



## They Can't Let Him Back In

### Description

**USA:** Since the long goodbye has about as much chance as Kamala Harris completing a sentence without cackling, Plan A is to use the Jan. 6 show trials to make it impossible for Trump to run again, or barring that, to win again. But that isn't working; at least, not well enough. They may have dented Trump a little in opinion polling, but not nearly enough to prevent him from getting the GOP nomination. Perhaps they still can; I doubt it, but who knows? But more likely, even if they do further damage, Trump will have plenty of time to get his numbers back up.

And the ruling class will surely help him in that endeavor by being ever-more radical, hateful, and incompetent. They have shown time and again that there is no moderation in them. They can't let up even a single mile per hour, not even when easing back is in their clear interest. Whether they are driven by the demands of their base, their own internal conviction, or some supernatural force, I couldn't say.

Plan B is for the Jan. 6 committee to lay the groundwork for an indictment of Trump. The Justice Department is already leaking that "seditious conspiracy" might be the charge.

Now, I personally believe that such a charge would be ludicrous. Seditious conspiracy, when it is charged at all, which it rarely was before Jan. 6, is typically reserved for the likes of Omar "Blind Sheikh" Abdel-Rahman, who tried to blow up the World Trade Center in 1993. And they are going to try it against a former president, for phone calls and texts ambiguously connected to a protest in which many walked through doors held open by Capitol Police, minimal property damage occurred, the only people who died were unarmed protesters, and which may have been a setup, or at least egged-on, by the feds.

I am under no illusion that I'm going to convince regime apparatchiks of any of this. However, if any are reading, I would ask them the following. I know you think it's perfectly obvious that "Trump Is Guilty!" and that anyone who doesn't agree is not merely insane, but A Danger to the Republic. But just as I know I can't convince you, I also know that you can't convince 100 million Trump supporters. Do you

realize that, too? Do you consider it a feature, not a bug?

Moreover, if the regime goes forward with this, it's going to try him in the District of Columbia's 77 percent Democratic and 92 percent virulently anti-Trump jury pool, which lately has been acquitting obvious Democratic miscreants and convicting Republicans on silly charges that never used to have been brought in the first place.

It's just a fact—perhaps, to many, a baleful fact—but nevertheless a fact that somewhere between a third and half the country is going to find this totally illegitimate and be outraged by it.

I know what some of our masters are thinking because they are already saying it: Justice must be done, come what may. We must stand on principle, consequences be damned. This sounds noble in the abstract.

“What if, somehow, Trump is acquitted or gets his case tossed out?”

Is it? I suspect some of them are thinking: *This is win-win for us. If we convict him, or damage him enough that he can't run, and there isn't a huge backlash, then mission accomplished. Or if there is, well, those people were already, or soon-to-be, insurrectionists and so we will be justified in unleashing the security state against them. Indeed, there are benefits to flushing them out now, before they are fully organized for the "Second Civil War" we know the insurrectionists are already plotting.*

At any rate, a conviction would all but ensure a Senate vote under Article I, Section 3, making Trump constitutionally ineligible to run (at least half the Republicans would sign on).

But what if, somehow, Trump is acquitted or gets his case tossed out? Then I think you will see the same indignant reaction, but from the other side. Suddenly it will be Blue America declaring all our institutions, and especially the courts, illegitimate. You might even see some attempts at blue secession, e.g., “Calexit.”

Plan C, if none of this works, is to have Trump declared ineligible under the insurrection clause of the 14th Amendment. This is riskier than Plan B. If they couldn't get a Senate vote in favor (and, absent a conviction, I don't think they could), it would come down to a mere court opinion. If you think Trump's base will howl over a conviction in a DC kangaroo court, wait until you see their reaction to some Democratic-appointed appeals judge saying Trump can't run. Even if the regime got the Supreme Court to uphold that 9-0 (and they won't), Trump's base won't accept it.

Plan D—just beat him at the ballot box—is also risky. The country is in desperate shape. Biden is enormously unpopular. Harris is spectacularly unpopular. Getting rid of one of them will be hard. Getting rid of both? The first black, South-Asian, and female vice president and heir apparent? Does anyone think the race-and-sex-obsessed Democratic base of 2024 is going to tolerate *that*?

And then who do they replace them with? Gavin Newsom? A *ciswhite male*? Even if they can get past that non-trivial problem, which they can't, Newsom has no appeal outside deep-blue America. I'm not saying he would certainly lose, but it's dicey as hell, especially with a demoralized base and the very strong likelihood that the state he governs will be deep in recession by election time.

Plan E is to cheat. I know what you are thinking. But I'm not talking about Dominion voting machines. I mean the kind of "pre-cheating" that the regime boasts about as "election fortification": change the rules in advance in ways that favor Democrats and hurt Republicans, especially in swing states. There is no question that they will do this. Why wouldn't they? It worked last time, and the more overt cheating they can avoid, the better.

by Michael Anton

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