AFTER THE MID-TERMS EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

Trump is the **Blame Duck** President. As expected, he tweeted on his Truth Social site that: *"I wasn't on the ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE! Thank you for your attention to this matter."* Blame the voters (43% of whom said they had voted against him), but don't blame the President, that is the nature of this arrogant and entitled politician. But one, who recognising the scale and margin of the losses, wisely stepped back from contesting the results.

Not so much a statesman as a staleman, whom the world and his party has grown weary of. It is likely that Vance will take a more prominent role in the second half of the presidency. However, despite the drubbing of Trump, the cowardly Vance still can't bring himself to point towards Trump, instead he points at Iran as the cause of the electoral disaster. As Trump backs into a corner, he is closing the wagons by surrounding himself with loyalists like white supremacist Miller who is his new Chief of Staff.

Never before has the Presidency seen such ignominy. By all counts he has been the most unpopular President in living memory.

Trump personifies the adage about right-wing demagogues. They are like firework sparklers - they burn bright, furiously and then go out. When Trump was elected many on the left despaired. I was less concerned. Those on the right who vote for Charlatans like Trump can't be dissuaded by simple arguments to stop following these demagogues. But they make up for this once these demagogues are elected and then exposed, when actual experience replaces arguments and they taste what being betrayed and being used really feels like. Trump claimed he was going to drain the swamp, instead he monetised it at their expense. He taught them that forcibly deporting migrants did not improve their lives nor did it stop the laughing rich from getting richer, that the migrants were never the real problem. Despite ICE their lives got worse not better, while the lives of the rich got more opulent.

And this catalogue of betrayals and false solutions is causing a civil war to break out in the MAGA movement. The late Charlie Kirk's wife, Erika, who had taken over his mantle appealed to the MAGA community after his death: *I refuse to let the movement Charlie built die. It will only grow stronger, bolder, louder,"* That was before the election. And this after the mid-term elections: "*The biggest mistake conservatives can make right now would be to allow this moment to become another exercise in finger-pointing, in-fighting, or trying to secure their own political preservation,*" Grasping at straws following this demoralising defeat, this influencer could only grab at straws: "*Moments of disappointment can actually be moments of renewal and infinite opportunity,*" Dream on.

Broken promises are like broken glass, painful, catching the unwary underfoot, and painful experiences linger on. Some critics of the Democratic Party claim that the bi-partisan politics the party tops will engage in with the Republicans will lay the foundation for a future more accomplished fascist, not the self-idolising Trump. That this will be more consequential than Erika Kirk's exhortations.

They are wrong. The Trump Presidency was an inevitable phase the USA had to pass through; given neo-liberalism and it's disassociating effect on society, with parties bowing before it, the rise of the billionaire oligarchy domesticating social media with their resources and algorithms, and the siren call of easy solutions. It was an unavoidable episode sections of the working class had to work through. Many have learnt their lesson. They are now an audience for the revolutionary left at least in the USA.

In Europe we are an electoral cycle behind. The right in Europe has momentum in countries like Germany and France. But demagogues like Le Pen or Weidel will burn through their sparklers even faster than Trump did. History is accelerating and has done so for quite a while. Trump's approval rating remained near 40% throughout his first tenure, dipping only after the 2020 Presidential election he disputed. This time around, in his second term, his approval rating collapsed within a year to 35%.

In the meantime, the Democratic Party once again represents the *last chance saloon* for the ruling class. History has taught us that the primary role of the Democratic Party (DP) is to adjust to absorb the protest movement and stifle it. The Democratic Party with roots in the organised working class has been and always will be counter-revolutionary force in US politics. This was the case with the Occupy Movement and the Black Lives Matter movement, in both cases the DP demobilised the movement. In many states the DP has tracked left, electing professed Democratic Socialists, not mark you, the anti-capitalist kind of Socialist, but the safe pro-capitalist Socialist, the ones who want to turn capitalism into a fairer society and who would not hesitate to unleash the forces of repression against anyone promoting revolution.

It is not only the MAGA movement which faces civil war. The Democratic Party is not immune. It's left or progressive wing is stronger than before. But whether it will be strong enough to break the sclerotic hold of the conservative old guard who monopolise the NDC (National Democratic Council), the governing council, is up in the air. The precedents are not favourable, remember how Bernie Sanders' attempt at the Presidency was bureaucratically blocked a few years ago so that Harris could be nominated even though the Party knew she would gift Trump the Presidency.

Foreign policy.

It is likely that Congress will now play a more prominent role in foreign policy. Congress can only act as a handbrake on executive power, aka the Whitehouse, as this article argues.

There will be changes in US foreign policy towards the Middle East. Congress will no longer ignore the fact that over 60% in the US oppose the war in the Gulf and 71% doubt that Trump can extract the US from the war. This means that: "*in the near term, the new Democratic-controlled Congress will take up a war powers resolution to force the administration to end the disastrous Iran war, which has been a U.S. strategic defeat and has exacerbated inflation in the United States, Europe, and beyond.*" Were Congress to assert itself, this cannot happen before Jan 3rd when the next Congressional cycle begins. Thus, if Trump is to act against Iran in concert with Israel, he has a narrow window of opportunity to do so. Trump has nothing to lose, the elections are over, the damage has been done. If Trump and Netanyahu do attack Iran, this will be the final conflict in this arena, meaning the fallout from this war could be as severe as it is unpredictable.

On the other hand, the DP is more disposed to intensify the war in Ukraine. It is likely to provide more aid to Ukraine shouldering more of the financial and military effort it offloaded onto the Europeans. And there is going to be a greater alignment with Europe, a step away from the Trump sarcasm dressed up as diplomacy.

Once again there is a narrow window of opportunity for Trump to engage with Moscow. The Kremlin has agreed to talks in Abu Dhabi next week at the behest of the USA. The collapse of Ukraine and the prospect of millions of Ukrainians flooding over borders to escape the cold and hunger has made the

Europeans more amenable to talks. Zelensky who is more often outside of Ukraine than in it, has said he will be attending.

Whether the US will bend to Iranian or Russian red lines is yet to be seen. The West has been duplicitous in all the negotiations it has engaged in thus far. Talks on the side of the USA have always had two purposes, firstly to buy time to achieve military objectives and secondly to mollify Russia so that the special operation would not escalate into a full-blown war, which it now has.

But the West's negotiating position is weakening by the month. The US economy, now that the AI industry has hit a debt ceiling, is increasingly fragile. Peace will lower energy and associated prices helping with the cost-of-living crisis, but if a full-blown recession breaks out, the cost-of-living crisis will be superseded by a cost of jobs crisis as mass redundancies take place. In addition, the US military has been weakened as its inventory of weapons have been worn down. In Europe, Ukraine plays the same role as Iran did in the USA, a population opposed to the war and resentful of the tens of billions of Euros handed over to that country.

Thus, while the objective conditions supporting negotiations have ripened in both Ukraine and the Gulf, a breakthrough in peace talks is not assured.

Conclusion.

There is generalised rejoicing that Trump got a bloody nose electorally. On the other side there is misplaced hope that the DP will improve lives. Economics drives politics, and with the US on the verge of a recession and facing insurmountable debt, the room for the DP to manoeuvre is limited. Recognising this, many new Congressmen and women have indicated their preference for bipartisan rather than radical politics. Yes, Congress will rewind some of the Trump excesses, many of Trump's eager lieutenants will be investigated including Musk. There will be headlines, but headlines do not put food on the table and gas in the tank.

There is an old saying, the soft left opens the door to the hard right by failing the working class, the hard-right through their betrayals then opens the door to revolution. That door will be closed briefly by the DP. But objectively, the same economic conditions which propelled the Trump vote two years ago, then the DP vote today, continues and is even intensifying. The arrow points in the direction of revolution as the economy crumbles, wars beckon, the planet heats up and LLMs stalk the land.

But consciousness lags developments. This is particularly true for revolutionary consciousness. The dialectic remains in force; the more fertile the objective conditions, the more reduced is the threshold for the emergence of a transformational consciousness. We are in that era.

Brian Green, 7th November 2026.