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The Impact of Trump's Populism on American Democracy

Partial Fulfillment for the Requirement of
The Master's Degree in civilization and literature

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Declaration

I Chahrazad Bouzidi student at Mohamed Khider university English department. Under the supervision and guidance of my dear supervisor Mr. kamel Harhoura, I made this research. I conducted this dissertation as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for master's degree for civilization and literature. I affirm that this work is a result of deep research and analysis that I have established. Moreover, I hereby state this dissertation is formulated with two chapters due to the complexity of my topic and lack of comprehensible data about it.

Dedication

This work is heartedly and proudly dedicated to:

My beloved parents, my father Mostapha and my Mother Fatiha who have been my source of inspiration and guidance.

My beloved brothers Ahmed, Hicham, Rida, Soufiane and *My cherished Sisters* Hayat, Selma and my sister in Law Naima.

My Loving grandparents and *my cousin* Chaima.

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Abstract

This research examines Donald's Trump legacy and the challenges that American democracy encountered by studying the actions and policies he took that jeopardized and compromised democracy. The research used a set of methodologies to meet the intended aims of the study. A qualitative approach was adopted to select and examine books and journals related to the research inquiry. In addition, historical and descriptive frameworks are used to provide a background about Donald Trump as celebrity and his political agenda. Furthermore, the study attempted to describe the constituencies of democracy and the implementation of Donald Trump's political doctrine. The findings reveal that Donald Trump's political affiliation affected democratic institutions. He has disregarded the existence of the underprivileged and poor. Nonetheless, Trump directed his attacks toward the Media. American Media is the actual implementation of the American constitution that granted the freedom of the press. Nevertheless, Trump reshaped political parties and caused division and conflict within the Republican Party. It is asserted that Trump, to a certain degree, had an impact on America's political stance and ideals. However, Trump threatened the nature of legislation in American democracy during his term.

Keywords: American democracy, Democracy, Donald trump, The Republican Party, Populism, Political ideology, Government.

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General Introduction

1. Background

Democracy is a broadly accepted concept and a goal built on shared principles. People share it worldwide, regardless of cultural, political, social, or economic differences. As a result, it is a fundamental citizenship right that must be utilized in the interests of the polity. Also, it needs to be implemented in an environment of freedom, equality, transparency, and accountability. The United States of America is widely recognized for its strong democratic beliefs. The American Constitution is one of the fundamental foundations that called for freedoms to be granted to people. American presidents throughout the years sought to enforce those democratic principles. Donald Trump won the elections of 2016 and became president of the U.S.

Trump's succession to the presidency seat shook public views. He lacked governmental and military experience, unlike his predecessors. His term was characterized by controversy, as his method of governing was equally unconventional. Trump's rigid and populist approaches created a rift inside the Republican Party. Trump lost the elections of 2020, and Joe Biden became the president of the United States. Trump's term is over; however, its regimes and policies left their traces for America.

2. Research problem

The United States of America is the soul country that takes pride in the Founding father's constitutional legislation. The presidency of Donald Trump represented an opposition to democratic freedoms and an unconventional political approach. Trump abused his powers, prioritizing his loyalty over that of the Constitution. The research studies the impact of Trump's political policies on American democracy. Furthermore, it aims to search about Trump's ideologies and their effect on the American nation. Moreover, it seeks to establish a framework for Donald Trump's populism as Trump became a controversial topic due to his attitudes and

decisions that concern the public's welfare. This is crucial to analyze American democracy fundamental principle's changes. Nevertheless the research seeks to identify Trumpism as term and its implications.

3. Research Question

In light of the above-mentioned research contextualization, the research probes the Following primary research question:

- How Donald Trump's presidency did attack democracy and challenged its guidelines?

This question shall be investigated through the following sub-questions

- What are the major changes that Trump caused in America?
- What is the role of his political ideology in his decision making process?
- How did Trump's presidency affect American Democracy and what are the legacies left?

4. Research Objectives

The research seeks to present background about Donald Trump and his political ideologies. Moreover, his rhetoric, agenda, and populist views are the major focus. Moreover, the study examines Trump's political decisions and their impact. Furthermore, the inquiry analyzes how Trump caused division inside political parties, specifically the Republican Party. The research examines the phenomenon of Trump and the spread of the term Trumpism. These variables aid in constructing ideas about Trump's legacy and the impact of his ideologies as well as the areas affected by his person.

5. Rationale of the Research

The study sheds light on one of the contemporary issues America faces today. Trump's presidency is over. However, his approaches and international relations have affected America

today. American democracy faces challenges due to unconventional tactics. This research provides a general image of America's political, cultural, social, and economic stances. It explores the implications of Trump's beliefs and their effects on the legislative method and democratic institutions. In addition, the United States of America has been recognized throughout history for its call for freedom and democracy. The research explores Trump's legacy and its impact on America today.

6. Research Methodology

The suggested research uses a set of methodologies. First, the historical approach is crucial to formulate a background about Donald Trump as a public figure and his political agenda as American president. Moreover, the interpretative method is used to examine Trump's policies and decisions and by which they presented a threat to democracy. A qualitative method is necessary because it aids in selecting appropriate data and information related to the variables. As it is a new topic, sources are few. The sources, such as books, journal articles, and scientific reviews, are examined thoroughly.

Chapter One: Donald Trump

Introduction

Democracy as one of the pillars the United States of America was built upon. Freedoms and rights granted by the American constitution represented the true practice of democracy for Americans. In this chapter, we will examine the administration's ideology and strategy led by former President Donald Trump. It is vital to analyze populism as an ideology to comprehend Trump's political stance, as he was widely regarded as a populist leader. populism is an ideology became more popular thanks to Trump. Through an analysis of the tenets of populism, we can gain a better understanding of Donald Trump's objectives and actions when he was in office.

In addition, the purpose of this chapter is to give light on the particular policies that President Trump established in a variety of different disciplines. These policies had far-reaching consequences on both local and foreign affairs, and as a result, they influenced the future path that the nation would take. The proposed chapter offers an illuminating analysis of President Trump's rhetoric throughout his campaign and how that approach evolved while he was in office. In addition, we offered a variety of answers by employing a wide range of political analysts, all of whom followed the previous president's decision-making process, rhetoric, and ideology.

1.1.Trump's rhetoric during his campaign

Donald Trump, a world-famous billionaire and real-estate mogul, launched his campaign for President of the United States on June 16, 2015. Trump intended to begin the announcement address in Trump Tower in New York City, according to the transcript. Speech concludes with a warning: "our country is in serious trouble" (quoted in Time Staff). But, before delving into the reasons for and ramifications of such a remark, he mentioned the size of the audience. He said that there had been "no crowd like this" at another announcement event and then made an unexpected forecast that his opponents would not be able to defeat ISIS because they could not gather such crowds (qtd. in Time Staff). This seems disorganized and impromptu lead-in (Mohan).

Mark Thompson is the CEO of The New York Times and the author of the forthcoming book "Enough Said: What's Wrong with Political Language." On August 28, 2016, he published an essay in The New York Times discussing the history of rhetoric and Trump's anti-rhetoric practices. More importantly, Thompson claims that Trump has utilized his unpredictable and obviously unplanned speaking style to buttress the core focus of his campaign, which is an attack not just on the establishment's substantive track record, but also on its discredited method of speaking. According to Thompson, Trump is hardly the first modern leader to embrace this anti-rhetorical attitude. He cites former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi as saying, "If there's one thing I can't stand, it's rhetoric." All I care about is what needs to be done." Trump appeared to be taking notes. According to Thompson's article, anti-rhetoric has its own rhetorical markers: short phrases that batter the listener with a succession of rapid blows. He claims that this is the conventional manner of a general or top executive, rather than a lawyer or politician. Trump's rhetoric, according to Thompson, is ideal not only for the sound bite and the headline, but also for the micro-oratory world of Twitter. Trump's delivery is diametrically contrary to that of most attorneys. Their comments are long, meticulously prepared, reasoned,

precisely phrased, and frequently convoluted (Zanville 1-2).

George Lakoff, a cognitive scientist at UC Berkeley, has also written about Trump's speaking style and approaches. According to Lakoff, every dishonest, effective salesman understands how to manipulate your brain against you in order to convince you to buy what he's selling. He discusses unconscious thinking and states, "Unconscious thought works by certain basic mechanisms, and Trump instinctively uses them to turn people's brains toward what he wants: absolute authority, money, power, and celebrity." Lakoff explains how Trump use repetition and framing to influence people's subconscious thinking. He achieves this by building a frame and repeating it repeatedly, even if the frame has no conceivable worth. According to Lakoff, "the framing is working." During the election time lackoff suggested that, even if Trump loses the election, he will have influenced the minds of millions of Americans, with long-term effects. It is critical that people understand the processes employed to spread Big Lies and implant them in people's minds without their knowledge. It's a type of mind control (Zanville 4-5).

Christina Wilkie, National Political Reporter for The Huffington Post, reported about a report titled "The Trump Effect: The Impact of the Presidential Campaign on our Nation's Schools" by the charity Southern Poverty Law Center in April. Willkie penned It was only a matter of time before children began to catch up on the angry, divisive rhetoric that has become synonymous with the 2016 presidential campaign. Fears and racial tensions are being stoked in America's schools as a result of the race. According to Wilkie, the SPLC report polled 2,000 educators, and more than two-thirds of those polled reported that their students - primarily Muslims, immigrants, and children of immigrants - were concerned about what might happen to them and their families after the November election. Furthermore, more than one-third of instructors reported an increase in anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim prejudice among their students. "The report identified two troubling trends: more openly racist and vicious bullying

of minorities, and increased fear and anxiety among immigrants and minorities about what would happen to them if certain presidential candidates are elected," she says. The study did not identify individual candidates, but instructors cited Trump in over 1,000 responses, five times more than any other contender (Zanville 6).

1.2.Trump’s political ideology

After Trump took office and during his term his ideology was a considered as a big enigma to political scientists yet it was commonly characterized by instability. Donald Trump won the presidency of the United States, defying pollsters' expectations, the predictions of analysts, and even logic. In contrast to the astonishment and shock in the United States, critics and even academics in Africa and Latin America recommended that Americans consult with professionals from these places in order to comprehend Donald Trump's political strategy and appeal (La Torre Carlos).

Trump’s ideology was mostly referred to as Trumpism, according to Collins dictionary Trumpism is a set of principles that characterizes trump’s policies, way of thinking, and approaches that are used by the former president in whether domestically, addressing national issues and problems or in foreign policy, addressing other countries or enemies.

Political scientists suggest that when Trump run the 2016 elections, he run and won as a populist. Various political ideologies that place a strong emphasis on "the people" and frequently pit that group against "the elite" are said to as populist. Although it has rarely been used as a self-description, the phrase originated in the 19th century and has subsequently been used to describe a variety of politicians, parties, and movements. Numerous definitions of populism have been used in political science and other social sciences, with some academics advocating that the term be completely abandoned (“Populism - ECPS”).

Francisco Panizza says in his article “Trump: Once a Populist Always a Populist.” That numerous observers and "moderate" Republicans believed he would run the country like a

traditional Republican. Yet he didn't; instead, he exercised populist rule. This included maintaining the antagonistic tone typical of populist rhetoric, criticizing the government (referred to as "the deep state"), and questioning the impartiality of liberal democratic institutions (referred to as "an Obama judge"). He shifted the boundaries of what was sayable and, thus, practicable in US politics by using a transgressive language that distinguished him from the "high politics" of the political elite and, in fact, from the norms of the office of the presidency. Another aspect of populist politics that characterized Trump's presidency was his ongoing campaigning, which strengthened his direct, unmediated relationships with millions of Americans while also consolidating and mobilizing his support base (Panizza).

Trump supporters portray him as a positive populist who helps working-class Americans. Kayleigh McEnany, a journalist and Trump's press secretary, claimed in her book, *The New American Revolution: The Making of a Populist Movement*, that the president was a revolutionary populist in the American Revolutionary tradition, promoting freedom everywhere and addressing the needs of those citizens who had been abandoned by a corrupt and unresponsive government. Trump was portrayed by her as being receptive to workers' concerns about the deterioration of the industrial sector and the threats posed by crime, immigration, and terrorism (McEnany 225).

Others who supported Trump believed that he was a Christian populist who had divine help. According to Victor Hanson, there is a cultural divide in America between the average, God-fearing traditional American living in rural and small towns in Middle America and the godless coastal big-city liberal elites. Hanson compared Trump's populism to chemotherapy, an effective treatment for liberalism and socialism, which threatened traditional rural and small-town Christian Americans (Hanson 05).

Trump and his brand of populism have drawn criticism from critics. They stated that he assumed office at the height of a cultural backlash and an intense political movement driven by

prejudice, rage, and fear. According to them, this backlash is result of real or imagined perception of dangerous that Christian Americans faced. It includes Hispanic immigrants pouring over the southern border, stealing American jobs and endangering their dominance and privilege. Moreover, Middle Eastern Muslim immigrants bringing terrorists into the country, and leftist Democrats transgressing their values, convictions, and sensibilities by legalizing homosexual marriage. (Norris and Ingle hart) (Jardina; Sides et al.). There were many analysis and explanations over trump's populism. Yet what was commonly shared between the previous critics was that Trump created his own brand of populism. One that does not simply fit under the general definition of populism.

1.3.Populism as an ideology

Others regard populism as an ideology, that is, as a body of beliefs that come together to form a dominant worldview that directs people's behavior. Populism is based on a fundamental moral logic that has no direct policy impact and does not offer a comprehensive understanding of society or politics. In other words, populism provides a basic critique of the current structures of power rather than a worldview (Bonikowski 12).

According to Campbell (2017) Populism is also described as "an ideology which pits a virtuous and homogeneous people against a set of elites and dangerous others who are together depicted as depriving the sovereign people of their rights, values, prosperity, identity, and voice." An "anti-elitist message" that demands that power be returned to the people and a "nationalist message" that claims that "others," such as immigrants and people of other ethnic backgrounds, are to blame for the challenges the majority group in a state faces, are the two key components of populism, according to this definition (Campbell 2017).

Campbell (2017) also thinks that, populism is defined by a deep and enduring suspicion of the corrupt elites who are thought to not have the best interests of the people at heart. Influencing public opinion against the political system is one way populist leaders attempt to

grow their base of support. Second, populist leaders are frequently charming personalities who may present themselves both during their campaigns for government and once in power as the main factor for their country's success. Populist movements usually highlight the identity of its leaders in this way. Third, populist leaders frequently make use of xenophobic or anti-immigrant emotions in the general populace in an effort to instill patriotism in their followers (11–12).

1.4.Characteristics of populism

The Definition and Characteristics of Populist Movements Differ Among Scholars. According to Cornelius Rubsamen, Scholars of populism have developed useful definitions and broadly concur on its fundamental traits. First of all, populism derives from “populous”, the Latin term for "people." Therefore, populism is really about "the people," or more specifically, the ability of the people to run their own affairs. This implies, in the political domain, that the people's will is sovereign and that their leaders must uphold it. Rubsamen Adds that it is not especially debatable to define populism as being centered on the needs of the people, but when we question, "Who, exactly, are 'the people'?" we run into issues. The answer to this question frequently relies on the specific country or geographic area, and especially on the populist leader. Some people believe that "the people" refers to everyone who lives inside a nation's boundaries, however this is rarely the case. Some individuals define "the people" as the electorate. Additionally, some politicians define "the people" as those who vote for the populist candidate. However, it is agreed that "the people" cannot be defined in black and white; who is included and who is excluded relies heavily on the rhetorical context and interpretation.

Populist movements have been characterized as anti-pluralist by a number of academics, including Muller (2016) and Galston (2018). In a pluralistic political system, the government develops public policies in response to several conflicting interest groups. Negotiations and compromise are a part of this process. Populists address the general populace rather than

competing special interest groups. Scholars who oppose pluralism define populist movements as mass movements that are also democratic but inherently illiberal. These academics argued that populists saw the general populace as moral and in charge and the elite as dishonest and hostile to the general populace. The idea of popular sovereignty and the perception of the populace as morally upright are consistent with the idea of democracy. Illiberalism, however, develops when populists describe the people as homogeneous

The definition of populism continues to be disputed. Populist movements have been labeled emotional, conspiratorial, paranoid, and anti-intellectual by certain academics (Hofstadter 1948; 1964). Other academics have expressed concern about the tendency of researchers to conflate the traits of right-wing authoritarian, illiberal populist movements with those of all other varieties of populist movements. These academics are aware of populist liberal-democratic movements (Garneau & Schwadel)

According to Carter A. Wilson Populist, movements are generally emotional, driven by anger and resentment, and anti-establishment and anti-elitist. Leaders tend to be charismatic and identify with and speak the language of the people. There are different types of populist movements, distinguished by two sets of factors. First, the political base, the demands made of the government, and the object of the movements' rage and hatred may all be used to identify populist movements. These elements help to distinguish more clearly between movements that are right-wing illiberal populist and left-wing liberal populist. Left-wing populists frequently receive backing from groups that advocate for farmers, workers, and minorities and criticize the financial elite. They urge that the government play a bigger role. Right-wing populists seek for scapegoats while blaming the financial establishment. Their base frequently crosses class boundaries and consists of people from all socioeconomic classes (Wilson),

Wilson adds that the second factor is that Liberal democratic or authoritarian-illiberal populist movements are also possible. Authoritarians prefer hierarchy and order. They make a

distinction between those who deserve it and those who don't. They have a propensity to regard everything as either good or evil, or as either us or them. They oversimplify issues and are more prone to utilize aggression or force when resolving disputes. Strong, dedicated leaders who are prepared to use state violence to uphold law and order are preferred by authoritarian populist movements. Leaders aim for supremacy and power. In general, followers are antagonistic to outsiders while being obedient and subservient to the leader. Ideological barriers are crossed by authoritarian forces. Populist movements on the right and left may both be authoritarian and illiberal.

Wodak notes three elements of a successful right-wing populist movement: (1) the evocation of a national "heartland" (or "homeland"); (2) the identification of a "pure" community associated with the heartland who are situated antagonistically to "others," often immigrants; and (3) a "distancing dynamic" which "sustains an antagonistic relationship between "the people," "the elites," and "the (dangerous) others"." (Wodak 2015). Similar to this, Engesser et al. list five characteristics of populism, including "sovereignty of the people, advocating for the people, challenging the elite, ostracizing others, and evoking the "heartland." (Engesser et al). During Trump's campaign, he was identified by his supporters and members of the Republican Party as a populist who spoke with the voice of people against the elitists. Yet the former president was also commonly described with being unpredictable and unstable which makes it hard for political scientist to classify Trump as a mere populist.

1.5. Trump's Populism

In his article "Donald Trump and American Populism." Kazin suggests that Trump is a member of the right-wing populist movement, which accuses governmental and corporate elites of harming the rights and interests of the average person. The concept of "the people" in

this tradition, however, is more constrained and racialized. For the most of American history, it referred to only "real Americans," whose race alone gave them the right to partake in the nation's riches. The interests and beliefs of the nationalist white majority are often placed in the center because right-wing populists typically felt that there is a sinister alliance between bad forces on high and the undeserving, dark-skinned poor below (Kazin). Trump once said that:

The only antidote to decades of ruinous rule by a small handful of elites is a bold infusion of popular will. On every major issue affecting this country, the people are right and the governing elite are wrong. The elites are wrong on taxes, on the size of government, on trade, on immigration, on foreign policy.

(qtd. in Olive & Rahn 189)

Trump often criticizes the global elite for advocating "open borders," which allegedly enable foreigners to oust American people from their employment and lower their quality of life. He was brutally direct from the outset of his presidential campaign concerning which organizations are most dangerous. He charged that Muslim immigrants supported "horrendous attacks by people that believe only in jihad, and have no sense of reason or respect for human life" and that Mexican immigration brought crime, drugs, and rape to a country that was previously calm and law abiding. Trump's ascent and victory show that the racial-nationalist strain of American populism has enduring appeal, yet his speech omits one important aspect of the conventional discourse. There isn't a clear-cut, stirring depiction of "the people" that Trump claims to represent. There isn't a clear-cut, stirring definition of "the people" that Trump claims to speak for (Kazin 83-84).

Conclusion

The notion that "speaking is governing" was coined in 1981 by Caesar, Thurow, Tulis, and Bessette, all of whom worked in political science. Speaking is a crucial action that takes

place during election campaigns. Each candidate devises a one-of-a-kind communication strategy to further their program, convince voters of their suitability for leadership, and incite supporters to action. Because of this, the use of appropriate style and rhetoric is essential to the accomplishment of these objectives. As a result, in this chapter, we attempted to comprehensively examine the rhetoric, style, and ideology of former President Donald Trump to explore the extent to which these factors influenced his choices and actions. In addition, we provided a comprehensive examination of Trump's populism, including its origins and development while he was in office and the implications of these changes.

Chapter Two: Challenges of Trump's Ideology on American Democracy

Introduction

After analyzing the metrics of Trump's ideology, we can obtain a comprehensive understanding of Trump's presidency's effects on various sectors, including the economy, immigration, trade, healthcare, and environmental regulations. This chapter evaluates the impact of Trump's populism on democracy, specifically democratic institutions. Frequently, populist leaders challenge established norms and institutions, which can have significant effects on the operation and stability of democratic systems. By analyzing Trump's populist tendencies and his interactions with democratic institutions, we can gain insight into how his presidency affected the United States' democratic fabric. The investigation of Trump's populism and its effects on democracy will contribute to a deeper comprehension of the interplay between populist leaders and democratic governance. It provides an opportunity to assess the resilience of democratic institutions and the long-term effects of populist movements on democratic principles and norms. This chapter seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of a crucial period in American politics by examining the Trump administration's policies, ideologies, and consequences. It seeks to enhance our comprehension of the intricate relationship between populism, democratic institutions, and the future of democracy in the United States.

2.2. Trump's New Policies

2.2.1. Economy policies

President Trump has offered a critical set of economic policy ideas that will have a significant impact. Trump proposed tax policies are seen to be the most challenging to categorize. On the one hand, they include a comprehensive package of cutbacks that many Republicans find favorable. According to his plan, the top income tax rate would drop from 39.6% to 33%, the inheritance tax would be eliminated, and no matter how big or little a firm is, it would only be required to pay taxes equal to 15% of its revenue. However, this statement of closing tax loopholes so that the wealthy pay more in taxes and requiring U.S. businesses to pay taxes on cash that is now held abroad (Smart 14) concerns traditional Republicans.

Smart says that, Trump has proposed laws to limit the immigration of foreign workers, which he believes will make it difficult for poor and working-class Americans to earn a middle-class wage. He has also proposed excluding 11 million illegal immigrants in two years. In response, Trump announced that the United States will leave the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a key component of President Obama's global economic plan (Smart 15).

Trump's administration put forth ideas that are unmistakably distinct from those of other administrations. He has adjusted immigration, trade, and healthcare that would spark an economic discussion.

2.2.2. Trade Policies

Negotiating "great trade deals" to bring jobs back to America is one of President Trump's reformist ideas for a stronger trade policy in general, but he has not provided many details on how he will carry out these recommendations. Returning to a focus on import tariffs rather than taxes is one of the remedial measures he has suggested. However, such a recommendation ignores the detrimental effects that additional tariffs would have on American workers, particularly poorer families, and would further a tax system that is already unfair (Sapiro 20).

2.2.3. Energy and Climate Change Policies

Trump ran on a "America First Energy Plan," emphasizing coal, oil, and natural gas while focusing on reducing regulations, in order to improve domestic energy supplies. He discounted the seriousness of climate change but acknowledged the need of clean air and water. In his address, Trump seems to think of energy as a potent tool for enforcing the economy and gaining some degree of economic and global policy edge over other nations, such as China. His plan's essential elements include achieving energy independence, using revenue from energy production to rebuild infrastructure that will help create jobs for Americans, promoting agriculture with cheaper energy, and getting rid of regulations that are harmful to workers (Ladislaw 23-24).

2.2.4. Defense Policies

According to an article in the National Security Defense official website, after eight years of deterioration and neglect under the previous Administration, President Trump has rebuilt the United States military. He revived the defense industrial base, obtained the highest pay boost for American troops in a decade, and established the United States Space Force as the sixth branch of the United States Armed Forces. President Trump is also the first American leader since Ronald Reagan to refrain from starting a war. On President Trump's watch, the world's most prominent terrorists were brought to justice, the ISIS territorial caliphate was entirely dismantled, and violent, corrupt governments were held accountable through a combination of sanctions and targeted military action ("National Security and Defense – the White House").

Trump and Obama had differing views on military campaigns, with Obama launching an Afghan troop surge (2009), an intervention in Libya (2011), a return of forces to Iraq (2014), and a role in the Syrian civil war (2014). Trump preferred economic sanctions to deal with threats, buying the U.S. four years of peace. Additionally, Trump presided over a wholesale revision of national defense strategy, shifting focus from counter-terrorism to great-power

rivalries. The new strategy is mainly about China and the need for new weapons is due to the challenge posed by Beijing (Thompson).

2.2.5. Policies Related to Latin America

Latin Americans have been critical of Donald Trump's government. According to a Pew Research study, although 42% of people in those nations said they had little trust in US President Barack Obama to do the right thing in international affairs in 2015, that figure has risen to 77% under Trump's administration. In Brazil, where Jair Bolsonaro's government has praised Trump's presidency, trust in the current US administration has dropped from 69% in 2013 to 28% in 2020. Latin America's lack of trust in Trump may be explained simply because of his lack of foreign policy toward the area. During the election campaign, Trump employed unusually strong language against Central American immigration, with the construction of a wall on the US-Mexico border at the center of his message. The vast majority of Latin Americans (83%) vehemently rejected such a scheme (Bilotta).

Nicola Bilotta suggests that Trump's approach to Latin America appears to be a tool for accomplishing domestic aims and rhetoric rather than long-term strategic goals. A few pillars have guided his Latin America strategy: decreasing migration to the US, modifying free trade agreements (NAFTA), limiting China's dominance, and increasing pressure on Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua (Bilotta).

3.2.6. Foreign policies

Donald Trump declared his commitment to an "America First" approach to foreign policy in his Inaugural Address. His foreign policy reflected an isolationist strand that had been marginalized in national affairs since World War II, and was galvanized by the "forever wars" in Iraq and Afghanistan following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. He also linked foreign policy to his populist campaign rhetoric about the "forgotten men and women" whom the global economy had left behind (Waterhouse).

Benjamin C. Waterhouse thinks that Trump's rhetoric and policy positions contained contradictions, with him calling for isolationism and a more robust military. In 2017, he authorized cruise missile strikes against a Syrian military airfield and warned that the United States might continue to intercede in Syria's civil war. In 2018, he announced the withdrawal of the 2,000 US troops deployed in Syria, prompting the resignation of Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis (Waterhouse).

President Trump has adopted a foreign strategy that reflects his campaign commitment to put America first in his administration's interactions with other countries. He has withdrawn from UN bodies governing health and human rights, major multinational agreements on climate, arms control, and Iran, all while renegotiating US trade deals, feuding with US allies, imposing new immigration restrictions, and launching a tariff battle with China (“Donald J. Trump’s Foreign Policy Positions”).

2.3. The impacts of Trump’s Populism on Democracy

Trump's successful presidential campaign marked a departure in the political landscape of the United States. Analysts tried to decipher Trump's triumph over a packed Republican establishment. Trump's populist approach reshaped what was previously thought to be the Reagan and Bush parties. Trump's Populism produced a division in the Republican Party due to his divisive statements. These positions included immigration reform, Medicaid cuts, and the construction of a border wall. Trump's populist movement challenged the republicans' cultural components, values, customs, and economics. It was partly in response to the rising support for liberal principles, such as tolerance of different sexualities, openness to foreigners, intercultural variety, and support for cosmopolitan ideas (Hannon, et al. 78-79).

Trump's populism had an impact on the Republican Party's success with white working-class voters. His policies mostly favored the affluent, rather than the disadvantaged poor minority of his rhetoric (Campbell 45). Trump should prioritize national security, immigration

reform, and restoring the economic situation for working and middle-class Americans. As a result, the Republican Party will tread carefully while collaborating with Trump's populist movement (Hannon, et al. 79).

Some political activists suggest that the former president Trump harmed the United States' democratic institutions mainly: judiciary, freedom of press, and political right of the minorities.

Judicial independence is one of the first democratic institutions to be targeted by Trump's populist movement. In his first year in service, he had many disagreement and conflicts with the judicial branch. The best-known case of Trump's disagreement with judiciary independence is the travel ban case in which he issued an order banning entry for 90 days by citizens from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. The federal judges blocked the ban few days after. Then, Trump issued more executive orders, but were rejected as well. These banning orders were considered as points of tension between Trump and the federal judges (Hannon, et al. 81).

Hannon (2018) argued that the U.S. court system should consider the long-term effects of Trump's populism on the judiciary, such as open disagreement and government consolidation. However, Elaine kamarck argues that Trump didn't weaken Judiciary. She adds, Dictators weaken courts to control their decisions, as seen in Putin's Russia. Trump's Muslim ban was rejected by the courts until the administration drafted a version that could pass (Kamarck).

Additionally Hannon (2018) says that Opponents of the government or government officials, laws, or policies can express effective comments without fear of punishment from the government in the form of fines, jail, or even death. The freedom of the press refers to the freedom to criticize the government without fear of repercussions or interference from the government both before and after publication. Press freedom is a significant target for most

populist movements, particularly Trump's. Trump and the media have long had a strained relationship. He chastised the media for disseminating false information. Following Trump's election, the press faced an uptick in antagonism. He said that major news organizations in the United States lack transparency and are to blame for false news. As a result, Trump's populism posed a danger to the integrity of journalistic freedom (Hannon, et al. 13-84).

In the same context Kamarcks argues that, Trump spent four years using the presidency's bully pulpit to insult the press, labeling it "the enemy of the people" and referring to sources he doesn't like as "failing." He canceled the press credentials of reporters he disapproved of. (However, the courts restored them.) Reporters have not shied away from calling out his falsehoods. With Trump out of government for several months, no big news organizations have gone bankrupt. None of them are hesitant to speak out against Trump or his followers (Kamarck).

Furthermore Hannon (2018) suggest that Trump's populist ambitions impacted the liberties of vulnerable communities or what is known as disadvantaged people. The latter is evident in a number of examples, including immigration reform, the proposed Mexico border wall, the Muslim ban, and others. Trump's populist administration overlooked the rights and liberties of African Americans, Muslims, and other ethnic groups labeled as "non-real Americans." It resulted in the growth of racism and racial division, social instability, increased violence against racial and religious minorities, and other unsatisfactory conditions in the United States (Hannon).

Critics suggest that the 2020 election presents an example of how Trump affected the American democracy when he refused to accept his defeat and accusing the board with fraud. The 2020 election exemplifies democratic resistance to authoritarian forces. Election officials and judges dealing with legal objections had to adjust not only to the pandemic's immense logistical obstacles, but also to Mr. Trump's rhetoric. His assaults, as well as those of his party's

elected officials and the conservative media, increased the pressure on election officials and poll workers, who faced threats, intimidation, and overt pressure to disregard the will of the people (Hyde and Saunders).

Susan D. Hyde and Elizabeth N. Saunders suggest that Mr. Trump's inability to accept loss represents his most obvious danger to democracy. He has set troubling precedents and challenged widely held beliefs about what occurs when an incumbent loses. His strange legal tactic failed, but he turned the Republican Party's base and many congressional Republicans against democracy for its own sake. And it is these ideals that serve as the ultimate wellspring of democratic resilience (Hyde and Saunders).

On the other hand, Kamarck argues saying that when it came to seeking to reverse the 2020 election results, Trump-appointed judges frequently issued rulings that blocked Trump's attempts to invalidate the results. Consider the following statement from Judge Stephanos Bibas, a Trump appointment on the 3rd Circuit. In reality, following the election, Trump's team filed 62 lawsuits, just one of which was successful. He dropped or lost the others, and Republican judges made many of those rulings. The Supreme Court's refusal to consider election challenges from states Trump felt he had won was perhaps his greatest disappointment (Kamarck).

2.4. Trump's attack on American Democracy

In his article "Demonizing Critical Race Theory," Charles Blow says that Technology-related sensitivities, however, are less concerning than the political unrest sparked by the Trump administration. When he was elected in 2016, he immediately disregarded decades-old democratic governance standards based on executive decisions, administrative procedures, and congressional monitoring. He openly treated opponents badly and berated anyone who disagreed with him. Regarding immigration, gender, and ethnicity, he said offensive things. In addition, he alienated allies and courted authoritarian leaders in terms of foreign policy (Blow).

Darrell M. West is vice president and director of governance studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. In his book "Power Politics: Trump and the Assault on American Democracy" suggests that, by 2019, the House of Representatives was moving toward impeachment after Democrats were presented with what they perceived to be sufficient proof of malfeasance. Some Brookings scholars publicly called for his resignation in support of this action. Because they were alarmed by the fact that during a phone call with the Ukrainian president, Trump asked his counterpart to look into Joe Biden's campaign in an effort to sabotage it. He threatened to withhold crucial U.S. military funding if President Volodymyr Zelensky did not publicly announce an investigation. The president was caught up in the power games. At the time of Trump's initial impeachment, everything in Washington, D.C., was divisive. As people argued about whether the investigation was necessary and whether he ought to be removed from office, it captivated the nation. Others regarded Trump's varied actions as a clear danger to the Constitution and the rule of law and have called the endeavor a witch hunt (West).

Darrell adds that it was highly worrisome how Trump and his allies in the government, industry, and media assailed civil society. He would scream about leftist professors, think tanks, attack charities, spread untrue conspiracies, and undercut independent fact-checkers while ranting about fake news. Trump himself or others who imitated his remarks would personally attack anyone in a position to call him out on his errors (West).

To weaken Biden, Trump complained about ballot fraud and a "rigged election" almost every day between the 2020 election and the 2021 inauguration, and most Republicans across the country believed that there had been rampant fraud. He would later refer to it as the crime of the century. His supporters campaigned under the slogan "Stop the Steal," claiming that Democrats had misused postal ballots in sufficient numbers to tip the election away from the president. Suits were filed alleging significant electoral fraud, and the case made it all the way

to the Supreme Court. Later, the attorneys general of each state filed an amicus brief in which they argued that there had been no serious fraud and that military members had voted by mail for years without any corruption or scandal (West).

Conclusion

The purpose of this chapter was to explore deeply into Donald Trump's ideologies and strategies, shedding light on his populist status. Trump was able to maintain his campaign and ultimately win the presidency of the United States of America despite the negative perceptions that surrounded him. We also analyzed the influence of Trump's policies on democratic institutions. Trump's actions and policies were viewed by many as a direct threat to the democratic fiber of the United States. They argued that his approach undermined democratic values and norms, thereby threatening the political system's foundations. However, it is essential to observe that others held a divergent opinion.

Trump's efforts to undermine democratic institutions, according to his supporters, ultimately failed. They argued that despite the controversial character of his presidency, Congress and other democratic institutions remained committed to upholding their democratic rights and duties. During his presidency, Trump confronted impeachment proceedings twice, which exemplifies his resilience. Impeachment proceedings, which include a comprehensive investigation and subsequent trial, are a significant mechanism for holding a president accountable for possible misconduct. The fact that Trump was twice impeached demonstrates the effectiveness of democratic checks and balances in the United States. It shows that democratic institutions were able to exercise their authority and maintain democratic integrity.

General conclusion

One of the pillars of the United States Constitution is its foundation of democracy. Multiple laws and pieces of legislation in the United States guarantee freedoms and liberties for the American people. Donald Trump is a controversial public figure and celebrity who has had an impact on United States history. His personality and the political ideology he espoused exceeded everyone's expectations. He won the presidential elections of 2016 and became president of the United States. Donald Trump popularized the notion that populism is an acceptable political ideology. Populism is not so much a worldview as it is a critical analysis of the existing power structures. As a direct consequence of Donald Trump's polarizing statements, the Republican Party has undergone a significant transformation.

Trump exemplified everything that is antithetical to the values, customs, cultural elements, and economic characteristics that the Republican Party is renowned for representing. His policies displayed utter contempt for individuals from disadvantaged classes and minorities. Political activists believed that Trump's administration negatively affected institutions such as the judiciary, minority rights, and press freedoms. One can conclude that Trump was equally destructive to the freedoms of minority groups and the press.

The research at hand presents available readings and a comprehensive analysis of Donald Trump's ideology and its impact on democracy. In addition, the research revealed that Donald Trump presented a threat to the fundamental values and constitutional pillars that support democracies. Nevertheless, his policies and actions had an impact on democratic institutions and American minorities. It can be said that Trump changed the structural institutions that define democracy. However, it is safe to mention that the nature of the legislative system prevented Trump from inflicting more damage to democracy. It was represented through his impeachment from the presidency.

While some political activists disagree with the idea that Trump damaged American democracy, others emphasize how Trump attacked it harshly. According to them, the former presidents' acts were met with severe reactions. However, this does not come without consequences. They add that his previous acts, and more precisely, his disagreement with the latest presidential results, left a significant impact on the nation. They believe he succeeded in damaging American democracy and its integrity.

Donald Trump was elected President of the United States in 2016, and his approach to governing immediately diverged from long-standing democratic norms and practices. His indifference to democratic governance guidelines, including executive decisions, administrative procedures, and congressional oversight, was evident from the start. Trump's confrontational attitude towards his opponents was a notable aspect of his presidency. He frequently engaged in public disputes and used derogatory language against those who disagreed with him or challenged his policies. This strategy created a divisive political climate and hampered the country's ability to cultivate constructive dialogue and cooperation among its various factions.

Trump's rhetoric regarding immigration, gender, and ethnicity attracted substantial criticism as well. Many found his remarks vulgar and insensitive, particularly regarding immigrants and minority groups. His remarks and immigration policies were characterized by a hardline posture, emphasizing border security and advocating for immigration restrictions, sparking debates about human rights, diversity, and inclusiveness. In addition, Trump's foreign policy strategy diverged from the traditional alliances and partnerships that the United States had cultivated over the years. He frequently demonstrated a propensity to alienate long-standing allies, straining relations with nations that had been regarded as key strategic partners. Moreover, he displayed a tendency to engage with and court the leaders of authoritarian

regimes, which raised concerns regarding the promotion of democratic values and human rights on the international stage.

Trump's actions and strategies had significant effects on democratic institutions both domestically and internationally. They prompted discussions regarding the erosion of democratic norms, the function of checks and balances, and the vulnerability of democratic values in the face of populist leadership. The controversies and challenges presented by Trump's presidency have prompted a broader examination of the strengths and weaknesses of democratic systems across the globe. It is important to note that these findings are based on a broad variety of perspectives and those scholars, experts, and the public hold differing opinions regarding Trump's impact on democratic governance and foreign policy. The debates surrounding his presidency underscore the ongoing discussion regarding the nature of democracy and the complexities of striking a balance between executive power, democratic principles, and the rule of law.

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الملخص

يهدف هذا البحث إلى دراسة إرث دونالد ترامب والتحديات التي واجهتها الديمقراطية الأمريكية ، من خلال دراسة الإجراءات والسياسات التي اتخذها والتي تهدد الديمقراطية. استخدم البحث مجموعة من المنهجيات لتحقيق الأهداف المقصودة للدراسة. تم اعتماد نهج نوعي لاختيار وفحص الكتب والمجلات المتعلقة بالتحقيق البحثي. بالإضافة إلى ذلك ، تستخدم الأطر التاريخية والوصفية لتوفير خلفية عن أصول وأشكال وسمات الديمقراطية، حاولت الدراسة وصف أسس الديمقراطية وتنفيذ عقيدة دونالد ترامب السياسية. تكشف نتائج هذه الدراسة أن الانتماء السياسي لدونالد ترامب أثر على المؤسسات الديمقراطية. لقد تم تجاهل وجود المحرومين والفقراء من قبله. ومع ذلك ، وجه ترامب هجماته نحو وسائل الإعلام. الإعلام الأمريكي هو التنفيذ الفعلي للدستور الأمريكي الذي منح حرية الصحافة. ومع ذلك ، أعاد ترامب تشكيل الأحزاب السياسية وتسبب في الانقسام والصراع داخل الحزب الجمهوري. ومن المؤكد أن ترامب إلى حد ما تسبب في آثار على الموقف السياسي الأمريكي ومثله العليا. ومع ذلك ، من الواضح أن طبيعة التشريع في أمريكا الديمقراطية كانت مهددة من قبل الراب خلال فترة ولايته.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الديمقراطية ، دونالد ترامب ، الحزب الجمهوري ، الشعبوية ، الأيديولوجية السياسية ، الحكومة ،

الديمقراطية الأمريكية

Résumé

Cette recherche vise à étudier l'héritage de Donald Trump et les défis auxquels la démocratie américaine est confrontée, en examinant les actions et les politiques qu'il a prises qui menacent la démocratie. Une approche qualitative a été adoptée pour la sélection et la sélection de livres et de revues liés à la recherche. En outre, des cadres historiques et descriptifs sont utilisés pour fournir des informations générales sur les origines, les formes et les caractéristiques de la démocratie, l'étude a tenté de décrire les fondements de la démocratie et la mise en œuvre de la doctrine politique de Donald Trump. Les résultats de cette étude révèlent que l'affiliation politique de Donald Trump a influencé les institutions démocratiques. L'existence des défavorisés et des pauvres a été ignorée par lui. Cependant, Trump a dirigé ses attaques vers les médias. Les médias américains sont la mise en œuvre de facto de la Constitution américaine qui a accordé la liberté de la presse. Cependant, Trump a remodelé les partis politiques et provoqué des divisions et des conflits au sein du Parti républicain. Dans une certaine mesure, Trump a certainement eu des effets sur la position politique et les idéaux américains. Il est clair que la nature de la législation dans l'Amérique démocratique a été menacée par le rap pendant son mandat.

Mots-clés : démocratie, Donald Trump, Parti républicain, populisme, idéologie politique, gouvernement, démocratie américaine.