

Trump leads grassroots crusade against America's 'rigged' system

by Chris Uhlmann via gail - ABC (Oz) *Sunday, Nov 6 2016, 11:26pm*

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Three coal miners coming off shift at the Mountain Laurel mine in West Virginia sat at a long office bench doing time sheets, their faces and hands smeared black from their work.



Donald Trump

Trying to make conversation, I asked who they were backing in the World Series.

"It's good that it's run to all seven games," I said. "It makes it much more interesting."

One miner lifted his head and laughed.

"Of course it went seven games," he said. "They make more money if they play more games."

The miners paused for a moment to discuss baseball and all agreed: the World Series was rigged.

It echoed the core grievance voiced in many conversations in one of the poorest parts of America; the game of life was fixed to benefit the rich and the working man was being screwed.

All politicians were complicit because all supported the trifecta of evils that had erased their jobs and changed the character of their nation: globalisation, free trade and mass migration.

And the media was held in contempt for amplifying the lies of the ruling elite and pouring scorn on anyone who dared question the economic orthodoxy.

For people like these, Donald Trump is a game breaker and they are willing him to actually break a system that does not work for them.

The more offensive he is to the prevailing morality, the more they see it as evidence of his success.

The more he is denounced, the more they are convinced that his crusade is just.

Leader of a grassroots revolt

Support for him is plastered all over the rural landscape on the seven-hour drive from Washington to the deep south of West Virginia.

Former Republican speaker Newt Gingrich said Mr Trump had led a hostile takeover of the Republican Party by becoming the figurehead of a grassroots revolt.

Mr Trump knows it and now describes himself in almost messianic terms, as the messenger of a movement.

As he blitzed five states on Sunday, his well-rehearsed riffs gave voice to the many complaints heard in Logan County: the system is rigged by politicians, the media and Wall Street; you have been betrayed by people like Mrs Clinton, the archetypal political insider; and jobs have been exported, while crime and drugs have been imported through porous borders.

America is again a house divided in the grip of an uncivil war.

Those voting for Mr Trump are older, poorer, whiter, less educated and live in the vast rural expanses.

The dominant group is blue-collar men. The Democrats' voters are largely huddled in the north-east, on the coasts, and in major city centres.

Their white supporters are richer and college educated, with a high proportion of women. The poor in its ranks are blacks and Hispanics.

In the words of Abraham Lincoln: "Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God and each invokes his name against the other".

Grievances echoed in Australia, UK

The mining boom briefly spared Australia the kind of wrenching economic upheaval that is helping to rip America apart.

But as the money and jobs dry up, some of the same forces are at work outside the major city centres.

It was most obvious at the late election in regional Queensland where the vote for One Nation was over 15 per cent in electorates like Flynn, Hinkler and Maranoa.

There, the list of grievances is broadly similar, as is the sense that politics as usual is not acceptable.

It was the same demographic in the United Kingdom that drove the vote to leave the European Union.

There the new conservative Prime Minister, Theresa May, has got the message.

In her address to the Conservative Party she described Brexit as a "quiet revolution ... in which millions of our fellow citizens stood up and said they were not prepared to be ignored any more".

"It was about a sense — deep, profound and let's face it, often justified — that many people have today, that the world works well for a privileged few, but not for them," Ms May said.

Because the truth is that governments have overstated the benefits of free trade and underestimated the costs.

The truth is, the benefits of globalisation are largely reaped by the rich and the costs fall disproportionately on the poor.

It is a truth that is slowly being recognised by policy makers from Washington to Canberra. But there is one more truth — they have no answers.

Mr Trump does not have any answers either. If he was elected, his prescriptions would, no doubt, cause more pain and solve nothing.

The elite consensus in the United States is that Mrs Clinton should win.

The electoral map shows Mr Trump's pathway to victory is narrow and demands that every 50-50 contest fall his way.

What should disturb everyone is that a candidate as flawed as Mr Trump, a man repudiated by many in his own party, has run this race so close.

An equally disturbing question is how will his movement react to defeat? It will be seen by many of them as the final proof that the game is rigged.

The best hope is that the revolution remains quiet.

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[Note what Obama has done to the word 'hope,' sold out on everything! Clearly Mr Uhlmann, hope is a word used when there is no hope, though you may have inferred same. It's about time Oz journalism ceased being led by the distractive 'packaged news' that issues from the CFR, an American elite media-directing organisation, where of course people like you, me and journalists of integrity are not allowed to soil its carpets; only the disconnected elite are allowed to attend its meetings, where members and guests engage in mutual mesmerism and discuss their mistaken belief that they remain in control. What a laugh!]

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-11-07/donald-trump-and-the-uncivil-war/8002650>

Jungle Drum Prose/Poetry. <http://jungledrum.lingama.net/news/story-2401.html>