

The Delusionist Vector: A Timeline of the Trump Presidency as an Instrument of the Minimisation Plan

Introduction: The Law of Projection and the Acceleration of Decay

To analyze the actions of the Trump administration through the framework of the Sino-Russian Minimisation Plan is to observe the grand strategy's abstract principles made manifest in the political realm. The administration's seemingly chaotic and contradictory actions resolve into a coherent pattern when understood not as a conventional approach to governance, but as a series of micro-instances of the plan's core tenets: the erosion of institutional trust, the induction of strategic exhaustion, and the deliberate shattering of a shared, verifiable reality.

This analysis is further clarified by the **Law of Projection**. This principle posits that actors with a small, selfish worldview are incapable of conceiving of motivations outside their own limited perspective. Understanding that their own goals are extractive and run contrary to the collective good, their only available tactic is to accuse their opposition of the precise actions they themselves are undertaking or planning to undertake. This is not merely a political tactic but a psychological necessity—a form of "immoral FOMO" (Fear Of Missing Out), where the actor, fearing they are being taken advantage of, projects their own corrupt intentions onto others to justify their behavior.

Throughout his presidency, Donald Trump's actions can be seen as a powerful vector for this strategy. His administration served as an accelerator, taking the slow, patient erosion of Western institutions sought by the Minimisation Plan and injecting it with a volatile and highly effective catalyst. This timeline deconstructs key actions and anomalies of his presidency, interpreting them as deliberate tactics that align with the plan's ultimate objectives.

Phase I: Deconstructing the Arborescent Order – The Assault on Alliances (2017–2019)

The first phase of the operation focused on dismantling the "arborescent" or hierarchical structure of the U.S.-led international order.¹ This "tree-like" system, with the U.S. at its root and alliances like NATO as its main branches, was the primary target for the Minimisation Plan's goal of strategic exhaustion.³ The Trump administration's approach was not to reform this system, but to take an axe to its roots and branches through a consistent campaign of withdrawal and delegitimization.⁵

- **January 23, 2017: Withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).**
 - **Action:** Trump formally withdrew the U.S. from the TPP, a 12-nation trade agreement explicitly designed to create a U.S.-led economic bloc to counter China's influence in the Asia-Pacific.⁶
 - **Minimisation Plan Analysis:** This was a direct, unearned gift to Beijing. It ceded the primary vehicle for U.S. economic statecraft in the region, creating a vacuum that China immediately filled. The "believable lie" for the base was that the TPP was a "bad deal" that hurt American workers. The strategic reality was the voluntary surrender of a key front in the economic competition with China, perfectly aligning with the Minimisation Plan's goal of weakening U.S. global standing.
- **June 1, 2017: Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.**
 - **Action:** Trump announced the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on climate change, a near-universal international accord.⁶
 - **Minimisation Plan Analysis:** This action achieved two objectives. First, it isolated the U.S. from its closest allies and damaged its reputation as a reliable partner. Second, it served the interests of Russia, a petrostate, and China, the world's largest emitter, by disrupting the global consensus on climate action. The lie for the base was that the agreement was "unfair" to the U.S. The reality was an act that benefited America's primary strategic competitors.
- **May 8, 2018: Withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA).**
 - **Action:** Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the JCPOA, an agreement between Iran, the U.S., and other world powers to constrain Iran's nuclear program.⁹
 - **Minimisation Plan Analysis:** This move shattered the united front among Western allies, creating deep diplomatic rifts. It also pushed Iran further into the arms of Russia and China, strengthening the anti-hegemonic bloc, a key goal of the Minimisation Plan.³ The **Law of Projection** was on full display: while accusing Iran of being an untrustworthy actor, the U.S. became the party that broke the agreement, thereby damaging its own credibility.
- **2017–2020: Sustained Attacks on NATO.**

- **Action:** Throughout his term, Trump repeatedly attacked NATO, calling it "obsolete," threatening to withdraw, and framing allies as "delinquent" freeloaders.¹⁰ He went so far as to state he would "encourage" Russia to "do whatever the hell they want" to members who didn't meet spending targets.¹¹
 - **Minimisation Plan Analysis:** This was a direct assault on the primary military alliance countering Russia. The constant threats and insults were designed to achieve the Minimisation Plan's goal of strategic exhaustion by creating profound uncertainty among allies, forcing them to hedge their bets and question the reliability of the U.S. security guarantee.⁵ The lie for the base—that he was making allies "pay their fair share"—masked the strategic gift being handed to Moscow.
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Phase II: Economic Chaos and the Weaponization of Trade (2018–2020)

The second phase of the operation focused on the economic vector, using trade as a tool not for national advantage, but for global disruption. The U.S.-China trade war, rather than being a coherent strategy to reshore jobs, functioned as a mechanism to introduce chaos into global supply chains, create market instability, and damage the perception of the U.S. as a predictable economic actor—all objectives that align with the Minimisation Plan's economic warfare pillar.³

- **March 2018 – January 2020: The U.S.-China Trade War.**
 - **Action:** The Trump administration initiated a tit-for-tat trade war, imposing tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars worth of Chinese goods. China retaliated in kind.⁶
 - **Minimisation Plan Analysis:** The trade war was a masterclass in creating chaos under the guise of populist nationalism. The constantly shifting tariff rates, threats, and truces made long-term business planning impossible, disrupting the stable, predictable trade environment upon which Western economies depend. The "believable lie" for the base was that this was a tough negotiation to "win" against China. The strategic effect was to accelerate the de-risking and supply chain diversification that ultimately benefits China by forcing other nations to build systems independent of the U.S. This aligns with the Minimisation Plan's goal of fostering a multipolar economic order where U.S. influence is diminished.³
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Phase III: Internal Destabilization and the War on Truth (2017–2021)

The most critical vector of the Minimisation Plan is the information war, designed to achieve a "Reputation Flip" by destroying the target population's trust in its own institutions and its ability to discern truth from falsehood.³ The Trump presidency served as the ultimate amplifier for this campaign, relentlessly attacking the very foundations of American democracy.

- **2017–2021: Attacks on the Press and Intelligence Community.**
 - **Action:** Trump consistently labeled critical media outlets "the enemy of the people" and attacked the integrity of U.S. intelligence agencies, promoting the idea of a "deep state" conspiracy against him.¹⁴
 - **Minimisation Plan Analysis:** This was a direct, domestic application of the Sino-Russian psyop model. By delegitimizing the press and intelligence services, he eroded the primary institutions responsible for holding power accountable and identifying foreign influence operations. This created a fertile ground for foreign disinformation to flourish, as a significant portion of the population was conditioned to believe that any negative information was simply a "deep state" plot. This is a micro-instance of the larger QAnon psyop, tailored for his base.¹⁴
- **2020–2021: The "Stolen Election" Narrative.**
 - **Action:** Following his defeat in the 2020 election, Trump launched an unprecedented campaign to overturn the results, based on baseless claims of widespread fraud.
 - **Minimisation Plan Analysis:** This was the ultimate expression of the **Law of Projection**. While actively attempting to subvert a democratic election, Trump and his allies relentlessly accused their opponents of having stolen it. This narrative was the most powerful "believable lie" deployed, as it was designed not just to be believed by his base, but to incite them to action. It was a direct assault on the core of the American system, transforming a political disagreement into an existential crisis of legitimacy.

Culmination: The January 6th Insurrection – A Civil War Test Case

The events of January 6, 2021, cannot be viewed as a spontaneous protest. Within the Minimisation Plan framework, the insurrection represents the logical culmination of the preceding years of psychological conditioning and institutional delegitimization. It was both a test and a legitimate attempt to trigger the ultimate strategic objective: an American civil war.

- **As a Test:** The event served as a live-fire stress test of the U.S. system's resilience. For foreign adversaries, it provided invaluable intelligence on the breaking points of American institutions: the speed of law enforcement and military response, the points of failure in

Capitol security, and the willingness of a segment of the population to engage in political violence.

- **As an Attempted Trigger:** The insurrection was a direct attempt to decapitate a branch of the U.S. government and halt the peaceful transfer of power, an act that could have easily cascaded into widespread civil unrest and constitutional crisis. Had the attempt been more organized or successful, it could have plunged the nation into a period of prolonged internal conflict, effectively neutralizing the United States as a global actor and achieving the Minimisation Plan's primary goal in a single stroke.

The January 6th insurrection was the point at which the micro-instances of the information war—the constant lies, projections, and attacks on truth—coalesced into a kinetic macro-event. It demonstrated the profound success of the campaign to create a segment of the population so detached from reality that they could be mobilized to attack their own government, a strategic outcome that serves the interests of no one but America's adversaries.

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