

Ray O' Light Bulletin # 2

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CONTOURS OF THE 2024 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

WALL STREET RULERS STAGE “GREAT DEBATE”:
CLEARLY BIDEN AS WELL AS TRUMP MUST GO!

The 2024 U.S. Presidential Election season finally began in earnest on June 27th with the so-called “debate” between the *fascistic convicted felon Trump* and the *global war criminal Biden*. Much earlier, Trump and Biden had helped each other become the only viable candidates for the two respective Wall Street ruling class parties. And they have become the most unpopular candidates ever! What a “democratic” election process!

Biden’s meltdown in front of tens of millions of viewers provides a window of opportunity to replace him with a Democratic Party candidate who is not so entirely covered in the blood of the Palestinian people and provides a chance to once again, as in the 2020 election, to defeat the fascistic Trump now even further along on the road to fascism in power.

-Lead-up to the “Debate”-

In the 2020 presidential election Joe Biden claimed he ran for President out of concern to stop the incumbent fascistic menace, Donald Trump. Biden realized, if elected, he would be the oldest President in U.S. history by 2024; so he indicated then that he would be a transition figure and would serve only the one term.

In November 2022, on the heels of the substantial Trump-led Republican *losses* in the mid-term election, Trump surprisingly

declared his 2024 candidacy an *unprecedented two years ahead of the election*. With a number of both civil and criminal trials swirling around him, Trump’s major motivation for attempting a desperate political comeback was to help *keep himself out of jail and his businesses afloat* well into the future.*

Once Trump declared his 2024 candidacy, however, Biden reneged on his 2020 commitment to be a one-term President. He threw his hat in the ring in April 2023, eighteen months before the election. Once again Biden cited the Trump menace and the fact that he was the only one who had beaten Trump. But Biden now needs to add that, as the leaders of the Executive Branch for three and one-half years *he and his impotent Attorney General Merrick Garland had done and still have done next to nothing while in power* to hold Trump and his fascist gang accountable for their ongoing crimes against the people.

In fact, while both houses of Congress were together in session counting the official electoral college vote to certify the Biden-Harris team’s victory over Trump-Pence and certifying them to be inaugurated as President

*Trump’s situation was similar to that of his brutal Zionist white settler ally, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has fought to remain Israel’s top political leader and fought to take control of the Israeli Judiciary to avoid having to face multiple criminal charges for his corrupt deeds in office.

and Vice President two weeks later, Trump led the violent insurrection of January 6, 2021, attacking the Nation's Capital for the first time since the British attacked it during the War of 1812!

Following Biden and VP Harris' inauguration, neither the Executive Branch under Democrat Biden and his Attorney General Merrick Garland, nor the Supreme Court that had totally sold out to the U.S. billionaire class, nor the U.S. Senate with its Democratic majority in a self-imposed political strait-jacket of Senate filibuster rules, sought punishment for the January 6 insurrectionists. The House of Representatives under Speaker Nancy Pelosi was the only branch of the federal government to take its responsibility seriously to hold the Trump-led insurrectionists accountable!*

The January 6 House Committee was selected by Pelosi after much resistance from then House Minority leader McCarthy. Under the outstanding leadership of Mississippi Democratic Congressman Benny Thompson and Wyoming Republican Congresswoman Liz Cheney this excellent committee educated the whole country on the full scope of the Trump-led criminal conspiracy to stay in power in the face of Trump's loss to Biden in a cleanly run election by seven million votes! And the House voted to recommend that Trump be indicted for crimes associated with the attempted presidential coup!

Indeed, despite Biden's great election victory in 2020, by the 2022 midterm election, Trump was still at liberty to plot the overthrow of the U.S. federal government! And Trump and Leonard Leo and the Federalist Society and the other billionaires controlling the Supreme Court had been so successful in out maneuvering the Democratic Party while Trump had been in power that now *his* Supreme Court flexed its muscle, suddenly reversing the "settled law"

*One example of Biden/Garland gutlessness was that no criminal investigation of Donald Trump's culpability in the brutal bludgeoning of Paul Pelosi (Nancy's husband) at their California home in October 2022 was ever even mentioned.

of the 50-year-old Roe v Wade decision. In one stroke of the pen, generations of U.S. women and girls were deprived of autonomy over their bodies and their lives! And generations of their families began to suffer traumatic family disruption.

Because the Trump-dominated Supreme Court reversed Roe v Wade millions of U.S. women and their allies rose up, beginning in Kansas and then Ohio defending their healthcare rights; they stood up, they organized, they voted and they won. This massive struggle of U.S. women and girls and their allies in defense of their human rights was the key to the 2022 midterm Democratic Party victory over the fascist Trumpite Republicans---*not Biden / Garland!!*

For most of the past two years of their seemingly unending U.S. Presidential campaign Trump and Biden have used each other to consolidate their respective "silos."

For example, when former South Carolina Governor and Trump's Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley was the last remaining Republican primary challenger to Trump, dismissive of candidate Haley, Trump claimed he was going to pivot right then to taking on Biden and the Democrats and that all the Republican Party money should now come to him. Under Trump pressure, his daughter in law, Laura Trump, was elected co-leader of the Republican National Committee. She pledged that the national monies pouring in would go *first to Trump* for his presidential campaign *and to pay off his massive civil and criminal private attorney bills* before going to Republican politicians down-ballot in state races throughout the country.

From that first day Biden backed up Trump's push to pivot to Biden, for it also served to discourage other primary Democratic Party challengers. Yet one of the few shrewd Democratic Party strategists, James Carville, in direct contradiction to Biden, correctly pointed out then that every minute Nikki

Haley remained running in the Republican Presidential Primaries was a blow to Trump and a help to Biden and the Democrats. Indeed, even several months after Haley dropped out of the remaining primaries she still received from ten to twenty percent of the total Republican state primary votes, expressions of mass Republican voters' opposition to Trump.

As Biden supported Trump in the Haley example, Trump returned the favor in dealing with Ohio's requirement for Democratic Party placement on the state's November presidential ballot. In the past when either Republicans or Democrats were in power in Ohio, each had accommodated the other and waived the strict state requirement for ballot access. This year for the first time the Ohio Republicans refused to accommodate the Democratic National Committee as the Democratic National Convention is scheduled too late for their nominees' placement on the Ohio ballot. On the surface this seemed to be a Republican anti-Biden move; in reality, it provided the DNC the excuse to have Biden nominated by zoom *prior* to the Convention. This would allow Biden to avoid being the target of already anticipated powerful pro-Gaza ceasefire and pro-Palestine demonstrations at the Convention rallying against the Biden nomination that had already brought up visions of the anti-war demonstrations at the 1968 Democratic Party Convention in Chicago.



Even while claiming that Trump is an existential threat to democracy, Biden offered to work with Trump and Republican representatives and

accepted a harsh Trump-like immigration and border proposal at the expense of the immigrant peoples. After the bipartisan deal drafted by Republican politicians was worked out and Biden was ready to sign it into law, Trump called on the Congressional Republicans to vote *against* it so they could keep Trump's anti-immigrant position as a key presidential campaign issue!

Finally, to counter the effectiveness of the Trump campaign issue attacking Biden's advanced age, Biden desired and Trump accepted, to have their first debate in 2024 as early as June 27th.*

In the lead-up to this first Trump-Biden 2024 "debate," two things were noteworthy: 1. the two campaigns bypassed the traditional structure determined by the Commission on Presidential Debates, an entity dominated by the Democratic and Republican Parties that itself had previously kept other parties virtually shut out. And 2. for this event the specific Trump and Biden campaigns relied on a set of *mutually agreed rules and conditions*, among them, holding the event at CNN's studio in Atlanta with no audience, no props or pre-written notes allowed on stage, no opening statements and the candidate delivering the final closing statement chosen by a coin flip. An AP article by Steve Peoples on the day of the "debate" included the peculiarly written comment that "Biden's camp is no doubt hoping that the [moderators - CNN's Jake Tapper and Dana Bash] will play an active role in rejecting Trump's potential falsehoods in real time." However, Tapper and Bash were *shockingly silent* as Trump blustered and lied his way through the event so this condition had evidently not been "mutually agreed upon" and been only *aspirational* for the incumbent U.S. President and his campaign team?!

When asked about Biden's catastrophic performance in the debate, U.S. bourgeois journalist Bob Woodward, famed for his key

*The first Biden-Trump debate in 2020 had taken place on September 29th three months closer to that election.

role in the exposure of Nixon's Watergate scandal, repeatedly responded that something seemed to be really wrong! One thing wrong was that Biden and his family were clearly desperate to have this early debate to prove Biden could still be president. Furthermore, the debate debacle also demonstrated that Biden's inner circle, like those of other rulers, has too many "yes-people" simply telling him what he wants to hear.

Texan John Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, in an editorial that appeared about the same time raised an excellent question regarding what was wrong with this so-called "debate." Said Crisp, "Only one thing is certain about the 2024 election: if Trump loses he will not accept the result. And the idea that he will refuse to use violence—or will discourage others from using violence—is dangerously naïve. The debate raises an interesting question: ***How much are we implicated by our willingness to accept Trump into the debate when we know that he will not accept the outcome of the election?***" (My emphasis)

In hindsight, Crisp's observation applies to both CNN and its employees as well as Biden and his family and campaign team who, in too generously and unconditionally sharing the stage with the Trumpites, were fostering dangerous petty bourgeois democratic illusions and false equivalencies about the violent and thoroughly lying fascist Trump campaign underway. More importantly, it is also a condemnation of the U.S. monopoly capitalist "media coverage" of the almost two years of this anti-democratic presidential race thus far. The media have reported on it as if it were a "horse race" or some other sports competition to place bets upon—as if the Republicans and Democrats were playing by the same rules and in which the millions of U.S. voters and other members of U.S. society have little or no stake worth mentioning.

The spectacle that the U.S. population and the people of the world witnessed on June 27th was the current pathetic leadership quality

of U.S. imperialist presidents after more than fifty years of U.S. Empire! On the one hand, Trump promising to bring fascism to power within the USA! On the other, "liberal" Biden, visiting death and destruction on the oppressed and dependent peoples of the world especially outside U.S. borders, including Palestine and Ukraine and wherever else the Wall Street ruling class directs him to attack!



-From Fascistic Trump to Fascist in Power-

Ex President Trump in his first term was fascistic; he repeatedly tried to "go rogue;" he was kept in check by weak but democratic remnants of U.S. bourgeois democracy. This time, by whatever means he is able to gain the White House, Trump promises absolute power on his first day in office and retribution against his political, business and cultural enemies at home and abroad.

Just a few days after the "debate," the rogue U.S. Supreme Court led by Sam Alito and Clarence Thomas, two open prostitutes for the Super-Rich U.S. billionaire class who should have already been driven out of government by the Biden executive branch (Justice Department) and/or impeached by the congressional branch, ruled that Trump and other former and future presidents are essentially "above the law!"

Within the last few days of the term, this rogue right wing, white nationalist Supreme Court majority issued other important decisions

in conjunction with presidential immunity; in particular, reversal of the longstanding Chevron decision so as to make it possible for judges rather than federal regulatory agencies to deal with greedy corporations on the health and safety issues of this country. It could provide Trump a means to carry out his threatened firing of fifty thousand federal workers, if he's in charge. And it is in line with Project 2025 of the Heritage Foundation, a major plan written for a Conservative President (Trump) to implement soon! While Trump has had some harsh things to say about Project 2025, this provides him an opportunity to distance himself from anything he needs to.*

Now, with the Supreme Court leading the way, Trump in charge can attempt to install a fascist dictatorship, *rule by open terror*, within the USA.

-Biden the World's Number #1 War Criminal-

Even before the debate, Biden's main alternative to the actual existential drive of Trump toward fascism in power *within* the USA has been imperialist wars of terror *abroad*. In fact, as President, Trump's position on imperialist war was the one issue where he had been *less* dangerous to the peoples of the world than the "Republicrats" including Reagan, Bush I, Clinton, Bush II, Obama and especially now Biden.**

Over the three and one-half years he's been President, Biden has been deeply engaged first in Ukraine against Russia over U.S. NATO control of Europe; and front and center since

*Despite Trump's protestations, it turns out that 140 Trump administration alumni helped draft the Project 2025 Plan.

**I predicted at the beginning of Trump's four years as president, that at least initially he would likely be less belligerent toward the rest of the world's peoples than Hilary Clinton and the Democrats as long as it was not something that would adversely affect his own bottom line. That's exactly what happened throughout his presidency and since. At the same time, I warned that he would be more brutal toward the U.S. population and that has certainly occurred as well.

last October as the bloody backer of the Israeli Settler genocidal war against the Palestinian people of Gaza and beyond.

War over Ukraine-

Under Obama, then Vice President Biden oversaw NATO-U.S. relations with Ukraine and Russia. Their top operative there then was Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland who played a central role in organizing the successful Maidan protests in 2014 that led to the low-level civil war in Ukraine leading up to the 2022 Ukrainian hot war with Russia.

At the beginning of Biden's own presidency he nominated Nuland to be Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. She was quickly vetted and confirmed on a voice vote by the *entire* usually divided Senate. Biden had no issue with nominating this aggressive warmonger as a leader for his *diplomatic* team. Biden put Nuland to work fomenting the U.S.-led NATO War against Russia over the Ukraine. Nuland's husband and partner in crime, Robert Kagan was the co-creator of the Project for A New American Century, the mastermind of George W. Bush's criminal Shock and Awe Campaign in Iraq. Kagan is the most outspoken advocate of a "brinkmanship" U.S. foreign policy that calls for U.S. imperialism to be aggressive and reckless in defense of the U.S. Empire. And Nuland has led NATO, the *military alliance* over Europe, for well over a decade as arguably the greatest *practitioner* of brinkmanship in promotion of the U.S. Empire.

Gaza and Palestine-

In 2003, I pointed out that one highlight of a proletarian internationalist position on the Palestinian question was "the clarity of the role of U.S. imperialism as the principal enemy of *all* the people of the Middle East rather than being an 'honest' broker or 'peacemaker.'"

In this regard, it is remarkable how thoroughly Biden and Secretary of State Blinken have exposed themselves (and the U.S. Empire) in the Israeli genocidal slaughter of the

Palestinian people in Gaza. Over the past nine months since October 7 Biden/Blinken have endlessly repeated that they have tried to get Netanyahu and his right wing terrorist Israeli government coalition to agree to a ceasefire, to end destruction of hospitals and other vital infrastructure, expedite rather than block humanitarian relief, accept negotiations, and end the Israeli-induced famine. Meanwhile in nine months of carnage against the Palestinians of Gaza, Israeli PM Netanyahu has never wavered in his single-minded genocidal aim of driving out of Gaza, starving out and murdering its 2.3 million inhabitants! In the same measure Biden and Blinken have never stopped or even slowed down their actual acts—supplying the rampaging Israeli military with any and all weaponry they desire.



Netanyahu and Biden

As close as Trump and Netanyahu are, as much as their rightwing movements share their white supremacy and violence toward their own respective citizen populations, it is the liberal Biden who has been able to give the bloody Israeli ruler stronger support than Trump ever could! Among other things the Biden government used its veto in the United Nations Security Council three times to protect Israel from the almost unanimous condemnation by the rest of the world's governments. Thanks to Biden's unwillingness to even break with Netanyahu in the slightest, the world's governments and more importantly the world's peoples now see the U.S. Evil Empire more clearly than ever.*

While spouting liberal banalities to his U.S. base, Biden has been unable to cover up

Netanyahu's Trump-like brutality against the citizens of Gaza, arguably the biggest open-air prison in the world. As of this writing, more than thirty-eight thousand Palestinians in Gaza, two-thirds of them women and children,



have been murdered by the Israeli military using advanced weaponry made in the USA and largely subsidized by U.S. tax dollars. Israeli military-caused and Biden-backed famine, with the Israeli military intentionally murdering relief aid workers, threatens to wipe out this whole Palestinian enclave of 2.3 million people.

It is this contradiction between Biden's honeyed words and barbaric deeds on behalf of Wall Street capital in sponsorship of the Israeli



*Great Lenin taught that the chief characteristic of imperialism is the fundamental distinction between the oppressor nations and the oppressed nations of the world. At the United Nations General Assembly three-quarters of the nations assembled there support ceasefire in Gaza and recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. And virtually none of the “major powers” do!

settler terrorist state and the U.S.-owned oil and gas companies in the Middle East that has sparked the revolt among millions of U.S. youth, Arab Americans and others against Biden's candidacy.

-The Emergence of a Left-wing, anti-imperialist war and pro-Palestinian motion associated with the Democratic Party-

For the first time in at least seventy-five years a recognizable left-wing has emerged that has some affiliation with the Democratic Party. Beginning with the Democratic Party primary in Michigan on February 27 and continuing on Super Tuesday a week later, especially in Minnesota but also to some degree in Colorado, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and elsewhere, thousands of Democratic voters organized in what in Michigan was referred to as an "uncommitted" Democratic voting bloc. They were/are protesting against the Biden Regime's unwavering support for Netanyahu and the bloody Israeli Regime's relentless slaughter of the Palestinian people in Gaza and beyond.



Even before Biden's "debate" fiasco, the "uncommitted" motion had weakened the support for the War Criminal Biden, especially among students and other youth with their potential passionate and energetic opposition to the fascist Trump forces. So ***the collapse of the Biden candidacy around the "debate" with Trump now provides an opening for other candidates that are not totally corrupted and compromised by such close association with the bloody Israeli white supremacist colonial Regime.***

-Biden's Replacement?-

About a week after Biden's debate debacle, The *Washington Post's* Eugene Robinson, one of the most serious and thoughtful Afro-American syndicated columnists, gently weighed in regarding the possible replacement of Biden as the Democratic Party 2024 standard bearer. Arguing against the idea that Vice President Kamala Harris would be more likely to lose to Trump, his response was that the party could rally around Harris. Robinson continued, "The nominee could also be Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, California Governor Gavin Newsome or Georgia Senator Raphael Warnock." ("Biden's 2024 survival will require more than hope," 7-2-24)

Robinson's list seems reasonable for the Democratic Party. Any of the five he raises would bring into the anti-Trump campaign at least some of the most energized and committed U.S. youth who are standing up for principled anti-imperialist war activism and standing up for the equality of peoples everywhere including against the police. None of the five, even VP Harris, is closely associated with Netanyahu and the settler state of Israel in its genocidal war against the Palestinian people.

Certainly, if either Governor Whitmer or Vice President Harris is on the ticket and especially if one of them *leads* the ticket that will no doubt inspire women of all ethnicities and many of their allies to make even greater sacrifices and commit greater time and effort than they have in the post Roe v Wade election cycles since they now recognize how much our very lives are at stake. The fact that Vice President Harris may well have an easier path to the nomination is certainly an important consideration. But Governor Whitmer, in particular, has shown great courage in dealing with the white supremacist terrorists in Michigan who plotted extensively to kidnap, put on trial, and execute her and members of her family. (Indeed, too little attention was paid to those events, including by the Democratic-

leaning TV networks for whom the violence being visited upon the Michigan Governor did not compute with the networks' bromides about "let's just votes for Democrats.") Of all these five, Governor Whitmer does seem to be the most effective and determined fighter against Trumpist violence especially based on her team's record of victories in Michigan both before and after the attacks on her.

Clearly, the Afro-American people have provided so much leadership in these years of struggle against Trump and his white nationalist and terrorist gangs. And, for better or worse, the Afro-American people have been the most loyal and consistent voters for the Democratic Party itself. Georgia Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock comes out of arguably the most advanced voter-oriented and Afro-American-led mobilization in the country over the past six years and more under the leadership of the great Stacey Abrams. And Rev. Warnock himself has on occasion shown independent strength from the Biden Regime as he faithfully represents his constituent base. It is also of great significance that Senator Warnock is the first Afro-American Senator *popularly elected statewide* in the Deep South in U.S. history.*

Finally, both Gavin Newsome and Josh Shapiro are extremely articulate and persuasive men who are effective Governors of two important states: California and Pennsylvania respectively. California, if it tried to secede from the USA during a Trump regency, perhaps with Oregon and Washington and others, would be difficult for the Trumpists to contain. And Governor Shapiro was such an effective campaigner in his successful bid for PA Governor that he clearly helped stroke victim John Fetterman win his race for the U.S. Senate seat in PA.

But the key point made by Eugene Robinson about the Party "rallying around" VP Harris

needs to be applied to all. Arguably more important than who the candidate is, is how much the political initiative of the anti-fascist Trump masses, — women, Afro-Americans, anti-imperialist war and pro-Palestinian activists and others, — is unleashed in the campaign. And, if in the end, Biden is *not* replaced by the Democratic Party, decent "third party" candidates such as Justice for All's Cornel West and Green Party's Jill Stein may need to be supported precisely in order to advance political consolidation *outside* the Democratic Party in which so many mass struggles have gone to die.

MORE THOUGHTS ON THE 2024 ELECTION

-AIPAC and Israeli Reaction Strike Back-

Indeed, in this political crisis, American Israel Political Action Committee, AIPAC, has spent millions of dollars in Democratic Party primaries trying to silence and defeat critics of the U.S.-backed Israeli war on the Palestinian people. For example, Harry Dunn, one of the most outspoken, articulate and dignified Afro-American Capitol policemen who defended the Capitol on January 6, 2021 and denounced the MAGA mob there was surprisingly defeated when AIPAC alone spent \$4 million dollars against him in his Democratic primary race in Maryland. Interestingly, Mr. Dunn had spoken very little on the Gaza war. So this shows the connection between Netanyahu-led Israeli right-wing reaction and the Trump MAGA movement in the USA. For decades, Israel has been the number one recipient of U.S. government aid which apparently can then be channeled into political support for white supremacist right wing candidates in the USA in an endless circle!

Meanwhile, Jammal Bowman (D-NY), an outspoken supporter of a Free Palestine and member of the Squad with several left-wing pro-Palestinian congresswomen of color was successfully ousted from his congressional seat in the Democratic Primary by a white

*In the 1870's, during the Reconstruction Period, two Afro-Americans from Mississippi served as U.S. Senators. At the time Senators were elected by the state legislatures.

businessman closely connected to AIPAC who also was supported by the arch-reactionary Hillary Clinton, a long-time recipient of AIPAC funds!

House minority leader Hakeem Jeffries, also an Afro-American congressman from New York (who didn't seem disturbed by Bowman's defeat) had followed the lead of Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), the election denier and rabid white supremacist and white Christian Nationalist from Louisiana, in inviting none other than Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, with all the Palestinian blood on his hands, to address both houses of the U.S. Congress. He's currently scheduled for July 24. Senate Majority leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senate Minority leader McConnell (R-KY) have also unified with their House counterparts to make the bloodthirsty tyrant Netanyahu feel at home.

Netanyahu's appearance should be a big boost for Trump and the MAGA movement too. Biden and Jeffries had recently saved House Speaker Johnson's position. And it was none other than Johnson who extended the invitation to Netanyahu. One more example of Biden's support for the Trumpist fascists!

To her great credit, former House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, when asked if she would have extended such an invitation to the now widely reviled Netanyahu if she were still Speaker of the House, replied, "It was wrong. I feel very sad that he has been invited." Such is the struggle now taking place within and around the Democratic Party.

-Millionaire Fascist Thug Trump
Becomes *Trump the Felon* thanks to
Democracy in Manhattan Courtroom-

On May 30, 2024, after a seven-week trial in Manhattan's District Court, a jury of twelve New Yorkers, rendered their verdict on thirty-four felony charges brought by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg against former President of the USA Donald Trump. Sloppy, salacious and sensationalist reporting by

major bourgeois TV, radio and other monopoly capitalist mass media had trivialized the trial, portraying it as merely involving "hush money" paid to "a porn star." By contrast, D.A. Bragg was laser-focused on the key elements that gave this trial its historical significance. Especially the suppression of news that, if it had been published in the aftermath of the public



D.A. Alvin Bragg

exposure of Trump's notorious Hollywood Access tapes, threatened to destroy Trump's ultimately successful 2016 campaign as the Republican Party's nominee for U.S. President. This prospect had Trump and his entire campaign senior staff in a panic. The thought his election run was all but over moved Trump and his cabal into desperate and illegal action.

In the Manhattan trial, the prosecution provided plenty of substantial and uncontroverted evidence that *if* Trump and his henchmen, in particular David Pecker, then CEO of the *National Enquirer* testifying under immunity,* Trump's lawyer/fixer Michael Cohen (who

*The lengthy and riveting opening testimony of National Enquirer CEO David Pecker, unhindered by his immunity deal from any pressure to hide the criminal facts he outlined, cheerfully and chillingly explained that his 2015 agreement with Trump and Cohen included his role in killing any stories harmful to Trump's presidential campaign, promoting, exaggerating and fabricating positive stories about Trump, and *even fabricating false negative stories about Trump's rivals for the Republican nomination, including Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz and their families.* Cruz and Rubio are by now so degraded that they are still groveling at the feet of Trump. Beyond the thirty-four felonies Trump was convicted of, with a large role played by Pecker's testimony, the essence of their 2015 "catch and kill" agreement represents hard evidence of *Trump's rigging* of the 2016 presidential election; it also casts much light on his willingness to do even more to reverse his seven million vote loss in 2020 and his promises of even more extreme "Revenge" measures in 2024 and beyond.

served more than a year of hard time in prison primarily around this conspiracy) and Allen Weisselberg, chief financial officer of Trump Company (now imprisoned on Rikers Island), had not carried out these crimes, Trump likely would never have become U.S. President in 2016! Moreover, the Trump Co.'s cover-up of the illegal corporate source of the funds they used to "catch and kill" the story allowed them to successfully keep the information from reaching the U.S. public on the very eve of the election itself. *This combination of fraudulent accounting in service of election law violations raised the charges to the level of felonies.*

Over the past year, many political, legal and media "experts" have tried to discourage, disparage and "second-guess" Manhattan D.A. Bragg, declaring this case to be "unimportant" and overly complex for a jury to follow, that it was taking up calendar time that was blocking more important Trump criminal court cases from being scheduled, etc. This "competition" with other Trump indictments and the ticking clock racing toward the 2024 presidential election became the main speculative talking points of most monopoly capitalist news coverage, *burying instead of explaining Trump's alleged criminality.*

This "soft" media coverage was enabled by the sorry record of the Biden Justice Department under Attorney General Merrick Garland that did not begin to investigate the Trumpists until shamed into it by the excellent *bi-partisan* January 6 House Committee Hearings and Report led by Afro-American congressman Benny Thompson, (D-MS) and Liz Cheney, a Republican House leader from Wyoming. Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court, heavily stacked with apologists for Trump and the fascist MAGA forces, and compromised and corrupted by their billionaire sponsors, helped Trump postpone the other three serious Trump criminal trials, apparently until *after* the 2024 election.

In Manhattan, despite all Trump's threats to the Jury, the D.A. and his team, threats to the

Judge and his family as well as his staff, the fact that (while almost none of Trump's family showed up at the trial) MAGA politicians in Congress led by Speaker of the House Johnson took time away from their congressional duties to their constituents in Washington, DC to make the "pilgrimage" to Manhattan, NY to be a threatening presence in court for their fascist "mob boss." All this put added pressure on all parts of the court system. Such is the utter contempt of Trump and the MAGA's for the U.S. judicial process.*

In light of all the above, the Jury's verdict on May 30th represented complete vindication for Manhattan D.A. Bragg and his staff. *No one in the media or in Congress, no legal experts, no big businessmen on Wall Street had predicted that Trump would be found guilty on all*

*Among the Congresspeople appearing at the Manhattan courtroom in solidarity with the soon to be felon Trump were many auditioning for selection as Trump's VP running mate. At the same time, Texas Governor Greg Abbott no doubt tried to impress Trump with his own negative view of due process under the law. Responding to a Trump tweet in June 2020 threatening violence to Black Lives Matter protestors following George Floyd's murder, 30-year-old Army sergeant and Uber driver Daniel Perry had responded to Trump's tweet "send them to Texas we will show them why we say don't mess with Texas." A year later Perry posted on social media: "I might have to kill a few people on my way to work, they are rioting outside my apartment complex." He then drove into a crowd of Black Lives Matter protesters in Austin, before shooting and killing 28-year old Garrett Foster, a Texan and an Air Force veteran legally and openly carrying an AK-47. Foster was white as is Perry. After a trial that lasted a week and 17 hours of deliberation a Texas jury found Perry guilty of murder. And he was sentenced to 25 years in prison. The claim of killing Foster in self-defense (including Governor Abbott's effort to bring in a "stand your ground" legal defense) didn't hold up; which is why the twelve jurors convicted Perry of murder. As Perry was to begin his long prison sentence, Abbott nullified the jury trial and freed Perry with a full pardon including his right to carry! As syndicated columnist LZ Granderson observed: "Abbott is signaling that he apparently wants murderers to be freed if they hate the same people that Abbott hates." And Abbott is signaling Trump and the MAGA movement that he, like them, has no respect for democratic judicial process and he's ready to contribute to right wing terrorist violence going forward.

thirty-four felony charges brought in this case. Some sympathetic commentators raised that a conviction on even one of these indictments would be a victory. Yet in one rare but outstanding success for democracy these days, in the Manhattan courtroom, all twelve jurors voted unanimously for the guilty verdict on each and every count! These twelve everyday people have forever branded the ex-President a convicted felon and no shameless Supreme Court Justices can “put Humpty Dumpty together again.”

-Judge Merchan should give Trump significant JAIL TIME-

July 11th was the original date Judge Juan Merchan scheduled for his sentencing of ex-President Trump, the felon found guilty by a jury of his peers on thirty-four out of thirty-four counts! The Judge has now postponed sentencing to have time to evaluate if this last and most shocking verdict on the just concluded SCOTUS calendar, (its corrupt and anti-constitutional decision that Trump and other former and/or future U.S. Presidents are essentially “above the law”) should have any impact on the Manhattan trial that was completed entirely before its issuance. It’s also significant that the twelve original jurors that began the trial *courageously* took it all the way to its just conclusion. Furthermore Trump the felon has shown no remorse for his crimes in this case nor for his attacks on those responsible for providing him with a fair day in court and on their families. Moreover, Trump was found to have violated Judge Merchan’s gag order on ten separate occasions during the trial. My hope is that Judge Merchan who did such an outstanding job presiding over this challenging case will ensure that Trump gets a sentence in which the wisdom, determination and courage of the twelve citizen jurors is affirmed and in which justice, the people’s justice, is served.

Trump’s record in this trial cries out for substantial jail time. And this one recent triumph of democracy over rising U.S. fascism and its most popular spokesman needs to be felt abroad in the land.

-Four Courageous Prosecutors
Who the Liberal Mass Media
has Failed to Defend-

The militancy and clarity of the Manhattan jury’s unanimous verdict of Trump’s GUILT ON ALL CHARGES exposes some fundamental weaknesses in U.S. imperialist society, the Belly of the Beast of *the decades-old U.S. Global Empire now clearly in decline*. I’ve already discussed the cynical naysayers – well paid politicians, TV, radio, and podcast journalists, professors and authors – media experts who questioned, discouraged, ridiculed and disparaged Manhattan D.A. Bragg’s initiative in bringing this case successfully through all the heavy-handed intimidation of Trump’s Republican and MAGA movement gangs.

Praise is also due New York state Attorney General Letitia James who boldly succeeded in a civil trial in damaging, if not putting out of business in the state of New York entirely, the corrupt and lawless Donald Trump-led Trump Company. Likewise, in Fulton County, Georgia the courageous and determined District Attorney Fani Willis, immediately after her election over two years ago, began working on the criminal conspiracy indictment of Trump and ultimately eighteen of his confederates to plot to overturn the presidential election in Georgia. D.A. Willis’ election victory was almost simultaneous with Trump’s infamous phone call to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensburger, a Republican and Trump voter who, nevertheless, would not abide Trump’s effort to coerce him to “find” eleven thousand or so votes. And even though Trumpist defense attorneys have made efforts to delay and derail Fani Willis’ prosecution of this case, four of Trump’s lawyer subordinates have thus far admitted guilt and are cooperating with her RICO racketeering case against the Trump mob.

The serious, skilled and bold prosecutorial initiatives of Fani Willis, Alvin Bragg and Letitia James, all Afro-Americans who in this incredibly violent, white supremacist society,

need even more courage to lead such cases against a former U.S. president are victories for small “d” democracy against Trumpist fascism. Also, along with these Afro-American heroes, let’s add the constancy and determination of Special Federal Prosecutor Jack Smith heading up both the major January 6 insurrection trial in Washington, D.C. and the classified documents case in Florida. All these patriots are deserving of strong, principled and active defense by the pro-democracy, anti-fascist, socialist and communist left within the USA today.

These patriotic public servants stand in sharp contrast with the utter lack of courage and initiative on the part of Biden and the Merrick Garland-led Justice Department backed by *the spineless and unprincipled Democratic Party, thoroughly corrupted by the Wall Street ruling class. Biden and Garland have paved the way so that Trump has been able to claw his way back on the path to power.*

SOME CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Three years ago, in a statement entitled, “There’s STILL Time and Urgent Need to Trounce Trumpist Tyranny,”

I concluded:

“... some eight months after his substantial electoral defeat and then his ultimate failure to block the inauguration of the Biden-Harris Regime with his bloody assault on the Capitol, Donald Trump still has shown no indication that he will give up power without a fight. He has never conceded the election! ***He’s still fighting for power!***

Meanwhile, the Biden Regime, a faithful tool of Wall Street finance capital, has shown little inclination to prosecute Trump and his domestic white terrorist supporters and/or otherwise compel them to concede and comply with the U.S. Constitution. Hence, despite the

fact that Biden is President and Trump is *not*, **fascism in the USA remains “a clear and present danger.”** (“There’s STILL Time and Urgent Need to Trounce Trumpist Tyranny,” Statement of Ray O. Light, July 4, 2021)

Let us, the U.S. workers and oppressed nationalities, weave a path through the 2024 presidential debacle to replace the Democratic Party candidate with a force powerful enough to prevent the Trumpist Terrorists, including the high Supreme Court prostitutes (mostly men) of the billionaire class, from ushering in fascism in power.

by *Ray Light*

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