

DJ Trump issued first on Truth Social and then on X-Twitter a quotation attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte, to wit: “He who saves his country does not violate any law.” On X-Twitter DJ Trump then attached the statement to the well known heroic image of the military general Napoleon mounted on his steed.

Immediately there came to me the association with a fairly well known, but unfortunately stereotypically inappropriate, Italian anecdote I first heard from a professor of romance languages back in about 1978. Napoleon on his major campaigns through other parts of southern Europe and then down into Egypt was said to engage in extensive plundering. In the late 1960s an aunt of mine took us on a tour of her native Bern, Switzerland, and pointed out the treasury of the wealthy burger city that was one of the victims of Napoleon’s plunder. When Napoleon got down into Italy, however, he was himself the victim of the extensive plundering of his army’s baggage train and was supposed to have asked the Italians: “Sono tutti gli Italiani dei Ladri?” – Are all the Italians thieves? – The response was “No, non tutti, ma buona parte.” – No, not all, but a goodly part. – Of course, the “double entendre” with Napoleon’s original Italian-Corsican surname became immediately pronounced. Coming from Corsica, with its own reputation for characters of ill disposed thievery, Napoleon himself was veritably designated the major thief himself.

So DJ Trump like Napoleon before him is supposedly saving his country? And he’s not violating any laws and engaging in any thievery? That is – Not as the supposedly altruistic political leader being substantially involved in self-aggrandizement? Not violating the laws passed through legislative authority? Not violating the laws or principles and structures laid out in the constitution? Not violating any commonly accepted ethics, nor the laws of a commonly accepted Judeo-Christian God?

It took the combined armies of Europe to stop Napoleon’s propagandistic demagoguery and thievery. And that brought with it the restoration of European aristocracy, autocracy, and the delay of essential democratic progress for the peoples of Europe.

History is replete with demagogic geniuses, or phony populist wannabe autocrats, who didn’t make their country great again. Yuval Noah Harari in his book *Nexus. A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI*, provides a short excursion of how Napoleon did not make France great again (pp. 268-269 and 275-276). The ultimately legitimate goals of France hardly aligned with Napoleon’s preliminary genius military accomplishments. Harari discusses Napoleon in the

context of Carl von Clausewitz' analysis of war – along with the impossibility of human judgment to align with any ultimately legitimate goals of war and politics, and much less the impossibility of artificial intelligence to do so.

My own academic research, having to confront German nationalistic, autocratic and propagandistic discourse, has definitely led to the conclusion, and not only for me, that Hitler hardly made Germany great again.

Do many supporters really believe that a fake populism, not really concerned with the betterment of the greater masses of the population, is going to make America great – again? Napoleon, Hitler and Trump did not, and will not make, their country great again. Their strategy and goals were/are (self-?)delusions.

So maybe DJ Trump (like the atheistic Ron Reagan?) is not particularly afraid of either mortal or immortal judgment. Indeed, what apparently seems to be most important to DJ Trump is leverage, power and acclaim. But perhaps it's about time for his acolytes, particularly those professing any religious persuasion, to come to the realization that DJ Trump is absolutely not, neither for his country, nor particularly for his various religious supporters, any kind of savior.

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