

The Authoritarian Threat of Trumpism in America 2025

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Introduction

Under the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 detailed plan and the Trump Administration's efforts to implement it, autocracy is on the American doorstep. Many Americans are concerned, but most do not appreciate the level of the danger. In particular, Americans and other alarmed parties among global democratic governments are not aware of the overall strategy that makes the authoritarian goal of Trumpism a potential reality. Fortunately, Trump is so strategically inept politically and so uncontrolled and crass in his excessive and reactive need to communicate aggressively that he has not been able so far to achieve his ultimate goal to reign as a despot. But we are just at the end of one year in his four year presidential term. If the American public remains complacent and if Trump prevails in the 2026 midterm election retaining control of a subservient GOP Congress, Trump may yet prove successful in his demolition of American democracy. In this regard, Trumpism is part of a recent trend in the direction of autocracy among global democracies.

The Underlying Components of Trumpism

Trumpism is one form of fascism – founded on societal domination by an inadequately regulated capitalist economy and the conservative vested interests of the associated wealthy elite 1%ers who now control more than 31% of the total wealth of the United States [currently, \$50 trillion of the \$162 trillion total]. This rich and economically powerful minority favors reducing a) any regulations that restrict its monetary objectives and b) the size and cost of government supported social assistance programs. To achieve their goals, corporations together with the allied “billionaire” class use their wealth to defeat political candidates for office who support the egalitarian objectives of democracy. They especially work to defeat efforts to achieve publicly financed elections. For the most part, the moneyed class has pursued this agenda successfully – especially with their control and extensive use of unregulated, internet based media.

In spite of their power and political success, this economic elite is aware that true democracy and the dominant demographic trends in modern societies do not support their minority goals for the long-term.

So, their solution – as outlined in Project 2025 – is to buy the representation in state and federal level legislatures and the courts to allow for the conversion of legislative and legal power into an ever more powerful executive branch of government which can eventually take full control of the military, law enforcement, and the communication/information system. The overall result: a supreme, unitary executive – an autocratic plutocracy.

Implementation of Trumpism

Trumpism is politically supported by a) the economic elite, b) political and religious conservatives in general, c) racist and anti-immigrant groups, and d) the MAGA base – the disaffected lower middle class frustrated with its stagnant economic condition and attracted to the brash Trump cult of personality.

Trumpism is secondarily supported by a) a complicit and Trump cowed Republican Party with its thin current majority in Congress, b) a conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court, and c) an unregulated and economically manipulable social media/blogosphere used to purvey sensational information to targeted supporters – a very effective propaganda system.

Trumpism seeks to expand the executive power of the Presidency by:

- 1) Exploiting executive emergency powers in non-emergency conditions:
 - To impose legislative economic penalties on “adversaries” – tariffs,
 - To begin the process of denying legal due process under the law by arbitrarily arresting and deporting “illegal” immigrants,
 - To direct military operations against foreign countries without congressional consultation or authorization,
 - To expand the scope of federal law enforcement at the domestic level by
 - a) directing the military and various federal agencies to engage in executive authorized, aggressive law enforcement duties and activities – especially in cities where opposition exists,
 - b) working to eventually declare marshal law and thereby federalize all law enforcement under the auspices of presidential control,
- 2) Dismissing without cause thousands of federal level employees in a great many agencies – eliminating those who are not Trumpism supporters,
- 3) Defunding federal agencies and programs authorized by Congress without congressional consultation or approval.
- 4) Appointing mostly sycophants and incompetent persons to head the most important federal agencies,
- 5) Threatening universities, law firms and corporations with federal defunding if they do not support Trumpism policy or if they allow public criticism of Trump administration activities,
- 6) Threatening critics/enemies with law suits or investigations by federal agencies if they oppose Trumpism policies or programs,
- 7) Denouncing and encouraging rejection of and potential violence [even death] for perceived opponents of Trumpism.
- 8) Creating major legislation [“Great Big Beautiful Bill”] to reward supporters:
 - Give huge federal tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy while trying to hide the elimination of health care benefits to needy Americans, and the shift of the tax burden to the middle class,
- 9) Demolishing the White House east wing and planning a gauche version of a ballroom with private supporter, billionaire funding without any approval,

- 10) Using the presidential pardoning power to reward the illegal activities of MAGA supporters, to silence potential cooperation with law enforcement, and to indirectly encourage illegal activities to support Trumpism,
- 11) Developing an elaborate strategy to assure success in future elections by promoting state level district gerrymandering, challenging voter registration roles and restricting voter access in opposition districts, and by using the complicit Justice Department to seize voting records and to contest all “negative” election results.

Trump Vulnerability

The Epstein files render Trump vulnerable if they are made public in full. Given Trump’s complete control of the Justice Department, full disclosure seems highly unlikely. If disclosure ever actually occurs, washing or extreme redaction of the Trump related evidence should be expected!

The 2026 mid-term election is a pivotal point in the Trumpism process. Even if an autocratic plutocracy is not the result of the Trump presidency, a Trump resignation and a J.D. Vance takeover could be much worse, if Republicans remain in power.

What Is Needed to Address Trumpism – Present and Future?

- 1) Thoroughly inform the electorate of the autocratic/plutocracy overall agenda of Trumpism. The sum of its collective moves needs to be revealed,
- 2) Continue protests – an enormous national protest in D.C is needed,
- 3) Support challenges in state and federal courts of all illegal Trumpism efforts,
- 4) Secure independent state level election integrity,
- 5) Confirm explicitly in the law the separation of legislative, judicial, and executive governmental powers as prescribed in the Constitution,
- 6) Establish an expeditious emergency legal challenge process to address efforts of any branch of government to assume the powers assigned to another branch,
- 7) Eliminate the option for executive “management” of the Justice Department,
- 8) Confirm the requirement of due process in the management of the staffs of all federal agencies,
- 9) Confirm restriction of the military from domestic law enforcement activities,
- 10) Regulate all forms of information distribution to the public to require factual completeness and integrity,
- 11) Secure a Democratic Party win in the 2026 election and make the Republican Party pay a severe cost for its complicity in Trumpism,
- 12) When viable, impeach and convict Trump on the multiple relevant corruption charges,
- 13) Prepare for a potential Trump “escape” effort if he resigns or is impeached.

Supplement

With a want-to-be despot like Trump, there are always MORE imperious efforts:

- 1) In spite of Congressional authorization, withdrawal of support for Ukraine in its war with Russia,
- 2) In spite of Russia being the clear aggressor, putting pressure on Ukraine in favor of Putin/Russia for Ukraine to give up much of its eastern territory to settle the war – no Congressional review or approval,
- 3) Threatening to withdraw support for NATO and suggesting no opposition to Russia reclaiming additional territory in eastern Europe – all in conflict with established U.S. treaty commitments!,
- 4) Support for what amounts to the Israeli Gaza genocide together with the “proposal” to convert Gaza into a Mediterranean resort complex!,
- 5) Withdrawal of commitment to climate change agreements authorized by Congress [“Climate change is a hoax.”],
- 6) Announcing the opening of millions of acres of federally controlled territory for expansion of fossil fuel exploration and development without Congressional review or approval,
- 7) Support for other autocrats and billionaires: Example: pardon of former Honduran president Hernandez convicted and imprisoned for his extensive involvement in cocaine drug trafficking to the U.S.; this, while – without Congressional approval – claiming to be fighting drug trafficking by bombing small boats off the coast of Venezuela! Is the pardon “possibly” related to the fact that Hernandez, his wife, and political party are strong supporters of the technocrat plan to convert an island off Honduras into the network state of “Prospera” – a safe haven for plutocrats, their enterprises, and their wealth? Are the Venezuela bombings really just efforts to justify a war with Venezuela to gain access for the interest of the fossil fuel industry’s billionaires in the huge petroleum resources of that country?
- 8) Support for several extreme Congressional Republican proposals to sell off millions of acres of public land to initially offset the cost of massive tax breaks for the wealthy in his “Great Big Beautiful Bill,”
- 9) Unilaterally renaming the Defense Department the War Department in line with his multiple indications of interest in expanding the U.S. territory: Greenland, Mexico, Canada – the 51st state, etc.,
- 10) Exploiting the Presidency to vastly expand his family’s personal wealth: making various billion dollar, Arab state side “deals,” and creating a weakly regulated crypto currency which in turn provides the ability to accept and hide massive amounts of illicitly gained wealth [essentially “pay to play” bribes] – see the Raskin, House Judiciary Committee report 11/25/25.