

## The 2020 Election: Syphilis Versus Gonorrhea

By Jeremy Kuzmarov

The great Australian dissident Julian Assange characterized the 2016 election as a contest between syphilis and gonorrhea.

We are again left with two abysmal choices in 2020.

One, President Trump, failed the country by dismissing early warnings about the Coronavirus, while enflaming racial divisions and sanctioning mass roundups of undocumented immigrants.

Trump's environmental record has been catastrophic and his economic programs – including sweeping corporate tax cuts and lessening of regulations designed to prevent tax evasion - cater blatantly to the one percent.

In foreign policy, despite creating the illusion of being an isolationist, Trump expanded drone strikes and troop levels in the Middle East, and intensified humanitarian crises by ratcheting up sanctions against vulnerable countries like Venezuela.

Trump further pulled the United States out of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) mandating a reduction of mid-range nuclear weapons, provided lethal military aid to Ukraine as it carried out gross human rights provinces in its eastern provinces, and overrode a Congressional ban on arms supplies to the Saudi Royal family as it devastated the country of Yemen.

The Democratic Party establishment wants us to believe that Joe Biden represents a decent and credible alternative to Trump and will restore a sense of normalcy to the presidency.

But Biden has a horrendous record in his four plus decades in office, has been accused plausibly of sexual assault, and was often unable to speak coherently during the Democratic primary debates.

Some of the major lowlights of Biden's career include:

- His opposition to school busing programs that were designed to integrate America's public schools and cultivation of a close relationship with bigoted segregationists such as James Eastland of Mississippi
- His close ties to the MBNA credit card company and the credit card industry in his home state of Delaware and championing of bankruptcy legislation that made it more difficult for people to file for bankruptcy and ensured that private student loans couldn't be discharged in bankruptcies
- His support for a crime bill in the Clinton era that was a major source of America's mass incarceration boom
- His championing the 2003 Iraq War as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee and coordinating hearings that were designed to bolster Congressional support for that disastrous war
- His manipulation of Ukraine's judicial system<sup>1</sup> by blackmailing the Ukrainian government in order to force them to fire the Attorney General, Victor Shokin, who was prosecuting the CEO of a company that his son, Hunter, was placed on the board of (Burisma oil) because Biden was Vice President. (Biden himself has openly bragged about this)

- His support for the right-wing coup in Ukraine in February 2014 which precipitated a war with the country's eastern provinces and drew in Russia, resulting in a new cold war between two heavily armed nuclear countries.
- His cultivation of close ties with Nouri al Maliki, the "Shia Saddam" whose repressive campaigns against the Sunni helped facilitate the rise of ISIS and led to renewed American military intervention in Iraq during his Vice Presidency.
- His bragging that he helped write the 2001 USA Patriot Act which has helped erode citizens constitutional privacy rights.

America sadly resembles more and more a failed state, which cannot protect the health of its citizens and produces candidates each election cycle who are about as appealing as venereal disease.

The progressive forces need at this time to mobilize at a grass roots level and work independently of the two political parties for social justice and change, which cannot be achieved at the ballot box right now.

**Footnotes:**

1. The corporate media has been claiming the opposite. This documentary sheds a lot of firsthand information on the situation, from which you can draw your own conclusions:

<https://consortiumnews.com/2020/01/13/new-documentary-sheds-light-on-ukrainegate/>

Jeremy Kuzmarov is author of four book on U.S. foreign policy including *The Russians are Coming, Again: The First Cold War as Tragedy, the Second as Farce*, with John Marciano (Monthly Review Press, 2018) and *Obama's Unending Wars: Fronting the Foreign Policy of the Permanent Warfare State* (Atlanta: Clarity Press, 2019).