

The Delray Democrat

The Republicans Got Sick and Tired of Democracy, So They're Trying to Kill It¹

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Democracy just wasn't working for the Republicans. There were increasing numbers of Black and Brown people (White majority forever!), a road to citizenship for immigrants (they can't even speak English!), and tree-huggers squawking like Chicken Little about climate change (Hillary took our coal!). And the greatest proof that the system stank: the election of a Black president.

So, one day, they loaded up their long guns (they had stocked up because Obama was going to raid their homes and snatch their weapons) and went searching for something new. They spotted a big manhole plate covering a sewer and lifted it. At first the stench was overwhelming, and they pulled back. But then, out popped a hand, then an arm, then a head with orange hair combed in such a convoluted maze even Erno Rubik couldn't figure it out.

But they found their guy! Racist, dumb, an expert swindler and a prolific liar. So, they nominated him to run for the presidency.

At first, some Republicans and even a few conservative columnists were apoplectic.

Lindsey Graham: "You know how you make America great again? Tell Donald Trump to go to hell. He's a race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot...He's the ISIL man of the year." (CNN, Dec. 8, 2015.)

Ted Cruz: "This man is a pathological liar...he lies practically every word that comes out of his mouth..." and "He's a narcissist at a level I don't think this country's ever seen." (Politico, Sept. 2016.)

Marco Rubio: "Donald Trump has been perhaps the most vulgar — no, I don't think perhaps — the most vulgar person to ever aspire to the presidency ... " (CNN, March 4, 2016.)

George Will, the darling of all conservative columnists: "This unraveling presidency began with the Crybaby-in-Chief banging his spoon on his highchair tray to protest a photograph — a *photograph* — showing that his [inauguration crowd](#) the day before had been smaller than the one four years previous. Since then, this weak person's idea of a strong person, this chest-pounding advertisement of his own gnawing insecurities, this low-rent Lear raging on his Twitter-heath has proven that the phrase malignant buffoon is not an oxymoron." (Washington Post, June 1, 2020. *This column is a must-read.*)

But, when Trump won, these critics (except for Will) flipped their "principles" faster than hotcakes and promised to bring Trump MacDonald's burgers every morning.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, July 2021, p. 6.

(Their flipping was no loss, since their “principles” were the nutritional equivalent of Jell-O.)

Now we got a new, semi-fascist government (after all, it takes time), run by a mafia of thugs, thieves and unctuous factotums, all tripping over their feet to show fealty to this crazed narcissist. His litany of crimes grew daily, but the worst crime of all was his embrace of enemy foreign dictators—always for his personal benefit. After Russia hacked our 2016 elections, CNN’s Anderson Cooper was shocked watching Trump at the Helsinki summit turn against US intelligence agencies and side with Vladimir Putin. “This was the most disgraceful performance at a Summit with a Russian leader...that I’ve ever seen.” (July 16, 2018, CNN)

When Joe Biden won in 2020, Trump waged war to hang on to his seat. Smart move, since he still had lots of business deals with foreign governments in the works. And he was facing criminal charges once out of the protection of the presidency.

First, he tried to overturn a free and fair election with baseless lawsuits. He phoned Georgia election officials asking to steal some votes. (Really.) He sent a horde of costumed lunatics to the Capitol building to violently stop the Constitutionally mandated certification of the election.

The concomitant plagues of Covid and Trump seemed biblical. Yet, as frightening as the past four years were, they augured something worse: half the country believing Trump won the election, losing faith in the democratic system and substituting inane conspiracy theories. State Republicans enacted voter repression laws—No Water for Grandma Standing in Line—and are whitewashing American History in our schools—no talk of racism allowed.

Next elections, Democratic victories on all levels will be the only insurance that our democracy will survive. Just staving off the barbarians at the gate will be tough, but we can win by changing the political playbook. We can work around the voting restrictions, make the (blue) District of Columbia a state, eliminate gerrymandering, work toward a national popular vote, and change our Byzantine primary system. Remember what’s at stake.