

Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

by John W. Whitehead via darcy - ICH *Friday, Oct 13 2017, 1:35am*

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However, it takes a culture of entitlement and a nation of compliant, willfully ignorant, politically divided citizens to provide the foundations of tyranny.

As researchers Joris Lammers and Adam Galinsky found, those in power not only tend to abuse that power but they also feel entitled to abuse it: "People with power that they think is justified break rules not only because they can get away with it, but also because they feel at some intuitive level that they are [entitled](#) to take what they want."

That sense of entitlement and immunity from charges of wrongdoing dovetails with Richard Nixon's belief that "when the President does it, that means that it is not illegal."

For too long now, America has played politics with its principles and allowed the president and his colleagues to act in violation of the rule of law.

"We the people" are paying the price for it now.

Americans have allowed Congress, the White House and the Judiciary to wreak havoc with our freedoms. They have tolerated an oligarchy in which a powerful, elite group of wealthy donors is [calling the shots](#). They have paid homage to patriotism while allowing the military industrial complex to spread death and destruction abroad. And they have turned a blind eye to all manner of wrongdoing when it was politically expedient.

This culture of compliance must stop.

The empowerment of petty tyrants and political gods must end.

For starters, let's go back to the basics: the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Let's recommit to abiding by the rule of law.

Here's what the rule of law means in a nutshell: it means that everyone is treated the same under the law, everyone is held equally accountable to abiding by the law, and no one is given a free pass based on their politics, their connections, their wealth, their status or any other bright line test used to confer special treatment on the elite.

Let's demand scrutiny and transparency at all levels of government, which in turn will lead to accountability.

We need to stop being victimized by these predators.

As I point out in my [book](#) *Battlefield America: The War on the American People*, I'm not just talking about the political predators in office, but the ones who are running the show behind the

scenes—the shadow government—comprised of unelected government bureaucrats whose powers are unaffected by elections, unaltered by populist movements, and beyond the reach of the law.

There is no way to erase the scars left by the government's greed for money and power, its disregard for human life, its corruption and graft, its pollution of the environment, its reliance on excessive force in order to ensure compliance, its covert activities, its illegal surveillance, and its blatant disdain for the rule of law.

"We the people"—men and women alike— have been victims of the police state for so long that not many Americans even remember what it is to be truly free anymore. Worse, few want to shoulder the responsibility that goes along with maintaining freedom.

Still, we must try.

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