

ALPHA CHIMP

Following his first indictment ex prez Trump Declared:

"THE USA IS NOW A THIRD WORLD NATION,"

a statement echoed by his sons and many of his supporters.

In reality, leaders who left office since 2000 have been jailed or prosecuted in at least 78 countries — including in democracies like France, Israel and South Korea. Former presidents are being investigated, prosecuted and even jailed worldwide.

Strong democracies are usually competent enough — and the judicial system independent enough — to go after politicians whose actions turn to criminal offense, including top leaders. In the last 50 years, there were 243 indictments of current and former world leaders by their own governments. Many of those were democracies. Is it becoming more common to hold former leaders accountable for their actions while in office because the system is working, or is it that those who seek positions of power are becoming more blatantly corrupt and criminal?

In 2016, the psychologist Dan McAdams wrote a psychological portrait of Trump for *The Atlantic*. McAdams describes Trump as “psychologically singular,” a man who “lacks an inner story to provide his life with temporal continuity, purpose, and meaning. He is the episodic man, living (and fighting) in the moment.” And that moment is free of ethical considerations and ethical constraints.

“Trump is like the alpha chimp who is always playing the short game, a brute-force game, to win at all costs,” McAdams claims. Trump himself said years ago, “Man is the most vicious of all animals, and life is a series of battles ending in victory or defeat.”

In a court of law, an arraignment sets the course of the case with a plea. Here it is not victory or defeat, but rather, guilty or not guilty.

Now indicted on 37 Federal charges including obstruction and unlawful retention of defense information for storing dozens of classified documents at his Florida resort and refusing to return them to the FBI and the National Archives.

It's probably impossible for an episodic man to ever admit guilt, even caught red-handed with damning evidence, including audio recordings confirming his knowledge of the violations. It's almost like he believes that if you deny guilt, you're no longer guilty. The 'Magical thinking' defense.

Despite the 'speedy trial' promised by the investigating prosecutor Jack Smith, Trump-style dictates delay as defense.

The Speedy Trial act of 1974 mandates that any pretrial period of delay in federal and district court shall not exceed 100 days. That's a lot of time to rally, and continue to put his foot in his mouth, too.

We're a long way from “*even the appearance of wrongdoing is unacceptable*”



Ellsberg, Zinn, Butch & Sundance Stoned & Hiding from the FBI

You're probably familiar with the **Pentagon Papers**, whether from books, films, or because you lived through their release. Had the secret study of the Vietnam War not been leaked to journalists by legendary whistleblower **Daniel Ellsberg**, who had worked on the papers as a military analyst, in 1971, it would have likely taken years or decades longer to know just how badly US government officials lied their dicks off to the public about so much foreign mayhem.

With the Pentagon Papers, and Watergate, and lots of sludge from the Godforsaken Nixon-Johnson era surfacing for obvious reasons, Ellsberg's also been heard in the mix. Notably, he gave an interview to **Reveal** by the **Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)** for its excellent podcast “The Pentagon Papers: Secrets, lies and leaks,” which expanded on the fascinating legend of the night before the story dropped.

As was already known from some of Ellsberg's personal writings and the 2009 documentary about him by Judith Ehrlich and Rick Goldsmith, **The Most Dangerous Man in America**, Ellsberg had religiously been going to see **Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid** in Cambridge in the weeks leading to the release of the Pentagon Papers. Furthermore, he had been going with iconic Boston University professor and historian **Howard Zinn**. As Ellsberg recalled in a 2010 writing about Zinn, whom he called “the best human being I've ever known” and “the best example of what a human can be, and can do with their life”:

“On Saturday night, June 12, 1971, we had a date with Howard and Roz to see Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid in Harvard Square. But that morning I learned from someone at the New York Times that without having alerted me the Times was about to start publishing the top secret documents I had given them that evening. That meant I might get a visit from the FBI any moment; and for once, I had copies of the Papers in my apartment, because I planned to send them to Senator Mike Gravel for his filibuster against the draft.”

Which is where Reveal comes in with the cannabis nugget:

Daniel Ellsberg: “... I then picked up the phone and called Howard Zinn, who I was going to see that night to go see Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid for the fourth time or something, for me,



I'd given Howard about a thousand pages of it, and Noam Chomsky about a thousand, as historians, for their interest. They were keeping it under their bed.”

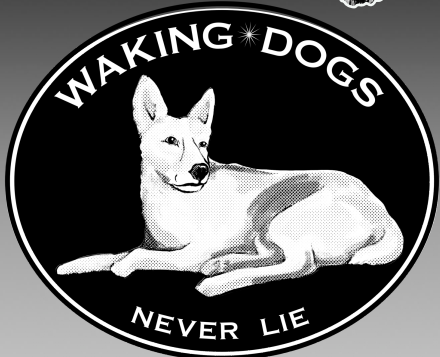
Michael Corey [Reveal editor]: *This next part makes you wonder, “What was he thinking?”*

Daniel Ellsberg: *“I said, ‘Howard, I've got to store some more stuff with you. The FBI may come any minute.’ I said, ‘Let me come by your place. I want to drop something off, ...so somebody else also had given me a lid of grass.”*

“I thought, ‘Okay, they're going to come any minute, here, so took the lid of grass there, and I gave Howard the stuff, and then we smoked as much as we could, and threw... and flushed the rest down the toilet.”

While Ellsberg was dodging the FBI in a movie theater, baked and watching **Butch Cassidy**, the New York Times presses were rolling for the Sunday paper.

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Every optimist moves along with progress and hastens it, while every pessimist would keep the world at a standstill. The consequence of pessimism in the life of a nation is the same as in the life of the individual. Pessimism kills the instinct that urges people to struggle against poverty, ignorance and crime, and dries up all the fountains of joy in the world.

~ Helen Keller

“We have to be militants for kindness, subversive for sweetness & radicals for tenderness.”

~ Cornel West



“I would not have thought of copying the Pentagon Papers, risking a possible lifetime in prison, without the example of thousands of young Americans who were doing everything they could —including non-violent disobedience to the draft regulations— to oppose a wrongful, hopeless war. They showed civic courage, and I can attest to its effectiveness; as a government consultant and former official, I felt its power on my own life.”

- Daniel Ellsberg
b. 4/7/1931 d. 6/16/2023

“Mankind's self-alienation has reached such a degree that it can experience its own destruction as an aesthetic pleasure of the first order.”

~ Jerry Mander

b. 5/1 1936 - d. 4/11 2023

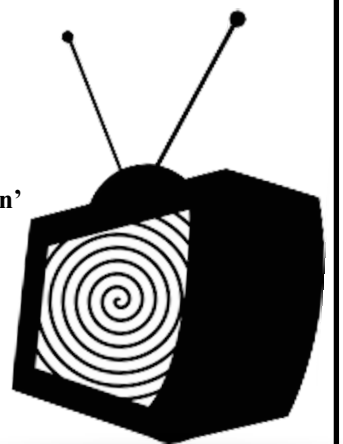
Author of ‘Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television’



“Sometimes you've got to let everything go — purge yourself. If you are unhappy with anything... whatever is bringing you down, get rid of it. Because you'll find that when you're free, your true creativity, your true self comes out.”

~ Tina Turner

b. 11/26 1939 - d. 5/24 2023



Without the rebellious heart, without people who understand that there's no sacrifice we can make that is too great to retrieve that which we've lost, we will forever be distracted with possessions and trinkets and title. You can cage the singer but not the song. Peace is necessary.

~ Harry Belafonte

b. 3/1 1927 - d. 4/25 2023

