

# How Do We Get Off the Road to Armageddon? Dr. Paul C. Roberts

By [Dr. Paul Craig Roberts](#)

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Region: [USA](#)  
Theme: [Intelligence](#)

Two days ago on October 14, [I posted my column](#) about a new **US Department of Defense Directive, 5240.01**, that radically alters the relationship between the US military and American citizens. In the new directive issued one month prior to the election, **the US military is authorized to intervene against American citizens and to use deadly force against Americans.**

I asked why such a drastic reformulation of long established policy unless the Democrats were setting up a coup in place of a lost election.

The dramatic change in policy requires more examination than my speculative question, but does not seem to be getting any attention.

One would think that those patriots who are convinced that the military will come forward at the last resort and save our freedoms should be alarmed by Department of Defense Directive 5240.01.

Those patriots who see Trump as America's savior should be alarmed by his response. In a Fox Business interview on October 13, Trump was asked if he anticipated any chaos following the announcement of the election results. Trump said not from his supporters, a surprising statement if the Democrats steal the election. Trump thought that Kamala's loss could result in disturbances from the woke left-wing, but "it should be very easily handled by, if necessary, the National Guard, or if really necessary, *by the military.*" So here we have it: [Trump has bought into Directive 5240.01.](#)

Having accepted the directive, how can Trump complain if the directive is used against him?

It is only a few days before the presidential election and Trump seems again to be in the clutches of advisors composed of the ruling elites.

Who are Trump's advisors? Do they have any sense? Why is Trump aligned with Israel's genocide of Palestine and attacks on Iran? Is Trump just another warmonger serving the military/security complex and Greater Israel?

Trump directs American hostility toward China, because of the lopsided trade deficit. But it was Wall Street that forced the offshoring of US manufacturing. The trade deficit results when the US corporations bring their offshored production home to America to sell. How can it be that Trump hasn't a single advisor able to inform him of the real problem?

We have to be grateful for Trump. He realizes that America is in dire straits, and he alone has emerged as anyone willing to do anything about it. But Trump is a real estate developer. He does not know issues and their history. His first term proved him to be a poor judge of people as he appointed to his government the very people he had declared to overthrow, and they overthrew him. Judging by his positions on DOD 5240.01, China, Israel, he has learned nothing and has no better advisors.

In my opinion it is essential that Trump be elected, because it will give America four more years. But the result is unlikely to be renewal of our country. Simply, the can will be kicked down the road.

It is difficult to rouse the American people to the realities that they face. Americans are the most insouciant of all peoples. They exist surrounded by oceans and friendly countries devoid of military potential. Americans have ruled the world because World War II destroyed all rivals. Americans might be beginning an acquaintance with hardship, having lived on credit card and student loan debt, but despite the deceptions their government inflicts on them — 9/11, Muslim Terrorists and weapons of mass destruction, Covid pandemic, Russian invasion of Ukraine, Iranian nukes, Chinese threat, Trump insurrection, Putin's resurrection of the Soviet Empire, the return of slavery by white supremacists- a large segment of the population still trusts the government that is destroying them.

So, what can be done?

How can an insouciant population deal with a ruling elite when the population doesn't understand what is happening?

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***Paul Craig Roberts** is a renowned author and academic, chairman of The Institute for Political Economy where [this article](#) was originally published. Dr. Roberts was previously associate editor and columnist for The Wall Street Journal. He was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy during the Reagan Administration. He is a regular contributor to Global Research.*

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