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A Coup Is In Progress In America



Say That Again

from the *wake-up dept*

Mon, Feb 3rd 2025 12:07pm - [Mike Brock](#)

A coup is underway in the United States, and we must stop pretending otherwise. The signs are **unmistakable and accelerating**: in just the past 48 hours, Elon Musk's DOGE commission has seized control of Treasury payment systems and gained unauthorized access to classified USAID materials,

while security officials who followed protocols were removed. Career civil servants across agencies are being systematically purged for having followed legal requirements during previous administrations. The president openly declares he won't enforce laws he dislikes, while Congress watches in complicit silence. This isn't happening through tanks in the streets or soldiers at government buildings—it's occurring through the systematic dismantling of constitutional governance and its replacement with a system of personal loyalty to private interests. Those who resist are being removed, while those who enable this transformation are being rewarded with unprecedented control over government functions. The time for euphemisms and careful hedging has passed. We are watching, in real time, the conversion of constitutional democracy into something darker and more dangerous. To pretend otherwise isn't prudence—it's complicity.

I understand why many Americans are hesitant to accept what's happening—acknowledging the reality of a coup in progress is frightening. But we must confront the facts before us with clear eyes: Donald Trump and Elon Musk are systematically seizing control of the federal government's machinery through plainly illegal means. They are violating civil service protections established by law, shuttering congressionally mandated agencies without authority, and subjecting career public servants to ideological purges.

When security officials are removed for following classification protocols, when private citizens gain unauthorized access to Treasury payment systems, when civil servants are punished for having participated in legally required training—these aren't isolated incidents or normal policy changes. They represent the coordinated dismantling of constitutional governance and its replacement with a system of personal loyalty.

The machinery of government—the actual systems and institutions through which public authority flows—is being captured by private interests operating outside constitutional constraints. This is precisely what the Civil Service Reform Act was designed to prevent. These aren't abstract concerns about democratic norms—these are concrete violations of specific laws designed to prevent exactly this kind of authoritarian capture of government functions.

This is an emergency, and it demands emergency response from every American with power or influence. The window for effective resistance narrows with each passing day. History will judge harshly those who had the capacity to resist but chose instead to wait and see how things develop. The time to act is now, before the mechanisms that would allow effective resistance are completely dismantled.

The American Constitution represents more than just a system of government—it embodies humanity’s greatest experiment in self-governance through reason and law rather than force and will. When the Founders established our constitutional republic, they created something unprecedented: a government bound by law rather than personal authority, where power flows through democratic institutions rather than individual whim. This inheritance, paid for with the blood of patriots from Lexington to Normandy, gave birth to the very idea of modern liberal democracy.

Now we watch as this precious inheritance is being systematically subjugated to the personal authority of Donald Trump and Elon Musk. The constitutional firebreaks designed to prevent the concentration of power—checks and balances, civil service protections, congressional oversight—are being dismantled not through revolution but through a calculated strategy of institutional capture. When private citizens gain control of Treasury systems, when security officials are removed for following classification protocols, when Congress abandons its constitutional duties, we’re witnessing the subordination of constitutional governance to personal power.

This isn’t just another political crisis—it’s an existential threat to the constitutional order that has secured human liberty for over two centuries. Every American who understands the value of this inheritance has a duty to resist its destruction. The Constitution doesn’t defend itself—it requires citizens willing to stand for the principles of democratic governance against those who would replace the rule of law with the rule of men.

There is a fundamental difference between partisan policy debates and what we’re witnessing now. When Republicans pass legislation on immigration, when they reform tax policy, when they push back against progressive cultural initiatives—this is the normal, healthy function of democratic governance. Elections have consequences, and the party in power has every right to advance its policy agenda through legal channels.

But what’s happening now exists in a different category entirely. When private citizens gain unauthorized access to Treasury payment systems, when security officials are removed for following classification protocols, when congressionally established agencies are illegally shuttered—these aren’t policy changes. They represent the systematic dismantling of the constitutional framework that makes policy debates possible in the first place.

Consider the profound difference: Opposing Democratic policies on taxation or immigration is legitimate political disagreement. Refusing to execute laws passed by Congress, removing civil servants for following legal requirements, and allowing private citizens to seize control of government functions represents an attack on constitutional governance itself. The former is about what policies we should have; the latter is about whether we’ll maintain a system where policy debates matter at all.

To conservatives who value our constitutional inheritance: This isn’t about advancing Republican policies or opposing Democratic ones. It’s about whether we’ll preserve the constitutional system that allows these debates to occur through democratic processes rather than personal decree. When we replace professional civil service with personal loyalty systems, when we ignore congressional mandates, when we allow private interests to seize control of government functions—we’re not winning political battles, we’re destroying the arena where those battles are meant to occur.

The voices of history echo through our present crisis with devastating clarity. Each American who gave their life to preserve constitutional democracy—from the blood-soaked fields of Gettysburg to the beaches of Normandy—did so with the faith that

future generations would guard the precious gift of self-governance. They died not just to defeat specific enemies, but to ensure that government of the people, by the people, for the people would not perish from the earth.

Now, as we watch the systematic dismantling of constitutional governance—as private citizens seize control of government functions, as career civil servants are purged for following the law, as Congress abandons its duties—these sacrifices demand action from every American who understands what’s at stake. The transformation happening before our eyes—from a government bound by law to one bound by personal loyalty—is precisely what generations of Americans gave their lives to prevent.

This isn’t about partisan politics or policy preferences. This is about preserving the constitutional inheritance that makes American democracy possible at all. When we see security officials removed for protecting classified information, when we watch congressionally established agencies illegally shuttered, when we witness the machinery of government being captured by private interests—we’re seeing the unraveling of everything our fallen heroes died to protect.

The dead speak to us now with urgent clarity: The time for comfortable illusions has passed. Every American who values constitutional democracy must act to preserve it. Not tomorrow, not after the next election, but now—while the mechanisms for democratic resistance still exist. Our ancestors paid for our freedom with their blood. We dishonor their sacrifice if we surrender it through inaction.

Mike Brock is a former tech exec who was on the leadership team at Block. Originally published at his [Notes From the Circus](#). Republished here with permission.

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David

February 3, 2025 at 12:20 pm

What do you think this is about?

When we replace professional civil service with personal loyalty systems, when we ignore congressional mandates, when we allow private interests to seize control of government functions—we're not winning political battles, we're destroying the arena where those battles are meant to occur.

It is the whole point to destroy the arena. The Republican Party has not exactly been winning the popular vote a lot in the last decades. The reversal to populism and manipulated media and the total abandonment of decorum was their last bet (after going all-in on gerrymandering as well as buy-in into systematic racism in spite of being the party of Lincoln and Eisenhower) to get into control again, and they will not keep it by continuing to let people vote under a changing country.

Trump was their gift from heaven, a bull welcomed into the china shop by its befuddled owners.

The reason the Republican Party flocked to Trump was not in spite of January 6th but because of it. It was their chance to tell people "you know who you were voting for, so that is what you wanted."

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[2]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 10:52 pm

Re: Freedom or fascism.

Paul Revere, our national guard and marines needs to take control of government. Sorry to say so but we need a pause right now and investigate this and revamp. The Excutive branch needs to stand down, the coup needs to be investigated. The truths need to be revield, Musk needs deported or confined until this is iron out. Basically we need Thomas Jefferson and Madison to rise up and turn this over to honest hard working Americans. Or Paul Revere will ride again.

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[3]



Anonymous Coward

February 4, 2025 at 2:14 am

Re: Re:

Stupid dems ○○○○○○

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[3]



Gilbert

February 4, 2025 at 4:48 am

Re: Re:

I agree fully! this has gone too far

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frankcox ([profile](#))

February 3, 2025 at 12:20 pm

When someone shows you who they are

Two quotes for everyone to ponder.

“When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.” Maya Angelou

“Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want, and deserve to get it good and hard.” H. L. Mencken.

Neither of these quotations were made yesterday or even the day before.

And I’m pretty sure everyone saw who Trump was the first time.

And the American people voted for this.

I’m not American, I don’t live there, and I could see this coming. Couldn’t you?

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[2]



Thad ([profile](#))

February 3, 2025 at 12:40 pm

Re:

Some of us did.

Some of us did and voted for it on purpose.

And some of us didn’t, largely because the major news sources that are supposed to tell us what’s going on have been captured or closed.

The part that gets me is, every single person who voted for Trump in 2024 (or was eligible to vote but stayed home) lived through his first term. I just don't understand how that many people decided yep, I could go for more of that.

The ones who are actively evil at least I understand. It's the ones who are *indifferent* that really make me lose heart.

"I mean, say what you want about the tenets of National Socialism, Dude; at least it's an ethos."

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[3]



Phoenix84 (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 12:56 pm

Re: Re:

I've noticed that Trumpism is a cult.
Once you've drank the kool-aid, it's very difficult to break free.
Trump is a salesman and con-man, and he sold the American people a very good con.

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[4]



Phoenix84 (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 12:58 pm

Re: Re: Re:

Forgot to add:
What I mean by the cult is that people see the good he says, and what he says is so good to them, they look past the bad, or choose to believe they're lies.

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[5]



Thad (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 3:59 pm

Re: Re: Re:²

Again, I understand the cult just fine.
It's the people who are indifferent that I just don't get.

Like, I understand not liking the Democrats. They're giving us an object lesson in how much they fucking suck right this very minute. But how fucking delusional do you have to be to think there's no difference between a Harris administration and this?

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[5]



Spelling Bee

February 3, 2025 at 9:37 pm

Re: Re: Re:² They're

Their

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[3]



That One Guy ([profile](#))

February 3, 2025 at 2:18 pm

INSIDER

Re: Re:

The part that gets me is, every single person who voted for Trump in 2024 (or was eligible to vote but stayed home) lived through his first term. I just don't understand how that many people decided yep, I could go for more of that.

For those that voted for him it's say it's because they are terrible and/or terribly stupid people, who either voted for him *because* of the suffering he promised to inflict on those they hated (and are only now suffering voter's remorse for after realizing that suffering includes *them*), and/or because they believed the empty words of a pathological liar about how *this* time he'd 'fix everything, pinky-promise'.

And on the other side for those that sat on their asses it's because they fell for the second dumbest lie in US history (the first being 'The 2020 election was stolen, no you can't see our evidence just trust us'), the 'Both sides are equally bad so there's no point in voting at all' lie.

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[4]



Thad (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 4:01 pm

Re: Re: Re:

And how the *fuck* does anyone forget what 2020 was like? That's what really gets me. How do you go through that and then just decide it wasn't that big a deal?

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[5]



David

February 4, 2025 at 2:07 am

Re: Re: Re:² That's when you think you are better than history

Couldn't happen to us because we are different.

Just look at January 6th in context with the [Beer Hall Putsch](#).

Hitler actually served time for that and still made it into the position of a Reichskanzler from which he destructed the democratic structures he was appointed to serve. The [National Socialist Seizure of Control](#) and disabling of all checks and balances of the Republic in the name of national interests is pretty much what is happening right now in the U.S.

But at least the Trumpists are not wearing ugly brown shirts. Hooray.

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[6]



Other David

February 4, 2025 at 6:40 am

Re: Re: Re:³

Nah, they're just wearing ugly red hats.

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[7]



David

February 4, 2025 at 7:01 am

Re: Re: Re:⁴

Caps, dear tocapo, caps. Hats are assets of dignity.

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[3]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 6:36 pm

Re: Re:

Amen to this.

It's sad that so many Americans will learn the lesson that you MUST VOTE only by going through the truly traumatic time we are going to experience for a while.

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[4]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 7:25 pm

Re: Re: Re:

If I've learned anything from the Trump era, it's that you can't underestimate the ability of people to take progress and peace for granted

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[3]



Chris

February 4, 2025 at 4:13 am

Re: Re:

Never tribute to malice that which can be explained adequately by stupidity.

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[4]



David

February 4, 2025 at 7:09 am

Re: Re: Re:

No need to choose: they will readily share a bed.

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[3]



Maura

February 4, 2025 at 8:05 am

Re: Re:

“The part that gets me is, every single person who voted for Trump in 2024 (or was eligible to vote but stayed home) lived through his first term. I just don’t understand how that many people decided yep, I could go for more of that.”

People aren’t always good at remembering the past as it actually was or thinking ahead to future issues. One thing that absolutely flabbergasted me was voting for Trump or not voting at all as a “protest” against the war in Palestine. Like do you guys not remember the Muslim ban? Do you not remember Trump recognizing Jerusalem the capital against the wishes of the Palestinians? Like what good did they think that “protest” vote was going to do for Palestine? Now Trump is saying that there is no guarantee the ceasefire (that his envoy helped negotiate) will hold up AND has seriously asked the governments of Egypt and Qatar about clearing out Palestine. Like yup. Good one, guys, you really showed the Biden administration what’s what.

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[2]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 8:56 pm

Re:

“Once is never. Twice is always.”
This shit genuinely fucks with my faith in democracy.

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[2]



andy nome

February 3, 2025 at 9:12 pm

Re:

Although I agree with the sentiment that quote is correctly attributed to Oprah Winfrey, not Maya Angelou.

Source:

<https://i.imgur.com/3oEzX2q.mp4>

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[2]



Anonymous Coward

February 4, 2025 at 6:16 am

Re:

We voted for this. Go cry a river, so we can name it after America!

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TKnarr ([profile](#))

February 3, 2025 at 12:27 pm

Trump's and Musk's antics are one of the reasons the professional civil service, hired based on qualifications rather than connections to elected/appointed officials and relatively immune to being disciplined or terminated for any reason other than good cause, was created. It forces the President to start at the top, appointing the heads of departments and agencies and then issuing policy directives through those heads that then flow down through the bureaucracy. That forces the whole process to be visible to the public, Congress and the courts, and slows things down enough that nobody can just walk in and change things over a weekend before Congress or the courts can object. We implemented this because we'd *had* a civil service where the President appointed every single bureaucrat and could replace them at will and it *didn't* work.

And for anyone trying to claim we need to guard against the bureaucrats ignoring the President's policies because they don't like them, go back and read the bit about "other than good cause". Once policies are in place, refusing to follow them absolutely is good cause to fire someone under the professional civil service system.



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 12:31 pm

I'm going to just sit back and wait. I've been told millions of times that this is why we allow kids to have their brains blown out so that all the right wingers will rise up and use their 2nd amendment.

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[2]



Axelrod Gunarson

February 3, 2025 at 9:27 pm

Re: I told you so

I've been saying this is how Trump will be for years. But since he's there and there's nothing I can do about it anymore, I'm just gonna sit back and let it happen. When shit hits the fan it hits everyone, so I've no doubt it will affect me at some level, but not the same as many of those conned into voting for him. Agree with you AC. This is just a rehash of history so "I'm taking this loop off" (bonus points if you can guess where that's from)

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[3]



Sbdc

February 4, 2025 at 12:49 pm

Re: Re:

Stargate SG1, groundhog's day. A solid episode.

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[2]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 9:43 pm

Re:

Have you ever considered how short-sighted it was to push to ensure ONLY right-wingers would have guns?

Of course you haven't. Because the only victory that matters to you clowns is a "moral victory."

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Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 12:57 pm

Musk was asked to do this work by the President.

It is against the law to work for the Federal government without compensation. Trump may have asked Musk and granted security clearances. Still, Musk's team cannot operate on Federal real estate without a compensation agreement, either as an employee or a contractor. I don't believe the President can approve a contract without following procedure. What Musk and the kiddies are doing is illegal!

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Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 1:01 pm

Figure out who's in you're circle and how far you're willing to go for them now.

Each other is what we have.

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Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 1:03 pm

Half the country wants what's happening to happen. How can we oppose what the voters asked for, even if the result is that we lose the freedoms that men and women have died for (including 50,000 men and women from my generation)? No elected Republican is going to oppose anything Trump does. What we need to be asking is who, besides the Trump family, stands to profit from this chaos. There are a lot of people in the wings cheering for the destruction. Why?

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[2]



Stephen T. Stone ([profile](#))

February 3, 2025 at 1:07 pm

Re:

There are a lot of people in the wings cheering for the destruction. Why?

It's a 50/50 thing. Half of them want shit to get worse because they want an excuse to kickstart the Rapture. Half of them want shit to get worse because of accelerationism/the desire to break the government apart and rebuild it in the name of either Christian nationalism, capitalist greed, or both.

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[2]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 1:25 pm

Re:

It's not half the country. That's an important distinction. Less than half of the country voted at all, much less for Trump.

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[3]



Stephen T. Stone (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 1:37 pm

Re: Re:

It wasn't even half of the electorate. The percentage of the popular vote Trump won didn't even amount to 50% unless you round up. At best, he got a quarter of the country to vote for him, and that's being generous.

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[4]



That One Guy (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 1:50 pm

INSIDER

Re: Re: Re: Failing the most important test of their lives due to pettiness or laziness

I have no problem lumping those that sat on their asses, or those that cast tantrum votes in with those that voted directly for convicted felon Trump.

They had their chance to stop the ongoing disaster and decided that nah, they were going to sit this one out, and now everyone that's not already obscenely wealthy gets to enjoy the pain and suffering.

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[4]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 2:20 pm

Re: Re: Re:

Also there's a pretty big difference between "voted for Trump" and "voted for Trump to let Elon shut down large parts of the US gov't without authority."

While some idiots may have voted for that, most did not.

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[5]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 2:33 pm

Re: Re: Re:²

They're responsible regardless of their reasons, even a repeat of trump term 1 was unacceptable. Now all trump supporters have blood on their hands.

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[5]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 4:59 pm

Re: Re: Re:²

there's a pretty big difference between "voted for Trump" and "voted for Trump to let Elon shut down large parts of the US gov't without authority."

While some idiots may have voted for that, most did not.

If it had not been Musk, it would have been someone else.
Project 2025 was well known, and Trump's denials threadbare, long before the election.

You don't vote for a specific leopard, you vote for the leopard's party.

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[5]



Bob

February 3, 2025 at 7:58 pm

Re: Re: Re:²

Yes, they did. They literally voted for that.

They don't get to vote for the party with plans, in writing, to turn America into something resembling Nazi Germany and then pretend that's not what they did.

[Collapse replies \(1\)](#) | [Reply](#) | [View in chronology](#)

[6]



David

February 4, 2025 at 2:16 am

Re: Re: Re:³

They don't get to vote for the party with plans, in writing, to turn America into something resembling Nazi Germany and then pretend that's not what they did.

The alternative for them was voting for the party turning the U.S. into a playfield for an invasion of alien transsexual predators eating their children after taking their guns.

Because that is what they were voting against according to the widely circulated news sources they were relying on.

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[5]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 9:44 pm

Re: Re: Re:²

They knew exactly what Trump promised, and it included Musk.

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[3]



Bob

February 3, 2025 at 7:56 pm

Re: Re:

About 70% of American's eligible to vote didn't vote against Trump. The vast majority of Americans support turning America into Nazi Germany.

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[3]



R.H. (profile)

February 4, 2025 at 10:38 am

Re: Re: Turnout Numbers

Voter turnout was 63.7% in the 2024 election. Trump won a bit less than 50% of those votes. So he got a bit less than one-third of the eligible voter pool.

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[2]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 6:39 pm

Re:

It isn't half the country; not even close.

There are plenty of people that voted for Trump that aren't happy with this insanity.

Trump die-hards comprise about 25-30% of the population, IMO.

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[3]



Bob

February 3, 2025 at 7:59 pm

Re: Re:

Oh, people voted for a brutal fascist dictatorship but now they're sad about it? That makes it all ok!

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[2]



JMT (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 7:08 pm

Re:

Half the country wants what's happening to happen.

About 29.5% actually, assuming all Trump voters *actually* want what's happening, which is a big leap. Another 28.6% (only 0.9% less) voted *against* this shit, and the other 41.9% are either prevented from voting or didn't give enough of a shit.

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[2]



IanW ([profile](#))

February 4, 2025 at 5:18 am

Re: Not half

Half the country wants what's happening to happen

It was never half, not even close.

Approximately 245 million Americans were eligible to vote in the 2024 general election. Of those who voted, Trump got 77,303,573 votes (49.9%).

That's just about 31% of eligible voters who voted for him. If you consider the entire US population of 335 million, only about 23% voted for him.

Even then, some may have voted for only one reason (inflation reduction, immigration reform, drill baby drill, always Republican, cult worship) or a few of those.

Absolutely no one voted for everything, everywhere, all at once, including the newly made up stuff, invading Canada, Greenland and Panama, a bitcoin reserve (funded by looting the Treasury), defund California, cut all special spending and aid, or the complete destruction of the entire government apparatus (OK, maybe Bannon did) or the willful defiance of the laws of the US (with Supreme Court approval).

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Nimrod ([profile](#))

February 3, 2025 at 1:17 pm

"Very Good Con"

The thing is, it ISN'T a very good con, people are just that greedy and stupid. None of his lies were new, even in the first go-round. "Draining the swamp" goes back to Adolf Hitler (and probably before), and all the lies he told about the economy were just an updated version of Reagan's "trickle down", which didn't work then and won't work now.

Congratulations, America. You just sold yourselves out, WHOLESALE. Now you, your children, and THEIR children are all going to pay for your ignorance and stupidity.

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Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 1:18 pm

No wonder right wingers are poor.

Seems all of them are idiots that think they will save money by not doing an oil change.

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Cat_Daddy ([profile](#))

February 3, 2025 at 1:19 pm

Trump voter: But, bbbut, but..., MOi Eggs!

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[2]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 3:05 pm

Re:

I love the line about eggs from you guys. It implies that American voters will vote for anything as long as it lowers the price of eggs and then your party still refuses to lower the price of eggs. Better luck next time.

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[3]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 3:21 pm

Re: Re:

It implies that they were elected on a promise to control the price of eggs.

No more, no less.

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[3]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 6:34 pm

Re: Re: You missed the point kiddo

The talk about eggs is about how the “it’s the economy, stupid,” talk was BS. The squishier Republicans didn’t want to full-on claim the MAGA mantle; they wanted to hide the reasoning for their Trump support behind inflation & etc.

They were fucking coward liars. Maybe they didn’t want THIS... but they didn’t exactly NOT want this.

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[3]



JMT (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 7:40 pm

Re: Re:

I love the line about eggs from you guys.

Throughout the election it was *your* line. All the f’ing time.

It implies that American voters will vote for anything as long as it lowers the price of eggs and then your party still refuses to lower the price of eggs.

I love the way you think it’s the Democratic party that sets the price of eggs. It’s that sort of ignorance that makes you vote against your own best interests.

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[4]



That One Guy (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 11:43 pm [INSIDER](#)

Re: Re: Re: 'You MADE me do this', the cry of abusive partners throughout history

It's amazing how insanely powerful democrats are when you think about it, even when republicans have near-total control of the government (and are working to eliminate that 'near' bit) somehow it's the fault of the *democrats* that prices aren't going down (and not, say, mass deportations of workers and multiple trade wars kicked off by the convicted felon president...).

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[3]



Bob

February 3, 2025 at 8:00 pm

Re: Re:

Because the president can't just lower the price of eggs, you stupid Nazi motherfucker.

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That One Guy (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 2:01 pm [INSIDER](#)

Not 'Don't obey in advance', just 'Don't obey'

As I said yesterday if american is going to survive until even the midterms a lot of people in the government are going to have to grow some spines and start using the word 'No' a lot more often.

'Give me access to this system.'

'You don't have the legal authority, so no.'

'You're fired/out on administrative leave for refusing.'

'You don't have the legal authority to do that either, so again, no.'

People need to figure out quickly that a lot of this coup seems to be built upon on a *bluff*, banking on people's general nature to follow orders from *perceived* authority and desire to be 'team players' by playing along with what someone else says, even if you think it's wrong because it would be 'rude' to do otherwise.

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[2]



David

February 3, 2025 at 2:29 pm

Re:

'You're fired/out on administrative leave for refusing.'
'You don't have the legal authority to do that either, so again, no.'

Why do you think Elon Musk's thugs seized control of the government payment processing? "legal authority" does not matter if they can stop your wages. And those of any judge who does not agree. And those of any prosecutor who isn't on board with that.

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[2]



Thad (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Re:

I mean Musk ended up having the USAID workers removed by security. They didn't comply until armed guards were brought in; I don't think it's reasonable to ask for more resistance than that.

The people who shouldn't have complied in that situation were the security personnel given an illegal order.

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Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 2:09 pm

You can not form a civilization based, even in part, off of hate. Even wild animals know this.

Those who attempt it anyhow demonstrate the difference between "feral" animals and themselves.

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Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 2:32 pm

This is why biden needed to take extreme action, arrest trump/vance/musk or refreshing that tree. Because he didn't we ended up with worst case scenario 2 when #1 would've been easily dealt with by a government that for a short time still somewhat cares about the people.

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Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 3:03 pm

This reads like a Declaration of Civil War.

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Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 4:05 pm

The shift away from accepted forums of public decision making can't happen in a vacuum. Which makes the tariffs on Mexico and Canada make a lot more sense; if you make your closest friends your enemies, then when they try to warn you about what's happening and how it isn't the same as it's always been despite what those in power say, nobody will trust them to be telling the truth and not just in it for themselves.

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Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 4:28 pm

When security officials are removed for following classification protocols, when private citizens gain unauthorized access to Treasury payment systems[...]. They represent the coordinated dismantling of constitutional governance and its replacement with a system of personal loyalty.

I think the classification argument is weak. That system didn't exist prior to 1951, and is defined as much by executive orders as actual laws; there's certainly nothing in the Constitution about it. As such, only agencies designated by the President have the authority to classify stuff, and the President has full authority to declassify.

Okay, Trump didn't follow proper procedure in disseminating this data, but it's the President who *defines* proper procedure, and who has the unquestioned authority to pardon anyone for violating federal law in relation to it.

None of this makes things any better, of course. But people have been complaining about executive overreach for at least a century, and the lawmakers had 4 years after Trump's last presidency to do something about it.

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[2]



Mamba (profile)

February 3, 2025 at 9:56 pm

Re:

WRONG!

Why do so many ignorant fucks talk so confidently about shit they do not know.

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cyferwolf

February 3, 2025 at 6:02 pm

so what do we do?

Schumer says sit and wait for trump to screw up. It took nearly a week for a democratic congress critter to actually even bother to go look at what Musk has been doing. There's hardly any protests, save a few scattered ones. Hell some of the dems are voting FOR the awful nominees they've put up. I've called my rep (a dem) and both my senators (repubs). Got polite disinterest in my concerns from the repubs, and sympathetic "we're doing all we can" from the dem. Even the media is rolling over and playing dead, arguing over Musk's "awkward gesture" and awkwardly looking the other way while all this goes on.

What the hell am I supposed to do at this point? People like you guys are saying it's a coup, the more moderates are saying "oh it's bad but, uh...". So What the hell am I supposed to do?

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[2]



Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 9:48 pm

Re:

Have you tried sarcastic clapping?

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David

February 3, 2025 at 6:25 pm

A republic -- if you can keep it

Look what happened when the duly elected South Korean president attempted an unconstitutional executive power grab. Parliament, including his own party, resisted military force and made the necessary steps to remove him from power, with the respective government employees doing their part with following through against the coup.

In contrast, the U.S. political caste and population rolls over on its back and plays dead.

The United States Republic is toast, like the Weimar Republic was when a convicted felon was let back into power after his first disorganized Bierhallenmarsch that did not know what to do with the rubble raised with inciting rhetoric.

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Anonymous Coward

February 3, 2025 at 7:12 pm

Since the DNC isn't in an uproar over it, it must not be nearly as big a deal as you say it is.

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Blah

February 3, 2025 at 11:10 pm

Change is never an easy time.

I don't believe the America Trump envisions will be much better than what we had before, but I don't believe what we had before was sustainable for more than another generation or two, either.

I see people freaking out over what Musk specifically has been doing, and rightfully so.

I do not see anyone asking what if he is telling the truth? The system may be rotten and rife with corruption. It may need to be overhauled, although it should be done at a slower and more methodical pace. The unfortunate reality of the US justice system is that it moves so painfully slow that years of work is wasted and undone every time the dominate party shifts.

Democrats are being incredibly quiet right now. It makes me wonder if there isn't more resistance because the evidence will actually point to corruption.

I don't want that to be the case, but it is absolutely worth considering and people immediately jumping to the conclusion that Musks actions are malicious may benefit from some patience to see how the legal system sorts this mess out.

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[2]



Stephen T. Stone ([profile](#))

February 3, 2025 at 11:26 pm

Re:

I do not see anyone asking what if he is telling the truth?

Does it matter? An unelected billionaire is entering government institutions, taking them over, collecting their data, and leaving everyone wondering what the fuck is going on. Whether he's got authorization to do what he's been doing is a moot point—the fact is that Elon Musk was not elected (or appointed by Congress) to serve the people of the United States and therefore can't be trusted with sensitive/classified information.

I mean, we're talking about a guy who lied about playing video games while he paid people to play those games for him. If he's going to lie about something that inconsequential, how can he be trusted to handle classified data without it leaking all over the place?

Democrats are being incredibly quiet right now. It makes me wonder if there isn't more resistance because the evidence will actually point to corruption.

That is a possibility, sure. But it's far more likely that Democrats have had a messaging problem for years, going back to at least the 2016 presidential campaign and exacerbated by the refusal to embrace social media to its fullest. They've also refused to flex most of whatever power they have when they have it out of the fear that they might upset their poor widdle friends across the aisle. The Democrat Party is, by and large, made up of feckless centrist cowards who never met a progressive they couldn't wait to bully out of office and a Republican with whom they weren't willing to shake hands on a deal to screw over marginalized people.

people immediately jumping to the conclusion that Musks actions are malicious may benefit from some patience to see how the legal system sorts this mess out

His actions are malicious because **nobody knows what he's doing with the data he's gathering**. As for the legal system: Musk is BFFs with Donald Trump, so if Musk lands in any legal jeopardy, you can bet your ass that a presidential pardon will soon save his ass.

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[3]



Blah

February 4, 2025 at 9:38 am

Re: Re:

So it's a tired take, but yes it matters. If things are so far gone that the corruption (overspending/skimming funds from the tax payers) is systemic than it requires pretty drastic breaks from the norm to correct.

Democrats are bought the same as Republicans and that should be obvious to anyone paying attention. It's a mess, and again I don't think Trump's vision of America is going to be much better than what we have but things need to change because the current model is not sustainable, and not going to last more than another generation or two. So if you have a bunch of complacent politicians who are pestered by lobbyists and wined and dined to the point of complete disconnect from the general population, I don't see any way that hasn't been tried yet to fix it.

There is absolutely nothing in the Constitution that says a single thing about classified information or the appointing of officials that are allowed to view that information.

This is all circling back to what the people voted for. They are sick of the pandering, the bureaucracy, and a system that has been meticulously built around keeping them out while giving them as little as possible to keep them complacent.

Trump is going to make it ten times worse, but this entire failing is their own doing. So I don't see how anyone expects the people creating the systems everyone hates to fix it.

All of the doomsaying and over reactions on social media just reinforce conspiracy's that there's a "deep state" trying to unseat Trump. I've seen so many flat out lies since he took office that I've stopped trusting anything I read unless it's sourced, and you should too. That includes hearsay from media outlets that can't back up their claims, or articles from alarmist media outlets that aren't being shared across multiple outlets.

I'm inclined to believe that Musk doesn't have the best intentions when it comes to what he's doing, in terms of serving the American people and not his own self interests; but I don't think he's the super villain alarmists are making him out to be - and he didn't start to receive this kind of demonizing until he bought out Twitter, so it is my opinion that there are underlying motives to make him look bad because he pissed off the wrong people. Prior to him buying Twitter he was the patron saint of green energy and space, very little criticism ever made it to the mainstream around him.

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[2]



Teka

February 4, 2025 at 6:05 am

Re:

The America that Trump envisions is a vast sea-to-sea Mar-a-lago where he can plays golf, wanders into weddings, has rallies and fancy speeches whenever he wants. Everyone works for him aside from a few wealthy people who are so glad to make his acquittance wherever he goes. Mister President Trump SIR! they call out, with tears in their eyes. Every toilet is gold and there is a diet coke button and a surgically modified blonde GOP hopeful within his reach at all times. At All Times. He's the smartest, kindest, most important man ever and he knows it because everyone will keep saying it, forever.

ugh.

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[3]



Anonymous Coward

February 4, 2025 at 11:27 am

Re: Re:

Lol cope harder.

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David E. Nelson ([profile](#))

February 4, 2025 at 12:00 am

Elon Musk is the new King George III.

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Max

February 4, 2025 at 12:23 am

Unfortunately this carries huge consequences for the entire world, too. The systematic dismantling of a global superpower means

instability and suffering for potentially billions.

We created a system that expected people not to be too stupid or too brazen with exploiting their power, and then failed to punish them as they became increasingly stupid and brazen.

I believe we are past the point of peaceful exchange of power with the democratic process. It may not be a military coup at the moment, but one way or another I think it soon will be.

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[2]



Thad ([profile](#))

February 4, 2025 at 8:58 AM [INSIDER](#)

Re:

Unfortunately this carries huge consequences for the entire world, too. The systematic dismantling of a global superpower means instability and suffering for potentially billions.

That and stuff like cutting off foreign aid is going to kill a whole lot of people.

And you know what happens when there's a power vacuum? Someone else steps in. If we're lucky, that's Europe. But it's sure looking to me like it'll be China.

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[3]



Alica

February 4, 2025 at 11:30 am

Re: Re:

Nah. Too far.

We are still a powerhouse when it comes to military and geopolitical control. And I only expect it to double over time.

As far as cutting aid goes, I don't really care about giving aid to external third world countries when my own people can be helped with that money/food security.

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Anonymous Coward

February 4, 2025 at 1:32 am

People aren't afraid to accept a coup is happening

It's just we've heard this shrill alarmism before. USAID is being purged— who cares? That's not a coup, calm down.

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[2]



David

February 4, 2025 at 1:49 am

Re:

It is a coup if government functions are subjugated without legal authority. “People voted for Trump as president” is not changing the legal authority that the person acting in the position of a U.S. president can assume, regardless of whatever purportive justification that person may come up with for his goals.

Presidents are not kings.

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[3]



Stephen T. Stone ([profile](#))

February 4, 2025 at 6:34 am

Re: Re:

And more to the point: **Congress** is the part of the government entrusted to create or eliminate a federal agency. If the president—and, by extension, an unelected private citizen working with the president—can eliminate a federal agency on their own and block spending that already has Congressional approval, Congress has no power, which means the only real form of representative government at the national level is powerless and therefore useless.

Trump trying to dismantle USAID is worrying. Musk helping him do it, and offering no details of what he plans to do with all the data he's taking from USAID, should be scaring the hell out of everyone who isn't kissing both their asses.

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[2]



Marcus

February 4, 2025 at 11:26 am

Re:

Exactly my point. This is a bait article.

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[2]



JMT (profile)

February 4, 2025 at 12:00 pm

Re:

USAID is being purged— who cares?

I imagine the thousands of people who will die as a direct result are probably a bit concerned.

That's not a coup, calm down.

If there's one thing we know from history it's that wannabe dictators always just stop after one success. Right?

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[2]



Sbdc

February 4, 2025 at 1:10 pm

Re:

I'm not sure why people are so ignorant about the value of USAID. The organization employs private contractors tasked with doing work the government deems valuable. Generally this creates goodwill and serves to open those places as a market to American goods.

Doing this is much much cheaper than war, and it's the organization that helps smooth things over after we've bombed the hell out of some place.

You saw it after Japan, Germany, Vietnam, and others become huge consumers of American goods post conflict.... The bombing isn't what made that happen...

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IanW (profile)

February 4, 2025 at 4:50 am

An International perspective

What if this were happening somewhere else in the world?

Here's a possible report on that:

[Musk's Junta Establishes Him as Head of Government](#)

Are you worried/terrified yet? Most of the rest of world certainly is, both for you (Americans) and for the rest of us.

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[2]



Mathew

February 4, 2025 at 11:11 am

Re:

Only people who are worried are degenerates and reddit simpletons who have zero idea about the political structure of GOTUS.

I, and a proud person of color from USA, and everyone I know have started to lean towards extreme right(republican) because it has become evident that all the democrats have done is divide and rule by inflicting hate and fear amongst various communities.

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James

February 4, 2025 at 8:44 am

Cry harder

What in the LARP hell did I just read?

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Edward Ash

February 4, 2025 at 9:21 am

The Subject of Confusion and illusion

The Problems seem to be real, and the are.
What happens when=
Rich take over
Follow the leader is best
When Everyone has the same opinion?
When you Throw into the pot, all the tricks of the trade, That corps have been using for YEARS to get us to BUY CRAP.
When, "Im right and you are wrong, and I can Prove it." Never appears.
BS reigns.
YOU HAVE an Idiot, that THINKS he knows how things are happening, but hasnt been in the Arena to search his OWN conclusions. HE cant FIND the Facts, he has discerned.
All those Rich folks are hanging on to his tails, and feeding him Enough BS to Fertilize the nation.

How to you Fill a conspiracy Fan, with More Conspiracy?
Our Gov. Cant Show how things work unless you get into the SYSTEM they have created. But even that has SHOWN that our Gov. has to many HOLES IN IT..

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[2]



Mathew

February 4, 2025 at 11:05 am

Re:

No. Over half of the people of USA wanted this which is why they voted republican. Everyone knows how USAID was used/for what purpose.

Democrats are known to follow the policy of 'divide and rule' since eternity by spreading hate and fear between masses; its just that young adults today are more aware and cautious of their vicious polity.

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Jason

February 4, 2025 at 10:59 am

Evidence

What evidence is there that Musk 'has control'? Seeing what USAID is doing and them reporting on it is not control. And if he/they find things that we shouldnt be spending money on he reports it, those with actual control can/should shut it down.

As for classified things, USAID should not be doing anything that is classified. If its classified it should be falling under other agencies.

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[2]



Mathew

February 4, 2025 at 11:07 am

Re:

Exactly.

This is a bait article for numbnuts who live on reddit and have absolutely zero knowledge on the political structure of the GOTUS.

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Mathew

February 4, 2025 at 11:00 am

Bait Article.

Don't think the access to USAID is "unauthorized" as claimed here when POTUS explicitly allowed the access.

Also, the whole reason this change/purge is happening is because over half of people of USA who voted republican wanted this to happen. All of what is happening right now was documented in trumps manifesto.

Don't be Naive.

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Tyrone

February 4, 2025 at 11:23 am

Oh wait till we start restructuring the rotten education system and money swindeling "Weapons Aid" schemes to third world countries.

I want my 11 y/o brother to learn mathematics and language fluency, not brainrot and degeneracy like transgenderism and how you deserve to feel entitled.

About time we bring back some cultural and societal ethics and morals. We need to bring back the impact of shame and accountability.

For the record, yes I am as black as they come, yes I (and my entier family) voted republicans, yes We support republicans, yes we exists.

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David

February 4, 2025 at 1:06 pm

It's too late for the U.S.

Yes, the U.S. is having a coup. It won't be stopped or even protested that much. Why? Americans don't care. The majority of citizens are too uneducated, unmotivated, unpatriotic or just plain Nazi Fascist to care. There will be NO resistance. It's obvious. Every Democratic politician appears to have gone inot professional hiding. A few attended a protest. LOL! Yea, that will work. Instead of using the power of their offices they stand in the street along with the other totally useless and helpless Americans holding up a sign or giving a whining media soundbite. SORRY to the decent Americans who will suffer but no other Americans will stand up with you to help. We are finally on our own in a dictatorship. It's over B/C Americans are simply pieces of shit who love our mass school shootings more than democracy.

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