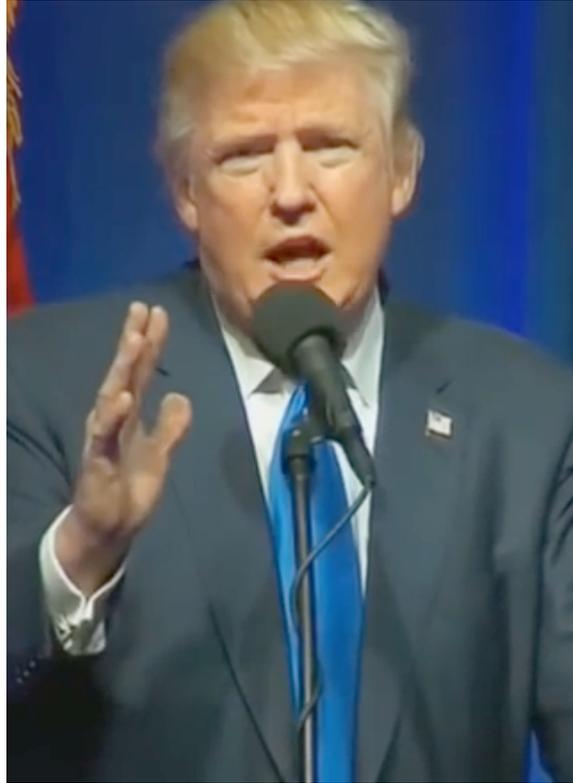


Good, Honest Hatred

by Cliff Burns



There's a lot of breast-beating going on right now among liberals and Lefties, more than a few instances of finger-pointing and, of course, the inevitable I-told-you-sos.

But having spent the last couple of days thinking about it, I've come to the conclusion that I'm actually *glad* Donald Trump was elected the 45th President of the United States.

Now I have someone to hate again.

It's no secret I'm not a big fan of the U.S. of A. I think money has corrupted its political system to the extent that ordinary citizens have absolutely no influence on any aspect of governance, the wealthy granted free rein to manipulate levers of power and secure enormous benefits for themselves. I believe American foreign policy since World War II has been wrong-headed, Machiavellian, self-serving and directly or indirectly responsible for the deaths of millions of innocent human beings.

It is readily apparent, even to partisan eyes, that during the presidency of Barack Obama, the status quo changed very little. I could point to the spike in drone strikes during the eight years he occupied the Oval Office (the official casualty figures fudged, the term

“collateral damage” no longer uttered in the corridors of power). I could just as easily cite Pentagon budget figures that show the military gorged itself for the past eight years, even more so than under Obama’s predecessor, a certain G.W. Bush. Those who rush to Obama’s defense will be quick to bring up “Obamacare”...neglecting to mention the final draft of that piece of legislation was literally dictated by representatives of the health insurance industry it was supposed to regulate.

But that aside and leaving behind all Obama’s broken promises, a charm and glibness that concealed an ineffectualness and spinelessness that made him just another puppet of the monied classes, it was hard to really *detest* Barack Obama. He always gave the impression he was *trying*, darn it, even if he consistently refused to employ the power of the presidency to back his soaring rhetoric and high ideals. Ronald Reagan *never* controlled both Congress and Senate during his two terms, yet managed to impose far more of his “vision” on America (union-busting, cutting taxes, massive military expenditures) than Obama ever did.

Well, Obama inherited the 2008 meltdown, killed that bastard Bin Laden and, oh, yeah, at least his last name wasn’t Bush. So you had to cut the guy some slack, y’know?



And now along comes Donald J. Trump.

Thank you, America.

Thank you once again for living up to my low expectations. Thank you for proving H.L. Mencken was right: you can’t go broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public.

You have delivered the political Left the perfect gift: a unabashed capitalist blowhard, a man who

threatens to tear up climate change treaties and build more pipelines and deport millions of people, while cutting corporate taxes and running America like, well, like a billionaire CEO.

It won’t take long for his short-comings to present themselves and the middle class and working poor will once again find themselves betrayed, sold out by another one of their champions.

A populist, a demagogue, a bully and a thug. That’s your Commander-in-Chief.

I’m literally rubbing my hands together and so is every satirist, every pundit to the Left of Rush Limbaugh. Because Donald Trump can’t help himself. He’s gotten where he has

because he fearlessly goes where few others dare to tread. He's great copy because he doesn't know when to shut the hell up.

Imagine his first summit meeting with Putin. The first snub from the Chinese.

And then there's the moment when he comes face to face with the folks on Capitol Hill. Gentlemen like Paul Ryan and John McCain, powerful individuals who hold little affection for the Donald. To paraphrase an old saw: the president proposes but it's Congress and the Senate who do the disposing. That fact will be driven home early during his tenure; that you can take to the bank.



Trump will do nothing to shrink the growing gap between rich and poor, nor will he come close to delivering on his promise that “every single American will have the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential”. His short-sightedness, his lack of experience, his own personality faults will quickly erode his popular support and undermine his authority.

At every step along the way the Left has to be there, watching, commenting, criticizing, offering alternatives, showing how unbridled capitalism is *not* an agent for change, and historically has never offered job security and reasonable compensation for services rendered. We must fearlessly pull aside the curtain, showing the “wizard” as he really is, a bigoted megalomaniac with a propensity for losing money, groping women and acquiring trophy wives.

Quick to put forward our own solutions and remedies to Trump's poisonous policies, a future that is sustainable, equitable and truly democratic.

We now have a clear target for our campaign, an opponent worthy of our loathing.

Rather than going through a period of mourning, progressives should be dancing in the street.

We have the right man, in the right place.

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