

The Delray Democrat

Trump's Threat of Civil War May Be a Self-Fulfilling Prophecy¹

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We thought Trump couldn't sink lower. But the impending testimony of a whistleblower and an impeachment inquiry have summoned even a blacker nature: threatening both the execution of the whistleblower and a civil war, should Trump be removed from office.

Most people dismiss his threats as bombast. We should not be so casual.

We believe that the foundations of this democracy were concretized enough to withstand assaults from all enemies, both foreign and domestic. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights were forged on the fiery crucible of a monarchy by men and women who would cede their freedom no more. They provided a brilliant construct of checks and balances to prevent any usurpation of their supremacy.

Yet, on January 20, 2017, Trump waged a coup in the White House, not by toppling a sitting president, but by his promiscuous abuse of his office. His singular success to date is encouraging expressions of division, bigotry, xenophobia and racism. An "us against them" groupthink, used so effectively by all modern dictators.

A president with a lifetime of flagrantly illegal and immoral behavior, and an imperial sense of self, took command. A president whose checklist of dictatorial governance aligns perfectly with that of other world dictators. Sow distrust of the media. Use nepotism to blur the lines of authority between government officials and family members. Continue to profit from the family businesses while in office.

Replace key administrators with temps (lieutenants) to by-pass congressional confirmation and to control their offices. Abuse the power of Executive Orders. Surround himself with similarly corrupt people like Michael Flynn and Paul Manafort. Manipulate classified information. Demand hyperbolic public expressions of fealty by subordinates. Hide conversations with other world leaders. Emasculate our military and national security professionals by standing against them in support of another dictator, Putin.

Checks and balances? Only if you play by the rules. Congress cannot function properly when all Trump's fiats are stamped "Executive Order," when he orders people to ignore its subpoenas, when he arbitrarily re-arranges the national budget to benefit his pet projects.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, October 2019, p. 1

The common denominator among all modern dictators is that they create division; “they” are an impediment to restoring “our” national pride and prosperity. “Make America Great Again” implies America has been in decline and is now promised both ascendance and superiority. Charlottesville was only one omen.

Trump threatens civil war. We’d best be vigilant.