

Trump, Backflip Artist Extraordinaire

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Russia, Beware of Trump U-Turns

Russia has cautiously welcomed the US presidency of Donald Trump, but still Moscow is wisely keeping a wait-and-see position on whether it can work with the new White House occupant to improve international relations.

Trump's oft-stated desire to restore [friendlier relations](#) with Russia and his comment last week that he would trust Russian leader Vladimir Putin as much as he would Germany's Angela Merkel are all to be welcomed as apparent steps toward a more sane US policy.

However, there remain big questions about Trump's reliability in following through.

Trump's apparent aspirations for normalizing relations with Russia are certainly more promising than the aggressive, [Russophobia](#) that has been the staple of Washington's policy under his predecessors, Barack Obama and George W Bush. But can the former business mogul deliver?

There's more than a sneaking feeling that the billionaire property magnate turned politician [says](#) a lot of things which he subsequently flatly contradicts. It's not clear if this trait is due to willful deception, or less maliciously, due to a feckless, short attention span. Either way, the upshot is a character of questionable integrity.

Over the weekend, following Trump's inauguration as the 45th president of the United States, we got more of a flavor of his vacillating brand.

On Saturday, the first full day as president, Trump's first official duty was to visit the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency, at Langley, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from his White House residence in Washington DC.

There he lavished the agency with praise and gratitude, saying he was "1,000 per cent" in support of its intelligence work. Trump also scoffed at media reports that he was involved in a feud with the [CIA](#). "No-one supports you as much as I do," said Trump to cheering agency staffers.

Now hold on a moment. Trump was indeed very publicly running a battle with the CIA and other US intelligence agencies before and after the election on November. He had initially denounced their claims that Russia had hacked the elections as "[ridiculous](#)". Later, he sort of retracted that, agreeing with their allegations against Russia.

Only weeks before his inauguration, Trump [slammed the CIA](#) for "Nazi" practices over leaks to media outlets that the agency had briefed him about allegations of Russian blackmail.

Some observers have noted approvingly that this abrasive attitude from Trump towards the CIA indicated a bold independence from the shadowy un-elected power centers of the US - the so-called Deep State.

But instead what we saw over the weekend was President Trump making it a priority to coddle the spooks who act as the muscle behind the Deep State. Just remember the phrase: "I'm a 1,000 per cent behind you." Rather different from John F Kennedy's vow to "splinter the CIA into a thousand pieces".

The CIA is one of the most criminal, murderous secret agencies ever in the history of the world - which has been essential for the projection of American power. It is involved in everything from assassinating foreign leaders, to overthrowing democratic governments in place of murderous regimes, to covertly arming terrorist proxies.

For Trump to rush over to Langley as his first order of business on his first day in office and to exalt an agency known informally but more accurately as "Murder Inc", is a disturbing sign of where his priorities lie.

The following instances are not meant as a comprehensive list of other Trump U-turns, but there's enough contained here for serious doubts about his character.

Straight after his presidential swearing-in on Capitol Hill, Trump was hosted at a Congressional luncheon on Friday. In after-dinner toasts, he singled out Hillary Clinton and her husband, ex-president Bill, as "fine people" and requested they both stand up to receive applause from the hundreds of guests.

Say what? During the election campaign against Democrat rival Hillary Clinton, Trump had ferociously labelled her "Crooked Hillary" owing to Wall Street sleazy connections. Trump had also vowed to launch criminal investigations against Clinton and he encouraged his supporters at rallies to chant, "Lock her up! Lock her up!"

Another one of Trump's rallying calls was a promise to "drain the swamp" in Washington of big business interests, lobbyists and political place men. But so far he has stuffed his incoming cabinet with nominees who are billionaire personifications of the Washington swamp, appointing Wall Street financiers to positions overseeing government finance and the economy.

On a lighter note, but equally enlightening, was Trump's twitter rage at Hollywood actress Meryl Streep. After blasting Trump at the Golden Globes awards ceremony earlier this month, he hit back by describing the screen star as "over-rated". Though only a couple of years ago, Trump named Meryl Streep as one his favorite artists.

Getting back to a more serious vein, last week Donald Trump gave a wide-ranging interview to British and German media in which he pilloried Russia for its military intervention in Syria and blamed Moscow for unleashing a "humanitarian crisis".

That marked quite a change from Trump's earlier stated views on Russia's actions in Syria, when he praised them for wiping out Daesh (also known as ISIS/ISIL/IS) and other terror groups.

In his weekend fawning over the CIA, Trump was following on from the pathetic prostrations of his cabinet picks during Congressional confirmation hearings over the past two weeks. Nominee after nominee, including his pick for defense secretary General James "Mad Dog" Mattis, and his chosen new director for the CIA, Mike Pompeo, have cravenly adopted the establishment line that Russia represents a dire threat to US national security.

All this, and more besides, raises the question: can Trump be trusted?

When Trump says the US-led [NATO](#) military alliance is “[obsolete](#)”, what does that [really mean](#)? That the 28-nation war machine should be decommissioned? Or rather, does “obsolete” in Trump’s inscrutable thinking mean that the war machine needs to be revamped and reinvigorated?

There seems little doubt that the election of Trump was to be preferred over Hillary Clinton. Her open hostility towards Russia and willingness for military confrontation would have been disastrous.

By contrast, Trump’s stated willingness to engage positively with Russia is a welcome departure from the belligerent policy extant in Washington.

Nevertheless, there are more than a few signs that Trump is just a maverick big-mouth who says things with gusto only to flatly contradict himself later.

Perhaps Trump does personally want to [restore relations with Russia](#). Perhaps he will go ahead and meet Vladimir Putin in person soon.

So far, Moscow has cautiously welcomed Trump’s presidency. But Russian leaders know that the systematic causes of US belligerence run much deeper than one man can possibly contest.

Moreover, given Trump’s erratic thinking there are grounds for suspicion that the deeper system of US power – the Deep State – will be able to manipulate him into adopting its agenda. With regard to Russia and other perceived global rivals that agenda is one of hostility and conflict – not partnership. That’s how US capitalist power operates.

In which case, Russia is prudent to be wary of the Trump administration. Hope for the best, but expect a Trump U-turn at any time.

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[Indeed, it all adds up to an INTEGRITY DEVOID, flawed and untrustworthy personality, which are essential characteristics for the Office of president of the world's leading civilian killing criminal State. Though I shouldn't be too harsh, the only president in recent history to genuinely oppose the Deep State was JFK, and we all know what happened to him! Therefore we should also add COWARD to Trump's many flawed character traits. However, that is not to say the ruling criminal elite cannot be beaten, but it takes true grit, courage, cunning and savoir faire. Trump outfoxed the mainstream media by turning its methods to his advantage, unprecedented; the same could easily be done with the criminal ruling elite and their deep state apparatus. You COULD do it if you have the balls and nous, Donald, you already have them over a PUBLICLY EXPOSED barrel.]

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