

(This discussion is in relation to "[Integrative United States - Joe Biden](#)" by Eliot Benjamin on Integral World).

Edward· Nov 11, 2020

"October 24, 2020

Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden recently bragged that Democrats have created the "most extensive and inclusive voter fraud organization in the history of American politics."

"We're in a situation where we have put together, and you guys did it for our administration...President Obama's administration before this. We have put together, I think, the most extensive and inclusive voter fraud organization in the history of American politics," Biden said

Elliot Benjamin· Nov 12, 2020

I don't think this is a constructive response Edward, as it reflects the kind of conspiracy QAnon tactics that are severely threatening this country, as people actually believe something like this. Of course what Biden meant by "voter fraud organization" was combating voter suppression and even FOX said as much, which you can easily find. Biden is well known for verbal slips, and this was obviously one of them. But on a respectable intellectual site such as Integral World, I do request that if you disagree with something that you convey this in an intellectually honest way, not with mis-characterizations such as this. Thank you.

Peter Collins· Nov 12, 2020

Congratulations Elliot on your piece which captures so well the mood of drama, elation and apprehension that we experienced awaiting the outcome of that election. And this still very much exists with the outcome not yet properly resolved.

It puts me in mind of that well known political quotation (misleadingly) attributed to Edmund Burke and used to great effect by former US President John F. Kennedy.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing"

And how often have I reflected on the truth of this remark during the last four years as the Trump administration repeatedly drove a coach and horses through accepted democratic conventions!

This sentiment is even more powerfully expressed in a poem "The Second Coming" by William Butler Yeats following the turmoil in the aftermath of the 1st World War. Interestingly the poem was also in part inspired by the famous Spanish flu of 1918-19 which is perhaps the closest precursor we have to the present coronavirus. (In the weeks preceding the writing of the poem, Yeats' pregnant wife had contacted the flu

and was very close to death).

It is worth relaying here the first verse from that memorable poem:

“Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.”

I believe it is a truly dangerous time for democracy in the US and with the repercussions of the economic crash of 2008 still being felt by many (largely giving rise to Trumpism) and the full fall-out from Covid-19 not yet established. And if the centre cannot hold in the US it will not hold in so many other countries that have long looked to it as a shining beacon for the preservation of peace and democracy in our world.

Many of us looking on from abroad have been truly shocked at the manner in which democratic standards have been allowed to fall so dramatically in the US in the past few years.

The opportunity now needs to be taken to properly address this issue not only for the good of the US but for the good of what so many still wish to consider as the “free” world.

dumptrump· Nov 12, 2020

We know Trump is a fraud concerning the vote since he has been telescoping for months that the election was rigged against him, setting up exactly what he is doing now: denying the reality that he lost. Moreover, asking for a recount is one thing; claiming a conclusion before such a recount is pure deception. Simply put, Trump is putting the cart before the horse precisely because he lost, not because there really was widespread fraud. And, to top it off, Trump was the one who engaged in rigging the election by actually telling people months ago to "vote twice." This is an absurd theater and anyone who knows or who has dealings with Trump knows that he is a cheat through and through. He is like the woman in fatal attraction. We simply cannot get rid of him. Or, is he like Carrie, with a hand popping out from the grave?

All this underlines that famous witticism that Winston Churchill was fond of quoting:

As the man whose mother-in-law had died in Brazil replied, when asked how the remains should be disposed of, “Embalm, cremate and bury. Take no risks!”

With Trump, he simply is like the energizer bunny from those old commercials.... he

keep going and going.

Such is his unassailable narcissism.

Good riddance.

Elliot Benjamin · Nov 12, 2020

Thank you Peter and dumptrump for your welcomed reinforcements and information regarding my essay. As I think more about it, I realize that Trump's plan does not actually require the supreme court to get involved or even any cases actually being taken up in the courts. If he can sow enough chaos and confusion and doubt in the key swing states, through extended recounts, endless legal maneuvers, etc., then all he needs to do is get the states of Georgia, Wisconsin, and then either Arizona or Pennsylvania to submit an alternative set of electors that could result in the state deciding to not certify their electors for Biden. This would result in neither candidate getting the needed 270 votes, and then the election goes to the House with their one vote/one state Republican majority counted in this way, and Trump "wins" or rather "steals" the election. I don't want to believe that this could happen, but it is not impossible. I suppose it's back to my agnostic prayers

Brad Reynolds · Nov 19, 2020

Thank GOD!

and thank you, Elliot for your wise monitoring and insights... and thank Joe Biden & Kamala Harris... and the MAJORITY of American People... now, let's stop the cultic coup attempt, another impeachable offense

Elliot Benjamin · Nov 21, 2020

Thanks for your comment Brad. I don't know, I still can't help feeling "uneasy" about the continued awful and disturbing attempted Trump coup. But yes I do believe that in the end Biden will come out as President, though it may actually take some shrewd maneuvering by Nancy Pelosi, and perhaps even Pelosi as temporary "acting president" to finally bring this about. But hopefully it will go more smoothly than this and Trump won't get us into a war with Iran during the next two months (a few days ago he actually got talked out of bombing Iran by the military joint chiefs of staff and even Pompei and Pence). And there is a stimulating set of videos about the possibilities of Trump successfully making his coup work, one that calls for alarm by Van Jones, and the other a very informed disagreement with Jones, entitled something like Van Jones Is Wrong (it's not too workable giving website addresses in this Comments section but you can easily find these videos if you're interested--here's a warning though that the Van Jones Is Wrong video is 50 minutes but very well worth watching).

