

A Curious Transition

by Elva Pérez
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As a country we are undergoing a curious transition in time and history. What we experience under a Trump Presidency, what we do in response, and how we choose to react and take action against this Celebrity Apprentice Presidency will determine the kind of world we will grow old in, the kind of world we will strive to live in. Citizens, we are going to need to put up a fierce fight.

Trump ran for president under the most anti-democratic terms. He continues to attack the media as fake news so that he feeds the “American distrust” of anything they read or hear about him, and he continues to appeal to the most racist divisiveness that is leading to a divided country.

These times of transition do not scare me; make me dread the future, nor fear for my physical safety. The end result of the American history created by the people living and breathing, and acting around me during the growing period between childhood to adulthood, culminated in the election of President Barack Obama, the first “Black President”. Afterwards, American society liked to imagine itself a “post-racial” society, which no longer needed to worry about skin color. Many thought we were some type of freer society that had achieved a major political goal. These same people remained uncomfortably silent about the truth of the matter—that because we had elected a black president, the consequence was a divided government. The Republican Party paralyzed our government by refusing to cooperate on most everything. They were not a loyal opposition presenting a different political view that was once a major influence on public policy; under the Obama presidency that was no longer effective. The establishment Republicans wanted to control how the American community, in all its inclusive diversity achieved through political street fights, integrated this change into itself. Instead, they allowed racism to resurface in the normal discourse of their disrespecting President Obama.

We saw the Republican party veer towards a nativist xenophobia against all foreigners and we saw their continued economic attack on the poor and a continued failed policy of divestiture of the infrastructure of this country: We saw the starving of America and we saw the thieving of the US treasury. We saw the biggest wealth transfer from the poor and working class to the wealthy. We saw companies sold and we saw jobs shipped overseas or cheap labor imported—and we saw international job agreements that put union jobs at risk. When the working class cried out, the Democratic Party failed at all levels. Hence the Democratic Party came to be



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the bankrupt party that led to the likes of Wendy Wasserman Schultz and people of her ilk that manipulated, connived and conspired to promote the likes of Hilary Clinton as a much better mainstream choice for President.

The Democratic Party steered the party energy towards nominating “the first woman president” and focused on nothing else. It chose to completely ignore the fact that Hilary conducted herself as Secretary of State in an unconstitutional manner when using a private Internet server to keep her activities outside public scrutiny and government oversight. It dismissed as unimportant the odd use of the Clinton foundation and the funds it raised. It was in denial and did not want to accept that Mrs. Clinton was perceived to be a criminal, liar and thief by a large segment of the electorate who also thought her elitist and sanctimonious.

And now we have Donald Trump as President of the United States—a celebrity apprentice President that is the epitome of a walking “rich white man with white skin privilege” whose sense of kingly entitlement allows him to behave as if the rules of government and the U.S. Constitution do not apply to him. He ran a racist platform establishing a base among white people whose very identity and existence is threatened by all the diversity with which they suddenly find themselves surrounded. Because of Trump we are now a divided country along racial and ideological lines. And, we have a government in place that seems far to willing to cede to his theatrics: the last gasps of a dying regime of old white men still trying to stay in total control of the world.

His cynical domestic agenda is well advertised. His cabinet nominees say it all: As U.S. Secretary of Treasury, Trump chose a man who helped create the housing crisis, is accused of running a foreclosure machine and participated in discriminatory lending practice; as Secretary of Labor, he chose a fast food CEO who is against a minimum wage increase and sick leave; as Secretary of Education his choice is a woman wanting to dismantle public education; as Secretary of Commerce a man who flips bankrupt companies for profits and ships jobs and factories overseas; as U.S. Attorney General, a Klux Klan supporter who is anti-immigrant and a once leading proponent to repeal the 14th Amendment to the U.S. constitution, the one guaranteeing “equal protection” and “due process” under the law; as Secretary of Health and Human Services Trump chose a man heavily invested in pharmaceutical stocks. And the list goes on...

He has militarized a civilian government and its foreign policy: naming Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, (Ret.) for National Security Advisor who seems to suffer from ex-

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treme Islamophobia; Gen. James Mattis, (Ret.) as Secretary of Defense who believes in bombing private Iraqi civilian weddings and is a suspected war criminal in Iraq; and General John Kelly, (Ret.) as Homeland Security Secretary who believes the US-Mexican border is the biggest security risk to the USA. Anticipate the complete militarization of the US-Mexican border including possible military scimmages.

Going forward: We should fight this administration's refusal to deal with Trump's nepotism problems, his conflict of interest between his business empire and role as president, as well as the many conflicts of his billionaire cabinet members.

We should also focus on FBI Director, James Comey's suspicious activities supposedly aiding the Russian Government's influence in internal US politics. We should investigate the latter thoroughly and a keep an *ojo de chicharo*—a sharp eye out, on all aspects of this celebrity apprentice president who in his rhetoric has released horrible chilling tendencies that can destroy our country's constitutionally-based government. It is we who will have to save our democracy.

Bio: Elva Pérez Treviño, a lawyer, is from and still lives on the Westside of San Antonio.