

Institutions, Institutions, Institutions

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But we believe our first duty is to this country, and the president continues to act in a manner that is detrimental to the health of our republic.

- New York Times [Anonymous Oped this Week](#) ^[a]



One of Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson's overarching theses in [Why Nations Fail](#) ^[b] is that the success of a country is predicated on the inclusiveness of political and economic institutions (which in turn underline an equal rule and application of law). I think many Trump supporters will be upset about the stance taken by the senior administration official, but it's important to remember that all of these officials (including the President) took an oath specifically to the Constitution and in turn to the precedent set over the last 200+ years. It generally seems best that government is slow to change. Consistency allows people and businesses to feel confident in the future and make investment in themselves and their communities accordingly.

Related reading:

At one point I heard some pretty convincing arguments that Trump was pursuing a **madman strategy** like Richard Nixon did during the Vietnam War but I think my confidence in that theory falls more each news cycle.

Links

- a. [nytimes.com/2018/09/05/opinion/trump-white-house-anonymous-resistance.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/05/opinion/trump-white-house-anonymous-resistance.html)
 - b. [amazon.com/Why-Nations-Fail-Origins-Prosperity/dp/0307719227](https://www.amazon.com/Why-Nations-Fail-Origins-Prosperity/dp/0307719227)
 - c. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madman_theory
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