**DONALD TRUMP AND THE LEGACY**

**OF MAKE AMERICA GREAT**

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**Introduction**

Donald Trump began his Presidency by campaigning on the promise to make America great again.

Many who voted for him thought that they would be getting a President who understood the

importance of executive leadership. Instead, Donald Trump made a mockery of the phrase by sowing

discord and creating a level of divisiveness not seen since the civil war days of Andrew Johnson.

Both Presidents share the distinction of being impeached during their first term of office and both

Presidents failed to attend the inauguration of their successor. But only Donald Trump has the unique

distinction of having been impeached twice during his time in office.

In February 2021, Donald Trump underwent a second impeachment trial in the United States

Senate accused of having incited the mob violence that became the January 6, 2021 insurrection.

As expected, the Senate did not have enough votes or political will to convict the former President.

But in the years ahead, Donald Trump will face an altogether different kind of justice system known

as the Court of Public Opinion. The Court of public opinion is a space that delivers reputational

justice; that is, a final verdict on legacy. Stated differently, how will future historians, the mainstream

media, political commentators and the general public remember Donald Trump in the future?

Donald Trump was unique among American Presidents having never held political office before.

His lack of political experience and impulsive leadership style led to a tumultuous four years in office.

So we begin by asking the question; did Donald Trump make America great? Let’s consider the

evidence.

**The Court Of Public Opinion – Opening Arguments**

**Presidential Leadership and the Democratic Electoral Process**

Did Donald Trump make America great by undermining the democratic electoral process by casting

doubt about the integrity of the 2020 Presidential elections? Did he do so by encouraging his

supporters to take to the streets and assault the U.S. Congress? On January 6, 2021 the United States

Capitol building was stormed by a mob of Donald Trump supporters in an attempt to overturn his

defeat in the 2020 Presidential election.[[1]](#endnote-1) Trump stoked the fires of this riot and violent attack when

he urged his supporters to come to Washington, the day Congress was scheduled to certify the election

of President elect Joe Biden. Then, in an ominous tweet and warning to lawmakers, he said:

I hope the Democrats, and even more importantly, the weak and ineffective RINO   
[Republican in name only] section of the Republican Party, are looking at the thousands   
of people pouring into D.C. They won’t stand for a landslide election victory to be stolen.[[2]](#endnote-2)

The violent insurrection led to the lockdown of the U.S. capitol building and evacuation

of both Senate and House of Representative members. This occurred, but not before the death

of five people as well as extensive damage to the building’s interior. The Pentagon’s senior

military leadership described the January 6th assault on the U.S. Capitol building as “sedition

and insurrection.” Army General Mark Milly, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in a public   
statement said: “We witnessed actions inside the Capitol building that were inconsistent with

the rule of law. The rights of freedom of speech and assembly do not give anyone the right

to resort to violence, sedition and insurrection.”[[3]](#endnote-3)

The Capitol building insurrection gave America a glimpse of what it could expect had   
  
there been a successful effort to overturn the Presidential election. If indeed, the election had been

overturned and more than 50% of the country’s electorate had been discounted, there would have

been civil unrest in the streets the likes of which this country has never seen. And sadly, Donald

Trump would have been OK in allowing this to happen. It was more important for him to preserve

power at any cost, than in recognizing the value of bringing the nation together. In the aftermath

of the January 6th insurrection, former President Bill Clinton commented:

The assault was fueled by more than four years of poison politics spreading deliberate misinformation, sowing distrust in our system, and pitting Americans against one another.[[4]](#endnote-4)

This sentiment was fully on display at the January 6 House Select Committee hearings where

various testimonies confirmed that then-President Trump was a driving force in the push to overturn

his election loss. The former President was told by members of his own administrative staff as well

as various appointees that he had lost a free and fair election. One of those appointees was none other

than Attorney General William Barr who testified that he had three separate conversations with the

president from late November to early December 2020 in which he told Trump that the stolen-election

claims were “bullshit.” [[5]](#endnote-5) Nevertheless, the President was fully invested in trying to change the

election outcome. He contacted state officials in various states including Arizona, Pennsylvania and

Georgia. Arizona Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers testified that he received multiple post-election

calls from Trump and his attorney Rudy Giuliani in which the former president urged Bowers to use

his position in the statehouse to decertify Biden’s upset win. Both Trump and Giuliani did the

same with Georgia secretary of state Brad Raffensperger where they urged the Republican to “find”   
  
enough votes to overturn the result in Georgia and declare him the winter.[[6]](#endnote-6) In a taped phone   
  
conversation obtained by the *Washington Post*, Trump asserted,

The people of Georgia are angry, the people of the country are angry. And there’s

nothing wrong with saying, you know, that you’ve recalculated.

Raffensperger responded: “Well, Mr. President, the challenge… is, the data you have is wrong.”[[7]](#endnote-7)

**Presidential Leadership and the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Did Donald Trump make America great by exercising the proper leadership during the time of the

Covid-19 Pandemic crisis? Throughout most of 2020, Trump dismissed the severity of the pandemic

as something that would disappear on its own. His failure to wear a mask in multiple public settings

(as well as during his political campaign stops) sent a mixed message to the American public.   
  
It was later reported by *Washington Post* journalist Bob Woodward in his book *Rage*, that the   
  
President was briefed and knew about the severity of the Covid-19 virus as early as February 2020.[[8]](#endnote-8)   
  
A coronavirus-crisis sub-committee within the U.S. House of Representatives released a report   
  
documenting 47 instances in which government scientists had been sidelined or their

recommendations altered.[[9]](#endnote-9) And the report notes that the frequency of meddling had been steadily

increasing in the lead-up to the 2020 U.S. Presidential election. President Trump would later,

of course, contract the virus. In one of his many Twitter feeds, he declared. “I think this was

a blessing from God that I caught it.” The subtext of this message can be read as, *no big deal…*

*if I can survive this so can you*. In the last year of his term, Trump’s countless false claims about

the coronavirus muddied the U.S. response to the pandemic, which at the time of his stepping down

from office had killed over 450,000 Americans. It would seem that the only thing America was

great at is being the world’s leader in confirmed cases.

**Presidential Leadership and the Environment**

Did Donald Trump make America great by withdrawing American support for the Paris climate accord? This is a move that left the United States, the world’s second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, as the only nation to abandon the global effort to combat climate change. The Trump administration reversed an estimated 80 environmental rules and regulations. Soon after taking

office, Trump began to implement his "America First Energy Plan" which included a roll back   
of the Clean Power Plan which was one of the Obama administration’s signature environmental policies. The latter plan required the energy sector to cut carbon emissions by 32 percent by 2030.   
In 2018, the Trump led Department of the Interior announced plans to allow drilling in nearly   
all U.S. waters which was the largest expansion of offshore oil and gas leasing ever proposed.   
The Trump administration further supported energy development on federal land, including gas   
and oil drilling in national forests and near national monuments and parks. In April 2020,

the Trump administration issued new vehicle emissions standards, which was projected to increase   
carbon dioxide discharges by an additional billion tons, thereby, increasing U.S. annual emissions   
by about one-fifth.   
 For Americans and the world community, Trump’s environmental policies have had very   
real and practical consequences at a time when there is continuing increase in forest fires in   
California as well as countries like Australia, Russia and Brazil’s Amazon Rain Forest. There has likewise been an exponential increase in hurricanes along America’s gulf coast and the Caribbean basin. And while the U.S., and more specifically the Federal Emergency Management Agency, approved an estimated $140 million in assistance to Puerto Rico in the aftermath of hurricane’s Irma and Maria, the cause of such efforts was not helped when the President showed up to a San Juan, Puerto Rico church, for a photo op. of him throwing out paper towels. That image was seared in the minds’ of the general public as someone who didn’t understand the devastation of the moment.[[10]](#endnote-10)   
It was described by the foreign press as abominable and the mayor of Puerto Rico's capital, San Juan, labeled Donald Trump's visit to the island as "insulting" and called him a "miscommunicator-in-chief."[[11]](#endnote-11)

**Presidential Leadership and Global Affairs**

Did Donald Trump make America great by destabilizing this country’s relationship with its international allies? Indeed, among the many Make America Great legacies, none may be more consequential than the damage he has done to America’s standing among this country’s international allies. During the course of his Presidency, Trumps policy of America First has undermined this country’s leadership role and influence, including a system of partnerships and alliances that have steadily been built since the end of World War II. Since the start of his presidency, Trump

abandoned (or weakened) multiple treaties and agreements; most notably, NATO, the United

Nations based World Health Organization and the Paris Climate Accord while failing to

acknowledge those dictators who threaten these very same longstanding allies as well as America itself. His rhetoric and bullying tactics are a throwback to the fascist exhortations of the 1930s.

As Pete Buttigieg and Philip Gordon write:

His “America First” doctrine—with its ominous echoes of the 1930s—and indifference   
to the rule of law at home and abroad have left allies wondering if they can count on the   
United States; many have started to look elsewhere for more reliable friends and partners.   
The result is a world in which the United States is less safe, less respected, and less able   
to deal with the enormous challenges it faces.[[12]](#endnote-12)

Fortunately, America’s international allies respect the United States and the office of the

President. Many do not, however, respect Donald Trump the man. There is a difference as evidenced

by the comment of European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, hours before the

swearing in of President Joe Biden.

This new dawn in America is the moment we’ve been awaiting for so long… and that,

once again after four long years, Europe has a friend in the White House. The United States are back and Europe stands ready to reconnect with an old and trusted partner to breathe

new life into our cherished alliance.[[13]](#endnote-13)

The President of the United States has a responsibility to be a global leader and set a good example

on the world stage. The President represents the American people. But Trump’s special appeal

to his followers was his populist, unvarnished “tell it like it is” rhetoric. As writer George Packer

commented in an article for the *Atlantic* magazine:

Trump spoke to them openly, not because he couldn’t control his impulses, but   
intentionally, even systematically, in order to demolish the norms that would otherwise   
have constrained his power. To his supporters, his shamelessness became a badge

of honesty and strength. They grasped the message that they too, could say whatever

they wanted without apology.[[14]](#endnote-14)

Donald Trump kicked off his bid to become President by declaring the need to build a wall and   
to describe the shiftiness of Mexican immigrants: “They are not our friends, believe me. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

Or maybe this, in asking why we want “immigrants from Haiti and other African shit hole countries.” Trump has repeatedly characterized Covid-19 as the “Chinese virus, the Wuhan virus or the

Kung flu virus.” Such comments display a blunt, unvarnished crudeness for all the world to see. Those words would have very real and practical consequence in the months thereafter as many

Asian Americans found themselves being bullied or were the victims of hate crimes because of growing anti-Chinese sentiment brought about in-part by President Trump’s comments.

Words matter.

**Presidential Leadership and Personal Integrity**

Did Donald Trump demonstrate personal integrity in terms of his personal behavior? Donald Trump routinely promoted his personal business interests despite Constitutional prohibitions against doings so. In contrast to other Presidents, Trump did not set up a blind trust when he assumed the Presidency. Instead, the Trump organization profited from those businesses; most notably, the company owned International Hotel in Washington D.C., that took money from foreign governments. He also continued to promote his Trump-branded properties, spending roughly a third of his Presidency   
dining at his own restaurants, golfing at his own courses and sleeping at his own luxury hotels and resorts. He failed to reveal his personal tax returns and business records throughout his entire four years as President breaking a four-decade old tradition among Presidents and Presidential candidates.

Why is this important? Think of it as a simple background check on the person who aspires to hold the most important position in American government. In principle, he/she should have nothing to hide. But it would appear that Donald Trump did indeed have something to hide. In an investigative report by the *New York Times*, it was shown that the Trump organization sustained “chronic losses

and years of tax avoidance” and that the President paid just $750 in Federal income tax both in 2016, the year ran for the U.S. Presidency and in his first year.[[15]](#endnote-15) Moreover, he paid no taxes in 11 of 18 years according to his tax records.

On January 12, 2018, a story appearing in the *Wall Street Journal* revealed that just prior to the 2016 Presidential election, then Presidential candidate Donald Trump had arranged a payment

of $130,000 to adult film actress Stormy Daniels to prevent her from disclosing an affair they had

in 2006. The affair took place during the time he was married to Melania Trump.[[16]](#endnote-16) Ms. Daniels

later signed a non-disclosure agreement. For his part, President Trump steadfastly denied the allegations. Trump’s former lawyer Michael Cohen would later acknowledge having made the payment. In a *60 Minutes* interview that aired in March 2018, Ms. Daniels claimed that she was threatened to stay quiet about the affair.[[17]](#endnote-17) And finally, prior to the 2016 Presidential election,

the *Washington Post* reported an unflattering story of candidate Trump on a hot mic before

an interview with Access Hollywood.  In chatting with host Billy Bush, now co-host of NBC’s Today show, Trump talked about kissing women and grabbing them… Trump boasted:

I'm automatically attracted to beautiful - I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet.

Just kiss. I don't even wait. And when you're a star, they let you do it…” All of this   
 points to a basic question; what should the American people expect in their President?

And more importantly, what does this say about integrity, personal character and   
 making America great?

**Presidential Leadership and Administrative Effectiveness**

Did Donald Trump create a sense of trust and loyalty among the people who worked for him?

The word *Esprit de corps* is a term used in the military to describe a spirit of solidarity; a sense

of pride, duty and honor among the members of one’s team or group. One aspect of Esprit de corps relates to loyalty and how a leader treats his/her subordinates. Donald Trump had more turnover

in his Cabinet as President than any of his five immediate predecessors. Among the

notables, include such people as Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State; James Mattis, Secretary of Defense; John Kelly, Chief of Staff; Jeff Sessions, Attorney General; James Comey, FBI Director; John Bolton, National Security Advisor; Dan Coats Director of National Intelligence; Sue Gordon, Deputy National Intelligence Director; Kirstjen Nielsen, Department of Homeland Security

Secretary, Rick Perry, Energy Secretary; Andrew McCabe, FBI Deputy Director, Scott Pruitt, EPA Administration to name only a few of the 40 plus senior administrators that resigned from office

while he served as President.[[18]](#endnote-18) To be clear, there were many who served in the Trump administration that felt great affection and appreciation for the former President.

The most challenging aspect of all this was the method by which a person’s pending

completion time with the Trump administration was announced. The President of the United States

in his/her capacity as Commander in Chief sets the professional tone for the country at large. Nevertheless, it was not uncommon for the President to engage in public criticism of the person

both in the traditional media as well as via his Twitter account. He had very public disputes between himself and FBI Director, James Comey, Attorney General James Sessions, and his own personal attorney Michael Cohen to name only a few. There is never a right time to get into personal and

pretty quarrels via Twitter with the people whose work displeases or publicly disagrees with you.

That type of pettiness is undignified and has no place in the Office of the Presidency. In particular, was the former President’s criticism of the late Senator John McCain who was a genuine war hero, who endured over five years of torture as a Vietnam prisoner of war at the infamous Hanoi Hilton. One of Trump’s comments at the time was that McCain was only seen as

"a war hero because he was captured" and that he liked "people that weren't captured."

Another telling example was his treatment of Vice President Mike Pence who by any

objective measure was as loyal a colleague as one could expect. It is interesting to note that when Barak Obama left office, he gave the Presidential medal of freedom to Joe Biden. In contrast, President Trump strong-armed and bullied Vice President Pence, to use his authority to reverse

the 2020 Presidential elections during the electoral college certification. "I hope Mike Pence comes through for us. He pressured Pence both publicly and privately. When Pence tactfully told the president that it was not within his power to tamper with the certification process, Trump’s parting

gift to his ever-loyal vice president was a mean-spirited tweet that read: “Mike Pence didn’t

have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our country and our Constitution.[[19]](#endnote-19)   
By those words, he put both Pence and his family at risk during the time of the January 6th insurrection. There were chants of “hang Mike Pence” by the invading mob of Trump supporters.

**The News Media: Shapers of Public Opinion**

Presidents throughout the 20th and 21st centuries have regularly used different media methods to

control the general news narrative of their administrations. Franklin Roosevelt was the radio President

and played in the theater of the mind with his Fireside talks. John Kennedy was among the first

Presidents who understood the power of television made apparent thought his telegenic good looks.

Barack Obama understood the potential of social media and the value of doing television talk shows

by making himself more accessible to the general public. And Donald Trump harnessed the power

of Twitter and other social media platforms that allowed him to bypass traditional media and connect

directly to his supporters. In the Court of Public Opinion, Donald Trump will be remembered as

a 21st century demagogue. He was a political huckster who used his campaign rallies, staged photo

ops and the power of social media to do his bidding. He did so, all the while, criticizing the

mainstream news media by labeling it fake news because they dared to criticize him or stood in

the way.[[20]](#endnote-20)

Ironically, there was a time when Donald Trump genuinely liked and appreciated the news media. Prior to becoming President, he courted reporters by giving them access to a world of

celebrity and high-end living. His path to recognition was sprinkled with glowing profiles and magazine spreads that promoted a portrait of a smart, no-nonsense New York real estate man.

His office at Trump Tower featured many of those cover stories on the wall. This was further evidenced when NBC gave him his very own reality television show called *The Apprentice*.

The show featured a take-charge executive that was used to getting his own way. All that changed when he became President. For the first time, Donald Trump confronted a different kind of news media who were not there to sing his praises. Quite the opposite.

The news media, in this 24/7 American reality show represents the unofficial fourth estate whose job is to ask the tough questions and to hold those in power accountable for their actions. Give them additional reasons to question such as the deliberate withholding of one’s tax returns, Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election, an elicit relationship with adult film actress Stormy Daniels and a self-serving photo of a U.S. President holding a bible in front of Washington D.C.

based St. John’s church, and you have the makings of a highly skeptical press corp.

And so it was that Trump spent much of his 2016 campaign clashing with the media.

But it wasn’t until after he was inaugurated that he declared war on the mainstream media.

One afternoon in February 2017, while residing at his Mar-a-Lago resort, he unleashed a Twitter

feed in all caps that read: the “FAKE NEWS media is the enemy of the American people.”

He specifically cited the New York Times, CNN, NBC, ABC and CBS. By any objective measure

this was not going to be a winning strategy.[[21]](#endnote-21) And he would repeat the same assertion time and

again thereafter. These kinds of bullying statements were highly reminiscent of the kinds of words used by Fascist dictators during the 1930s. Say something enough times, stage the right photo op.

and a false claim is believed to be truth. Tell the public enough times that the 2020 Presidential election was stolen, or that a Democratic victory will lead to socialism – and such claims begin

to build traction among the disaffected. Add to it, the echo chamber of the Internet, where a person only encounters information or opinions that reflect and reinforce their own – and you have the makings of a conspiracy.

During his Presidency, Donald Trump did find media refuge in Fox Television news;

and more specifically daily news shows like *Fox & Friends* as well as guest appearances with commentators, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingram. But even conservative reporters at Fox News understand the larger mission of being a journalist. There’s a public perception price to be paid

if you’re viewed as an unofficial mouthpiece for President Trump or any other President for that matter. This became clearly evident on the night of the 2020 Presidential election when various

news anchors at Fox called the election in states like Arizona in favor of Joe Biden. And Donald Trump felt personally violated because honest reporters were simply doing their job.

Donald Trump’s use of the social media platforms Twitter and Facebook proved to be both

a strength and a liability. He often used both platforms to provide general commentary about

his administration’s various policy initiatives, praise those people and organizations who were his supporters while disparaging his critics and political opponents. At the same time, President Trump learned the hard way that when things go viral on the Internet, the results can be immediate and explosive. This was certainly the case on January 6, 2021 when a mob of Donald Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol building, involving a riot and violent attack in an attempt to overturn his defeat in the 2020 Presidential election. Among the many consequences was a decision by social media platforms Twitter and Facebook to suspend the accounts of then President Donald Trump.

Both companies decided that Trump's attempts to incite violence and undermine the democratic process were grounds for an indefinite suspension. The Facebook and Twitter suspensions proved

to be a defining moment for America's social media giants and a clear recognition of their far-reaching power. With a quick and unilateral set of decisions, a small group of media tech. executives deprived the President of the United States access to one of his most influential communication tools; thereby, curtailing his ability to command public attention from his mobile phone at a moment's notice.

**The Court of Public Opinion - Closing Arguments**

The one important characteristic that differentiates Donald Trump from his predecessors, is that

he is one of the few Presidents to serve in office having never held a politically elected position before.

Donald Trump came to the Presidency as the business man who was blunt, told things like they were

and would get things done. When future historians and political commentators someday write about

the Presidency of Donald Trump, they will do so through the lens of the January 6, 2021 insurrection.

They will focus on Trump's tortured relationship with the U.S. news media, his unwillingness to

concede the 2020 U.S Presidential election, his fostering of conspiracy talk that the 2020 Presidential

election was stolen, his strange and peculiar relationship with the alternative right, his tolerance for

violent right-wing extremism as evidenced by his botched handling of the deadly Charlottesville

protest in 2017 and his pettiness to the extreme when criticizing his political opponents. According   
  
to a Pew Research Center survey of 12,055 U.S. adults conducted between March 1-7, 2021, there

is a substantial partisan (Democratic versus Republican) gap in evaluating the Presidency of Donald

Trump. Among Democrats, nearly three-quarters of those interviewed (72%) say Donald Trump was

a terrible president, with another 17% saying he was a poor president. Only 4% of Democrats say Trump was good or great.[[22]](#endnote-22)

In contrast, many Republicans remain steadfast in their support of Donald Trump. They view the terms of his administration quite differently. To them, had Donald Trump followed the example

of his predecessors and conceded the 2020 Presidential election with some measure of grace and dignity, he would have been remembered as a disruptive but consequential populist leader. He was, after all, a President who presided over a strong U.S. economy, took a firm stand with China in terms of international trade, drew a hard line in the sand on immigration, helped advance political recognition for Israel, built a starting relationship with North Korea, revamped the U.S. space program, secured an originalist (conservative) majority on the U.S. Supreme Court, and authorized Operation Warp Speed to produce a Covid-19 vaccine in record time. Such initiatives and accomplishments were clearly recognized by his many Republican supporters. According to the

same Pew Research Center survey, Trump’s brand of political populism garnered him mostly favorable ratings among his supporters: 37% of Republicans say Trump was a great president,   
while roughly the same share (36%) say he was a good president. Just 10% of Republicans say   
he was a poor or terrible president.[[23]](#endnote-23)

Donald Trump’s lack of political experience became especially apparent in the final days   
  
of his Presidency. By not acknowledging President elect Biden’s victory and claiming election   
  
fraud, he directly torched his own Republican party and made the Presidential transition and   
  
managing the Covid-19 pandemic all about him. And make no mistake, his erratic behavior and   
  
claims of voter fraud contributed to the loss of Republican Senator’s Kelly Loeffler and David   
  
Perdue in the state of Georgia Senatorial election run-off. When asked why Republicans didn’t   
  
prevail in the election run-off, a senior Republican aide simply said “Donald J. Trump.”[[24]](#endnote-24)

Mr. Trump is the first President since Herbert Hoover to preside over the loss of the White House,

the House and the Senate in a single term.  
  
  
**Being a Leader for All Americans**

Donald Trump will be remembered as the second worst President in U.S. history; second only to

Andrew Johnson. As the successor to Abraham Lincoln, Johnson had the opportunity to heal the  
  
nation but instead invoked his brand of racism that set into motion the Jim Crow laws that lasted

for the next 100 years. And so it is, that Donald Trump will be remembered as a person who cared   
  
more about himself than he did the American people. Nowhere was this more evident than in the   
  
January 6th Congressional certification of the 2020 Presidential election and the insurrection that  
  
took place. Utah Senator Mitt Romney said it best,

We gather today due to a selfish man’s injured pride and the outrage of his supporters whom he has deliberately misinformed for the past two months and stirred to action this very morning. What happened here today was an insurrection, incited by the President

of the United States.[[25]](#endnote-25)

The President of the United States has a responsibility to be a leader for all Americans; not just

the people who vote for this person In times of crisis, the President has a singular responsibility

to provide a steady hand; a unifier during a period of uncertainty. America has seen many Presidents demonstrate such skill, whether it was Abraham Lincoln giving his Gettysburg address during the American civil war; Franklin Roosevelt in the aftermath of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor; John Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis; Ronald Reagan following the Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster; George H.W. Bush at the start of the Persian Gulf War; Bill Clinton following the Oklahoma City bombing, George W. Bush and 9/11, and Barack Obama in the aftermath of a mass shooting at the Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut. These moments become the acid test for great leaders. Since March 2020, the United States and the world at large have been fighting an altogether different kind of war. The enemy is an unseen pandemic whose viral effects proved to be as deadly as any pitched battlefield. The Covid 19 pandemic disrupted the world’s economy by forcing the closing of schools, business and government agencies throughout the world. This was Donald Trump’s crisis; his Presidential moment to lead. This was an opportunity   
to make America great in a very true and practical sense of the term. And therein lies the problem; the challenge of real leadership in a crisis situation versus the political flim-flam words of “Make America Great.” It is perhaps fitting that at the funeral of Senator McCain, his daughter Meghan   
in a moment of remembrance for her father said: "The America of John McCain has no need to be made great again because America was always great.” America’s greatness lies in the diversity, strength and authenticity of its people.

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