

- [Opinion](#)

Trump has made the swamp his own

Feb. 25, 2026 at 9:39 am



"INSTEAD OF DRAINING THE SWAMP, I DECIDED TO TURN IT INTO MY OWN PERSONAL HOT TUB!"

By
[David Horsey](#)
 Seattle Times cartoonist

Donald Trump came to the presidency promising to “drain the swamp.” Instead, he has made the swamp his own. That is a fact easily overlooked given the multiple assaults the president has unleashed on the country he governs.

In foreign policy, Trump has turned the United States into an unreliable ally and a chaotic agent of instability, abdicating the role of “leader of the free world.”

In economic policy, he has overburdened businesses and consumers with his devotion to erratic and dunderheaded tariffs, and he has subverted American competitiveness with insane cuts to government-funded research and ignorant trashing of alternative energy programs.

And, perhaps most outrageously, he has flouted the Constitution and democratic traditions; seeking to subvert elections, ignoring court rulings and, most conspicuously, unleashing an untrained army of thugs to indiscriminately round up people on the streets of our cities — citizens and noncitizens alike — to hold them in detention and, in many cases, ship them out of the country with zero due process.

Trump’s reign of stupidity and lawlessness is so relentless and comprehensive, there is barely enough time for the public to catch its breath and consider the historic level of self-aggrandizement that the man from Mar-a-Lago has brought to the White House. While pretending to be the champion of working-class voters who feel left behind by the 21st century economy, the president has [exploited his position to get sweet deals from wealthy businessmen from various countries who seek to endear themselves to the most powerful man in the world.](#)

Trump has been cut in on cryptocurrency ventures and international real estate deals, while also granting

pardons in quid pro quo arrangements with high-rolling businessmen who have been convicted of financial crimes. It is estimated that Trump may have enriched himself and his family by \$4 billion in just 12 months, and he still has three years to go.

If not illegal, Trump's profiteering is monumentally unethical. Never in the nation's history has any president leveraged his position so crassly to expand his wealth. In fact, even the worst of our presidents never acted as if they were mafia dons who doled out favors for money and found every chance to spin power into gold.

But Trump is unlike any man who has been entrusted with the highest office in the land. He is a swamp creature who feels entirely comfortable in the deep muck and swill.

See more of David Horsey's cartoons at: st.news/davidhorsey