

## Everyone in Trumpworld Knows He's an Idiot

by Michelle Goldberg via gail - NYT Friday, Jan 5 2018, 6:36pm

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*The following recent article from the New York Times proves beyond doubt that the USA is a dysfunctional State. Indeed the title highlights what the ENTIRE WORLD already knows, YET, the powers that be in the USA are unable to oust a completely destructive, to himself and the nation, buffoon, cognitively impaired president -- and that is the point. Provisions exist for the removal of an idiot president BUT Congress and the administration are unwilling to make the necessary moves. Why? Simply due to the fact that the NATION itself is reflected in the president, it is DYSFUNCTIONAL and unraveling as I write. Cognitively impaired Trump singlehandedly has done more to harm the USA than any other American in the history of the nation, and when you consider bumbling Bush and the evil Cheney administration that's a BIG call.*



*ALL mature, sane and competent adults learn to deal with critical problems that are likely to sink the ship, BUT not Congress or the administration, which forces are easily able to remove a mentally disturbed, pathologically flawed individual from the most powerful position in the land. A very poor and revealing show (circus) indeed. Goodbye America!*

Article follows:

One of the more alarming anecdotes in "Fire and Fury," Michael Wolff's incendiary new book about Donald Trump's White House, involves the firing of James Comey, former director of the F.B.I. It's not Trump's motives that are scary; Wolff reports that Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner were "increasingly panicked" and "frenzied" about what Comey would find if he looked into the family finances, which is incriminating but unsurprising. The terrifying part is how, in Wolff's telling, Trump sneaked around his aides, some of whom thought they'd contained him.

"For most of the day, almost no one would know that he had decided to take matters into his own hands," Wolff writes. "In presidential annals, the firing of F.B.I. director James Comey may be the most consequential move ever made by a modern president acting entirely on his own." Now imagine Trump taking the same approach toward ordering the bombing of North Korea.

Wolff's scabrous book comes out on Friday — the publication date was moved up amid a media furor — but I was able to get an advance copy. It's already a consequential work, having precipitated a furious rift between the president and his former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, who told Wolff that the meeting Donald Trump Jr. brokered with Russians in the hope of getting dirt on Hillary Clinton was "treasonous" and "unpatriotic." On Thursday the president's lawyers sent a cease-and-desist letter to Wolff's publisher, Henry Holt, demanding that it stop publication, claiming, among other things, defamation and invasion of privacy. This move would be fascistic if it weren't so farcical. (While some have raised questions about Wolff's methods, Axios reports that he has many hours of interviews recorded.)

There are lots of arresting details in the book. We learn that the administration holds special animus for what it calls "D.O.J. women," or women who work in the Justice Department. Wolff writes that after the white supremacist mayhem in Charlottesville, Va., Trump privately rationalized "why someone would be a member of the K.K.K." The book recounts that after the political purge in Saudi Arabia, Trump boasted that he and Kushner engineered a coup: "We've put our man on top!"

But most of all, the book confirms what is already widely understood — not just that Trump is entirely unfit for the presidency, but that everyone around him knows it. One thread running through "Fire and Fury" is the way relatives, opportunists and officials try to manipulate and manage the president, and how they often fail. As Wolff wrote in a Hollywood Reporter essay based on the book, over the past year, the people around Trump, "all — 100 percent — came to believe he was incapable of functioning in his job."

According to Wolff, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Reince Priebus, the former chief of staff, called Trump an "idiot." (So did the media mogul Rupert Murdoch, owner of Fox News, though he used an obscenity first.) Trump's chief economic adviser, Gary Cohn, compares his boss's intelligence to excrement. The national security adviser, H. R. McMaster, thinks he's a "dope." It has already been reported that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called Trump a "moron," which he has pointedly refused to deny.

And yet these people continue to either prop up or defend this sick travesty of a presidency. Wolff takes a few stabs at the motives of Trump insiders. Ivanka Trump apparently nurtured the ghastly dream of following her father into the presidency. Others, Wolff writes, told themselves that they could help protect America from the president they serve: The "mess that might do serious damage to the nation, and, by association, to your own brand, might be transcended if you were seen as the person, by dint of competence and professional behavior, taking control of it."

This is a delusion as wild, in its own way, as Trump's claim that the "Access Hollywood" tape was faked. Some of the military men trying to steady American foreign policy amid Trump's whims and tantrums might be doing something quietly decent, sacrificing their reputations for the greater good. But most members of Trump's campaign and administration are simply traitors. They are willing, out of some complex mix of ambition, resentment, cynicism and rationalization, to endanger all of our lives — all of our children's lives — by refusing to tell the country what they know about the senescent fool who boasts of the size of his "nuclear button" on Twitter.

Maybe, at the moment, people in the Trump orbit feel complacent because a year has passed without any epic disaster, unless you count an estimated 1,000 or so deaths in

Puerto Rico, which they probably don't. There's an old joke, recently cited by Josh Marshall of Talking Points Memo, that describes where we are right now: A guy falls from a 50-story building. As he flies by the 25th floor, someone asks how it's going. "So far, so good!" he says.

Eventually, we'll hit the ground, and assuming America survives, there should be a reckoning to dwarf the defenestration of Harvey Weinstein and his fellow ogres. Trump, Wolff's reporting shows, has no executive function, no ability to process information or weigh consequences. Expecting him to act in the country's interest is like demanding that your cat do the dishes. His enablers have no such excuse.

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