

# It's Official: Dysfunctional Impeachment Resolution against Donald J. Trump. H. RES. 13

By Prof Michel Chossudovsky

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Region: <u>USA</u>
Theme: Law and Justice

In late October 2019, House Democrats adopted a resolution regarding the rules and procedures "for the public phase of an impeachment inquiry into President Trump". H. Res. 660 focusses on "how the impeachment inquiry will move forward against President Donald Trump".

The complaint alleged Trump abused the office of the president during a phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in July. Trump's White House released a transcript of the call shortly after Pelosi made her announcement; the full complaint was released the next day.

The resolution pertains to procedures in assessing the UkraineGate complaint. It sets the rules for an impeachment process but it does not formally address the issue of an impeachment motion.

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What media reports fail to mention, which is of utmost significance, is that a formal impeachment motion — formulated and introduced before the Zelensky-Trump affair— is already on the table. It was first introduced in July 2017, revised in January 2019.

The Article of Impeachment (H. Res. 438) against President Donald J. Trump points to "High Crimes and Misdemeanors". July 12, 2017 (115th Congress).

A second resolution H. Res 13 introduced in the 116th Congress (First session) in January 2019) constitutes a revised version of H. Res 438. (also by Sherman and Green)

# 116TH CONGRESS H. RES. 13

Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 3, 2019

Mr. Sherman (for himself and Mr. Green of Texas) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

### RESOLUTION

Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

- Resolved, That Donald John Trump, President of the
- 2 United States, is impeached for high crimes and mis-
- 3 demeanors and that the following article of impeachment
- 4 be exhibited to the United States Senate:

The problem is that H. Res. 13 (revised version of H. Res 438) is predicated on RussiaGate, i.e. alleged Russian election meddling in support of Trump's candidacy in the November 2016 elections.

In contrast, H.Res H. Res. 660 (voted upon in late October) is predicated on UkraineGate. i.e setting the basis for "an impeachment inquiry" against Trump in relation to the Trump-Zelensky affair. what this means is that the H. Res 13 is totally dysfunctional. Moreover, it is unlikely that H.Res 660 will succeed in leading towards a formal Impeachment motion.

See details below in my article dated July 13, 2017 pertaining to impeachment resolution H. Res 438 introduced on July 12, 2017.

Michel Chossudovsky, November 2, 2019

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An impeachment motion against President Donald John Trump was introduced on July 12, 2017 in the US House of Representatives by Rep *Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Rep Al Green (D-TX)*.

The Article of Impeachment (H. Res. 438) against President Donald J. Trump points to "High Crimes and Misdemeanors".

According to Rep. Brad Sherman, "the Article is based on Article 1, dealing with "Obstruction of Justice," which was passed by the Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan vote on July 27,

1974, regarding Richard M. Nixon."

Sherman accuses Trump of "obstructing investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election".

Article H RES. 438 calls for the removal of President Trump from office.

According to reports: "The effort is likely to stall in the Republican-controlled congress..." (Al lazeera).

There is no indication at this stage that Republicans would support an Impeachment procedure.

Read Sherman's statement below, he refers to a resolution which will put Mike Pence into the White House.

"I served with Mike Pence in Congress for twelve years and I disagree with him on just about everything. I never dreamed I would author a measure that would put him in the White House"

The "Russia Probe" is central to the Impeachment procedure: one does not go without the other.

Moreover, reference to the Donald Trump Jr. encounter with a Russian lawyer (which borders on ridicule) is being used as a justification. According to Rep.Sherman: "Recent disclosures by Donald Trump Jr. indicate that Trump's campaign was eager to receive assistance from Russia." The NYT candidly states without a shred of evidence that the Russian lawyer is "connected the Russian government" intimating that she is a stooge of the Kremlin.

(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H. RES. 438

Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## RESOLUTION

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Below is the statement of Rep. Brad Sherman

"I am pleased that Congressman Al Green (D-TX) has joined me in filing Articles of Impeachment against Donald J. Trump. We now begin the effort to force the House Judiciary Committee to hold hearings on Obstruction of Justice and Russian interference in our election.

Recent disclosures by Donald Trump Jr. indicate that Trump's campaign was eager to receive assistance from Russia. It now seems likely that the President had something to hide when he tried to curtail the investigation of National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and the wider Russian probe. I believe his conversations with, and subsequent firing of, FBI Director James Comey constitute Obstruction of Justice.

Every day Democrats, Republicans, and the entire world are shocked by the latest example of America's amateur President. Ignorance accompanied by a

refusal to learn. Lack of impulse control, accompanied by a refusal to have his staff control his impulses. We're no longer surprised by any action, no matter how far below the dignity of the office—and no matter how dangerous to the country.

But the Constitution does not provide for the removal of a President for impulsive, ignorant incompetence. It does provide for the removal of a President for High Crimes and Misdemeanors.

As the investigations move forward, additional evidence supporting additional Articles of Impeachment may emerge. However, as to Obstruction of Justice, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1512 (b)(3), the evidence we have is sufficient to move forward now. And the national interest requires that we do so.

Introducing Articles of Impeachment will have two possible outcomes. First, I have slight hope it will inspire an 'intervention' in the White House. If Impeachment is real, if they actually see Articles, perhaps we will see incompetency replaced by care. Perhaps uncontrollable impulses will be controlled. And perhaps the danger our nation faces will be ameliorated.

Second, and more likely, filing Articles of Impeachment is the first step on a very long road. But if the impulsive incompetency continues, then eventually—many, many months from now—Republicans will join the impeachment effort.

I author Articles of Impeachment not to change our national policy. I served with Mike Pence in Congress for twelve years and I disagree with him on just about everything. I never dreamed I would author a measure that would put him in the White House. I am introducing Articles of Impeachment to begin a long process to protect our country from abuse of power, obstruction of justice, and impulsive, ignorant incompetence." Brad Sherman (emphasis added)

The Article (H. R. 438) concludes with the following statement:

- 5 In all of this, Donald John Trump has acted in a
- 6 manner contrary to his trust as President and subversive
- 7 of constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the
- 8 cause of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the
- 9 people of the United States.
- Wherefore, Donald John Trump, by such conduct,
- 11 warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

Full text of Article of Impeachment (H. Res. 438)

For further details click Rep. Brad Sherman's Congressional website

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