

## Your View: Alternative facts lead to alternative acts

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Truth-telling has always been an ongoing challenge for many politicians; Donald J. Trump not being the first or the last, but Trump, unlike predecessors in the Oval Office, has made an art form of turning his own questionable filter of true facts (what's online, what he heard or what's in the Enquirer) into what spokeswoman Kellyanne Conway has referred to as "alternative facts."

In a 2017 appearance on Meet the Press, host Chuck Todd pushed back on Conway, by reminding her that "alternative facts" are merely " falsehoods or lies."

While the Trump emergence, originally, in the scrum for his Republican Party's presidential nomination, his eventual nomination and his victory in the general election versus Clinton were all considered unprecedented, Trump's potential reliance , as head of state, on falsehoods and lies is not.

In late August 1939, the nation of Germany, plotting intensely behind the scenes to justify an imminent invasion of Poland, also engaged in "alternative facts" to prepare the German people for the upcoming turning point in their country's history: the official start of World War II.

William L. Shirer, author of "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" and a journalist who was present throughout Germany's journey toward war, until he and other journalists were expelled from the country, gave the following analysis of how government softened up the citizenry for the Polish incursion.

"Good propaganda, to be effective ...; needs more than words. It needs deeds, however much they may have to be fabricated ...; there remained only the concocting of a deed which would 'prove' that not Germany but Poland had attacked first."

So elements of the Nazis praetorian guard - the notorious SS - led by an Alfred Naujocks plotted a fake Polish attack on a German outpost on the frontier. On Sept. 1, 1939, as German forces jumped off in its preemptive invasion of Poland, Naujocks and his SS thugs carried out their ruse at Gleiwitz.

Chancellor Adolf Hitler, knowing full well the alternative nature of his facts, announced: "This night for the first time Polish regular soldiers fired on our own territory ...; and from now on bombs will be met with bombs."

Shirer, having covered the political career of Herr Hitler for the better part of the decade, wrote, " Having lied so often on his way to power and in his consolidation of power, Hitler could not refrain at this serious moment in history from thundering a few more lies to the gullible German people in justification of his wanton act."

Nearly 80 years later in the first week of his administration, has Donald J. Trump, in closing our nation's border to more than 130 million people with the stroke of a pen, committed a wanton act? Might an eventual result be an act of war from one of the seven nations, a noted belligerent like Iran?

From the Boston Sunday Globe on Jan. 29, Alex Nowrasteh of the Cato Institute noted that, "Foreigners from those seven nations have killed zero Americans in terrorist attacks on U.S. soil between 1975 and the end of 2015."

At the very least, the immigration ban is unprecedented, according to a statement by presidential runner-up Hillary Clinton, is "not who we are," and if nothing else is a call to America's citizenry and journalistic watchdogs to pay attention and get involved because the next stroke of Trump's pen might have personal consequences.

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