

By Nguyen Hoang

NATIONAL NIGHTMARE

Former President Barack Obama has called President Donald Trump's coronavirus response a "chaotic disaster". He stopped short of calling his successor a "national disaster". After Trump's mediocre allegation that he had been taking hydroxychloroquine for more than a week and "I'm still here. I'm still here," I am not sure if it is inappropriate to regard him as a "criminal disaster".

The real problem is here: Trump has never lost control of his party, but the GOP has lost the grip on Trump right from the start. The check-and-balance system is failing, the Democrats could not do anything because the Republicans are 100 percent behind him. Thus he could enjoy "absolute immunity" as long as he still holds power. If he could win re-election, he would enjoy the freedom of absolute mediocrity until 2024, when he will be 78...

The Republican party has done its best to protect the president. Owing to the party, Trump has survived miraculously two crucial trials: Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 elections and the impeachment attempt by the Democrats at the House of Representatives early this year.

While shielding Trump fully, the Republican party has repeatedly shown a high level of unprincipled tolerance and self-blindfolded compromise in the past three years. It has fully supported his immigration and border policies without any reserve. It has joined Trump's attempts to undermine Obamacare. It has also backed his un-Republican tax cut measures.

Nobody in the Republican party has expressed any dismay over his very weird foreign relations policies as far as friends and foes are concerned. Obviously he has failed the tests of North Korea and Venezuela in an awkward way. And his trade war with his "best friend's" China is a laughable victory.

Due to the irresponsibly belated and poorly inadequate response to the coronavirus offensive, more than 90,000 Americans have been killed by this pandemic as of May 18. Trump, who had remained ignorant of the COVID-19 threat until early March, still stubbornly alleges that the death toll as reported was "highly inflated" and that he has saved "millions of American lives". That's why he has never shown any sorrow for the dead and empathy for tens of millions of fearful seniors at risk.

It is no secret that Trump's only thing in mind is his re-election bid. That's why he has not only his signature on the stimulus check but also a letter sent separately to attract the beneficiaries' attention.

He understands that the COVID-19 and its consequential economic and social lock-down will dump all his campaign efforts. He has therefore promised off and on some dates when the pandemic would reach the "peak", only to see his death targets being surpassed easily and quickly, from 60,000 to 75,000 to 90,000, and now near 100,000.

Everything he acts or says is aimed at putting the blame of coronavirus on anyone else (China, Obama, CDC, seniors with pre-existing conditions...) but him, and playing down the severity of COVID-19 (it will disappear after the election) to enforce the reopening of the country at any cost, "with or without vaccine". He has even insisted that schools should reopen in the fall, although the nation's top infectious disease expert had warned against reopening schools and businesses too early.

But the president could be more foolish and thus more dangerous now!

Not long ago he kept promoting the "miracle cure" of hydroxylchloroquine, and even spent about 20 million dollars of the budget to buy this unproven drug. When the FDA officially warned that this unproven drug not only did not help but also could kill, he suggested instead that the injection of disinfectants like Lysol could also help those with COVID-19! Early this week, Trump returned to the issue of hydroxylchloroquine again in a stubborn way, as if he had a commitment to honor.

To the top leader of the country, this "commitment" is not only cheap and crazy, but also ridiculous as it shows disrespect to the role and responsibility of the FDA! A murderous consequence cannot be disregarded: not so few people would believe in his "courage" and do the same. And yet we don't know the whole truth of this story!

As the election gets nearer, he is more turbulent. Does he know what to do and what to say? He invented the Obamagate, refused to unveil Obama's portrait in the White House, threatened to cut all ties with China ("we can save 500 billions dollars"), stepped up his retaliation purge, and applied dark tactics against Joe Biden. His "badge of honor" is the 1.5 million cases of COVID-19...

The unmasked president has shown from the start his contempt for civility. A president who cares little about basic human values like honesty, dignity, credibility, integrity is a real national nightmare.