

# "Trumpism" as a Threat to Freedom and the American Way

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Anyone who knows American history will acknowledge that Donald J. Trump today personifies the very opposite of the Founding Fathers and of Abraham Lincoln's ideals for which he gave his life. In fact, the American people and their democratic institutions have suffered from poor leadership by a number of Republican presidents, but the nation never had to face a president who is so immersed in himself and in his personal power and control that he is willing to manipulate our democratic institutions.

His run for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term was prepared by loading some federal courts with conservative judges and by a Supreme Court which can no longer be trusted with preserving the best of the nation's democratic achievements. Incredibly enough, he has so far escaped from his illegal judicial maneuvering to overturn his defeat in the 2020 election, his inciting of the mob which violently assaulted the Capitol on January 6, and his removal of Secret Documents from the White House. These are some of the reasons why he is not worthy of returning to the presidency. Worse still, he has also maneuvered to have his own appointed **Supreme Court** majority exempt him from the judicial process by granting him "**presidential immunity**" for his actions. Neither does it seem to matter that, in the "Hush Money Trial," he was guilty of 39 felonies. His campaign for reelection, carried out with the support of the ultraright MAGA and its billionaires, loaded the Internet and the media with thousands of misogynistic, racist, Nazi-Fascistic and anti-Semitic statements, with lies, distortions, and false promises encouraging the growing malady of our current society. In 2023, for example, there were no less than 1,200 anti-Semitic demonstrations (a 50% increase), mostly related to the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the Middle East. Just this past November 17, demonstrators walked down the streets of Columbus, Ohio, waving flags painted with hateful and racist slogans.

Now, preparing to take office for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, Trump is choosing his cabinet and filling the major federal institutions with a bunch of loyalists and MAGA right-wingers who might fulfill his well-known autocratic goals, both national and international. The most prominent of his appointees is **Elon Musk** (Department of Government Efficiency), the wealthiest man in the world, owner of the giant Internet **Twitter X**, who has been using his fortune to buy votes for the Republican party's control of Congress and the White House. Already the dominant force around Trump, he will be at the White House as an influencer, even in the pursuit of foreign policy goals. In fact, given Trump's statements so far, and his well-known association with Russia's dictator Putin, the US might begin to abandon its central role in NATO, the main guarantor of freedom in the West and across the world.

**Trumpism** has already been poisoning **Brazil** through **Musk's**



twitter X's attacks against President Lula (Luís Inácio da Silva) and in support of the right-wing ex-President **Jair Bolsonaro** and his attempt to return to power by any means. Just like Trump, Bolsonaro refused to accept his defeat in the 2020 election and his followers have been engaged in all sorts of attacks to immobilize Lula's presidency. When in this past **November 2024**,

**Brazil's Supreme Court Judge Alexandre de Moraes**

ordered the **suspension of Musk's X twitter network** for one year for refusing to name a legal representative in Brazil and for ignoring court orders to block and cancel the spread of fake news, hatred, and misinformation, **Musk** reacted by calling the Judge "an evil dictator." Then, on November 14, Francisco Wanderley Luís, an active supporter of Bolsonaro, moved to Brasilia with the objective of killing the Judge. He started by **car-bombing** the building next to the SC, but was stopped and killed by the police (cf. Júlia Vargas Jones, Helen Reagan & Maria Alberti. *Brazil' CNN*, November 14, 2024, and *Rio de Janeiro Reuters*, November 16).

Now, it is becoming increasingly clear to millions of Americans, including to some Republican legislators and to hundreds of members of Trump's 2016-2020 administration, that the alliance of Trump-Musk spells out a major threat to American democracy. In fact, 70% of Americans are saying that the **nation is now "on the wrong track."** An obvious new sign is the kind of appointees Trump is choosing to help fulfill his autocratic goals, including some who are morally unfit, notably the ex-republican congressman **Matt Gaetz** as Attorney General and **Pete Hegseth**, cohort of *Fox News* and a former guardsman, as **Secretary of Defense**. Both are accused of sexual assault, among other things. However, Gaetz' appointment found so much opposition that, despite Trump's insistence, Gaetz, himself, chose to drop his nomination. However, Hegseth is holding on while courting senators with Trump's steadfast support at this time.

What is most clear about Trump's appointments is that he chooses folks who will carry out his goal of giving the federal government full control to destroy many of the nation's past democratic achievements, including the **Affordable Care** and **Civil Rights Acts**.

Trump is now seeking the appointment of **Linda McMahon**, Florida's former Secretary of Education, who is accused of having enabled the abuse of school children across the State. Trump will also disgrace the Armed Forces if he carries out his plan to use the National Guard to carry out **mass deportations** of legal and "all illegal" immigrants, as if these people were not even human beings. Such a measure might not only wreck the national economy, but it will also expose once more the shoddy moral character of Donald J. Trump.

Fortunately, there are plenty of signs that the nightmare of Trumpism will not last for too long and that the soul and the freedom of America will again set the example for the rest of the world. But that, remains to be seen.