

# **CITIZEN OF TRUMPLANDIA**

**Nationalism in America**

**TIBERIU DIANU**

**HARMONY PUBLISHING  
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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tiberiu Dianu (born in 1961) is a native of Romania and a United States citizen. He holds degrees and diplomas from universities in Bucharest (Romania), Strasbourg (France), Oxford and Manchester (United Kingdom), and the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, DC (United States). He has pursued doctoral studies at the universities of Bucharest (Romania) and University of Maryland at College Park (United States).

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His publications include several books and book chapters (published in Romania, the Netherlands and the United States) and a host of articles on law, politics, and post-communist societies (published in over 100 journals and blogs worldwide).

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*Statutory Offenses* (Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1998, co-author); and *Criminal Law Reform* (Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2003, co-author).

Tiberiu currently lives and works in Washington, DC.

# FOREWORD

*A Book of Essays by Tiberiu Dianu*

Tiberiu Dianu is a specialist in law, politics, and post-communist societies. Born and raised in a communist country and enriched with more education as well as experience in the United States, he is truly a man of knowledge. For many years now, he has added to our understanding of the contemporary world with numerous essays and articles. His latest book, titled *Trumplandia*, is a welcome addition towards understanding current events, Washington's international policy, and the present American society, a society polarized and divided as it has not been since the Civil War.

The topics covered in the volume are wide and exhaustive and refer to many subjects as well as areas. Mr. Dianu makes in-depth assessments of important events in today's America and achieves not only fine descriptions, but as an expert in the field proves to have a "gut feeling" for them. For example, the author understands, *and at the same time feels*, the meaning of rising patriotism and nationalism as a shield against a yet not fully understood impact of globalization.

The emergence of populist nationalism is not specific to America alone, but is international. In the United States, the phenomenon sparked into the open during the 2016 election and then it spread to other countries, proving that nationalism, putting your country first, was latent and was only waiting for the right moment to burst out. Yet, reactions to nationalism and patriotism were bitter, contradictory, and equally powerful.

Will the American society have the maturity to regroup and overcome this period of intense division or, on the contrary, will the events lead to an implosion with unexpected consequences? The author is trying to offer some answers through his essays, but the future seems to be open.

In conclusion, the book represents a real contribution to today's political, social and legal fields, and endeavors. At the same time, it should have a major impact on the present generation of readers preoccupied with the socio-political future of America and the world. We may not be able to change humanity, but at least we should understand current problems and trends. And that is what the book does for readers.

**Nicholas Dima, Ph.D.,  
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## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

This book is a collection of essays written between May 2016 and October 2019 about the transformation of America. The process emerged before the United States presidential election of 2016 and has been in full swing ever since.

Chapters in the book contain essays on topics arranged chronologically about various facets of the American nation: elections, federal government, Trump administration, political parties as well as their ideologies, society and foreign affairs.

Many of the essays have been updated, with the original date on which each essay was written provided in brackets at the end of the essay.

Since most of the essays deal with controversial issues, they can really strike a chord with audiences, both young and old. This has prompted me to consider compiling the essays into a single volume.

The inclusion of the essays in a single volume offers different perspectives of a variety of subjects, thereby providing a more cohesive and dynamic image of what has been going on in America in the past three years.

America, from a united nation, has become more divided than ever. Public discourse is fractured, people talk without listening, and conversation suffers.

Unfortunately, this nation has already experienced a civil war and many pundits predict that, if things don't change, another civil war could occur. Have we reached a point of no return?

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Hopefully, America is mature enough to learn from its mistakes and avoid further scars along its evolving history.

## *Chapter One*

# PAST AND FUTURE ELECTIONS

## **1.1. Finalist Donald Trump vs. Semifinalist Hillary Clinton? Not So Fast!**

**A**fter the Indiana primaries of May 3, 2016, the Republican contender, Donald Trump, secured his party's nomination for the presidential election of November 8, 2016. Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, in spite of her ardent desire to compete with Trump in the same national arena, could not secure her Democratic Party nomination until that date.

Donald Trump, a Republican Party finalist and a winner, managed to defeat 16 other respected Republicans with pedigree. In the same period of time, Hillary Clinton, who competed within a Democratic Party group of only six candidates, was still laboring to defeat Bernie Sanders in their party semifinals.

In spite of her "inevitability" aura created by the media, Clinton could not "close the deal" with Bernie Sanders, to use her own words.

And that was because of a couple of things:

First, Sanders kept winning states. By May 2016, Sanders had won Indiana, West Virginia and Oregon and narrowly lost Kentucky. Only by June 2016, when Clinton won California, the Virgin Islands and

Puerto Rico, had she obtained sufficient support from pledged and unpledged delegates to become the presumptive Democratic nominee.

However, in the meantime, Sanders had already created his populist “Free Stuff Matters” movement and wanted to stick around for the July 25, 2016, Democratic Convention in Philadelphia.

Second, the then-ongoing FBI investigation of Clinton’s e-mails (also called “a wild card”) was a powerful factor. Recent FBI interviews included Clinton’s long-time aide Huma Abedin, and the notorious Romanian hacker Marcel Lazăr, aka Guccifer, extradited in April from Romania to the United States.

At the time, Trump referred to Clinton in his speeches, but was advised to focus instead on his country’s policies. Any personal attack would have elevated her from the party semifinalist status that she was at to a finalist status that she did not yet deserve, but for which she was aiming by burning stages. (*May 20, 2016*)

## **1.2. From Ronald to Donald: The Beginning of a New Stage**

Donald Trump turned 70 years old on June 14, 2016, in the year he was elected 45th President of the United States. In the consciousness of many, he has become the very definition of the American success story, setting standards of excellence in business, real estate, entertainment, and, more recently, politics.

A week before, on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, he delivered his victory speech from his Westchester Golf Club at Briarcliff Manor, New York.

The last Super Tuesday presidential primaries were just ending (with elections held in California, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, and South Dakota) and a new page in the election calendar was about to be turned.

Since some prominent GOP-ers were in denial and still struggling to accept the obvious, Trump was not officially confirmed right away. But he collected all the delegates from the states in question, breaking

## PAST AND FUTURE ELECTIONS

the prerequisite 1,237-delegate threshold that was separating him from the official party nomination. After June 7, 2016, Trump had a total of 1,542 delegates, which would assure him a glorious march to the Cleveland party convention of July 18 to 21, 2016.

“Who would have thought it would be him,” murmured his detractors. “Who would have thought it would take him so long,” sighed his supporters.

The speech was a short and concise 16-minute address to the nation, much shorter than his usual 45-minute rally speeches. It was scripted (it had to be) and this was a notable exception. Except for a couple of times before, like on March 21, 2016, at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and on April 27, 2016, at the foreign policy speech, Trump did not use teleprompters and mocked his opponents for doing so.

The speech is important for several reasons.

Trump declared he would be the American people’s “champion”. This was a powerful line, and it was prefaced by the rock band Queen’s famous song “We Are the Champions”, which introduced the Republican contender to his audience.

The word “champion” (in the sense of defender or supporter, not in its athletic meaning) had been used before in political speeches.

In a reversed chronology, Hillary Clinton used it, referring to herself as a helper of the middle class.

Barack Obama used it, rather negatively, referring to the American “biggest corporation”.

George W. Bush used it, referring to the American military.

Ronald Reagan used it, referring to the American soldiers landing in Normandy during World War II.

And, interestingly enough, Richard Nixon used it too, in his acceptance speech as a Republican candidate for the presidency, when referring to interventionist America.

But Donald Trump’s meaning of the word “champion” was more

powerful, some may say egotistical, as he reported himself to America as a whole. And he re-emphasized: “I am going to be America’s champion!”

He also repeated the word “again” in his quest of “making America great”, often enough for the audience to understand that we have been living in decrepit times.

The message resonated well with the members of an active nation, currently in decline if they are forced to live in passivity due to an Obama type of government interventionism in the past or a Sanders-Clinton type in a foreseeable future.

The message would not have resonated well in a state-run, communist type of society, where its members already act as if in a state of trance. Obviously, as Trump suggested, this was not America’s case.

Then, Trump developed and clarified the “America First” concept.

On foreign policy, this means interventionism only when America’s safety has been put in danger.

On trade, it translates in protecting the American workers against the “unfair foreign competition” of organizations like NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

On energy policy, this equates with “opening up America’s great potential to bring wealth and prosperity” to workers, including miners. It seemed like a return to Sarah Palin’s 2008 “Drill, baby, drill!” slogan for exploring the country’s natural resources.

On economic policy, the concept is construed as lowering taxes for middle-class Americans and businesses.

On immigration policy, it represents protection for “jobs, wages, and security of American workers, whether first or 10th generation”.

As a corollary, the “America First” concept is a safeguard for national unity, and it is “what brings us all together”.

Other ideas of the speech included:

- America’s cult for work and manufacturing its own products (“we are going to put America back to work, we are going to make our own products”);
- revitalizing the minorities’ poor neighborhoods (“we are going

## PAST AND FUTURE ELECTIONS

to rebuild our inner cities, [...] we are going to take care of our African-American people that have been mistreated for so long”);

- regeneration of families (“make you and your family safe, secure, and prosperous again”) and communities (“make our communities wealthy, [...] make our cities safe again, [...] make our country strong again, [...] make America great again!”).

An important part of the speech was dedicated to the idea of unity.

A calm and relaxed Trump thanked his own supporters, but also appealed to “those who voted for someone else, in either party” and welcomed “with open arms” the “Bernie Sanders’ voters, who have been left out in the cold by a rigged system of super delegates”.

Trump declared that he was a fighter and a principled person, proving that with a powerful personal example: “I’ve fought for my family, I’ve fought for my business, I’ve fought for my employees, and now I am going to fight for you, the American people, like nobody has ever fought before. And I’m not a politician fighting, I’m me! [...] But if I’m forced to fight for something I really care about, I will never ever back down, and our country will never ever back down!”

However, in spite of his fighting nature, his goal “is always again to bring people together” and he proved the statement with another personal example: “My preference is always peace. [...] I’ve built an extraordinary business on relationships and deals that benefit all parties involved, always.”

The speech also provides clear indications of the cause of the country’s decline. Trump dedicated good minutes to explaining that “the rigged system” cannot survive any longer. He said: “Every election year politicians promise change [...] and every year they fail to deliver. Why would politicians want to change a system that’s totally rigged in order to keep them in power? That’s what they are doing, folks! Why would politicians want to change a system that has made them and their friends very, very wealthy? I’d beat the rigged system.”

And later: “We can’t solve our problems by counting on the

politicians who created our problems. The Clintons have turned the politics of personal enrichment into an art form for themselves.”

This was a reminder of a memorable scene from the 1992 “The Distinguished Gentleman” movie. When Eddie Murphy’s con-turned-politician character Thomas Jefferson Johnson asks Kevin McCarthy’s politician-turned-con character Terry Corrigan: “With all this money coming in from both sides, how can anything possibly ever get done?” Terry replies with candor: “It doesn’t. That’s the genius of the system!”

This is, indeed, an issue of serious reflection for the American voters.

As for the septuagenarian Donald Trump, he has an illustrious predecessor who was also appointed as a US President when he turned 70, and then turned America around. His name was Ronald Reagan.

An age denoting, indeed, wisdom and depth.

From Ronald to Donald! (*June 15, 2016*)

### **1.3. The Tim Kaine Effect and How Donald Trump Can Neutralize It**

It was Friday, July 22, 2016, at 7:32 p.m., when the Democrat US Senator from Virginia, Tim Kaine, was called by Hillary Clinton, who graciously announced that he was her vice-presidential pick for the November general elections.

Starting from that moment, Donald Trump needed to quickly get out of the Cleveland Republican National Convention ambience and calculate his next steps, in order to neutralize the Tim Kaine effect, which would probably reshape the first part of the 2016 Democratic National Convention, held from July 25 to 28 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

There were at least five factors, embodied in as many swing states, which the fresh Republican presidential nominee needed to take into account and neutralize their counter-effects if he still wanted to become the next President of the United States.

## 1. Ohio

*Accomplishments:* organizing the GOP National Convention in the Buckeye State; many voters, like the influential Peter Thiel, a billionaire PayPal co-founder and Silicon Valley investor, are locals or grew up there.

*Things to neutralize:* John Kasich's passivity – the Ohio governor, and Trump's former challenger, chose to become invisible during the Cleveland GOP Convention, although his responsibilities included some logistical and state security measures during the event.

## 2. Pennsylvania

*Accomplishments:* Trump eventually won the state bound and unbound delegates during the Republican primaries.

*Things to neutralize:* Pat Toomey, the US senator for Pennsylvania, chose not to show up in Cleveland, just like Kasich; the Democratic National Convention was also held in Philadelphia.

## 3. Florida

*Accomplishments:* Trump won all Florida delegates in the primaries.

*Things to neutralize:* Marco Rubio's weak support – the US senator for Florida, a former Trump challenger, chose not to show up in Cleveland, although he delivered a televised speech; Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine had a rally in Miami on Saturday, July 23; Kaine spent a year in Honduras (between 1980 and 1981) helping Jesuit missionaries who ran a Catholic school in the country and he is fluent in Spanish.

## 4. Virginia

*Accomplishments:* Trump won the Virginia Republican primaries, although Marco Rubio came a close second.

*Things to neutralize:* Tim Kaine has a long career as a Virginia politician, serving as a Richmond mayor (1998-2001), and the state Lieutenant Governor (2002–2006), Governor (2006–2010), and US Senator (2013 to date).

## 5. Another Midwestern State

*Accomplishments:* Mike Pence, the Indiana Governor, and Trump's pick for Vice President; Trump also won most of the Midwestern states in the Republican primaries.

*Things to neutralize:* Tim Kaine was born in St. Paul, Minnesota; grew up in Kansas City, Missouri; and graduated from the University of Missouri.

Especially during the following week, supposedly dominated by the Democratic National Convention, but also after that, Donald Trump had to maintain himself in the center of the news, neutralizing by well thought-out strategic moves the adverse effects for his presidential campaign triggered in the must-win aforementioned states by the recent events. (*July 27, 2016*)

### 1.4. The Night of the Comet

#### 1.4.a. A Non-Fictional Scenario about November 8, 2016

After the year-long political beauty pageant they call the presidential debate cycle finally came to an end on October 19, this is what will happen in the remaining two weeks or so before the Grand Coronation Night of November 8, called Election Day.

#### **The Candidates**

Trump will continue his popularity rallies, gathering a couple of dozen thousand supporters or even more, where he will be explaining the obvious – that America will be great again, provided that the American people care to return from the Obama and Clinton *cul-de-sac*. That they are willing to genuinely engage themselves in an act of profound repair of a broken, corrupt and free-falling society. And that they truly desire to force a comeback to the American traditional values.

Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, will continue undisturbed to seek shelter in her Chappaqua [hamlet north of New York City]

nursing home, sending her surrogates and cronies to campaign for her all over the place. She will be fully assured that the liberal mainstream media, together with the hordes of bipartisan establishment activists and obfuscated “conservatives”, will propel her toward a pre-announced landslide victory. Occasionally, she will appear in friendly milieus, comfortably sitting on soft plush sofas, chit-chatting with her fan club scribblers who call themselves journalists or comics acting as talk show hosts. Or she will consistently support herself from sturdy podiums, in 200-or-so-people gatherings she calls “rallies”. She will brag robotically, bobble-heading, with scripted jokes about – “you know” – that “Stronger Together” thing. Meaning, y’all and her. Or about what else Trump privately whispered decades ago about women currently searching for instant fame, weeks before the elections.

### **The Mainstream Media**

Meanwhile, the plethora of talking heads will continue to reshape their own narrative about whatever things Donald Trump SAID whenever, as a private citizen: the tax deductions, Putin’s sympathy, Alicia Machado’s antipathy, the allegedly groped lady on a plane in the 1980s, and Trump’s intent to take a closer look at possible election frauds...

They will continue to ignore or spin what Hillary Clinton DID (wrongly or illegally) as an elected or appointed official: Hillarycare, Vincent Foster’s “official” suicide, Travelgate, Filegate, the Lewinsky affair, the Chinese donations, the Russian “reset” button, the Haiti get-rich-quick schemes, the lucrative paid speeches, the Arab Spring, Benghazi, the private server, and the quid pro quos...

And, of course, they will put the blame for all these revelations on the “vast right-wing conspiracy” and the Russians.

They will also continue to debate zealously about the national-flagged colors of Hillary’s pantsuits on various occasions, her over-rehearsed alleged gotcha phrases, the jab-trading at the Al Smith dinner, the First-Female-President ballad and her (no-legacy) 30-year experience.

## **The Pollsters**

They will continue to provide surveys with leftward polling, based on previous models from the 2012 and 2014 elections, that sample Democrat, Republican, and independent “registered voters” in 45-35-20 percent ratios, instead of sampling likely voters in 35-35-30 percent ratios.

They will not tell you about the percentages of “independents” and “undecideds”. Nor about how many Democrat-leaning independents will vote Republican (although the primaries have given you a hint of that). Nor even about how many incumbent-leaning undecideds will stay home compared with the newcomer-leaning undecideds who will actually show up and vote.

And everything will go nice and smooth. Until The Night of the Comet!

## **The Turnout**

Turnout is not known by pundits, nor designed by pollsters, and it will hit hard. The year 2016 is The Year of the Insurgency. And election night will be The Night of the Comet!

At the end of the day, the pundits’ and pollsters’ magic crystal ball, which has helped pundits so many times to go wrong about Trump, will shatter. All of those responsible for creating parallel realities will have to pick up the shards from the floor. They will scratch their heads with amazement, asking themselves what the heck just happened.

We know. We have witnessed this before. Just ask one-term President Jimmy Carter about November 4, 1980.

Or ask Tom Brokaw’s “Florida declared winner” Al Gore about November 8, 2000.

Or ask the non-Brexiters across the pond about June 23, 2016.

They too have witnessed comets coming! (*October 22, 2016*)

## 1.4.b. A Preface for the Midterm Elections of November 6, 2018

The mainstream media has been trying to induce the idea that the 2018 midterm elections would bring the Democrats the most-awaited shift in power and their majority in Congress, based on two factors: the so-called Democratic „blue wave” and the midterm historical patterns.

I beg to differ.

As to the „blue wave”, there are two clarification points to be made.

First, there is no „blue” wave. I resent this premise. Democrats don’t belong to any „blue” party, simply because their party is the „red” party. This big mess with the party-color change, popularized in 2000 by the late Tim Russert (God rest his soul), is something I am not going to put up with.

Second, there is no „wave”. While polls in December 2017 gave Democrats a double-digit advantage in the generic ballot, some of that early momentum starts to disappear with midterm primaries underway, against the background of booming economic growth, a reality admitted even by leftist publications like *Vox*.

As to the midterm historical patterns, studies show that, indeed, in most of the cases, the President’s party almost always loses Congress seats (92% for the House seats and 73% for the Senate seats since the end of the Civil War).

Again, two clarification points.

One: this does not automatically turn into a shift of power between parties.

And two: there can be factors of an exceptional nature (e.g., the backlash against the impeachment of President Clinton or the 9/11 attacks for President George W. Bush) that actually help the party in power to pick up seats in both chambers.

Other studies, more realistic, based on the final generic ballot polls, suggest that the apparent statistical advantage that the Democrats seem to be enjoying currently may translate in Democrats falling far

short of what they need to regain control of the Congress or, at best, in Democrats being about a „50-50 proposition to take back” one or both Congress chambers.

As far as I am concerned, President Trump has broken many patterns so far. So, in spite of what all the mainstream media is striving to demonstrate, I will repeat my prediction that I made on October 19, 2016, about the presidential elections of November 8, 2016, and published for the first time on October 22, the same year.

I am attaching that prediction below, as a refresher for the mainstream media, who don't want to learn their lessons. (*June 7, 2018*)

## 1.5. What Donald Trump's Victory Means for Mainstream Media

Do you remember the mainstream media's (MSM) insincere *mea culpa* for their biased misleading of the American people as to the 2016 presidential election winner, when they were “predicting” 90% that Hillary Clinton would win?

We are in 2018 and the MSM has been continuing to lose the public's trust ever since. For almost two years they have been in a perpetual state of denial, advancing scenarios for the President's resignation, from impeachment to declaring him mentally unstable.

The last gimmick, launched by yet another anti-Trump Republican (what a shocker!) and promoted at the speed of light by the delusional MSNBC channel, consists in how to primary the incumbent President in 2020.

I think it's safe to bet on some radical changes in the relationship between the American people and the MSM. Some of them started after November 8, 2016 and some others are in progress.

Here's a set of 15 reminders that are to be considered:

- 1) The MSM has always presented itself as the holder of Truth.

## PAST AND FUTURE ELECTIONS

Reality has shown that the MSM has been engaged for way too long in a war with Truth, and the MSM has lost this war.

- 2) The MSM has portrayed Hillary Clinton as a person exonerated from criminal responsibility for her numerous acts of corruption and illegal activities over time. Reality has indicated that she has jeopardized national security and has threatened certain individuals perceived as dangerous or compromising for her own political convenience.
- 3) The MSM has presented Donald Trump as an isolated exotic character, separated from the world's current major concerns (particularly in Europe, but also in Asia and Africa), such as: Islamic terrorism, massive immigration (particularly from Muslim countries) and the assault against Christianity. Reality has shown that Trump is, indeed, a true American Mr. Brexit.
- 4) The MSM has presented populism as a marginal trend in the American society. Reality has proven that the electorate majority of both parties, Republican and Democratic, consists of populist voters, who gave support to anti-establishment candidates (Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders).
- 5) The MSM has described – narratively and statistically – more than half of the country's population as a “basket of deplorables”, in sharp contrast with “the majority of the American people”. Reality has shown that the so-called majority – ideologically and racially – consists of accumulating several minority groups.
- 6) The MSM has threatened the “deplorables”, with many Hollywood darlings having to move out the country if the candidate of the “deplorables” were to win. Post-election reality should force those darlings of the Dream Factory City to fulfill their vocal promises (otherwise, they should shut the hell up and just sing or perform!).
- 7) The MSM has presented as a *fait accompli* the idea that winning televised presidential debates organized by the MSM is a solid predictor of winning the presidency. Reality has illustrated that

- this has become a myth (especially after episodes of the Donna Brazile type, where party operatives in cahoots with the same MSM leaked information about the people's debate questions to a certain preferred candidate).
- 8) The MSM has instilled the idea that political household names – like Kennedy, Clinton or Bush – are invincible *per se*. Reality has shown that non-politicians, like Trump, can defeat in just one electoral cycle two powerful political-dynastic names (Bush and Clinton), who ruled the country for 20 years in-a-row.
  - 9) The MSM has trained the electorate to think that “temperament” is a bad thing and “experience” is a good thing. Reality has proven that “temperament” involves a powerful character, strong values, determination, and contempt for political correctness, while “experience” (if it's bad) is useless (and so is “low energy”).
  - 10) The MSM has accustomed the American people with a politically correct discourse. Reality has proven that new standards need to be adopted: “tell it like it is”, “high energy”, and “being unpredictable” have become a “must” in order to overcome the voters' boredom and apathy. Benjamin Franklin is credited with the famous quote: “Believe none of what you hear, and only half of what you see.”
  - 11) The MSM has constructed a narrative according to which certain constituents (like minorities, union workers) can be regarded as “plantation workers” and certain constituencies (like “the Blue Wall” – Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin) are Democratic Holy Lands. Reality has shown that nobody and nothing can be taken for granted anymore.
  - 12) The MSM has created the narrative that Hillary Clinton is the inevitable President, who would win by a landslide (predicted with a 90% probability), and the Democrats would take the US Senate too. Reality has shown that Republicans can win the presidency and both Congress houses (for the first time

since November 1928!). However, this does not exempt the Republicans from reforming their own party.

- 13) The MSM has instilled the idea that America means mainly New York, the Great Lakes and Hollywood. The reality is that the core of America is exactly in-between.
- 14) The MSM has switched the party traditional colors to red for Conservatives and blue for Democrats (with the late Tim Russert being credited as one of the coiners). The reality is that the original colors (supported ideologically by the British and continental European tradition) used to be blue for Conservatives and red for Democrats. The time has now come for the two colors to return to their original parties.
- 15) The MSM has accustomed the electorate with the toxic idea that a Trump presidency will be “hell on earth”. Reality has shown to liberals (and their younger fellow activists on the university campuses) that they should not moan and weep, because their country has not been lost, but rather saved. And it will be greater again and more prosperous than ever!

In conclusion, and as a consequence of all of the above, the MSM has irremediably lost the right to be called “mainstream”. Reality imposes the fact that from now on it should be called simply: *medium*.  
(November 9, 2016)

## 1.6. The Five Stages of Grief in Politics

### A Psycho-Political Model

Almost 50 years ago, the famous psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross first discussed, in her 1969 book *On Death and Dying*, the theory of the five stages of grief. The model was first introduced in connection with terminally ill patients, but later on was applied to grieving in divorce, lost love, and substance abuse. The stages, not necessarily linear and

not always occurring in the same particular order, include denial (and isolation), anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

A tongue-in-cheek version of the theory appears in the 1998 “Good Grief” episode of *Frasier*.

There is also a faster version (Lowell’s) in the 1993 “Goodbye, Old Friend” episode of *Wings*.

After Al Gore’s famous “victory” in 2000, I realized how well this theory applies to politics. Interestingly enough, the *Frasier* episode was posted on YouTube just one day before the 2016 presidential elections. When I watched the YouTube version, I was its third viewer at the time. Premonition? Possibly.

The 2016 post-election period has marked some similar phenomena, and particularly for:

- Hillary Clinton, the Democratic Party presidential candidate, who has been seeing her political career in clinical death;
- the left (individuals and groups alike, including the mainstream media/MSM), who are seeing their wonderful utopian ideals going down in flames; and, finally, for
- Barack Obama, the 44<sup>th</sup> US (radical-left Democrat) President, who saw his political legacy (built mostly on executive orders) collapsing soon after Trump replaced him.

But let us recap.

## **Denial**

During this first reaction stage, the individual believes the result is somehow mistaken, and he clings to a false preferable reality.

The first signs of Trump’s victory had come early in the evening of Tuesday, November 8 and continued in the first morning hours of Wednesday, November 9. By then, putative swing states like Florida, North Carolina, Ohio; putative Democratic states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin; and putative never Trumper states like Utah had already voted 50%-plus for Trump, securing him the 270 electoral votes needed.

On Tuesday night, Hillary Clinton realized that she had lost, but her mental state made it impossible for her to address her supporters on election night, as requested by custom. Instead, she sent John Podesta, her campaign chairman, at Manhattan's Javits Center to address her supporters, who at that time were already freaked out.

During his short and unconvincing speech, Podesta adamantly refused to recognize reality early Wednesday morning, declaring: "They're still counting votes, and every vote should count. Several states are too close to call, so we're not going to have anything more to say tonight."

"She is not done yet," Podesta also claimed.

Until that moment, Clinton was still "the first woman President", with her fireworks ready to start and her victory speech shout-outs prepared for the mothers – the Black Lives Matter "martyrs".

When Clinton's adoring fans, for their part, realized their candidate had lost, they started to shape a narrative about the Electoral College "discriminatory" system. They also claimed that electors should "vote their conscience", in total disregard of the people they represent.

As for President Obama, he started his presidency in 2008 with a full Democrat control of the US Congress. The repudiation of his policies came soon after, when he first lost the Congress (the House in 2010, the Senate in 2014) and then the presidency (in 2016), when Clinton, his ideological legacy successor, was defeated. Since then, Obama has been floating in a continuous state of denial, blaming everybody (Clinton, both political parties) but himself.

## **Anger**

In the second stage, the individual recognizes that denial cannot continue, and he becomes frustrated – either at proximate individuals (family members or acquaintances) or at society as a whole.

When Hillary realized she had lost, she went into a rage. According to some Secret Service officers, she began yelling, screaming obscenities, and pounding furniture. She picked up objects and threw them at attendants and staff. She was in an "uncontrollable rage".

For Hillary's fans, the effects of the Trump victory have had a devastating impact, at both individual and group levels. The first affected were the family members. In Texas, a mother kicked her minor son out of the house because he voted for Trump in an elementary school mock election. Episodes containing such extreme emotional abuses will definitely be marking individuals for life.

Soon after the final results were announced, rioters in several American cities took to the streets and threatened secession. Police reports have subsequently shown that most of these riots were organized and many demonstrators were out-of-towners.

In other places, colleges and universities have proven really pathetic, by:

- hosting "cry-in" consolation sessions for faculty and students;
- cancelling and postponing classes and exams to get over the "trauma"; and
- organizing "peaceful" protest marches downtown, which end up in violent confrontations with police.

As reality has demonstrated, "Stronger Together" remains a utopian slogan of the left, unsustainable at both individual and collective levels. For his part, an angry Obama started to yell at Hillary voters at one of the rallies.

## **Bargaining**

The third stage of grief involves a need to regain control, which is a normal reaction to feelings of helplessness and vulnerability. Often, individuals make a (secret) pact with God (or a higher power) in an attempt to postpone the inevitable.

In her concession speech, Hillary mentioned: "Last night I congratulated Donald Trump and offered to work with him on behalf of our country." The MSM, not being able to surmount the post-election shock to date, keeps on preaching about "unity", while the Democrats have suddenly remembered the benefits of "bipartisanship". Obama, in

his turn, extended “a helping hand” to the “novice” President-Elect and “showed” him how White House business should be done. As for his deputies in the White House, the President insisted on reassuring them that Trump’s election was not “the Apocalypse”.

## **Depression**

During the fourth stage, the individual may become more silent, refuse visitors and spend more time mournful. The phase may be eased by simple clarification and reassurance, when individuals need cooperation, a few kind words and hugs.

A week after her concession speech, Hillary Clinton disclosed that, “there have been times this past week where all I wanted to do was curl up with a good book and our dogs and never leave the house again.” This stage, in particular, has had an obvious impact on her as the images suggest.

At the group level, the feeling of reassurance translated into some people’s calls for Michelle Obama or Kanye West to run for President in 2020. Although first ladies have become presidents elsewhere (Argentina has two famous cases: Isabela Perón and Cristina Kirchner), Americans have decided to give the “FLOTUS for POTUS” option a pass.

For Hollywood, some forms of depression equated with mutual encouragements. For Broadway, it translated in grandstanding monologue-lectures about “tolerance” (improperly called “conversations” of clarification and cooperation). The episode of *Hamilton* cast harassment of Vice President-Elect Mike Pence offers a good example.

As for Obama, the mere fact that his “era” could crash so abruptly (in terms of immigration, expansion of health care, environmental regulation, and Supreme Court composition) will force him to put more urgency into his lame-duck presidency. Consequently, he will double his efforts to strengthen his agenda. So far, these efforts have consisted of:

- his last foreign tour, including a visit to Lima, Peru, to assure his Trans-Atlantic partners that the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) treaty would pass on his watch;

- his decision to declare parts of the Arctic off limits for oil drilling; and
- his resorting to pardons and commutation of sentences until January 19, 2017 (considering that his criminal justice reform is less likely to happen).

## **Acceptance**

In this last stage, the individual embraces the situation as it is. Typically, the phase is marked by withdrawal and calm (not to be confused with depression) and comes with a peaceful, retrospective view and a stable condition of emotions. Social interaction may be limited.

Reaching this stage of mourning is a “gift” not afforded to everyone. Many individuals may never see beyond their denial or anger.

In terms of elections, coming to terms with reality is not an easy task, especially when the MSM has been creating a parallel “politically correct” reality for some time now and important segments of the population (especially the young and some middle-aged individuals) have been living so comfortably in it ever since. The ultimate test of a free and fair election is the acceptance of the election results by voters.

After all, isn't the hypocrisy of the left and the MSM so blatant, when just a few weeks ago they went ballistic after Donald Trump said he would accept the election results only if he won? (*November 23, 2016*)

## **1.7. Back to the Future: Predictions, Retrospectives, and Perspectives of the 2016 Electoral Year**

### **1. Predictions**

My predictions were partially confirmed.

I predicted Trump's victory.

However, in terms of preponderance, Trump did not win in the Reagan-esque manner that I expected, but rather in a Bush-ist way.

## 2. Retrospectives

I will review and compare findings between the three Republican periods: Reagan (1980–1988), Bush, Jr. (2000–2008), and Trump (2016–2020/2024).

### 2.1. Review

In 1980, the Republican Ronald Reagan won both the electoral (489 vs. 49 out of the 538 Electoral College votes) and the popular vote (50.7% vs. 41.0% for the Democrat Jimmy Carter and 6.6% for the Independent Patrick Lucey). Also, Reagan carried 44 states, while Carter carried only 6 states plus DC

Then, in 1984, Reagan won again, on a landslide, both the electoral (525 vs. 13) and popular vote (58.8% vs. 40.6% for Democrat Walter Mondale). He carried 49 states, while Mondale carried only 1 state (his native Minnesota) plus DC

In 2000, the Republican George Bush, Jr. won the electoral vote (271 vs. 266) but lost the popular vote (47.9% vs. 48.4% for the Democrat Al Gore) with a difference of about half a million votes (543,895). Bush carried 30 states, while Gore carried only 20 states plus DC

However, in 2004, Bush consolidated his gains, both at the electoral (286 vs. 252) and popular (51% vs. 48.5% for Democrat John Kerry) vote levels. He carried 31 states, while Kerry carried only 19 states plus DC

In 2016, Republican Donald Trump won, quite comfortably, the electoral vote (306 vs. 232), but lost the popular vote (46.37% vs. 47.93% for Democrat Hillary Clinton), with a difference of about 2 million votes (2,095,756). Trump carried 30 states (plus Maine's 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district), while Clinton carried only 20 states plus DC

Because of this 2-million vote difference, some in the country (Democrats, in particular) question the validity of the Electoral College system, while a few others (far-left groups, in particular) push for state secession.

## 2.2. Findings

There are some interesting findings regarding Bush and Trump's performances in their first elections (in 2000 and 2016, respectively).

- (1) In terms of *carried states*: both of them won 30 out of 50 states (minus DC), although Trump did slightly better (by capturing also Maine's 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district).
- (2) In terms of *votes*: both of them won the electoral vote but lost the popular vote.
- (3) In terms of *popular vote loss*: the Bush loss was moderate (-0.5 million votes), while the Trump loss was large (-2 million votes).

Possible explanations include:

- a) *Party support or lack thereof*: Bush had his party's unconditional support after the primaries were over and he got his party nomination, while Trump had to struggle almost until the end of the electoral campaign with practically everybody (the Establishment Republicans, the Democrats, the mainstream media and the international community).

Given all these adverse conditions, Trump's victory appears as almost miraculously prepared by God (not that this could not have been a factor). Therefore, a lot of credit should be given to Trump's campaign team (and particularly to Steve Bannon, Kellyanne Conway, and Jared Kushner, to name just a few).

- b) *Third party increasing influence*: In 2000, Ralph Nader's Green Party – one of the few third parties with some national appeal – won 2.7% of the popular vote. In 2016, no less than 29 third-party and independent presidential candidates emerged on the ballot in at least one state, capturing 5.7% of the popular vote, mostly from the Republicans.

Thus, Gary Johnson's Libertarian party acquired 4.4 million votes (the highest nationwide vote share for a third-party candidate since Ross Perot in 1996), while the conservative-independent Evan McMullin obtained 21% of the total

votes in his home state of Utah. In addition, Jill Stein's Green Party (a self-proclaimed anti-Clinton political entity) received 1.3 million votes (the most for a Green nominee since Ralph Nader in 2000).

- c) *Weak to moderate gains in populous states:* Trump won surprisingly in states carried by Democratic President Obama in 2012, such as: Florida, Iowa, Maine (the 2nd congressional district), Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

However, his victory margins were small and, relative to the respective states' large or very large populations, they have added little to his popular vote total score.

### 3. Perspectives

I will project a Trump second term (2020–2024) if several conditions are met.

Past lessons (of 1984 and 2004) should be learned for the near future (for 2018 and 2020), provided the following conditions are met.

- (1) *Repeating the aggressive campaign in the Democratic-leaning states:* As the 2016 election results showed, there is no state to be taken for granted anymore.
- (2) *Consolidating the gains:* In 2016, at the Federal level, the Republicans won both the congressional (maintaining their majority of seats in the US Congress, House and Senate) and presidential elections (winning the presidency after eight years). At state gubernatorial level, Republicans won control of Governors' office in the states of Missouri, New Hampshire, and Vermont (to date, 31 of the 50 Governors' offices), inching toward their historical high of 34 governorships (in 1922). At state legislative level, Republicans also won control of the Kentucky House (for the first time in almost a century), and the Iowa Senate (giving them full control of the state legislative).

In 2018, a midterm-election year, many Democratic incumbents will face re-elections in Republican-leaning states.

Therefore, the Republicans are expected to perform better at both Federal (US Congress) and state (gubernatorial and legislative) levels. These are signs that gaining consolidation is feasible.

- (3) *Capturing the popular vote*: In 2020, Trump has to perform better at national level and (at least like Bush in 2004) has to capture the popular vote (in addition to the electoral vote).

This task is achievable by focusing on current Democratic-carried states, won by Bush in 2004, but lost by Romney in 2012 (like Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Virginia).

In conclusion, in order to Make America Great Again, after eight years of Obama's continuous attempts at social engineering experiments on America, Trump has to win decisively in 2020 (if not like Reagan in 1984, at least like Bush in 2004), and to capture the trust and energies of the absolute (not relative) majority of Americans. (*November 25, 2016*)

## 1.8. The Red, White and Blue Wave

Since December 2017, the mainstream press has been trying to implant in the general public the idea that a Democratic "blue" tsunami wave is going to hit America during the midterm elections of November 6, 2018. Initial polls were showing a double-digit advantage in the generic ballot for Democrats.

In the meantime, weeks away from the much-awaited day, President Trump is holding national rallies attended by audiences with six-figure numbers, the economy is booming, and the "wave" is disappearing. After they tacitly accepted their possible defeat for the Senate, the Democrats are all terrified by the idea of failing to take control of the House of Representatives too in a decisive manner.

Their leaders, like Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, in an attempt to save face, tried to cool down their supporters' high expectations.

Also, the media attempted to divert voters' attention with

last-minute fake news on apparent Trump fan Cesar Sayoc and his fake bombs against liberal celebrities. In the end, diversions of this type will have the same effect as fake bombs: no harm done.

What will really happen at the midterm elections is a different kind of wave – not “blue” (since Democrats’ real color is red), but red, white, and blue, inspired at least in part by President Trump’s patriotic stance on the American flag and the National Anthem. “We kneel in prayer, and we stand in front of our National Flag,” the President has said repeatedly during his popular rallies. These are powerful words that have inspired members of the young generation.

One of them is high school student Jackson Dean Nicholson, who, during a football game, expressed his true feelings via a personal, countrified version of the National Anthem.

Asked later by the Fox News Channel reporters what his source of inspiration was, the young man with a raspy voice said simply: “I’m an American and proud of that!”

Americans should rest assured: America is in good hands. The midterm elections of 2018 will beat their precedents. Bigly. (*October 28, 2018*)

## **1.9. The US Midterm Elections 2018: A Positive Perspective**

The midterm elections of 2018 are over and here is what we can say for sure as to how things will develop two years from now until the 2020 general elections (when President Donald Trump will be re-elected).

The liberals and mainstream media wanted everybody to believe that in 2018 there would be a Democratic tsunami wave. There wasn’t.

In the 1994 midterm elections Democratic President Bill Clinton lost 54 House seats, 8 Senate seats and 10 Governorships. That was a tsunami.

In the 2010 midterm elections Democratic President Barack Obama lost 63 House seats, 6 Senate seats and 29 Governorships. That was an even bigger tsunami.

In the 2018 midterm elections Republican President Donald Trump lost just over a couple of dozen House seats (confirming the history precedents), expanded robustly his Senate seats, while the number of Governorships remains split. More importantly, the President won Governorship races in swing states Florida and Ohio, which will be extremely beneficial for his re-election in 2020.

So, no tsunami in 2018. Rather than a blue wave, this was a “green wave”. The Democrats pumped in extraordinary amounts of money to little or no avail. In Texas and Georgia, for instance, their contenders for Senate and Governorship lost.

Sure, the liberals and their media will keep on bragging until 2020 about their House small-margin takeover. But what will this, in fact, mean?

Despite the President’s temporary and relative defeat in the House, there is a silver lining here too. The House Republicans were never 100 percent loyal to the President anyhow. Many of them were RINOs, never-Trumpers and moderates, not on the same page with the President’s policies anyway. Most of them decided not to run again for the 2018 midterm elections, starting with the Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan.

Does this prove loyalty to the President? I don’t think so. They chose to abandon the President and abdicate from their responsibility to sustain a solid reformation of the American society. They were used to promising their voters for years that they would get things done. And when President Trump actually got things done, they started to hate him for that. Most of their seats were won by Democrats, who managed to get a small majority in the House (and, interestingly enough, didn’t face Russian cyberattacks at the locations they won!).

The good news is that the rest of the Republicans, most of them elected on November 6, are now more loyal to the President and he can rely on them. No more Paul Ryans, no more Bob Corkers, and no more Jeff Flakes.

There is other good news (which I predict will happen). After the post-election euphoria, the House Democrats will discover that they are

not so united anymore after they get the power in the lower chamber. How will the newly elected Democratic former military members get along with their wacko socialist colleagues? It will be fascinating to see.

While the Republican prima donnas will disappear due to the party's expansion in the Senate, there will be new Democratic prima donnas emerging in the House. Not all of them will want Nancy Pelosi as the Speaker of the House. Not all of them will side unanimously with their party colleagues when legislation is about to be passed. Not all of them will demonize President Trump 24/7. And, definitely, not all of them will automatically reject bipartisan deals.

The near future will tell us if, in the end, the temporarily euphoric Democrats will want to take their new job seriously and legislate or continue to “resist” (while they are in power) and investigate. Americans will monitor their two-year performance very closely. Americans are good-sense people. Ultimately, what they want is “jobs, not mobs”, “Kavanaugh, not caravans”, and “results, not resist”.

To conclude, there are many serious reasons why Republicans should not feel too pessimistic, while Democrats should definitely not feel too optimistic. (*November 07, 2018*)

## **1.10. The 2018 Midterm Election Recounts and Statistical Laws**

The 2018 midterm election seems to be repeating the 2000 election Florida patterns. After the first results showing Republican victories in key states, tens of thousands of “lost” or “uncounted” votes are starting to emerge, while Democratic candidates pull back their concessions or refuse to concede. In return, they demand that “all votes” be counted.

In New Mexico's Second Congressional District, Yvette Herrell, a Republican state representative, won by 800 votes against Xochitl Torres Small, a Democratic water rights lawyer, and had already delivered a victory speech on Wednesday, November 7. Then, the New Mexico Democratic Secretary of State, Maggie Toulouse Oliver, announced to

Herrell that she had lost the election due to some newly “found” 8,000 Democratic ballots (in two sets of 4,000 ballots each).

In the Arizona Senate race, Republican Martha McSally had a lead of 2,400 votes, but the last ballot count showed Democrat Kyrsten Sinema standing more than 28,000 votes ahead of McSally.

In the Florida Senate race, Republican Rick Scott (the state Governor) had a lead of over 70,000 votes on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, over the Democrat senator, Bill Nelson. Since then, Scott’s lead has steadily dropped to 12,500 votes. Rick Scott and President Trump raised the specter of voter tinkering, but Bill Nelson has refuted their allegations.

In the Florida gubernatorial race between Republican Ron DeSantis and Democrat Andrew Gillum, DeSantis led Gillum by over 33,600 votes.

However, both Florida races proceeded to machine recounts.

As a result, Democrat Andrew Gillum withdrew his concession in the Florida gubernatorial race following the recount. At a press conference in Tallahassee on Saturday, November 11, 2018, he said: “I am replacing my words of concession with an uncompromised and unapologetic call that we count every single vote.”

In Georgia, the gubernatorial race has been among the most expensive and vitriolic in the country. Election results show Republican Brian Kemp (the state Attorney General) leading Democrat Stacey Abrams (endorsed by Oprah Winfrey) by almost 60,000 votes with 100 percent of precincts reporting.

Still, Abrams refuses to concede and insists that “all votes” should be counted.

Two points are to be made here.

First, whenever you hear the “all votes should be counted” catch phrase, you know immediately that the one who said this is a Democrat. What this codified expression really means is adding the illegal votes of living non-US citizens and multiple votes of living and dead US

citizens to the total number of legal votes. When you ask Democrats about electoral frauds, they reply fast that “no frauds have been proven”.

Other similar catch phrases from the Democratic repertoire include: “all immigrants should stay in the United States” (legal and illegal) and “all Americans should have health insurance” (including the ones who don’t want it).

Second, the Democrats’ call for “all votes” to be counted defies logic and statistical laws.

In election polls, for instance, average survey error is approximately 3.5 percent, about twice as large as that implied by most reported margins of error. According to studies, survey error is decomposed into election-level bias and variance terms. Average absolute election-level bias is about 2 percent, meaning that polls for a given election often share a common component of error (e.g., difficulties in reaching various subgroups of the population and reliance on similar screening rules when estimating who will vote). Average election-level variance is higher than implied by simple random sampling (e.g., polling organizations often use different complex sampling designs and adjustment procedures).

In terms of manipulating voting results, statistical methods can detect deviations from statistical laws where the logarithm of the first significant digit is uniformly distributed. These deviations may indicate that possible fraudulent mechanisms are at work.

Parametric models can quantify to what extent ballot stuffing or mechanisms of extreme fraud may have contributed to these deviations.

For instance, one can say almost certainly that an election doesn’t represent the will of the people if a substantial fraction of units reports a 100 percent turnout with almost all votes for a single party as the Arizona case suggests. Or if any significant deviations in the cumulative distribution of votes vs. turnout are observed like in the New Mexico case.

Another indicator of systematic fraudulent or irregular voting behavior is the incremental fraud parameter, which is significantly greater

than zero at each aggregation level like the Florida cases indicate in the Broward and Palm Beach heavily dominated Democratic counties.

George Bernard Shaw used to say that “democracy is a form of government that substitutes election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few”.

In other related news, Dennis Hof, a deceased brothel owner, entrepreneur and Republican politician, has won the Nevada legislative race after death.

Does this mean that Americans find dead Republicans more competent than living Democrats, after all? (*November 11, 2018*)