

# *News and Views 25*

Issue #1 Jan. 31, 2025

## ***“They Will Believe it.”***

This is the first issue of the new News and Views 25 newsletter. I hope you will find it to be of interest.

The project was conceived to primarily contain items submitted by members, but as host of the project I'd like to start with my view of the reason I started this project.

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## **Topic - How did Trump win?**

Let's review the situation that I believe brought our country to the precarious position we face. For the second time, Donald J. Trump is president of the United States. Nearly half of the voting population thought that would be a good idea. I'd like to explore how that happened,

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## **In the news**

On July 7, 2021 Donald Trump said:

**“If you say it long enough, hard enough, often enough, people will start to believe it.”**

In my opinion, the "Believe it" part could be interpreted as "lies, untruths, misinformation, disinformation" or all of them.

That statement clearly signaled the method he would use to spread the FUD factor (fear, uncertainty and doubt) in order to convince Americans that the country was in shambles and he was the only one who could "Fix" it by *“Making America Great Again.”*

Let's look at just three of the things he used to foster his FUD strategy,

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## **Economy**

**NYT, 1/5/25** - *"Our Country is a disaster, a laughing stock all over the World!"* he declared on social media last week.

**US News 8/14/24** - *"A lot of people are devastated by this economy,"* he said. *"Our country has become a third world nation ... a banana republic in so many ways."*

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## Crime

**NBC News 10/2/24** - Donald Trump has made the issue of crime a cornerstone of his campaign. He says violence in America is out of control and rising. *"You can't walk across the street to get a loaf of bread. You get shot, you get mugged, you get raped,"* the former president said recently at a campaign event north of Detroit.

**Truth social 1/1/25** - *"The DOJ, FBI, and Democrat state and local prosecutors have not done their job. They are incompetent and corrupt, having spent all of their waking hours unlawfully attacking their political opponent, ME, rather than focusing on protecting Americans from the outside and inside violent SCUM that has infiltrated all aspects of our government, and our Nation itself. Democrats should be ashamed of themselves for allowing this to happen to our Country. The CIA must get involved, NOW, before it is too late. The USA is breaking down - A violent erosion of Safety, National Security, and Democracy is taking place all across our Nation. Only strength and powerful leadership will stop it. See you on January 20th. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"*

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## Inflation

**Politifact 9/10/24** - During a Sept. 7 rally in Mosinee, Wisconsin, Trump said that as vice president, Kamala Harris — his Democratic opponent — *"cast the tie breaking votes that caused the worst inflation in American history, costing a typical American family \$28,000."*

**The Guardian 9/10/24** - As the presidential campaign enters the home stretch, one of Donald Trump's most dishonest – and effective – attacks is that Kamala Harris is to blame for inflation

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**Consider the facts:**  
**Economy**

Trump said the economy was a disaster.

**NYT 1/5/25** - For the first time since that transition 24 years ago, there will be no American troops at war overseas on Inauguration Day. New data reported in the past few days indicate that murders are way down, illegal immigration at the southern border has fallen even below where it was when Mr. Trump left office and roaring stock markets finished their best two years in a quarter-century.

Jobs are up, wages are rising and the economy is growing as fast as it did during Mr. Trump's presidency. Unemployment is as low as it was just before the Covid-19 pandemic and near its historic best. Domestic energy production is higher than it has ever been.

The manufacturing sector has more jobs than under any president since Mr. Bush. Drug overdose deaths have fallen for the first time in years. Even inflation, the scourge of the Biden presidency, has returned closer to normal, although prices remain higher than they were four years ago.

*"President Trump is inheriting an economy that is about as good as it ever gets," said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics. "The U.S. economy is the envy of the rest of the world, as it is the only significant economy that is growing more quickly post-pandemic than prepandemic."---*

**Chicago Booth Review 9/13/24** - Under the Biden administration, real GDP rose 12.6 percent, rightly cheered in the report as *"a historically robust expansion"*.

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## Crime

Trump said crime is out of control.

**NBC News 10/2/24** - But several years of national data tell the opposite story: Crime is falling in cities and towns across the United States. NBC News recently spent a day with Detroit police, who say Trump's characterization is false.

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## Inflation

Trump tried to blame Biden/Harris for inflation. In fact, this inflation was a GLOBAL event caused by Covid.

**Statista Research - 10/1/24** Global events following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 have left a lasting

impact on economies around the world. Almost every country experienced record levels of inflation, with monthly inflation in the U.S. peaking at more than nine percent in June 2022

**BBC Verify 9/2/24** - Trump has said the US has experienced *"the worst inflation we've ever had"*. But that's not true - inflation was last above 9% in 1981, and it has been much higher than that at several other points in US history

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## SUMMARY

In 2019 Trump laid out his strategy for winning the election - ***"If you say it long enough, hard enough, often enough, people will start to believe it."***

In the following years he repeated false statements over and over and over - designed to instill FUD (Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt) into the public's mind:

**RNC Convention 6/22/16** *"The American economy is in shambles. Like a banana republic. Crime is rampant. You can't go out for fear of being shot, mugged or raped. Inflation was caused by Biden/Harris. I alone can fix it."*

Millions of Americans listened and believed what he said. In a recent tv interview with a sincere lady with a MAGA hat, she said *"Trump is the most honest person in America"*

.Reliable sources indicate that Trump's veracity may be doubtful

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Future issues of News and Views 25 will include comments and views received from subscribers.

Thanks for joining us.

Stay safe and be happy,  
Mike Vitkauskas, Host, Editor