## "W(h) e will make America safe again,"

### Reply from: mahmoud saneipour

So far, my apprehension from Mr. Trump is the focus of 5 Component as follows:

- 1. He is Self-opinionated and he is following of special policies about this matters
- 2. He Commands on self-command by loud voice and doesn't afraid As the final result
- 3. He has a Unwritten and Insensible grand strategy and gets determine for carrying out it
- 4. He has computed basically goals those aren't Subtle, but it is analyzable
- 5. He goes along with championship in history of America, he has belief that US is only leader and excellent power in the world and all his shouting in related to this Mental imagery day and nigh.

Result of trump's policies will defined via analyzing of his functions

Safe again": a hard promise to keep **Joseph Gerber** 

Iternational development and operations

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Among other inaugural promises, President Trump touted that

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And the assurance met a ready audience in a voter base afraid of radical Islamic terrorism, Russian territorial expansionism, and Chinese economic machinations.

How does the president intend to keep this promise, however? This article, while blistering, is not a holistic assault on the president; it is a critical assessment of his promise to make America safe again.

### **Problem:** no grand strategy

Foreign Policy's recent article, "<u>Trump is Going to Regret Not Having a Grand Strategy</u>" states the obvious: the president's amoral and incoherent short-sightedness in this anarchic world will throw the security of the U.S., her allies, and other dependent nations onto a roulette wheel.

Let's back up a step: a "*grand strategy*" is "the collection of plans and policies that comprise the state's deliberate effort to harness political, military, diplomatic, and economic tools together to advance that state's interest." (Peter Feaver).

It is of nearly-tautological obvious interest to the U.S. to have an effective grand strategy in order to efficiently allocate time, energies, and resources towards meaningful national ends (security and prosperity, among others). It is of more subtle *but just as vital* interest to American allies and other smaller countries, which depend sometimes almost entirely on the whims of American foreign policy.

So far, President Trump has guided his belligerent "winner-takes-all" and "one deal at a time" mentality as "unpredictability," (this is a guiding principle in international relations for precisely one other country: North Korea). What seems far more likely, however, that President Trump simply lacks three traits necessary to formulating a grand strategy: coherence, conviction, and cooperation?

#### Lack of coherence

President Trump has a poor track record of coherent strategic planning. Before running for office, the president <u>filed for bankruptcy six times</u> as a businessman. While not all of these failures were entirely his fault, some show a remarkable dearth of foresight, such as two of his casinos in the 90s that each went bankrupt...in part, because they faced competition from each other.

President Trump also fails to demonstrate coherent thought, as revealed in his speech. Geoffrey Pullum, University of Edinburgh linguist, succinctly explains in this interesting article in The Vox, what many have noticed:

"'His speech suggests a man with scattered thoughts, a short span of attention, and a lack of intellectual discipline and analytical skills...*it's the disordered language of a person with a concentration problem.*" (Emphasis mine)

Based on the man's actions and words to date, we cannot expect him to handle the complexities of the security issues facing the U.S. on more than an *ad hoc* basis. Hence his insistence in selling "unpredictability" (a lack of strategic foresight - a core weakness) as *a strength*. We can anticipate his personal attempts to shore up security to be hasty, incoherent and, ultimately, ineffective.

## Lack of conviction

The president's flip-flopping on the campaign trail exceeded the average politician's, but far more disturbing has been his amorality, *especially* when it comes to how easily he breaks his word - in particular, for financial interest Stiffing because he is legally able to do so. Defrauding students and the elderly in the truly amazing <u>Trump University racketeering</u> scandal and paying to make it go away. Divorcing twice. These are just a few examples of the president's failure to keep his word, but they cast sufficient doubt on his willingness and ability to keep it in the future - especially where short-term monetary gain may make breaking it appealing.

We cannot anticipate, then, a personal commitment towards long-term strategic ends when costs rise high. A lack of conviction about the worth of his word and a lack of commitment to keeping it will only serve to undermine the president's long-term vision, *especially* in the area of maintaining peace and security, where blood, as well as treasure, must be spent.

This weak executive word presents additional subtle dangers: it will cause allies and enemies alike to doubt his speech, weakening alliances, deterrence, and the international system at large. As any professor in IR will tell you, the more clearly and convincingly the actors in the international system can send signals, the safer the system as a whole...and *vice versa*.

# Lack of cooperation

The President's lack of coherence and lack of conviction, though grave, are not inherently fatal to grand strategy's formulation and implementation. There is one remedy, however painful: humble cooperation both with other countries and with his own advisors.

When it comes to international cooperation, IR scholars refer to a <u>shadow of the future</u> that covers present state-to-state interactions with thoughts of future losses and gains. Put crudely, tit-for-tat, over enough time, eliminates the threat of war, builds trade blocs, and even, eventually, forges full-blown alliances, all of which are essential to formulating an effective grand strategy (think of NATO's role in the larger grand strategy of containment during the Cold War, for example).

The shortsighted bullying mentality that President Trump brings to the table in everything from trade deals (e.g., the TPP, and now, too, apparently NAFTA) to strategic alliances (e.g., in his mostly-false statements about South Korea) threatens to undue years of international cooperation to everyone's detriment - including America's.

# Solution: start with cooperation

President Trump quoted the book of Proverbs on unity in his inaugural address; he would do well to listen to chapter 11, verse 14, which poignantly warns that, "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

Whatever criticisms have been raised against the president's picks for domestic cabinet positions, his advisors in foreign policy seem solid enough to make up for the his own dearth of insight into and experience in foreign affairs and help him formulate and implement an American grand strategy.

However, if he truly desires to make America safe again, President Trump must be willing to leave aside his ego. He must resist the temptation to silence his advisors' criticism and learn to invite it instead. He must starve his self-image of yes-men and yes-women and silence his braggadocio long enough to hear well, if painful, counsel. He must listen and learn and act in humble wisdom.

Making this basic attitudinal shift will likely be his hardest personal task and most valuable contribution to American foreign policy and international peace and security in the next four years.