



WHO IS AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD MAN?

If you want to understand TRUMP, you need to rethink his personality.

By Christian Rook

We are living in a political era where democracies are not **threatened** by external enemies, but by **internal** erosion.

This is particularly stark in the **United States**—where Donald Trump is not only back in power but more determined than ever to bend the political system to his will, even to dismantle it entirely.

To continue viewing him as an erratic outsider is to overlook the strategic calculation behind his presidency.

Anyone who takes Trump seriously must analyze him for what he has long since become: an opponent of democratic order who is undermining it using its own tools.

Since returning to the Oval Office, Trump no longer speaks of defending democratic values, but of overcoming them.

His presidency resembles an assault on the institutional backbone of the republic—not with tanks, but with slogans.

Norm violations, personnel reshuffles, legal self-empowerment—none of this appears accidental, but rather as part of a deliberate strategy.

The **outrage** of his critics falls flat because it applies a standard that Trump no longer recognizes: democracy itself.



If one sees him not as a president within the system but as an actor against the system, much suddenly makes sense.

The rhetoric of enemy images, the deliberate division, the mobilization via identity rather than content—all of these are components of an authoritarian practice.

Historians like **Timothy Snyder** and Ruth Ben-Ghiat have shown that this logic is not new.

Even in the **Weimar Republic**, democracy was hollowed out by its own rules.

“We deliver the death blow with her own hand,” Joseph Goebbels wrote in 1929.

Modern autocrats—Orbán, Erdoğan, Putin—also came to power through elections.

What unites them is the hollowing out of democratic institutions through systematic loyalty enforcement.

Trump has adapted this model to American conditions.

He doesn't want reform—he wants power, control.

Under his influence, the **Department of Justice** no longer operates independently but protectively.

The **FBI** is publicly discredited, the **Supreme Court** filled with ideologically compliant judges. Those who do not submit are replaced, insulted, broken.

The ideal of the separation of powers is turned into its opposite: from a security architecture into an obstacle to be removed.

But this shift is not only evident in domestic policy. Foreign policy loyalties are also shifting.

Trump does not surround himself with Western allies but with authoritarian role models.

Putin is “brilliant,” Xi “smart,” Kim Jong-un a “strong leader.”

The alliance with dictators is not hidden, but celebrated—as a sign of “true leadership.”

At the same time, Trump degrades NATO as a “costly anachronism,” the EU as an “enemy”—and openly declares that he would not guarantee a response in the event of a Russian attack on NATO states¹.

Thus, he not only questions the idea of collective security—he actively undermines it.

Things become even more bizarre when Trump's imperial fantasies come to light.

The annexation of **Canada** as a legitimate option, **Greenland** as a “strategic purchase”—it sounds grotesque but is a bitter reality of a geopolitical mindset that sees borders not as a legal framework but as a matter of ownership.

A president who does not see himself as a guarantor of international law, but as a player in a personal domino game, poses an immediate threat to global order.

In this worldview, the rule of law has no inherent value.

What counts is power. And power serves self-interest.

When we learned last week that Trump had accepted a **BOEING 747** worth over \$400 million from **Qatar** as a gift, the reaction was telling:

No denial, no withdrawal, but a justification—as if the office were a business venture, not a constitutional duty².

That such gifts violate the **Emoluments Clause** of the Constitution plays no role in his political practice.

Constitutionality is, for Trump, a relative concept—stretchable, shapeable, instrumental. He violates a Constitution he does not believe in and does not feel bound to. Because he wants to abolish it. Because it is merely a means to an end.

Economically too, his policy follows the principle of personal enrichment.

His own **hotel chains** serve as venues for international summits, **crypto-based** investment vehicles operate in proximity to the White House, fiscal policies promote friendly companies—all of this is not hidden, but proudly displayed.

Those who invest in Trump's orbit invest in influence.

The president as entrepreneur, the office as a platform, society as a corporation—the idea: the **Network State**, a new social order with a CEO at the top and without the cumbersome democratic structures, institutions, and laws; straight from the mind of **Curtis Yarvin** and born of the delusional fantasies of tech billionaire bros like **Peter Thiel** and **Elon Musk**.

The "Trumpire" as a creed

But his most dangerous asset remains his ability to mobilize.

Trump's followers do not adhere to a party platform—they adhere to a creed.

Criticism of him becomes an attack on one's own identity. Those who oppose him are not fellow citizens, but "scum," "traitors," "vermin"³.

Political language is dehumanized, the opponent morally annihilated. Thus, discourse dies—and with it, democracy.

Trump doesn't need a coup. He only needs indulgence, indifference, routine.

His power lies not in violence, but in trivialization. What was once unimaginable is now government policy. What sparked outrage yesterday is now bureaucratically managed.

Democracy is not overthrown—it is hollowed out, passively accepted.

What remains is the realization: The greatest danger to democracy is not the external enemy. It is the fatigue from within. A weariness that stems from judging Trump by democratic values, laws, and rules.

"Flooding the zone" works. In the end, there is no resistance left. This is the goal of all autocrats and dictators.

Those who realize that Donald Trump is authentically pursuing his own goals do not burn out in the attritional war of media frenzy and outrage.

If we want to save democracy, we must stop taking it for granted.

Not through panic. But through analysis.

And through a language that names what is—before it is too late.

Sources and further reading

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