Trump’s Rhetoric Can’t Change His Legacy

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What will be the legacy of the 45th President? Donald J. Trump’s biggest worry should not be impeachment/removal from office, failure to be re-elected, loss of respect by America’s most cherished friends and allies, and the fact that a majority of Americans disapproved his performance since becoming president. No, as a self-absorbed human being, Trump’s biggest fear should be history.

History will record that he was the most incompetent, narcissistic and reckless president—an occupant of the White House who incessantly lied, stoked division, fear and hate, undermined the Constitution, violated the oath of office, disregarded the rule of law, threatened Democracy and, most of all, made the world less safe.
Long after Trump is gone from this world, he no longer will be able rhetorically to control the narrative and deflect attention from his wrongful deeds. Americans—including members of Trump’s future family—will know the unvarnished truth, seeing him for who he was. The stain Trump leaves on our great nation will be indelible. I only hope we will learn from his egregious failures, becoming a stronger country less vulnerable to others who seek to emulate him.

It is possible, of course, that Trump may not care. As a friend reminds me, the problem is that this president doesn’t care about the future, only the now; he engages in immediate gratification, with no focus on future consequences. To the extent he thinks about future consequences, it is a matter of “I’ll deal with them if they happen” and not really a plan or consideration until they happen. Hence, Trump lives only in the moment, which is why pathological lying is OK—there is no past and no future. Sadly, that’s why accountability may never be a possibility for the 45th President of the United States.

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