

## **The Sneaky Success of Re-Purposing Democracy as Dictatorship**

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All can visualize the conventional image of the dictator. He or she is omnipresent; the everyday and every moment actuator of whatever the nation they rule is doing at home, or in the case of the US, is doing in, and to, the world. In olden times the dictator maintained a dignified presence befitting one who makes life altering decrees. But under the all-powerful Trump we have a tyrant whose deepest thoughts easily fit into the tweet limit for instant world wide decree mongering.

This is not new. Every president has issued "Executive Orders"; decrees whose legitimacy extends no further than the office of the president. The right to do this is not written in the Constitution which limits the power of the president to the enforcement of the written Constitution and the judgments of the courts, and the implementation of congressional legislation.

His first notable achievement was ordering the largest non-nuclear bomb to be dropped on some unknown people in Afghanistan. He is the Commander in Chief, but the Constitution states that active command over those forces is allowed only "when called into the actual Service of the United States." That call for war making is solely the duty of Congress. The last legal war was World War 2. All that have followed are no more legitimate than those of a tin-pot dictator calling out his goon squad for the destruction of personal or state enemies. Now with the famous "checks and balances" being the triumvirate of a dictatorship there is nothing preventing the president as the leader of a tripartite regime from decreeing a national emergency, as happened to Japanese Americans in the second war, and rounding any number of enemy Americans for incarceration in concentration camps.

Trump's decree breaking the multi-nation agreement with Iran involving nuclear issues, and following that with severe sanctions which all other nations and companies must comply with or risk the wrath of a mighty desperate state, has meant the opening of a new front – economic war against this nation's own allies. Dropping bombs, building walls to keep out people made desperate because of the made-in-America dictatorships imposed upon them, are expressions of might against the weak. Now it's becoming a war against the world because of a system that is so sick that recovery is only possible in nations strong enough to pass along their disease to others.

Most recently Germany was threatened because it is assisting Russia in building new natural gas pipelines. These lines will provide cheap energy for Germany and others European nations, and will reduce if not eliminate sales of American Liquefied Natural Gas, now officially renamed Freedom Gas. Personal freedom

and national freedom have been subsumed under freedom (license) to extract maximum profit from every living soul on earth.

But it must be acknowledged that Trump's actions may in the end be of great assistance in ending the evil system that gave birth to him. For the first time in modern history we have the leader of the capitalist world presenting, through his conduct, the unembellished nature of that system. It's doubtful that few will want to preserve what they see.

### **Economic Info**

-- May CPI was reported as 1.79% year over year. The Fed bases its inflation target of 2% on the PCE (Personal Consumption Expenditure) deflator. The CPI is usually about 1/3 higher than the PCE, so the retail section of the economy is far from inducing much inflation.

-- The total number of autos sold in China fell in May by 16.3%, a record rate and the eleventh month in a row of declines.

-- US retail sales rose 3.46% year over year unadjusted and April was adjusted up to 5.6%. Some reports feared this was a sign of overheating and may effect the expected rate cut. In fact, the 6 month growth rate is under 3% for the first time since 2016, and excluding gas products, it's still below 3% for the first time since 2009.

-- On Friday China reported 5% IP growth for May, year over year. That's down from 5.4% last month and the lowest in 17 years. Retail sales were up 8.6% in May from April's 7.2%. Looks good compared to US retail sales, but not good when it's understood that China's retail sales were above 10% even during the worst of 2008-2009, and remained above 10% until 2017, and have yet managed to return to double figures. Private Fixed Asset Investment slowed to 5.3%. Unlike 2008 and 2012, the state is no longer taking up the slack. For the time being China has accepted a much weakened economy and is concerned with stabilizing what it has.

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