

Why Would an Anarchist Care About Politics?



For me, writing about politics is as unpleasant as writing about prison experiences, yet here I go again. I've been asked why, as an anarchist, do I care about this election at all? I suppose it's because Donald Trump will likely be re-elected, and as I wrote in 2016, I still find the idea of a "President Trump" uniquely amusing and maybe even somewhat promising for a future free from the scourge of government (Please see my post, "So I heard there was just an Election or something?", Nov. 21, 2016).

Eight years ago, I had imagined a presidency so comically incompetent that the very institution might crumble around it, and while those of us hoping for a radical erosion of state weren't wrong about the fundamental clownishness of a Trump regime, the machinery of state carried on just fine despite him, dashing hopes for any salvation from politics. This time, however, may be different, so to some extent I can't help hoping Trump wins because the fallout from some of the more grotesque shit he will facilitate might be the only way to finally open the door for a real alternative to statism in this country. Still, the cost to get there (assuming the vanishingly unlikely case in which we get anywhere at all) would be awfully high, and I truly dread the horrors likely to accompany a new Trump presidency. Will he "destroy democracy"? I don't know and I could hardly care less, as I have no interest in the perpetuation of the "democratic" ruling system that evolved from the dictates cooked up by this country's elite 250 years ago. Further, although the Supreme Court's ruling on presidential immunity bodes ill, whatever tyrant-power it may confer on Trump is similarly vested in ANY president, and Donald Trump isn't the last power-mad goblin who will occupy that office. For me, the real worry comes from things Mr Trump has explicitly talked about over the past 8 years that make me shiver for his millions of potential victims, among whom I emphatically include all the young people whose developing character will be shaped by the actions and values of the society he ushers in.

That said, a no-particular-order list of some of Trump's more ominous intimations, IMO:

- Trump has endorsed a revival of stop & frisk laws, one of the more egregious police state incursions that we had seemingly overcome.
- He supports and encourages federal and state use of the death penalty, which is ghoulish enough in itself, but when added to his ceaseless blabber about authoritarian wet-dreams like military tribunals for "treason", it suggests a whole new level of dystopian horror.
- He talks about extending his death fantasies to "drug dealers", which is not far-fetched in light of his ass-licking admiration of blood-obsessed "leaders" throughout history. In the same praise-filled breath advocating the state-sanctioned murder of unlicensed pharmacists, Trump then

panders to the Libertarian crowd by promising to pardon Ross Ulbricht (of Silk Road fame), who is arguably one of the largest illegal-drug-trade facilitators in history. Don't get me wrong, I also want Ross freed (and back in business, for that matter), but Trump HAD 4 years to accomplish that particular mitzvah ~~and~~ he still let the man rot in a cage. Now he offers this "favor" to entice Libertarian voters while simultaneously promising the most blatantly anti-liberty Society this country has ever known.

- Trump's plans for "border security" go way beyond "securing" anything, extending all the way to mass roundups and detention camps, which will inevitably be filled with millions of men, women, and children who may have lived here for most of their lives while contributing to their communities. And let's not overlook the precedent this would set for "roundups" and "detentions" of countless other groups deemed "undesirable" down the road in a country growing increasingly tolerant ~~and~~ even supportive of people like that turd Mark Robertson, Lt. Gov. of N.C., who recently said we must acknowledge that "some folks just need killing... it's a matter of necessity." Robertson actually said it's time to call "those guys in green" and the "boys in blue" and "let them handle it" ... mind you, the "it" he's talking about "handling" is the murder of Americans "who need it" by the National Guard, street cops, prison guards, and pigs of all flavors. And he's one of Trump's good guys. Chilling shit.

- Trump, as president, presided over a significant escalation of remote-controlled murder (i.e. drone warfare), and yes, so has every president since Clinton — I am not defending any of these elected terrorists. Trump, however, then pardoned a number of assholes who were convicted of recklessly killing civilians with their death toys. Now, I'm all for pardons — pardons for literally everyone, then shut down the prisons! — but if pardons are extended solely to the scummiest of scum, then I'm really not on board anymore.

- Speaking of extra-scummy scum, Trump has spoken quite favorably about extending the already outrageous "qualified immunity" doctrine to even more thoroughly protect rogue pigs. Yay. Just as we've finally cracked open the door to ending some of the worst police abuses, here comes Trump with his army of authoritarian trolls to slam that door and deadbolt it shut. What a nightmare.

• And finally, some miscellaneous nastiness... Trump will almost certainly pull the rug out from under Ukraine to force a "deal" to give Putin pretty much whatever he wants there (which, of course, is everything), all while continuing to supply tons of weapons to Israel and Saudi Arabia and other countries that pretend to respect him. He will support bans on gender-affirming/sex-altering procedures even for older "minors" — and possibly for everyone else too — not because he cares a whit whether people tweak their biology and social reality or not (he almost certainly doesn't), but solely because he knows that many of his voters are apoplectic over the issue, and he is the ultimate self-interest machine. It is that self-interested blindness to public good that leads to his sneering contempt for a free press and mostly unregulated internet (though when his supporters feel encroached upon, he'll surely be quick to oppose THOSE regulations). In short, Donald Trump is just an egomaniacal power monger, so if something gains him more support than it costs, then that's what he'll do every single time. I suspect he's a man who's never met a principle he didn't fail to understand, and although that sort of narcissistic cynicism is true of virtually every politician who's ever lived, somehow Donald Trump manages to make it especially ugly and threatening with his bloviating buffoonery aimed at anyone who either intentionally or just accidentally happens to get under his thin, orange skin.

All of this is why I can't help caring about this election at least a little bit, as I greatly fear the sequel to Trump's presidency on the one hand, yet on the other, I still hold some hope for the anti-political resistance his authoritarian horror show might finally inspire among radicals who want real change and not just a different flavor of control freak in power.