

III: Trumpism Defiles What It Means to be a Patriot



“[Project 2025 seeks] to politicize the executive branch, placing ideologues in charge of even the most quotidian functions, gutting the nonpolitical civil service, and grabbing power away from Congress [and] weaponizing staid, sometimes obscure parts of the executive branch.”

David A. Graham: *The Project: How Project 2025 Is Reshaping America*

When Arizona’s Democratic Senator Mark Kelly, a former U.S. Navy combat pilot and astronaut, returned from a visit to Ukraine and insisted that any peace agreement must provide for Ukrainian security, Elon Musk – at the time head of Trump’s DOGE – tweeted “You are a traitor.” The only Republican who criticized Musk for accusing this true American patriot of treason was Nebraska Representative Don Bacon (who has since announced that he will not run for reelection). Not Donald Trump, not J.D. Vance, not Mike Johnson, not Pete Hegseth, not Tulsi Gabbard, not Pam Bondi, not any other Republican member of Congress or Trump’s cabinet. By their silence, they tacitly endorsed the notion that to support the Ukrainians after Trump had decided to stab them in the back was to commit treason against the United States.

In his book *The Conspiracy to End America* former Republican chief strategist Stuart Stevens writes: “Once a political party in a democratic system abandons any moral or ideological rationale for its existence, it is on the road to autocracy.” The intellectual, moral, and ethical prestidigitation that today’s MAGA Republicans must go through to justify the corruption of Donald Trump and his family, the cruelty of his policies, the ineptitude of his administration, and his fundamental absence of character and basic human decency *is not normal*. The slavish sycophancy of Republican leadership is more reflective of the cowardly obeisance of Hitler’s Reichstag or Stalin’s Politburo than of the tripartite governmental structure envisioned by our nation’s founders.

Like the novels *1984* and *Brave New World* and *It Can’t Happen Here*, not that long ago warnings of a Trumpian dictatorship would have been regarded as outlandish scare-mongering. But now, Donald Trump is a very real Big Brother, a very real Mustapha Mond, a very real Buzz Windrip. It can happen here – *it is happening here*. Unless we stop it, the United States of America will become the Brave New World of Trumpism, 2028 will be our 1984, and the American flag and the Christian cross will be mutated into political weapons that defile what it means to be a Patriot and to be a Christian.