Twitter Thread by Teri Kanefield



Teri Kanefield
@Teri_Kanefield



This is what he wants to do.

No matter how this trial plays out, the US will remain divided between those who choose truth, Democracy, and rule of law and the millions who reject these things.

1/

> Wouldn't he just use this to repeat his Big Lie and have GOP echo him?
>
> — Thel Marquez (@theljava) January 31, 2021

The question is how to move forward.

My mantra is that there are no magic bullets and these people will always be with us.

Except for state legislatures, they have less power now than they have for a while.

2/

The only real and lasting solutions are political ones. Get Democrats into local offices. Get people who want democracy to survive to the polls at every election, at every level.

It’s a constant battle.

3/

Maybe I should tell you all about Thurgood Marshall’s life to illustrate how hard the task is and how there will be backlash after each step of progress.

4/

Precisely. That's why Thurgood Marshall's life came to mind.

We are still riding the backlash that started after the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education.

That's why I keep saying there are no easy fixes.
https://t.co/qEXUc6wHx5

5/

> Yep. My relatives continue to support Trump and make false equivalencies as justification. I\u2019ve found it impossible to present factual information that changes minds. Trump\u2019s emotional appeal registers with them: that things were better before civil rights advances.
>
> — Martha Brockenbrough INTO THE BLOODRED WOODS (@mbrockenbrough) January 31, 2021

Later today or tomorrow: What I learned from writing the biographies of Susan B. Anthony and Thurgood Marshall.

We spend out lives trying to push forward.
They spend theirs trying to us push backward.

6/

https://t.co/sL1kj5tHFB

> Yes, please do-we need the inoculation \U0001f64f\U0001f3fc\U0001f4af\u2705
>
> — Mac (@mcadooandrewd) January 31, 2021

My view: Doomsayers who think that the US is in the grip of something new that we've never seen before are a bit out of touch with US history.

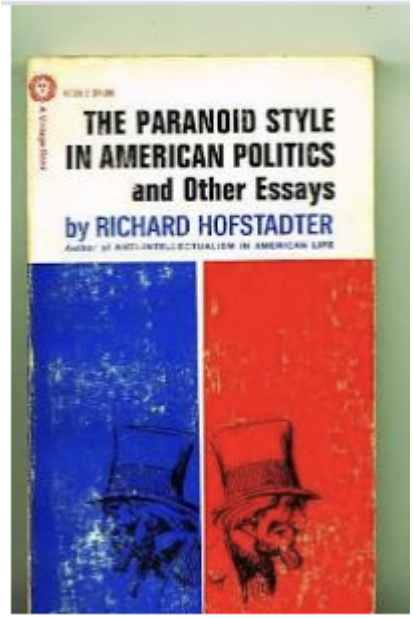
For a great many Americans, the past five decades are a vast improvement over previous ones.

7/

From the political psychologists I've learned that there are no magic bullets.

For example, Richard Hofstadter explains that what he calls the dangerous and politically paranoid have been with us since the founding of the nation.

8/



People without a grounding in history and political psychology are vulnerable to two things: Hope porn ("Y" will solve our political problems) and doomsaying (If "X" happens, all hope is gone.)

Democracy was dead in 1850 for a lot of Americans.
It was reborn.

9/

Hope didn't exist for a lot of Americans during the Great Depression. There was no social security, no 40 hour workweek, no minimum wage, no GI Bill.

Kids had to go to work and had no hope of finishing high school.

College was for the wealthy.

10/

For most Americans, there was no hope of social advancement.

Then along came FDR and the New Deal.

Hope was reborn (and a middle class was born).

How did he do it?
He did it with a large electoral majority.

11/

Part of how he got his electoral majority, unfortunately, was that he had the support of the South because Blacks were not included.

If you want me to end this on a positive note, millions of people voted in 2020 in Georgia who would not have dared try to vote 70 years ago.

12/