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← **DECEMBER, 2025**

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Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



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Judy Klein
President



Caren Wolfson
1st Vice President



Rita Ransom
2nd Vice President



Dawn Dudas
Treasurer



Dr. Ouida Brown
Corresponding Secretary



Michelle Abney
Recording Secretary



HAPPY HANUKKAH

Merry Christmas



HAPPY
Kwanzaa

President's Message



As we approach the end of the year, it is time for us to wish our members, friends, and families a kinder year ahead—one that makes our world a better place for all. A world where every life matters, where respect and love guide us, and where we work together to create an environment in which all can thrive. We must treat our planet with care and remember that we are building a future for generations still to come. This is our home—let's honor it as such.

This has been a tumultuous year, to say the very least. But history has taught us that when *We the People* rise, evil and tyranny are overcome. The cruelty of tyrants leaves an imprint on us all, but it is through that imprint that we find strength, purpose, and unity. We are not meaningless. We rise—and they fall.

As we age, we learn that change can feel more challenging. Yet I encourage each of us to embrace it. Bring generations together and take part in this ongoing process of life. What worked for us decades ago—or even two years ago—may not work today. Start conversations, stay involved, and stay open. We are more than just a voice—we are the moving force that brings others with us toward a better world. Embrace what *could* be, and don't be afraid to be the change.

There is also so much good happening all around us. Look at the work our friends and neighbors are doing to support families facing food insecurity—providing boxes of food through organizations and people who care deeply about helping those with less. Be grateful, and rejoice in the fact that each of us *can* make a difference. We thank the clubs and causes that have come together to feed our community.

The Women's Democratic Club has chosen to hold a Donation Drive for Three Square at our Annual Holiday Party. For those who are able, please bring a check made out to *Three Square* or place a little "green" in our donation jar at the front door. Together, we can make a difference. No family should go hungry in the greatest country in the world.

Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends—it is truly a gift.

As we close this year, I want to thank the 2025 Board for their unwavering support of Women's Demo. You carried us through this year with grace. You can be proud of all we accomplished together, and I look forward to seeing how your efforts play forward into 2026. Rita Ransom, Dawn Dudas, Dr. Ouida Brown, Michelle Abney, and Caren Wolfson—I would stand with you any day of the week. THANK YOU. It was an honor to serve with you. I would also like to thank Senator Roberta Lange for donating our valet service for the Holiday Party; Dr. Ouida Brown for purchasing the hams and turkeys; and, Former Governor Steve Sisolak for making a generous donation to start-off our Three Square Donation Drive.

On a note of nostalgia, I look forward to the 2026 Board and all the good they will do. Thirty years ago, a much younger version of myself passed the gavel to the incoming president. I was so proud to lead the Women's Democratic Club and have held its history close to my heart ever since. I could feel the strength of the women who came before me—their tenacity, their grit, and their determination to make this the premier Democratic club in Nevada. For seventy years, our members have built a living legacy that we continue to celebrate and carry forward.

Thank you all for your support and kind words. Most of all, thank you for being Democrats. Be proud as we see change on the horizon and be part of that change. We are never too old, nor too set in our ways, to recognize that together we can accomplish anything.

Sincerely,
Judy Klein, Interim President



Women's Democratic Club of Clark County's

Annual Holiday Party

Potluck

At the Home of Mayor Shelley Berkley and Dr. Larry Lehrner

Saturday, December 13, 2025

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Turkey and ham will be provided. Please bring a main dish, appetizer, side dish, or a bottle of wine, to share!

Please Go Online to our website:

Use This [LINK](#) To Record What You Are Bringing

Use This [LINK](#) to RSVP

Due to the current political climate in our country, we must take extra precautions to ensure everyone's safety. **Your name must be listed on our RSVP list in order to be admitted through the guard gate.**

Security personnel will be present on the grounds, and valet parking will be available for all guests. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work to provide a safe and enjoyable event for everyone.

We will have a glass jar at Check-In for cash and check donations, all of which will go directly to Three Square. For those who are able, please make your check payable to **Three Square**. Every contribution is deeply appreciated.

There's Nothing Better Than A Home Filled With Democrats!

Socialize With Old And New Friends!

Join Us!

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County

Installation of Officers

Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026

Place: Tuscany Suites, Tuscany Room, 2nd Floor

255 East Flamingo Road, LV, NV 89169

Use 2nd Portico (West Side), Park Free, Use Elevator

Time: 11:30 a.m. Registration; Noon Installation/Program

Judge Jasmin Lily-Spells - Oath

Renee Diamond - Flag Salute

Join Us

As Our 2026 Board

Takes Their Oath Of Office

Our Program

Will Feature:

"Nevada Through The Eyes Of A Past Governor"

Guest Speaker:

Senator Richard H. Bryan

Use this [LINK](#) to pay online

Use this [LINK](#) to RSVP and pay at door

All Registered Democrats Are Welcome To Attend



**Caren Wolfson
President**



**Judy Klein,
1st Vice President**



**Karen James
Treasurer**



**Michelle Abney,
Recording Secretary**



**Rita Ransom,
2nd Vice President**



**Yele Glastner
Corresponding Sec.**



**Dr. Ouida Brown
Inspirationalist**

OPINION: The Hits Keep Coming As Rosen Claps Back On Nuclear Follies. Shutdown Foibles

By John L. Smith



Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV) speaks at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., Jan. 15, 2025.—Alex Brandon/The Associated Press.

Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-Ringside Gym) set aside her mild-mannered demeanor this week and reminded doubters that she can punch when she needs to.

With the nation mired in the [longest government shutdown in our history](#) and the Trump administration playing its gilded fiddle, Rosen led a chorus of Nevada Democrats in pummeling the president for his latest reckless statements and threats to the state's most vulnerable citizens.

In a Nov. 4 interview with Nevada press, Rosen reiterated the state's opposition to Trump's cockeyed call for renewed nuclear weapons testing after 33 years and a generation of hard-fought international negotiations and treaties. The president decided it was wise to make [the announcement](#) in an Oct. 30 post on Truth Social: "Because of other countries testing programs, I have in-

structed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately."

In a *60 Minutes* interview with Norah O'Donnell, Trump reiterated his stance. "I'm saying that we're going to test nuclear weapons like other countries do, yes," he said. "Russia's testing, and China's testing, but they don't talk about it." [Russia and China](#) haven't tested nuclear weapons since the 1990s and this week denied conducting tests.

Trump's alarmist rhetoric is nothing new. He is, after all, the king of chaos. But this hits particularly close to home in Nevada, which has played an integral role in nuclear weapons testing. The president's sloppy talk was walked back Tuesday by Department of Energy Secretary Christopher Wright, who assured "Americans near historic test sites such as the Nevada National Security Site have no cause for concern. So you're testing all the other parts of a nuclear weapon to make sure they deliver the appropriate geometry, and they set up the nuclear explosion."

Rosen remained unamused.

"So, last week Donald Trump announced plans to resume nuclear weapons testing in the United States," she said at the Nov. 4 interview. "I don't have to tell any of you just how dangerous and irresponsible a decision like that is for our state of Nevada. There's absolutely zero evidence that explosive testing is needed, or is necessary."

Anyone with even a cursory knowledge of the subject understands that. That appears to exclude Trump, and if that doesn't make the hair on your neck stand up, nothing will.

Reminded that the administration was busy repairing the damage done by the president, Rosen said she was looking for an explanation from Trump himself.

Reminded that the administration was busy repairing the damage done by the president, Rosen said she was looking for an explanation from Trump himself.

Of more immediate concern to many Nevadans are the threats to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food stamp benefits, Affordable Care Act insurance subsidies and Medicaid benefits used by millions of Americans. Both parties in Washington are playing the blame game, but Rosen reminded skeptics that only one is in the majority. And the issue cuts across party lines. In reframing a reporter's question, she asked, "Why aren't we asking the Republicans, 'Where's their compassion when it comes to people's health care? Why aren't they listening to their constituents? Why aren't they visiting their food banks?'"

With nearly [95,000 Nevadans benefiting](#) from the ACA tax credits, this is an avoidable crisis that's already playing out in Nevada's metro areas and rural communities alike.

By Wednesday, Rosen found herself in [a Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee hearing](#) sparring with Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-OH), whose attempt to mock her as some sort of elitist went off the rails when he admitted to collecting his Democratic colleagues' vehicle identification numbers. His effort to dump responsibility for the government shutdown on the minority party got worse from there.

"This is a Republican shutdown, my friend," Rosen retorted in remarks that reverberated nationally. "You are in control of the White House. You are in control of the House, and you are in control of the Senate. And if you went home to a food bank instead of going to Mar-a-Lago to eat at a gold-plated dinner while people are starving, you might see and hear your constituents, sir. You are blind to the suffering of your people."

If this were an actual boxing match, the referee would step in and stop the fight on cuts. But it's not. On Friday, the Trump administration [appealed a judge's order](#) to distribute full monthly SNAP benefits for November while preparing to start distributing full benefits to states.

In reality, the fight is far from over. But thanks to Trump's reckless rhetoric, his pet Republicans are taking more hits each day.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Reader's Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters and Desert Companion, among others.

Memos From Morgan

By Morgan St. James



IS MAGA BEGINNING TO SHOW CRACKS?

Did Trump Go Too Far

There may be hope yet, or it could just be some savvy politicians covering their own tails.

There are a few things going on simultaneously that could be the beginning of some dissent within the ranks of MAGA politicians and also within their base. It is hardly a secret that some of the actions and decisions of Trump and his merry gang have been beyond anything that we have seen in recent decades. In some cases it seems a bit like the transgressions of Senator Joseph McCarthy, a prominent United States politician remembered for his role in the Red Scare. His aggressive investigations into individuals he alleged to be communist infiltrators in the government and in private life, peppered with sensational but unproven allegations, became known as McCarthyism and ruined many innocent lives.

We could call this era Trumpism with Trump's use of the DOJ (which is supposed to be a separate arm of the government) as his personal tool for revenge investigations into political rivals and people he feels wronged or didn't respect him. Sound familiar? Sensational but unproven allegations. Beyond using the power of the presidency against politicians, the unprecedented actions Trump has ordered surrounding tariffs, brutal ICE masked raids, waste of taxpayer dollars in the name of economizing while cutting essential programs and irrational behavior has begun to affect constituents in RED STATES. After all, someone trying to make ends meet, keeping a roof over their head and food on the table, probably doesn't appreciate the rising costs of ACA insurance, food and so many other essentials that really didn't have to happen. Meanwhile, they watch Trump throwing multi-million dollar galas at Mar A Lago, slapping gold decorations on everything he seems to be able to, and squandering taxpayer money on non-essentials. Even the most loyal follower can get pretty upset.

Mike Johnson sent the House of Representatives on a break to stall release of the Epstein files and the government shut down for a record number of days. Certain people were forced to work without pay, flying became dangerous, businesses were forced to close. Again, constituents were hurt, not only in blue states, but actually more heavily in red states. All of this has resulted in MAGA voters realizing that they are not protected from the consequences of all of these actions. Many triple Trump voters are saying that they are angry. This is not what they voted for. Farmers and ranchers are in danger of losing everything. So many career government employees are out of jobs. Tariffs have affected small business owners including staunch MAGA supporters. Of course, when we look at the polls with Trump now in the 30's, it is clear that there are still diehard MAGA supporters.

But, the savvy politicians are beginning to see the evaporation of their base in states that are heavily affected. A few have now come out openly against many of the current policies, and are saying what was formerly confined to conversation behind closed doors. A few are going so far as to vote against Trump and his sycophants. After seeing a Blue Wave, these few probably see the handwriting on the wall and realize when midterms come around their constituents will remember the pain caused by MAGA, and MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN is not happening. If anything it is becoming dangerous and more expensive, very favorable to millionaires and billionaires and going rapidly downhill for the middle class and those at the poverty level. We have become a Marie Antoinette society—"Let them eat cake!"

So, the question is whether these little cracks will widen until all of the protests are heard and acted upon not only by Democrats and Independents but by some staunch MAGA politicians and voters. In any other time, with any other President, things would probably have collapsed long before this. When one person has been able to transform supporters into a cultlike following, it takes longer, but it may have gone too far.



Former interior designer MORGAN ST. JAMES, lives in Las Vegas with her rescue dog Cucumber and has been writing for over twenty years. She has 21 books in publication and over 600 published articles on diverse subjects. Morgan has appeared on radio, podcasts, television and author's panels. Her books include the Silver Sisters Mysteries series co-authored with her real life sister Phyllice Bradner, the Revenge is Fun series, stand-alone novels, the Writers' Tricks of the Trade book and short stories in six Chicken Soup for the Soul books. Morgan co-authored the multi award-winning memoirs: Rob and Cheryl Cuccio's Incest, Murder and a Miracle and Bella Capo's No More Crying Angels.

www.morganstjames-author.com
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May Eva Chase Hollis Nieto Tyniah Quirk Richie Work	June Hanna Stotland Linda Ziskin	July Skye Burress Yele Glaster Haley Johnson April Legere Kenya McCampbell Tracy Puckett	August Katherine Currie-Diamond Lorraine Sledge Catherine Wiersch
September Dedree Butler Maria Teresa Hank Angel Kuo Emerald Lucas Amanda Swartz	October Jonathan Jones Ami Peterson	November Linda Morales-Kennon	December

Happy Birthday

DECEMBER

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Trustee Linda Cavazos
Mary Chandler
Judge Amy Chelini
Gloria Cherchio
Lesley Cohen
Lisa Hammond
Jacque Jones
Dan Kruger
Angel Kuo
Emerald Lucas
Sharon Segerblom
Governor Steve Sisolak
Carol Tipton
Assembly Member Howard Watts, III
Caren Wolfson
Richie Work

JANUARY

Ruth Andrade
Mayor Shelley Berkley
Kathleen Buttrey
Sharen Delano
Christian Datian
Assemblyman Reuben D'Silva
Dawn Dudas
Michael Haji-Sheikh
Maria Teresa Hanks
Valerie Hyams
Alexandra McLeod
Linda Morales-Kennon
Hollis Nieto
DaShan "Levy" Schultz
David Tipton
Jennifer Valesquez
Bonnie Wohl
Judge Bitia Yeager



What Zohran Mamdani's Win Can Teach The Democratic Party

By Charles Penneys

If Democrats want to reach disillusioned voters, start where he did: their doorsteps



A year ago, Zohran Mamdani was polling at one percent in the Bronx. He wasn't supposed to beat a legacy name like

But he did.

He won because people — real people — stopped listening to the establishment. Voters didn't care about the caricature. They cared that he was a person who listens and punishes work.

I know because I was there. I canvassed for him. And what I saw — in the hallways of walk-ups, on the stoops, in the cramped elevators of East New York — is what the DNC keeps missing about politics, even as the country slips further away.

So here are three things I think national Democrats could actually learn from Zohran Mamdani.

1. Stop Treating Voters Like They're Data

When I showed up for my first canvassing shift, I expected the stereotype: a few twenty-somethings with DSA pins and ironic tote bags quoting Marx. Instead, I walked into a church basement full of America. There were retirees from Maryland who'd taken the train up to help, college students from Brooklyn College, a construction worker on his day off, two grandmothers who had never canvassed before, and a mother with her toddler strapped to her chest.

It wasn't the algorithm's version of a progressive movement. It was people who had decided that showing up mattered more than being cynical. They weren't ideologues — they were exhausted. They were angry about rent, groceries, healthcare, and the feeling that nobody in power was fighting for them.

The national party still doesn't understand how simple that is. Democrats talk about "reaching the working class" as if it's a demographic to decode instead of a conversation to have. They commission more polling and focus groups, convinced that if they can just locate the perfect phrase, they'll win people back. But voters don't want to be studied; they want to be seen.

That's what Mamdani's campaign got right. It didn't need a data team to tell it who mattered — it decided everyone did. It built community by hand, not by segment. And when you do that, you realize something the consultants can't model: people will knock doors for a candidate who knocks for them first.

2. Say What You Believe — and Mean It

The safest sound in politics right now is silence. Candidates wait for the poll-tested moment to speak, then mumble their way through sentences that feel like disclaimers. Zohran refused that script. He didn't apologize for wanting a city that's affordable for the people who actually live there. He didn't hedge when asked about policing or foreign policy.

He spoke like someone who knew what groceries cost — like someone who's waited for the C train in February. There was no performance, no triangulation. Just the plain, risky truth that if a city is only affordable for developers and landlords, it isn't a city anymore.

That kind of conviction is rare, and that's why it resonated. The obsession with "electability" has made Democrats allergic to sincerity. But voters can smell fear — and they can feel authenticity. You can't fake caring about people's lives. You either sound like you live among them or you don't.

Mamdani's campaign didn't run on charisma; it ran on coherence. The story he told about housing, healthcare, and public investment lined up with the life he led. That's what credibility looks like — not the perfect message, but the consistent one.

If national Democrats want to learn from him, they should stop mistaking moderation for maturity. The real grownup thing is to stand for something and be able to explain why.

3. Let People Vote *for* Something Again

The most radical thing Zohran did wasn't ideological — it was emotional. He reminded people how it feels to vote *for* someone.

Nationally, Democrats have spent years campaigning on fear: *Vote blue or fascism wins*. And while that's not wrong, it's not a vision. Fear can mobilize people for a season; hope can move them for a generation.

In East New York, hope didn't look like a slogan. It looked like sweat — volunteers climbing five flights of stairs in apartment buildings that smelled like dinner and detergent. It looked like conversations that lasted longer than anyone planned. It looked like a sense of belonging that doesn't trend online but keeps you coming back the next weekend.

After the election, pundits shrugged and said his campaign “doesn't scale.” But maybe that's the point. Empathy doesn't have to scale to win; it just has to spread. Every conversation, every knock, every stranger who opens their door to listen — that's democracy doing what it was designed to do.

The Hope that Won't Trend

Maybe Zohran's campaign won't become a national model. Maybe it's too local, too messy, too human for the consultants to replicate. But that's what makes it worth learning from.

Because what I saw on those streets wasn't a utopian fantasy — it was the outline of something better: people who have nothing in common except the conviction that they deserve more than this.

That kind of hope doesn't burn out after one election. It doesn't require perfect alignment or pure ideology. It just asks for faith in each other — the kind you build one doorbell, one conversation, one vote at a time.

Maybe that doesn't scale.

But it wins.

And in a country this tired, that's the most radical thing left to believe in.

The GOP's 'No Kings' Defense For Trump

By Andrew Wilson

After millions of Americans protested against Trump's presidency, Republicans have found an asinine new way to stand by their man.



Every few years, the right discovers a

This week's favorite?

"Trump can't be a king."

It's been everywhere — in op-eds, on

And technically, they're right. **Donald**

But that's not the point.

The point is that he's **trying to turn th**

'He's Not a King — He Was Elected by a Majority of Americans.'

No, he wasn't.

Let's start there.

Trump lost the popular vote — twice. In 2024, only about two-thirds of Americans even voted, and just a third of the country actually put him in office. His margin with voters? Barely more than a single percentage point.

Hardly a coronation.

And for the record, plenty of monarchs have been *elected*. Medieval nobles, tribal elders, rigged parliaments — the “voters” might have changed, but the outcome didn’t. The elections were limited, unfair, and unfree. The kind of elections we might expect if Trump gets his way again.

“He’s Not a King — or the Government Wouldn’t be Shut Down.”

This one’s almost too dumb to process.

The government is shut down because Trump wants it shut down.

Because he’s holding Speaker Mike Johnson hostage. Because he’s terrified of what might come out if the **Epstein files** are released. Because chaos serves him better than competence ever could.

If Trump wanted the government open, it would be open. But he’s made it clear he’d rather break it — to prove it doesn’t work without him.

He’s bragged about not being “extorted.” He’s cheering on **Russ Vought’s slash-and-burn crusade** against federal workers.

That’s not governing. That’s **control through chaos** — a lesson he learned years ago and one he’s never forgotten. When everything is on fire, the man who started the blaze looks like the only one in control.

“He’s Not a King — or He’d Have Shut Down the No Kings Protests.”

And that’s exactly what he dreams of doing.

The fact that he hasn't is not proof of democratic strength — it's proof that he still resents every inch of it.

Every protester who mocks him, every journalist who questions him, every late-night host who jokes about him — each one reminds him of the one thing he's never been able to command: **respect**.

Trump doesn't tolerate dissent. He fantasizes about crushing it.
That should terrify us all.



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Letters From An American

By Heather Cox Richardson



We are watching the ideology of the far-right MAGAs smash against reality, with President Donald J. Trump and his cronies madly trying to convince voters to believe in their false world rather than the real one.

That spin has been hard at work in the past few days over the economy. Trump is clearly worried that the Supreme Court is going to find that much of his tariff war is unconstitutional, as the direction of the justices' questioning in its November 5 hearing suggested. On Monday he claimed that the U.S. would have to pay back "in excess of \$2 Trillion Dollars" if the Supreme Court ruled the tariffs unconstitutional, and that "would be a National Security catastrophe." He blamed "Anarchists and Thugs" for putting the U.S. into a "terrible situation" by challenging his tariffs. Hours later, he increased the number to \$3 Trillion—the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget says the number was actually about \$195 billion.

Yesterday, White House officials suggested they would never be able to release October's jobs report or inflation numbers, blaming the Democrats. They did, however, claim that prices are "beginning to drop," citing DoorDash, the delivery platform, as their source.

The administration has justified its violence against undocumented immigrants by insisting those they round up are violent criminals, "the worst of the worst." That claim is increasingly exposed as a lie, and Americans are pushing back.

Melissa Sanchez, Jodi S. Cohen, T. Christian Miller, Sebastian Rotella, and Mariam Elba of ProPublica reported on the September 30 raid on an apartment complex in Chicago in which federal agents stormed the complex in a helicopter and military-style vehicles, broke into apartments, and marched individuals outside, claiming they were Tren de Aragua gang members and filming them for a video the administration circulated that portrayed them as criminals.

Government agents arrested 37 people in the raid but ultimately claimed that only two of them were gang members. The journalists spoke to one and found he had no criminal record. Federal prosecutors have not filed criminal charges against anyone arrested in the raid. Instead, the journalists observed in immigration court that government lawyers never mentioned criminal charges or gang membership. Judges simply ordered them deported or let them leave voluntarily, which would enable them to apply to return to the U.S., a sign they are not actually seen as a threat to the country.

On Tuesday, Isabela Dias of *Mother Jones* reported on the administration's targeting of individuals who, until now, were protected under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. President Barack Obama established DACA for those brought to the U.S. as children until Congress could pass legislation to give those

“Dreamers” a path to legal residence. Thanks to the program, Dreamers by the hundreds of thousands gave the U.S. government their personal information in exchange for a promise they would not be deported. But Congress never acted, and now, in its quest to reach 3,000 deportations a day, the administration is targeting the DACA recipients, whose adherence to the rules the government established makes them easy to find and target.

Yesterday, Robert Tait of *The Guardian* noted that Human Rights Watch and Cristosal, a group that monitors human rights in Latin American, report that the Venezuelans the Trump administration sent to the infamous CECOT terrorist prison in El Salvador endured systematic torture, including beatings and sexual violence. Only 3% of those the U.S. rendered to El Salvador had been convicted of a violent crime in the U.S.

As immigration advocate Aaron Reichlin-Melnick wrote: “We paid El Salvador to torture, abuse, and rape completely innocent Venezuelans so that [Secretary of State] Marco Rubio, [White House deputy chief of staff] Stephen Miller, and Donald Trump could claim they were tough on immigrants.”

The executive director of Cristosal, Noah Bullock, accused the administration of wanting “to demonstrate and send a message of brutality.” A White House spokesperson said: “President Trump is committed to keeping his promises to the American people by removing dangerous criminal and terrorist illegal aliens who pose a threat to the American public.”

Today, retired Chicago broadcast journalists published a letter to people in the Chicago area saying what the federal government is doing to Chicago is “wrong.” It is “a brutal and illegal campaign against fellow Chicagoans, mainly Latinos: violent abductions, gutting families, using tear gas around children, roughing up witnesses, ramming cars and even taking a day care teacher from her school.” This “is not law enforcement,” they wrote; “it is terror.”

For the first time in twelve years, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a “Special Message” yesterday. Addressing the administration’s immigration enforcement policies, the bishops said they were “saddened by...the vilification of immigrants,” “concerned about the conditions in detention centers,” “troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and...hospitals and schools,” and “grieved” over the damage the immigration raids have done to families. “We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people,” they wrote. “We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement.”

But the administration’s attempt to convince Americans to believe them, rather than their lyin’ eyes, doesn’t appear to be succeeding very well.

MAGA has been at least partly demoralized by the information coming out of the Epstein documents, with right-wing influencer Dinesh D’Souza, for example, defending Trump by saying: “Right now, we don’t have anyone else.” Trump media ally Stephen Bannon told supporters: “Trump’s...an imperfect instrument, but one infused by divine providence. Without him, we’d have nothing.”

Tonight Ana Swanson, Maggie Haberman, and Tyler Pager of the *New York Times* reported that the administration is attempting to lower food prices by preparing exemptions to tariffs, suggesting that some members of the administration are finally facing the fact that Trump's fantasy ideology cannot defy reality forever.

Other administration officials are still clinging to their ideology. Although Colombia, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom have stopped sharing certain intelligence information with the U.S. because they consider the administration's strikes on small boats illegal, Jennifer Jacobs and James LaPorta of CBS News reported today that senior military officials have presented Trump with options for land strikes in Venezuela.

Tonight, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth posted on social media: "President Trump ordered action—and the Department of War is delivering. Today, I'm announcing Operation SOUTHERN SPEAR." "[T]his mission defends our Homeland, removes narco-terrorists from our Hemisphere, and secures our Homeland from the drugs that are killing our people. The Western Hemisphere is America's neighborhood—and we will protect it."

It appears that the administration is considering attacking another country under the pretext of stopping drug trafficking, in an echo of nineteenth-century imperial power that mimics the territorial ambitions of Russia's president Vladimir Putin.

Political strategist Simon Rosenberg commented: "If Trump wags the dog in Venezuela it is going to do enormous damage to his already degraded brand here in the US. Zero support for this in the public. Will be seen for what it is—[a] transparent attempt to rescue his flailing Presidency."

Trump's Tear Gas Hell

By Jennifer Schulze



s are rightly furious that ICE is here pulling people off the street, arresting bystanders, intentionally targeting clergy and journalists. Now we have a flurry of unwarranted tear gassing across the city.

are not just covering the outrage on our streets, they are covering the ongoing court battles as well. Their work is helping hold the government accountable when it lies in court, when it defies judicial orders, and when it seeks, by force, to go beyond what it is allowed to do.

some of the news headlines from the past few days in Chicago:

[Federal Agents Use Tear Gas Again, Disrupt Northwest Side Halloween Parade](#)

[Lakeview Street Tear-Gassed By Agents Amid North Side Immigration Surge: 'It Hit Home'](#)

[Teachers Scrambled After ICE Released Tear Gas Outside a Chicago Elementary School](#)

- [Federal agent throws tear gas canister from SUV on busy Chicago street](#)
- [Federal Agents Tear Gas Chicago Police—Violating Judge's Order](#)
- [Border Patrol Chief Greg Bovino, Other Agents Fired Tear Gas at Little Village Crowd 'Without Justification,' Lawyers Say](#)
- ['I couldn't breathe': ICE agents fire tear gas at peaceful protesters in Chicago suburb](#)
- ["It Pisses Me Off": Chicago Neighborhood Furious as Feds Lob Tear Gas, Detain US Citizens](#)

These headlines tell a frightening story about an American city under attack by an American president. The reporting belies the federal government filings in both the 7th Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. If facts and evidence eventually triumph over propaganda and ideology, much of the credit will go to what reporters and the vigilant residents of Chicago are doing in this crisis.

Donald Trump told the military to use American cities to practice their lethal skills. Now Chicago, a great American city that did not vote for him, is ground zero. Numerous

neighborhoods have recently been shaken as the government now routinely deploys tear gas against families, school children, teachers, local police, news reporters, clergy, and peaceful protestors. The dense, white clouds of tear gas are becoming increasingly common here despite [federal court orders](#) limiting the use of so-called “riot control” weapons.

Eight Tear Gas Incidents in Three Days

[Local news stories](#) and social media feeds are filled with images of Donald Trump’s ICE agents tossing, heaving or rolling canisters of the chemical irritant directly at people in a variety of neighborhoods across the city. So far, none of that coverage shows out of control crowds that need to be subdued. Instead, we see Chicagoans loudly telling ICE agents to get out of our city, blowing whistles to warn our neighbors that a CPB abduction is underway or honking horns to alert communities that an ICE caravan is on the hunt. Most of the time, the crowds are quite small, made up of neighbors who heard a commotion and responded.

The first hand accounts also show that federal agents are repeatedly failing to [follow the rules laid down by Federal Judge Sara Ellis](#) following a lawsuit by local journalists, protestors and residents who have been victimized by an overly aggressive ICE response. In early October, Judge Ellis ordered the federal agents in Chicago to wear body-cameras, “conspicuous” identification on their uniforms, issue advance warnings about incoming tear gas grenades and provide enough time after those warnings for people to disperse.

Letters From An American

By Heather Cox Richardson



On Tuesday, six Democratic lawmakers, themselves veterans of the U.S. military or intelligence services, released a video telling service members that they would stand behind them as they refused to obey unlawful orders.

On Thursday, President Donald J. Trump posted on social media that the message in the video was “SEDITIONOUS BEHAVIOR AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. Each one of these traitors to our Country should be ARRESTED AND PUT ON TRIAL. Their words cannot be allowed to stand—We won’t have a Country anymore!!! An example MUST BE SET.” He followed that post with another saying: “SEDITIONOUS BEHAVIOR, punishable by DEATH!” He has continued to attack the lawmakers over the past two days.

For the president of the United States of America to call elected lawmakers traitors and demand they be arrested, tried, and sentenced to death for making statements he perceives as threats to his policies is bizarre, outrageous, and anti-American. But it is not unprecedented.

In 1866, President Andrew Johnson accused Republicans of trying to overthrow the government, called congressmen traitors, and called for them to be hanged.

A former tailor from Tennessee, Johnson considered himself the representative of poor white men who he believed had been crushed before the Civil War by the elite southern enslavers who dominated the economy. Johnson opposed their rising oligarchy, but that did not mean he had any interest in protecting the rights—or even the lives—of formerly enslaved Black Americans.

Johnson was a southern Democrat who hated the congressional Republicans who wanted to protect Black rights and rebuild the nation on the basis of free labor. He thought they were expanding the federal government mostly to keep their party in power permanently, while the taxes their new bureaucracy required to protect Black Americans would destroy poor whites by raising taxes.

Elevated to the White House by the death of President Abraham Lincoln, Johnson intended to “restore” the Union much as it had been before the war except for the abolition of enslavement, an abolition he strongly supported because he believed slavery was what had enabled elite southern planters to amass their fortunes. Because Congress had adjourned in March and was not scheduled to reconvene until the following December, Johnson had free rein for eight months to rebuild the nation as he wished.

In summer 1865 he told the governors of the former Confederate states to organize new constitutional conventions and then he required those conventions to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment, ending human enslavement in the U.S. except as punishment for crime, nullify the ordinance of secession, and repudiate the Confederate war debts, essentially defaulting on loans so that future rebels would find it hard to raise money to fund their rebellion.

They did so—more or less—but then went on to pass “Black Codes,” laws that differed from state to state but that generally pushed Black Americans back into subservience to their white neighbors. The codes bound Black Americans to yearlong contracts working for white men, prohibited them from owning guns or gathering in groups, demanded submissive behavior, and permitted corporal punishment for those failing to obey the codes.

Black Americans had no right to vote to challenge these laws, and no right to sit on juries or to testify in court. So they were at the mercy of any white man who cheated them or any gang that raped, assaulted, or murdered freedpeople.

When southern states held elections to send representatives to Congress in fall 1865, voters reelected old leaders who had led the South out of the Union in 1861, including Alexander Stephens of Georgia, the former vice president of the Confederacy. In late November 1865, these southern leaders traveled to Washington, D.C., to take their seats in Congress.

On December 4, Johnson greeted the new Congress by congratulating it that Reconstruction was over. While congress members had been out of session, he explained, he had reorganized the former Confederate states. All that was left to do to restore the government was for Congress to seat the South’s representatives. They were already in Washington, D.C., marveling at the changes the war had wrought in what was, just four years before, a sleepy southern town.

Republicans were appalled by Johnson’s “restoration,” recognizing that it delivered Black Americans who had fought for the United States into the hands of those men who had fought to destroy it. Johnson was permitting southerners who had lost the war to win the peace. The *Chicago Tribune* declared: “The men of the North will convert the State of Mississippi into a frog-pond before they will allow any such laws to disgrace one foot of soil in which the bones of our soldiers sleep and over which the flag of freedom waves.”

Congress rejected Johnson’s solution to reconstruct the nation. There was no way northern lawmakers were going to rebuild southern society on the old, pre–Civil War blueprint, especially since the upcoming 1870 census would count Black Americans as whole persons for the first time in the nation’s history, giving southern states even more power in Congress and the Electoral College after the war than they had had before it.

Congress refused to seat the southern delegates. Then, to come up with their own plan for reconstruction, congressmen appointed a committee of thirteen lawmakers as the Joint Committee on Reconstruction. After months of hearings and deliberation, the committee proposed to reconstruct the nation on an entirely new basis. At the end of April 1866, it called for amending the Constitution for the fourteenth time.

They wrote an amendment that began by reiterating the Constitution had provided that “[a]ll persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.” This was an explicit rejection of the 1857 *Dred Scott* decision that denied Black Americans could be U.S. citizens.

Then it said: “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” This outlawed the discriminatory laws put in place in southern states under the Black Codes and said the federal government would guarantee that states could not pass legislation that gave some citizens more rights than others.

The new amendment gave Congress the power to “enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provision of this article.”

Congress required southern states to ratify the amendment before being readmitted to the Union.

Johnson hated the proposed Fourteenth Amendment. He hated its broad definition of citizenship; he hated its protection of equal rights within the states; he hated its assertion of the power of the federal government to protect that equality.

So Johnson told southern politicians to ignore Congress’s order to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment. He assured them that Democrats would win the 1866 midterm elections and that once back in power, Democrats could repudiate Republican “radicalism” and allow Johnson’s plan for reconstruction of the Union to proceed.

Johnson’s position energized ex-Confederates, who made the summer of 1866 a bloody one. In July, when a Unionist convention in New Orleans called for taking the vote away from former Confederates and giving it to loyal Black Americans, white mobs attacked the building where the convention was in session. The ensuing riots killed thirty-seven Black delegates and three white delegates to the convention.

Rather than condemning the violence in the South, Johnson egged it on. After denouncing Congress as an illegal body—because it had not seated southern representatives— and saying Republican lawmakers were trying to undermine the Constitution, he decided to rally voters to his side before the 1866 midterm elections with a speaking campaign. In August 1866 he set out on a “Swing Around the Circle,” speaking at rallies on a circuit from Washington to New York, Chicago, St. Louis, and back through the Ohio River valley to the capital.

In February, shortly after congressional Republicans had rejected his plan for reconstruction, Johnson had suggested that those Republicans were trying to overthrow the government and were no better than the Confederates. But on September 4, 1866, he went further. In Cleveland, Ohio, facing a crowd heckling him for his stand against Congress, Johnson called those who opposed his plan for reconstruction “traitors” and suggested they should be hanged.

It was a stunning moment. Just a year after the end of the devastating civil war, a president had called for hanging members of Congress because they did not support his policies.

Americans wanted no part of it. Johnson's extremism and his supporters' violence created a backlash. Northerners were not willing to hand control of the country to the former Confederates rioting in the South and a president who called for the hanging of congressmen. Rather than rebuking the Republicans in the midterm elections as Johnson had predicted, voters repudiated Johnson. They stood behind the principles in the Fourteenth Amendment and gave Republicans a two-thirds majority of Congress.

Now firmly in control of rebuilding the South, the Republicans worked to make the Fourteenth Amendment a reality. But in every southern state other than Tennessee (where locals so hated their native son Johnson that they ratified the Fourteenth Amendment just to spite him), white men had ignored Congress's plan for reconstruction.

So, on March 2, 1867, Congress passed the Military Reconstruction Act, which divided the ten unreconstructed southern states into five military districts and, as Johnson's plan had done, required new constitutional conventions to rewrite the state constitutions. Unlike his plan, though, the new law permitted Black men to vote for delegates to the conventions. It also required the states to guarantee Black male suffrage in their new constitutions and to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment.

With the Military Reconstruction Act, Republicans asserted that all men, poor and underprivileged as well as rich and educated, should have a say in American government. Leading Republican politician James G. Blaine later reflected that the Military Reconstruction Act was of "transcendent importance and...unprecedented character. It was the most vigorous and determined action ever taken by Congress in time of peace. The effect produced by the measure was far-reaching and radical. It changed the political history of the United States. But it is well to remember that it could never have been accomplished except for the conduct of the Southern leaders."

On July 9, 1868, the final state ratified the Fourteenth Amendment, making it part of the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Party That Forgot How To Blink

By Kristoffer Ealy

How MAGA has exhausted itself into irrelevance.

Republicans are exhausted — not from governing, but from pretending to.

For nearly a decade, MAGA has sold performance anxiety as authenticity: rage as a lifestyle brand, cruelty as patriotism, and daily humiliation as community service. But the November 4, 2025 results were less “wave” and more “intervention.” Voters pried open the circus tent and walked out. Democrats didn’t just hold ground — they flipped Georgia, shoved Pennsylvania, and even cracked Mississippi’s supermajority. The country collectively said, “Nah — we’re done with the clown auditions.”

If you want to understand why, skip the pundits and start with a simpler truth: the MAGA brand ran out of monsters. Republicans have always needed something under the bed to sell you a flashlight. The problem is, they’ve been running the same horror franchise since Reagan. In the 1980s, Reagan peddled “welfare queens” and “strapping young bucks” like he was auditioning for [Birth of a Nation 2: Trickle-down Boogaloo](#) — racist caricature disguised as economic policy. Then came [George W. Bush](#), who turned homophobia into a campaign plank and called it “family values.” It was basically Queer Eye for the Straight Fear. For half a century, GOP politics has been an infomercial for panic, selling fear in exchange for votes and occasionally a tote bag. They’ve recycled so many boogymen that Freddy Krueger should’ve filed a cease-and-desist.

The original recipe was called the [Southern Strategy](#) — the political equivalent of laundering hate through a focus group. [Lee Atwater](#) didn’t invent racism in politics; he just gave it a PowerPoint. Say less “segregation,” more “states’ rights.” Replace the slur with a spreadsheet. Atwater admitted the point was to let racists feel respectable while staying racist — to swap their white hoods for Brooks Brothers suits and call it “heritage.” It was the strategy part of the Southern Strategy — the camouflage that made bigotry sound like economics. But somewhere along the way, Republicans forgot the “strategy” and just kept the “Southern.” When Trump logged on, he didn’t even bother with the code words. He was the first politician to look at the dog whistle and say, “Why not just bark?”

Trump's breakthrough wasn't genius; it was nihilism with a Twitter account. He didn't whisper about immigrants "taking our jobs" — he flat-out announced that Mexico was "[sending over rapists,](#)" then smirked for the cameras like he'd just solved racism by rebranding it. At first, the Republican Party didn't know whether to laugh, hide, or call security. [Marco Rubio](#) called him a "con artist." [Lindsey Graham](#) called him a "kook," which is rich in hindsight, coming from a man who's spent a decade auditioning for the role of Trump's emotional support senator. Meanwhile, Newt Gingrich fell in love immediately — which tracks, considering Trump's combination of moral vacancy and performative cruelty must've felt like home.

Then came November 8, 2016 — the night the punchline became the president. What started as a political prank turned into a full-blown hostile takeover. Trump didn't bother courting the middle; he declared war on it. The man didn't run a campaign — he ran a group-therapy session for people allergic to accountability. If you were broke, it wasn't automation — it was immigrants "stealing jobs." If you were single and couldn't get laid, it wasn't your personality — it was feminism. If you were uneducated, it wasn't disinterest — it was "the elites." If you didn't get promoted, blame DEI. If you lost an argument online, blame CRT. His rallies were motivational seminars for men who think foreplay is a liberal conspiracy. Somewhere in that stew of insecurity, the manosphere — that digital wasteland of fragile masculinity and podcast mics — found its messiah.

Trump didn't sell policy; he sold resentment wholesale. His campaign wasn't a movement — it was a middle finger wrapped in a red hat, waved proudly by people who mistook defiance for direction.

There's actual psychology behind this — a syllabus of dysfunction that turns cruelty into currency. Once cruelty became performance, psychology replaced policy. The first concept is moral disengagement — convincing yourself that doing harm is doing good. It's the duct tape of political cruelty, letting a congressman slash school lunches with a smile and call it "fiscal responsibility." Then comes deindividuation — mob behavior without accountability. It's how a group of retirees with flag capes can beat a cop with a [Blue Lives Matter flag](#) and still think they're patriots.

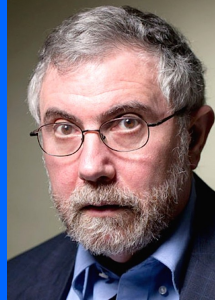
And then there's *schadenfreude* — the guilty pleasure of watching someone else suffer. It's more than spite; it's emotional outsourcing. The brain literally lights up when you see your

enemies humiliated. MAGA made that sensation political currency. You could hear it at every rally: the laughter when Trump mocked a [disabled reporter](#) or told protesters to “get out.” Cruelty wasn’t collateral — it was the product. Neuroscientists call it a dopamine hit. The rest of us call it evil.

Put those three together — moral disengagement, deindividuation, and *schadenfreude* — and you’ve got a movement built on psychological self-harm. Cruelty made clicks, clicks made donors, donors made power, and power made cruelty again. But like any addiction, the high fades. By 2025, the same stunt that once went viral barely earned a grunt. The mob needed a stronger fix, but they’d already burned through every enemy worth hating.

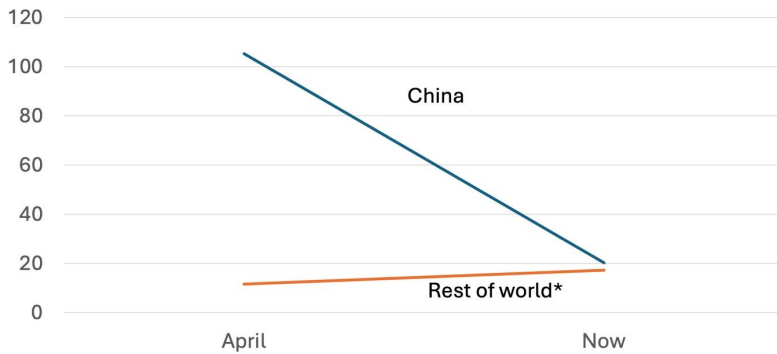
We're Number Two!

By Paul Krugman



How Trump ceded the future to China

U.S. effective tariff rates on exporting country



*Excluding Canada and Mexico

Source: Yale [Budget Lab](#)

Does Donald Trump realize that he has ceded world leadership to China? Probably not: During his recent Asian trip, foreign leaders flattered him and showered him with personal gifts, so he came home with his ego even more inflated than usual. Nobody close to him would dare tell him that if you look at the substance of

what he agreed to, it amounted to an ignominious retreat. When Chuck Schumer pointed out the reality of what Trump didn't accomplish, his reaction was hysterical:

Well, if this be treason, make the most of it. The whole world knows what Trump's sycophants won't tell him: His confrontation with



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Worked really hard, 24/7, took in Trillions of Dollars, and Chuck Schumer said trip was "a total dud," even though he knows it was a spectacular success. Words like that are almost treasonous!!!

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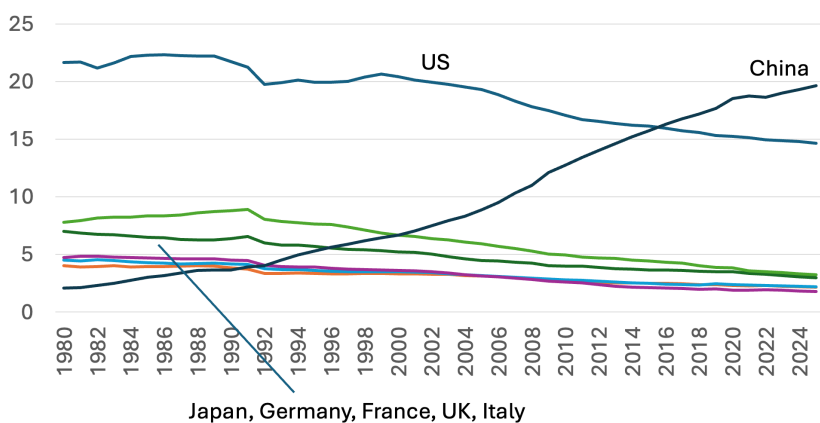
Oct 30, 2025, 3:46 AM

China has ended up demonstrating Chinese strength and American weakness.

Now, I am not a mercantilist. Trump may imagine that the world economy is a zero-sum game, where one nation's gain is another nation's loss. But it isn't. China's astonishing rise since the economic reforms of Deng Xiaoping hasn't made America poorer. If anything, the rapid ascent of a nation of 1.4 billion people from desperate poverty to middle-income status (per capita, China still lags America and Europe) has made us richer, expanding world markets and providing us with manufactured goods that would be far more expensive to produce at home.

But China's rise has created geopolitical problems. As recently as the 1980s all of the world's largest economies were democracies, allied to the United States both by formal treaties and by shared political values. Democracies as a group still dominated the world economy in the early years of the 21st century. But now China's economy, measured by the real quantity of goods and services it produces, is bigger than America's and much bigger than any other nation's:

Percent of world GDP (at purchasing power parity)



Source: International Monetary Fund

In addition to being huge, China's economy is in some ways more advanced than you might expect given that it is still only a middle-income nation. As I [explained yesterday](#), China dominates renewable energy, one of the most important technologies of the 21st century, and it is giving America serious competition in information technology too.

Why is any of this a problem? China isn't evil, and while I love my country I don't believe that America and its allies have any inherent right to rule the world. But by historical standards America was a relatively benign hegemon, largely because we were more than a nation: we were an idea. And the Pax Americana, for all its many failures and sometimes grievous sins, was on balance a force for freedom. Calling us the leader of the free world was more than political boilerplate: It described something real, despite the many blots on our record.

China, by contrast, is not a democracy: It's an autocratic regime, and those who expected the growth of the Chinese middle class to lead inexorably to political liberalization have been proved decisively wrong. Nor does China seem to stand for anything beyond China.

So China's rise threatens the liberal, generally pro-freedom world order America helped build. What should we do about it?

The Biden administration took the potential threat from China's rise much more seriously than most people realize, and tried to implement quite strong policies to contain that threat. In particular, it acted on three fronts:

1. *Support for renewable energy*: The Inflation Reduction Act provided subsidies for green energy — both for its use, e.g. purchase of electric vehicles, and for domestic manufacturing of key equipment like batteries. These subsidies were intended to serve multiple purposes, including promoting renewables and helping depressed regions, but one goal was to dent China's dominance of important technologies.
2. *Support for advanced technology*: The CHIPS Act provided subsidies for advanced technology, especially semiconductor manufacture, with the goal of keeping the U.S. at the cutting edge and reducing our dependence on foreign suppliers.
3. *Export controls*: The Biden administration imposed [controls](#) on exports of both semiconductors and semiconductor manufacturing equipment to China, with the goal of choking off Chinese access to the future of AI and high performance computing.

Would these policies have been effective at constraining China, helping the U.S. maintain a technological edge? We'll never know, because the Trump administration has abandoned all of them.

America is no longer contesting dominance of renewable energy, because Trump and company hate wind and solar power. They aren't just canceling the subsidies, they're trying to kill renewable energy in general.

Trump has [harshly criticized](#) the CHIPS Act and the whole idea of using subsidies to promote domestic manufacturing. He prefers tariffs. And as the chart at the top of this post shows, he initially imposed very high tariffs on China. (The tariff rate shown was for April 15 — not the initial “Liberation Day” tariff, but the revised tariff imposed a week later, after Scott Bessent, the Treasury secretary, and Howard Lutnick, the Commerce secretary, convinced Trump to completely revise his plans while Peter Navarro, the trade czar, was in another meeting.)

But now Trump has slashed tariffs on China. According to the Budget Lab’s estimate, tariffs on China are now similar to tariffs on other countries excluding Canada and Mexico. For example, China now faces tariffs not significantly higher than those imposed on our erstwhile allies in the European Union.

And Trump has suggested that Nvidia, which produces the most advanced AI chips, may be [allowed to sell to China](#) after all.

So basically Trump has backed down in his confrontation with China. If this was a trade war, China won. Why?

A large part of the answer is that the Chinese had more leverage over us than we did over them. We are or were an important export market for China, but China has a near-monopoly on rare earths, which are crucial for much advanced technology. And China’s limits on rare-earth exports to the United States were a much bigger problem for us than Trump’s tariffs were for them.

Trump didn’t cause this imbalance, which successive U.S. administrations have failed to address. But he was clearly oblivious, imposing punitive tariffs without any apparent awareness that China could strike back.

Trump has also proved willing to be moved by Chinese promises to resume purchases of U.S. soybeans. You might say that he ceded the future to China in return for a hill of beans. This is especially amazing when you bear in mind that China made similar promises to buy U.S. goods during the first Trump administration and [never came close](#) to delivering on those promises.

More generally, despite tough talk about China, Trump’s tariff spree hasn’t focused clearly on the key geopolitical issue of rising Chinese power. Instead, he’s been busy imposing tariffs on Brazil because he doesn’t like its domestic politics — they dared to try and convict a former president who attempted a coup — and on Canada, because the province of Ontario aired a TV ad that upset him. Trumpian tariff policy has been less America First than Ego First.

All in all, this whole confrontation has been a demonstration of Chinese strength and American weakness. Add in the way that Trump has alienated our allies, and it seems fair to say that America is no longer the world’s leading power. Unless a future president can engineer a miraculous recovery in our global stature, the future now belongs to China.

An All-Out War

By Sam Sifton

Lawmakers realized in the 19th century that they could increase their party's political power by redrawing legislative districts. The term of art is *gerrymandering*, named after the map for the Massachusetts State Senate drawn under Gov. Elbridge Gerry. (One district looked like a salamander. Get it?) Typically, legislators gerrymander once a decade, after the census.

Today, gerrymandering is a weapon of constant political warfare. State legislators, both red and blue, are furiously redrawing congressional maps in a quest to control the U.S. House of Representatives after the 2026 midterm elections.

The skirmishing began in August, when Trump persuaded Texas lawmakers to redraw congressional districts, which will probably let them send five more Republicans to Congress. California fought back on Tuesday and will probably deliver five seats to the Democrats. Missouri, Ohio and North Carolina have also drawn new maps. A dozen or more other states are considering it.

Each side believes it is at an unfair disadvantage unless it rejiggers its maps.

Why it matters

This is a crisis with [few parallels in American history](#), election lawyers told my colleagues Richard Fausset and Nick Corasaniti. “The wheels are coming off the car right now,” Nathaniel Persily, a professor at Stanford Law School who has studied gerrymandering, told them. “There’s a sense in which the system is rapidly spiraling downward, and there’s no end in sight.”

Here’s what he means: If the cycle continues, gerrymandering could happen before every midterm election, in any state, to the benefit of whatever party’s in charge. The turnabout could confuse voters, deepen their cynicism and create a situation in which House delegations from some states don’t reflect the political diversity of their residents.

All this spells trouble for representative democracy. It lets politicians with Sharpies pick their voters, instead of the other way around. New districts that are considered “safe” for one party are more likely to elect a partisan warrior. Incumbents are less likely to be voted out of office. That’s great news if you’re in power. Less so if you’re not.

“I don’t think this is pearl-clutching,” Nick said when we spoke yesterday. “It’s pretty dark.”

These problems are already evident across the country. Earlier this year, The Times [looked at](#) the nearly 6,000 congressional and state legislative races in November 2024. Very few were true contests. “Nearly all either were dominated by an incumbent or played out in a district drawn to favor one party overwhelmingly,” my colleagues wrote. “The result was a blizzard of blowouts, even in a country that is narrowly divided on politics.”

MAGA Reeks of Death

By Rick Wilson

There is not a single ray of light for Donald Trump and MAGA from Tuesday's apocalyptic blowout.

There are nights in politics when the country leans over, taps you on the shoulder, and says, "I told you I was sick of this." Tuesday night was one of those nights.

There is not a single ray of light for Donald Trump and MAGA from Tuesday's apocalyptic blowout. A billion Iranian centrifuges whirling for a hundred years could not spin Tuesday night into a victory. There is no amount of mayonnaise in the known universe that could turn the chickenshit of Tuesday night into chicken salad for the MAGA world.

Other than screeching like cut hogs that Zorhan Mamdami is about to seize the means of production in New York City and usher in Full Sharia Communism With Mandatory Gay Marriage and Free Bus Rides, the GOP has nothing today.

Nothing. Nada. Bupkis.

His long-bomb "end the filibuster" performance at the White House a few hours ago was delivered in a dispirited monotone, the flat affect of a man who is negotiating with the political Grim Reaper.

His party is bleeding out under the public's ferocious judgment that his shutdown is linked utterly with the MAGA GOP. Every poll now

His own polling numbers are abysmal, with large fractions *of the GOP* now objecting to his tariffs, his shutdown, and his overall performance. On every issue, independents now poll roughly 2.25:1 against him.

America is pissed off.

The states are rebelling.

2026 is coming, and MAGA is in trouble.

If you're inside MAGA world, you're doing the usual post-defeat interpretive dance "It wasn't really a loss," "Turnout," "The media," "If Trump were on the ballot ..." but the rest of us saw what happened as plain as daylight: in two states where Republicans thought they had a shot, voters took one look at the chaos, the cruelty, the endless grievance playlist of Trump-era MAGA ... and they chose normal.

That's the part that should terrify them.

Because Tuesday night wasn't just about Abigail Spanberger turning Virginia bluer than Stephen Miller's balls, or Mikie Sherrill wildly outperforming her Democratic predecessor.

It was about the reappearance of a voter we were told had gone extinct: the suburban, exasperated, moderately liberal-to-centrist American who wants government to function and is profoundly over the MAGA circus. That voter came out in an off-year election, not for a Trump-sized spectacle but for basic competence.

And MAGA lost to that...



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print
2026

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Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Home Phone _____ **Cell Phone** _____ **Work Phone** _____

Fax _____ **Email** _____

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Instagram _____ **Date of Birth** _____

I affirm that I am registered to vote with the Democratic Party in the State of Nevada: Yes []
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General Membership: \$35 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []

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I am interested in participating on the following Committees:
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[] Telephone [] Voter Registration

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