

# Introduction

I understand the inclination to say 'Donald Trump does not have a policy agenda.' Presidential hopefuls are normally expected to lay out their vision, misguided or not, of how they plan to improve the lives of the American People. Trump is obviously sorely lacking in this department. In 2016, Trump at least had slogans like "Build the Wall," which, while never Nobel Prize winning in their formulation, at least evoked concrete images in peoples' minds. Trump's *positive* vision is now even more vague: he has "concepts of a [healthcare] plan."<sup>2</sup> Or when pushed on his 200% percent tariffs on Chinese goods, Trump revealed it was "just a figure of speech" saying, "I'll say 100, 200, I'll say 500. I don't care."<sup>10</sup>

Trump and his allies, however, *do have plans*.

Trump has a plan to use the military as domestic law enforcement on American citizens. Trump has a plan to weaponize the Department of Justice against his enemies, perceived or real. Trump has a plan to fill the ranks of the federal government with ideologues and loyalists to serve his every whim. Trump has a plan for immigration: to extrajudicially deport millions of immigrants, to build massive militarized encampments to hold them while they await deportation, and to deploy the military along the southern border.

This all may sound both shocking and far-fetched, but most of this scheming, as with Trump's efforts to steal the 2020 election, is happening in the open. If you've been paying close attention, *none* of what I said is actually shocking: these plans are found in Trump's speeches, in leaked documents from his campaign, and seeping out of the mouths of his sycophants and enablers. And *none* of what I said is particularly far-fetched either. You're about to see Trump *was far more successful in his efforts to rule as an autocrat than you realize*. This all culminates in Trump's ultimate desire to be a truly *unitary* executive, to rule as one of the dictators he has so often praised.

Make no mistake: Trump's attempts to overturn the results of the 2020 election, culminating on January 6th, 2021, are *by a country-fucking-mile the worst thing he's done*, but I won't be covering it much here. Destiny has litigated the subject extremely thoroughly on stream. I want to tell a related, and at times parallel story, that will serve as a companion piece for when (more like if OMEGALUL) the J6 video comes out.

First, I'll dive into how Trump's rhetoric has plunged to even lower depths, becoming more vengeful, spiteful, and extreme since being ousted from office. Second, I'll go over Trump's dark plans for his second term, and the ways in which he already found some success the first go around.

But before I do any of that VOTE. Vote for Kamala Harris and Tim Walz to stop this demon from reclaiming the Oval Office. Vote down-ballot for Democrats until the ReTrumplicans excise this

anti-democracy cancer they've become afflicted with. You should vote no matter where you are, but the election will likely hinge on the outcome of these states, **SO IF YOU'RE IN ONE OF THESE STATES AND HAVEN'T VOTED, STOP READING THIS AND MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE RIGHT NOW AT [VOTE.ORG](https://vote.org):**

- Pennsylvania
- Michigan
- Wisconsin
- Georgia
- North Carolina
- Arizona
- Nevada

## Trump's New Rhetoric

*"I will stop this invasion. I'm going to do it. I will stop the killing. I will stop the bloodshed. I will end the agony of our people, the plunder of our cities, the sacking of our towns, the violation of our citizens and the conquest of our country. They're conquering our country. These people are conquering our country."* - Donald Trump, earlier this year on the campaign trail<sup>1</sup>

## Trump's Norm-Breaking Rhetorical History

### Trump Has Long Praised Autocrats and Authoritarianism

Donald Trump has never been a defender of liberalism. Trump has a history of praising autocrats that stretches long before he first set foot in the White House. In 1989, when the Chinese Communist Party used the military to silence a pro-democracy protest in Tiananmen Square, Trump had this to say in an interview with *Playboy*: "When the students poured into Tiananmen Square, the Chinese government almost blew it. Then they were vicious, they were horrible, but they put it down with strength. That shows you the power of strength. Our country is right now perceived as weak."<sup>2</sup> Also in 1989, five men (now commonly referred to as the Central Park Five) were wrongfully accused, and later convicted, in the assault and rape of a jogger in Central Park. Trump spent \$85,000<sup>29</sup> on full-page ads in four New York newspapers calling for the reinstatement of the death penalty as punishment for the men. In Trump's defense, the revelation of the five men's innocence would not come for more than a decade, but Trump's language in the ads shows a desire not for justice, but for vengeance. "Mayor Koch has stated that hate and rancor should be removed from our hearts. I do not think so. I want to hate these muggers and murderers. They should be forced to suffer and, when they kill, they should be executed for their crimes," Trump said in the ads. Trump went further to say, "How can our great society tolerate the continued brutalization of its citizens by crazed misfits? **Criminals must be told that their CIVIL LIBERTIES END WHEN AN ATTACK ON OUR SAFETY BEGINS.**"<sup>30</sup>

These sentiments of Trump dating back more than thirty years show he's *always* been extreme, but when espoused by a C-tier celebrity and D-tier businessman, they didn't really have much weight. On the road to Pennsylvania Avenue, however, they paint a darker portrait.

## **On the Campaign Trail and as President, Trump's Rhetoric Was Extreme**

I think nearly everyone remembers Donald Trump saying, just minutes into his 2016 campaign announcement speech, that the people coming in from Mexico were "bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists, and some, I assume, are good people."<sup>40</sup> Trump said Hillary Clinton would "abolish the Second Amendment," and that no one could do anything about it except for maybe "the Second Amendment people."<sup>41</sup> Trump, in the summer of 2016, said Saddam Hussein was a "really bad guy," but also said, "He killed terrorists. He did that so good. They didn't read them the rights. They didn't talk. They were terrorists. It was over."<sup>31</sup>

It may seem like Trump didn't attempt to moderate his tough talk once at the bully pulpit. In 2017 as President, Trump told Rodrigo Duterte, then President of the Philippines that he was doing "an unbelievable job on the drug problem" because of, not in spite of, Duterte's administration extrajudicial killing of suspected drug dealers.<sup>42</sup>

Trump did, however, moderate (initially) in some key ways. For instance, recall the Deplorable herd chanting "Lock Her Up!," at many-a rally.<sup>44</sup> Trump famously played into the notion in one of the debates with Clinton. "It's just awfully good that someone with the temperament of Donald Trump is not in charge of the law in our country," Clinton remarked. "Because you'd be in jail," Trump quipped back.<sup>43</sup> In Trump's victory speech, however, he spoke well of Clinton. "I just received a call from Secretary Clinton. She congratulated us—it's about us—on our victory," Trump said, "and I congratulated her, and her family, on a very, very hard fought campaign. I mean she fought very hard. Hillary has worked very long and very hard, over a long period of time, and we owe her a major debt of gratitude for her service to our country. I mean that very sincerely."<sup>45</sup> Several weeks later as President-elect, Trump said he wouldn't pursue a criminal investigation of Clinton. "It's just not something that I feel very strongly about," Trump said, "[prosecuting Clinton] would be very, very divisive."<sup>46</sup>

You'll soon see later on in his presidency, however, Trump changed his tune on Clinton.

## **Trump's New Rhetoric, However, Is Significantly More Extreme: He Is Now a Full-Blown Fascist Obsessed with Vengeance**

### **Recent Comments**

You may have heard Donald Trump recently talk about using the military to squash the "enemy from within."<sup>16,59</sup> Or you might have seen Trump recently suggest using the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to quell illegal immigration.<sup>35</sup> Its most infamous use was its role in detaining Japanese

citizens during WWII.<sup>60</sup> Or you might have seen Trump, at a rally in September, say that “one rough day” or “one rough hour” of policing would fix the shoplifting problem.<sup>68</sup> This does mark a genuine uptick in violent rhetoric for Trump, but it is not new.

I’ve seen Destiny repeatedly bring up Trump’s Truth Social post in late 2022 saying he should be reinstated as president and that, in reference to the 2020 election, “A Massive Fraud of this type and magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution.”<sup>39</sup> While this is probably *one of the worst things Trump has ever said*, it, taken in totality with what Trump has also said during his 2024 campaign, creates an unimaginably bleak vision.

## Fascism Incarnate

I think it’s more powerful to just list a lot of this out without much of my own commentary. I highly encourage you to look at the sources here. They’re made of Trump’s social media posts and videos of his words directly.

- Trump has said repeatedly he’d be a dictator on day one: Trump, in response to Sean Hannity asking if he’ll seek retribution said, “‘You’re not gonna be a dictator are you?’ No, no, no, **other than day one**. We’re closing the border, and we’re drilling, drilling, drilling. After that, I’m not a dictator.”<sup>24</sup>
- Trump says shoplifters will be shot: “Very simply, if you rob a store, you can fully **expect to be shot as you are leaving that store. Shot!**” Trump said to thunderous applause.<sup>25</sup>
- Trump has pledged, in a very “saying-the-quiet-part-out-loud” kinda way, that **he will indict his political opponents for purely political reasons**. Putin wishes he could be this on the nose:
  - “If I happen to be president, and I see somebody who is doing well and beating me very badly, I’ll say, ‘go down and indict them.’”<sup>61</sup>
  - “It does mean that the next president is able to say to the Attorney General, ‘you know what, there’s somebody running over there, and he happens to be a Democrat, and he’s killing me in the polls, indict him!’”<sup>26</sup>
  - “Right now, when they start playing with your elections and trying to arrest their political opponent, I can do that too. If I win, I could then say, ‘I don’t know. This Democrat is doing great. I don’t like the poll numbers. Attorney General, come down, arrest that guy please. Give him a subpoena. Indict him.’”<sup>26</sup>
  - “This is third world country stuff. Arrest your opponent, and that means I could do that too.”<sup>26</sup>
  - “That means if I win and somebody wants to run against me. I call my Attorney General, and I say, ‘Listen, indict him.’”<sup>26</sup>
  - “Wouldn’t it be terrible to throw the president’s wife and the former secretary of state into jail? Wouldn’t that be a terrible thing? It’s a terrible, terrible, path that they’re leading us to. And it’s very possible that it’s going to have to happen to them.”<sup>62</sup>
  - “Now, if I win and let’s say somebody comes along on the Democrat side and they’re looking very strong, I can call my attorney general, I guess. Am I allowed

to call him and say, 'You have to indict him on something. Just find anything. You can indict him for anything you want. Just indict him?' And then for the most part, when you get indicted, you know what you do? 'Ladies and gentlemen, I have decided to leave office immediately, et cetera, et cetera. I will be spending more time with my family.' Did you ever hear that speech? Like hundreds of times."<sup>63</sup>

- Trump suggests **executing a US Army general**: On January 6th, 2021, General Mark Milley, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (the highest ranking and most senior position in the US Armed Forces), made a call to Chinese General Li Zuocheng, Milley's equivalent in China, to assure the Chinese that rumors floating around about Trump possibly launching an attack to stay in office were not true. "General Li, I want to assure you that the American government is stable and everything is going to be okay," Milley said.<sup>64</sup> When details of this call, in which no crime was committed, along with Milley's general deriding of Trump (Milley more recently made headlines for being quoted calling Trump a "**fascist to the core**"<sup>22,74</sup>), re-emerged in an *Atlantic* profile<sup>64</sup> in September 2023 on Milley, Trump suggested Milley had committed a crime so grave in making that call to the Chinese general **as to merit execution**:
  - "Mark Milley, who led perhaps the most embarrassing moment in American history with his grossly incompetent implementation of the withdrawal from Afghanistan, costing many lives, leaving behind hundreds of American citizens, and handing over BILLIONS of dollars of the finest military equipment ever made, will be leaving the military next week. This will be a time for all citizens of the USA to celebrate! This guy turned out to be a Woke train wreck who, if the Fake News reporting is correct, was actually dealing with China to give them a heads up on the thinking of the President of the United States. **This is an act so egregious that, in times gone by, the punishment would have been DEATH!** A war between China and the United States could have been the result of this treasonous act. To be continued!!!"<sup>38</sup>
  - Milley, after retiring from the military and receiving non-stop death threats from Trump supporters, installed bulletproof glass and blast-proof curtains in his home.<sup>74</sup>
- Trump, never exactly a friend of the press, has gotten even more explicit in the rhetorical violence he hurls at them. He has recently suggested that when there are leaks to the press from the government, if the journalist will not tell you the source of the leak, the journalist would then be thrown in jail and, **as Trump jokes about, be raped in prison**. How fun!
  - "You take the writer and/or the publisher of the paper ... and you say, 'Who is the leaker? National security.' And they say, 'We're not gonna tell you.' They say, 'That's okay, you're going to jail.' And when this person realizes that he is going to be the bride of another prisoner very shortly, he will say, 'I'd very much like to tell you exactly who that leaker is!'"<sup>65</sup>
  - "You tell the reporter, 'Who is it?' And the reporter will either tell you or not. And if the reporter doesn't want to tell you, it's bye-bye, the reporter goes to jail. And when the reporter learns that he's going to be married in two days to a certain

prisoner that's extremely strong, tough and mean, he will say, 'You know' ... I think I'm going to give you the information."<sup>66</sup>

- Trump, invoking the rhetoric of some Europeans of 30's and 40's he seems to quite admire, calls his enemies '**vermin**': "We pledge to you that we will root out the Communists, Marxists, fascists, and the radical-left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country, that lie and steal and cheat on elections ... The threat from outside forces is far less sinister, dangerous, and grave than the threat from within. Our threat is from within."<sup>67</sup>
  - A version of this statement in an official Trump campaign ad that drops the word 'vermin,' but still remains horrifying, is a fun watch.<sup>36</sup>
- Trump has repeatedly suggested that immigrants are "poisoning the blood of our country:"
  - "They're poisoning the blood of our country.. They poison mental institutions and prisons all over the world. Not just in South America... but all over the world they're coming into our country from Africa, from Asia.." <sup>32</sup>
  - "ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS POISONING THE BLOOD OF OUR NATION. THEY'RE COMING FROM PRISONS, FROM MENTAL INSTITUTIONS — FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. WITHOUT BORDERS & FAIR ELECTIONS, YOU DON'T HAVE A COUNTRY. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"<sup>70</sup> You can tell this one is a Truth post because it's in ALL CAPS FOR NO DISCERNIBLE REASON.
  - "Poisoning the blood" is certainly an interesting phrase, given that it's pretty much ripped straight from the pages of *Mein Kampf*.<sup>69</sup>
    - "All great cultures of the past perished only because the originally creative race died out from blood poisoning."
    - "He poisons the blood of others but preserves his own blood unadulterated."
    - "Whenever Aryans have mingled their blood with that of an inferior race, the result has been the downfall of the people who were the standard-bearers of a higher culture."
  - Given the implications of using that phrase with that much baggage, surely Trump stopped saying it once he realized its fascist origins...right? Right?!?!?!?!
    - "They're destroying the blood of our country. That's what they're doing. They're destroying our country. They don't like it when I said that, **and I never read *Mein Kampf*. They said, 'oh, Hitler said that.'** In a much different way."<sup>33</sup>
    - Uhh, no Donald, he kinda meant it in **the exact same way**.

I hope that is enough to show how truly unhinged this man has become. Even if you'd heard him saying the "poisoning the blood," bit, I bet a lot of you hadn't heard him **literally acknowledge Hitler had said that, and then continue to say it anyway**. If you hadn't heard that, it shows you how truly unbelievable the media environment has become in the Trump era.

To really drive this message home that what Donald Trump seeks is revenge, I want to show you some of the details of Trump's first major rally of his 2024 presidential campaign. Almost all of what he says and does at it is repeated ad nauseam at other rallies, but Trump's choice of venue, given the context of all that wild shit above and what he says at this rally is, in my mind, extraordinarily revealing of Trump's intentions.

## Trump's First Rally

Imagine this: it's early 2023, you're Donald Trump (it's OK if you're already screaming), and you need to pick the location of the first major rally of your 2024 Presidential Campaign. What spot would you pick to serve as the backdrop of your campaign? Somewhere in Pennsylvania? The Keystone State remains perhaps the most crucial in your path to the White House, so it'd be a sensible choice. Perhaps somewhere in Florida? You're still a fixture there, and your main residence is in the state, and you're nothing if not lazy. Perhaps Madison Square Garden in Manhattan (as Trump did last weekend)? You're a product of the city, it'd be sure to draw you some big crowds, get some heavy press attention, and get the libs riled up. Unfortunately, none of these spots serve the central plotline of your campaign very well. You want *revenge*, so you pick somewhere altogether different: Waco, Texas.<sup>12</sup>

Waco may seem like a strange spot if you aren't familiar with its history. Texas, while looking more the part of swinger in the 2020 presidential election, has since settled back down as a firmly red state (at least for the presidency). Waco is a city of about ~150,000 people roughly 70 miles south of Dallas. It's a relatively sleepy little town, but from February 28th to April 19th, 1993 it was the site of the Waco Siege. The ATF was attempting to serve a warrant on the Branch Davidians, a doomsday cult. The Branch Davidians fought back, which led to the prolonged siege where 86 people ultimately died after tear gas caused a fire which engulfed the cult's compound in flames.<sup>13</sup>

I know this may seem like a long aside, but it's important to understand the new lows of Trump, so stay with me here. In the years after the attack, right-wing groups have used the siege as fuel and evidence of an assault on the Second Amendment and of federal government overreach more broadly, and it is seen as the founding of the modern American militia movement.<sup>15</sup> The Three Percenters (a militia group involved in the J6 riot<sup>58</sup>) sent an open letter to AG Eric Holder in 2009 saying "No More Free Wacos," and the Oath Keepers (another militia involved in the J6 riot<sup>58</sup>) issued a statement warning the Bundy family (the Bundy Standoff, a standoff similar to the Waco Siege, but in which no one was killed<sup>17</sup>) could be "Waco'd."<sup>14</sup>

The Waco Siege's most infamous invocation, however, was by domestic terrorist Timothy McVeigh. McVeigh cited the Waco Siege, amongst other things, as justification for the April 19, 1995 (the two year anniversary of the end of the Waco Siege) Oklahoma City Bombing where McVeigh and his accomplice killed 168 people, the deadliest domestic terrorist attack in US history.<sup>18</sup>

Now, coming back to Trump's Waco rally last year, Waco seems like an... odd venue for your premiere rally, doesn't it? Perhaps it was just a coincidence. That's what Steven Cheung, the

campaign's spokesman, would have you believe, saying Waco was chosen "because it is centrally located and close to all four of Texas' biggest metropolitan areas—Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Austin and San Antonio—while providing the necessary infrastructure to hold a rally of this magnitude."<sup>14</sup> I'm sure the date of the rally, March 25, being on the 30th anniversary of the Waco Siege, was just another coincidence, right? I'm sure pure chance struck again when at the rally Trump said, "In 2016 I declared I am your voice. And now I say to again tonight, I am your warrior, I am your justice, and—I took a lot of heat for this one, but I only mean it in the proper way—for those who have been wronged and betrayed—of which there are many people out there who have been wronged and betrayed—I **am your retribution. We will take care of it.**"<sup>12</sup>

Still not convinced about the whole revenge thing? Trump has quite the choice for a musical opener. Trump has played it at many rallies since, but its use here is certainly striking. You can hear it start at around 0:02:45 in the C-SPAN footage,<sup>71</sup> but I recommend watching the music video for the song.

What is the song? Well, it's called "**Justice for All.**"<sup>72</sup> It consists of Trump, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance while a choir of men flatly sing "The Star-Spangled Banner." 'What choir?' you might ask. Well, **the J6 Prison Choir** of course. Three guesses as to who those people are... seriously **if you watch nothing else, watch the video.**

Trump **personally helped produce the record, recorded his part specifically for the song,** and the proceeds from it seem to be **going to the families of those incarcerated for the J6 Capitol Riot.**<sup>73</sup>

## Trump's Plans for a Second Term

### MOST ALARMING: Using Troops on US Soil

*"I think the bigger problem are the people from within. We have some very bad people. We have some sick people. Radical left lunatics... I think it should be very easily handled by, if necessary, by National Guard, or if really necessary, by the military, because they can't let that happen."* - Donald Trump when asked how to handle chaos on election day<sup>59</sup>

### What Trump Plans To Do

Speaking at C-PAC in 2022, Donald Trump said this: "In places where there is a true breakdown of rule of law—such as in the most dangerous neighborhoods in Chicago—the **next president should use every power at his disposal to restore order, and, if necessary, that includes sending the National Guard or the troops.**"<sup>76</sup> [51:30 into the C-SPAN broadcast](#) The crowd responded with thunderous applause. I've already documented how Trump loves displays of strength, like when the Chinese military crushed protesters at Tiananmen Square. Trump may want to use the troops to quell protests he doesn't like or to "restore" law and order, but how would he do it?

A post-Civil War law, called the Posse Comitatus Act, generally criminalized the use of federal troops for domestic policing<sup>78</sup>, but the **Insurrection Act** (enacted in 1807), grants presidents the power to use federal troops when law and order has broken down.<sup>77</sup>

“Whenever the President considers that unlawful obstructions, combinations, or assemblages, or rebellion against the authority of the United States, make it impracticable to enforce the laws of the United States in any State by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, he may call into Federal service such of the militia of any State, and use such of the armed forces, as he considers necessary to enforce those laws or to suppress the rebellion,”<sup>77</sup> reads the Insurrection Act.

The Insurrection Act has only been used thirty times in its more than 200 year history. The act was last used more than three decades ago in 1992. George H.W. Bush sent the National Guard into Los Angeles to suppress riots that followed the tape showing LAPD officers beating a black man, Rodney King, being released. In this specific case however, both the governor of California and the mayor of Los Angeles had requested federal assistance.<sup>3</sup> The law can be used without the request, and sometimes in direct contradiction with the desires, of state and local officials. In the 50s and 60s, the Insurrection Act was invoked by Dwight Eisenhower, JFK, and LBJ to enforce the integration of black students into southern schools that had refused.<sup>79</sup>

At a small rally in Iowa early in 2023, Trump said this, seemingly referencing the Insurrection Act: “You look at any democrat-run state, and it is not the same. It does not work. New York City is a crime den. Chicago is a crime den. You look at these great cities—Los Angeles, San Francisco—you look at what’s happening to our country. We cannot let it happen any longer. **One of the other things I’ll do—because, you know, you’re supposed to not be involved in that—you have to be asked by the governor or mayor to come in. The next time, I’m not waiting. One of the things I did was, let them run it, and we’re gonna show how bad a job they do. Well we did that. We don’t have to wait any longer. We have to get crime out of our cities.**”<sup>80</sup> 1:50:14 in C-SPAN broadcast

*The Washington Post* reported in November of 2023 that, based on internal communications acquired by *the Post*, people involved in the now infamous Project 2025 are drafting plans to use the Insurrection Act on Trump’s first day in office.<sup>19</sup> *The Post* also reports that **Jeffrey Clark**, who you’ll probably recognize from Destiny’s J6 research, is spearheading the effort to use the Insurrection Act.<sup>19</sup> For those who haven’t followed Destiny’s stream, Clark was revealed to be Co-Conspirator 4 in the original J6 federal indictment<sup>81</sup> (Clark is now absent from the superseding indictment after the Supreme Court’s immunity ruling gutted Trump’s attempt to pressure the DOJ in his efforts to overturn the 2020 election from the case<sup>82</sup>).

Clark works as a fellow at the Center for Renewing America, a sister thinktank to the Heritage Foundation. In the original indictment, when Clark was about to be made acting AG, Deputy White House Counsel informed Clark that if Trump didn’t leave office on January 20th, there would be “riots in every major city in the United States.” Clark responded, “Well, [Deputy White House Counsel], **that’s why there’s an Insurrection Act.**”<sup>81</sup> Even some of the other hardline

conservative think tanks have become squeamish at the idea of using troops on American citizens,<sup>3</sup> but Clark seems, like he was in the final days of Trump's first term, ready to bravely tread where no moron has before.

A 2023 email that circulated with staff of the Center for Renewing America staff obtained by *The Times* listed out ten agenda items.<sup>3</sup> Number four on the list was: "**Insurrection — stop riots \*\* — Day 1, easy.**" It's both funny and horrifying that discussing how to use the military on American citizens is formatted like an email from my boss about the PowerPoint he wants me to get ready for the client meeting next Tuesday.

## The Steps Trump Took in His First Term

So we see how Trump seems to want to use the Insurrection Act to quell riots and crime, but why didn't he do so in his first term? While speculating about why Trump didn't invoke the act is just that, speculation, he did seem close to using it at least once during his presidency.

Trump, in the summer of 2020 and less than a week after George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, **had an executive order drafted invoking the Insurrection Act** to respond to the riots and protests that had broken out across America, but ultimately didn't follow through with it.<sup>19</sup>

Stephen Miller, a senior advisor to Trump since the very early days of Trump's 2016 campaign and was chief architect of Trump's first "muslim ban" executive order,<sup>83</sup> desperately attempted to persuade Trump to use the Insurrection Act in the aftermath of Floyd's death. "Mr. President, they are burning America down. Antifa, Black Lives Matter—they're burning it down. **You have an insurrection on your hands.** Barbarians are at the gate," Miller told then-president Trump. Mark Milley, whom you'll remember Trump later implied should be executed, was in the room and said to Miller, "Shut the fuck up, Steve." Milley then turned to Trump, saying, "Mr. President, they are not burning it down."<sup>64</sup> Milley was often a lone voice of reason in discussions like these, and the people like him will not be around for the Trump sequel.

In an interview with *60 Minutes*, Mark Esper, Trump's Secretary of Defense, quotes Trump as saying, "'Can't you just shoot them? Shoot them in the legs, or something,'" in that same meeting following Floyd's death.<sup>57</sup>

Trump, likely at the advice of people like Esper and Milley, ultimately did not use the Insurrection Act. It's now clear Trump views that as a mistake.

## Weaponizing the Department of Justice Against His Enemies

*"The most important person in government—after the president—it's not me and it's not even the staff members. The most important person in government I think, after the president, is going to be the attorney general."* - JD Vance<sup>11</sup>

## What Trump Plans To Do

Donald Trump is campaigning on revenge. In the Rhetoric section of this post, I brought up several examples of Trump saying, out-loud, in plain english, that he will use the Attorney General to prosecute his political enemies.<sup>26, 61, 62, 63</sup> Who are these enemies? The list is probably longer than I could feasibly name, but to name a few: Kamala Harris; Joe Biden; Hunter Biden (because why fucking not); Hillary Clinton; Nancy Pelosi; Anthony Fauci; J6 Committee members in general, but Adam Schiff and Liz Cheney in particular; Jack Smith; Alvin Bragg; James Comey; Andrew McCabe; Mark Milley; John F. Kelly; Mark Esper; Gavin Newsom; Barack Obama; and unspecified donors, voters, public officials, “Political Operatives,” lawyers, “Corrupt Election Officials” who are engaging in “rampant Cheating and Skullduggery” (how does he manage to be so funny while suggesting such horrible things?).<sup>19, 20, 26, 28, 37, 59, 64, 74, 85, 86, 87</sup>

It’s important to understand that norms, not laws, keep the Department of Justice independent from the White House.<sup>5</sup> These norms were broadly established after Richard Nixon infamously tried to suppress the FBI’s investigation into the Watergate Scandal.<sup>19</sup> Presidents since set broad policy, but try to not involve themselves in the outcomes of specific criminal cases.<sup>5</sup>

That email I mentioned as circulating with staff at the Center for Renewing America had, if you recall, ten agenda items. Number 5 on the list: **eliminating the DOJ investigative independence from the White House.**<sup>3</sup> Jeffrey Clark, has written a piece for the Center for Reviewing America called: *The U.S. Justice Department Is Not Independent.*<sup>98</sup> In the article, Clark argues, via some... esoteric interpretations of this country’s founding document, that **an independent DOJ is unconstitutional.** In more normal times, this would probably be seen as the ravings of a lunatic, but in the day of Clarence Thomases, a certain court might just interpret this as the most sound legal argument ever written. *Who really fucking knows?*

But how specifically will Trump go after his enemies? It’s likely impossible to guess how exactly he will target each individual on his enemy list, but we can look to his first term to see how, in more ways than you realize, Trump got the DOJ and other components of the federal government to bend to his whims.

## The Steps Trump Took in His First Term

Much of the reporting around Trump’s threats to weaponize the arms of the federal government has been about what Trump *could* do in a hypothetical second term, despite the lack of success Trump (seemingly) had in doing so in his first term. *The New York Times*’ Michael Schmidt sees this as not quite the right way to look at it. “Candidly, I think that the news media has treated [Trump’s threats to prosecute his enemies] as a hypothetical, as well. The media says, if Trump comes back, he says he’s going to seek retribution. This is a warning about what Trump may do,” Schmidt says in a *Times* podcast. “What’s insufficient about that is that he already did this. He did this when he was president, and he did it to a degree far greater than even I, someone who’s been trying to cover this since the moment he came into the White House, appreciated. **He was actually much more successful when he was president in weaponizing the government against his enemies.**”<sup>2</sup> Schmidt’s reporting in the last month or so shows how

Trump *did* very often get the investigations into his foes he wanted. (I highly recommend reading at least source [8](#) and listening to/reading [7](#) and [88](#) in their entirety to see the lengths Trump went to to attack his enemies. I'll be covering only some of it here.)

**Hillary Clinton:** Remember when Trump said he wasn't going to go after Hillary Clinton? Well, that didn't last very long. After dealing with the headaches of the investigations into Trump's ties to Russia, he became frustrated and turned his anger toward his foes. On July 24, 2017, Trump tweeted, "So why aren't the Committees and investigators, and of course our beleaguered A.G., looking into Crooked Hillarys [*sic*] crimes & Russia relations?"<sup>91</sup> In addition to that public tweet, Trump told aides that if then-AG Jeff Sessions would not investigate, Trump would do it himself<sup>8</sup> (how the fuck he would even do that is a mystery to me).

Bill Barr, who succeeded Sessions and was Trump's loyal attack dog (until Trump's election fraud claims were a bridge too far), appointed US attorney John Durham to investigate Trump's wide-ranging conspiracies theories about Clinton.<sup>7, 92</sup> Clinton eventually sat for questioning with Durham, but was never charged with a crime.<sup>8</sup>

**James Comey and Andrew McCabe:** You may remember then-FBI director James Comey's open letter to Congress in the final weeks of the 2016 campaign that amounted to one of the many October Surprises that year.<sup>93</sup> You might also remember when Trump fired Comey shortly after coming into office for refusing Trump's demands for loyalty, opening an investigation into the Trump campaign's ties to Russia, and continuing to investigate Michael Flynn, despite pressure from Trump. Comey's notes on meetings with Trump raised questions about obstruction of justice, and led to the appointment of special counsel Robert Mueller.<sup>8</sup> Andrew McCabe was the deputy under Comey. McCabe opened an investigation into Trump to determine if Trump was a counterintelligence threat and obstructing justice.<sup>8</sup>

Trump told John Kelly, his Chief of Staff at the time, and Don McGahn, a member of the White House counsel, in late 2017 or early 2018, that he wanted to use the IRS to target Comey and McCabe (among others).<sup>88</sup> Kelly (who recently made headlines for saying **Trump meets the definition of a fascist**<sup>95</sup>) and McGahn heavily pushed back on Trump's efforts and warned him that what he was attempting to do was immoral and illegal.

Comey and McCabe were both later 'randomly' selected for an extremely invasive and rare audit (only about 1 out of 30,600 returns are subject to this type of audit every year) by the IRS that's commonly referred to as "an autopsy without the benefit of death."<sup>94</sup> A later investigation didn't find any evidence that the audits were the result of political pressure.<sup>96</sup> So while it is possible the investigations were truly random, number crunchers at *the Times* determined the chance of both Comey and McCabe being randomly selected was about **1 in 82 million**.<sup>7</sup>

Comey and McCabe were also both investigated by the DOJ to determine whether, amongst other things, the two had leaked classified materials to journalists. There were also investigations into whether either of the men had mishandled the Clinton and Russia investigations.<sup>8</sup>

So what was the outcome of these audits and investigations? In McCabe's case, prosecutors got a grand jury to try and indict McCabe, but in an exceedingly rare move, **the grand jury decided not to indict McCabe** (maybe you can't indict a ham sandwich after all). The IRS audit also turned up nothing. McCabe was, however, fired by Sessions days before his retirement, stripping his pension away. The Biden administration later restored McCabe's benefits. Comey was ultimately never charged with a crime, but the outcome of the IRS audit is a great bit of irony: the IRS found **Comey had overpaid his taxes, and the federal government sent him a refund.**<sup>7,8</sup>

**Michael Cohen:** Michael Cohen was Trump's lawyer and fixer who was criminally charged and pled guilty to his role in paying Stormy Daniels hush money at the end of the 2016 campaign. Cohen turned government witness and testified against Trump. On the outset of the COVID pandemic, Cohen was allowed to serve his prison sentence at home. The Bureau of Prisons, however, told Cohen that he had to **sign an agreement that he wouldn't publish a book during his sentence.** Trump was reportedly privately discussing with aides ways to stop Cohen from publishing his book. After Cohen refused to sign the agreement, **he was sent back to prison.** A federal judge quickly overruled the decision. "It's retaliatory because of his desire to exercise his First Amendment rights to publish a book and to discuss anything about the book or anything else he wants on social media and with others,"<sup>8</sup> said the judge who added, **"In 21 years of being a judge and sentencing people and looking at the terms and conditions of supervised release, I have never seen such a clause."**<sup>97</sup>

Schmidt goes over six more people who faced similar circumstances in his reporting, but this all begs the question, 'was Trump successful?' In the case of Comey, McCabe, and Clinton, it might look like justice prevailed, but at what cost? McCabe, for instance, ended up spending more than **a million dollars**<sup>8</sup> on his legal defense, and that's to say nothing of the countless cumulative days of life wasted thinking about and dealing with investigations that overturned nothing. *The process is the punishment.*

Schmidt, I think, says it best: "On one hand, [you] could say, wow, look, the three branches of government are holding up. The Justice Department investigated something. They knew if they went to indict someone, they'd have to go to court before a judge, and ultimately, never did that because they didn't have enough to get over that line. On the other hand, **I'm not sure whether these people being indicted is where we should measure whether this was a success or not for Trump,** because these people came under investigation. They knew that they were under investigation. A prosecutor once said to me, **you can ruin someone's life by just investigating them.** It's anxiety inducing for the subject of the investigation and for their families. In some cases, it can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The government can gain access to a wide array of your communications and financial information. It's not nothing."<sup>7</sup>

## Immigration

*"ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS POISONING THE BLOOD OF OUR NATION. THEY'RE COMING FROM PRISONS, FROM MENTAL INSTITUTIONS — FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. WITHOUT BORDERS & FAIR ELECTIONS, YOU DON'T HAVE A COUNTRY. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"* - Donald Trump, in an unhinged Truth Social post<sup>70</sup>

## What Trump Plans To Do

Many of Donald Trump's immigration plans look like they're just a copy and paste from his first term. Trump intends to reinstate his "Muslim Ban," and he wants to use Title 42 again.<sup>4</sup> Title 42 was used to refuse asylum seekers at the border due to health concerns about covid. Title 42 would be invoked this time arguing that migrants carry other diseases like tuberculosis. Trump, in 2016, along with his wall, promised mass deportations,<sup>101</sup> and he's promising them again.<sup>4</sup>

So what would really be all that different? Well, *quite a lot*. For one, as I said earlier, Trump's rhetoric in general has been ratcheted up a ton. Nowhere is that more clear than how Trump now talks about immigration and immigrants. "Following the Eisenhower model, we will carry out the largest domestic deportation operation in American history," Trump said, referencing **Operation Wetback**.<sup>102</sup> Operation Wetback was the largest mass deportation campaign in American history, deporting approximately 1.3 million people under president Dwight Eisenhower in 1954.<sup>103</sup>

Who would be deported? A large number of people, many of whom are here legally. In 2020, Trump tried to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), but the Supreme Court blocked him.<sup>4</sup> The 5-4 majority that blocked Trump was broken when Trump appointed Amy Coney Barrett in the final months of his presidency. Trump said he would deport pro-Palestine/anti-Israel students studying abroad in the US.<sup>104</sup> Tens of thousands of Afghans are here in the aftermath of the US' 2021 withdrawal. Many are here on special visas for helping US forces in Afghanistan would be revetted by a Trump administration to see if they really had helped.<sup>4</sup>

How would they be deported? Stephen Miller, whom I mentioned earlier as the architect of the first "Muslim Ban," has been very open about how a future Trump administration would accomplish mass deportations. Miller gave an interview to *The New York Times* where he spells the plans out.<sup>4</sup> "Any activists who doubt President Trump's resolve in the slightest are making a drastic error: Trump will unleash the vast arsenal of federal powers to implement the most spectacular migration crackdown. The immigration legal activists won't know what's happening," Miller said in the interview. Trump and his allies would exploit existing laws, like "expedited removal," to carry these deportations out.<sup>4</sup> Expedited removal denies undocumented immigrants hearings or the opportunity to file appeals. A 1996 law<sup>106</sup> states people can be subject to expedited removal for up to two years after entering, but it so far has only been applied to people caught crossing the border.<sup>4</sup>

While being returned without a hearing sounds bad enough, it gets worse. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will largely be directed to move away from arresting specific people and move to workplace sweeps to gather large numbers of immigrants at once.<sup>4</sup> Trump also

plans to allow ICE to deputize local police officers and National Guard troops from voluntary red states.<sup>4</sup> The Insurrection Act could again become useful here. The Center for Renewing America published a paper arguing for the invocation of the law to use troops to enforce immigration law in border states.<sup>100</sup> Miller, in the same *Times* interview, also **says Trump will invoke the Insurrection Act at the border to catch immigrants.**<sup>4</sup>

Well, it sounds like a lot of people will be rounded up and put somewhere while they await deportation, so where would they go in the meantime? Simple, says Miller, they'll be **put in massive camps while they await deportation.** Miller says there are plans to build "vast holding facilities that would function as staging centers" while immigrants wait for their cases to progress and to be flown to other countries.<sup>4</sup>

Speaking of massive camps, Trump has talked of using the **Alien Enemies Act of 1798**. The law's most famous invocation was its use to intern Japanese immigrants during WWII.<sup>60</sup> "In honor of Jocelyn Nungaray, Laken Riley, Rachel Morin, and all of the others that are dead and mortally wounded at the hands of migrants who should never have been allowed into our Country, I am announcing today that upon taking office, we will have an OPERATION AURORA at the Federal Level. To expedite removals of this savage gang, I will invoke the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to target and dismantle every migrant criminal network operating on American Soil," Trump said several weeks ago on Truth social.<sup>35</sup> The law would allow for the deportation of those *suspected* of being members of drug cartels or gangs **without due process.**<sup>4, 60</sup> The law is intended to be invoked in times of "declared war" or when a foreign nation threatens an "invasion" of the US,<sup>60</sup> but as with almost everything else I've discussed here, that would largely depend on how the Supreme Court interprets it. Good luck with that.

## How Things Have Changed

There are some ways in which Trump had "success" on immigration in his first term, like when he diverted nearly \$4 billion of the military budget to help construct his border wall.<sup>107</sup> I want to focus more, however, on how the minds of the public have changed, because they've changed a lot.

In 2020, only 28% of Americans thought immigration should decrease. In 2024, **it jumped to 55%.**<sup>108</sup> Remember Trump's "poisoning the blood?" Well, **34% of Americans agree with the statement: "The immigrants entering the country illegally today are poisoning the blood of our country."**<sup>109</sup> That includes 61% of Republicans, 30% of independents, and 13% of Democrats. How about militarized camps? **47%(!!!!) of Americans support "a policy that would round up and deport immigrants who are in the country illegally, even if it takes setting up encampments guarded by the U.S. military."**<sup>109</sup> This includes **79% of Republicans.**

In 2013, 53% of Republicans supported a pathway for immigrants here illegally to become citizens. Today it's down to 36%.<sup>109</sup> In 2018, 41% of Republicans supported immigrants brought to the US illegally as children the ability to gain legal residence, today it's down to 27%.<sup>109</sup>

# Dismantle the “Deep State” and Surround Himself With Sycophants

*“I think what Trump should do—like if I was giving him one piece of advice—fire every single mid-level bureaucrat, every civil servant in the administrative state. Replace them with our people, and when the courts—because you will get taken to court—and when the courts stop you, stand before the country—like Andrew Jackson did—and say, ‘the Chief Justice has made his ruling, now let him enforce it.’” - JD Vance, 2021<sup>75</sup>*

## What Trump Plans To Do

Notice a trend from above? The reasonable people, the adults in the room, that surrounded Donald Trump in his first term, would all be gone. John Kelly, Mark Milley, Mark Esper, John Bolton, and, to some extent, even fucking Mike Pence and Bill Bar. All gone. Only the sycophants remain. Stephen Miller, Steve Bannon, El\*n M\*sk, RFK Jr, Jeffrey Clark, and, the new golden boy, JD Vance. What do all these people have in common? They’re all sycophants. Vance repeats Trump’s lies about the 2020 election.<sup>114</sup> M\*sk... well I think we all know M\*sk has endorsed Trump... “full-throated.”<sup>113</sup>

To understand what Trump plans for a second term, however, look to the last year of his first term.

## The Steps Trump Took in His First Term

Trump was impeached in the House but acquitted in the Senate (for the first time, but not the last time) in the end of 2019/beginning of 2020. In the aftermath of the first impeachment, Trump became obsessed, to a more extreme degree than before, with rooting out the snakes in his proverbial garden. To aid him in this effort, Trump rehired a formerly fired staffer, John McEntee.

McEntee worked with Trump early in his campaign as Trump’s bag man (yes, he literally carried Trump’s bags around and is now an integral cast member of this story<sup>55</sup>). McEntee was fired by John Kelly in March of 2018. McEntee had been depositing very large sums of money into his accounts, which turned out to be from gambling winnings,<sup>27</sup> and McEntee was being investigated by Homeland Security for financial crimes related to those winnings.<sup>116</sup> Post-impeachment, in February of 2020, after Trump had fired Kelly himself, Trump brought McEntee back, with a little corner office right outside the Oval. “I want to put Johnny in charge of personnel,” Trump told his acting Chief of Staff, Mick Mulvaney. Trump wanted to appoint McEntee, the not-yet-thirty year old man who carried his luggage and had already been fired for excessive gambling, as the new director of the White House Presidential Personnel Office.

As director, McEntee would be in charge of hiring *everyone*: Cabinet secretaries, ambassadors, and top intelligence officials. McEntee had never been in charge of another person, let alone in charge of personnel. Mulvaney had objections, so Mulvaney called Emma Doyle, Mulvaney’s top deputy, who oversaw the current director of the Office of Personnel. Doyle told Trump, “I have never said no to anything you’ve asked me to do, but I am asking you to please reconsider

this. I don't think it is a good idea."<sup>27</sup> The then-president became extremely angry. "You people never fucking listen to me! You're going to fucking do what I tell you to do," Trump snapped in response. When Doyle asked McEntee how he felt about the role, he said, "People have been telling me I should do that for a long time. I didn't feel ready before, but I am 29 now and I'm ready. **I'm the only person around here that's just here for the president.**"<sup>27</sup>

McEntee's goal as director of the White House Presidential Personnel Office was simple: hire people loyal to Trump. McEntee questioned fresh hires and those that had already been there for three years with the same fervor. "Do you support the policies of the Trump administration and, if so, which ones?" McEntee asked a DOJ employee.<sup>27</sup> The employee in question, who headed the antitrust division, found the question a little odd given his role. People at the EPA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) were asked, "Do you support the president's plan to withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan?"<sup>27</sup> That makes a lot of sense, right? I'm sure officials at these two agencies needed to have answers to these questions to properly address the particulate levels in the air of Kandahar or whether the buildings in Kabul were up to federal code.

A DOJ spokeswoman was asked about her political leanings, an office assistant at the DOJ was asked why she voted in a Democratic primary, an assistant at HUD was scrutinized for liking a post by Taylor Swift, etc, etc, etc.<sup>27</sup>

In October of 2020, the Presidential Personnel Office wrote several memos on people who should be fired, including then-Secretary of Defense Mark Esper.<sup>27</sup> The memo suggested Esper needed to go because he had, amongst other things, "**opposed the President's direction to utilize American forces to put down riots**" and "focused the Department on Russia." The memo suggested Christopher Miller to replace Esper. Several days after the 2020 election, it came to be. McEntee seemed to involve himself in a lot of affairs that seemed to have nothing to do with him, but for Trump's desires. On **January 1, 2021**, for instance, McEntee sent this bulleted text message to **Mike Pence's Chief of Staff**:

"Jefferson Used His Position as VP to Win

- The Constitution sets precise requirements for the form in which the states are to submit their electoral votes.
- In 1801, the ballots of all states were in perfect conformity except Georgia's.
- Georgia's submission dramatically failed to conform to the requirements.
- VP Jefferson presided over the counting of the ballots even as he was one of the candidates.
- Had the defective ballots been rejected, Jefferson would have most likely lost the election.
- Senate tellers told Jefferson in a loud voice that there was a problem with the Georgia ballots.
- Rather than investigating, Jefferson ignored the problems and announced himself the winner.
- This proves that the VP has, at a minimum, a substantial discretion to address issues with the electoral process."<sup>27</sup>

So, seeing what McEntee, via the White House Personnel Office, was empowered to accomplish, do you really think instilling Trumpism stops there? Now, this takes us to **Schedule F**.

In the federal government, there are political appointments and non-political appointments. A political appointment would be, for example, the Attorney General. The president can fire and hire this role pretty much at a whim. Non-political appointments, like say a scientist working at the EPA, have civil servant protections, making them more difficult to dismiss, and are usually (theoretically) non-partisan roles.

Schedule F was created via Executive Order on October 21, 2020.<sup>117</sup> The Order essentially reclassified huge swaths of the federal government as political appointments if the jobs were linked to policy-making. Estimates vary, but it could've been 50,000 employees or more.<sup>118</sup> Heads of all federal agencies were ordered to submit a list to the Personnel Office (McEntee) of all positions that would qualify for reclassification by January 19, 2021. By the time Biden rescinded the order on January 22, only two agencies had submitted a list, and no employees had yet been reclassified.<sup>6</sup> Trump allies thought (and think) that nowhere near 50,000 would have to be fired, because firing a few would be enough to create the "behavior change" they're looking for.<sup>120</sup>

Schedule F is a big part of what so many on the New Right, like JD Vance, are excited about. The new Republicans are not about small government and dismantling the bureaucracy. They want to seize what they perceive as the left-wing administrative/bureaucratic/deep state and wield it against their enemies. "I think what Trump should do—like if I was giving him one piece of advice—fire every single mid-level bureaucrat, every civil servant in the administrative state. Replace them with our people, and when the courts—because you will get taken to court—and when the courts stop you, stand before the country—like Andrew Jackson did—and say, 'the Chief Justice has made his ruling, now let him enforce it,'" Vance said on a podcast in September 2021.<sup>75</sup>

This is where Vance's and Trump's goals align perfectly. Vance wants to politicize the institutions of the federal government to institutionalize conservatism, and Trump wants to politicize them to exact revenge. Using the DOJ to prosecute someone, whether for a book they wrote about you that you don't like, or because of their "leftist agenda," makes no difference. It's all the same goal. All of the people talking about this policy proposal or that policy proposal found in Project 2025 are missing the forest for the trees. Its overarching goal is to instill Trumpism in the foundations of the federal government. That's why Project 2025 has a "Presidential Personnel Database."<sup>121</sup> This is the pool Trump will draw from to replace all the "radical leftists" he wants to fire. It wouldn't just be the Milliey's or the Esper's that would be absent from a second Trump term, it could be huge swaths of the bureaucratic machinery that are replaced with ideologues and sycophants.

## VOTE FOR KAMALA HARRIS

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