

Daily Meditation 7-20-2026

An American President Preaches Death to American Democracy

Good morning.

We're discussing in today's meditation the war being waged on democracy in America, by an American president. Of course, it's not his first time. January 6, 2021 was another very memorable moment of the president waging war on American democracy. The same fellow, of course, five years later, four years later, erased the 1,600 convictions of the violence that all of us saw with our own eyes, on our own televisions, or else our computers and phones, in our own homes. Same guy, same story.

And the bottom line here in the talk on Thursday, was that he's gearing up to try to sabotage the election, the way he's done before. The plan being, if he loses (he's not specifically running this midterm), but if his endorsed people lose, and if his Republican Party loses, then it's a bad election. It's a close election. If they win, silence.

So, I shared with you some of the responses to his talk the other night, and there are a few more I'll share now, before we get into another topic. But in this article called "Trump's Favorite Show Brutally Snubs His Very Big News" in his talk this Thursday. We're talking here, of course, of Fox News, and to say the program "Fox and Friends," his most cherished program. They did not on Friday morning, the morning right after his talk, they did not even mention it once on their program. Brian Kilmeade, Ainsley Earhardt, and Lawrence Jones spent the show's three hours of runtime talking about the war in Iran, air quality across the United States, Texas floods, the FIFA World Cup, and a speech by Secretary of State Marco Rubio last week. Then they handed over to Dan Perino, host of "America's Newsroom," who also did not mention the president's so-called bombshell announcement the evening before. The only member of the network, Fox News, that mentioned it was Baier, and Fox had aired the program, the talk, 26 minutes of it, all of it on Thursday night. And afterwards, Baier said, "You just heard him make those claims that electronic voting machines are vulnerable and easily compromised. Fox News has not seen that evidence directly yet, and is not in a position to evaluate the accuracy of the president's statements at this time." This was following the talk as well, and the next morning, it was crickets in Fox News. So apparently, they did not find any means to back that accusation by Trump.

Of course, we have to remember, Fox News is the organization that in 2023, paid a \$787.5 million settlement. That's more than three quarters of a billion-dollar settlement, with Dominion Voting Systems, the company that had supplied election equipment across the country for the 2020 elections, and that went to court when Trump, after his losing, blamed it on the electronic counting systems. And won. And won "bigly, very bigly." Furthermore, proceedings revealed during the discovery process of that legal challenge, that Fox personalities and staff who put the claims on air, the claims that Trump bought into, did not even believe them themselves. Texts and emails showed hosts, producers, and fact-checkers privately deriding Trump's fraud allegations. Owner Rupert Murdoch, 95, said the same in his own sworn testimony.

So these are Trump's camp, who four years earlier rejected these claims of bogus machinery. And following this piece Thursday night, fact-checking has been flooding in, and Trump, as usual, has flunked fact-checking. And ABC and NBC refused to show the entire talk in the first place, and MSNBC cut it off 1/3 of the way through. But the president responded and said that ABC and NBC should lose their licenses for refusing to air his speech, refusing a license to have news programs because they did not air his speech, so laden as it was with flawed lies and hysteria.

So that's where we sit at this time. Seems to me Mr. president has embarrassed himself again, but he's at a state in his life where shame and embarrassment hardly matter.

But another embarrassment, and of equal importance to election denial, a pretend bogus election, occurred this week when Canadian wildfires were so severe that they spread smoke and poison all over the northern part of the United States Midwest and East. And one headline says air quality alerts remain for more than 100 million people across the United States on Friday, sparking concerns about Sunday's World Cup final in New Jersey, which is taking place even as I speak here. But Trump's response to this smoke and wildfires, which of course is generated mostly by climate change, is astounding: He wants to sue Canada!

Now this is the fellow who has gathered an entire political party behind him and said that climate change is a hoax. Here he is, living in Washington D.C., has buildings in New York City, part of the areas creating records today for heat, as is happening all over Europe as well, and so forth. And now Canada's wildfires, generated by the excessive dryness of the forests of Canada, and he wants to blame Canada, and says he's going to fine Canada, etc. etc., as if the smoke from wildfires or climate change itself, gives a damn about borders between Canada and the United States, or between Michigan and New York, let us say.

It's laughable, but it's also pitiful. And it's part of the danger and the nonsense that lies, no quest for truth, the quest for untruth and lies, that dominate so much of MAGA politics. This is the price we pay for it. And remember, that it is the Trump administration that cut wildfire research. There was an article in New York Times that says,

Labs at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Forest Service have analyzed the effect of wildfires, but the administration wants to shut them down. In recent months, the administration has moved to shutter several government laboratories that studied how wildfires affect human health, air quality, wildlife habitat, and forest ecosystems. Scientists say this could hinder efforts to protect people and the environment from wildfires as soon as this summer. The smoke billowing across much of the country Friday, heightened these concerns. So, since January '25, when Trump took office, scientists in the EPA's Office of Research and Development were analyzing chemicals in wildfire smoke, which includes toxic metals like copper, lead, zinc, and is operated one of the world's only labs that specialized in controlled human exposure studies. That lab was closed last summer by Trump and his administration. And at the time, a scientist who left EPA research says that this national research program means there is likely to be less organized and strategic research to address threats from wildfire smoke.

So here we have this immense irony: the same president who shut down the scientific labs that explore wildfires and the smoke and what we can do about it, etc. and the health of human beings — he's in denial about climate change. And he wants to fine Canada for the smoke that's coming our way. Sign of our times.

Thank you. We'll see you next week.