep historical focus that explains Trump's win. Sent to me by Judy Summersby.
- d. Robert Reich's email of 5/29/25: The reemergence of Social Darwinism
- e. Robert Reich: email of 10/7/24: How did the GOP become the party of cranks, crackpots and fruitcakes?
- f. Robert Reich, in his email of 10/1/24: The 101 worst things about Trump's shambolic presidency.
- g. Heather Cox Richardson's report of 1/15/25: Special Counsel Jack Smith's final report on his investigation of January 6th, 2021, capital riot.
- h. David Corn's Our Land report of 11/26/24: A bad formula for democracy: voter ignorance and media fragmentation.
- i. Robert Reich's email of 2/20/25: the tariffs Trump-Vance-Musk advance are to keep the world safe for oligarchy
- j. Dana Milbank's article in the 4/1/25 Progressive Populist: In just three days, Trump has set the country back nearly 100 years
- k. A Foreign Policy in Focus article by John Feffer: Elon Musk's new far right Nazi party for America. It's the opposite of Trump, who was interested only in building a vehicle for his own self advancement. Musk is far more dangerous.
- l. Euromaidan Teacher Press has a 3/5/25 article by Craig Unger, detailing the 40-year history of the Russian KGB cultivating Trump. This includes Trump's financial transactions in which Russian oligarchs bailed Trump's businesses out by making large loans that other financial institutions would not touch,

and the development of a Trump- Putin connection which started when Putin headed the KBG. I've long thought that these are the missing pieces in the story of how Trump rose to power and why he is so partial to Putin today.

- m. Robert Reich continues his long-standing harsh criticism of Trump in his 4/24/25 email: Trump is incapable of governing. That's the theme that unites everything – ineptitude, comic corruption, stupidity, and chaos.

## B. Sickneses

Since January 20 of this year our nation has been ruled by two very sick men. Some evidence of this has already come to light, but I think there is much more we don't know about this subject. Let's start with Trump from the time he first came to our attention as a possible elected official. He has displayed bizarre actions and talks that led many to doubt his sanity. I described in my 2024 book several talk show interviews with psychiatrists about Trump's behavior. They make clear that they had not examined Trump, nor were they experts in the medical fields that might apply to Trump. But based on their observations of Trump's talks at rallies and in social media messages, they believe that Trump is suffering from severe mental illness. Around the same time, Trump had a physical exam. His doctor said that he had sound health for a person of his age and background. Trump himself crowed that he was a very healthy man.

Recently, there were news reports that Trump is suffering from a badly swollen ankle and bruises. His physician reported that the condition was typical of older men. Again, Trump bragged that he continued to be in good health. But hold on. Swollen and bruised ankles can be symptoms of serious conditions. For example, they can lead to the formation of blood clots which migrate to other organs and can be serious or fatal. Another serious condition from swollen ankles is possible abdominal aorta swelling. If the walls of the artery burst, a person has a 6% chance of living. I had expanded abdominal arteries myself. Fortunately, my vascular surgeon discovered the condition and performed surgery by placing stents in the artery and in the arteries leading to my kidneys. That surgery took place in 2017, and things have been fine since then. For another story about possible risks to Trump's health. See the Left Action's 7/21/25 email asking that Trump's medical condition be investigated.

There are so many flaws in Trump's character and decision - making it is not possible for me to keep up with them. But some journalists have done a good job of doing so. In her daily report, Heather Cox Richardson tries to give a sense of what

this behavior might mean. It is like tracking a wild animal, she says. in her 5/27/25 email. She relates how in two major speeches he veered off into rambling monologues on various subjects. In his speech at West Point. he bad-mouthed the military for supposedly working on DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) programs and said: "The military's job is to dominate any foe and eliminate any threats.". Richardson also notes in her 6/17/25 report an article by Dan Blundell which says as follows: Donald Trump is very unwell: dementia, physical and mental problems and inadvertently mistaking his sources. It's a disaster concern for the Trump regime.

Here are some more examples of how Trump does not seem right.

- a. He is an inveterate conspiracy maven, making up nonsensical stories about others. An example is reported in the 6/2/25 Boston Globe story from the New York Times: Trump amplifies outlandish robot Biden conspiracy.
- b. He always takes steps to rage at and get revenge for any opposition story or slight. This is discussed by David Corn in his 3/11/25 Our Land report: Donald Trump, Revenge Junkie.
- c. Left Action's email of 9/28/25 is about Trump's debate with Kamala Harris: Trump said the audience "went crazy" for him. There was no such action. "He needs a mental capacity exam now"
- d. He greatly devalues women, especially those who disagree with him. Robert Reich has a 5/9/24 email: Trump's women problem"
- e. David Scharfenberg has an article in the 2/9/25 Boston Globe: Dealing with the Devil"
- f. Michael Burke has a Common Dreams piece of 3/28/25: Trump's interior life is a clown car of neurotic conflicts- so we all must suffer.
- g. Yvonne Abraham has a column in the 5/13/25 Boston Globe on Trump's cognitive dissonance
- h. Renee Graham has a column in the 5/31/25 Boston Globe: Trump has lots to say about Biden's health. His own? Not so much.
- i. Sabrina Hack has an article in the 5/15/25 Progressive Populist: Trump's dementia and the duty to warn, which reports on mental health professionals sounding the alarm.

- j. David Corn, in his 4/15/25 Our Land report, describes: How the establishment is helping Trump's revenge -athon
- k. A 4/1/25 article by Marc Ash in an RSN email is called; American Psychopath, in which he calls Trump a "weirdo madman"
- l. Heather Cox Richardson continues her comprehensive daily reporting in a 7/17/25 email, on what she sees; stories that would have sunk any other president simply fade away.
- m. Many have written about the D.C.4th of July parade which Trump arranged for himself. Jim Hightower has its usual unique take on it in his 6/24/25 email. He writes: Soldiers, it's hard to eat a \$45 million parade.
- n. On 6/22-25, Heather Cox Richardson published a report on the US bombing of Iran's nuclear construction facilities. Experts challenged Trump's claim that the facilities were totally destroyed. At the time he made it there was no definitive information supporting that claim. Trump made a speech saying that he had thanked God for the attack. The attack took place even though the US intelligent services had concluded that Iran is not building an atomic bomb. When asked what about this, Trump said that the intelligence services were wrong. This is but another instance of Trump ignoring expert advice and saying that he his own, contrary, instincts are right. Richardson quotes an insider as saying: "The problem with Trump is that he doesn't read."
- o. An October 15, 2024, article by Anne Applebaum in The Atlantic says: Trump is speaking like Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini.
- p. In her 10/16/24 report Heather Cox Richardson relates a "bizarre" performance in Pennsylvania when Trump stopped taking questions and started on his own extemporary "playlist" for 29 minutes One commentator dubbed the appearance "bonkers"
- q. Heather Cox Richardson's 10/13/24 article points out that Trump's actions and talk look fascist.
- r. David Corn in his Our Land report of 10/12/ 24: describes "Donald Trump's inevitable decline into eugenics".
- s. Geri Lyons, in the Woburn 7 Daily Times article of 11/20/24, says Trump's over the line behavior is The Musk Effect.

- t. The Stand-Up PAC of 9/13/25 points out that whenever Trump tells a lie he calls the opposite a “Hoax”
- u. The astute Dana Milbank, in the 3/1/25 Progressive Populist, explains what makes Trump’s character: Trump is in it only for himself.
- v. An excellent article in the Boston Globe of 9/8/25 is entitled: What Trump’s favorite phrase says about his presidency. The phrase is “We’ve never seen anything like it” The author says that by a count of Roll Call, Trump has used that phrase 9 times in 2025: 90 times in 2019: 77 times in 2018: and 48 times in 2017. The author thinks that this phrasing reflects Trump’s views about the nation and the world. To him, “everything is black and white, with himself as the hero and his political opponents are the villains.” Since he uses it mainly to describe matters he thinks are successful (even though most of them are not). One commentator has called his musings “truthful hyperbole”.
- w. Robert Reich, in his 8/21/25 email, reports that Musk’s board of Tesla voted to give him a 30 billion dollar raise even though Tesla is in financial trouble. Reich calls this an extra example of the corporate pay merry-go-round.
- x. In his 9/29/25 email. Robert Reich says: Dementia President: Could it Be That Trump Has Truly Lost his Mind.
- y. In her 9/24/25 email, Heather Cox Richardson cites Trump’s recent meandering speech and wonders whether he is sane.

## C. Musk

Musk’s health issues are somewhat of a different story. He is totally absorbed in his own beliefs, but not as insecure as Trump. Before joining with Trump, he had quickly built up a high-tech and space empire, with many different aspects and organizations, and many ill-gotten government contracts. He also has experienced periodic failures that undercut his ability to get what he wants. For example, a New York Times story of 6/3/25 raises this question: Was Musk drugged up while buying key agribusiness? A Boston Globe article of 5/3 /25 from the New York Times has as its headline: Reports of heavy drug use fuels questions about Musk.

Musk seems to have consistently sought opportunities to enrich himself from government contracts. In her 6/4/25 article, Heather Cox Richardson cites Senator

Elizabeth Warren's report showing that Musk's net worth has increased by more than \$100 billion since Election Day.

- a. On May 8th, 2025, Common Dreams published a report: Scale of Musk's DOGE conflicts of interest should alarm every American.
- b. Musk's opinions about our country are illustrated by his oft- repeated claim that the Social Security program is the" biggest Ponzi scheme in history."
- c. Like Trump, he is a serial liar. David Corn, in his Our Land report of 10/8/24, gives an example of this: Tracking one of Musk's many big lies.
- d. He has fathered 14 children, according to The Guardian article of 11/20/24. He wants everyone in the US to "embrace extreme breeding"
- e. Musk recently formed his own political party called the America Party. Some recent articles describe this effort and its dangers. John Feffer, of Foreign Policy in Focus, describes Musk's new party and its derivation, its hoped-for global work and its problems.
- f. Robert Reich has at least four articles on this subject: 1/7/25: The Muskrat goes bold: 11/21/24, the Muskrat. 9/26/24, how Musk threatens America's national security and what must be done. Every Sunday, Reich sponsors a caption contest for a cartoon he has drawn. In his 6/8/25 email, the winners of the previous week's contest are published: Here are two beauties:" What goes up, Musk comes down" and:" Ah, The wonders of a good pun!"
- g. Heather Cox Richardson, in her 3/10/25 report, explores Musk's use of the abbreviation NCPs to describe people he doesn't like or agree with. She points out that this term is short for non-compos mentis people, who can't think for themselves. She cites another commentator who points out that calling people NCP helps him ignore the pain that his policies and actions impose on people.
- h. Musk's EGOD has run roughshod over federal agencies and protections using unelected and unappointed people as destroyers of government. Nexstar Media's 1/7/25 email points out that the establishment of EGOD violated the constitution.
- i. Heather Cox Richardson has another important piece, of 2/26/25, which describes the history of Musk's activities and their present impact.

- j. Meanwhile, most of his businesses are starting to fail, in part because he has spent most of his time trying to dismantle the federal government. For instance, a CNN email of 7/8/25 is entitled: Tesla in deeper trouble than you think.

## **D. Trump and Musk Fall Down**

- a. I collected a mountain of material, almost 1000 pieces, for this book and much of it concerns what Trump and Musk stand for and have done thus far. There are many points to make that I cannot ever hope to cover, but I can give you many examples. A lot of these are described in some detail earlier in this chapter. I cover several matters in Chapter 5 (universities, law firms and media), Chapter 6 (immigration) and Chapter 7 (tariffs). There are more brief examples given in Chapter 8 (Short Takes) and in Chapter 9 (Good Ideas). In Chapter 4, I describe major efforts to counter these attacks on America, many of which are heartening examples.

But I've chosen not to try to address some major areas, such as foreign policy, wars and the performance of the economy. So, here goes.

- b. It all starts with a 900 page blueprint, called Project 2025, written by extreme right wing operatives and groups whose goal is to persuade the new Trump administration to destroy many aspects of the federal government that they claim are wrong, wasteful and "woke" (opinions they disagree with). A good explanation of Project 25 was written by Jonathan Blitzer in the 7/22/24 New Yorker. I can't go into many of his comments on the plan, but practically everything done by Trump and Musk since they were in charge stems from a recommendation in the plan. The chief architect of the plan, Russell Vought, was appointed the Director of the Office of Budget and Management, the key position for financial matters in the federal government.
- c. Trump and Musk have started to engage in name-calling. For example, in her 6/7/25 email report, Heather Cox Richardson makes note of an exchange between the two, including Trump calling Musk "the man who has lost his mind"
- d. Attacks on Federal Judges The most exciting development for anti- Trump believers has been the actions of federal judges of putting the brakes on unlawful practices by granting temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions in more than 200 lawsuits that have been filed to date. Some of

these orders have been put on hold by the US Supreme Court or federal courts of appeals, but even these will go to trial on the merits. An early example of the possibility that the Trump administration might not obey court orders arose in an immigration case. When ICE (the immigration enforcement agency) started apprehending immigrants for deportation, it captured a migrant in D.C. and shipped him to a notorious prison in El Salvador. The judge issued an emergency order to return and release the immigrant so that he could have a court or agency hearing on his claim that he was not deportable. The feds claimed that they did not receive the court order until the immigrant was on his way to El Salvador. Then both Trump and the president of El Salvador claimed that neither had the authority to reverse this action. According to a Common Dreams email of 7/25/25, the Trump Justice Department filed a misconduct complaint against the judge. This is only an early example of this practice, according to the Common Dreams email. As reported in a Washington Post analysis: Trump officials have been accused of violating court orders in a third of the more than 160 orders against the administration. Another judge assigned to a challenge to a Trump order spoke at a gathering of federal court judges reported in the 8/ 1/25 Boston Globe. The speaker said that threats that judges had received numbered some 400, and some were calls for violence against him and his family. Other judges who had issued orders in other cases spoke of the same experiences. Trump, meanwhile, has bad mouthed judges who have ruled against his position (see Robert Reich's email of 3/18 / 25). The Republican-dominated Congress has advanced a bill to strip federal judges of their authority to make orders in these kinds of cases. See the Defend Progress email of 5/11/25: Respect for federal court decisions and orders remains in question.

## **E. Racism: Anti- Semitism**

- a. Trump's and Musk's pronouncements are filled with negative comments about people of color, women, Jews and any other group that is different from white males. To mask their true opinions, they call others by the same names. An example of this projection is the Trump administration's claim that major universities are protecting anti- Semitics. I will talk about this in more detail in chapter 5. Several analyses of this are catalogued by Timothy Snyder in the RSN email of 3/7/25, sent to me by Judy Summersby. The 9/15/24 email of Thom Hartmann (also sent to me by Judy Summersby) and an article in the In These Times of 7/25/25 issue by Alberto Toscano, called: The Reverse

Racism Presidency, make this point. Other more specific examples of this are as follows:

- b. Yvonne Abraham's column in the 4/13/25 Boston Globe: Don't be fooled, pointing out that previously the Trump administration has used charges of anti-Semitism to cover up and distract from their doing the same thing.
- c. In a 7/25/25 email, Common Dreams reports that Trump's people have been informed that the Trump refugee program is available to whites only.
- d. The Common Dreams email of 4/ 9/25 notes that a Jewish group says Trump uses Jews as an excuse to spy on social media posts of immigrants.
- e. After a helicopter and airplane crashed over D.C., Trump claimed that the crash was caused by a diversity policy of the U.S. Weather Service, a claim which was totally false.
- f. A 7/ 16 / 25 Boston Globe column by Kimberly Atkins Stohr is headlined: The Trump administration is showing us its white nationalism.
- g. A Common Dreams 8/5/25 email reports on a Trump interview that "goes off the rails." One critic is quoted as saying "the racism here is on steroids"
- h. Right wingers have long sought to get rid of DEI (diversity equity and inclusion) in literature and in education programs. They have done this at every turn since they took office. But the only thing they haven't done is to reverse the last two words so that the abbreviated word would be DIE. They have attempted to abolish these programs by changing all federal grant papers to say that the recipient must eliminate all their DEI activities. Trump has also issued executive orders to provide that DEI is no longer acceptable in government documents, programs and policies. This means that these words are purged from all government program activities and these and similar words must be free of these references. Many of these changes have been challenged in court and in most cases the changes have been temporarily blocked. Where we will end up on this we don't yet know. But their intention is to turn our anti-discrimination laws on their heads and to establish that whites can use them to challenge supposed discrimination against them.

## **F. Deaths**

The consequences of many of these changes are that now many more people will unnecessarily die, and many will suffer. It is not easy to prove that but for the replaced programs there will not be that kind of suffering. But some experts have made educated projections. For example, in the 7/6/25 Boston Globe, there is a story about a Boston University professor who has estimated that the cuts to our USAID (foreign aid) programs will lead to 330,000 deaths around the world. Trump himself "has a long history of refusing to take responsibility for the deaths on his watch and shifting blame onto other people" according to a 7/10/25 article from the Center for Economic and Policy Research by economists Dean Baker and Steven Day. There is an article in the 7/24/25 Common Dreams email called: Trump's grandstanding is reality denial. Day says: "Trump is the Johnny Appleseed of ignorance. It sprouts wherever he goes. His ignorance has proven to be deadly.

## **G. Lies, Diversion, Revenge and Hate**

Trump is an unreconstructed serial liar. He also regularly engages in revenge, hate and diversion to take public attention away from his unpopular actions and beliefs. Yet, he has never apologized when he is caught out and never even makes amends for simple errors in such things as dates and names. He is comparatively open about what he thinks and says, and he rants on social media nearly every day. He seems to be incorrigible with all these efforts and in denying responsibility for what happens.

There are many too many examples of this to catalog here in this book. But here are some examples of these characteristics, which I have collected over the past year.

- a. Trump has recently been the subject a big blowup over files left by sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and others after Epstein committed suicide. I don't propose to get into any detail on this; it's still an unresolved controversy, but I can report to you that when Trump began to be implicated in matters that were not yet been revealed, he trotted out a big diversion, a proposed investigation into Barack Obama's "major role in investigating Russia's role in supporting Trump In the 2016 elections". Of course, this issue had been investigated thoroughly by at least two comprehensive studies that had concluded that it was baseless.
- b. Republicans have for years claimed, without any evidence, that our federal elections are riddled with fraud. This has been their major justification for proposing barriers to voting. We now know about false fraud claims he

brought after the 2020 election because Republicans brought some 60 lawsuits claiming electoral fraud and lost virtually all of them. Now, moving to the 2/20/24 email report by the Brennan Center for Justice, the right wing, led by Trump, is asserting that he lost the 2020 election because of voting by immigrants who we're ineligible to vote. The Brennan Center has researched this claim and concluded that it is almost entirely false.

- c. Another typical action by Trump is to fire federal regulators who are doing what he doesn't like. A particularly egregious example of this is the firing of the two top lawyers in the Justice Department who have investigated and prosecuted monopoly power. This sorry story is included in a Common Dreams email of 7/29/25.
- d. Robert Reich, always on the case on a daily basis, has a 4/7/25 email report: The predicament we're in is a national emergency. Trump creates national emergencies to accumulate more power and then subjects millions to real harm.
- e. David Corn, in his 3/8/25 Our Land email report, says that Trump's reign is a disinformation operation, not a presidency.
- f. In the Common Dreams email of 9/23/24 is an article on a U.S. Senate hearing designed to combat hate which "ended up exhibiting it."
- g. In his 6/24/25 Our Land report, David Corn says: Trump expands his war on truth to Iran.
- h. Robert Reich, in his email of 8/2/25, describes Trump's bizarre action in firing the longtime head of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics because she issued updates on job information that were unfavorable to Trump.
- i. In his 5/25/25 email, Robert Reich relates those shocking things Trump did during the prior week. He summarizes things as follows: Trump seems to have entered into a new and wilder strategy of authoritarian neofascism. No holds barred. Nothing out of bounds. Rapacious racism, corrupt.
- j. David Corn, in his 12/17/24 Our Land email report, explains in-depth: Why Republicans lie more than Democrats.
- k. In his 2/11/25 email, Robert Reich weighs in on Musk's fraud. Reich follows that with a 2/27/25 email cataloguing Musk's lies, lies and more lies.

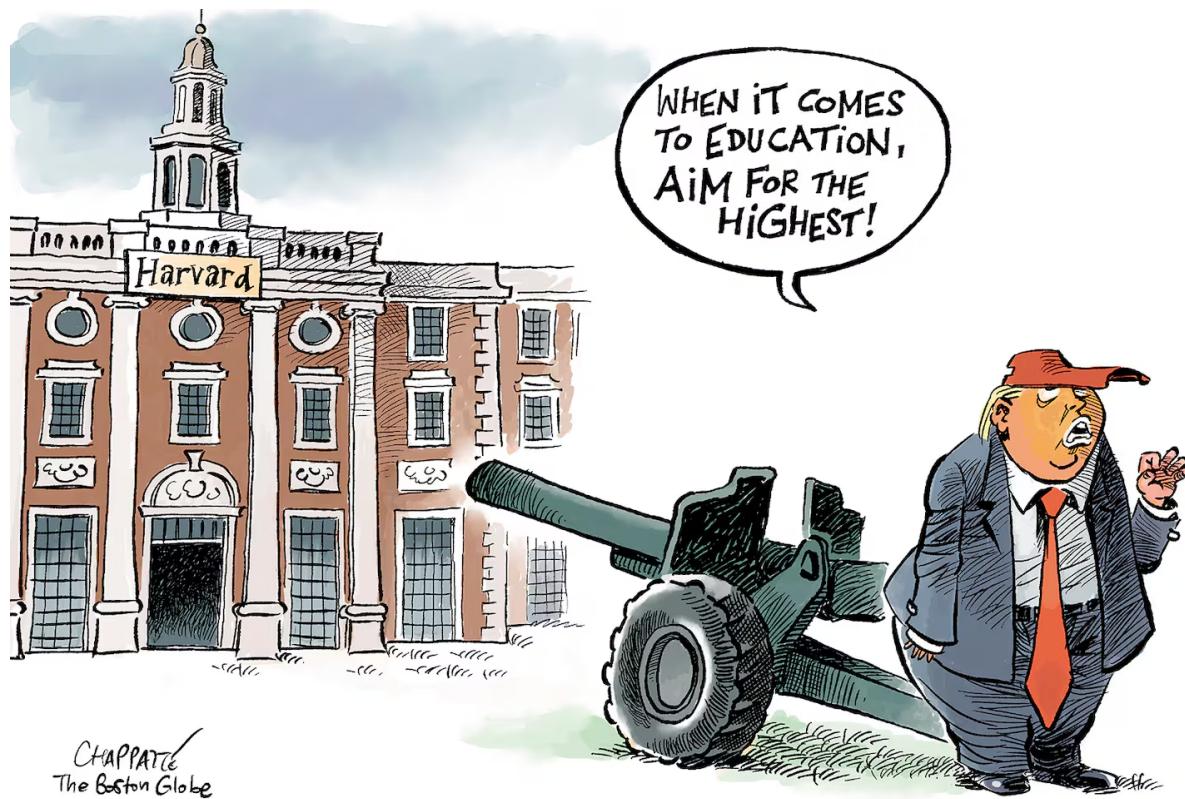
1. The Intercept has a 10/17/24 email describing: Trump's big lie attorneys are back. They are still pushing Trump's ever-frivolous claim that he lost the 2020 election because of voting fraud.
- m. A Common Dreams 10/18/24 email describes unsuccessful efforts by Haitian immigrants in Ohio to persuade prosecutors to initiate criminal charges against Trump and Vice President candidate JD Vance for engaging in illegal behavior before the 2024 election.
- n. Heather Cox Richardson has a 10/5/24 report on Trump's lies and false projections
- o. Heather Cox Richardson, in her 7/24/25 report, catalogs Trump's many lies. This is a follow-up to her 10/6/24 email on the same subject.
- p. Robert Reich has a 9/23/24 email on Trump's hate, saying: "Hate has been his signature utterance".
- q. The New Republic has a 3/28/25 online article by Michael Tomsky about Trump's "new and chilling" takeover of the country. He concludes that Trump and his supporters will make "moves across the board that discredit and destroy our democratic institutions until he and his billionaire friends can strip them for profits. Chaos fascism is here to stay"

## **H. Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security**

Three of the most important benefit programs adopted by the federal government in the 1930s and 1960s are Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security. For many years, right wingers have groused about how those undermine the work ethic (there is no support for this, as many studies show) and they should be abolished. During his first term and in his presidential campaign in 2024 Trump said that he had no plans to undermine them. But the right-wing Project 2025 report has major plans to cut or eliminate those government programs. Trump claimed that he had no knowledge about what was in the 2025 Project report. This may be a bit plausible because he said that he had not read the report, and many have said that he doesn't read important documents at all. But he must have been briefed on things like this, so it is likely that his statements were false, and he knew they were false. Here are some articles about what, in fact, Trump and the far right are doing

- a. David Corn's 9/21/24 Our Land article describes "brazen, absurd and dangerous hypocrisy" of JD Vance.
- b. The "big bad bill" passed by Republicans in 2025 contains greatly expanded work requirements for many people receiving Medicaid and food stamps (now called SNAP (a name some cynics think is a reminder that people will find it easy to qualify).) Some states have imposed work requirements on some aspects of these programs. Every study I've seen has concluded that work requirements are ineffective and that the savings from them are exceeded by the costs of caring for people who will no longer qualify for the program. This hoax is well described in Robert Reich's 5/28/ 25 email: the truth about the Medicaid work requirement, and in a Common Dreams email of 5/16/25: policy expert details cruelty and pointlessness of GOP Medicaid work requirement
- c. Common Dreams has a 7/ 18/25 report about waivers allowed to some states to enable them to stop Medicaid after one year. The email's headline is: "Terrible Development? Trump administration restricts states' efforts to help eligible kids on Medicaid", quoting Oregon U.S. Senator Ron Wyden.
- d. Another report from Robert Reich, in his 12/16/25 email: How the DOGE billionaires plan to kill Medicare. Although Medicare is not cut directly in the big bad bill, it contains a provision that would cut over \$500 billion from Medicare to cover any federal deficit the government will incur.
- e. Two other nasty characteristics show Trump at his most dangerous level. Robert Reich says in his 1/24/25 email: Here is How Trump's Vengeance Program Works. And Thom Hartmann, in the 5/27/25 Common Dreams email: by calling himself the cutting saw, Trump is raising a bright red flag.

## I. Education



*Boston Globe Cartoon Drawn by Patrick Chappette*

Another long-term target of right wingers is their quest to turn the populace into pliant ignoramuses is the US Department of Education. The “big bad bill” provides for the elimination of the Department over the next few years. A lawsuit seeking to block the change was successful in the lower federal courts, but the US Supreme Court put the order on hold, allowing the Trump administration to proceed even though the court challenges can go to trial. This scene is described in the Common Dreams email of 7/14/25, quoting dissenting Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor as saying that the decision is “indefensible. It hands the executive the power to repeal statutes by firing all those necessary to carry them out,” she said. Robert Reich has a 7/3/25 email: Why they hate education.” He cites examples of the right wingers’ reasons for trying to dismantle the free public education system and our higher quality education. I’ll tell you more about this in Chapter 5.

And then there is Social Security. The first thing the Trumpsters and the Musketeers did was to cut back the Social Security staff to the point where there are long waits before people can get their benefits straightened out. The sequences of this are

described in the Common Dreams email of 7/30/25. The agency has also removed customer service data from its public reports. This has led some to charge that they want to hide the consequences of the staff cuts. See the Common Dreams email of 7/14/25.

The right wing's long-term dream has been to eliminate the federal agency and parse out the program to private interests but with no assurance that they will be paid. This is still their goal, as shown by the recent comments by Trump's Treasury Secretary. See the Common Dreams email of 7/30/25,

There have been many other articles on this subject. Here are some.

- a. A Common Dreams email of 7/17/25: Trump and EGOD continue wrecking Social Security so they can rob it.
- b. A Stand-Up email of 4/11/25: Leaked memo shows Trump's plan to "derail Social Security"
- c. A 3/7/25 joint email from Social Security Works and Stand-Up describes Elon Musk's war on seniors
- d. Robert Reich's email of 2/3/25: How that Muskrat is messing with your Social Security, your religion and everything else.
- e. The Economic Policy Institute has a 5/9/25 email: EPI comments regularly on the Social Security Administration's identity proof changes. "They impose significant burdens on vulnerable people"
- f. Robert Reich, in his 12/ 9/24 email: the Trump - Muskrat pilot to kill Social Security.

## I. Personnel

Many knowledgeable people have been appalled by the people Trump has brought into high positions in the federal government. These appointments pretty much follow the following pattern. The candidates have no experience with the agencies they will head or positions they will fill. They uniformly have unwavering support for Trump and what he is doing. For those appointments that need approval by the US Senate, Republicans have dragooned their members to support confirmation. Here are a bunch of comments on what's going on with Trump's appointments.

- a. Early on, The Guardian had the following comment online: "Government by the worst! Why people are calling Trump's new sidekicks a Kakistocracy".
- b. Dean Baker has a 7/14/25 email from Beat the Press: The main and possibly only qualification for Trump's top appointees is to tell blatant lies with straight face. This is incredibly dangerous - and deadly. Sent to me by Judy Summersby
- c. In his Our Land email of 2/14/25, entitled GOP - RIP, David Corn says the following: The Republican Party has enthusiastically accepted the most dangerous and unqualified set of top- level government appointments in modern U.S. history, and it has done nothing as Trump and his billionaire sidekick Elon Musk violated rules and norms. They wage a cruel and vicious war on the federal government that has caused profound harm to many of our people – "overseas and citizens at home" Corn continues his analysis of what's going on in his Our Land email of 3/29/25: It's no secret they're Fools- Dangerous Fools .
- d. Heather Cox Richardson has a 4/22/25 report describing the various unpardonable appointments, including people convicted of being participants in the January 6th, 2021, riot on the Capitol, most of whom were given pardons (so they are pardonable after all).
- e. Trump also surrounds himself with other destructive staff, including rabid immigration opponent Stephen Miller, possibly the most evil person to hold a high position in our government. Miller is not only the driving force behind Trump's cruel campaign against immigrants but is a practitioner of name calling against those he perceives as opponents. According to a Common Dreams email of report of 8/20/25, he publicly called out anti- authoritarian protesters as "stupid white hippies." One commentator said: "Stephen Miller was a loser in college and now we must all pay for it"

Some writers have focused on the reasons why Trump's choices are particularly troublesome. For example, the new Secretary of Defense (now named the Department of War, but that's a story told satirically by a Boston Globe columnist in Chapter 2), Pete Hegseth, had no military experience and peddled his right-wing beliefs as a Fox News talk show host. Robert Reich, in his 12/8/24 email says: Why under no circumstances should Pete Hegseth be entrusted with the U.S. military. As a typical example of the unqualified people who are finding their way into important federal positions, see the 3/27/25 email from Left Action: Trump put a young grocery clerk in charge of terrorism prevention. See also the 6/6/25 email from Politico, which points

out that before his grocery store job the man was pulling up weeds in gardens. Perhaps they thought he'd be good at weeding out terrorism. (sent to me by Judy Summersby)

The consequences of all this are that experienced and capable people are being let go or have resigned in disgust. Typical of this is set forth in the Common Dreams email of 7/14/25: the DOJ unit that defends Trump's policies has experienced exodus of lawyers." No one wants to defend Trump policies before the courts".

a. EGOD (DOGE Spelled Backward, Which Describes What They Actually Do)

Elon Musk contributed \$224 million to Trump's presidential campaign in 2024, and, in turn, Trump practically turned the federal government over to him to implement the recommendations in Project 2025. Without any approval by Congress and without any legal entity established to do this work, thousands of recruits infiltrated most federal agencies, fired leaders and staff of the agencies and acted as if they were in charge of the government. Without going into many of the shocking details and gory consequences of this unlawful activity, here are some of the things that they have done and how many programs and federal employees they have decimated.

- b. Heather Cox Richardson, in her 2/19/25 report, gives a lot of detail about what was going on and quotes a Trump official as saying that Musk was a "senior advisor to the president, having no authority to make government decisions himself." That is not what is happening. Musk and his allies are making all sorts of decisions about the government in their abusive campaign to destroy what they don't like about it
- c. Senator Chris Murphy, in his 2/15/25 email, describes four examples of target agencies at risk: USAID (foreign aid); the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; the National Labor Statistics Board; and the Treasury Department. Murphy points out that the dismantlement of these agencies will turn out to be much more costly than the savings.
- d. A Common Dreams email report of 8/21/24 says: Elon Musk doesn't know he's on the wrong side of George Orwell"
- e. Despite claims that EGOD would save billions in costs through agencies cuts, a U.S. Senate report appearing in the 7/3/25 email of Common Dreams concluded that in its first six months EGO wasted at least \$3 billion in expenses.
- f. One of the first steps Trump and Musk took in early February of 2025 was to close out USAID. It has been responsible for the Voice of America broadcasts,

and its programs for 64 years have made our country stronger and with a much more effective foreign policy. Senator Chris Murphy, in his email on 2/5/25, describes what is going on and what the world loses by not having USAID support. Murphy says that USAID is being shut down so that Musk can take over some of its duties and benefit financially. A former USAID worker tells this same story in a HuffPost email of 5/24/25

- g. Robert Reich, in his 2/7/25 email, says this: Muskrats are “burrowing into every corner of the federal government although many would not pass a security test.”
- h. Heather Cox Richardson has a 2/13/25 report describing Trump’s executive order which, in effect, put EGOD in charge of the US government. A 2/2/25 email from Public Citizen explains why the executive order violates many laws.
- i. Heather Cox Richardson’s reports of 2/3/25 and 2/5/25 describe how EGOD has taken over the Treasury Department’s payment system.
- j. A Bold Progressive email of 2/5/25 relates how Musk has been given the “ability to strangle Social Security”, trigger the breaking of the federal government’s debt ceiling and cover himself with glory.

These are just some examples on the surface of what EGOD is doing. When can we pick up the pieces and restore all that’s good about what Trump and Musk are destroying?

## J. Voting Wrongs

This country has a horrendous history of denying voting rights to members of disfavored groups. During the civil rights era, in 1965, Congress passed the federal Voting Rights Act. The Act provided that states (mostly in the South) that had a history of anti-voting rights must get preclearance from the federal government before they could institute any changes to its voting laws and practices. It also contained bans on discrimination against certain groups. The law worked reasonably well, particularly in protecting voters who had been added to the roles by giving them the right to vote in elections.

In recent years, Republicans began to realize that changing demographics

probably would undermine their future election chances. They began to cut back on access to voting, narrow the groups who could vote and make voters face more and more barriers. These kinds of restrictions included periodic purges of the voting rolls; redoing voting places and locating them at greater distances from disfavored communities; restricting or making less available voting by mail; and many other changes designed to reduce the numbers of people who vote.

The US Supreme Court took the lead in all this. It abolished preclearance on the naive ground that the states covered by preclearance no longer engaged in voter restriction activities. Of course, these states went right back to their restrictive practices. The Supreme Court also narrowed the scope of the Voting Rights Act and said that it would no longer review gerrymandering by states to favor a particular political party. It's pretty hard to be forthright and say that you oppose voting rights. So, the argument the Republicans came up with to support their restrictions is to claim that they are necessary because of widespread voting fraud. Yet every study I know of has concluded that voting fraud is next to nonexistent. Trump and his followers tried to promote the fraud line after the 2020 election as the reason why he didn't win. He and his followers brought some 60 lawsuits claiming that the election was fraudulent. He did not win a single one of these, even those that went before a Trump- appointed judge. They failed mainly because of a total lack of factual support for the lawsuits. In the wake of this unbelievable failure, several lawyers representing Trump had bar disciplinary complaints filed against them as violating the lawyer's code of ethics by bringing meritless court cases. Some have been disbarred from doing that. The Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School has been the foremost expert following the course of voting rights. Here are the comments from some of their reports.

- a. A10/27/24 Center report: Courts confront the non-citizen voting lie - yes, the right is back at it where it began, claiming that non-citizens are voting in droves. The Center decisively refutes this claim. Non-citizen voting is illegal and is virtually nonexistent.
- b. A 1/28/25 Center report: Restricting the right to vote. This is a comprehensive look at the efforts the right is making to restrict the vote.
- c. A Center 4/3/25 report: Federal attacks on voting rights.
- d. A Center 5/28/25 report: the lasting effects of voter suppression.
- e. A Center 8/5/25 report: Undermining the 2026 election.

- f. A Common Dreams 8/5/ 25 article by Michael Waldman, President of the Brennan Center: Donald J Trump is the leading threat to US election integrity.
- g. The Brennan Center's 8/9/25 report: targeting elections.
- h. Another front in the never- ending battles over voting is redistricting legislative districts within states. The U.S. Constitution requires the U.S. to do a comprehensive census every ten years of all of people residing this country. The census results are used, among other things, as the basis for drawing legislative districts for the US House of Representative members. The census is completed during the year after each 10-year period, and states historically have not revisited their district lines during the next 10 years. With Trump's push, Texas has now embarked on redoing their districts now rather than waiting. Those doing this claim that they have a plan that would add five mostly Republican districts to the ones they now hold. This has opened a nationwide contest in which states controlled by Democrats are saying that they will do the same if Texas does it. Texas recently approved the change. The derivation of this movement is described in the 8/12/25 report of the Brennan Center.

## **K. Corruption, corruption and corruption, as far as the eye can see (or not see)**

Trump is by far the most corrupt president we have ever had. Elon Musk is not far behind. They ignore the multitude of conflicts of interest they have and have had. They have taken over most of the potential prosecuting offices and agencies that might otherwise curb these unlawful practices or at least cut back on them. The result has been rampant and fast-moving corruption that we can't even keep up with.

When I think about the rife corruption of Trump and Musk, I'm reminded of the 1980's clever skit by Beyond the Fringe, called the Great Train Robbery. A representative of Scotland Yard, Peter Cook, one of my all-time favorite comics, was being interviewed by Alan Bennett. After clarifying that the whole train was not lost, only its contents, here from my memory is how the dialogue went.

Bennett: "*Who do you think the robbers were?*" Cook: "*We believe this to be the work of thieves*".

Bennett: "*So you mean thieves were responsible*". Cook "*Good God no. thieves are totally irresponsible.*" Cook then goes on to catalog examples of why thieves are irresponsible.

Here are some opinions I've collected about what is going on.

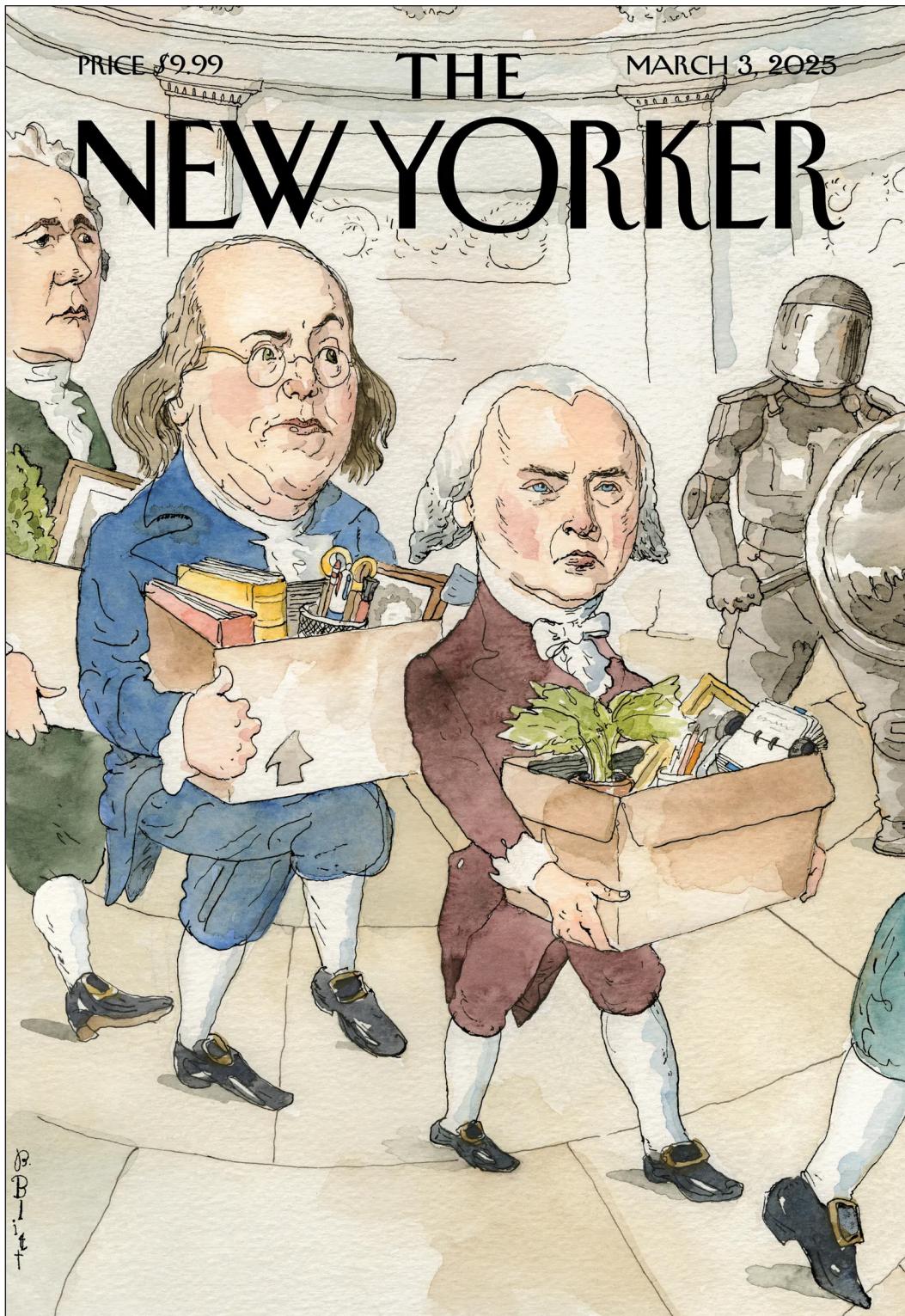
A. General Articles

1. David Corn's 5/17/25 Our Land report is entitled: "*Le grifter, c'est moi*", after Napoleon's remark, "*The state, it is I*" Corn engages with great detail in a tale of the scams which Trump and Musk have caused.
2. A Boston Globe 10/16/24 editorial says: Donald Trump's debts and financial ties are a threat to national security.
3. Senator Chris Murphy's 6/7/25 email has a video clip about these things, saying:

*"The scale of corruption happening in plain sight is massive. It's daily norm-shattering stuff that would have forced any other president to resign"*

4. The Brennan Center's 11/26/ 24 report describes "*the gateway to corruption*"

B. Examples of Corruption



*New Yorker cover was drawn by Barry Blitt*

1. Trump decided he needs a new Air Force plane, so he entered into a “deal” with the country, Quatar, to build a new plane at a cost of some \$400 million and turn it over to the US government. After Trump leaves office, the plane will be turned over to Trump. A Common Dreams email of 5/11/25 describes this development as “comically corrupt, a level of greed and depravity that is breathtaking, even for Trump”
2. In a 5/15/25 email, The Atlantic says that the gift “has escalated American soft corruption to a garish new extreme”
3. Trump and his family own the Trump International Hotel in Washington DC. He and his people have encouraged those visiting D.C., especially representatives of other countries, to stay at the hotel. A Common Dreams email of 10/18/24 describes a U.S. House Democratic report that this activity has violated the anti- emoluments clause of the U.S. Constitution. U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin, the leader of the subcommittee, said: : Trump has used the presidency and his year-long pursuit of it, as the world’s greatest get rich quick scheme.
4. A Common Dreams news alert of 7/15/25: A lobbyist who helped the rich to avoid taxes heads the Trump’s tax office at the U.S. Treasury.
5. Robert Reich has a 2/18/25 email, Bribery Unbound, reporting that Trump has ordered the Justice Department to stop enforcing the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act for the next six months and ordered prosecutors to refrain from bringing FCPA cases.
6. A Common Dreams email of 5/29/25 reports that U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin opened a probe into Trump’s corrupt meme coin dinner.
7. Robert Reich. in his 2/11/25 email, called the routing of billionaires’ contributions through a corporation he and his billionaire buddies have set up “Trump’s biggest corruption yet”. Reich describes how Musk and other leaders of the big corporations and media outlets are investing in this new venture.
8. Common Dreams, in its 5/8/25 email, reports that Trump officials push notices to approve Musk’s Starlink as a contractor.
9. Jim Hightower, in his 8/12/25 Hightower Lowdown email, says: “Trump is not only for sale - you can also lease him.”

10. Robert Reich, in his 5/5/25 email report, describes the many Trump activities with his cryptocurrency. Reich chastises media who call these potential conflicts of interest.

*“Don’t call them potential conflicts. They’re corruption”*

You may wonder why prosecuting authorities are not clamping down on Trump and even prosecuting his activities, most of which are crimes. Well, last year the US Supreme Court decided that a sitting President could not be prosecuted for any crime committed while in office and within the scope of his powers and duties. This “*get out of jail free*” decision has only spurred Trump’s corrupt behavior.

## **L. The Internal Rich Man’s Service Bureau**

The IRS has long been a major boogeyman for the right wing and corporate interests. Over the years, the federal tax code has expanded greatly in its complexity and loopholes. It was also subject to constant budget cutbacks. Some years ago, the IRS revealed that it was spending more of its resources chasing poor people who received the earned income credit than it was in auditing wealthy people and corporations’ tax obligations. During the Biden years, Congress expanded the IRS budget by \$80 million and started a highly successful direct file program. The IRS made good use of these new resources. It reported that tax recoveries from the wealthy had increased greatly, The IRS is one of those programs whose activities produce net savings to the government, by a factor many times over. So you would think that every right winger would get behind giving more resources to the IRS.

Wrong. According to Senator Chris Murphy’s 3/2/25 email, Trump and EGOD have laid off many of the thousands of IRS employees. A Common Dreams email of 8/1/25 reports that the IRS has killed the direct file program after one year of great success. After several interim IRS commissioners, Trump appointed a former U.S. Representative, Billy Long, as Commissioner. Long has been regarded as a clown and has no background or experience for that kind of position. Another month later, Nexstar Media reported that on 8/8/25 Long was being canned as Commissioner (definitely a case of Long gone) but would be exiled by an appointment as Ambassador to Iceland.

## **M. The Force Be with You. Trump's Basic Means of Operation (Or, How To Be Really Mean)**

My father, an engineer who usually knew what he was talking about, used to tell me that in making repairs, "don't force things." Trump appears never to have been told that, or if he was he ignored it.

Trump likes people to consider him a force of nature. I think the reverse is true: his nature is force. Robert Reich, in his 2/26/25 analysis of Trump's actions up to then, said: "Trump is rapidly acquiring a personal monopoly on the use of force. This is his most fundamental goal. This is the essence of tyranny". What has happened since then has only reinforced (that word again) Reich's analysis. Here are some examples.

- a. Trump insisted on a military- infused parade in D.C. on his birthday, July 4. A 4/13/25 email from Moms Fed Up estimated that the parade would cost \$92 million. Fortunately for everyone except Trump and his sycophants, the parade was a complete bust and was greatly upstaged by huge protest rallies nationwide against the Trump regime in which it is estimated that at least 5 million people participated.
- b. Trump's ICE and other federal agencies are conducting raids against immigrants across the country. In many of them, the raiders are wearing masks, show no identification information and rough up those apprehended. Robert Reich describes several of these raids in a 6/9/25 email, calling them Trump's Police State.
- c. Trump called out the National Guard and federal troops to Los Angeles over the objection of the mayor and governor, to stop protests of ICE's tactics. He also threatened force against protesters at his military parade. See the Common Dreams email of 8/11/25, sent to me by Judy Summersby. Trump's latest military maneuver is over the policing of Washington D.C. on the pretense that crime is out of control there, even though studies have shown that serious crime is markedly trending down there. He did this without consulting any D.C. officials. See the 8/12/25 email from Public Citizen pointing out that some of the dire consequences of this and other moves to the residents of D.C.. Robert Reich sees this as a trial run for similar interventions elsewhere in the country. See his 8/12/25 email. Trump has already threatened to do the same elsewhere in cities governed by Democrats. Heather Cox Richardson has a report on 8/12/25 giving more details about this raid and others.

- d. In a Common Dreams 8/12/25 email, it reports on a secret Pentagon plan for Trump to put down unrest nationwide. The Boston Globe of 8/13/25 has a similar article from the Washington Post: Pentagon mulls a military plan for civil unrest. And The Intercept has an 8/12/25 detailed article, headed: "Trump's use of troops for policing hasn't been seen since America was ruled by a king"

## **N. The Fury of the Fools**

Years ago, I saw signs for roadside plazas that read; "Food, Fuel" I thought that maybe those words ought to be reversed to Feud- Fools. Here, at last is my chance to do that. In the spring of 2025 Trump and Musk broke up their cozy arrangements. Musk notified everyone that as of the end of May he planned to leave the Trump administration and tend to his businesses, which were said to be falling apart. Musk went far off the reservation. He trashed Trump's budget reconciliation package. Then the charges flew back and forth, with both calling each other nasty names. These exchanges were detailed in Robert Reich's 6/6/25 email: Musk and Trump, a Big Beautiful Brawl". David Corn's Our Land report of 6/3/25: Musk Gets Out and Gets Off Easy. Heather Cox Richardson's 6/8/25 report: Trump, Musk feud explodes with threats and cutting contacts, backing upheaval. The Hills's evening report of 6/ 5/25: Trump- Musk feud turns nasty and David Corn's 6/7/25 Our Land report: It's time for a "celebrity oligarch feud".

Although both have talked recently about reuniting, Musk has recently revealed that he is thinking about starting a third party. See Robert Reich's 7/10/25 report: What's the real reason Musk wants a third party? Meanwhile, the EGOD operation appears not to have ended. See the Common Dreams email of 5/30/25: Musk might be gone but Watch Dogs Mourn Trump - DOGE scourge will continue. And Boston Globe columnist Kimberly Atkins Stohr wrote the following in the 6/5/25 issue: Musk's D.C. departure may not shield him from the courts' accountability. So, stay tuned.

There's much more in store for us, none of them are likely to be good.

## O. Conclusion

There's so much more good stuff written about the fascist twins that it's hard even to keep track of it. I'll finish this chapter by giving you a few analyses that I find particularly astute.

- a. David Remnick is the editor of The New Yorker, and a long-time follower of things Russian. In the 8/11/25 issue, he has a piece about the role of the fear factor in the near absence of people who should know better in not calling Trump and Musk for what they are.
- b. Heather Cox Richardson, in her 3/20/25 daily report, covers some bizarre things that have been going on in the Trump- Musk world recently. She also reports in her 3/18/25 email that the Arlington National Cemetery has deleted content from its website about black and Hispanic people.
- c. Dana Milbank, in his 12/15/24 column in the Progressive Populist, explains: Trump is already making America gape again.
- d. David Corn, in his 8/2/25 Our Land report, discusses Donald Trump and the Deconstruction of America
- e. Robert Reich, in his 6/3/25 email, describes Trump's vicious attack on the American mind", through the following plan: rewrite history, gut education, dismantle science, suppress the media, and attack the arts.
- f. David Corn's 4/6/25 Our Land describes Donald Trump's war on history. Some examples of this are in Chris Cook's article in The Lever email of 1/30/25 and entitled: "Trump's EPA just deleted climate change as words in its publications" Common Dreams has an email on unbridled fascism. Trump's executive order targets improper ideology at Smithsonian. Jim Hightower weighs in with two Hightower Lowdown messages: On 2/18/2025: Trump thought police are stomping on freedom of speech: and on 8/7/25: Trump's history is what they say it is.

There's much more of this coming out as Trump and Musk try to take us back a century. In chapter 4, I describe some of the activities people and groups are engaging in to head off worse and reverse what's happened.

## CHAPTER 4. WHAT IS THE DISLOYAL OPPOSITION DOING?

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.”  
Frederick Douglass, quoted in the Free Speech for People email of 11/12/24.

“There’s no shame in doing little. There is shame in doing nothing.” Alexi Navalny, Russian opposition leader who was killed by the Russian Putin regime. Forwarded to me by Hank Abrashkin

“The emperor has no clues” Robert Reich’s caption contest response in his 6/15/25 email

“Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men’s blood and probably will not themselves be realized. Resistance is not enough. Bold ideas, rooted in civic values of freedom, opportunity and democracy have always been how this country renews itself of the trauma and setbacks”. David Budfham, quoted in the Brennan Center for Justice email of 11/13/24

I will start with some overviews of where we are now in this country. Heather Cox Richardson, an historian, has an 8/23/25 email report giving a good history of the development of the Republican Party over time to what it is now, a full throttled supporter of Trump. Senator Chris Murphy, in his 4/19/24 email, has a succinct summary of what we’re fighting for now and Robert Reich, in his 8/23/25 email, explains that the Republican reconstitution was triggered by a 1971 memo sent by (then lawyer and later a U.S. Supreme Court Justice) Lewis Powell to the US Chamber of Commerce, urging that corporations become much more involved in national politics.

### A. Leaders

The Democrats ‘national leadership is not up to the task we need done. The House Majority Leader and the top Senate Democrat are pretty much stymied by continuing division in the Democratic Party. Corporations and oligarchs have a blunted particularly strong stances against what Trump and Musk are doing by funding them to a point where Democrats are too timid to cross them. They have also opposed younger and more dynamic leaders, even to the point of running candidates against them in primaries and throwing huge amounts of money to their opponents. Although the younger Democrats, led by Senator Bernie Sanders and others, have

made some inroads into policies and practices of the Democratic National Committee in recent years, they are still looked at as outsiders and not worth supporting. Who will the new leaders be?

- a. First and foremost is Senator Sanders, who has steadfastly promoted his far-reaching reforms and helped younger prospective candidates.
- b. A handful of U.S. senators have vigorously spoken up for new proposals. These include Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey of Massachusetts; Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut; and Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon. For a description of Senator Warren's testimony at a U.S. Senate hearing, see the Inequality.org email of 9/15/24 by Sam Pizzagatti. See also Chris Murphy's 2/24/25 email on a New York Times article: Chris Murphy is a clear voice for Democrats countering Trump".
- c. There are many U.S. House members who have been outspoken in criticizing what is going on. The leader of this group is Alexandria Ocasio- Cortez of New York. She accompanied Bernie Sanders on some of his forays into Trump country that drew amazing crowds. See the Nexstar email report 1/29/25. Ocasio- Cortez and three of her colleagues have founded The Squad, which works tirelessly to promote new candidates and solutions and to engage in endless criticism of Trump and Musk. Other citizens have joined in the criticism about what's going on. One is Episcopal Bishop Mariann Edgar Budd, who pointedly criticized Trump at a national prayer service in DC, where Trump was present. See the 1/26/25 Boston Globe article: "A Bishop's message of mercy rattled Trump but offered solace to a nation in peril." In the same Globe issue, Yvonne Abraham had a column entitled: "Bishop had some nerve.

Then there is Boston's Mayor, Michelle Wu, who was one of four city mayors who testified before the US Senate Committee in a ringing support of what Boston and other cities have done to protect their residents' security. Wu is so popular that she won a recent primary election for another term as Mayor by such a large margin the other major candidate dropped out of the race. She and other local leaders vigorously defended against Trump's threats to take over certain cities.

## **B. Optimism**

There are many commentators who, while being straight with us about what damage is being done, also implore us not to lose faith that the country can pull out

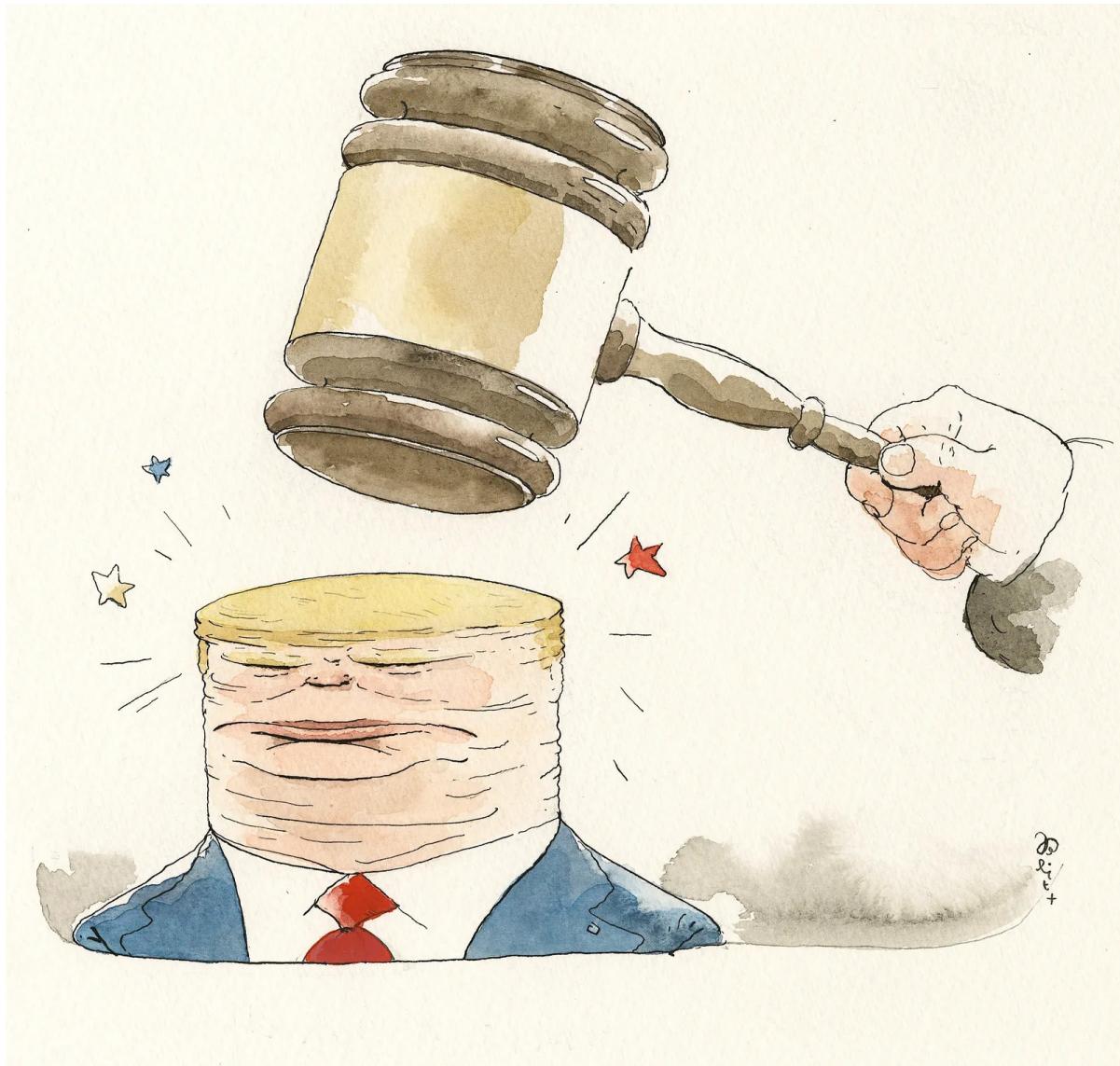
of this condition. The best example of this is Robert Reich. He issues amazing emails one or sometimes two columns a day. He usually ends with a message with hope that if enough people join in we will win. Examples of these are his emails of 8/15/25: 8/7/25; 7/3/25: 7-27 / 25; 7-4-25; 11-11-24; 1/3 / 25. 2/6/25: 3/14/25; 4/4/25; 4/11/25; and 8/16 / 25. Others with similar messages are Jim Hightower: email of 3/4/25; David Corn, Our Land email of 5-3-25; The Lever email of 5/28/25; and Dana Milbank in the Progressive Populist of 6/1/25. With many voices constantly chiming in, it's easier to become involved.

## C. Organizing

It's exciting to watch so many people and so many groups pull together organized opposition to Trump and Musk. Examples exist all over the country, some national, some statewide and some local. I'll mention only a few examples. Indivisible was formed in D.C. by two former staff members in Congress. It has millions of members and supporters all over the country and local chapters as well. There is a local chapter in Winchester MA, where I live. Notable among its achievements was a national protest on July 4, which drew at least five million people. It also trashed Trump's July 4 military parade in D.C. See Indivisible's email report of 7/13/25

Some movements can be triggered by heroic activities of one person. One example of this is the 24-hour filibuster of the U.S. Senate (apparently a Senate record) by New Jersey Senator Cory Booker in April of this year. For more details, see the 4/2/25 email from Public Citizen. Chris Cook, a longtime friend of my son, John, has a column in the 4/17/25 Common Dreams urging people to join in a movement to counter Trump and Musk. There are many more efforts happening. I follow many of them on my email. As Robert Reich says in his 3/9/26 email, we must "flood the zones".

## D. Use the Federal Courts



*Cartoon is by Barry Blitt of the New Yorker. Sent to me by Gale Halpern*

One of the most heartening developments is how the federal courts have stepped in to block many of Trump's illegal moves. The pattern here is similar to what happened with Trump's efforts to sabotage the results of the 2020 election, which he lost. There, his lawyers lost nearly all of 60 court actions challenging various aspects of the election. Some of those decisions were made by judges whom Trump had appointed. The reason they lost most of these cases was because they had no facts to support their claims. In one case here in Massachusetts, US District Court Judge William Young expressed puzzlement and even anger that Trump's lawyers were bringing these cases. Trump's

lawyers were copying Trump himself, who consistently has made claims that he had no basis for making. But shame on his lawyers, who violated the lawyers' ethical code by bringing litigation with no basis.

Similarly, Trump is losing most of the cases challenging his actions since he became President. In some cases, though, temporary orders entered by a District Court judge have been blocked by an Appeals Court or the US Supreme Court. This meant that the court supposedly did not find sufficient justification for temporary relief, so the cases will now go back to a District Court trial on the merits. Because of Trump's blizzard of new orders, the number of current challenges increases nearly every day. Many groups have brought or funded these lawsuits and have sent email messages describing what they have done and the results so far. Here is an example of some of these.

- a. See the Brennan Center for Justice email of 2/14/25. What courts can do.
- b. Public Citizen, as described in its emails of 5/30/25, 7/22/25 and 2/4/25, has brought at least 16 court cases.
- c. The National Consumer Law Center, in its email of 3/20/25, describes a lawsuit to restore common fundamental protections to the aging.
- d. Heather Cox Richardsons email of 6/18/25: quotes Massachusetts U.S. District Court Judge William Young excoriating the Justice Department for bringing a lawsuit bereft of facts.
- e. A HuffPost email of 3/14/25 quotes Harvard Law School constitutional expert Lawrence Tribe's criticisms of the actions that have produced lawsuits.
- f. The Nexstar email of 1/31/25 contains a rundown of early lawsuits.
- g. A Common Dreams email of 4/25/25: A judge blocks voting rights restrictions.

There has been much more activity in this field. For instance, Robert Reich writes about the meaning of due process in immigration cases, in his 5/15/25 email. The judges handling these cases have been subjected to an unbelievable torrent of public and private abuse. On 6-2/25, Robert Reich's email explores how these judges can be protected. Trump's attorney general, Pam Bondi, who thinks her only job is to protect Trump, has been the object of an ethics complaint filed in Florida. Lawyers Defending American Democracy email of 6/5/25 and the Common Dreams email of 6/6/25. See the analysis of Trump's larger ethical duties in *Justicia - Verdict*. So far, the

major bulwark against Trump's abuse has been the federal courts. We owe them our gratitude and support.

## **E. What are the Activist Groups Doing?**

There is so much good stuff going on that it's not possible to catalog it all. Here are some examples.

- a. Senator Chris Murphy has created an American Mobilization Project. See his email of 8/22/25 (my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday).
- b. Public Citizen has drafted a constitutional amendment limiting presidential immunity. See its 7/30/25 email.
- c. Robert Reich has written an email of 9/3/24: Six ways to rein in Musk.
- d. Robert Reich has an email of 1/16/25: How do we get rid of America's oligarchy.
- e. The Brennan Center for Justice, in its 10/1/24 email, describes how to fight for fair legislative districts.
- f. Many groups have specialized in studies that get the data right, in order to counter the falsehoods of the Trump administration. Some examples are Data Driven's study of 9/27/24 on who benefits from corporate tax cuts. Data Driven's 6/28/24 email describes the racial disparity of federal tax cuts. Robert Reich, in his 7/19/24 email, shows that federal tax cuts do not create jobs because the corporations receiving the cuts spend the money largely on stock buybacks and boosts to executive compensation. An email dated 12/3/24 by Bob Lord of Inequality concludes that the wealthy are not paying their fair share of taxes.
- g. U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio- Cortez testified for the impeachment of U.S. Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito for corrupt practices
- h. Robert Reich has a 9/9/24 email describing some real fixes to Social Security, including elimination of the cap on contributions that enables wealthy people to pay proportionately much less.

- i. Common Dreams, in its 6/3/24 email, describes a plan to destroy Big Oil's influence on climate change.
- j. The Common Dreams email of 10/10/24 has a plan to end private equity looting.
- k. Historian Tim Snyder, in his 1/11/25 email report, proposes the creation of a shadow cabinet to keep better track of what's going on within the Trump administration.
- l. U.S. senator Jeff Merkley, in his 6/18/25 email, proposes a Choose Medicare Act to expand the Medicare program as the next step toward a universal healthcare program.
- m. In the Common Dreams email of 5/1/25, it features Senator Bernie Sanders' proposal for free college for all.
- n. In The Progressive issue of 6 & 7/25 is a piece by Sarah Brown: Sanctuary to protect immigrants is good public policy
- o. Robert Reich, in his 6/8/25 email, describes how we should engage in "non-violent civil disobedience"
- p. Our Revolution, in its 3/2/25 email, says that the government should cut off Musk's government contracts.
- q. Robert Reich's 8/26/25 email predicts Trump's ultimate downfall. He thinks fascism and capitalism cannot co- exist.
- r. David Corn, in his 8/26/25 Our Land report, thinks that revenge is what primarily motivates what Trump does. The article is called: Donald Trump revs up his revenge goons.
- s. In his 3/20/25 email, Jim Hightower calls for a major reform of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As a former Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, he has a lot to add to the subject.
- t. Free Speech for People, in its 3/28/25 email, calls for the impeachment of Trump.
- u. Robert Reich, in his email of 4/3/25, proposes ten rules for dealing with Trump's demands for capitulation.

- v. Jim Hightower, in his 4/4/25 email, explains how to win friends and votes in rural America.
- w. The National Employment Law Project, in its 4/ 22/25 email, explains how to fix our unemployment compensation system.
- x. A Common Dreams email of 4/21/25 reports on the formation of a national group to defend against attacks on nonprofit organizations.

I end this Chapter by describing four developments that give us some hope that the Trump atrocities can be successfully countered. The first is an August 20, 2025, speech by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker in response to Trump's suggestion that Chicago might be the next city to get federal troops sent in. This hard-hitting and eloquent speech is well covered in Heather Cox Richardson's 8/26/25 report. This speech is one of the best I've seen on our side. Thanks to Judy Summersby for pointing out this to me after she watched it on TV.

Another heartening sign that things can be turned around is in Senator Bernie Sanders' 8/26/25 email reporting on the many rallies he has organized recently. He reckons that the total attendance at these rallies was at least 300,000. Many of the rallies were held in places where Republican voters were predominant in the 2024 election.

The Nation's 9/25 issue has a feature story on New York attorney general Letitia James, relating how she and her fellow democratic attorneys general across the country have been coordinating and sharing resources in many legal challenges against Trump's actions. So far, the results have been quite amazing.

Finally, there is an important recent electoral result that has excited opponents of Trump. Zohran Mamdani, a young Muslim Socialist, won the primary for Mayor of New York City by 13 points, defeating former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York for the position. Cuomo was backed by lots of big money and plans to run in the November election as an independent.

## **CHAPTER 5.**

### **BULLYING FOR YOU: HOW SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS ARE TRYING ( OR NOT TRYING) TO FEND OFF TRUMP'S ABSURD DEMANDS**

The Trump administration has now gone after some of our most cherished public and private institutions. I will write about what's happening with universities, law firms, the media and arts organizations. An underlying theme (or pretext) for this is that those institutions don't do enough to counter anti-semitism. They're also going after big cities such as Los Angeles and Washington D.C., and threatening to use the military in other places, supposedly to curb crime. Robert Reich, as usual, is on the case. In his 3/25/25 email, he discusses the four pillars of our civil society which are under attack: Universities; Science; the Media; and Law. He follows this up by explaining in his 7/31/25 email: "The Fine Print of Trump's Fascism". Dana Milbank has an insightful article in the 4/15/25 Progressive Populist: Stalin, Mao and Putin couldn't quell freedom's voice, but Trump's did.

#### **A. Universities**

The Trump people have taken advantage of the turmoil in universities over Israel's war in Gaza. One of their justifications is that the universities should do more to identify and punish anti-Semitism. But their actions, such as reducing or eliminating federal grants, have no causal connection with antisemitism (if it does exist).

Harvard has been a prominent target. It has been negotiating with the Trump people over a proposed settlement that would involve major changes in their employment and student recruiting practices and the payment of a huge sum of money to be devoted to funding workplace matters. For a report on this, see the Harvard Magazine article of July -August 2025: The Price of Resistance. Meanwhile, many thousands from Harvard's communities have signed petitions urging Harvard not to give in. See, for example, the Common Dreams email of 7/31/25: Prominent Harvard scholars urge President not to cave to Trump.

Some universities have already given up. My own college, Princeton, is one of the most prestigious universities in the country, consistently number one in most every recent poll of colleges nationwide. It has refused to negotiate and has sued to stop any federal cutbacks assessed to it. Two other Ivy League colleges have negotiated settlements, Columbia and Brown.

The Trump people have engineered one other major change that affects recipients of federal funding. For many years, grantees have been permitted to add overhead costs to their grants. The percentage of those additions has usually been as high as 45%. Each grantee has pretty much engaged in this practice. In the budget reconciliation law passed by Congress in July of 2025, the overhead percentage that these grantees can take has been capped at 15%. This will be a large financial hit to universities that have large amounts of federal grants. See Heather Cox Richardson's report of 2/8/25.

## **B. Law Firms**

Early on, law firms that had represented Trump's opponents or had other vulnerabilities to Trump's desire for revenge were the object of Trump's retaliation. Several of those law firms quickly settled, agreeing to forbear representing opponents of Trump and to offer a large amount of free legal services as Trump directed. Robert Reich, in his 4/15/25 email, gave out what he called the Neville Chamberlain Awards to seven big law firms that had agreed to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants for those purposes. Other law firms refused to settle, and some have brought legal actions to stop the government from going after them. See The Hill's email of 3/19/25: The law must not bend to Trump's crusade of political retribution.

These surrenders have been enormously unpopular in the legal profession. See the article in The MOURET email of 5/22/25: U.S. Presidency: Law firms face targeted executive orders that undermine independence of profession. Several groups have suggested other approaches to counter this war against law firms. The 7/30/25 email of Free Speech for People, suggests that we:" Take action to investigate Trump's extortion of national law firms. Justicia's email of 5/15/25 has an article by Gary J. Simpson suggesting that these actions may be an unadulterated Bill of Attainder in violation of the Constitution.

## **C. Media**

Trump and his colleagues have taken out after the media in many ways. They have been abetted, whether planned or not, by major media backsliding on how they handle possible criticisms. Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos prevented the Post from endorsing a candidate in the 2024 presidential election. The Paramount complex which owns the Late Show with Stephen Colbert, a strong critic of Trump, has terminated Colbert's appearance on the show, effective next spring. See the Common Dreams email of 7/19/25: Colbert's termination is a win for Trump - and for the corporate

assault on dissent. Here are some other articles raising the alarm about these changes.

- a. A Common Dreams email of 7/30/25: Capitulation index tracks how U.S. media corporations are responding to Trump's bullying.
- b. A Common Dreams report of 11/15/24: Potential Onions Fund for Press Freedom as Trump Wages Legal War on News Outlets. This is a "Common Tactic Against Press Freedom in Repressive Countries"
- c. Jim Hightower weighs in with this quote in his 8/5/25 email: "Can feisty journalists rescue their newspapers from corporate greed again?"
- d. The Trump billionaires have cut off U.S. funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which supports public radio and TV stations all over the country. Common Dreams reports in its 5/27/25 email: A clear violation of the Constitution! NPR sues Trump over attack on funding.
- e. David Corn, in his Our Land email of 2/18/25, reports on the right-wing plot to wreck the media.
- f. The Free Press of 7/29/25 opines: Trump is willing to fight with the institutions.
- g. Robert Reich sums it all up in his 2/25/25 email: The silencing of Colbert, the Washington Post, Columbia University and on it goes.
- h. Robert Reich follows this up with a 9/16/25 email: Trump Tightens his Grip on the Media.

It's a scary scene! We must turn our attention to defeating these actions.

## CHAPTER 6. MORE BANISHMENT OF ELIMIGRANTS WITHOUT DUE PROCESS

In last year's book, I wrote about the right wing's holocaust-like campaign against immigrants. I used the word elimigrants, because I had used it in my first book in this series, in 2014. That book was titled: 1984 has Come and Gone, but the Right Wing is Recreating Orwell's World. The first article in that book was a parody on Arizona's treatment of immigrants. The governor had issued an order that the word, immigrant, should be eliminated from state documents. Hence, I invented the term, elimmigrants.

Things have become much worse, and no sensible solution is in sight. A few years, some members of both parties in Congress came up with some partial improvements and they were poised to adopt them. But Trump put the stop to the proposal, admitting that he did not want any progressive reform because he wanted to use the immigration issue in his presidential campaign.

- a. What has Trump wrought? The first point that must be made is to describe the prime mover behind the anti- immigration plans. Trump' senior staff counsel, Stephen Miller, Miller may be the most evil person to have occupied such an influential position in the federal government. Some have called him Trump's Rasputin. Miller's influence is described among many other places in a Common Dreams email of 7/15/25, which calls on Congress to investigate Miller. Trump's anti-immigrant opinions were prominently in focus during the election, as shown in the Common Dreams email of 10/12/24: a local advocacy group's opinion was included in the email: " In our lifetimes, there has never been a President as willing as Trump is to foment hate and violence among his supporters."

Here is a sprinkling of some of the unbelievably cruel actions the Trump administration has taken since Trump became President.

- a. The Trump administration has said that its goal is to deport all or nearly all of the immigrants whose legal status is in question. According to some reports, there are over 10 million such people who fit into that category. Stephen Miller has said that the administration's goal is to arrest 3,000 people every day. See Heather Cox Richardson's email of 5/31/ 25. It looks as if he made up that number because if you multiply that number by the number of days in a year the total would be around 11 million.

- b. The National Immigration Law Center email of 5/2/25 says: Trump's attacks on immigrants are an attack on us all.
- c. Some of Trump's unfair or illegal arrests and the subsequent court decisions largely blocking them have become a widespread focus of the press. An example is the admittedly mistaken D.C. arrest of an immigrant who was sent to a notorious prison in El Salvador. This is explained in Heather Cox Richardson's email report of 4/17/25.
- d. In early April of 2025, Trump ordered 1,000,000 migrants who entered the United States legally to be immediately deported. See the Common Dreams email of 4/8/25.
- e. Heather Cox Richardson has been covering this issue in depth almost every day. She has a 3/17/25 email report on the government's invoking the 1798 Alien Enemies Act to justify the deportations. She demolishes that argument, as have the courts which have reviewed it. A BBC News report of 3/18/25 says that: Trump administration has deported hundreds of Venezuelans under the Alien Enemies Act despite contrary court orders.
- f. At the beginning of his first term as president in 2017, Trump issued an order banning Muslims from certain countries from entering the U.S. That was found to be unlawful by the courts. Now, he's at it again. He has revived the Muslim ban but expanded it to more countries. He also expanded it to cover immigrants already in the U.S. See The Intercept email report of 3/12/25 and the Common Dreams email of 6/5-25.
- g. Jim Hightower has a Hightower Lowdown email of 12/3/24, saying: A Kakistocracy has taken over immigration policy. Hightower also targets, in his 1/10/25 email, the country's H-1B program, which allows corporations to import on a temporary basis immigrants who can fill jobs that can't be filled by domestic workers. Hightower's letter tells the story of two billionaire supporters of Trump who persuaded him to allow them to import workers under this program and to change his opposition to the program.
- h. Another example is Trump's pledge during his campaign that he will deport critics living in Ohio to Venezuela. See the Common Dreams email of 9/14/25.
- i. A Politico email report of 6/10/25 says that Trump attacked Los Angeles with National Guard and U.S. Marine troops because of California's opposition to his anti-immigrant policies. Heather Cox Richardson, in her 6/10/25 report, describes the same episode.

- j. Heather Cox Richardson's email report of 7/15/25 points out that a recent poll shows that 79% of adults say that immigration is good for the country and only 30% say that immigration should be reduced.
- k. A new ICE U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) directive says that immigrants who entered the country illegally are no longer entitled to hearings on whatever bond they can post to remain free pending the resolution of their claim, according to a Common Dreams email 7/15/25.
- l. The Congressional Budget Reconciliation Act of early July 2025 included an increase in the ICE budget by nearly sevenfold.
- m. The Guardian email of 7/25/25 says that Trump officials increasingly recruit local police for immigrant enforcement despite "red flags". Sent to me by Judy Summersby
- n. A Public Citizen email of 4/17/25 muses about "Who will Trump send to a foreign torture prison next?" The report describes what immigrants deported to El Salvador are facing in that country's prisons.
- o. A 5/6/25 email from Common Dreams: "They just made this sh.t up". A declassified memo undercuts Trump's pretext for deportations to El Salvador.
- p. On 3-1-25, Trump issued Executive Order 14224, declaring that English is the official language in the U.S. Massachusetts Law Reform Institute email of 4/1/25. Goodness knows how this will be used in several different contexts, but especially in immigration matters
- q. An article by Mary Sanchez in the 2/15/25 Progressive Populist, speculates about what we can expect from Trump's immigration policies. She describes his likely actions as "committing "constitutionally, irrational and simply cruel actions against immigrants.
- r. According to a Left Click email of 8/21/25, the Justice Department has a new policy that makes it easier to revoke the citizenship of anyone who has been naturalized. One of the first targets is said to be Dohan Mamdani, who recently won the primary for New York City's Mayor by a large margin.
- s. Lest you think that all of this activity follows the law and is justifiable, many have pointed out that what's happening is the opposite. A Common Dreams email of 8/25/205 says: Trump's Gestapo- style raids mimic a dictatorship playbook.

## What is the Opposition Doing?

The ICE arrests and detentions are carried out so capriciously and unpredictably that potential victims do not know what to expect. Typically, the ICE goons wear masks, display no identification, carry no documents authorizing an arrest and carry weapons. People are apprehended on the streets, in workplaces and even outside the courts and churches. Many are immediately sent to detention (most to out of state prisons where relatives, close friends or lawyers (if they are lucky enough to find one) have a great deal of difficulty getting there. No wonder the potential victims are frustrated and hiding.

There are many activities going on against this fascist- type behavior. Many are challenged in court. Here are a small number of examples of what's been going on

- a. Heather Cox Richardson's 4/13/25, 4/15/25 and 4/16/25 email reports detail "what's been happening to some individuals wrongly arrested."
- b. Several cities have developed sanctuary policies for immigrants, meaning that they will not cooperate with ICE agents unless those agents have documents showing they have the right to apprehend a named individual. The Guardian of 11/29/24 has some stories describing these programs: We're preparing to defend our communities. The article was sent to me by Judy Summersby.
- c. Heather Cox Richardson, again on the mark, reports in her 7/13/25 email on the recent actions of Homeland Security Secretary Kristie Noem. The day after major floods hit Texas, Noem did not renew contracts with four FEMA call centers. After that, FEMA was only able to respond to a small percentage (down from 55.9% to 33.8%) of those calls. Where did the FEMA money go? Well, she used 21 million from FEMA on an ad campaign extolling Trump's immigration policy and to transfer 400 immigrants to the infamous Guantanamo Bay prison facility on the island with the Dominican Republic. This is the infamous facility the US government has not used for many years and has gradually transferred most of its inmates elsewhere because of the horrible conditions there.
- d. The Trump administration's needs to greatly increase its detention facilities even if it arrests only a small percentage of the numbers they are talking about. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis a reflexive supporter of Trump, immediately started to build a tent city in the middle of the Everglades. Opponents named it Alligator Alcatraz. When public officials saw the facilities with some of its inmates there, they immediately demanded it be shut down. See the

Common Dreams email of 7/13/25: "this is an Internment coup": lawmakers were horrified by inhumane conditions there. U.S. Representative Max Reed of Florida said that in one tent with six cages, there were 32 people per cage. Many others joined in the demand to close it. See the 7/31/25 email from the National Immigration Law Center and the 7/2/25 email from Common Dreams with an article by Thom Hartmann advising people to be on the lookout for other attempts to build detention centers in remote locations. The protest worked, at least for the time being. The Alligator Alcatraz is now empty of inmates.

- e. RSN, in a 2/18/25 email report, points out how the Trump deportations violate due process and other laws, and are part of a right-wing regime change effort. This was sent to me by Judy Summersby.
- f. Safety Bound, in its 4 /7/25 email, notes that some local sheriffs have pushed back against immigration mandates.
- g. Common Dreams issued the following email: Trump Asylum crackdown dealt major blow in "hugely important" court ruling. In the same Common Dreams email of 12/10/24, Les Leopold asks: What is the progressive working -class policy on immigration? He suggests this question is one that progressives must answer.
- h. A Common Dreams email of 7/ 12/25 reports: L.A. judge orders ICE to stop indiscriminately rounding up immigrants using racial profiling. Another Common Dreams email of 8/2/25 says that the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the District Court's injunction. And an 8/1/25 Common Dreams email reports that a U.S. District Court judge postponed the Trump administration's order to end Temporary Protective Status for some 60,000 migrants from Honduras, Nepal and Nicaragua.

## Where do we go from here?

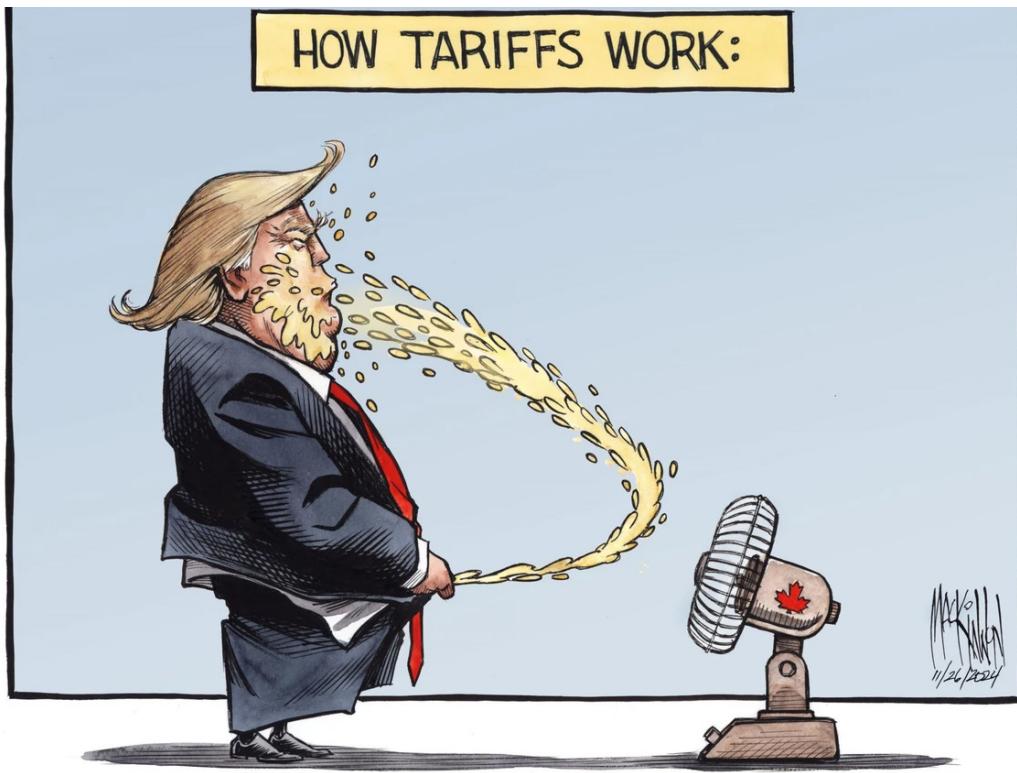
- i. For all of the court victories for immigrants there are ominous signs from the U.S. Supreme Court. A Common Dreams email of 5/19/ 25 reports on an unsigned U.S. Supreme Court order vacating injunctions against Trump's orders to repeal the Biden administration protections for nearly 350,000 Venezuelan immigrants who live or work in the U.S. .The order came from the Court's "shadow docket", in which cases have no briefs or arguments and the Court gives no reasons for its order.
- j. The Brennan Center for Justice, in its 12/3/24 report, analyzes how Trump could deploy the military for mass deportation. That has already happened in Los Angeles and Washington D.C. although the pretext for those steps has been alleged crime.
- k. The Los Angeles Times, in a 6 /8/25 article, reports on the 2,000 National Guard troops to be sent into L.A. because of protests about immigration raids, over the objections of the Mayor and California's Governor. This was sent to me by Judy Summersby.
- l. U.S. Senator Chris Murphy has an email of 1/30/25 detailing how Trump's immigration policies are "horrible - like embarrassingly horrible-diplomacy."
- m. Kimberly Atkins Stohr, an opinion column writer for the Boston Globe who is also a lawyer, has a column in the 7/3/ 25 issue: Who is America? Trump wants to. decide.
- n. The Economic Policy Institute has a 10/18/24 email report: Current U.S immigration policy squashes its full benefits for immigrants and the country.
- o. The National immigration Law Center, in a 4/15/25 email, points out that undocumented immigrants pay a higher tax rate than billionaires.
- p. A Common Dreams email of 7/10/25 says that Trump's mass deportation "will cause immense pain for workers and destroy millions of jobs".
- q. Ralph Nader, in a Common Dreams email of 8/9/25, predicts: "Tyrant Trump's worst crises, dangers and destruction are yet to come."
- r. Robert Reich, usually upbeat about beating Trump, has a 3/24/25 email: If Trump can disappear them, he can disappear you."

## CHAPTER 7. TRUMP'S TARIFFS: THEY ARE REALLY A BIG DEAL.



*Boston Globe cartoon of 8/8/25 drawn by Christopher Weyant*

Donald Trump has overreached by imposing tariffs on goods coming into the US. This is a quick survey of a complicated field. Let me first engage in an amateur exercise in etymology. The two syllables in the word, tariff, are Tear and Riff. They both mean to break apart. That's what Trump's tariffs are all about. First, a brief history of tariffs in the U.S. A short explanation is given by Professor Tanya Moseley in June 2005 Princeton Alumni Weekly. A longer history is from the Economic Policy Institute's 2/18/25 email report. Most of the literature on this subject says that tariffs must be set with great precision for each country on which they're imposed because they have potentially negative consequences for the U.S and the other country. They must be designed to get the best for the negotiating countries. They must be carefully drafted and adjusted, perhaps frequently, because of their consequences. The U. S. has followed this approach pretty much until Trump came along with his blunderbuss approach. Before the federal income tax on individuals and corporations was imposed early in the 20th century, tariffs were the main source of revenue for the federal government. Since then, they have been used not as a revenue raising device but for other reasons as part of the U.S. foreign policy



Cartoon, How Tariffs Work

PATRICK CHAPPATTE



Boston Globe cartoon of 3/14/25 drawn by Patrick Chappatte

- a. What is Trump doing with tariffs? It is clear from his statements and actions that he doesn't know what he is doing. His approach is to shoot first and try to pick up the pieces. He sees tariffs as transactional, the only approach with his experience his ignorant mind can comprehend. The result has been to apply high tariffs across the board and then dare the other government to tell him what they are willing to do. Most have acted to impose their own tariffs on American- made goods coming into their countries and fail to negotiate seriously about them. The result has been chaos. A few countries appear to have made their peace on this, but most have not, even though many months have passed since Trump started the tariffs. He refuses to acknowledge that most of the tariffs will ultimately be paid by U.S. consumers because the sellers of tariffed goods will pass most of their costs on to their buyers.

Here are some comments on Trump's tariffs, nearly all negative.

- a. Robert Reich, in his 3/28/25 email, points out that the 25% tariff on imported cars and auto parts will be paid by auto purchasers.
- b. The Hill's email of 8/1/25 describes the latest, much postponed, across the board impositions, starting at 10% and higher for certain countries. Canada was hit with a 35% tariff.
- c. In a New Yorker article of 6/25/25, author Daniel Innervale says that Trump copied the last President to impose high tariffs, William McKinley, at the end of the 19th century. He calls this "the demise of liberal interventions".
- d. Robert Reich, in his 2/3/25 email, described Trump's proposed tariffs a "the art of the deal, with him as the dealer"
- e. In her 4/4/25 email report, Heather Cox Richardson leads her article with a quote from oligarch Bill Ackman: "Sometimes the best strategy in a negotiation is convincing the other side that you are crazy."
- f. The Brennan Center for Justice has an email report on tariffs: An imperial President meets a supine Congress.
- g. Heather Cox Richardson, in her 4/13/25 email, describes the chaos created by Trump's constant changes in the tariff amounts and applications.

- h. The problems created by Trump's tariffs and the threats of them by Trump have already hurt a lot of people and businesses and are likely to cause much more harm to our economy.
- i. Robert Reich, in his 3/30/25 email report, calls tariffs the biggest transfer of wealth in our history.
- j. Dean Baker, a respected economist, has a 4/3/25 email on: The batshit tariff madness of king Trump.
- k. Heather Cox Richardson, in her 4/3/25 email report, reveals that economists say that Trump's basis for tariffs is "bonkers".
- l. In a Common Dreams email of 4/2/25, Jeffrey Sachs has an article entitled: Trump's absurd trade policies will injure Americans and the whole world.
- m. Robert Reich, in his 4/2/25 email, advises that Canada, Mexico, Japan, the U. K. and the European Community, the object of high tariffs, should not negotiate with Trump over his "grossly irresponsible tariffs."
- n. Thom Hartmann, in a 4/4/25 Common Dreams email, criticizes the "Idiotic Tariff Policy of Dimwitted Trump", and urges Democrats to "start proving they understand how to talk intelligently about trade agreements."
- o. A Common Dreams email of 4/4/25 calls the tariffs a "con on a global scale" and points out that Trump is not respecting the corporate trade model.
- p. The Public Citizen email of 4/4/25 points out that Trump urged people: "This is a great time to buy stocks." Some members of Congress said this increases the need for Congress to ban stock transactions by members of Congress.
- q. Trump and the United Kingdom entered a trade deal in early May of 2025. Common Dreams has a 5/6/25 email calling the trade "another con on American workers."
- r. Heather Cox Richardson's email report of 6/4/25 says Trump's boast that the tariffs are improving the American economy is contrary to opinions from experts that the results are just the opposite.

- s. Common Dreams has an 8/28/25 email report that businesses are passing tariff costs on to U.S. consumers with higher prices.
- t. Thom Hartmann, in a Common Dreams email of 11/28/24, says that Democrats “should rise to the occasion and argue for rational, targeted and gradual tariffs, taking the party back to its pre-1950’s positions on trade”.
- u. The tariffs have been challenged in several court actions, in which the major argument is that Trump does not have the power to impose these. A Common Dreams email of 8/29/25 reports on several court decisions which Trump lost and says is that the matter is headed toward a US Supreme Court decision.

## CHAPTER 8. SHORT TAKES

So much is happening now that Trump is President that it is impossible to keep track of it all. But there are many activist groups and writers who are staying with it and disclosing the details about the horrible things that are taking place. In this chapter, I summarize in a shortened way some of what has been written, with profound thanks to those who do this work.

Inequality.org has a quote from Francis Bacon in its 10/31/24 email;

“Money is like muck, not good except it be spread.”

- a. A Tom Dispatch email has an article of 4/22 /25 by William D Hartung: Welcome to the Garrison State. Sent to me by Judy Summersby
- b. A 6/2/25 The Lever report: Wall Street at home with grandma. Private equity firms and major health insurers are taking over the home care industry, with disastrous results for patients.
- c. A 5/12/25 email from Mother Jones's Monika Beuerlein describes Trump's bad mouthing of news sites he doesn't like, and he does so not to try to correct the record but "to inflict financial pain."
- d. A 5/9/25 email from Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon describes how the federal Transportation Security Administration is installing facial recognition screening systems in airports to verify the identity of people using the airport. He calls this a "precursor to a full- blown national surveillance state"
- e. In the 5/1/25 Progressive Populist, columnist Fiona Harrop points out that since public school testing scores are much higher in blue states, the red states have a need for a federal Department of Education, which Trump and red states want to eliminate.
- f. A Common Dreams email of 9/5/25: devastating.' A new jobs report shows that the labor market is crumbling under Trump.

- g. The Hill's 9/4/25 email: Federal judges anonymously criticize Trump over Trump cases
- h. In the 4/9/25 Boston Globe, Kimberly Atkins Stohr says: The Supreme Court has given up its power. In Trump cases, the Supreme Court retreats from confrontation.
- i. In a 2/15/25 issue of the Progressive Populist, Robert Kuttner says: The next financial crisis: insurance.
- j. In a 6/18/25 email, the Brennan Center for Justice says: The Posse Comitatus Act prohibits the federal military from engaging in local matters.
- k. In a 6/21/25 email by The Intercept: Trump and far-right billionaire's Peter Thiel's plan to spy on Americans.
- l. In a 12/3/24 email report, Inequality.org says that the charitable giving system is broken. "Here's how to fix it."
- m. In the Boston Globe of 12/26/24, Kimberly Atkins Stohr says Massachusetts stalls on vital facial recognition reform.
- n. In its 9/3/25 Common Dreams email: The greatest corruption in presidential history: Trump family keeps \$5 billion more in crypto profits.
- o. In her 9/3/25 article, Heather Cox Richardson says: "In the early hours of Sunday morning, in the middle of a three-day holiday, the Trump administration attempted to take children out of government custody and send them back to their country of origin, Guatemala.
- p. In the 8/21/24 The Spectator, Hamilton Fish describes Christian nationalism's unholy war on democracy.
- q. In the 9/12/24 Common Dreams email: "Obvious Conflict." Report reveals 50 plus U.S. lawmakers hold military stocks.
- r. In a 9/19/25 Common Dreams email: For-profit U.S. healthcare. Reports say that once again they ranked last among their healthcare peers.

- s. In a 7/2/25 Brennan Center for Justice report by its president, Michael Waldman: The Supreme Court has effectively resuscitated Dred Scott.
- t. In The Nation of 9/29/25: The Supreme Court's birthright case ruling that federal courts cannot issue nationwide injunctions is a five-alarm catastrophe. Sent to me by Judy Summersby.
- u. In a 9/4/24 Inequality.org email: Meet the low wage corporation that blew itself up by inflating CEO pay. And its 8/29/24 email: low wage top 500 corporations blew \$522 billion over the last five years on stock buybacks
- v. In the 7/2/25 Common Dreams email: Republicans plan to use a rare process called "rescission" to allow the President to withhold billions of dollars in already approved Congressional funding. And in her 7/16/25 report, Heather Cox Richardson describes how Republicans have already restricted or withheld appropriated funds in violation of the federal anti- impoundment law.
- w. In her 8/8/25 email report, Heather Cox Richardson describes the Trump administration's plans to change the U.S. rules for the decennial census by not counting non-citizens.
- x. The 7/26/25 Common Dreams email: Third court blocks Trump's "flagrantly unconstitutional" order that the Constitution's provision for voting rights for people born in the U.S. will not be enforced.
- y. In a 7/24/ 25 Nexstar Media email report: Trump signs executive order to push cities to curb homeless sleeping and drug use on the streets. Previously, the US Supreme Court had held that imposing these strictures was constitutional.
- z. A 6/6/25 Fulcrum piece by retired Massachusetts Appeals Court Judge James McHugh on the federal cuts to FEMA: Thoughts on gathering storms.
- aa. Jim Hightower has a 7/22/25 email: Disaster warnings prove interests are trying to privatize America's climate services. To the same effect is an email of 8/8/25 from Left Click describing the Texas warning service failures were caused by cuts in the U.S. Weather Service.

- ab. Robert Reich, in his 8/12 /25 email, says: Trump fired the longstanding chief of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics because he didn't like the statistics that had been updated from an earlier time. Reich also describes the steps Trump has taken to replace several previous nominees he had made to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, accusing them with manipulating the data. A Common Dreams email of 8/12/25 calls Trump's substitute nominees "Utterly Unqualified".
- ac. Massachusetts U.S. Senator Ed Markey issued an email: The White House is working with Palantir, a far-right propaganda machine, to advise on educational issues.
- ad. A Common Dreams email report of 8/12/25 says the White House will vet the Smithsonian Institution to assure they align with Trump's interpretations of U.S. history.
- ae. Public Citizen has a 2/ 3/25 email report talking about Trump's executive order that requires agencies to eliminate ten existing regulations for each new regulation it promulgates.
- af. I have noted in prior books the right wing's long-time campaign to eliminate the US Postal Service as a public institution and transfer its activities to a private corporation. Public Citizen, in its 5/14/25 email, worries that we should not allow Trump to privatize the Postal Service. The Economic Policy Institute has a 3/10/ 25 email article: Why is President Trump attacking the Postal Service? And a Common Dreams email of 5/7/25 says that Trump's nomination of a Federal Reserve Board member to head the Postal Service is a "coup by another means".
- ag. Common Dreams, in its 8/25/25 email report, says that Trump's moves to transfer 401(K) personal investment accounts to crypto and private equity is a "disaster in the making."
- ah. Common Dreams, in a 7/31/25 email, describes a new financial tool to measure how much Trump and the GOP are raising the cost of living.
- ai. In a 5/5/25 Heather Cox Richardson report, she says that when Trump was asked whether he favored due process for immigrants, he said he didn't know, but it is "too slow."

- aj. Common Dreams, in its 8/13/25 email, cites many anti-family movements going on in Trump's White House.
- ak. In her 3/28/25 email report, Heather Cox Richardson says that a new Trump executive order strips collective bargaining rights from hundreds of thousands of federal workers.
- al. The Intercept's email of 8/15/25 says the Trump administration is pushing for a rule change that would speed up the federally funded public housing eviction process by greatly reducing the required notice.
- am. The New Yorker of 8/17/25 has an extensive article about how much of Trump's business activities during his presidency have netted to his personal gain. It's about \$1.7 billion.
- an. An 8/17/25 article in The Guardian by Sidney Blumenthal: "There is no Trump doctrine on foreign policy, just chaos."
- ao. An 8/18/25 article in the Washington Monthly describes the lies behind Trump's D.C. troop surge.
- ap. In a 4/ 2/25 email, Thom Hartmann offers that The U.S. economy performs better under Democrats than under Republicans.
- aq. In an 8/26/25 Common Dreams email, there is a description of a new Trump order along fascist lines, to be signed by U.S. military occupation forces, a measure on civil rights denial called the "scariest thing I've seen in U.S. politics".
- ar. A Common Dreams email of 8/26/25 describes a whistleblower's report saying DOGE has committed serious data breaches that put America's Social Security data at risk.
- as. In an 8/28/25 email, Robert Reich says: how to respond to Trump's lies about a "crime wave," and a 9/2/25 Boston Globe article points out that crime is much more prevalent in Republican -led states than it is in the cities led by Democrats which Trump has targeted.
- at. A 6/14/25 Demand Progress email says that ICE's \$30 million contract with Palantir for immigration surveillance is "all part of Trump's plan".

- au. In her 8/30/25 email report, Heather Cox Richardson says that the Trump administration has cancelled all contracts and grants for offshore wind power, one of which was 90% completed.
- av. A 9/2/25 Robert Reich email belittles the right wing's "myths," asking who should decide what we see, read and learn?
- aw. David Corn, in his 9/9/25 Our Land email, has the best analysis I've seen about the caring uses of the Bible and its use by self-styled Christian Nationalists to support their narrow, erroneous interpretations. When analyzed in the detail Corn has done, the right wingers come off as gross misusers of the Bible to support their opinions.
- ax. Trump has claimed that he, not the states, can set the rules for voting in federal elections. He claims to be able to ban vote by mail on the grounds that it is necessary to prevent fraud. There is next to no evidence that fraud exists. As is common with Trump and right-wingers, they make up allegations of fraud when there is no evidence that it happens and they have no other arguments for their positions. The same pattern existed in the 2020 election (which Trump still claims was fraudulently run) and also in the recent claim that citizens who want to vote must furnish documentation that many people don't have. The Brennan Center for Justice has an 8/19/25 email report, called: "A voting power grab, with a nod to Putin." The Center convincingly makes the case that the President has no authority to make those changes.
- ay. As I was finishing this book, an event took place that may have wide ramifications for this country and its politics. On September 9, a man assassinated Charlie Kirk, a young right winger, as he was speaking to an audience. Without getting any information about who the assassin was, Donald Trump immediately claimed that the killing was done by the left wing. That started a rapid exchange of opinions about the killing and what people should do in its wake. The investigation into the killer has not been completed, and it is not clear whether the killer was a member of any left-wing groups. He appears to have had a father who is a Trump supporter and it is said that he argued with his father about politics. A Common Dreams email of 9/16/25 says: Leaked Chats Show Alleged Kirk Killer 'Doesn't Fit Into Any Tidy Narrative'.

Nevertheless, the question arises about who is responsible for violent actions in a political context. The Republicans started all this with House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who in the mid-1990s started calling Democrats the enemy and I spewed nasty names about anyone he opposed. Republican groups started doing the same thing, and they have been doing it ever since. True to the psychological projection in which the right wing operates, they have been trashing Democrats for doing the same kinds of violent actions that they and the right wing have done. The studies show that violent actions in a political context have overwhelmingly been committed by right wingers. One study concluded that right wingers commit an overwhelming percentage of these actions. As a telling confirmation of this, The Hill said, in an 9/19/25 email: DOJ quietly removes study showing right wing attacks 'outpace' those on the left.

Many astute commentators have given their opinions about the killings and what we should do to stop them.

For example, Christopher Cook, in a Common Dreams email of 9/11/25, sensibly said that people on the left should condemn the killings but not engage in any violence themselves. Heather Cox Richardson, in her 9/12/25 email, wrote in detail about what had happened and what people should do in reaction to this event. David Corn, in his Our Land email of 9/13/20 25, explains how Trump is dangerously exploiting Kirk's assassination. A Common Dreams email report of 9/13/25 describes Charlie Kirk's toxic legacy of hatred and division. A Common Dreams email of 9/13/25 quotes right wing zealot Stephen Miller as saying that "he and Trump will use law enforcement to destroy the left." According to New Republic writer Greg Sargeant, "Trump explicitly threatened to use the state to target any one he and MAGA choose to scapegoat for Kirk's murder." The Boston Globe of 9/16/ 25 follows up with an article entitled: Threats in wake of Kirk's shooting.

- az. A Justice Democrats email of 9/23/25 reports on a New York Times story: Trump Signs Order Targeting Antifa Movement. The absurdity of this is that a loose group of opponents of Trump is not an entity and has no independent existence of a kind that lends it to a targeted attack or enforceable sanctions.

Well, have you had enough? There are many more troubling things going on, and these kinds of depredations will continue until we have a wholesale change of leadership. Next, I will describe some good ideas for improving our dire situation and giving us some optimism that we can turn things around.

aaa. Did you ever wonder how large the inequality is in this country? Well, Inquality.org publishes these statistics in its every email. Its 10/1/25 email has the following fast-increasing gaps. Since 1978, CEO pay has increased 1,094% but the typical worker's pay has increased by 26%. And since 1989, the wealth of the top 0.1% has grown by 59.6% but the growth of the bottom 50% has declined 26.1%. Fast growing is an understatement!

## CHAPTER 9. GOOD IDEAS

- a. A Common Dreams email: We need legally enforceable rights to fight poverty and the housing crisis. A U.S. pitch for adopting the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights would be a major step in this direction.
- b. The 5/19/25 Kucinich report: From Dust Bowl to Life: Time to reinstitute our nation from the ground up. A plea for agricultural reform. Sent to me by Judy Summersby.
- c. In an email on 12/6/2024, Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon recommends addressing the housing crisis by passing legislation to prohibit hedge funds and banks from acquiring homes.
- d. In a 7/12/25 email of The Smile: A bold step to keep the White House in check by creating an Office of the Presidency and Inspector General for the executive branch.
- e. An 8/24/25 Beat the Press email by economist Dean Baker recommends adopting Medicare for All as proposed by Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont.
- f. In an 8/26/25 Common Dreams email: "Ten years in the making, the Democratic National Committee passes a resolution to limit dark money in primaries.
- g. Inequality.org has an 8/16/25 report: A proposal to create public grocery stores.
- h. In a 7/7/25 email of Common Dreams: Senator Bernie Sanders urges pensions for all, as Trump says he aims to open 401(K) investment accounts to private equity organizations.
- i. In a 7/7/25 email, Common Dreams: Many support a proposed tax on wealth, both in individual countries and internationally. A report by 7 Nobel Prize winners who are experts in economics supports the tax and reports that a 2% wealth tax could raise \$250 billion a year.
- j. A 6/25/25 email by Roots Action pushes for the nine nations that have nuclear weapons capacity to agree to a treaty prohibiting first use of these weapons.

- k. In his 1/1/25 email, Robert Reich argues that Trump has overplayed his hand. Be ready for when he does.
- l. A 1-1/25 Progressive Populist article by Dana Milbank says: Democrats don't have a working-class program on America's needs.
- m. In a 6/19/25 email, Robert Reich asks: Does the U.S. Supreme Court exist to protect white, stupid supremacy?
- n. A 3/13/25 -mail by Robert Reich: Why we need a new free speech movement.
- o. In his 6/20/25 Hightower Lowdown, Jim Hightower describes: The Poster Campaign, an effort to display anti- Trump posters widely.
- p. A Boston Globe article of 5/25/25 is called: How to stay hopeful in trying times; review of a new book by Rebecca Solnit..

## CONCLUSION

“To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or to take an oath to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and senile, but is morally treasonable to the American public”. Quoted by Robert Reich in his 3/13/25 email.

In her 8/20/25 and 8/27/ 25 emails, Heather Cox Richardson's continues her sharp and comprehensive daily letters. The first notes Trump's suggestion that the country wants him to be a dictator, and the second is a detailed critique of how Trump is undoing the center and promoting chaos in government.

Robert Reich, in his 2/4/25, 2/14/25 and 8/31/25 emails, explains how not to describe the Trump danger. Say it is , a coup, and why Trump is doomed.

A Common Dreams email of 4/28/25, from one my favorite journals on public affairs: “The American people do not want vigilantes. Polls show Trump's approval at historic low level at the 100-day mark.”

Thom Hartmann email of 6/5/25: The most dangerous thing about Trump's fascism? Getting used to it.

A 5/24/25 email article by David Corn in Our Land: Trump is big fall; Making America the 1980's Again. “Trump is putting the failed policies of the past on steroids in his relentless crusade to the derail and damage the nation” The evidence rolls in daily. A 9/7/25 email of Robert Reich says: “He's losing.” That same day, Heather Cox Richardson relates Trump's rant that he is the leader of bygone days.

We need a motto to encourage our work. I suggest the following.

*“In Medias Res.”*  
In the Middle of Things.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Allan Rodgers is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School. During most of the 1960s he was an associate at the Boston law firm of Hill & Barlow and an Assistant Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In March of 1969, he became the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute in Boston, a statewide legal advocacy center helping poor people. He retired from that position at the end of 2010.

Allan continues to engage in activities—active and armchair, local and statewide and national—for the betterment of our society and country. He is an ex officio member of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's Access to Justice Commission and a member of the Winchester Housing Partnership Board. He also advocates by way of petitions and alerts from wonderful national and regional groups that work on public issues. He reads and collects many books and articles (and cartoons) during the year, making notes for use in his future writings.

Since his retirement from MLRI, Allan has written and self-published books annually.

- November 2013: *Rap-Ups Of A Retired Reformer: Stories About How Legal Services Advocates Transformed the Laws for Poor People in Massachusetts*, about the successes of legal services advocates in changing the laws. This 200-page book is available by contacting Allan at arodgers08 @comcast.net for the electronic file or hard copy or at <https://www.masslegalservices.org/Rodgers-Rap-Ups> for the PDF file.
- May 2014: *1984 Has Come And Gone, But The Right Wing Is Creating Orwell's World: Twelve Satires on Some Living Satires*, a 45-page book.
- May 2015: *More Tales About The Wrong Wing: How They Ignore the People and Continue Their Crusade to Take Over This Country*, another book of satires, 58 pages.
- May 2016: *Building From The Ground Down: How Our Corpocracy Wants to Drive Ordinary People Ever Deeper into Oblivion*, a 61-page book of satires about the radical right.
- May 2017: *The Right Wing's Occupation Is Here: How Do We Evict Them?*, 62 pages.
- May 2018: *Free No More: How the Royalist Elite and the Authoritarian Radical Right Are Cratering Our Democratic Ideals*, a 58-page compilation.
- May 2019: *Flooding The Zone: How the Radical Right Promotes Anti-Democratic Measures in All Arenas and How We Can Beat Them by Overwhelming Them with All of Our Far-Reaching Solutions*, his sixth book of digs against the right wing and proposals to turn this country around, 48 pages.
- May 2020: *20/20: We Can Now See More Clearly How The Radical Right Is Ruining This Country*, his seventh book of zingers and comedic jibes about the right wing, 60 pages.

- May 2021: *The Coming Decade: A Period of Enlightenment or a Return to Decadence?*, the eighth book in this series, 36 pages.
- May 2022: *All The Rage: How the Angry Right-Wing Nihilists Destroy Our Democratic Institutions and Block Improvements for the People*, his ninth book in this series of satires and thoughts about the right wing, 47 pages.
- May 2023: *The GOP Platform: They Get the Hang of It From Fox Noose*, The tenth book in a series of books criticizing and making fun of the right wing, 48 pages.
- September 2024: *In Extremis: How the Radical Right Wingers Are Following Each Other Off the End of the Earth*.

All books are free and available in electronic form (or hard copy) upon request by email to arodgers08@comcast.net.

