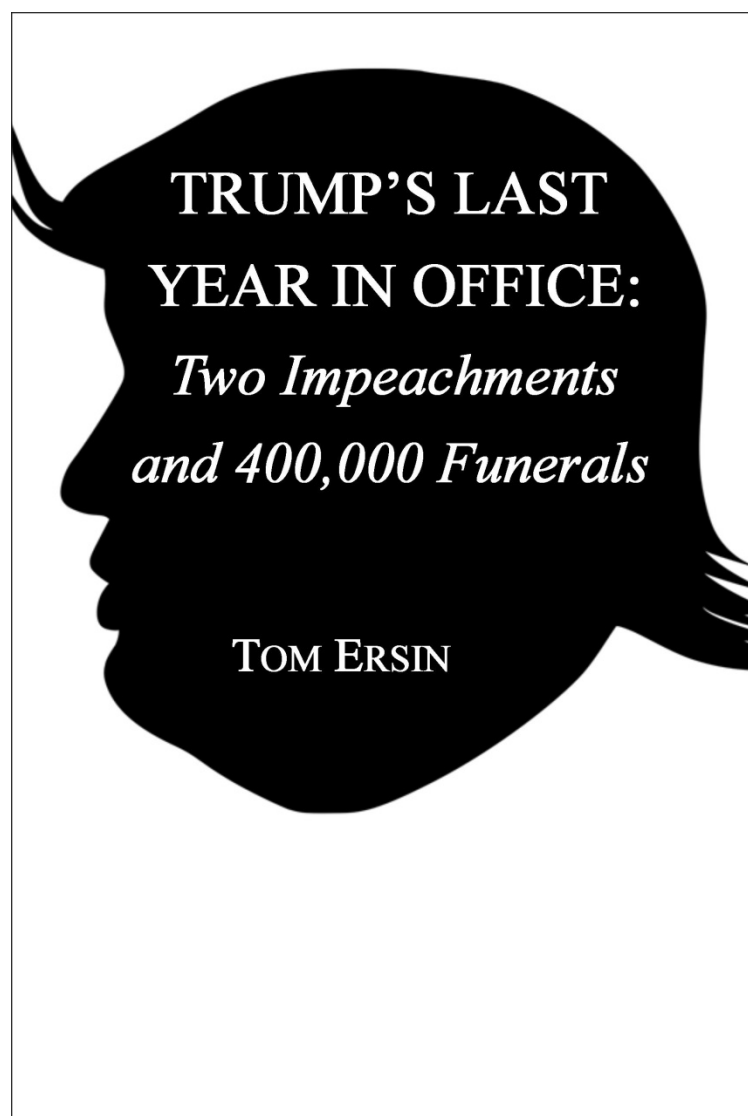


Trump's Last Year in Office: Two Impeachments and 400,000 Funerals

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It couldn't get any worse — until COVID, when 200,000 Americans died needlessly.

By late 2020, Mr. Trump's presidency had descended into catastrophic pandemic malfeasance, impeachment, and a near-2nd Great Depression. The November election truly was going to be the most important of our lifetimes.

Unlike the rom-com film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the story in this book, *Trump's Last Year in Office: Two Impeachments and 400,000 Funerals*, was a preventable tragedy. From President Trump's extortion of Ukraine's president, to his intentional venal mishandling of COVID-19, to fomenting a violent takeover of Congress and then implementing a literal coup attempt to retain power after his reelection loss, it was all preventable. How? By promoting a more critically thoughtful electorate. By nurturing a more empathetic population, less susceptible to selfish grievance and more conscious of humanity as a whole.

Donald refused to swallow his Nov. 3, 2020, loss. Aides thought if they gave him time, he would accept reality. December came and went. The campaign filed and lost 60-some state and national election challenges, decided by many GOP-and/or-Trump-appointed judges, including six on the U.S. Supreme Court. No acceptance. Trump's own DOJ, DHS, FBI, and numerous Republican state election officials — after multiple recounts and investigations — said the election was fair and secure. Still no acceptance. President Trump's next moves threatened the country more than any time since the Civil War. ■

Unlike the rom-com film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the story in this book, *Trump's Last Year in Office: Two Impeachments and 400,000 Funerals*, was a preventable tragedy, a national apocalypse. From Mr. Trump's extortion of Ukraine's president, to the intentional venal mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic, to fomenting a violent takeover of Congress and then implementing a literal coup attempt to retain power after his reelection loss, it was all preventable. How? By promoting a more critically thoughtful electorate. By nurturing a more empathetic population, less susceptible to selfish white grievance and more conscious of humanity as a



whole.

Thinking observers know that Mr. Trump did more damage to the presidency, American governmental institutions, and the rule of law in his first three years as president than likely any U.S. chief executive before him. But fortunately he had been confronted with no serious global crises, at least no crises he himself hadn't created.

In early 2020 the crisis hit. A deadly pandemic brought the world to its knees. President Trump didn't cause the plague, but his jackleg response produced a conservatively estimated 200,000 needless COVID-19 deaths, half the U.S. total during his administration (based on documentation).

How? The president wanted only to project optimism in the 2020 election year. He thought leading on pandemic prevention and medical equipment production would interfere with national optimism. Doing so, he believed, would hurt his economy, cost him reelection, and remove the presidential immunity that had been shielding him from myriad legal and financial investigations and prosecutions. Instead he took the lead on playing down, ignoring, and politicizing the crisis.

The story of President Trump's last year in office also includes the obsequious enabling of his crimes and other depravity by almost all elected Republicans in Congress. They protected him in committees. They defended him in the media. And they shielded him with their impeachment acquittal votes in spite of the deadliest and most despicable atrocities ever committed by an American president.■



Trump's Last Year in Office:

Two Impeachments and 400,000 Funerals

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About the Author

Tom Ersin has been a full-time professional writer and editor since 2010 and holds degrees in communications and counseling. Ersin is a Macomb County, Michigan, long-time political observer and editor of current affairs magazine *GraniteWord.com*. He's written a half-dozen nonfiction books on 21st century U.S. politics. His turn-ons are running his (good) dog, Bob Barker, and railing about the lack of critical thinking and civics studies in primary and secondary education.■

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Final Word
The Author
Milestones in the Trump Presidential Era

Press Release

Author Tom Ersin Tracked Donald Trump's Presidency in Weekly Real Time

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Book: *Trump's Last Year in Office: Two Impeachments and 400,000 Funerals*
(2022, 398 pages, \$15)

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Troy, MI, November 1, 2022 — GraniteWord.com has announced the release of *Trump's Last Year in Office: Two Impeachments and 400,000 Funerals* by Tom Ersin.

This volume is Ersin's history of the Trump presidency's last year. The complete book collection comprises 160-plus consecutive weekly roundup articles spanning 1,400-plus pages charting Donald's administration from the perspective of an avid (compulsive?) political news consumer. Readers can think of it as an in-depth every-Thursdays recap of all the news they were too busy to consume because they had a life and didn't realize the gravity of the dysfunction and corruption. *Trump's Last Year in Office: Two Impeachments and 400,000 Funerals* comprises a sometimes humorous but serious chronological historical account of Mr. Trump's final year in the Oval Office, interspersed with quotes, headlines, and commentary. It's all here in one place. When you see Mr. Ersin's opinion you'll know it. Much more often, when you see facts, quotations, and details, their accuracy has been backed up by careful research and citation.

The first historical volume [2017-2019] covers the first half of Donald Trump's presidency, featuring the Mueller investigation, Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Maria, North Korea threat, Asia tour, Helsinki Trump-Putin summit, Brett Kavanaugh Supreme Court nominee hearings, and 2018 midterm elections.

The second historical volume [2019-2021] covers the second half of President Trump's administration, featuring the Mueller report, Sharpie-gate, Impeachment No. 1 (extortion of Ukraine), COVID-19 pandemic, Black Lives Matter movement, 2020 presidential election, Insurrection of January 6, and Impeachment No. 2 (Incitement of Insurrection).

Trump's Last Year in Office: Two Impeachments and 400,000 Funerals and excerpts are available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For review copies, interview requests, or more information, contact Tom Ersin at tom@graniteword.com. (2022, [GraniteWord.com](https://www.GraniteWord.com), \$15)

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Excerpt

5/21/20 — 2020 Grads: No Presidential Role Model (or Soup) for You

COVID-19 Deaths

2/06/2020 — U.S.: 1 | World: 620
3/05/2020 — U.S.: 12 | World: 3,293
4/02/2020 — U.S.: 5,137 | World: 48,284
5/07/2020 — U.S.: 73,431 | World: 264,189
5/21/2020 — U.S.: 93,439 | World: 328,565

(COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University; approximately 8 a.m. each day)

Looking Back

Last Saturday night I watched the national virtual graduation ceremony for 2020 high school seniors. Their literal ceremony, prom, and standard end-of-year senior shenanigans were preempted by a once-in-a-century deadly pandemic. Didn't recognize half the performing artists. To be expected. Did recognize the keynote speaker (Barack Obama). So nice to see his comforting face and hear his reassuring tone.

As those of us born before 2002 approach the anniversary of our own high school graduation, I can't help but review the time gone by. Contrary to the universal admonition not to beat oneself up over past mistakes and poor decisions, I still find myself nursing self-inflicted bruises and aching bones over taking the wrong forks in the roads (*— thanks to Yogi Berra, New York Yankees*). So many things I would've done differently except for meeting and marrying my tremendous partner of 38 years who has kept me and the family as steady as possible.

But I'm where I am now. Don't you wish you could grab those 2020 seniors by the throat and point them in the right direction? No, I know. Most will find their own right direction. And as several parents on the show averred, they've learned more from their graduating offspring than vice versa.

So this is my goal going forward: to resist set-in-my-ways age inertia, to keep learning from others, especially young adults, and to keep strengthening my empathy muscle. I might not have recognized the artists H.E.R. and Bad Bunny, but I'm up on Malala.

Role Models

Many of the graduating 2020 seniors will be role models in the years to come. In the meantime they *need* good role models now. Sadly the current president is not one.

In 1993 NBA star Charles Barkley, then a Phoenix Sun, famously proclaimed:

“I’m not paid to be a role model. I’m paid to wreak havoc on the basketball court.”

Barkley had been embroiled in several un-role-model-like incidents including attempting to spit on a racial-slur-slinging heckler sitting courtside during a game. Charles’ celebrity spittle found its way onto an innocent young girl’s blouse. The incident made news at the time. To his credit Mr. Barkley later tracked down the girl and her family, apologized, and befriended them with complimentary Suns tickets.

Shortly after Charles Barkley’s not-a-role-model declaration, a fellow NBA star, “The Mailman” (he delivered on the court), Utah Jazz power forward Karl Malone, responded in a June 14, 1993, *Sports Illustrated* column titled “One Role Model to Another”:

“Charles ... I don’t think it’s your decision to make. We don’t choose to be role models, we are chosen. Our only choice is whether to be a good role model or a bad one.”

Ultimately Barkley role-modeled behavior to which we all wish our kids would aspire: He made a mistake, owned it, apologized for it, and made amends. In the years since, Charles Barkley has been a mixed role-modeling bag, a sometimes brawler but known as a man of humor and honesty.

It has been noted famously, even by supporters, that President Trump is not a role model mothers and fathers want their kids to look up to. In fact many parents of juveniles rush to change the television channel if the president is speaking and their children are in the room.

My contention is that you can’t think a president’s policies are good if you also don’t think he or she is a good role model for kids. The two are inextricably intertwined, joined at the hip, and several other redundant phrases meaning *tightly connected*. I’m with Karl Malone. To paraphrase: “Presidents don’t choose to be role models, they are chosen. Their only choice is whether to be a good role model or a bad one.” ■

8/13/20 — Trump Attacks Biden VP Pick, Kamala Harris; He Would've Attacked Virgin Mary

Joe Biden's VP Pick

On Tuesday Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden announced his choice for vice presidential running mate: Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.). Donald Trump and his campaign immediately accused her of being too soft on crime as a left-wing radical and simultaneously too tough on crime as California's attorney general.

Citing an additional disqualification for office, many Republican Party notables say she's "too ambitious."

The president pontificated shortly *before* the (anticipated) announcement: "Some people would say men are insulted" by Biden choosing a woman vice president. But he added that Kamala Harris would "be a fine choice."

After Biden's VP announcement, Donald called her "a phony ... Phony Kamala Harris." He said she was "nasty ... she was probably nastier than even Pocahontas" (Trump's ad hominem for Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.). He went on to characterize her as "the meanest, the most horrible, most disrespectful of anybody in the U.S. Senate" and the "most liberal." Mr. Trump then proceeded to mischaracterize grossly Sen. Harris' policy positions.

A Trump-supporting "friend" opined that latte liberals like me might think she's great but Donald will "tear apart Kamala Harris."

Joe Biden's VP Pick Doesn't Matter to Trump

Let's be clear: I did go through a brief latte phase. But my choice of coffee drink has been a working-class red eye — black, hot — for many years.

Let's also be clear: Donald Trump would attempt to destroy Biden's VP pick no matter whom she might have been, with mendacity, slander, mischaracterization, sexism, racism, ad hominem attacks, and more mendacity. Did I mention mendacity?

I responded to my "friend" that President Trump would tear apart the *Virgin Mary* if she were Biden's pick. I can hear Donald now:

"She had a kid without having *sex!*?! Give — me — a — break! She's lying. She's a phony. Phony Virgin Mary. Men are insulted by this claim. She's nasty, probably nastier than even Pocahontas, who got pregnant out of wedlock. Yeah, Pocahontas eventually married Johnny Rolfe, the guy who knocked her up, but the kid's birthday was weeks short of nine months after the wedding date.

“*Virgin Mary*?!?! Yeah, right. You know she cheated on Joseph to get pregnant because he swears he never moved on her. We can believe *him* — let’s just put it this way: Joseph was not that great with the ladies, OK? And that hair. Those clothes. But that’s another story. *Virgin Mary* is the meanest, the most horrible, most disrespectful of anybody coming out of Nazareth, and the most liberal! Where do you think her son Jesus picked up his radical left-wing socialist ideas!?!

“And she’s way too ambitious. It’s unseemly. Some people are saying, many people say she lobbied hard to be the Blessed Mother, beating out the other Marys — Magdalene, Clopas — who were much more qualified for the job.”

Speaking of Trump Mendacity

President Trump has been accusing former President Obama and former Vice President Biden of treason and spying in tweets, news conferences, and interviews.

“BIG NEWS! The Political Crime of the Century is unfolding. ObamaBiden illegally spied on the Trump Campaign, both before and after the election. Treason!”

(Trump, Donald, R-Fla., U.S. president; Twitter post; 8/5/2020.)

This has been debunked, disputed, disconfirmed, discredited, disproved, denied, disaffirmed, disallowed, disavowed, disclaimed, and every other synonym for *proved wrong* starting with the letter “d.”

We need to have White House reporters standing up at Trump news conferences and saying, “I’m sorry, sir, that’s a false statement.” One by one they would have their press credentials revoked. Wouldn’t it be great eventually to see a near-empty White House briefing room with only *Fox* and *OAN* sycophants lobbing softball questions? ■

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