

Power and Corruption

While power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely. However, before power corrupts anyone, it encourages people who are ambitious and greedy to place personal interests above ethics and the public interest and thus join the ranks of the fat cats. But as fat cats become fatter, they become lazier, unable to think rationally, and too hungry to stop eating more. Left alone without holding them accountable for their deeds and miss deeds, they become comfortable in the seats of power they occupy, feeling that they own those seats. And to maintain the wealth and social status that comes with power, they begin to destroy the principles and values that hold society together and ignore the needs and grievances of the poor and the disfranchised. But no group of people is willing to remain silent for long while its rights are violated and needs are ignored, while the wealthy become wealthier and progressively more powerful and corrupt.

The United States is a good case of what happens when the rich and powerful ignore the needs of the poor and neglect the grievances of the disfranchised. The neglected class and the less educated and largely forgotten masses were able to teach all other established classes a lesson hard to forget. The attempts of the ruling class in America to isolate the poor and powerless was folly exposed as it failed to predict the outcome demonstrated that include the intelligentsia, the bureaucracy, the media, and professional politicians; they voted for a person who is as ignorant and corrupt as any politician could be. They voted for Donald Trump because he promised to “drain the swamp” in Washington. But instead of cleaning Washington from corruption, he used every opportunity and every issue to deepen the sociocultural divides in society to remain on the top. Though the election of Trump shocked the establishment in Washington, it changed almost nothing; it only led both parties to move in opposite, largely contradictory directions, causing the decision-making process at the national level to be paralyzed, and that caused the state institutions to become largely dysfunctional.

While the Republicans are afraid to criticize Trump because he attacks and threatens everyone who disagrees with him publicly, the Democrats are unable to offer the masses a coherent program for fundamental change. Meanwhile, the press was divided into two camps; a right camp that has become a Trump cheerleader squad, and a left camp that has become a Trump hater squad. As a consequence, both the right and the left press lost their claimed objectivity and credibility and, with it, the trust and respect of the general public. And this has left people seeking the truth to become victims of fabricated news stories and rumors. A nation with no trusted leadership and respected and believed media cannot have functioning institutions; and without properly functioning institutions, it cannot be a democracy or a just society; it is a nation on decline traveling slowly along the path to disintegration.

lost hope that the established politicians intend to do anything to change the situation. that no one can silence the disfranchised for long. And as those people wake up they elected a demagogue who speaks their language and awakes the worst in them, causing the much-hated racism to come out of its exile to claim its historic role in the restructuring of the society along racial lines and denigrate whoever does not look like them, no matter how patriotic he is and regardless of his education and commitment to the national interest.

Lack of means to communicate between the intellectuals and the masses, the first loses faith in the rationality of the second, and the second loses faith in the honesty of the first; and both lose faith in the system of government and the social order.

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