

Reich on Trump

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This is an excerpt from an article by Robert Reich (Clinton's labour Secretary, amongst much else) on [his SubStack](#) this morning.

I recommend reading the rest and subscribing, which is free for most content. I think it worth paying the annual sub, which is I think \$40:

- * **Trump's major interest is capitulation itself.** Surrender is the whole point. He and those under him who are managing these extortionate initiatives want headlines that say "they" have surrendered to him — whether "they" is a country, a major university, a large law firm, a big nonprofit, even a Democratic state like California. Surrender is the point. Domination is his goal. (It always has been.)
- * **Each surrender feeds the public impression that Trump wants fed — that he is all-powerful, invincible, and able to get every person, institution, and country to cower to him.** He knows intuitively that each capitulation feeds his power — because *power* is itself an impression; invincibility, the consequence of everyone's capitulation.
- * **Each capitulation encourages him and his goons to engage in even more bullying of more institutions and countries.** Trump's need for dominance is insatiable. Every time he succeeds in gaining capitulation, he and his goons look for other opportunities to enlarge the impression that he has boundless power.
- * **Most of these institutions and countries will cave to Trump because their leaders are mainly concerned about their own institution's or country's survival.** They are not concerned about the effects of their capitulations on other institutions or on the world as a whole. The costs of significant losses of funding, clients, or access are borne by them; the benefits of resistance are felt by all.
- * **It's vitally important, therefore, that institutions and countries join together to fight this systemic intimidation.**

Will the world do as he suggests?

My own thinking is very close to his, as was noted here by a commentator earlier this morning, which is why I went to look.

Most especially, I share his points 1 and 2 when it comes to motivation, point five when it comes to action and point four when it comes to fears.