Twitter Thread by Nick Carmody JD, MS Psych

Nick Carmody JD, MS Psych
@Nick_Carmody

The real danger for the country isn't the election results, it's the reaction to, and the refusal to accept the results. For more than four years, Trump and the Right Wing Media Echo Chamber have conditioned his supporters to believe the election is "rigged". They believe it….1/

In a recent thread about collective election anxiety/PTSD, I wrote that "one half the country doesn't believe in evidence, the other half can't trust it." 2/
https://t.co/h216nbEdkp

> The collective anxiety is the by-product of two unfortunate realities of the Trump era:
>
> 1)You\u2019ll never go broke if you consistently bet on the ignorance/depravity of 1/3 of this country.
>
> 2)One-half of the country doesn\u2019t believe in evidence. The other half can\u2019t trust it.
>
> 1/ https://t.co/gY5lzJxNxq
>
> — Nick Carmody JD, MS Psych (@Nick_Carmody) October 20, 2020

This couldn't more evident than by the fact that 87 percent of Trump supporters believe he will win re-election, despite the fact that… 3/ https://t.co/tlMUbC8WVi

…the empirical data that shows Biden *should* win easily. This has resulted in https://t.co/e8JNg5tYmK calculating that Trump has only a 10% chance of winning. To be clear, 10% is a non-zero number, much like the 30% chance that Trump had in 2016. 4/ https://t.co/y4uSRZ59dM

But the real problem isn't necessarily about low probabilities, the real problem…..or more accurately, the danger…..lies in the pathologically unrealistic expectations of the cult of Trump: 90% of them have been conned into thinking that a 10% probability is a "sure thing". 5/

Imagine if 60+ million Americans packed into every Riverboat Casino along the Mississippi River to bet their "life savings" on what they were told would be a "sure thing" bet.

Imagine if 90% were convinced they'd win.

Now imagine that the bet didn't come in. 6/

What would happen in that scenario? The gap between expectations and reality would likely result in people revolting over having been conned/cheated out of their life savings. It might result in some of those river boats ending up on the bottom of the Mississippi River. 7/

Bringing this back to the election, Trump and the Right Wing Media Echo Chamber are the pathologically dishonest conmen who sold four years worth of "can't lose" tickets onto those riverboats…which created pathologically unrealistic expectations…. 8/

…..which conned tens of millions of people into betting their "life savings" (ego/identity) on a Sociopath whose convinced them that culture war jihadism (complete with "suicide bomber"-like Covid self-sacrifices) will bring back an alternate reality that no longer exists ...9/

The difference in real life: the "Riverboats" represent the already weakened institutions of democracy. And as has been seen with Trump's 2016 invitation for Russian interference, the Ukrainian "high crimes and misdemeanors" quid pro quo, & his recent pre-election rhetoric,...10/

…..Trump will do anything and everything to send the pillars of democracy to the proverbial bottom of the Mississippi River in order to self-preserve. 11/ https://t.co/sRRVPAQxWS

> I don\u2019t think Trump goes willingly or quietly. He has already shown that he will do anything to self-preserve. His need to sustain the narcissistic grandiosity & avoid shame results in him having to frame everything in terms of being rigged or crooked,\u20261/https://t.co/kyuDmy90JG
>
> — Nick Carmody JD, MS Psych (@Nick_Carmody) April 20, 2019

Trump will play on the expectations that he has created.

If Trump gets an early vote count lead, he will claim victory in that state, and attempt to get the secretary of state to stop counting… 12/

….. If that is unsuccessful, and votes continue to come in and erase his lead, Trump will claim victimhood and fraud.

The Right Wing media will promote this narrative, the cowardly congressional Republicans will back it or remain silent, and his supporters will believe it. 13/

The greater the disparity between reality & expectations...

...and the greater their feeling of grievance over the perception of the election being stolen from Trump/them...

...the greater the risk for civil unrest.

That is exactly what Trump desires.14/https://t.co/bchAxV9J1B

> Civil unrest....when perceived to be inspired by tribal loyalty/cult membership allegiance.....is one of the greatest sources of narcissistic supply. There's been glimpses of Trump's fascination with the intoxicating thought of civil war, revolt against his impeachment, etc...1/ https://t.co/Ti3CSf6FGS
>
> — Nick Carmody JD, MS Psych (@Nick_Carmody) April 17, 2020

Relevant threads:https://t.co/t2kqxzul0n

> Decades of disinformation by the Right-Wing Echo Chamber has conditioned half the country to reflexively disbelieve anything that contradicts the echo chamber narrative, or politically threatens (holds accountable) an incompetent, corrupt, and pathologically unfit president. 1/ https://t.co/VGsdVm4YLW
>
> — Nick Carmody JD, MS Psych (@Nick_Carmody) March 17, 2020

Relevant thread: https://t.co/58u5rzRNe1

> One of the dangerous consequences of the "fire hose of lies":
>
> ....If they can get people to the point where it seems like we can\u2019t believe anything.....then they can get away with everything.
>
> We are seeing this in real time with Trump. 35/
>
> — Nick Carmody JD, MS Psych (@Nick_Carmody) February 5, 2020

Just added this thread as an article here (no paywall): https://t.co/ZTXW5hBhey

https://t.co/h216nbEdkp

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