

Dedicated to Abolishing War, Establishing Justice, and Fighting Climate Disaster
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'Outright Betrayal of Veterans'

*They lied us into wars—
now they're lying about
taking care of us*

By Jessica Corbett

A House Democrat warned the move “will cripple the very system that millions of veterans rely on, denying them access to lifesaving healthcare, claims processing, and education benefits they’ve earned.”

President Donald Trump and billionaire Elon Musk’s sweeping effort to gut the federal government includes cutting up to 83,000 jobs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, according to a leaked memo that sparked a furious response on Wednesday.

VA Chief of Staff Christopher Syrek’s memo to top staff was first reported by Government Executive late Tuesday.

As the outlet detailed: “The forthcoming cuts will be sweeping and spare no part of the department, Syrek said. He set an initial target of VA’s staffing level in fiscal 2019, or 399,000 workers. VA currently employs 482,000 staff—and 459,000 full-time workers—meaning VA plans to slash its workforce by upwards of 83,000 individuals.” Over a quarter of department employees are veterans.

“Trump and Musk want to take away veterans’ healthcare to pay for massive tax breaks for billionaires. It’s a morally bankrupt plan that will prevent those who served our country from getting the care they need,” U.S. House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Chair Mike Bost (R-III.)



Stomp of Approval
by Mr. Fish

Surrendering to Authoritarianism

Liberal institutions, including universities, traditionally surrender without a fight to the dictates of autocrats. Ours are no exception.

By Chris Hedges

I was not surprised when Columbia University’s interim president Katrina Armstrong caved to the demands of the Trump administration. She agreed to ban face masks or face coverings, prohibit protests in academic buildings and create an internal security force of 36 New York City Police officers empowered to “remove individuals from campus and/or arrest them when appropriate.” She has also surrendered the autonomy of academic departments, as demanded by the Trump administration, by appointing a new senior vice provost to “review” the university’s department of Middle East, South Asian and African Studies and the Center for Palestine Studies.

Elite universities such as Harvard, Princeton, Columbia or Yale, were created to train and perpetuate the plutocracy. They are not and never have been centers of cutting-edge intellectual

thought or hospitable to dissidents and radicals. They cloak themselves in the veneer of moral probity and intellectualism but cravenly serve political and economic power. This is their nature. Don’t expect it to change, even as we fall headlong into authoritarianism.

Armstrong, like most of the heads of our universities, is fruitlessly humiliating herself. She would, I expect, happily make space on her office wall to hang an oversized portrait of the president. But what she does not know, and what history has taught us, is that no appeasement is sufficient with autocrats. She, and the rest of the liberal elites, groveling abjectly in an attempt to accommodate their new masters, will be steadily replaced or dominated by buffoonish goons such as those seeded throughout the Trump administration.

The Department of Education has warned 60 colleges and universities that they could face “potential enforcement actions,” if they do not comply with federal civil rights law that protects students from discrimination based on race or nationality, which includes antisemitism. Columbia, stripped of \$400 million in federal grants, is desperately trying to restore the funding. I doubt it will work. Those mounting these assaults against universities intend to turn them into indoctrination machines. The so-called campaign against antisemi-