

## Hitler and Stalin

The ignorance, greed, and self-righteous dishonesty of the radical right has captured the Republican Party by achieving enough voters to control the primary. This presents a serious dilemma for the sane and intelligent portion of the Republican Party. Will they acquiesce to the desire to be reelected, put party over principle, and get sucked into Trump's sewer of ignorance and dishonesty? Or will they have the guts to strike out on their own? In the 1930's in Germany, they put party over principle and we ended up in WWII. Watch the archival films of rallies for Adolph Hitler when he's in front of the crowds saying 'Make Germany Great Again' and see the awesome similarities to the crowds at a typical Trump rally.

Disgust with the bureaucratic alzyimers of our current government led the more ignorant and gullible portion of the American public to elect a president who was hell bent on dismantling the democracy. What they didn't see is that he was replacing it with a kleptocracy. It's no coincidence that the Russian Mafia used Trump's real estate to launder several billion dollars of dirty money. It's no coincidence that Trump used a pack of crooked lawyers, 6 bankruptcies, and thousands of lawsuits to scam his way out of paying his debts, destroying a multitude of innocent lives in the process. It's no coincidence that everything he's built with the money he borrowed and never paid back is for the gluttonous filthy rich. It's no coincidence that the people who actually built all his real estate got stiffed. It's no coincidence that the floor just below Trump's floor in Trump Tower was busted for running a large racketeering operation. It's no coincidence that he surrounds himself with liars, thieves, racists, and sexual predators. It's no coincidence that he pardoned his friends who got busted for their thievery and dishonesty. It's no coincidence that he's hiding his tax returns. It's no coincidence that he routinely cheats at golf. It's no coincidence that the only thing dependable about Donald Trump is that he continuously lies; around 20,000 during his 1,460 days as president according to the independent fact checkers. It's no coincidence that he pissed off just about every democracy and he's friends with just about every dictator. It's no coincidence that he sold unlimited weaponry to his friends in Saudi Arabia; the most corrupt and gluttonous dictatorship on the planet. It's no coincidence that Trump is trying to silence and discredit the free press. It's no coincidence that the first people to see the Mueller Report were Trump's crooked lawyers. It's no coincidence that he threw the Kurds under the bus. It's no coincidence that he doesn't give a damn about climate change or a clean environment. It's no coincidence that he called waiting around for a pandemic a waste of time and money, scuttled the pandemic emergency response team and gutted the CDC, despite the dire warnings of every major epidemiologist. It's no coincidence that, as the pandemic exploded out of China and the epidemiologists were desperately calling for action, Trump called it a hoax and continued to de-fund the CDC . It's no coincidence that he admires the grandson of Joseph Stalin's cook and de-facto head of the Russian Mafias; a man who systematically and repeatedly bombs hospitals and schools; a man who is responsible for most of the desperate refugees flooding into Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, and Europe, severely disrupting their economies and cultures; a man who's attacking and undermining

democracies all around the world; a man who's quite skilled in the art of the lie and the power of the internet. We can get along with Vladimir Putin? That's what Hitler said about Stalin.

Adolph Hitler was voted into office with less than a majority. He immediately began dismantling the democracy. When he achieved his campaign promise by borrowing a lot of money that he had no intention of paying back and putting people to work in the forests, iron mines, coal mines, steel mills, cement factories, and all manner of industry that dramatically improved the average German's life, he was wildly popular; but the jobs increasingly turned to the weapons industry as he built a massive war machine. Meanwhile, he distracted millions of Germans with Jewish, Gypsy, and Black scapegoats to fear and hate. As he initiated WWII, Hitler conned millions of Germans into following their paychecks, their pride, and their fear into depravity.

Donald Trump's game plan was eerily reminiscent of Hitler's. "Draining the swamp" was his guise for dismantling the democracy. Abandoning responsibility for the environment and borrowing a lot of money pumped up the economy and the military industrial complex was pumping out a massive war machine. The many thousands of people it took to run Hitler's concentration camps weren't all that different than the people running Trump's concentration camps. They were just ordinary ignorant people, easily duped by fear, greed, a pack of lies, and a paycheck; interspersed with a few sociopaths and sadists.

Throughout history, every advance in communication technology was followed by a period of dishonesty, often followed by tragedy. Hitler used the new technologies of radio, movie theaters, and loudspeakers that could gather huge crowds, to con millions into following him into a genocide and a world war. Putin, Trump, and a lot of other corrupt and dishonest sociopaths are using the internet to con many millions into cultural and environmental disasters that make WWII look like a schoolyard squabble. Until the human community comes to an understanding of how convincing a lie can be and the algorithms that are sucking them in, we'll continue our mad rush to oblivion.

It's painfully obvious that Donald Trump is a liar, a cheat, a con artist, an extreme narcissist, completely amoral, and grossly ignorant. For those who got caught up in Trump's cult, it's gonna take guts to admit that they got conned.