# Twitter Thread by Maajid ■■■ ■■■■■



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**THREAD**

**Thinking *critically* about Trump's term without allowing ideology to blind &obscure our analytical abilities, by Christopher Caldwell**

**"The lesson of Trump is that Americans have lately cared too much about ideology and too little about**

"The early "Russiagate" inquiries..had their origins in Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign, just as Trump claimed"

"The Democrats' first impeachment trial in 2019, over Trump's attempts to gather dirt on Hunter Biden in Ukraine, was secretive and staged, and probably harmed the Democrats more than the Republicans."

"Trump's enemies were often under the impression his supporters had been hoodwinked or inattentive, but no. The whole country saw the same Trump. They just differed in their risk assessments"

"Trump was elected for a reason. He spoke to a downwardly mobile, mostly white working class that had been forgotten by the elites raking in money from the global economy. By re-engaging these outcasts with the political system, he...turned politics upside down"

"Trump had shifted the economic playing field in non-elites' favour...These gains went unnoticed in print because the people who write about politics tend not to know many people who hang plasterboard and install air-conditioning systems"

"Trump..laid an economic foundation for re-election..much stronger than non–working-class.. understood. Covid-19..delivered the economy back to the coastal investment bankers & internet moguls, exacerbating the inequality..Trump had come to office.. to fix. He was just unlucky"

"..Voters, not all of them poor, perceived American democracy as having been corrupted. Their perception was correct.. Through a process that no one fully understood, second-rate professors now had veto power over what people could and could not say"

“similar to Brexit..Unseating America’s guardians of political correctness..required either..sustained work or an aide with the brilliance of Dominic Cummings. Trump had neither. He didn’t know where the power was that was stymieing his every plan & he had no one to tell him”

“For all the recent talk of incitement, Trump got his enemies considerably more riled up than his friends”

“Trump didn’t have the skill to dismantle the power structures that were ruining his voters’ lives, but he did leave them feeling they’d never walk alone. (“Hear these words,” he said at the end of his inauguration address. “You will never be ignored again.”)”

“Trump may have given American populism its characteristic expression, but he didn’t unleash it and it won’t end with him. Many of the grievances that brought him into the political arena have, as we say, worsened”

“His Democratic tormentors have learnt little from their early debacles. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez..complains about “white supremacist” colleagues in Congress; Zoe Lofgren, the California congresswoman, describes the Capitol marchers as “right-wing terrorists”

“That leaves Republicans worried that, once Democrats are done with Trump, they will come for his rank and file. This diminishes the likelihood that Democrats will be able to win a conviction of Trump in the Senate in the coming weeks”