

# *Musings – just in case anyone you know is missing this?*

by Neil Cairns

*Being an ardent but very amateur student of history, I have come to the conclusion that, as the saying goes, “the more things change, the more they stay the same”, or perhaps put slightly differently, “there is nothing new under the sun.”*

These observations have been reconfirmed so often, that when they happen again for the umpteenth time, one is not really surprised, except when the observation takes on a frighteningly real and immediate urgency, and, alarmed, one appreciates that what is being witnessed is an echo of what has happened before with disastrous consequences.

All of this stems from a recently observed article which dealt with Fascism and some of its defining characteristics. Let us look at 14 of those characteristics and see if they remind us of anything happening on the biggest of stages, right in front of our eyes, right now:

1. **Powerful and continuing nationalism:** Have you heard anyone, (and those surrounding him), repeatedly referring to their nation as being the “greatest in history” and that their nation’s rights should trump, (if you’ll pardon the dreadful pun), those of any other nation, including where it means unilateral abandonment of treaties with formerly friendly nations?

2. **Disdain for the recognition of human rights:** We are not “merely” talking here about unwinding what many may consider the extreme “woke” left, but rather the trampling of even mainstream rights around citizenship, employment rights and health.

3. **The Identification of enemies as a unifying cause:** From Mexicans to Chinese, and any minority you choose to identify as “them.”

4. **The supremacy of the military:** apparently the US is militarily weak ???? and will be ramped up to new heights of power and destruction, (despite a reducing military budget?), to what end, unless of course it’s to deal with those in point 3 above and point 7 below?

5. **Rampant sexism:** I guess when the man in charge has settled a number of sexually related cases, and sexual assault cases against himself, so avoiding nasty publicity, and been convicted of paying hush money to porn stars, then it follows that the tone is set. That’s before, according to the same character’s assertion, that its perfectly acceptable to grab women by their private parts.

6. **Controlled mass media:** with Zuckerberg and Musk on the stage at the inauguration, it was clear what was coming. Then “fact checkers” were removed from their social media pages, and an unelected controller of “the message” to millions of people via social media, gets a seat at the top table, and just like that, disinformation Armageddon is upon us. Welcome to the “post truth” world, where the “truth” will be what people want it to be, or what social media tells them it is, and what AI algorithms

7. **Obsession with national security:** Ask Canada, Greenland, Panama, or the Gazans if they have been consulted over the requirement that the US have their territory for the US’s national security?

8. **Religion and Government and intertwined:** Does printing and selling a “Trump bible” which features the addition of the US Constitution before Genesis need any further explanation?



9. **Corporate power is protected:** Simple question: Who stands to benefit most from the decision to abandon all “green” energy alternatives and increase coal and oil output and consumption? Why does this administration want to do away with corporate governance and ethics authority? Could it have anything to do with the man in charge himself being a convicted felon on dozens of corporate governance infractions. Again, the tone is set at the top.

10. **Labour power is suppressed:** a little more nuance here and less obvious correlations. Dismissing thousands of workers for efficiency purposes may sound prudent, and it may even be so. Of course, if it stops at efficiency dismissals and doesn’t include dismissing or suppressing uncomfortable hinderances to the exercise of more nefarious purposes will be the test.

11. **Disdain for Intellectuals and the arts:** The Arts have flown under the storm for now as far as I can see. Replacing a four star General with a complete novice to a key national security post, or firing the scientists who maintain the nuclear weapons and then having to quickly rehire them....oops, as well as an absolute plethora of national appointments of individuals to key positions who are patently unqualified for such roles, but who nod their heads as required, provide ample evidence for the dumbing down of governance competence. All of this centralizes power in the hands of the ones to whom such “unqualifies” owe their positions.

12. **Obsession with crime and punishment:** For a population tired and threatened with crime and the influx of illegals, this is an easy sell. Nobody has an issue with a tough line on crime and its consequences except when the enforcers of such measures don’t play by the very rules, ( as enshrined in the Constitution...the same one as found in the front of the Trump bible), which they are purportedly seeking to uphold. Mass detentions, trade tariffs with Canada over their 27lb contribution to the US’s Fentanyl nightmare, the re-activation of the Guantanamo detention facility..... watch this space.

13. **Rampant cronyism and corruption.** Cronyism is already an absolutely obvious reality throughout the administration. We, in SA, know what that looks like and smells like....and we know what followed that here.....and it will do the same there.

14. **Fraudulent elections of the inference thereof:** I don’t even have to explain this one. Amazing how the same system which was so broken, fake, and fraudulent four years ago when the result didn’t go the “right” way, is all of a miracle, now legitimate.

If this was a test, you could mark this as an easy 12 out of 14. That is a solid 85.7% odd, which is better than a healthy pass rate by a considerable margin.

I am not calling Trump, or his administration, fascist, but the current trajectory, coupled with the stated intent as documented in their Project 2025 playbook, of the patent subversion of the Constitution and replacement with accountability only to the President, needs to be acknowledged.

The euphoria of those who delight in the pace and vigour of the current action miss the incredible danger which lurks immediately below the surface of every one of these points. History has seen this before.

***We don’t need social media to tell us “the truth”, we just need to open our eyes.***

