Trump’s Diversions—the Rhetorical Norm

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The rhetorical deflection and diversion campaign by the Trump administration is predictable and constant. Rather than denying the facts, whenever he is in trouble the President and his supporters distract the media and public by changing the subject and attacking others.

The most recent example: in a new interview during his trip to Israel, Trump senior advisor Jered Kushner said that he is “cleaning up the messes Biden left.” Trump biographer Michael D'Antonio poignantly notes, “Kushner was obviously trying to distract us from the worsening impeachment crisis that has enveloped the administration, and to impress the Oval Office occupant.”

Aside from the fact that it was inappropriate for Kushner to engage in politics on foreign soil, this is what we would expect from a person with a background in real estate development and absolutely no foreign
affairs or national security credentials—someone whose only qualification is that he is the son-in-law of President Trump.

Moreover, we shouldn’t be surprised that Kushner lashed out against Biden on the very same day Trump was being exposed for wrongdoing and for placing national security in jeopardy—an irrefutable reason for impeachment that not even Trump Republicans can dismiss—by war hero Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, a real expert with national security bona fides.

Chalk up Kushner’s gamesmanship as just one more instance of the administration’s ongoing rhetorical strategy of circumventing the truth. As additional and compelling facts incriminating Trump pile up, we must wonder how long diversion, deflection and distraction can be sustained as a rhetorically viable defense of the President.

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