



PACIFIC TECH

THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY AFTER 18 MONTHS

Jeffrey Steinberg
Executive Vice President
Pacific Tech Bridge

Presented to the
Canon Institute for Global Studies
July 11, 2018

Revisiting the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election

- A circuit breaker on failed policies of:
 - endless wars
 - Wall Street bailouts
 - collapsing infrastructure.
- “Anti-Establishment” candidates polled 60% of the votes both party’s primaries
 - Donald Trump - Republican
 - Bernie Sanders - Democrat



Business Pragmatism (1)

- Trump wrote in his book *The America We Deserve* (2000)
 - “I hope I’m wrong, but I think we may be facing an economic crash like we’ve never seen before—probably sooner rather than later. The next president, or maybe the one we’ve got, could be in office for a stock market crash worse than the one in 1929. I’m not saying this crash will ruin us, but we have to anticipate it and know how to rebound. We better be ready as a nation to claw our way back up.”



Business Pragmatism (2)

- “American foreign policy has to be put in the hands of a dealmaker. Two great dealmakers have served as president—one of them was Franklin Roosevelt, who got us through World War II, and the other was Richard Nixon, who began our dialogue with communist China and forced the Russians to the bargaining table to achieve the first meaningful reductions in nuclear arms.
- “A true dealmaker can keep many balls in the air, weigh the competing interests of other nations, and, above all, constantly put America’s best interests first... The dealmaker is cunning, secretive, focused and never settles for less than he wants. It’s been a long time since America had a president like that.”



The Trump We Know; The Trump We Don't Know (1)

- Roy Cohn (1927-86):
 - One of Donald Trump's early mentors when Trump first broke into the Manhattan real estate market (takeover of the Biltmore Hotel via a \$40 billion tax abatement from NYC).
 - Cohn was the Chief Counsel to Senator Joe McCarthy during the 1950s Red Scare and went on to represent most of the heads New York Mafia families.



The Trump We Know; The Trump We Don't Know (2)

- John Trump (1907-85):
 - Uncle of Donald Trump; Assistant Director and Head of Field Services at MIT Radiation Lab during World War II for development of radar.
 - “We need to get past the idea that, because we’re the only superpower, we’re safe. My uncle [...] had a clear and compelling view of the future, including a strong belief that one day the United States might be subjected to a terrorist strike that would turn Manhattan into Hiroshima II.
 - “I always respected Uncle John, but sometimes found myself wondering if may be wasn’t exaggerating just a bit. Today we know that John Trump knew exactly what he was talking about.”



The New American Nationalism: America First is not America alone

- H.R. McMaster and Gary Cohn *WSJ* op-ed (30 May 2017):
 - “The president embarked on his first foreign trip with a clear-eyed outlook that the world is not a ‘global community’ but an arena where nations, nongovernmental actors and businesses engage and compete for advantage. We bring to this forum unmatched military, political, economic, cultural and moral strength. Rather than deny this elemental nature of international affairs, we embrace it.
 - “At every stop in our journey, we delivered a clear message to our friends and partners: Where our interests align, we are open to working together to solve problems and explore opportunities. We let adversaries know that we will not only take their measure, deter conflict through strength, and defend our interests and values, but also look for areas of common interest that allow us to work together. In short, those societies that share our interests will find no friend more steadfast than the United States. Those that choose to challenge our interests will encounter the firmest resolve.”



White House Team of Rivals (1)

- Economics and Trade: Ross, Mnuchin, Kudlow, Lighthizer, Navarro
- USTR Lighthizer *NYT* op-ed (6 March 2008):
 - “[M]any American conservatives have opposed free trade. Jesse Helms, the most outspoken conservative in the Senate for three decades, was no free trader. Neither was Alexander Hamilton, who could be considered the founder of American conservatism.
 - “For almost 100 years after the Civil War, the Republican Party (led by men like Lincoln and McKinley) was overtly protectionist. Theodore Roosevelt, a hero of John McCain’s, wrote that “pernicious indulgence in the doctrine of free trade seems inevitably to produce fatty degeneration of the moral fiber.”



White House Team of Rivals (2)

- National Security: Bolton, Pompeo, Mattis, Kelly, General Dunford, Haspel
- China -- not Trump -- is the greatest challenge to liberal democracy



Keeping Campaign Promises

- Leaving the TPP
- Renegotiating NAFTA
- Moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem
- Withdrawing from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)
- Dismantling Obamacare
- Demanding NATO partners meet 2 percent GDP commitments
- Meeting with Kim Jong-un



Trump Administration and Foreign Policy

- Trump's small working groups
- Trump's great state diplomacy
- Trump and PM Abe: A complex and critical relationship
- US-Japan cyber cooperation



Thank you for your attention



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