

## Resisting Trumpism

### A 2024 Public Notice

This public notice is mostly a reprint of an op-ed I wrote in early 2020 in worried anticipation of Trump's run for re-election. It was repurposed as the introduction to my small book of haiku quintets warning of political and national catastrophe.

Trump lost in 2020 but has successfully transformed the Republican Party into a personality cult whose members curiously include a sizable portion of the American public. Talk of dictatorship has lately grown more ominous.

I leave it to voices more expert than mine to describe the looming threat — Liz Cheney, Rachel Maddow, and Heather Cox Richardson, to name only three among a growing chorus.

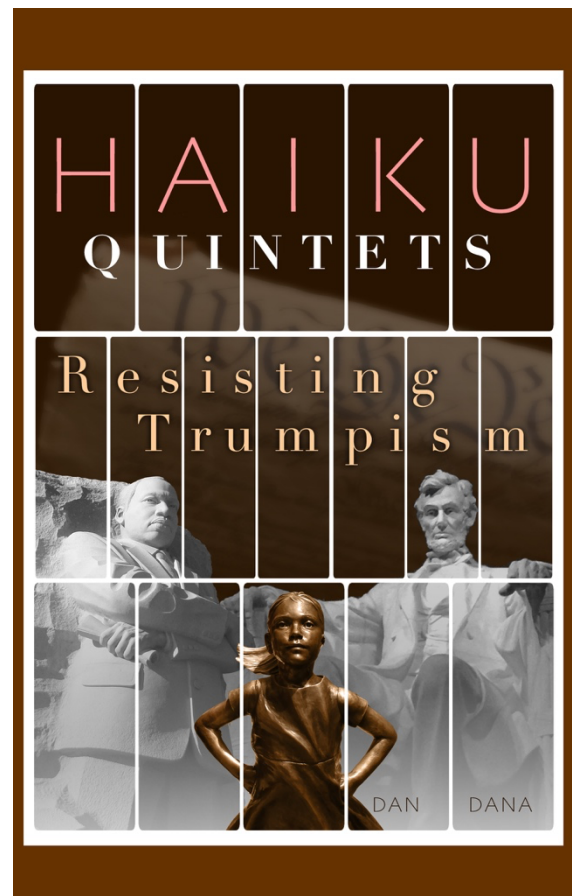
Here, I simply renew the alarm I sounded four years ago, which has become piercingly loud as America's next electoral test nears. Readers may freely share this white paper, without cost or other restriction.

### Is Trump America's Caesar?

The shelf life of this small volume may be brief, as the watershed election of November 2020 is fast-approaching. Thereafter, this flashing-red poetic alarm will be seen as either (1), a prescient forewarning of the greatest geopolitical disaster since the fall of the Roman Republic in 27 BCE, or (2) chicken-little faithlessness in the resilience of American democracy. We shall see.

In that year, 2047 solar circuits ago, one of the Western world's early experiments in democracy collapsed when Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon, entered Rome without a fight, and declared himself Emperor for life. The ensuing Roman Empire continued under the harsh rule of dictators for the next 422 years, in turn ushering in 500 years of Europe's Dark Ages.

Trump's aspirations to dictatorship are clear. The Republican Party's sycophancy is also clear. With his toadies Barr and McConnell, Trump has seriously weakened institutions of government that have held up the American house of cards for the past 231 years.



## Whither the American Project?

If reelected in 2020, by strategic voter suppression and Putin's eager aid, Trump will have four more years to finish the job, immune to pesky legal challenges and further impeachment attempts. If history's pattern holds true, our Soviet-style rigged "election" of 2024 (America's Rubicon) will fail to result in a peaceful transition of power, the hallmark of democracy. The path will then be clear for an era of authoritarianism of uncertain duration.

Trump will thereby join the club of autocrats who gained power first by democratic election, then proceeded to corrupt their government to become perpetual strongmen. The names Putin, Erdogan, Maduro, and Lukashenko come to mind as members of that exclusive club to which Trump aspires. Readers will also recall that Hitler was democratically elected in 1932.

Hence my worried words.

### A Haiku Quintet



#### How Did We Do This?

an angry old man  
deluded in grandeur, pomp,  
and misplaced grievance

damaged little boy,  
his father's failed redemption  
for his public shame

a sociopath  
devoid of all empathy  
and human kindness

our democracy's  
flawed electoral system  
birthed this freak mutant

oh, America!  
our nation's embarrassment,  
how did we do this?