

The final nail in democracy's coffin

We can all thank the Democrats (and some turncoat Republicans) for pounding the final nail in democracy's coffin as they vote today on impeaching the President...for the second time in a little over a year. As I write this the house is debating their impeachment vote of President Donald Trump. The vote is expected in a few hours and a 'yes' vote is a foregone conclusion given the Democrat majority in the House. We are now witnessing the 'weaponization' of the act of impeachment which was only designed as an absolute final step to remove a President from office, a step that was not supposed to be taken capriciously, especially when a President has but a week left in office.

Today's charade and perversion of justice shows that that weapon is now in the hands of irresponsible malicious people who are living in a state of unnatural hatred towards a man they have repeatedly and viciously attacked over the course of four long years. These legislators are headed up by a true despot who has gone out of her way to impede, malign, demean and accuse the President of wrong-doing (and now incitement to riot) at every turn and with every means possible. I am speaking, of course, of San Francisco's finest, that duplicitous, vengeful Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

Here is a woman that has exceeded her expiration date and is only able to fuel her sadistic Congressional sideshow on pure 100% hatred for a man she could not control or dominate. She tried everything from ridicule to theatrics to impeachment and now, re-impeachment. Her's is more than an Italian-style Napolitano or Genovese vendetta and it employs more than just 'Black Hand' Sicilian methods. While it is reminiscent of blood feuds practiced by many cultures, Pelosi has perfected it and created a political art form from it which is why power should never be entrusted to people with moral compasses that only point to themselves.

More than anyone else, Pelosi has become the poster child for the new assassination and recrimination politics of the Left. Her crusade to ethnic-cleanse America of any dissent or disagreement with her party's own positions has grown over time and as Trump has grown bolder. She continues to respond by launching personal attacks at not only him but also against all Republicans. Her actions qualify her uniquely to take up the mantel as the new Tomas de Torquemada, the grand inquisitor of Spain whose pursuit of his opponents and 'infidels' was synonymous with bigotry and cruel fanaticism.

Nancy Pelosi has shown us why power should never find its way to people who cannot tell the difference between *right* and *self-righteousness* or who wield power out of a perverted sense of justice and fairness. She and her impeachment 'managers' which include some of the most *ethically-challenged* members of Congress like Eric Swalwell and Jerry Nadler will, at the end of the day, stain that body with an indelible mark - a mark which will come to identify her party as a party of personal persecution and personal animus - something our founding Fathers warned us about.

She and her Democrat cohorts will forever bear the responsibility for firing the first shot in the new political civil war that will engulf us all. Her actions, born of anger and an unquenchable thirst for revenge, will catalyze other actions that will have serious consequences. The political battlefield will encompass all of us; those who desire peace and comity and those who only seek division. We will all be victims no matter how many battles we may win. This political fight will have wide-ranging ramifications on the whole of society and on our American culture and our long-cherished values. It would not surprise me if we see a further tightening of our freedom of speech, of assembly, of religion and of individual choice on a variety of subjects and issues that affect our entire country.

I fear the worst but continue to hope for the best, but hope is not a plan nor is it a solution. I'm afraid that we have no choice but to fight this war as there seems to be no one who is willing to call this exercise for what it truly is...an attack on the very fiber of our liberty.

I am convinced, however, that when it is over that we will see a re-positioning and re-alignment of our two political parties. Those Democrats with consciences will pressure their fellow party members to come to their senses and push for less divisive policies and to find a locus for reasonable debate. The job of these 'peacemakers' will be a difficult one as their party has already moved massive resources and people to the extreme left of the political divide. To be successful they will have to remove entrenched obstructionist politicians like Nancy Pelosi from positions of power AND they will have to provide a 'safe space' for debates to take place - in full view of the voters. I have my doubts as to the potential for success given the current environment, but we must remember that the political landscape will look very different after the battlefield has been cleared of the 'wounded' and THAT might make the possibility for dialogue more viable.

On the Republican side, the party will look and feel foreign, strange to many long-time party faithful. It will bear the unmistakable imprint of the 'MAGA' and 'America First' movement. Whether it is headed by Donald Trump or some other fearless supporter of our Constitution or advocate of individual freedom is an open question. I am certain, however, that there will be little room for those too timid to stand up and be counted or those who are willing to sell out their votes for thirty pieces of silver. God save our precious republic.

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