

Surveying the profound wreckage of America's most destructive presidency

Phil Egan - January 2021

His handling...or rather, mishandling of the COVID pandemic has been called the greatest failure in American presidential history.

He began by calling it a Democratic hoax because, you see, everything in life has to be about him.

So monstrous was his paranoia and narcissism that, having started down the road of denying the seriousness of the threat, his grossly-inflated ego would not allow him to admit a mistake and reverse course.

And so, he doubled down. If the pandemic was overblown, well then, so must be everything that was involved in containing the disease. Things like masks, and social distancing. With his ego-boosting rallies and ill-advised White House events, Trump became a super-spreader of the pandemic.

His supporters began to float conspiracy theories, suggesting that the pandemic was a hoax designed to put billions into the pockets of Dr. Anthony Fauci and Bill Gates.

As a result, the death toll in America soared to heights it never had to reach. In December, as vaccines began to be distributed in America, a poll indicated Americans in large numbers were either unsure about the vaccine or outright refusing to take it.

Trump's failure of leadership, as a result, may be condemning the country to continuing tragedy even as the rest of the world begins to recover.

Politically, Trump's effect has been even worse than the virus.

The Sturmabteilung, the Nazi Brownshirts, began to appear on the streets of Germany in the early 1920s. Disgracefully, 18 state attorneys-general and 126 members of the Republican House of Representatives, decided last month that they'd prefer to be with the Brownshirts than defending the constitution that they'd sworn to protect.

Make no mistake. They're the same people. They have the same respect for law and order and for the voting rights of the black populations of Detroit, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Milwaukee as the Brownshirts had on Kristallnacht in 1938 for the rights of the Jews.

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After more than 60 failed lawsuits attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 election in state courts, Trump placed his failing hopes on what he called "The Big One."

A Texas attorney-general under investigation by the F.B.I. for corruption, and likely angling for a presidential pardon, sought to gain Trump's attention by filing a Supreme Court lawsuit seeking to throw out the results of the election in Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

The sole reason appeared to be that he didn't like the results. All four states went to Biden. Trump says he won all four "by a lot."

Political commentators across the nation ridiculed the lawsuit. One key Republican described it as "something out of a Seinfeld episode, the type of lawsuit that would have been filed by Jackie Childs."

But then, tossing aside all semblances of integrity, morality, good conscience and self-respect, 18 other Republican state attorneys-general and 126 members of the Republican Congress affixed their names to a brief supporting the lawsuit.

Their collective voice became, "To hell with the will of the people in those four states. Throw the votes out and give us four more years of Dear Leader instead."

The United States Supreme Court unanimously and predictably tossed the lawsuit aside, but that's not the point.

The Republican Party of Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan has now split in two. There's the shrinking traditional party, and the new Republican Trump Autocrat Party.

In the latter, the will of the voter means nothing. The only thing that counts is whatever Dear Leader Donald Trump wants.

In other words, if the Trump Autocrats ever win another U.S. election, it may well be America's last.

