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## **The Donald Trump Phenomenon and the Identity of the West in the Face of Global Migrations**

My goal is to explain, as best I can understand it, the Donald Trump phenomenon that is sweeping much of the United States, and even parts of Europe, today related to the mass immigration policies presently being implemented in these geographical regions today. To do that, I start with the conviction that, to some extent, the psychological makeup of Barack Obama and Donald Trump are effects of the eighteenth-century European Enlightenment—Obama being a perfect product of Enlightenment education and Trump being a perfect model of a total failure of it. Understanding their different psychological attitudes toward the Enlightenment helps to explain their behavior and the impact it is having upon the current political world order.

According to the fictional history upon which the European Enlightenment was built, this Enlightenment is true science, the only science that has ever existed. According to this fairy tale, after centuries of intellectual backwardness in which human beings had no knowledge of truth, *the Method* of discovering truth finally arose, chiefly among a select group of intellectuals in England, France, and Germany during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This scientific method involves mathematical/technological application of socially-Enlightened feelings (hypotheses, beliefs, guesses) to constrain inanimate na-

ture and the behavior of human beings so as to uncover truth, establish order, in an otherwise unintelligible universe.

Underlying the Enlightenment understanding of science is that the physical universe is essentially irrational to non-technologically-controlled reason and sensing. Hence, prior to these technological and sociological advances that enabled application of the Enlightenment scientific method by Enlightened human beings to the behavior of physical things, the physical universe could not reveal her secrets about her true nature to the human race.

Despite the claim to be the era of pure reason, par excellence, by “science” Enlightenment thinkers chiefly mean the power of an Enlightened, collectivist, human will (a social Will like that of Thomas Hobbes’s Leviathan or the General Will of Jean-Jacques Rousseau) to employ mathematically-regulated technologies to be able to torture the physical universe to reveal its secrets and individually-selfish, un-Enlightened human beings to become scientifically free (which is the only way we can become free at all).

Prior to possessing science this fictional narrative about science claims that human beings possess no knowledge, no truth about the physical universe and its principles of *organization* (including that of business and politics), or, strictly speaking, about anything else. Supposedly, in the strict sense of understanding truth, once it comes on the scene, physical science (what Enlightenment intellectuals like to call “Pure Reason”) becomes the measure of truth in individual human minds and in things existing outside our minds within the physical universe, including political institutions.

In this Enlightenment world, the truth of natural reason and sense reality unaided by mathematical technologies no longer precede and measure science, wisdom, and prudence. From now on, science, wisdom, and prudence (in the sense of technological manipulation of inanimate nature and human beings) precede truth in things and the human mind and freedom. In this neo-gnostic, fictional narrative, Enlightened science contains the whole of truth (including the whole of wisdom and prudence); and anyone, like a Donald Trump, who

questions the truth of this fundamentalistic, rationally incoherent, and patently false claim is supposed to be intellectually unenlightened, intellectually backward, politically enslaved, arrogant, a bigot, someone filled with hate who can communicate only in terms of “hate speech,” and just down-right intolerant.

The above mindset, I submit, is the one that chiefly prevails today in the psyche of political leaders of the European Union in Brussels and their political minions who largely constitute the political Establishment in the West in Europe and the United States. Chiefly through dressing it up in terms of what is often called today “political correctness” and “moral relativism,” Enlightenment educational institutions, media outlets, foundations (in addition to a cabal of banks and law firms that fund and protect these groups) act as the sacred guardians, the magisterium, that give the Enlightenment mindset its sacred and unquestionable character as a self-evident truth.

As some Americans are fond of saying, “Even if you dress up a pig, it is still a pig.” While Enlightenment intellectuals might claim to celebrate reason, as increasing numbers of Westerners are finally coming to realize, when you undress their Dulcinea del Toboso of pure reason, pure reason turns out to be nothing but skeptical distrust of individual sensing, individual reasoning, and individual will giving cosmetic covering to the Nietzschean Will to Power, might makes right, posing as science.

While, to some extent, Donald Trump is a braggart and arrogant, his bravado and arrogance pale in contrast to that of Enlightenment political Establishment that currently controls the EU and the White House in the United States. Because he brashly rejects the political correctness and moral relativism that Western elites incessantly try to jam down our throats, many Americans and Europeans find his behavior refreshing, liberating.

Having been born into a family of patriots on the American holiday called “Flag Day,” from his inception, Trump was, and to this day remains, a patriot and a nationalist. Beyond that, Trump is no skeptic and no political ideologue who worships at the altar of Pure Reason.

Having been raised in a religious household that regularly attended the Marble Collegiate Church in Manhattan, Trump was suckled by the teachings of the “Power of Positive Thinking” developed by the Protestant preacher, the Reverend Norman Vincent Peale. From the earliest of years, he was trained to entertain no negative thoughts, no scintilla of skepticism, and no principle of Enlightenment idealism. His education inculcated him with principles of sense realism, and an instinctive rejection of skepticism, moral relativism, and political correctness.

One of the chief schools at which Donald Trump studied from the time he was a child was on construction sites of his father’s real estate development business in Brooklyn and Queens. From the earliest of ages he wanted to become a builder, and, by the time he started out on his own, constructing hotels in Manhattan, he had come to consider building and employing people as part of his vocation in life.

Despite the fact that his father was wealthy, Trump grew up in a largely middle-class atmosphere that encouraged him to follow sound educational and moral principles that fostered individual responsibility, self-reliance, and self-discipline (notions that most contemporary Western elites politicians incline to find essentially repulsive, psychologically disordered). Because his older brother Fred died as an alcoholic at the age of 43, Trump has said he had learned early in life that bad choices could ruin a person’s life. Seeing his brother suffering led him to avoid ever trying alcohol or cigarettes.

Being somewhat inclined to get into fights in grammar school, his father sent him to study at the New York Military Academy, one of the oldest military schools in the United States. After graduating from the Military Academy, instead of going directly into an Ivy League business program, Trump attended Fordham University, in the Bronx, NY. While virtually no media members mention this two-year undergraduate study by Trump at Fordham (instead preferring to report about his studies at the Wharton School of Business), for two reasons this time at Fordham is quite significant: 1) the Jesuit-run Fordham campus in the Bronx is not located in the best of neighborhoods and is largely attend-

ed by middle-class, native, New Yorkers (many from working-class families in the Bronx and Queens). I did some graduate studies there during the 1960s when the Vietnam War was in full swing and had described the campus location at the time as being similar to that of the American Embassy in Saigon; 2) the Fordham philosophy department was pretty solid intellectually, and the philosophy requirement at the time was heavy and had put substantial emphasis upon Thomism and sense realism, which Trump would have been required to study.

One other element crucial to know about Donald Trump is that he has always been an exceptional athlete. More than anything else, his love of sport and competition tends to dominate his psychological makeup. What many people tend to consider to be incomprehensible insults made by a crude, vulgar man, Trump considers to be the typical type of insults native New Yorkers, like Yankee fans, make when competing against members of the Boston Red Sox baseball team. Every activity in which he engages, especially business and political activities, he approaches as sports competitions in which he constantly attempts psychologically to throw an opponent off balance (as we say in the US “psych someone out,” or “make a person choke under emotional pressure”).

While I have never met Donald Trump, I have followed and studied his exploits for decades, I grew up in largely similar surrounding to him, and know people who have known him, some very closely. Based upon this experience and a good deal of involvement in New York City politics, the best way I can think of describing him is as someone who aspires to possess the virtues that Aristotle had called the social excellences of *magnanimity* and *magnificence*.

Donald Trump is a lover of great deeds. While (because of some personality defects), he sometimes falls short of completely achieving his goals, more than anything else, he aspires to be a political benefactor and doer of great deeds. He is very much what some New Yorkers describe him to be: “A blue-collar billionaire,” more at home socializing with firefighters, police, military personnel, and athletes than with academics and politicians, especially Enlightened ones that smoke

funny cigarettes and waste their lives exploiting others for their own personal advantage.

Unlike most contemporary Western politicians, Trump respects, he does not ridicule as intellectually backward, the qualities of ordinary sense realism and real prudence of ordinary working people (what most people call “common sense”), and aspires to possess these qualities. Beyond this, he knows how the corrupt, plutocratic, political establishment in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere, operate, especially how they use principles of political correctness and moral relativism to intimidate and destroy the reputation and lives of those who threaten their hold on institutions of political power. As a nationalist, a patriot, and a man of courage and a good deal of (if not perfect) prudence, I am convinced that Donald Trump wants to dismantle the corrupt political Establishment in the US and globally, and that he pretty much knows how to do it. This makes him dangerous to his political opponents, someone to be stopped at all costs.

As far as I can see, Trump’s candidacy is much more than pursuit of the American presidency. As he often calls it, it is a “political movement” involved in a classic fight to the death between an entrenched, corrupt, elitist, internationalist, political class and growing nationalist, patriotic fronts in the United States and globally. Not realizing the magnitude of the political Pandora’s Box that Trump was unleashing, for months the Enlightened Western political Establishment has attempted to dismiss him as political misfit, fool, and barbarian. Too late, the genie has already been unleashed from the bottle. The di has been cast, the Rubicon crossed. The Enlightenment political machine is witnessing its death throes and is in full panic mode. Happily, they are too blind to reality to realize the cultural revolution to which Trump has helped give a voice is only the first wave of a Tsunami that is coming to bury them.

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### Summary

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Key words: identity, mass immigration, global migrations, European Enlightenment, philosophy, politics, cultural revolution.