

THE SECOND 100 DAYS OF HYPNOCRATIC ILLUSION

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Trump's second hundred days have already upset many certainties that have been taken for granted for too long, such as the Atlantic Pact, the solid "parental" relationship between the United States and Europe, China as the factory of the world, the idea of a Palestinian state in the making, Russia as a second-rate power, technology at the service of man and not with or against man. Certainties tempered by a deep faith in economic liberalism, the ideological expression of the absolute American power of the late 80s that led to the implosion of the Soviet Union. For thirty-five years, since the fall of the Berlin Wall, politics in the West has bowed to the economy, recognizing its ability to create growth and wealth in the world, outside the tight ties of politics capable only of transforming itself into bureaucracy. And in fact, this "laissez-faire" has allowed China to become a great power and many emerging countries (such as, for example, the tormented Vietnam) to evolve towards new forms of well-being. But it has also

created internal imbalances within states, greatly increasing the distance between rich and poor, undermining the middle class.

The Europe of Jacques Delors, Mitterrand, Kohl and Andreotti was able to evolve as a political project of integration. Angela Merkel's, on the other hand, has bent political ambitions on the altar of German *exports*, the central engine of an integration process abandoned to itself, which increasingly bothered one of its historic promoters, the United States. They were increasingly worried about a German economy that had become a competitor and stimulus to the rebirth of Russia, from which it bought energy and raw materials.

In Washington dominated by Bush junior, shocked by the attack on the Twin Towers, the idea that the United States is no longer an absolute power, but a relative one, has taken over. And that force must be used to guarantee the centrality of what is still the first power in the world.

American foreign policy has begun to mirror itself in this paradigm from which not even Obama has detached himself and least of all Joe Biden. But these two presidents tried in their own way to manage change with the strength of the world's first technological army at the service of a *soft power* capable of culturally influencing everything and everyone in a thousand ways: from the myth of Coca Cola, to Hollywood cinematography, to television series, to the social digitization of mobile phones and the cultural overwhelming power that companies such as Microsoft, Apple, Amazon and Netflix. Between military power and cultural power lies the financial power that revolves around the dollar and Wall Street.

The first Trump came to power almost by chance, thanks to the Democrats' inability to understand the discontent of a substantial part of the country that no longer felt safe in its "strategic homeland": popular *sentiment* feared the threat of illegal immigration and Chinese competition. Tariffs against China and walls on the border with Mexico were the recipe that the improvised president, lacking a valid team, immediately tried to

administer, challenging the powers that be with a "quasi" coup d'état that frightened even Wall Street and the tenors of Silicon Walley.

The new Trump is the result of a determination that is even more powerful than his narcissism. A force that the Democrats tried to counter with an improvised Kamala Harris. The stock exchanges began to celebrate the return of the *tycoon* as early as October 2024, betting on the return of the entrepreneur, who promised reduced taxes, bureaucracy and a lot of growth and deregulation. With the help of Elon Musk and an ideological team, the new Trump has created a parallel reality or, rather, many parallel realities that are difficult to unravel. The goal is to transform the world by challenging it and repositioning the United States as the only center of a new power dynamic, the result of an immeasurable ambition that has no allies and friends. On "Liberation Day", April 2nd, the day Trump announced disproportionate tariffs for everyone, the whole world fell into a kind of hypnosis.

A text signed by a certain Jianwei Xun, who has become a literary case in Italy, France and Spain, explains the dynamics

of a new form of power called *Hypnocracy*. "In this scenario," the author writes, "emblematic figures, architects and symbols of this era of the world move: Donald Trump and Elon Musk; who are not simply powerful individuals, they are the priests of this new paradigm, opposing but complementary forces in the battle for reality. (...) Their hold on the collective consciousness is so deep that the most obvious contradictions not only do not undermine their power, but strengthen it. Trump can simultaneously be the victim of a corrupt system and the most powerful man in the world. Musk can criticize transhumanism while implanting chips in brains, blame billionaires while amassing astronomical wealth."¹

Judging by how many world leaders jostle to kiss Trump's back, so as to obtain tariff discounts, it is perhaps legitimate to wonder if we are really moving in a sort of collective hypnosis. Of course, behind Donald Trump's moves, there are legitimate needs to be addressed, starting with a federal budget for 2025 of \$7 trillion (in real terms, 40% more than ten years

ago), with a conservatively projected deficit of \$1,900 billion and a public debt of \$36 trillion that increases by about \$1 trillion every 100 days, according to the analysis of Paul Dans, who drew up the 2025 Project for Donald Trump.² In addition, the Treasury must renew 7 trillion of maturing public debt this year. Trump needs low rates and money flows to the United States to underwrite the heavy public debt. To achieve this, he chose force and threat. He knows perfectly well that he acts in an algorithmic society dominated by *social networks* that with artificial intelligence do not limit themselves to emulating human intelligence: they perfect hypnotic induction techniques. Posting his papal image modified by artificial intelligence on the White House's social networks and then on Truth, just as a conclave is opening, means soliciting that hypnotic state that exalts his power by catalyzing attention on him.

But there are those who rebel. China cannot bend without reacting to a design that would see it subjected to the

¹ Jianwei Xun, *Ipnocrazia, Trump, Musk e la nuova architettura della realtà*, Edizioni Tlon, Città di Castello (PG), 2025, translated by Andrea Colamedici, p.12-13.

² Paul Dans, "Donald Trump had to smash the system in order to build a better one, says the architect of Project 2025", *The Economist*, 3 maggio 2025.

"hypnotic" power of Trump's United States. The first attack began in the field of artificial intelligence. The appearance of Deep Seek, created by an almost unknown company, with few means and capable of challenging the dominance of Silicon Valley that invests billions, immediately reduced the prices of Wall Street's technological tenors. Beijing has also responded in rhyme to Trump's tariffs. Now the world's two largest economies are in mutual danger and potentially capable of causing a global recession.

The markets also turned up their noses. The bond bond, driven by *bond vigilantes*, reacted by selling U.S. debt (the 10-year Treasury bill hit 4.4% on April 22), while the S&P, the flagship index, fell to 4835 on April 4, it was at 6144 on February 19. The stampede also involved the dollar which, against the euro, depreciated to 1.1574 on April 21st. After China, the financial markets also wanted to inform the US president that they have no intention of kissing his backside. Instead, they prefer to take refuge in gold (which has risen to \$3,500 an ounce) and the Swiss franc (one dollar was worth 0.8 chf on April 21).

Financial markets and China woke up the world: Trump had to postpone the "disproportionate" tariffs by 90 days, except for China, while still keeping them between 10% and 25% for the others. The markets have started to rise again, dragged by the *risk on*, convinced that the common sense of the entrepreneur president is stronger than the ideological component he conveys. The companies' results in the first quarter were not homogeneous, but they remained at good levels and contributed to nine consecutive days of gains, bringing the index back close to the turning point of the 200-day average. A sign that the productivity generated by the continuous introduction of artificial intelligence is bearing fruit.

What will happen now? In his second 100 days, Trump has put a serious mortgage on the *soft power* that his country has skillfully woven since the last century. The basic mistrust it has generated will not pass easily. As the S&P approaches the 200-day average, the German Dax is returning close to all-time highs ("Germany is back!", said German Chancellor Friedrich Merz). The Trump effect is backfiring on him, undermining

the foundations of the new "hypnocracy" on which the essence of his power rests.

The markets, at the moment, are betting on the pragmatism of the entrepreneur. But Trump not only has to deal with his narcissism, but also with the three souls that support him: that of anti-state populism (represented by Steve Bannon), that of religious fundamentalism, Protestant and Catholic, composed of various groups without a real leader (perhaps Vice President Vance), that of post-democratic technocracy (represented by Elon Musk and Peter Thiel).³ Wall Street is not discounting this complexity at all. To prevent this from happening, the current government needs to keep finance at bay and therefore needs a sharp cut in rates that will be possible if the *soft* indicators of the recession materialize in a real slowdown in the economy. This would allow Powell to fulfill Trump's threats, now reduced to demands thanks to the intervention of the markets, which however do not seem ready to bet on it.

We have entered an era where "reality is a continuous suggestion", to the point that

even the book attributed to Jianwei Xun, as *L'Espresso* discovered, is an experiment developed by the Italian philosopher Andrea Colamedici with the help of ChatGPT and Claude to explore how truth can be constructed and manipulated in the age of artificial intelligence.⁴

³ Sergio Fabbrini, "Il Caos dei primi cento giorni", *Il Sole 24 Ore*, 4 May 2025.

⁴ Sabina Minardi, "Ipocrazia, ecco perché il filosofo Xun non esiste", *L'espresso*, 7 April 2025.