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COMMENTARY

COMPILATION: THE PROMISE—AND PERILS—OF TRUMP 2.0

Updated Commentaries by Chris Temple, Editor/Publisher



Are they Sure they want this Job?

Prior to the November 5 election, I mused often as to why either Donald Trump or Kamala Harris would even *want* the job as 47th President of the United States of America. Sure: each of them in their own way *wants* the prestige, the accolades, the power and more.

And I'm sure at some level, each of them is sincere (I think Trump more so than Harris, as I see things) in claiming that they can even do some things of substance to help America and Americans.

We now know the answer, of course: it will be Donald Trump who on January 20 is inaugurated as the 47th president, only the second to ever be elected to serve two *non-consecutive* terms.

Just before Christmas we are learning a bit more of the dynamics of what Trump 2.0 is going to look like. **It's likely to be a very mixed bag.** As often as not—and

notwithstanding Trump's far more compelling presence and bravado compared to his immediate predecessor—he *cannot* count on unquestioned, unanimous G.O.P. support for everyone/everything he wants. Frankly, that's as it should be for the most part.

But what this also means is that—with the albatross of a \$36+ trillion national debt and a \$3 trillion annualized current year deficit around everyone's necks—things stand a greater chance than not of severely bogging down.

And as I'll be explaining further as 2025 gets started, the simple laws of mathematics will be decidedly working against President Trump.

To part-update and part-expand on my pre-election thoughts, I have recently done a host of podcasts, interviews and such discussing in considerably finer detail the policy, economic, market and geopolitical menu that Trump will be inheriting. Most of all, I have explained the reasons why the president does have an historic opportunity to truly “Drain the Swamp” and otherwise do great things for the U.S. economy and even *the world*.

But success will ONLY come—again, as a matter of simple math—if Trump is willing to truly upend Wall Street and the banking establishment, together with the Administrative State and the Military-Industrial Complex.

Covering all this, I want to share three of the “meatiest” recent podcasts I’ve done so that YOU have a handle on the landscape before us:



Episode 24 - 1

- * The Promise--and Perils -- of Trump 2.0
- * Initial Market Reactions to The Red Wave

→ In this Episode immediately following Election Day, I discussed the major promises—and perils—of Trump 2.0, following the unexpectedly strong showing of the first G.O.P. presidential

As always, I call 'em as I see 'em! So be prepared for a take on President Trump's win that is *both* hopeful and sober.

The deck is stacked *against* Trump and a Republican Congress (with razor thin majorities technically, but STILL with a minority of representatives in BOTH bodies who go along with the president's agenda.)

In this episode I took an initial look at the euphoric market reactions to the purported “Red Wave” suggesting (as was borne out in the weeks since by and large) the nominal Republican sweep would be great for stocks...and bad for precious metals. But these and other initial knee-jerk reactions—like the markets following a Fed meeting—WON'T necessarily endure. *I explained why.*

LISTEN IN AT <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= fxc2jxkZhM>.

→ Next, I attempted to stress a positive and even revolutionary agenda which—if President Trump implements it—would give some credence (OK, it's *still* a hokey idea, but that's politics!) to those who want to carve out a *fifth* mug on Mount Rushmore.

But this isn't just hyperbole. Listen in as I discuss the things within President Trump's power to TRULY upend the established order in "The Swamp" and be the transformative president we all hope he will be.

ON THE BUDGET: REALLY drain the Swamp...GUT the Military-



Episode 24-2: *THIS is the Agenda that will put Donald Trump on Mount Rushmore!*

Industrial Complex and evil CIA/security state with it...turn loose Elon and D.O.G.E....and run up no NEW debts to the Federal Reserve.

ON THE ECONOMY: Embrace a National Infrastructure Bank...revamped enterprise zones...and more I touch on here.

ON THE MONETARY SYSTEM: Follow the example of Andy Jackson and roust out the Den of Vipers...do an "end run" around BOTH Wall Street and the Fed...allow the former to flourish ONLY as it meets the national interest...look at a TRULY national (NOT banker, with its associated debt) currency and currency board.

FOR THE WORLD: END the for-profit American Empire that has led to nothing but grifting, death, misery and the HATRED of America in too many places...lead the way to break the shackles of debt and the predatory I.M.F. and World Bank on other nations.

LISTEN TO THIS ONE at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNP2T0F9Pk8>.



Most recently is the discussion I recorded with my old friend and colleague Mike Fox of *The Prospector News*. ***Notably, this came after the Fed meeting vindicated my warning that Jerome Powell's bank is going to be a net negative influence going forward; and an adversary of Trump 2.0.***

From the show notes as Mike posted them, we cover:

Economic Challenges:

- Significant national debt and rising inflation are expected to impact Trump's pro-growth agenda
- The bond market is seen as a crucial indicator of the economic situation, with bond market vigilantes re-emerging.
- A potential government shutdown looms due to disagreements over the spending bill (NOTE: In a bit of semi-good news, the "price" America had to pay for the deal that *was* struck was far less bad than things looked initially; but it remains clear that The Swamp and the Washington Uniparty won't go away quietly.)

Federal Reserve and Interest Rates:

- The Fed futures market predicts fewer rate cuts for 2025 than previously anticipated
- *Long-term* bond yields are *increasing*, signaling rising inflation expectations contrary to Federal Reserve projections

Trump's Policies and Their Impact:

- Trump's mercantilist policies, including tariffs, could lead to inflation and conflict with Federal Reserve policies
- The administration aims for greater US self-sufficiency, particularly in energy production
- Deregulation is a key focus of Trump's economic strategy

Tariffs and the US Economy:

- Tariffs are expected to have a negative impact on American consumers, especially those purchasing imported goods (**NOTE:** Yours truly necessarily here pushes back on one of Trump's campaign assertions, comparing himself to President William McKinley and *that* president's effective use of tariffs. Sorry, Mr. President: BIG-TIME "apples and oranges" in a couple KEY respects.)
- The US electric vehicle industry may struggle to compete with China due to higher costs

Government Spending and Shutdown:

- Chris Temple suggests that a temporary government shutdown could be beneficial for reining in excessive spending
- He draws parallels to the Clinton era when budget deficits were reduced following shutdowns (**NOTE:** Regrettably, *not* the case recently!)

The discussion concludes with the observation that markets are beginning to recognize the economic realities and challenges facing the Trump administration.

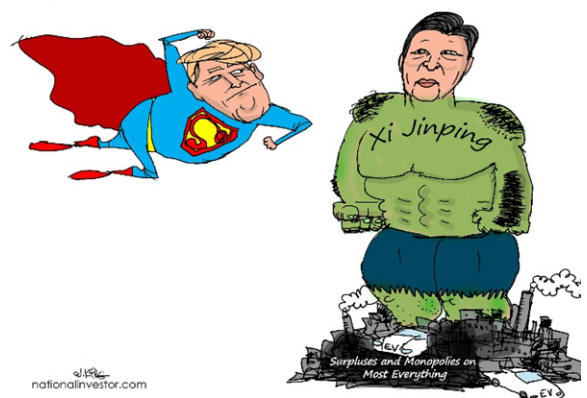
And one more note: Among some other things not specifically mentioned above, we also discussed **China**, which—together with the Fed and its evolving policies that will be at odds with Trump—represents a *second* major challenge to Trump 2.0.

Indeed, as I have said in several recent podcasts and interviews—and will continue to—**there is tremendous economic and market risk in the fact that the world's two largest and most important economies are at such polar ends of the "Flation" equation.**

So, not to be a "Scrooge" (as Fire Marshall Jay was at that last F.O.M.C. meeting), but I had to point out as Mike and I concluded that, generally, I expect risk assets to be in some danger in the near term pretty much across the board.

THIS LATEST ONE IS at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9NvrEF1nfs>.

When an Irresistible Force meets an Immovable Object



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