

Book Reviews

The Case for Trump, by Victor Davis Hanson, 400 pp, hardcover, \$20.98, ISBN 978-1-5416-7354-0, New York, N.Y., Basic Books, 2019.

Although this book was published before the 2020 election, the opposing sides are as Hanson defined them in 2019. The game is not over.

Donald J. Trump won the nomination and was elected President in 2016, riding a wave of a wide range of discontents, mostly in the middle and working classes. Trump attracted patriotic Americans including disenchanted Democrats, but he started with a base of conservative, more religious and more traditional Americans, in contrast to the opposite voting block that had moved hard left and been swept up in progressive socialist statist Democratic Party currents created by President Barack Obama.

Hanson explains why Trump generated such a groundswell of support. He was the guy breaking china and promising to make America what it thought it was—the greatest nation on earth. No more soft-thinking political poohbahs. He promised to restore economic strength, stop giving away the store, and make “Made in America” mean something. Trump promised to be on the side of Americans, while Hillary Clinton went to West Virginia and told them she was going to put them out of work.

Even Trump supporters who thought he was noisy and ill-mannered still considered him as a necessary measure to fix ailing and self-destructive domestic and foreign policies. Americans chose the man who appeared to love America and Americans, and whose heart and energy appealed as a life saver. Hanson proposes that Trump was playing seriously the role of the hero. In my view, this poses the question of whether Trump presents a heroic but flawed figure to be supported in times of duress and discarded when things are better—like Gen. Curtis LeMay, whom Hanson wrote about in *The Savior Generals* (2013).

Trump crashed the political party and offended the many poseurs that populate officialdom, both elected and unelected. He kept many promises about doing a job Americans wanted done but found no one willing or able to do. Hanson tallies the scores, and the marks are high. Nevertheless, Trump has had a target on his back from his announcement of candidacy. Hanson predicted in this book that Trump would accomplish much but not get any credit, and would either survive two terms with

ostracism or neglect after or serve a single term and be cast aside. Hanson had no knowledge of COVID-19 and its devastating effect, and he also underestimated media's and Democrats' hatred of Trump and their obsession with destroying him.

Hanson points out that Hillary Clinton's dismissal of Trump voters as a small “basket of deplorables” shone a bright light on her attitude and that of the ruling chattering class. He notes that “as one side loudly snickered about the stinky white Trump demographic, the other side quietly voted.” What they will do now, after three more years of the Left's escalating attacks, remains to be seen, but Hanson's insights, based on a deep study of classical military and political history, are well worth reading.

John Dale Dunn, M.D., J.D.
Brownwood, Texas

The Courage to Face COVID-19: Preventing Hospitalization and Death While Battling the Bio-Pharmaceutical Complex, by John Leake and Peter A. McCullough, M.D, M.P.H., 315 pp, softcover, \$16.95, ISBN-13: 979-8986236308, Counterplay Books, 2022.

This is the most comprehensive, gripping, and powerful of the 13 books about COVID-19 and related matters that I have read. The collaboration of John Leake, a true-crime writer of great renown, Dr. Peter McCullough, one of the most credentialed, published, and COVID-19-treatment-experienced physicians in the world provides an unusual, step-wise description of the unfolding of what may be the most disastrous failure of public health pandemic response in history.

The many unprecedented and seismic phenomena described in real-time and backed up by extensive credible references include:

- Failure of government agencies and mainstream medical institutions and organizations to develop effective ambulatory early, safe treatment, then mounting a campaign to discredit and suppress successful treatments discovered and used by practicing physicians;
- Concerted efforts by government agencies, global unelected super-wealthy and powerful individuals, Big Tech leaders, major media, pharmaceutical companies, select medical

authorities in positions of power but not involved in treating patients with the disease, and professional organizations, all pushing vaccines as the only way out of the crisis;

- Pervasive and systemic, determined suppression and censorship of any and all dissenting opinions from the orthodoxy of “a shot in every arm” as the only path for emergence from draconian and largely failed public mitigation measures
- Unprecedented numbers of serious adverse events and deaths following global implementation in the historically short time for data acquisition about novel mRNA and viral vector DNA vaccines from the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), which is known to under-report actual events;
- Demonizing medical professionals and any lay public who have dared to question vaccine effectiveness or safety in view of these reports;
- Demonizing those who choose not to take a COVID vaccine as being responsible for undue risk to others, even after it has become clear that the vaccines are not effective in preventing either infection or transmission;
- Disregarding the longer-lasting and more robust immunity from natural infection, which as many as 70 percent of children already possess;
- Imposing a wide array of “public health” measures, which are unsupported by evidence and which have had catastrophic detrimental effects;
- Using manipulated and fraudulent data to suppress safe, repurposed, effective drugs such as hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin; and
- Unprecedented threats and firing or delicensing of physicians who disagree with the official recommendations or mandates.

It is inconceivable to me that any rational, open-minded person could read this book and not come away with a view of COVID-19 different from the official one. One will appreciate the true heroes for medical freedom and ethical patient treatment, who have sacrificed so much. It is essential for the rest of us to support these heroes by sharing this powerful source of truth and hope with others.

Bose Ravenel, M.D.
Winston-Salem, N.C.