

When *larger than life* and life collide

Soon we will see the post mortems of Donald Trump pop up like dandelions in the spring. Everybody and his brother will be publishing books that will dissect the Trump presidency as DJT transitions out of the White House and back to public life. We must face facts; many of those books will be hit pieces as the Democrats cannot help themselves and are driven to continue their purge of one of the most consequential Presidents ever to serve the American people.

The Dems and other anti-Trumpers simply cannot let go of their TDS (Trump Derangement Syndrome). It has become an integral part of their identity and in many cases THE driving force in their political involvement. Let us call it what it is...

It is not only an incurable malady but one that is rooted in abject hatred - so deeply in fact - that it can never be slaked. Even Trump's eventual death will not rid them of their demons. They will continue to prevent any history book from recording anything positive about his accomplishments. And they will enjoy success as they now control many of the social media levers of power. (Facebook just suspended his account, following Twitter's example. Both are his principal means of communication with his supporters). Even the host of his Trump political merchandise website has blocked sales of MAGA items on *ethical grounds*.

These attacks are now reaching down to the next level. Simon and Schuster has just canceled its book deal with conservative Republican Senator Josh Hawley for what was to be his book, "The tyranny of big tech." Their stated position was, "We did not come to this decision lightly. As a publisher it will always be our mission to amplify a variety of voices and viewpoints: At the same time we take seriously our larger public responsibility as citizens, and cannot support Senator Hawley after his role in what became a dangerous threat." (S&S was referring to Hawley's objections to vote certification of Pennsylvania's electoral votes.)

So much for free speech.

I can see why the Left and its supporters like publishers, big tech oligarchs and the mainstream media despise Trump...he wouldn't kowtow to them. The irony is that his mere presence made them all rich! Their daily reports, newspapers and books were filled with 'Trump did this and Trump did that.' Hundreds of thousands of cable TV hours were devoted to everything he said or did. And, they all seemed to agree, that being against Donald Trump was a national badge of courage which they wore, proudly.

One must ask why, then, did they hate him so much when his very existence helped feed their hungry news machines? The media and the tech giants hated him because he replaced Barack Obama and that he stood for straight talk, free, unfettered and unregulated speech and an ideology of common sense based on the Constitution which the Left has always viewed as a collection of ancient anecdotes written by elitest old White men. For many of them the Constitution was just 'bar talk' or something that could be relegated to the fiction section of their libraries. It was certainly not to be regarded as a blueprint for American greatness and fairness. Also, Trump did not fit their mold of how a President should act in public and they reminded him of that on a daily basis.

Congress echoed big media and big tech's sentiments, and they were prepared to do anything, yes anything, to be rid of him. They even impeached him. And, if arch enemy of the President and the self-righteous, hypocritical 'Lady of the House' Nancy Pelosi had her way she'd impeach him again AND invoke the 25th Amendment if that didn't work. (One of the reasons for the latter approach is that it would prevent him from running again in 2024.) Left-leaning special interest groups and NGOs hate him, too, because he questioned their motives. This brush tars many like the Black victimization industry comprised of Black academicians, Black preachers and assorted Black Democrat Party leaders. The same is true for 'abortion rights' groups who hate him because his argument for protecting life is antithetical to theirs and threatens their vested interests.

The list of Trump-haters is a long one, but the largest group is ordinary garden variety Democrats and their radical cousins, the Progressives. Their hatred for Trump is a deep and a very self-contradictory one. They hate him because they need him (as a foil) AND they hate the fact that they need him for that. It would have been better if they had had an opponent that was weaker and easier to crush. I can best describe their feelings by giving you the Jack Nicholson soliloquy from the movie, "A few good men." It is the final dramatic scene from the film in which Navy lawyer Lt. Daniel Kaffee played by Tom Cruise is questioning Marine Col. Nathan R. Jessup played by Jack Nicholson about his actions. Think of Jessup as Trump and Kaffee as the Left attacking Trump, trying to get to truth, but when they do get it they are conflicted by it. It's long, but it's powerful.

Jessup: (The truth?) You can't handle the truth! Son, we live in a world that has walls, and those walls have to be guarded by men with guns. Who's gonna do it, you? I have a greater responsibility than you can possibly fathom. You weep for Santiago (*a dead Marine*) and you curse the Marines. You have that luxury. You have the luxury of not knowing what I know, that Santiago's death while tragic, probably saved lives; and my existence while grotesque, and incomprehensible, to you, saves lives.

- And here's the real punch line that reveals the problem the Left has with tough, resolute leaders who can't be persuaded to abandon their beliefs or be bought off.

You don't want the truth because deep down in places you don't talk about at parties, you want me on that wall. You need me on that wall! We use words like honor, code, loyalty. We use these words as the backbone of a life spent defending something. You use them as a punchline. I have neither the time nor the inclination to explain myself, to a man who rises and sleeps, under the blanket of the very freedom that I provide, and then questions the manner in which I provide them! I'd rather you just said 'thank you', and went on your way. Otherwise I suggest you pick up a weapon, and stand a post. Either way, I don't give a damn, what you think you are entitled to!"

In this movie, Jessup is the bad guy and Kaffee is the good guy. But what Director Rob Reiner (an arch Liberal) has done, perhaps unwittingly so, is draw a moral distinction and raises questions about the relationship between reality and idealism.

Trump makes the average Liberal very uncomfortable because Trump represents the true duality of their position (as in the Yin and Yang when seemingly opposite or contrary forces may actually be complementary, interconnected, and interdependent in the natural world, and how they may give rise to each other as they interrelate to one another). Trump is also a heroic and larger than life character and it is also that fact that causes a major conflict in the minds of Liberals. While they profess to admire strong leadership, it is only THAT leadership that reflects THEIR own views that is worthy of following. Leadership from the Right that is both strong and values-based is a threat, pure and simple. The result? Their feeling of conflicting duality throws them off balance and makes them unable to separate the man from the mission (which in some cases may be closer to their own mission than they are willing to concede), but eventually not wanting to debate the merits of the mission they choose the easier path and attack the man.

I have no doubt that after a year with Joe Biden Liberals will be chafing at the bit to get him to move faster and to somehow magically metamorphize into Barack Obama and adopt their radical plans on immigration, taxation, foreign affairs, climate, diversity, socialized medicine and a host of other issues. They will be disappointed because Joe Biden is no Barack Obama and is incapable of silver tongued oratory, inspiring or motivating crowds. He is a cardboard cutout of a Washington swamp creature mediocre politician and not a leader, and it won't take long for even the most diehard of Democrats to realize that fact. Realizing a fact, however, is not the same as DOING something about a fact, and this is where the Democrat Party will be forced to move towards action by choosing sides.

My prediction is that the Party will separate into three parts. One part (the older traditionalist Democrats) will continue to support Biden. The second will move stealthily and steadily towards Kamala Harris and the third will gravitate back towards the ultra-Left where Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, the 'Squad' and radical Senators like Raphael Warnock live.

We conservatives, independents and Libertarians need to steel ourselves with patience and fortitude. The next few months and years will be difficult ones, but we will get through them. Stay strong. The Democrats may temporarily own two of the three branches of government, but they don't own hope.

Stephan Helgesen is a retired career U.S. diplomat who lived and worked in 30 countries for 25 years during the Reagan, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton, and G.W. Bush Administrations. He is the author of ten books, four of which are on American politics and has written over 1,000 articles on politics, economics and social trends. He can be reached at: stephan@stephanhelgesen.com