

*If you find this essay disturbing and confusing, good. The only argument being propounded here is eschewing simple answers. Simple answers are too often the automatic response of simple minds. There is no shortage of simple minds on the Left or on the Right. Navigating complicated question using one's gut reaction will simply lead to perpetual indigestion and bad temper.*

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## **The Evolving Foreign Policy of Trumpism**

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Amy Zegart in The Atlantic writes: "Trump isn't misspeaking when he ignores his talking points, insults allies, or congratulates Putin on winning a sham election. He's not veering off script when he declares that North Korea is no longer a nuclear threat just because Kim Jong Un posed for a photo in Singapore. Trump is actually on message nearly every day and in every tweet. It's just not a message that most serious national security experts want to hear."

Now 18 months into this new Administration, it becomes possible to discern the outlines of a new American foreign policy. Trumpism is centered upon five key components.

### 1. Trilateralism

Like Caesar's Gaul, Trump's world view is divided into three parts consisting of the U.S., China and Russia. Trump has abdicated his chair as leader of the "Free World", as a post which has become a post WWII anachronism. Europe would like to make the Trump triangle a quadrilateral where Europe sits in the 4th chair. This assumes that the constituent nations of the European Continent can actually function as a united bloc. Trump has rejected such a role for Europe which in Trump's thinking has become a dysfunctional anachronism. BREXIT may only be a harbinger of further dissolution of the EU. European unity is anything but a reality other than its operation as an effective trading bloc most of the time and consolidation of labor markets.

Trump's triangle, the trilateral structure for the conduct of foreign policy, consists of Russia, China and the U.S. Right off the bat, it has one glaring point of incongruity. One of these things is not like the other, namely Russia. Arguably the U.S. is a superpower and China will soon be one if it already has not achieved such a position. However, comparatively speaking Russia is an also ran. It is, at best, the poor country cousin.

Russia is overly dependent upon exports of oil and gas which confront competitive disadvantages. There are too many other suppliers and too many sources being discovered and developed. At the same time, many consumers are turning to alternate fuel sources. Second Russian institutions are corrupt and inefficient. Third Russia faces many hotspots of insurrection such as Chechnya, North Ossetia-Ingush and Dagestan and in other former Soviet Republics. Russia has a declining standard of living. Former Soviet Republics chafe under Moscow's continuous efforts to exercise hegemony. The Russian military is poorly equipped and suffers from problems of morale. Russia's massive nuclear arsenal faces concerns about its security and whether Russia is able to safely maintain its ageing, decaying nuclear stockpile of weapons.

It turns out that the Russian chair of the triangle was bought and paid for long ago. It seems doubtful, at best, that Vladimir Putin foresaw Trump ever becoming President when Russia became Trump's financier of last resort when his casino operations in Atlantic City failed more than 25 years ago. Trump made himself vulnerable to Russian exploitation by violating a cardinal rule of real estate development: Never use your own money. The risk of loss from speculative projects is too great. Share in the rewards but never the losses. Even worse, Trump compounded his vulnerability by personally guaranteeing his loans thereby risking his financial future. In the early 90's, it all came crashing down around the ears of the braggadocious young entrepreneur. Wall Street and the major American banks wanted no further part of him. Trump was seen as a scam artist and notorious, unreliable deadbeat. Trump was desperately in need of a patron financial backer.

For Putin, Trump's plight spelled opportunity. What Putin saw was an extraordinary window of opportunity. Trump's operations provided a business front operation that could serve as a gate of entry to conduct business surreptitiously in the West. The Trump empire could be operated as a giant laundromat to wash Russian money. Trump enterprises became the conduit by which Putin and his cronies acquired assets, laundered money, unobtrusively transferred cash and assets and even carried on covert espionage. Out front causing commotion and distraction was Donald Trump as the carnival barker. Trump's businesses, for example, operated as a terminus for Russia's transfers of cash to Deutsche Bank. Trump became the "borrower" for cash "invested" by Russia in Deutsche Bank.

Trump, having been burned by the rough and tumble of real estate development, found security and profit in acting as a Russian surrogate and proxy. Thereafter, Donald learned he could make his fortune by fronting for the machinations of others. He calls this activity "branding." Branding has proven the safest and highly lucrative business plan for Trump's companies. If Michael Cohen turns out to have been Trump's fixer in NYC, it should surprise no one that Trump became Russia's American fixer for the conduct of business activities in the West.

In short, Trump became a tool of Russian financial and international operations. Trump is owned by Putin. He dare not cross him. Given the part history of Russian financing of Trump activities, there is no way that Trump can escape Russia's tentacles. He has been bought, sold and paid for. The Russian Chair of Trump's triangle is the safest and most secure of the three.

Trump trilateral configuration is a revisionist attack upon the post WWII structure created by the Cold War. The post WWII world was divided in a struggle, known as the Cold War, between two superpowers, namely, the Soviet Union and the U.S. The world became bilaterally divided to take space in the vacuum of power left behind after the defeat of the Axis powers by the Americans and the Soviets.

World War one was one of the deadliest conflicts in the history of the human race, in which over 16 million people died. The total number of both civilian and military casualties is estimated at around 37 million people. The war killed almost 7 million civilians and 10 million military personnel. In WWII, over 60 million people were killed, which was about 3% of the 1940 world population (est. 2.3 billion). World War II fatality statistics vary, with estimates of total deaths ranging from 50 million to more than 80 million.

It became the twin goals of post war American foreign policy to contain and constrain Soviet expansionism and to simultaneously organize Europe as a bulwark against the Soviets and to integrate the nations of Europe to forestall the likelihood of conflict among European nations igniting a third world war. Joe Biden said "America's commitment to collective defense under Article 5 of NATO is a sacred obligation in our view - a sacred obligation not just for now, but for all time."

The dissolution of the Soviet Union occurred on December 26, 1991. The Soviet Union in a final act granted self-governing independence to the Republics of the Soviet Union. On the previous day, 25 December 1991, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the eighth and final leader of the Soviet Union, resigned, declared his office extinct, and handed over its powers – including control of the Soviet nuclear missile launching codes – to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. That evening at 7:32 p.m., the Soviet flag was lowered from the Kremlin for the last time and replaced with the pre-revolutionary Russian flag.

Jeremy Corbin, a British politician who has been Leader of the Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition since 2015, said "I think NATO is a Cold War product. I think NATO historically should have shut up shop in 1990 along with the Warsaw Pact; unfortunately, it didn't." Like Corbin, Trump seems to believe that the mutual defense pact in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union almost 30 years ago has now become dated, dysfunctional and obsolete. It should be no surprise that these are

likewise the sentiments of none other than Vladimir Putin. Putin said “NATO was built to counteract the Soviet Union in its day and time. At this point there is no threat coming from the Soviet Union, because there is no Soviet Union anymore. And where there was the Soviet Union once, there [are] now a number of countries, among them the new and democratic Russia.”

The U.S. was committed to defending the European member state of NATO but the arrangement, which calls for reciprocity requiring other member to defend America, has largely become meaningless. Europe never fully recovered from WWII in terms of military power. It has enjoyed relative prosperity in nations such as Germany and poverty in southern nations none of which are unwilling to pay taxes for the cost of social benefits demanded and enjoyed by their citizens. Trump believes European nations seem quite willing to defer to America as the leader of the free world so long as they do not have to pay the actual cost of keeping that world free.

Parenthetically, the multilateral arrangements which seemed beneficial after the end of WWII have now become a cost without benefit to the U.S. according to Trump. In addition to NATO, Trump would probably also name the WTO, the Group of Seven, the EU and the United Nations as disserving American interests. Trump has spent less of his vitriol on denouncing the six mutual defense pacts in addition to NATO to which the U.S. is a party such as SEATO and ANZUS. This may have more to do with Trump’s likely ignorance of their existence than a greater willingness to defend non-European allies.

Trump rejects the notion that America is the leader of the free world. Instead, Trump wants America needs to look to its own borders and address its national security interest solely in the interest of the United States, its defense and prosperity. Everyone else has to look out for themselves. There appears to Trump a need to ration American influence to protect American interests.

Trump’s Trilateralism replaces America’s leadership role as the leader of the free world with fear, inconsistency and total unpredictability. This is the face that Trump has repeatedly shown to American allies in diplomatic engagements. No one is sure what he means. No one can count upon what he is going to do. Trump may arguably be acting like a sleepwalking giant where no one can be sure of whom he is going to step on next. The NYT put it this way.

“Whether it is Russia’s interference in the election, its annexation of Crimea, or its intervention in Syria, President Trump’s statements either undercut, or flatly contradict, those of his lieutenants.

The disconnect is so profound that it often seems Mr. Trump is pursuing one Russia policy while the rest of his administration is pursuing another.”

The major bone of contention between Trump and the vested foreign policy establishment is a disagreement over the balance of benefits. Many experts passionately argue that the multilateral configurations with Europe have also vastly benefitted the U.S. Zegart states “America’s preeminence on the world stage rests on five essential sources of power: neighbors, allies, markets, values, and military might. The Trump Doctrine is weakening all of them except our military.” That is the view of the traditional American foreign policy establishment. Trump discounts the importance of international supply chains, international finance and globalization. American interests are not confined within American borders. American isolationism is seen as a threat to American prosperity and American security. That is part of the credo of the foreign policy intelligentsia. It is a view of the world that Trump peremptorily and cavalierly rejects.

Such certainty over the outcome of Trump’s antic foreign policy may prove premature. Multilateral arrangements, according to the traditionalists, helped project America into becoming the strongest superpower while also promoting strong growth for the American economy. By contrast, Trump sees these arrangements as dead weight. For Trump, the European Continent is one large amusement park and museum of pre-21st Century culture featuring the arts, architecture and local foods. It is Epcot writ large. Today if a 21st Century Congress of Vienna were convened, Trump would leave European nations uninvited.

Trump seeks to avoid multilateral arrangements between nations. Jeremy Shapiro, the research director of the European Council on Foreign Relations, wrote “In the end, he doesn’t believe in the idea that America should defend Europe, so why should the United States pay anything at all? He is only interested in it if it brings in a profit.”

## 2. Two Party Negotiations.

Trump’s treatment of North Korea is instructive. Trump sought bilateral negotiations. This means South Korea, China, Japan and Russia were denied a seat at the table. Trump wanted his negotiations to be a Trump show and a carefully staged photojournalism event.

His critics say little was accomplished other than a vacuous statement of noble aspirations. In the wake of his summit with Kim Jong-un, President Trump began issuing a series of pronouncements about how the problem of a nuclearized North Korea had been solved by him through the sheer force of his negotiating prowess. “There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea,” he tweeted, adding that the public should “sleep well tonight!” He told reporters, “I have solved that problem ... Now we’re getting it memorialized and all, but that problem is largely solved.”

It was obvious at the time that this conclusion was premature to the point of fantasy. North Korea has made vague promises of denuclearization before, but always leaving most of the benchmarks vague and usually failing to follow through on whatever specific steps it did commit to. However, that does not mean Trump secured absolutely nothing of value.

This may well overlook the subtlety of the diplomacy. Trump may have gotten detente. It would be a tacit understanding both sides never articulate in public. North Korea may have agreed to suspend testing of missiles and nuclear weapons. It may also suspend further development of an ICBM which could reach the United States. In return the U.S. might well agree to scale back the annual military games taking place with the South Koreans. Such a reduction of military activity by the U.S. is also desired by the Chinese and Russians.

It should be noted that before meeting with the President, Kim Jung Un twice travelled to China to confer with Xi Shen Peng. Without taking a seat at the table, trilateral diplomacy may well have occurred behind the scenes before the PR display took place in Singapore.

It becomes possible to speak of Trumpism and the jury is still out as to whether it will ultimately prove beneficial to the U.S. Trump has demonstrably shattered the mold of the post WWII framework for American foreign policy. The old framework was constructed and erected to counter the expansion of the Soviet Union and save most of Europe from Soviet domination and even occupation. It came in the aftermath of two devastating World Wars.

There is no reason to believe that Trump's hostility toward NATO would be mollified even if his demands (whatever they may be) were met, because he doesn't value the whole point of NATO in the first place — he places no value in the very idea of collective self-defense. As Max Fisher and Amanda Taub put it in their column in the NYT, "this collective defense is the point of European defense spending, so more defense spending cannot appease him because he does not value its results."

Some have said Trump prefers to deal one on one which one reason he prefers dealing with autocrats such as Putin, Kim, Xi and Duterte. This may have to do with how Trump sees the bipolar relationship between the U.S. and the rest of the world. Trump's transactional approach to diplomacy make entail seeing issues as "either or" and "My way or the highway". Trump may only see black and white and may be blind to any differentiation in terms of intensity or shading. This makes every situation transactional: either you win or I win. Trump always wants to win.

Alternatively, it may simply be a matter of numbers. In a bipolar situation, there is only one other party. In a multilateral arrangement, all parties need to agree. By definition,

this entails more than one counterparty. Trump may have concluded that to get concurrence in multilateral arrangements, the U.S. is always expected to take the lead. To Trump this means the need to compromise with all the other parties, foot the lion's share of the cost and continually subordinate the self-interest of the U.S. Trump feels more likely to get a winning outcome if he only has to bully or cajole one other party.

### 3. Confinement, Quarantine and Proxies.

Trump's preference for separation and disengagement extends to parts of the world where internecine strife is rampant. America, for Trump, should not be the world's peacekeeper. He believes America needs to treat active conflict zones as quarantined, as if they had a contagious disease. The idea is to confine these struggles to places far from American borders. Better to let them fight among themselves than allow the contagion to come closer to our shore or otherwise affect American military operations. Trump wants no part of it. It makes for a bad investment of American political capital. Trump probably has no idea of which African countries belong to the Maghreb and which are in the Sahel. He writes the entire continent off as a loser.

Syria is another cesspit of violence. Everyone there, for one reason or another, hates the U.S. There is no way for America to get a foothold there. Aside from a token, handful of American soldiers, Trump has written off Syria.

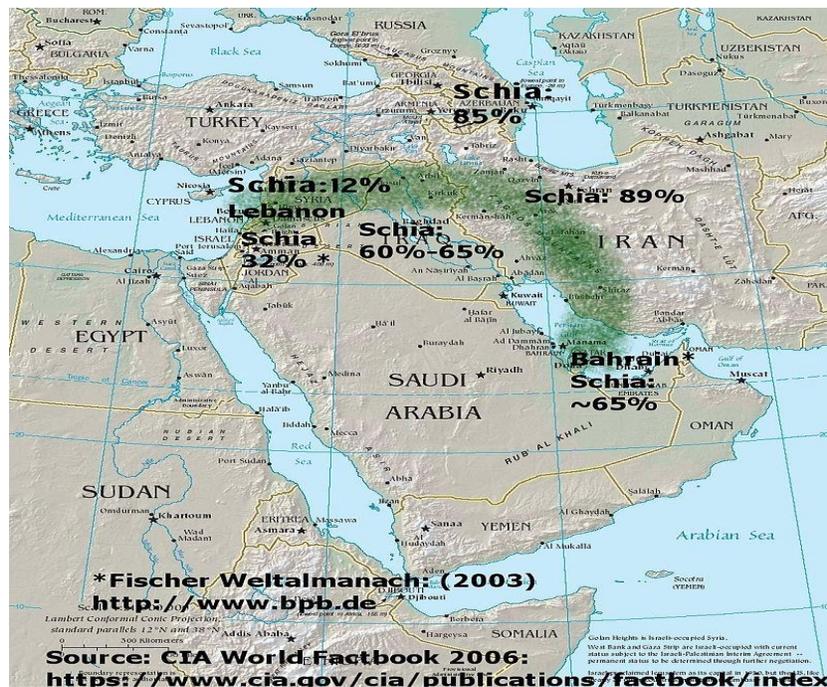
[Southeast Asia](#) consists of 11 countries squeezed between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean with around 620 million inhabitants. Trump has tried hard to have little to do with them. India and Pakistan are also areas of potential violent conflict which Trump prefers to disregard. Pakistan has for decades conducted a two-faced diplomacy with the U.S. where it has aided the Americans to interdict terrorists and then concurrently supported terrorists. The establishment argument is that the government is weak and divided and has to walk a political tightrope. Trump simply writes them off. Their political problems are not America's problem.

For Trump, it seems to be a numbers game. There are about 7.6 trillion people in the world today. The U.S., accounts for about 325 million. The United States population is equivalent to 4.28% of the total world population. Trump sees no way that such a small fraction of Americans could be morally responsible or practically able to care for and protect the rest of the world.

Trump's trilateral arrangement of power appears quite ready to recognize Asia as a sphere of Chinese influence. China itself has about 1.5 billion people. When added to Asia's 3.5 billion residents, China will be fully preoccupied dominating Asia's 5 billion. Accordingly, Americans have little to fear from Chinese geographical expansion.

Russia is too weak economically to threaten the U.S. in the foreseeable future. Trump seems disposed to welcome further Russian involvement in Europe while countenancing Russian expansionary objective so long as they flow east. Iran has sought to establish its influence in the former Soviet Republics in Central Asia. Specifically, the countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are poor with large Moslem populations. The U.S. has little to gain, in Trump's view, from attempting to spare these nations Russian domination.

Instead, Trump believes that other should do for America before America does for them. Instead of mutual defense pacts, Trump prefers to cultivate proxies. Accordingly, in the unstable milieu of the Middle East, Trump has selected Israel and Saudi Arabia under Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salma as American proxies as a countervailing force to Iran and its hegemony in the Shia Crescent.



#### 4. Neo-Mercantilism.

The United States has prospered in no small measure because it has been flanked by two vast oceans and two friendly neighbors that provided a level of security other states would envy. Geography has given America a certain geographic isolation in which America has been the dominant power. The last time American and Canadian soldiers fought each other was in 1815. The Mexican-American war ended in 1848, and the last U.S. president to order troops into Mexican territory was Woodrow Wilson, a century

ago. Hemispheric dominance and subordination of border nations is a crucial element of Trump's trade policy in foreign affairs.

At the heart of mercantilism is the view that maximizing net exports is the best route to national prosperity. Mercantilism is one of the great whipping boys in the history of economics. The school, which dominated European thought between the 16th and 18th centuries, is now considered no more than a historical artefact—and no self-respecting economist would describe themselves as mercantilist. The dispatching of mercantilist doctrine is one of the foundation stones of modern economics. That is until Trump came along. Trump is a “neo-mercantilist”. He is an advocate for a system that encourages the idea of government trade regulation to gain wealth. Trump believes a country attempts to amass wealth through trade with other countries, exporting more than it imports and increasing stores of gold and precious metals.

Trump basically rejects the notion of comparative advantage. Comparative Advantage is the concept in economics that a country should specialize in producing and exporting only those goods and services which it can produce more efficiently (at lower opportunity cost) than other goods and services (which it should import). Comparative advantage results from different endowments of the factors of production (capital, land, labor) entrepreneurial skill, power resources, technology, etc. It therefore follows that free trade is beneficial to all countries, because each can gain if it specializes according to its comparative advantage. This basic concept of international trade theory is founded on the work of the economist David Ricardo (1772-1823) on comparative cost.

Trump's view of the balance of trade also flouts the traditional view of economists. The balance of payments refers to the difference between the value of a country's imports and exports for a given period. Trump believes that an imbalance where a nation exports more to the U.S. than it imports from the U.S. somehow disadvantages the U.S. Most economists disagree. When we pay for something we have purchased, we part with the purchase price but in its place we get what we bought. In this sense the balance is neutral not one-sided.

Furthermore, Neo-Mercantilism is isolationist. Every commercial transaction is a one sided game, win or lose. It is never regarded as beneficial to both trading parties. Somewhere along the way, critics might claim that Trump got stuck in his junior high school history class where he learned about the “Triangle Trade”. The triangular trade routes were pivotal to the practice of Mercantilism by England by which colonies had one main purpose: to enrich the parent country (England). The premise of Trade was that the different regions would trade goods that they had in abundance in exchange for those goods which were needed but lacking in their own region. Money did not change hands. Trump wants to cast America in the past role of England.

Globalization refers to the interconnection of national economies through trade, investment, capital flow, labor migration, and technology. It results from the removal of barriers between national economies that stimulate the flow of goods, services, capital, and labor. Thomas L. Friedman describes the "flattening" of the world economy through globalized trade, outsourcing, supply-chaining and political liberalization. The use of technologies allows businesses, such as large multi-national corporations, to maintain customers, suppliers and even competitors on a world-wide basis. The breakdown of businesses into components along its value-chain creates opportunities for multiple businesses located at various spots on the globe to participate in the production of a single good or service. This global network, even for a single enterprise, is part of globalization.

Several organizations have either been created or have evolved into key roles in the process of globalization. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, for instance, deal primarily with issues of free trade in developing economies and with international monetary policy, including debt and trade balances between developing and industrialized countries. The World Trade Organization, along with the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), has been involved with removing trade barriers and reducing the cost of trading.

Globalization implies the opening of local and nationalistic perspectives to a broader outlook of an interconnected and interdependent world with free transfer of capital, goods, and services across national frontiers. However, it does not include unhindered movement of labor and, as suggested by some economists, may hurt smaller or fragile economies if applied indiscriminately.

For Trump, globalization acts as a leveler among nations. That is about the last thing he wants. Within the last five years there have been some second thoughts about whether globalization is unalloyed blessing. What it has done is to place capital under the control of multinational corporations. This increases the risk of a [power vacuum where such giant multinationals fall neither within the regulatory controls of individual nations or multinational arrangements.

One scary example is shadow banking. Shadow banking a banking system consisting of a group of financial intermediaries facilitating the creation of credit across the global financial system but whose members are not subject to regulatory oversight. The shadow banking system also refers to unregulated activities by regulated institutions. Shadow banking services more than one half of the world's financing and banking transactions. The shadow banking system has escaped regulation primarily because it does not accept traditional bank deposits. As a result, many of the institutions and instruments have been able to employ higher market, credit and liquidity risks, and do not have capital requirements commensurate with those risks.

The need for shadow banking to facilitate globalization by circumventing national regulatory regimes which restrict the unimpeded digitized flow of capital creates an entire new category of vulnerability and financial risk. The establishment of multinational supply chains for the production for goods and services has expanded worldwide access to labor markets, increased competition and driven down wages, especially in more advanced economies.

Trump's Neo-Mercantilism is in one sense a pause and opportunity for a reconsideration of the impacts of globalization and some unintended or unforeseen consequences.

Trump's isolationism combined with his Neo-Mercantilism trump believes will afford him the opportunity to make strategic bilateral trade agreements while using tariffs and trade barriers strategically to weaken foreign competitors. In the past, America always believed if it exported capital to build infrastructure abroad and increase foreign employment, the benefits would redound to the U.S. in terms of increased profitable trade, commerce and financing. Today, China is playing this card using the Cinna Export and Import Bank and its Silk Road (also known as Road and Belt) policy to finance and develop infrastructure abroad to finance Chinese trade.

Trump believes he can cut in to this Chinese investment through trading with the beneficiaries of China's programs without having made the capital investment the Chinese are prepared to invest. In a sense, China is making an after-market for U.S. products. This, in one sense, is analogous to what happened in the automobile industry when the major producers produced the cars after heavy investment only to have small companies compete in the aftermarket for tires, batteries and accessories. Trump thinks he can have the U.S. become the aftermarket competitor of China.

##### 5. WASPism.

Trump's revisionist foreign policy has found resonance with the right wing populist parties of Europe. BN making statements viewed as hostile to the establishment, globalization, the European Union, the Eurozone, immigration and Islam and the endorsement of BREXIT and closer ties to Russia, Trump has endeared himself to the likes. Marie LePen, Geert Wilders, Neil Farage and Boris Johnson. Trump's call for a reduction in immigration to the U.S., the erection of a border wall with Mexico, the internment of people seeking entry to the U.S. and his racial attacks on Mexicans and other Latinos, Muslims and African nations further makes him a heroic figure for racist politics abroad.

Trump wants fewer immigrants from "shithole countries" which appears to refer to Third World Countries with residents with darker skins. He wants to keep out Moslems. This

makes America a Christian nation with a predominantly white population. Fight over there instead of over here. Leave us out of it.

In international diplomacy, A balance of power is a state of stability between competing forces. In international relations, it refers to equilibrium among countries or alliances to prevent any one entity from becoming too strong and, thus, gaining the ability to enforce its will upon the rest. The balance of power is one of the oldest and most fundamental concepts in international relations theory. ... In bipolar distributions of power (two great powers) states will balance through internal military buildup.

The principle involved in preserving the balance of power as a conscious goal of foreign policy, as David Hume pointed out in his Essay on the Balance of Power, is as old as history, and was used by Greeks such as Thucydides both as political theorists and as practical statesmen. It resurfaced in Renaissance among the Italian city-states in the 15th century. Francesco Sforza, Duke of Milan, and Lorenzo de' Medici, ruler of Florence, were the first rulers actively to pursue such a policy, with the Italic League, though historians have generally attributed the innovation to the Medici rulers of Florence.

Along comes Trump and undertakes a con man assault upon balance of power politics to secure political stability. To the contrary, Trump seeks to create a continuous, unpredictable imbalance of power where no one can be certain which end is up. Trump seeks to reign through misdirection, contradiction and counterfactual declarations and policy. Before a critical meeting with Theresa May, Prime Minister of Britain, he denounces her approach to BREXIT in an interview with a Rupert Murdoch periodical. The story was released just before a dinner with May where Trump proceeds to contradict in person whatever he said in the interview.

Trump's use of racist nativism in the conduct of his foreign policy serves a similar purpose. He wants to leave all the other players unnerved. In a meeting in the Oval Office in January 2018, Trump asked ""Why do we want all these people from 'shithole countries' coming here?" Trump also asked why we want people from Haiti and more Africans in the US and added that the US should get more people from countries like Norway.

Non-Hispanic whites are about 12% of the world's population. This makes whites virtually outnumbered ten to one. For some this is tantamount to becoming an endangered species. Trump is completely disposed to capitalizing on and exploiting this fear. Trump's predilection for Neo-Mercantilism and racial exclusion seeks to use white fear for political domination, both in the U.S. and abroad. It would not surprise me if Trump hears the wheels of the tumbrils of the French Revolution rolling at night. Trump is the essential Louis the XIV President. Like his predecessor, Trump can say "L'etat

c'est Moi" and simultaneously "Après moi, la deluge." The new synthesis created by Trump seeks to re4vise traditional colonialism. In traditional terms, Colonialists exported political power and military force to subjugate and exploit less developed countries. Trump seeks to accomplish the same result but without the exportation of military might. He believes that by directing imbalance in the rest of the world while isolating America on the Northern Continent, America will have a controlling influence throughout the world.

### Conclusion

My great fear is that Trump governs like a fin de siècle President. There will be hell to pay in the aftermath as was the case for the gods in Wagner's Goetterdaemering. His Administration taking office reminds me of the gods entering into Valhalla, the newly built, palace home of the gods built by the giant brothers Mime and Fafner. Odin, the leader of the gods contemptuously refused to pay the giants what had been agreed. In consequence, the giants sacked and destroyed Valhalla. Trump governs like a leader who has no vision of what the world will look like once he leaves office. Worst of all, he acts like someone who does not care.

Having said this, I am the first to admit I have no idea of the outcome of Trumpism as a foreign policy. I have not the certainty of conviction of the establishment critics of Trump who are unable to prove that Trump's revisionism is either untimely or unnecessary.