

The Great Election Fraud: Manufactured Choices Make a Mockery of Our Republic

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"Dictators are not in the business of allowing elections that could remove them from their thrones."—Gene Sharp, political science professor

The [U.S. Supreme Court was right](#) to keep President Trump's name on the ballot.

The high court's [decree](#) that the power to remove a federal candidate from the ballot under the Constitution's "insurrectionist ban" rests with Congress, not the states, underscores the fact that in a representative democracy, the *citizenry*—not the courts, not the corporations, and not the contrived electoral colleges—should be the ones to elect their representatives.

Unfortunately, what is being staged is not an election. It is a mockery of an election.

This year's presidential election, much like every other election in recent years, is what historian Daniel Boorstin referred to as a "[pseudo-event](#)": manufactured, contrived, confected and devoid of any intrinsic value save the value of being advertised.

For the next eight months, Americans will be dope-fed billions of dollars' worth of political propaganda aimed at persuading them that 1) their votes count, 2) the future of this nation—nay, our very lives—depends on who we elect as president, and 3) electing the right candidate will fix everything that is wrong with this country.

Incredible, isn't it, that in a country of more than 330 million people, we are given only two choices for president?

The system is rigged, of course.

Forcing the citizenry to choose between two candidates who are equally unfit for office does not in any way translate to having some say in how the government is run.

Indeed, no matter what names are on the presidential ballot, once you step away from the cult of personality politics, you'll find that beneath the power suits, they're all alike.

The candidate who wins the White House has already made a Faustian bargain to keep the police state in power.

We've been down this road before.



Barack Obama campaigned on a message of hope, change and transparency, and promised an end to war and surveillance. Yet under Obama, government whistleblowers were routinely prosecuted, U.S. arms sales [skyrocketed](#), police militarization accelerated, and surveillance became widespread.

Donald Trump swore to [drain the swamp](#) in Washington DC. Instead of putting an end to the corruption, however, Trump [paved the way for lobbyists, corporations, the military industrial complex, and the Deep State](#) to feast on the carcass of the dying American republic.

We've been mired in this swamp for decades now.

Joe Biden has been no different. If his job was to keep the Deep State in power, he's been a resounding success.

Follow the money. It always points the way.



With each new president, we've been subjected to more government surveillance, more police abuse, more SWAT team raids, more roadside strip searches, more censorship, more prison time, more egregious laws, more endless wars, more invasive technology, more militarization, more injustice, more corruption, more cronyism, more graft, more lies, and

more of everything that has turned the American dream into the American nightmare.

What we're *not* getting more of: elected officials who actually *represent* us.

No matter who wins the presidential election come November, it's a sure bet that the losers will be the American people *if all we're prepared to do is vote*.

After all, there is more to citizenship than the act of casting a ballot for someone who, once elected, will march in lockstep with the dictates of the powers-that-be.

Yet as long as Americans are content to let politicians, war hawks and Corporate America run the country, the police state will prevail.

"[Total continuity](#)" is how Chris Hedges refers to the manner in which the government's agenda remains unchanged no matter who occupies the Executive Branch. "[Continuity of government](#)" (COG) is the phrase policy wonks use to refer to the unelected individuals who have been appointed to run the government in the event of a "catastrophe."

You can also refer to it as a shadow government, or the [Deep State](#), which is comprised of unelected government bureaucrats, corporations, contractors, paper-pushers, and button-pushers who actually call the shots behind the scenes.

Whatever term you use, the upshot remains the same: on the national level, we're up against an immovable, intractable, entrenched force that is greater than any one politician or party, whose tentacles reach deep into every sector imaginable, from Wall Street, the military and the courts to the technology giants, entertainment, healthcare and the media.

This is no Goliath to be felled by a simple stone.

This is a Leviathan disguised as a political savior.

So, what is the solution to this blatant display of imperial elitism disguising itself as a populist exercise in representative government?



Stop playing the game. Stop supporting the system. Stop defending the insanity. Just stop.

Washington thrives on money, so stop giving them your money. Stop throwing your hard-earned dollars away on politicians and Super PACs who view you as nothing more than a means to an end. There are countless worthy grassroots organizations and nonprofits—groups like [The Rutherford Institute](#)—working to address real needs like injustice, poverty, homelessness, etc. Support them and you'll see change you really can believe in in your own backyard.

Politicians depend on votes, so stop giving them your vote unless they have a proven track record of listening to their constituents, abiding by their wishes and working hard to earn and keep their trust.

It's comforting to believe that your vote matters, but presidents are selected, not elected. Despite what is taught in school and the propaganda that is peddled by the media, a presidential election is not a populist election for a representative. Rather, it's a gathering of shareholders to select the next CEO, a fact reinforced by the nation's [archaic electoral college system](#). In other words, your vote doesn't *elect* a president. Despite the fact that there are [218 million eligible voters](#) in this country (only half of whom actually vote), it is the electoral college, [made up of 538 individuals](#) handpicked by the candidates' respective parties, that actually *selects* the next president.

The only thing you're accomplishing by taking part in the "reassurance ritual" of voting is sustaining the illusion that we have a democratic republic.

In actuality, we are suffering from what political scientists Martin Gilens and Benjamin Page more accurately term an "[economic elite domination](#)" in which the economic elite (lobbyists, corporations, monied special interest groups) dominate and dictate national policy.

No surprise there.

As an in-depth Princeton University study confirms, democracy has been replaced by oligarchy, a system of government in which [elected officials represent the interests of the rich and powerful](#) rather than the average citizen.

As such, presidential elections merely serve to maintain the status quo. Once elected president, that person becomes part of the dictatorial continuum that is the American imperial presidency today.

So how do we prevail against the tyrant who says all the right things and does none of them? How do we overcome the despot whose promises fade with the spotlights? How do we conquer the dictator whose benevolence is all for show?

We get organized. We get educated. We get active.

Whether you vote or don't vote doesn't really matter. What matters is what *else* you're doing to push back against government incompetence, abuse, corruption, graft, fraud and cronyism.

Don't be fooled into thinking that the only road to reform is through the ballot box.

If you feel led to vote, fine, but if all you do is vote, "we the people" are going to lose.

If you abstain from voting and still do nothing, "we the people" are going to lose.

If you give your proxy to some third-party individual or group to fix what's wrong with the country and that's *all* you do, then "we the people" are going to lose.

If, however, you're prepared to turn off the television, tune out the talking heads, untether yourself from whatever piece of technology you're affixed to, wean yourself off the teat of the nanny state, and start flexing those unused civic muscles, then there might be hope for

us all.

For starters, know your rights and then put that knowledge into action. What we desperately need is a concerted, collective commitment to the Constitution's principles of limited government, a system of checks and balances, and a recognition that they—the president, Congress, the courts, the military, the police, the technocrats and plutocrats and bureaucrats—answer to and are accountable to “we the people.”

Second, think nationally but act locally. Understand how your local government is structured. Who serves on your city council and school boards? What recourse does the community have to voice concerns about local problems or disagree with decisions by government officials? Are your locally elected officials accessible and open to what you have to say? Are your police chiefs being appointed from within your community? Who runs your local media? Does your newspaper report on local events? Who are your judges?

Third, don't stop doing the hard work of holding your government accountable. Don't let personal politics and party allegiances blind you to government misconduct and power grabs. This will mean holding all three branches of government accountable to the Constitution (i.e., vote them out of office if they abuse their powers). And it will mean making the president play by the rules of the Constitution.

Finally, don't remain silent in the face of government injustice, corruption, or ineptitude. Speak truth to power.

A healthy, representative government is hard work. It takes a citizenry that is informed about the issues, educated about how the government operates, and willing to make the sacrifices necessary to stay involved. It also takes a citizenry willing to do more than grouse and complain.

We must act—and act responsibly.

As I make clear in my book [Battlefield America: The War on the American People](#) and in its fictional counterpart [The Erik Blair Diaries](#), any hope of restoring our freedoms and regaining control over our runaway government must start from the bottom up. And that will mean re-learning step by painful step what it actually means to be a government “of the people, by the people and for the people.”

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