

The Delray Democrat

“You Must Remember This”¹

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That was the title of an article I wrote shortly after Donald Trump was elected the first time. Here’s how it went:

In *Casablanca*, possibly the greatest Hollywood film ever made, there is a memorable exchange between Humphrey Bogart (as Rick Blaine, cynical owner of Rick’s Café) and Paul Henreid (as Victor Laszlo, recent escapee from a German concentration camp and charismatic leader of the resistance to the Nazis):

Rick: Don't you sometimes wonder if it's worth all this? I mean what you're fighting for.

Laszlo: You might as well question why we breathe. If we stop breathing, we'll die. If we stop fighting our enemies, the world will die.

It’s happened again, and this time we are far closer to fascism than we were in 2017. We’re exhausted, having fought for Biden and having watched him do more with less than any president in this or the last century (see [Thank Joe Biden](#)), only to watch his presidency unravel under the onslaught of lies from the Republican disinformation machine and the cravenness of the So-Called Liberal Media.

And now, as Biden turns over the strongest economy since Bill Clinton turned over three annual surpluses to George W. Bush, it seems inevitable that Donald Trump will wreck it again, just as he did when Barack Obama bequeathed him the longest expansion since World War II.

In the earlier article I didn’t quote the entire exchange. but it seems appropriate to do so now. Given the completeness of Trump’s win and the enormity of the task before us, it is easy to dismiss Laszlo’s stirring exhortation to arms and retreat into cynicism. But we would be fooling ourselves:

Rick: Well, what of it? It'll be out of its misery.

Laszlo: You know how you sound, Mr. Blaine? Like a man who's trying to convince himself of something he doesn't believe in his heart.

The movie [ends](#) with Rick handing over the papers that allow Laszlo and his wife to escape Nazi-occupied Morocco, shooting the Nazi colonel who attempts to stop him, and leaving Casablanca

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), November 2025, page 1.

for the free French Garrison in the Brazzaville. Lazslo's final words to Rick are, "Welcome back to the fight. This time I'm sure our side will win."

A Hollywood ending, to be sure, but I can only keep believing that "the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice." Vance will arrange for the mad president to be deposed within a year, the Republicans will overreach – as they always do – and the demagogue that was Trump will not be around in two years. And that's my Hollywood ending.