

January 27, 2017 – LOONEY LEFT

Watching the left go batty has been amazing; because it is so counter-productive. From the Federalist we have ["The Crazy Left's 4-Part Strategy to Ensure Trump's Re-Election in 2020."](#)

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This is something of a surprise. After the humiliating defeat of Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election, you would imagine liberals would learn to tell the difference between what works and what doesn't. The paranoia, the sneering condescension, the celebrity-infused elitism, the relentless "othering" of tens upon tens of millions of Americans: this approach was a failure. Clinton lost the most winnable election in several generations.

So you might think that, in the run-up to the 2018 midterms and ultimately the 2020 presidential election, American progressives would try something different—anything different!

You would be wrong. Embarrassed, angry, and confused, the Left is simply doubling down on the behavior and the rhetoric that drove large numbers of Americans to vote for Trump in the first place. If you're a liberal and you want to greatly increase Trump's chances for re-election in 2020, here are four easy steps you can take to make that a reality. ...

Ed Morrissey posts on [The narcissistic petulance of "the resistance"](#)

... Those weren't protests — those were attempted revolutionary acts, which fits right into the hyperbolic and irresponsible language adopted by the very same people who lectured us on accepting the results of elections just three months earlier. As I write in [a special column today for the New York Post](#), language matters — and in this case, it's also very revealing:

That, however, was not what we saw on Inauguration Day. It didn't start on Inauguration Day, either, or even on Inauguration Eve. This started immediately after the election, when those on the losing side of the election began dubbing themselves "The Resistance."

This grandiose and pretentious appellation insults those who actually have to live under authoritarian regimes, including Cuba, whose oppressed no longer have the promise of expedited asylum if they manage to reach the United States, thanks to the outgoing president's actions in the final hours of his term. ...

... The "resistance" styles itself as anti-fascist, but they are the fascists. They don't like the outcome of the election, and now they want to seize power by force and intimidation. And everyone who contributes to this hysteria and uses the hyperbolic language of revolution is adding to the environment in which these groups take action.

The American people spoke in this election, not just in the presidential race but at every level of governance, and they rejected Democrats and the Left. It happens; Republicans had the same experience in 2006 and 2008, and spent their time fitfully repositioning themselves to appeal to

voters, at least in relation to Democrats. You're not a "resistance," you're an opposition, and your arrogance and self-regard are at least part of the reason your side lost in November. Grow up, get real, and perhaps rethink the decisions to cling to the calcified leadership that led you into your political dead end.

Progs moved from the city to a rural Wisconsin county only to end up in a county that voted for Trump. [A Hot Air post](#) suggests their attitudes were partly the cause.

... "We have found a whole community here," said Pat Carlson, Wally Zick's wife, "of very like-minded—it's going to sound elite—but bookish, artsy, I'd say compassionate ... organic foodies, the whole nine yards. It's all transplants. It's mostly liberals." As for this election, and the locals, she continued, "I think they thought the liberal elite was looking down on them, and I guess, in some ways, we were. Because we couldn't believe anybody would vote for Trump."

The piece offers as an example John Andrews, a former sheriff who was also the head of the Democratic Party in Pepin county. Now he's a Republican:

"When the people came in—and the things that they were trying to push on the rest of us—that's why I left," Andrews added. "I didn't want to deal with these people. I didn't want to be a part of what they were a part of. You're talking about people from the Cities who are very progressive. I call them tree-huggers, a bunch of tree-huggers. They referred to us, meaning the people who've lived here and worked here all our lives, as a bunch of hicks. They just think they're a little bit better than everybody else, and that we're not as smart."

Carolyn Tyra, a 50ish Wal-Mart cashier, puts it more bluntly. She [tells Politico](#), "they all think we're stupid and the common blue-collar worker doesn't want to be treated like we're stupid."

No doubt there are other factors involved, but author Michael Kruse makes a convincing case that the smug cultural superiority of progressives has a lot to do with Trump's unexpected win in rural Wisconsin.

[Kevin Williamson](#) calls it an epidemic of "political diaper rash."
Donald J. Trump today is sworn in as president of these United States.

Break out the adult coloring books.

Funny word, "adult." We use the word communicating "maturity" to describe the most immature forms of expression. "Adult entertainment" should mean Moby-Dick. But this is a time of childishness, which, in some ways, should give us hope: If the Democrats really thought President Trump were going to be some sort of Hitler figure, they'd be acting differently. They'd be stockpiling firearms and that freeze-dried apocalypse lasagna they're always peddling on talk radio, or looking very closely at the real-estate listings in Zurich or Montreal. They would be acting like adults.

In reality, they are doing the opposite.

Gender-studies departments across the fruited plain are reminding Americans of how silly and meretricious gender-studies departments are, organizing anti-Trump rallies along notably juvenile lines, heavy on the stuffed animals, puppies to snuggle, Wubbies, and that hideously dispiriting sign of our times, the adult coloring book. Some of these events are being put on by publicly funded institutions, which is improper and undemocratic and in bad taste. The stewards of our institutions, including those such as cultural organizations that are formally private but sustained by public grants, ought to hold themselves to a higher standard than they do. They abuse the support that is given them and then wonder why it is that so many Americans seem to resent funding for arts and education.

The fact that the election of Donald Trump has sent a generation of Americans seeking their security blankets tells us a number of things. One, that these people are intellectually defective, but set that aside for now. It also tells us that progressives do not understand they are the Doctor Frankensteins in this monster story, demanding endless expansions of the state, pressing for the concentration of power in the executive agencies and nondemocratic institutions, and inventing new pretexts for political intrusions into private life — only to be horrified that the instrument they have created has been entrusted to the leadership of a man they despise. ...

Steve Hayward posts on the "meltdown on the left."

It is becoming apparent that Donald Trump's accession to the presidency is causing a full scale nervous breakdown on the left. Where to begin? I was getting ready to observe that if the left continues at its current fevered pitch, many leftists will end up literally in padded cells (and I do mean "literally" literally here). But John Podhoretz beat me to it over at Commentary: ...

... All of this shrieking by the left is having a predictable effect: his public approval ratings are rising—up to 57 percent in one new poll just out. Then there's this:

Poll: Voters Like Trump's 'America First' Address

By Jake Sherman

Dark. Negative. Divisive. That's was the immediate narrative about President Donald Trump's inaugural address.

But many Americans liked it.

Trump got relatively high marks on his Friday address, with 49 percent of those who watched or heard about the speech saying it was excellent or good, and just 39 percent rating it as only fair or poor. Sixty-five percent of those surveyed reacted positively to the "America First" message, the cornerstone of the Trump campaign and governing posture.

I'm starting to think Trump really is a one-person wrecking crew for the left delivered by divine Providence.

We close with a column by [Matthew Continetti](#) that contains this gem of a paragraph which ends with a discourse on "intersectionality."

... The splintering of the Democrats is rather something to behold. I giggle when I consider the reaction of "real people" to the [DNC candidates' forum](#) the other day. There could be no better display of just how far to the left the party is moving. First the location of the forum was changed after the [Washington Free Beacon](#) reported on the anti-Israel activism of its original host. Then the festivities opened with a performance by a slam poet that left our correspondent in a state of delirium. The first candidate to speak, a white lady from Idaho, said her job would be to "shut other white people down." The evening will be remembered for laundering the word "intersectionality," a piece of jargon originating in departments of comparative literature and gender studies, into American political discourse. Do not ask me what it means. "We did a poor job of communicating intersectionality," one candidate said. "I'm a walking intersectionality," said another. Millions of Americans have dropped out of the workforce, families struggle with addiction, crime is rising, and how do the men and women and non-binaries running for DNC chair respond? "Let them eat intersectionality!" ...

The Federalist

[The Crazy Left's 4-Step Strategy To Ensure Trump's Re-Election In 2020](#)

Embarrassed, angry, and confused, the Left is simply doubling down on the behavior and the rhetoric that drove large numbers of Americans to vote for Trump in the first place.

by Daniel Payne

The first Trump administration has not yet even begun, and already people are planning to get him re-elected. I am not talking about Republican political strategists dreaming of the campaign ads to run starting in mid-2019. I am talking about seemingly the entire liberal political establishment, which is devoting itself wholesale to ensuring that the 2020 election is another victory for Donald Trump.

This is something of a surprise. After the humiliating defeat of Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election, you would imagine liberals would learn to tell the difference between what works and what doesn't. The paranoia, the sneering condescension, the celebrity-infused elitism, the relentless "othering" of tens upon tens of millions of Americans: this approach was a failure. Clinton lost the most winnable election in several generations.

So you might think that, in the run-up to the 2018 midterms and ultimately the 2020 presidential election, American progressives would try something different—*anything* different!

You would be wrong. Embarrassed, angry, and confused, the Left is simply doubling down on the behavior and the rhetoric that drove large numbers of Americans to vote for Trump in the first place. If you're a liberal and you want to greatly increase Trump's chances for re-election in 2020, here are four easy steps you can take to make that a reality.

1. Deny the Legitimacy of the Election Results

The election had barely been called when liberals began claiming it had been a rigged affair. Ari Berman [implied](#) that "the GOP's attack on voting rights" was a likely source of Trump's victory,

as did [Mark Joseph Stern](#). Paul Krugman, who seemed to suffer a nervous breakdown after the election, [insisted repeatedly](#) that the election was “hacked,” chalking up Trump’s win to “subversion” perpetrated by “a foreign power and a rogue domestic law enforcement agency.”

Robert Reich [declared](#) that a “dark cloud of illegitimacy” hangs over Trump’s victory. Former Clinton campaign manager Brian Fallon [said](#) that the behavior of Russia and the Federal Bureau of Investigation “call[s] into question the legitimacy of his win.” Rep. John Lewis came right out and [said](#): “I don’t see [Trump] as a legitimate president.”

More broadly, liberals took up the all-too-familiar “[not my president](#)” rallying cry after Trump won. [Celebrities](#), [commentators](#), and [liberal activists](#) echoed the sentiment, implying that Trump was an illegitimate president and Clinton had actually won.

Here is a tip for all the aggrieved liberals out there who hope to delegitimize the Trump administration: don’t do it. It only weakens your cause. If you say, “We are not happy about the results of this election, and we’re going to fight against Trump, but we accept that he’s our president,” Trump voters might be more willing to listen to you. If instead you spend four years screaming “TRUMP IS A FAKE PRESIDENT HE STOLE THE ELECTION!!!” then you will only radically alienate more and more conservative and independent Americans going forward, setting the stage for another Trump victory.

2. Disparage and Demean Your Fellow Americans

Suffice it to say that many liberals were dismayed and upset by the election results. That’s understandable, particularly given how highly charged the election had been. Yet the liberal response to Trump’s victory went above and beyond simple disappointment: American progressives turned on tens of millions of their fellow Americans and accused them of rank bigotry and hatred.

To take but a small sampling: very early on November 9, before the ink had even dried on Trump’s victory (literally: the papers were still probably rolling off the presses), Slate’s Jamelle Bouie published a [vicious indictment](#) of Trump’s voters, claiming that Trump’s white voting base cast their ballots for him “as a white *herrenvolk*,” an explicit reference to the violent racial ideologies of Nazi Germany. Bouie also drew a direct link between Trump’s victory and the [sadistically brutal 1955 murder](#) of black teenager Emmett Till. The implication was clear: white Trump voters are either Nazis or spiritual heirs to racist brutality.

Not to be outdone (maybe they were holding some kind of histrionics contest over there), a few other Slate writers chimed in: L.V. Anderson [claimed](#) that “white women sold out the sisterhood and the world by voting for Trump.” As Anderson put it, the “biggest...reason” that white women voted for Trump was “racism:” white women, according to Anderson, “decided they’d rather have the respect of their angry white fathers, brothers, and husbands than the respect of literally everyone else in the world.”

Michelle Goldberg, meanwhile, [announced](#): “Donald Trump’s victory proves that America hates women.” Goldberg claims that, faced with the prospect of a Hillary Clinton presidency and changing gender norms, “a majority of men would rather burn this country to the ground than let that happen.”

A few months after the election, this vicious denigration of Americans still continues. Last week, in a [widely-shared Twitter post](#), tech executive Melinda Byerley accused “middle America” of

being “a shithole with stupid people.” She implored these “stupid people” to “elect a progressive city council and commit to not being bigots.” She also accused them of “[not wanting] brown people to thrive.”

This cannot be overstated: liberals, if you wish to persuade more Americans to vote Democrat (or at the very least not vote for Trump), then smearing them as Nazis, psychopaths, bigots, and misogynists isn't going to help.

The vast majority of Americans—even the vast majority of Trump voters!—are not any of these things. They may be wrong about Trump, what he stands for, and what he'll do once he's in office. But screaming at them, accusing them of terrible prejudice and hatred, and calling their hometowns and states “shitholes” is just going to harden their resolve.

Keep this up, and in 2020 they'll say, “Golly, who should I vote for: the guy who says he respects me, or the folks who dismiss me and my family and friends as ‘stupid people?’”

3. De-Normalize Trump Voters

Liberals, you don't have to agree with Trump voters, hang out with them, or like them. But your efforts to bar your Trump-supporting fellow Americans from polite society are only going to backfire on you.

Fresh off the high of accusing Trump-voting Americans of being next-of-kin to lynch mobs, Bouie [declared](#): “There's no such thing as a good Trump voter.” Many people took this maxim to heart. Dallas resident Henry Rosen [announced](#) “Trump voters are not welcome in [his] house this holiday.” Rather than continue a “20+ year tradition” of an after-the-holidays party at his house, Rosen cancelled the party so he would not have to invite anyone who voted for Trump.

Meanwhile, in Honolulu, Hawaii, a café [advertised](#): “If you voted for Trump you cannot eat here! No Nazis.” (The owner [backed down](#) after the story went public.) In Skowhegan, Maine, a propane dealer recorded [this little missal](#) on his business's answering machine: “If you voted for Donald Trump for president, I will no longer be delivering your gas. Please find someone else.”

It's not just unhinged op-ed writers and business owners that have this problem: liberal family members are [practically disowning their conservative kin](#) over the election results. One man cancelled Christmas plans with his conservative relatives. Another lady *moved her wedding* so her fiancé's Trump-supporting grandmother and aunt could not attend. Another woman told her own brother, a Trump voter, to stop texting her; she also decided to spend Thanksgiving away from her extended family rather than be around them.

This should be obvious, but apparently it's not: this is a *very* bad tactic for changing hearts and minds. If you want to get your family members to come around to your point of view and maybe vote for a Democrat in the next election, shunning them for four years is absolutely not going to help.

More to the point, whether or not they voted for the same candidate as you, they're your *family*. If you turn your back on your family because of politics, it is only going to further entrench the country's deep political and cultural divisions. Among other things, that drives up the chances that Trump will secure another victory in 2020.

4. Pile on the Elite Liberal Sanctimony

Of all the ineffective ways to combat a Trump presidency and weaken his chances for re-election, having elite liberal celebrities lecture the country with a hearty dose of sanctimonious moralizing may rank at the top.

You can find no better example of this flawed approach than [Meryl Streep's anti-Trump speech](#) at this year's Golden Globes. When accepting the Cecil B. DeMille award, Streep decided to speak out against Trump. In just a few minutes she managed to deliver a speech dripping with self-congratulatory liberal condescension and faux-victimhood, claiming that the trifecta of Golden Globe demographics—"Hollywood, foreigners, and the press"—are "the most vilified segments in American society right now."

That's right: a nationally and globally revered multimillionaire was explaining to a room full of other nationally and globally revered multimillionaires—some of them worth hundreds of millions of dollars—why they are "vilified" and consequently victims.

When I ask liberals to stop with their disastrous, self-defeating Trump opposition, I'm asking of them a personal favor.

Further highlighting this problem: last week on his late-night talk show, Jimmy Kimmel did a comedy bit explaining "[how the truth works](#)." This skit was response to a tweet from Trump imploring people to "make up their minds" about the truth. The bit was actually sort of funny, and its central point—that the truth is the truth, regardless of whether you "make up your mind" about it—was 100 percent correct. Just the same, it came off as absolutely smug and sneering—not something that's going to change many people's minds.

A [recent cartoon in *The New Yorker*](#) drives the point home: on an airplane, an angry, yelling man stands up and announces to the passengers: "These smug pilots have lost touch with regular passengers like us. Who thinks I should fly the plane?" Many hands are raised in response.

The cartoon's punchline is an intellectual mess, but the underlying point is still clear: stupid, angry Americans have stolen the yoke of government from its rightful owners and handed it to an idiot with no business sitting in the executive seat.

To be fair, I remain convinced that Trump is likely unfit for office. I am hoping he proves me wrong, but it doesn't look like he will. Just the same, if I wanted to make the case against Trump, I wouldn't do so with a supercilious, stupid cartoon that doesn't even make a good analogy about the presidential election. Cartoons like this simply offend people and make them more resistant to hearing your point.

In addition to believing he is not fit for the office of the presidency, I have another problem with Trump: he is not a conservative, and thus his presidency will surely [further the cause of big government](#). In some ways, for my purposes, it would have been better if Clinton won the presidency last year. She would have been just as liberal as Trump, if not more, but we could have counted on strong Republican opposition to counteract her liberal agenda. Under Trump, the GOP will likely go along with his domestic policy, which—although his cabinet may be able to prevent this—will likely not be very conservative at all.

I say all of this to offer liberals this assurance: barring a conservative miracle from the Trump administration, I, too, will want Trump out of office in 2020, either to another GOP challenger or to a Democrat against which conservatives will more fully unite. When I ask liberals to stop with

their disastrous, self-defeating Trump opposition, I'm asking of them a personal favor. For goodness's sake, ignore your own awful political impulses and try something different this time.

I will spend the next four years defending conservative values and attempting to convince people to vote against Trump if he betrays those values. One thing I will not do, however, is sneer at or condescend to my fellow Americans who genuinely believe Trump is a good president. I want to change their minds, and I won't be able to do that if I'm just making fun of them for four years. Neither will you, liberals. But if what you desire is another Trump victory in 2020, by all means, keep doing what you're doing.

Daniel Payne is a senior contributor at The Federalist. He currently runs the blog [Trial of the Century](#), and lives in Virginia.

Hot Air

[The narcissistic petulance of “the resistance”](#)

by Ed Morrissey

Let's get down to definitions ... perhaps a bit late after yesterday's inaugural violence, when the self-styled “Resistance” showed up in Washington DC, and several other cities. [Capitol police had to arrest over 200 people yesterday](#) who turned to violence in the name of “resisting” Donald Trump, who had yet to conduct one official act when the violence began. Rioting caused damage to entire city blocks starting the previous night and lasting into the evening.

Those weren't protests — those were attempted revolutionary acts, which fits right into the hyperbolic and irresponsible language adopted by the very same people who lectured us on accepting the results of elections just three months earlier. As I write in [a special column today for the New York Post](#), language matters — and in this case, it's also very revealing:

That, however, was not what we saw on Inauguration Day. It didn't start on Inauguration Day, either, or even on Inauguration Eve. This started immediately after the election, when those on the losing side of the election began dubbing themselves “The Resistance.”

This grandiose and pretentious appellation insults those who actually have to live under authoritarian regimes, including Cuba, whose oppressed no longer have the promise of expedited asylum if they manage to reach the United States, thanks to the outgoing president's actions in the final hours of his term.

Those who lose elections in free countries are the opposition, and can fix that by winning the next election. Instead of asking why they lost, the “resistance” decided to pretend the loss of an election amounts to oppression and have adopted the language of revolution to rally themselves.

That incendiary language didn't just get adopted by a few on the fringe, but by many on the left, including some in the news and entertainment media.

In a self-governing republic with established democratic processes, there is no honorable role for “resistance.” What are they “resisting,” especially before the new administration even takes

office? Free and fair elections — the kind that this particular group hadn't lost in twelve years. They only believe in elections when it gives them access to power.

Rather than take on the honorable and difficult task of the opposition party and rebuild themselves for future success, some on the Left have decided that they're victims of oppression. To excuse that and their actions that have followed, they now wrap themselves in the mantle of the free French in World War II, or perhaps more relevantly, those few and brave dissidents in actual dictatorial regimes like Cuba. That's not only ridiculous, it's an insult to those who have had to fight *true* oppression and who had self-governance stripped from their hands, to the extent they had it at all.

Mickey Kaus [calls this 1934ism](#), and marvels at the hysteria of it all:

Yet those who adhere to this unnamed tendency — let's call it '34ism, unless you can come up with a better name *** — allow the power of their terrifying dream to overwhelm sober consideration of everything Trump does or intends to do, good or bad (on trade, taxes, regulations, immigration, etc). We're supposed to draw up sides — [condemning \(and ostracizing\) those who are "complicit" in Trump's administration and welcoming those who "stand on the right side of history"](#) — even before we know whether the authoritarian seed will grow or wither, disregarding all the other positively auspicious seeds (reform of trade, control of borders, fewer foreign military adventures, ending the Republican threat to Social Security and Medicare, etc.) that might flourish instead. In *Slate* 34ist [Yascha Mounk's head](#) it's practically Life During Wartime already, with brave Trump critics fired from their jobs, sleeping on the couches of their secret colleagues in the Resistance. [Keep the car running.](#)

Suggested alternative: See what happens first! Don't let the reaction to Trump be dominated by one extremely unlikely bad possibility, at the expense of nurturing the far-more-likely good possibilities.

But [Glenn Reynolds](#) gets to the heart of the narcissism of the "resistance," if I may quote fully:

Well, it's not so much that they think Trump is a Nazi, as that they want to think of themselves as the bold resistance. The absence of actual brownshirts — well, except for the ones from the Left who were smashing windows, and Trump supporters, in DC last night — only makes it easier and more appealing to strike that pose.

The "resistance" styles itself as anti-fascist, but they *are* the fascists. They don't like the outcome of the election, and now they want to seize power by force and intimidation. And everyone who contributes to this hysteria and uses the hyperbolic language of revolution is adding to the environment in which these groups take action.

The American people spoke in this election, not just in the presidential race but at every level of governance, and they rejected Democrats and the Left. It happens; Republicans had the same experience in 2006 and 2008, and spent their time fitfully repositioning themselves to appeal to voters, at least in relation to Democrats. You're not a "resistance," you're an *opposition*, and your arrogance and self-regard are at least part of the reason your side lost in November. Grow up, get real, and perhaps rethink the decisions to cling to the calcified leadership that led you into your political dead end.

Hot Air

Smug progressive transplants help to explain Trump's victory in rural Wisconsin

by John Sexton

Politico magazine has an interesting piece up today titled "[What Do You Do if a Red State Moves to You?](#)" That title is actually close to being the opposite of what the piece describes. It's not about red staters moving into the cities. It's about blue staters deciding, for one reason or another, to colonize a small county in rural Wisconsin and then being horrified to find not everyone who lives there shares their political outlook. The author suggests the cultural smugness of these progressive transplants is one reason some people in this rural county voted for Donald Trump.

The piece opens with the dismay of Andrea Myklebust, a left-leaning sculptor who moved to Pepin county from the twin cities because she liked [the look of it](#):

She described the history-twisting election of 2016 in stark, before-and-after terms, unable to fathom how anybody could have voted for Trump, much less three-fifths of the people with whom she shares her adopted home in Pepin County. "There is sort of a baseline assumption of common sense and decency that's been thrown into question in a way I never expected it to be," she said. "And it's a struggle. You have to continue to interact with people, and you have to wonder: Do you really have hate in your heart in this way? Really? At the core, I didn't believe this about us."

The assumption that anyone who doesn't share your beliefs is indecent and a hater turns out to be one of the main motivators driving a lot of Myklebust's neighbors to vote for Trump. The locals know when they're being looked down upon and they don't appreciate it.

Here, the urban elite isn't a faceless, distant other: It's the enclave of liberal, mostly Twin Cities newcomers who have moved here over the past few decades—not just an abstract political imposition, but an actual physical presence. It has spawned anger and bitterness, a simmering undercurrent of alienation among many people locally born and raised. It has made "Democrat" mean something it didn't mean a generation ago. And it was made manifest on November 8...

"We have found a whole community here," said Pat Carlson, Wally Zick's wife, "of very like-minded—it's going to sound elite—but bookish, artsy, I'd say compassionate ... organic foodies, the whole nine yards. It's all transplants. It's mostly liberals." As for this election, and the locals, she continued, "I think they thought the liberal elite was looking down on them, and I guess, in some ways, we were. Because we couldn't believe anybody would vote for Trump."

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National Review

Warning: Adult Content

There is an epidemic of political diaper rash.

by Kevin D. Williamson

Donald J. Trump today is sworn in as president of these United States.

Break out the adult coloring books.

Funny word, "adult." We use the word communicating "maturity" to describe the most immature forms of expression. "Adult entertainment" should mean *Moby-Dick*. But this is a time of childishness, which, in some ways, should give us hope: If the Democrats really thought President Trump were going to be some sort of Hitler figure, they'd be acting differently. They'd be stockpiling firearms and that freeze-dried apocalypse lasagna they're always peddling on talk radio, or looking very closely at the real-estate listings in Zurich or Montreal. They would be acting like adults.

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The fact that the election of Donald Trump has sent a generation of Americans seeking their security blankets tells us a number of things. One, that these people are intellectually defective, but set that aside for now. It also tells us that progressives do not understand they are the Doctor Franksteins in this monster story, demanding endless expansions of the state, pressing for the concentration of power in the executive agencies and nondemocratic institutions, and inventing new pretexts for political intrusions into private life — only to be horrified that the instrument they have created has been entrusted to the leadership of a man they despise.

If the outcome of an election sends you into a condition necessitating the use of diapers, then your government is too big and your president too powerful. It is pleasant to imagine a galaxy of little lightbulbs going off over millions of heads in Berkeley and on the Upper West Side as the

basic good sense of the libertarian disposition becomes clear to progressives so expensively educated that they've never had to think very much about it. Congratulations, comrades! Your Koch Brothers secret-agent decoder ring is in the mail, along with your complimentary Bastiat books.

No, they aren't for coloring in.

While the knuckleheads on campus are acting more sophomorically than usual, Democratic officeholders are outdoing themselves, "boycotting" various inauguration events. As a wise man once put it, you either die a hero or live long enough to become John Lewis. Representative Lewis, who came to public life as an important civil-rights leader, is one of the most embarrassing men in American public life, a publicity-hungry partisan hack stuck in the 1960s who has declared Trump to be illegitimate. Other Democrats have joined in this characterization. Remember the day before yesterday, when Democrats insisted that questioning the outcome of an election was treason, or something like it?

There is simply nothing to support their complaint. Trump was elected through ordinary means in free and fair elections. Yes, there were foreign powers, nefarious Russkies, trying to influence our candidates and our policies — as there always are. The people who nominated Hillary Rodham Clinton hardly need to be reminded of this: Remember Charlie Trie and Johnny Chung? Or the Clinton Global Initiative, which managed to collapse spectacularly as soon as it was clear that there would not be another President Clinton?

(Settle down, Chelsea.)

Making Donald Trump president may have been foolish — my own views on his fitness for office have not mellowed at all — but it was entirely legitimate. The voters voted and the electors elected. As Ed Koch famously put it: "The people have spoken, and now they must be punished."

Rosie O'Donnell, who in these unserious times reaches far more people than any pointy-headed political commentator, literally called for the imposition of martial law. The progressive intellectual Geoffrey Stone, who rejoices in the title of Edward H. Levi Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, called for an Electoral College coup d'état, not drunk on a barstool but writing in *Time* magazine. Paul Krugman, who as you may have heard once won the Nobel Prize for economics, has gone deep into conspiracy theory. Barack Obama, in his final presidential speech, wondered aloud why there is so little trust in our institutions. One wonders whether he's been following the news at all.

There will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, and conservatives will enjoy it more than we probably should. But we should also take the opportunity to share with our progressive friends the virtues of federalism, localism, limited government, subsidiarity, a genuine culture of free speech and free inquiry that overflows the merely legal framework, and a model of authentic citizenship that puts the state at the service of the individual and not the other way around. And if Republicans start feeling grandiose, they should meditate upon that hilarious hostage-video image of poor old Mitt Romney dining at Jean-Georges with Donald Trump, and try twisting their own faces into the expression he was wearing to see how it feels.

Somebody has to be the adult in the room. And the Democrats have made it clear that it isn't going to be them.

PowerLine

[Meltdown on the Left: Where to Begin?](#)

by Steven Hayward

It is becoming apparent that Donald Trump's accession to the presidency is causing a full scale nervous breakdown on the left. Where to begin? I was getting ready to observe that if the left continues at its current fevered pitch, many leftists will end up literally in padded cells (and I do mean "literally" literally here). But John Podhoretz beat me to it over at [Commentary](#):

It cannot go on like this. It's been five days since the inaugural and the adrenalized, hypercaffeinated, speed-freak affect of the entire chattering class is beginning to seem like we're living through Bob Woodward's classic depiction in his book *Wired* of John Belushi's final overcharged sleepless days before dying from a cocaine speedball overdose in 1981.

If every word out of Donald Trump's mouth is greeted with shrieks of horror and rage and anger and despair and hysteria by his opponents, they are going to find it impossible to serve as any kind of effective opposition to him.

Meanwhile, Noemie Emery points out at the [Washington Examiner](#) some obvious facts about the wymyn's march last Saturday that the rest of the media "analysis" can't be bothered to notice:

An estimated 1 million people in the United States and in cities in countries around the world turned out for the feminist protests against the new president, far too many in strange-looking hats while carrying signs that referenced female anatomy in other than medical terms.

The female population of the United States was listed in 2014 as 162 million. If one subtracts 62 million for children and others it means that 100 million more women chose not to attend the marches, ignored them, or didn't know they took place. More important than this is the fact that more than two months before American women en-masse had marched to the polls, where white women voted against Hillary Clinton, 53 percent to 47 percent, and the feminist movement did not take this well.

"White women sold out the sisterhood and the world," said one Slate writer, who blamed this result on "Self-loathing. Hypocrisy. And, of course, a racist view of the world." And how in the world did this get to be racist? Because the white women had fallen down in their duty to stand with the non-white, the disabled, and those of gender-fluidity in the battle against the white male establishment that had been oppressing them all.

All of this shrieking by the left is having a predictable effect: his public approval ratings are rising—up to 57 percent in one new poll just out. Then there's this:

[Poll: Voters Like Trump's 'America First' Address](#)

By Jake Sherman

Dark. Negative. Divisive. That's was the immediate narrative about President Donald Trump's inaugural address.

But many Americans liked it.

Trump got relatively high marks on his Friday address, with 49 percent of those who watched or heard about the speech saying it was excellent or good, and just 39 percent rating it as only fair or poor. Sixty-five percent of those surveyed reacted positively to the “America First” message, the cornerstone of the Trump campaign and governing posture.

I’m starting to think Trump really is a one-person wrecking crew for the left delivered by divine Providence.

Free Beacon

The Democrats Retreat From Reality

Liberals cash in while the left takes control

by Matthew Continetti



“Retreat” is an appropriate description of what took place in Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia, this week. Senate Democrats took a break from not confirming President Trump’s cabinet to visit this historic city in a state the president won by 40 points. According to *Politico* the assembled were scheduled to hear from associates of the Clinton family and to [“hold lessons on how to talk to real people.”](#) Oh to be a fly on the wall.

I like to imagine Elizabeth Warren and Chuck Schumer nodding sagely as Joe Manchin, the only Democratic senator with a modicum of common sense, asks a group of Trump voters to explain why calling people drug-addled unemployable racist misogynistic fascists is not, in fact, the best way to earn their votes. It’s moments like these when Barbara Boxer’s absence from the Democratic caucus would be most felt, I think. Faced with Trump supporters, the former California senator likely would respond with a hysterical and barely coherent monologue involving climate change, immigration, abortion rights, and gun control, all the while oblivious to the fact that these were the very issues that brought Trump to office. At least Boxer has pizzazz. These days the role of the clueless liberal proclaiming her moral supremacy over the déclassé is left to the nondescript, soporific, Dolores Umbridge-like Patty Murray. Here is yet another example of national decline.

“Real people” are what the Democratic Party is sorely missing. By real I do not mean the members of a specific ethnic or religious or cultural or regional group but simply those men and women who are uninterested in the latest trend embraced by the left. For the Democratic Party to win again, it would need to recapture voters in the Midwest and Appalachia who supported Barack Obama twice but felt so disillusioned and dejected by the end of his second term, so utterly unenthused by the bland and corrupt technological illiterate the party nominated to replace him, that they embraced an outsider who promised to upend the system. The Trump era is just beginning, but so far Democrats have been much more willing to retreat into their ideological cubbyholes, or ascribe the election results to (take your pick) James Comey, fake news, or Russian subversion, than to acknowledge the power of nationalism and populism. It’s their loss.

The splintering of the Democrats is rather something to behold. I giggle when I consider the reaction of “real people” to the [DNC candidates’ forum](#) the other day. There could be no better display of just how far to the left the party is moving. First the location of the forum was changed after [the Washington Free Beacon reported on the anti-Israel activism of its original host](#). Then the festivities opened with a performance by a slam poet that left our correspondent in a state of delirium. The first candidate to speak, a white lady from Idaho, said her job would be to “shut other white people down.” The evening will be remembered for laundering the word “intersectionality,” a piece of jargon originating in departments of comparative literature and gender studies, into American political discourse. Do not ask me what it means. “We did a poor job of communicating intersectionality,” one candidate said. “I’m a walking intersectionality,” said another. Millions of Americans have dropped out of the workforce, families struggle with addiction, crime is rising, and how do the men and women and non-binaries running for DNC chair respond? “Let them eat intersectionality!”

The DNC candidates might be insane but they know who butters their bread. All but one of them [skipped](#) the Women’s March for an elaborate donor conference at the lavish Turnberry Isle Resort in Florida, where they performed for the millionaires and billionaires gathered by skeezy Clinton operative David Brock. He is busily constructing a multimillion-dollar empire of outside groups to antagonize, oppose, and ultimately [impeach](#) President Trump. Brock says he is a former conservative Republican but I am beginning to think he is actually a GOP mole. His ascent coincides with the Democratic Party’s decline.

Other liberals are becoming suspicious. “I met with him a couple times,” a former Obama administration official said of Brock [last week](#). “He’s f—ing weird.” The former official likened Brock to the villain in *Zoolander*. “I don’t know what the f— [Brock’s network] did besides raise a ton of money,” the source went on, “and I don’t think the after-action report on 2016 says we need more David Brock. Probably the opposite is true.”

Unfortunately for our anonymous source, more David Brock is exactly what the Democrats are likely to get. Brock was there at the Senate Democratic retreat, along with fellow Clintonites Neera Tanden, who runs the Center for American Progress and its Action Fund, and Guy Cecil, who wasted [\\$190 million dollars](#) during the 2016 cycle. Always mimicking conservatives, Democrats appear to have developed a donor class of their own: washed-up D.C. consultants and hangers-on whose only expertise is convincing the well heeled to fund their institutions and campaigns. The members of this class are so busy raising and spending money, so busy theorizing about the Platonic idea of resistance to Trump, that they seem not to mind as the multicultural left takes over their party. To whom will the American people turn, the America-First president in the White House, or the micro-aggression commissars at the DNC? There will be plenty to discuss at the next retreat.



**LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GETTING
READY FOR TRUMP'S INAUGURATION**



**OH, NEVERMIND! THAT'S THE
1924 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION**





Andy Swan ✓
@AndySwan



The Men's March Against Fascism didn't have nearly as many signs.



The new
"Trump is not my president"
starter kit.

**"PROFITING ON STUDENT LOANS IS WRONG.
IT IS MORALLY WRONG. IT IS OBSCENE."**

-SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN



**CHARGES \$400,000
TO TEACH ONE COURSE**