Will Trump Ever Be Personally Accountable

By Richard Cherwitz

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With recent uncertainty about the potentially dangerous consequences of the decision by President Donald Trump to take out Qassem Soleimani, the top Iranian general, as well as the looming question of whether the President will be removed from office by the Senate, it seems appropriate to ponder how Trump will be regarded in the years to come and whether. We must also wonder if he ever will be personally accountable for his performance.

After the immediacy of the moment has passed and the polarized reactions to Trump become a distant memory, what will be the legacy of the 45th President? Donald J. Trump’s biggest worry, it could be argued, 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, perhaps Trump’s biggest fear should be history.
History likely 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.

I would submit that 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. Our hope must be that future generations 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 how history regards him. As I am often reminded by those who have studied Trump going back to his days prior to assuming office, the problem is that this man doesn’t care about the future, only the now; he always has engaged in immediate gratification, with no focus on future consequences. To the extent he thinks about future consequences, for Trump it is a matter of “I’ll deal with them if they happen.” Put simply, there is no plan or consideration until these consequences happen. Since Trump lives only in the moment, his pathological lying makes little difference. After all, not being truthful is inconsequential if there is no past and no future.

Sadly, as pundits and the media have continually noted since Trump assumed office, what we are witnessing is unprecedented. For the first time in our nation’s history, personal accountability may not be a possibility for the 45th President of the United States. Unlike most other presidents who primarily were concerned about the nation and therefore in their memoirs and interviews frequently owned up to, took
responsibility for and reflected upon their mistakes, admitting failures is not in Donald Trump’s repertoire.

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