

Excerpt from Chapter 75:

This is what I imagine I would do if I were elected president in 2028

The plan for the first 100 days was to improve our democratic institutions and resolve the AI issues with China, if possible. The slogan, carried over from the campaign was to make the U.S. the number one democracy, the point I would emphasize in the inaugural address, which was held on the steps of the Capitol on Saturday, January 20, 2029. I put my hand on a copy of the US Constitution and promised to uphold the laws of the land. I also promised in my inauguration speech to do my best to help amend the laws that were cruel, unreasonable, inefficient, or unfair, and help make the United States the number one democracy. Here was the opening of my address:

We live in challenging times, facing an uncertain future, riven by political divisions. We have come here today, with this new administration, determined to find a way out of the turmoil. We need not despair. The man whose name is shared by this city warned of these times, and the solutions to our political problems have never been more accessible.

As the leader of the Continental Army fighting against the British, George Washington was disturbed by the partisanship and regionalism that drove destructive competition among the various colonial politicians. He also witnessed how foreign interference compounded those divisions. Even before he became president, Washington saw our nation as being on a precipice of “anarchy and confusion.” And he believed that at least part of the answer was a strong central government, not a collection of warring colonies, or political parties. In fact, the Constitution makes no mention of political parties, because the Founding Fathers rightly feared that factionalism could tear our country apart.

For this reason, as a principled example of one, Washington belonged to no party throughout both terms, yet he was the only president elected by 100% of the Electoral College. And this happened twice.

Washington wrote his farewell address as an open letter to the American people on September 19, 1797. In the letter he warned against the dangers of political parties, especially when formed along regional lines. He stated that partisan zeal taps into our strongest emotions and appears in every system of government, but in a democracy it grows unruly and becomes its worst enemy. Rival factions trade power and seek revenge, driven by what he called “pretended

patriotism,” which itself becomes a kind of tyranny. He believed this often leads to something even worse: people exhausted by chaos will start craving a single strong ruler. Wary of an imperial presidency, he refused being given majestic titles like “His Highness the President,” or “His Majesty.” And he voluntarily left after two terms.

He saw that a clever leader of a dominant faction could rise at the expense of our freedom. But even short of that extreme, he warned that partisanship would damage the Republic. Political factions, especially when binary, bog down public decision-making and weaken effective governance. They spread suspicion and false alarms, pit citizens against one another, and spark unrest. They also invite foreign meddling and corruption, because outsiders can exploit party passions to steer our policies. For these reasons, Washington believed, wise people should discourage and restrain the spirit of party in favor of dialogue and compromise.

Washington was only one person, but it will take the consent of the governed to fix the problem. If we can agree to end vindictive policies, defuse explosive clashes that arise over irrelevant issues arising between the two dominant parties, and end the electoral devices that keep in place, we can temper our baser instincts, find a common purpose, and avoid being herded into two warring camps.

With the kind of electoral reform we propose, voters would not longer have to choose the lesser of two evils, or strategize their vote. There is a way that sincere, talented leaders who really care about democracy can be elected as independents outside the party system, but it will involve systemic reform.

Reform means removing legalized bribery from elections, having ranked choice voting in single member elections, and proportional representation in multi-member districts, which would do away with swing states and gerrymandering. This would allow all of us to participate and have real choices, free from corruption. In our increasingly dysfunctional system it is no surprise that half the eligible voters are frustrated, angry and polarized and the other half do not even bother to vote.

Reform means creating an independent, non-government entity called LOGOS. It is a tripartite public policy wiki that will allow anonymous individuals, experts, and AI to crowdsource the most compassionate, evidence-based, and efficient solutions to all policy questions. It will be available to everyone in the world and shine a light on all aspects of government. No leader anywhere will be able to ignore it. It will be the best possible way to deliver fair and representative government to the people....

I went on to lay out some of other issues in the twenty-minute address and tell a few stories, and that was enough for Day One.

On Day Two, after having reviewed all of the executive orders (EOs) issued by Trump during the transition period, I reversed all of the harmful EOs and policies that had created such chaos and anger during the previous four years.

My first EO was create LOGOS so that anyone who desired could immediately begin to give their input. Each country, even if their government was hostile, was assigned their own wiki, so that even disenfranchised people could use VPNs to access it. It was an independent, non-governmental agency with funding by the United Nations, direct contributions, and individual governments. Politicians everywhere would have to answer to the people.

On Day Three, we went to work on the electoral and judicial changes that would make America the number one democracy in the world. We wanted to show that the people counted after all, and it was harmful to divide us up into different echo chambers where we could not longer hear the other.