

White House Woes

Two Years of TRUMPNEWS

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During the first two years of the Trump administration, *Tirekicking Today* compiled a chronicle of news items, outlining the new president's outrages against American laws, values, and heritage. All news briefs are based upon authoritative sources, either online, in print or on video, including *The New York Times*, CNN, and other major network TV news programs.

Not every newsworthy item is included. Far from it, considering the vast number of troubling statements made and actions taken during the 2017-18 period. As 2019 began, we were feeling exhausted by the sheer magnitude of each day's political events and reports. Furthermore, two years' worth of news items seemed quite sufficient to convey a picture of the Trump presidency and administration. So, we chose not to undertake a third year.

Donald J. Trump was elected president in November 2016. This compilation is divided into two sections: Year One (January to December 2017; and Year Two (January to December 2018).

Following the last news item in December 2018 is a series of articles covering the period in January 2017, immediately prior to Mr. Trump's Inauguration on January 20. Titled "Countdown to Trumpland," it provides an early view of the forthcoming Trump administration and its likely or potential impact on the country.

Written from a progressive perspective, it can of course be ignored by Republicans and other supporters of Mr. Trump. On the other hand, they might find it interesting to see how their political opponents viewed the early days of the Trump presidency.

Year One: January to December 2017

January 25, 2017: Meeting with representatives of major news organizations, Stephen Bannon, the president's chief strategist, warned news outlets to "keep your mouths shut." That demand helped set the stage for Mr. Trump's ongoing assault on the media.

January 25: Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto cancels a planned meeting with President Trump, doubtless reacting to forceful opposition to Trump by ordinary Mexican people, as well as government leaders. Rather than sticking with that avoidance, however, the Mexican leader called Mr. Trump on the phone.

NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) is the foremost U.S./Mexico question, by far. Abandonment of NAFTA would be disastrous to Mexico's economy; but allowing Mr. Trump to effectively rewrite the agreement would almost certainly be worse for our southern neighbor.

January 30: Trump fires Acting Attorney General. Because the nominee for Attorney General has not yet been confirmed, Sally Yates, a holdover from the Obama administration, has been serving as Acting Attorney General. Because she questioned the intent and ultimate legality of the president's Executive Order barring arrivals from specified Muslim countries, Ms. Yates sent a letter to that effect, to Justice Department attorneys, stating that they should not defend the ban. Mr. Trump reacted in a hurry. For "defying" the administration, Ms. Yates was fired. In the next two days, a thousand State Department employees, many stationed in embassies around the world, signed a notice backing her stand.

February 1: Federal judge rules that detained immigrants with visas should be allowed into the U.S. Federal judge Andre Birotte Jr. issued a temporary restraining order, stating that immigrants with visas, who had been detained upon arrival in the U.S. as part of the ban affecting persons from seven Muslim nations, should be released and permitted to enter the U.S. As reported by The New York Times, the ruling does not affect students or tourists; only those who anticipate becoming

permanent residents.

February 6: President charges that news media have downplayed coverage of attacks by "radical Islamic terrorists." Speaking to an audience of military leaders in Florida, Mr. Trump alleged that "it's gotten to a point where [attacks are] not even being reported.... And in many cases, the very, very dishonest press doesn't want to report it." As published in *The Hill*, Mr. Trump further suggested that news media have a secret motive of their own. "They have their reasons," he told the audience of senior commanders, "and you understand that."

February 7: Senate confirms Betsy DeVos as education secretary – with aid of Vice President Pence. For the first time in U.S. history, a vice president has provided a tie-breaking vote to confirm a Cabinet appointee. After the Senate split 50/50, Pence voted to confirm Ms. DeVos, who has been criticized harshly for her intense advocacy of private and charter schools, to the detriment of public schools.

February 9: Travel ban blocked. A federal appeals court unanimously blocked revival of Mr. Trump's travel ban on travelers from seven Muslim-dominated countries, which had been initiated by Executive Order during his first day in office. Following a highly-criticized start to the ban, federal judges had ordered it halted temporarily.

February 10: Second travel ban is expected. President Trump plans to issue another Executive Order on immigration "by next week," according to *The New York Times*, while waiting for legal action on the original travel ban.

February 14: Professionals question Mr. Trump's mental health. 37 mental health professionals signed a letter to *The New York Times*, warning about Mr. Trump's mental state and aberrant behavior. In response, a prominent professor of psychiatry warned against attempting to diagnose mental illness without meeting the person in question, citing the "Goldwater Rule" established by the government in the 1970s. In 1964, some mental-health professionals and others had questioned the mental stability of the Republican candidate for president, Barry Goldwater.

February 16: "Day Without Immigrants" protest in various cities. Chicago Patch reported that immigrants had been urged to stay away

from work and school, and not spend money, on Thursday **February 16**. Celebrity chef Rick Bayless and his staff were among those closing restaurants for a day, in support of what was termed a "national strike."

February 28: Suggesting a startling turnaround, President Trump is said to be leaning toward legalization of millions of non-criminal undocumented immigrants. (The New York Times, Feb. 28)

March 4: Proffering no evidence, Trump charges former President Obama with tapping phones in Trump Tower. In a batch of his many Tweets, President Trump accused his predecessor of authorizing wiretaps of phones used by Trump and his team in New York, stating that – if true – it would constitute a scandal bigger than Watergate. Mr. Obama and members of his administration denied that any wiretaps, of anyone, had been requested.

March 9: Bill to repeal Affordable Care Act passes two House committees. Republicans call their replacement for “Obamacare,” pushed most aggressively by Paul Ryan (R-WI), the American Health Care Act, claiming it will provide greater freedom in health care. Liberal critics charge that millions of now-insured Americans will lose coverage completely as premiums rise dramatically, and foresee undoing of Medicaid as catastrophic for low-income families. Resolute fiscal conservatives also express disapproval, insisting that subsidies to help non-affluent families pay for insurance are too generous.

March 9: Hawaii files suit to block second version of Trump’s travel ban. Rewriting of ban that barred visitors from seven predominantly-Muslim countries, halted in federal court, has dropped Iraq from the no-entry list. President Trump continues to claim that a ban is essential to protect against terrorists. Critics assert that it’s still a ban on religious grounds, thus of doubtful Constitutionality, also citing lack of terrorist threats by visitors from the affected nations.

March 11: President Trump reveals plan to hire 10,000 more immigration officers. Critics wonder how many of the new hires will be "rogue" officers, eager to mistreat undocumented persons. (The New York Times)

March 13: Congressional Budget Office estimates that under Trumpcare, the Republicans' health care bill, 14 million Americans

could lose their health insurance in 2018.

March 15: Second federal judge blocks revised travel ban. Trump reacts by continuing to assail judges who block his Executive Order on restricted immigration.

March 17: President Trump appears to decline handshake with Germany's Angela Merkel during photo-op. Later, press secretary Sean Spicer claims Trump did not hear her inquiry about a handshake.

March 20: Revised Obamacare replacement bill ready for vote in Congress.

March 20: FBI Director joins chorus denying any evidence of wiretapping Trump Tower. Previously, Director James Comey had acknowledged investigation of Trump camp's connection to Russia, which could have included "incidental" wiretap of Trump aides.

March 21: Donald Trump and Paul Ryan's health care – evidently something for just about everyone to detest.

March 22: House intelligence chairman Devin Nunes acknowledges that Trump's personal communications could have been inadvertently intercepted, as part of an unrelated investigation. If true, is that enough to satisfy Mr. Trump that former President Obama did not order any wiretap? Or, will such a revelation serve to vindicate Mr. Trump's claim, keeping it center stage indefinitely?

March 22: House to vote on Trump's American Health Care Act, which has already been revised – and subjected to considerable criticism from various points on the political spectrum.

March 23: Trump threatens obstinate Republicans who oppose health care bill.

Late March: Trump continues to trumpet wiretap claim and alleged British agency participation. Despite continued lack of any evidence, President Trump has not backed off on his assertion that former President Obama ordered a British agency to wiretap Trump Tower. However, he altered his claim by insisting that "wiretap" didn't necessarily mean tapping of phone wires; it could refer to other types of surveillance.

March 24: Anticipating failure to pass, Trump and Ryan “pull” revised health-care bill without a vote.

March 27: Trump Administration preparing to halt federal funds for “sanctuary cities.”

March 28: Trump signs Executive Order to begin curtailing climate-change program initiated by former President Obama. Mr. Trump’s stated goal is to reestablish coal mining and boost role of fossil-fuel industry. Critics quickly warned that this dramatic alteration would make it difficult or impossible for U.S. to meet standards set by 2015 Paris Agreement, signed by U.S. and most industrial nations. President Trump continues to insist that climate-change concerns are a hoax.

March 28: House of Representatives votes to let Internet providers gather and sell private data on their users, including marketers seeking to refine targeted advertising. Privacy advocates warn that the concept of privacy when using the Internet will basically be lost, if regulations set during the Obama Administration are tossed aside.

March 30: Trump threatens Congressional conservatives. According to The New York Times, Mr. Trump essentially threatened members of the Freedom Caucus, a far-right group in the House of Representatives. In one of his long string of Tweets, Trump asserted that the Caucus conservatives were “hurting” the agenda of the Republican party, and therefore must be fought in terms of the 2018 election.

March 30: Michael Flynn, the quickly-dismissed national security advisor, has agreed to testify about Russian interference in the U.S. election. The New York Times reports that Flynn was offering to testify, but only if he’s granted immunity. Congress soon said “no,” despite White House’s stated preference for immunity.

April 3: Trump prepares to meet Chinese leader at his Florida resort. Trump has shown preference for meeting foreign leaders at Mar-a-Lago resort, rather than privately at White House.

April 3: Senate Democrats contemplate filibuster against nomination of Neil Gorsuch to Supreme Court. Majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) warns that Republicans are ready to change Senate rules,

so filibuster against Supreme Court appointees will not be allowed.

April 4: Susan Rice, national security advisor during Obama Administration, is charged with having revealed names of Trump aides heard “unintentionally” during legal surveillance of foreign agents, including Russians. Trump soon alleges that Ms. Rice committed a crime, leaking names for political purposes. (The New York Times)

April 5: Chief Trump strategist Stephen Bannon is removed from major role on principals committee of White House Security Council.

April 6: President Trump orders missiles to be fired at Syrian airfield, in retaliation for horrific nerve gas attack against civilians earlier in the week. Trump earns positive response from most world leaders, but not from Russia, which has backed Syria’s Assad regime.

April 7: After Republicans initiate “nuclear option” to ban Democratic filibustering, Neil Gorsuch is confirmed for the Supreme Court with 54 “Yes” votes.

April 15: In cities across the U.S., more than 100,000 protesters march to demand that Trump release his tax returns. Detailed coverage of Chicago's Tax Day protest. Responding to protests, President Trump calls for investigation of participating organizations, and states that he will not release any tax information.

April 16: Vice-president Pence visits Korea's Demilitarized Zone, issuing tough statements to North Korea. In U.S., Mr. Trump warns that North Korean leader has "gotta behave."

April 17: North Korean official warns that U.S. "recklessness" could lead to thermonuclear war.

April 20: Trump administration reveals another health care plan. Some elements sound like modifications of Obamacare, including coverage for persons with pre-existing conditions. But states would have the option of omitting portions of the plan, causing some critics to declare it even more “cruel” than the Republicans’ previous proposal, which was withdrawn from Congressional consideration after only 17 percent of surveyed Americans approved of it.

April 29: Climate-change protests take place nationwide, to oppose

relaxation of environmental regulations put into place by President Obama. President Trump's cabinet contains a number of climate-change deniers and skeptics, including head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

May 1: During May Day protests worldwide; violent incidents erupt in several countries. May 1 used to be Workers' Day, celebrating the world's working class. This year in the U.S., protesters target tightening of immigration and growth in deportation, repeal of President Obama's affordable health care program, tax giveaways to the rich, and other proposals and actions emanating from the Trump administration.

May 1: Trump disses "Face the Nation" journalist John Dickerson, halting interview in Oval Office after question asked about alleged wiretapping of Trump Tower. Before walking off, Trump tells Dickerson he "loves" the show, which he calls "Deface the Nation."

May 2: Congress approves additional \$120 million allotment to protect the Trump family. That includes two sons of Donald Trump, who travel frequently on Trump business.

May 3: Passage of latest health care bill looks doubtful, as moderate Republicans indicate intent to vote "No." In response, \$8 billion is added to the size of the bill, to alleviate concerns about inability of persons with pre-existing conditions to obtain health coverage.

May 3: In Budget proposal to prevent government shutdown, Democrats are pleased but Trump is not. Trump threatens more dramatic government shutdown in fall, when current fiscal years ends.

May 3: FBI Director James Comey says he is "mildly nauseous" over the possibility that his actions might have influenced the 2016 election.

May 4: U.S. House votes on third Republican health care bill, which barely passes, by a vote of 217 to 213. Bill now goes to Senate, where it's not expected to pass in anything close to its current form. Some Senators have predicted that they might even start from scratch, using the House bill as little more than a group of suggestions. Critics charge that the new Trumpcare bill would do more harm to ordinary people and families than the previous one, which earned a 17-percent favorable score from the public and failed to pass the House.

May 9-10: Trump fires FBI Director James Comey. Days after testifying to Congress about the letter he made available prior to the November 8 election, regarding Hillary Clinton's e-mail server, President Trump fires James Comey. In termination letter, Trump states that Comey had told the President on three occasions that he was not under investigation, but Comey had publicly called for further investigation. Critics recall President Nixon's 1973 firing of the special prosecutor during Watergate investigation. (The New York Times)

May 10: One day after firing James Comey, President Trump meets Russian ambassador and foreign minister in White House, in a meeting that's closed to reporters. Russia provides photos of the meeting to news outlets.

May 11: In TV interview, President Trump claims to have intended to fire Comey for weeks, contradicting FBI statement. Democratic and some Republican critics label the situation serious - possibly even a "Constitutional crisis." Many assert that Trump's action is really an attempt to stifle ongoing investigation of Russian intervention in November election.

May 15: Washington Post and other news sources report that Trump revealed classified material to the Russians during their White House meeting. Trump administration denies the allegation.

May 17: Justice Department appoints Robert Mueller III as special counsel for the investigation of possible Russian meddling in the American presidential election.

May 17: While delivering Commencement Address to graduates of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, President Trump attacks the media. "No politician in history," he asserts, "has been treated worse or more unfairly."

May 18: In an early-morning Tweet, Mr. Trump "lashes out" at the appointment of a special counsel for the Russian-influence question, according to The New York Times. He also calls the investigation a "witch hunt," while claiming (with no evidence) that former President Obama and the Hillary Clinton campaign committed "illegal acts," but no special counsel was appointed to investigate them.

May 22: Trump budget boosts military spending and slashes taxes for the wealthy, while making “severe cuts to Medicaid, nutritional assistance, welfare and disability programs,” according to The New York Times. The proposed budget also provides \$1.6 billion for the Mexican border wall, and another \$2.6 billion for border security.

June 5: White House spokesperson Sean Spicer advises that the bar to entry into the U.S. by persons from specified Muslim-dominated countries is not a “travel ban.” Quickly, President Trump tweets that the Executive Order overturned by two Federal courts is definitely a “travel ban.”

June 16: Trump signs Executive Order rolling back improved relations with Cuba, as initiated by President Obama. Travel and business possibilities for U.S. citizens, which had been growing rapidly, are expected to be sharply curtailed. Most American visitors will now be allowed into Cuba only when part of an official tour group.

June 22: Senate unveils its own health care bill, which had been developed in secrecy. Vote on repeal/replacement of Obamacare is expected before July 4 recess. Critics suspect few substantive changes from the House version, which President Trump had decried as “mean.”

June 23: The New York Times publishes “definitive list” of outright lies told by President Trump since Inauguration Day.

June 27: Trump attacks CNN, accusing it of disseminating “fake news,” after the cable network retracts a story alleging connection between Russia and an associate of the president.

June 27: Supreme Court agrees to hear “travel ban” case in October. Meanwhile, the Court permits a temporary partial ban on persons entering the U.S. from six Muslim-dominated countries. President Trump hails the decision as a “clear victory.”

June 28: Three public-opinion polls reveal exceptionally low approval ratings (12 to 17 percent) for Senate version of health-coverage bill, popularly dubbed Trumpcare.

June 29: Trump attacks Mika Brzezinski, co-host of MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” program, asserting that during a visit to Mar-a-Lago last

winter, she was “bleeding badly from a face-lift.” In a Tweet described as “vulgar” by The New York Times, President Trump refers to Ms. Brzezinski as “low I.Q. Crazy Mika,” and calls her co-host Joe Scarborough “Psycho Joe.”

July 2: Trump uses his Twitter account to disseminate a video clip that shows him next to a wrestling ring, knocking down and punching a man whose face has been covered by red CNN logo. The edited clip, thought to be modified from an old Wrestlemania video, draws widespread rebukes. Some viewers charge that it incites violence toward the media. Well before becoming president, Trump had been involved in professional wrestling.

July 11: E-mails reveal that in June 2016, Donald Trump Jr. met with Russian contact, after being advised that incriminating information on Hillary Clinton was available.

July 13: President Trump meets French president Emmanuel Macron, for Bastille Day celebration in Paris.

July 13: While in Europe, Trump hints at a possible shift in attitude toward the Paris climate accord, after announcing in June that the U.S. would break away from the agreement. During subsequent days, nothing further is said about consideration of a reversal on the climate accord.

July 14: While meeting with French president Emmanuel Macron, Trump states that Macron’s wife is “beautiful” and “in such good shape,” according to The New York Times. His comments trigger accusations of sexism from U.S. critics.

July 14: Donald Trump Jr. releases e-mails that confirm his attendance at a meeting with a Russian attorney, after intermediary claims that the attorney offered to provide incriminating material about Hillary Clinton.

July 15: Protests and marches in several U.S. cities, including Chicago, follow the theme: “Trump/Pence Regime Must Go.”

July 16: As allegations of collusion with Russia intensify, President Trump issues series of Sunday-morning Tweets attacking Hillary Clinton and the mainstream news media, regularly derided as “fake news” by the president.

July 17: Walter M. Shaub Jr., departing head of the Office of Government Ethics, says U.S. is “close to a laughingstock.” According to The New York Times, Shaub believes President Trump and his administration have “created a historic ethics crisis.”

July 18: Opposition to Trumpcare bill by several Republican Senators prevents it from passing. Following that failure, Senator Mitch McConnell, the majority leader, attempted a repeal of Obamacare with no replacement in sight. That move, which could leave untold numbers of Americans with no coverage at all, also appeared to fail, according to The New York Times. Regardless, Sen. McConnell still intends to get a bill through the Senate.

July 22: President Trump claims he has "complete power" to issue pardons, including those granted to family members and aides; and possibly, to himself.

July 22: Trump hires new communications director, New York financier Anthony Scaramucci. Sean Spicer resigns post of press secretary.

July 22: Congress votes to issue sanctions against Russia for interference in 2016 election. Despite objections to sanctions by President Trump, The New York Times reports that the White House is likely to accept the sanctions.

July 23: Atlantic magazine reports that while addressing the audience at a ship commissioning, including uniformed military personnel, Trump implored them to "lobby Congress for his agenda."

July 24: During speech at Boy Scout Jamboree, President Trump turns to campaign-style rhetoric, including attacks on media and political figures. Trump's political comments, which resulted in "booing" of former President Obama and Hillary Clinton, draw considerable backlash from parents as well as politicians.

July 25: Despite recent surgery and brain cancer, Senator John McCain returns to Washington to vote on health care debate. Vote is 50-50, but Vice-president Pence issues tiebreaker to let debate on repeal of Obamacare go forward.

July 26: Anthony "Mooch" Scaramuchi, Trump's new communications

director, unleashes stream of vulgar, profane comments during phone talk with New Yorker magazine journalist.

July 26: In a Tweet, President Trump announces that transgender persons will not be allowed to serve in the military. Trump's order reinstates a ban that was overturned by the Obama administration.

July 28: Reince Priebus is forced out of his post as President Trump's chief of staff, following feud with new communications chief Anthony Scaramucci. John Kelly, currently Secretary of Homeland Security, is named as Priebus' replacement.

July 28: In late-night session, Senator John McCain joins with Senators Susan Collins and Lisa Murakowski, voting "no" on what's termed the "skinny repeal" of Obamacare. With only 49 Republicans voting "aye," partial replacement of Affordable Care Act fails to pass.

July 29: Speaking to a police group, President Trump advises officers: "Don't be too nice." Referring to the practice of guarding an arrestee's head when guiding him or her into the back seat of a police car, he says "You can take the hand away. Okay?" According to The New York Times, Trump's words drew considerable criticism from police associations.

July 31: After 10 days as White House communication director, Anthony Scaramucci is forced out. The New York Times reports that John Kelly, now serving as President Trump's new chief of staff, requested Scaramucci's dismissal.

August 8: President Trump threatens to unleash "Fire and Fury" against North Korea, in response to further threats against the U.S. After Trump signed bill authorizing sanctions against North Korea, following its latest missile launch, the North Korean leader issued harsh threats, promising catastrophic damage in a "sea of fire." During a meeting on another subject, Trump responded with the "Fire and Fury" threat.

August 9: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un vows to launch missiles at island of Guam, the site of a major U.S. airbase, if U.S. threats continue. Some experts declared this sequence of back-and-forth threats to be the most dangerous escalation of the risk of nuclear war in decades.

August 10: President Trump escalates verbal threat against North

Korea, suggesting that his previous statement, promising "Fire and Fury," might not have been "tough enough."

August 11: Trump warns North Korea that U.S. is "locked and loaded." Analysis in The New York Times suggests that even a "limited action," such as destroying a missile while it's still on the ground, "could prompt retaliation."

August 12: Rally by white supremacist groups in Charlottesville, Virginia, turns violent; one participant drives car into crowd, killing counter-protester Heather Heyer. Two police officers also are killed, when their helicopter crashes. Rally organizers sought to block removal of statues of Confederate leaders, including Robert E. Lee. "Alt-right" rally participants included neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and Ku Klux Klan members, some of them armed.

August 12: President Trump condemns violence and racism at Virginia march, but insists that "both sides" share the blame. Rebukes of the president's comments quickly begin to come from around the country, and the world. Critics assert that "alt-right" rally groups are clearly the ones responsible for the violence.

August 14: Two days after Virginia debacle, an unanimated President Trump quietly reads a speech condemning racism and white supremacism. Critics brand this follow-up statement as insincere and too little, too late.

August 15: During press conference at Trump Tower in New York, Trump turns combative, reverting to his original opinion on the Virginia violence, blaming both "alt-right" marchers and "alt-left" counter-protesters. He also asserts that "some very fine people" marched with the neo-Nazis and white supremacists. Some TV news broadcasters look stunned when reporting on Trump's words and behavior. Trump's revived initial response and belligerent attitude draw harsh criticism from many quarters, including Republicans.

August 17: Trump bemoans loss of "beautiful statues" commemorating Confederate generals and leaders, insisting that those who want them removed are destroying the country's "history and culture."

August 18: Former presidential candidate Mitt Romney issues strong

condemnation of President Trump's responses to the Charlottesville violence. Romney urges Trump to apologize for remarks that caused "racists to rejoice." As reported by The New York Times, Romney added that "our allies around the world are stunned and our enemies celebrate." Trump, he insisted, should say "racists are 100% to blame for the murder and violence in Charlottesville."

August 18: Trump's top strategist, Stephen Bannon, leaves his post at the White House. Analysts are uncertain whether Bannon was fired, or resigned.

August 19: In Boston and other cities, a week after the tragedy in Charlottesville, crowds of counter-protesters greatly outnumber right-wing "free speech" rally participants. In contrast to his comments through the previous week, President Trump chooses to "applaud the many protesters ... speaking out against bigotry and hate."

August 19: A group of graduates of Liberty University return their diplomas to protest school president Jerry Falwell Jr.'s support of Trump. According to The Week magazine, they cited Trump's allegations against the Charlottesville counter-protesters.

August 22: Addressing animated crowd of supporters at campaign rally in Phoenix, Trump appears to ignore scripted remarks, verbally attacking media and other Republicans during 77-minute tirade. Refusing to back down from his insistence that "both sides" in the Charlottesville tragedy deserved blame, Trump claims the media, not himself, is responsible for dividing the country and for the rise of white nationalism.

August 23: Speaking to American Legion in Reno, Nevada, President Trump adopts a considerably more conciliatory tone. After lashing out at the media and other "enemies" a day earlier, Trump appears to stick to prepared remarks in Reno, expressing hope for a unified, not divided, America.

August 26: President Trump pardons "Sheriff Joe" Arpaio. Four days after implying during his Phoenix rally that a pardon for the controversial former Sheriff of Maricopa County in Arizona might be forthcoming, Trump announces the pardon. Critics angrily denounce the pardon, while Trump supporters praise the decision. Mr. Arpaio was

convicted of contempt in a case stemming from his hardline anti-immigrant practices.

September 3: North Korea conducts underground test of what appears to be a hydrogen bomb. Nuclear device could presumably be carried on an intercontinental ballistic missile, aimed toward a U.S. target.

September 3: President Trump advises that he will announce his decision on dismantling DACA (the "Dreamers" Act) on Tuesday, September 5. Introduced by President Obama, DACA has kept the U.S. from deporting undocumented immigrants who were brought to America as children. About 800,000 young people could be deported if the act is revoked, as Trump promised during his presidential campaign.

September 4: Labor Day sees protests in many cities, promoting a hike in the federal minimum wage. "Fight for 15" organization and Service Employees International Union lead protest marches in Chicago and elsewhere. Additional marches around the country protest likely abandonment of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

September 4: Nikki R. Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, asserts that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is "begging for war." As reported by The New York Times, Haley notes that the U.S. needs to "exhaust all of our diplomatic means before it's too late."

September 5: Trump orders halt to DACA program. Obama-initiated program to protect young people brought to U.S. without "papers," as children, will expire in March 2018. Trump turns responsibility over to Congress, urging them to take action during that six-month interim period. Otherwise, some 800,000 "Dreamers" will face deportation. Emergency protest rallies took place around the country, starting hours after the announcement, issued by Attorney General Jeff Sessions rather than Trump himself. The New York Times asserts that Trump showed "cowardice" by assigning the task to Sessions. Trump's decision quickly draws vast criticism from many quarters, including some Republicans.

September 14: North Korea launches another missile, which crosses Japan and goes down in Pacific Ocean.

September 14: Trump reverts to his original position on Charlottesville violence, blaming "both sides."

September 15: After dining with the President, two top Congressional Democrats, Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi, report that Mr. Trump intends to protect "Dreamers" from deportation.

September 18: Trump lawyers argue about level of cooperation the administration should provide to Mueller investigation of possible Russian collusion.

September 19: Addressing the United Nations, President Trump expresses willingness to "totally destroy North Korea" if that country threatens U.S.

September 20: Newsweek reports that Trump's popularity has risen in latest poll, crediting his responses to massive hurricanes in Texas and Florida, and recent instances of "bipartisanship."

September 21: Trump insists that any talk of Russian election interference is a "hoax." His remarks followed the release by Facebook of hundreds of ads placed by Russian agents, allegedly intended to hurt Hillary Clinton and push Trump toward victory.

September 22: Senator John McCain announces that he will vote against the current – perhaps final – bill to attempt repeal of Obamacare. President Trump lashes out at McCain for imperiling the fate of the repeal bill, which has to be acted upon by October, when Senate rules change.

September 23: At political rally in Alabama, Trump attacks professional athletes who "take a knee" rather than stand when the National Anthem plays, suggesting that a "son of a bitch" who protests should be removed from the game. He further insists that such protesters be fired by management. Trump's venomous statement results in huge protests by pro football teams, many of whose members kneel or link arms during the anthem.

September 23: Warriors basketball star LeBron James reacts vigorously to Trump's belligerent Tweet, which rescinded the invitation to the White House issued to Cavaliers player Steve Curry, who had stated he would not attend the event. Addressing the president as "U bum," James explained that "going to the White House was a great honor until you [Trump] showed up."

September 23: U.S. warplanes fly near North Korean coast – farther north than planes had flown since the 20th century. On the same day, foreign minister Ri Yong-no says Trump's threats are "making our rocket's visit to the entire U.S. mainland inevitable all the more." Intensifying his mockery of the North Korean leader, Trump tweets back that "if he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer." As reported by The New York Times, Ri advises that President Trump had "committed an irreversible mistake," adding that he is the one "on a suicide mission."

September 30: Trump attacks mayor of San Juan for her comments on the delay of federal aid to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico. A day after mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz makes an anguished appeal for additional immediate help on the island, advising that "we are dying here," President Trump issues a string of Tweets criticizing the mayor and the Puerto Rican people, while praising his administration's efforts. Trump's assault draws rapid criticism. Some critics note that Ms. Cruz has shown striking dedication, living on a cot among the citizens in San Juan shelters, while Mr. Trump plays golf.

Some 10,000 workers, including the U.S. military, are currently assisting in Puerto Rico. Harsh terrain and extreme, urgent need for supplies have made the rescue effort exceptionally difficult.

October 3: Visiting Puerto Rico two weeks after Hurricane Maria, Trump praises the relief efforts of his administration, while critics decry the slow response of the federal government. Trump draws criticism for claiming that Puerto Rican people aren't contributing sufficiently to the relief effort, and for making light of the situation by tossing paper towels to people in the crowd at a church gathering.

October 8: In exchange for reviving protection of 800,000 young "Dreamers," Trump insists on tightened immigration, including erection of Mexican "border wall." List of demands for Congress to fulfill includes halting flow of unaccompanied children from Central America, tightened laws for asylum seekers, hiring of 10,000 immigration agents, blocking entry of lawful immigrants' "extended families" into the country, and denial of grants to "sanctuary cities" in U.S. Some

800,000 undocumented immigrants, dubbed “Dreamers,” were brought to the U.S. as children and, under the Obama administration, had become eligible for protection against deportation.

October 8: Two New York Times journalists report on visit to North Korea, advising that officials and citizens are girded for war and “complacent” about the prospect. North Koreans appear to believe their country will win, if war breaks out, including a nuclear attack.

October 8: Senator Bob Corker (R-TN) warns that Trump’s belligerence and “recklessness could set the country ‘on the path to World War III.’” Corker further asserts that “the White House has become an adult day care center.” His comments draw furious responses from Trump and his backers. In tweet, Trump claims that Corker chose not to run for re-election in 2018 because he had no chance to win.

October 8: *The New York Times* publishes long list of ethics-challenged conduct by President Trump. Titled “The Republican’s Guide to Presidential Etiquette,” the irony-tinged list was compiled by the newspaper’s Editorial Board. A previous list, published in May, contained 35 more generalized examples.

October 16: Without mentioning names, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) denounces the “spurious nationalism” that prevails in the presidency, fearing that the U.S. will “abandon the ideals we have advanced around the globe [and] refuse the obligations of international leadership.”

October 19: Trump's phone call to widow of slain soldier draws harsh criticism, alleging insensitivity and "disrespect."

October 19: Former president George W. Bush “condemn[s] bigotry, conspiracy theories and lies in American politics, according to the *Guardian* newspaper, without naming Mr. Trump. Bush also deplores “bullying and prejudice in our public life.” Previous president Barack Obama also makes critical comments about the political scene, without mentioning Mr. Trump by name.

October 20: Traveling exhibit created by The Daily Show, called "Donald J. Trump Twitter Museum," opens for two days at Chicago's Union Station. Visitors can stroll past blow-ups of prominent Trump

tweets, glean the names of people attacked most often in his tweets, and watch a video presentation about the tweeting president.

October 24: Speaking on the Senate floor, Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) announces that he will not run for re-election in 2018, citing, among other assertions, Mr. Trump's "flagrant disregard for truth and decency."

October 27: Financial guru Lou Dobbs conducts uncritical "interview" of Trump by fawning and flattery, praising his numerous achievements as president.

October 27: Following emergency surgery, disabled 10-year-old girl – brought to U.S. without documentation as a baby – is snatched from hospital and detained for deportation, 150 miles away from parents. Detailed girl has cerebral palsy.

October 29: The New York Times reports that on October 30, Robert Mueller will release criminal indictments against unnamed person(s), stemming from investigation into Russian influence on 2016 election.

October 29: A day before indictments are to be released, Trump attacks Hillary Clinton via Twitter. Some critics suspect him of trying to distract attention away from the Russian collusion allegations, in case any Trump campaign participants are arrested. In series of Sunday tweets, he also repeats familiar charge that collusion investigation is a "witch hunt" against him.

October 30: One-time Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort and an associate are indicted for financial misdeeds, with no mention of possible Russian collusion. In addition, an unpaid but high-level volunteer with the Trump campaign is reported to have pleaded guilty to illicit contact with Russians.

November 4: "Trump/Pence Must Go" protest rallies take place in 22 cities.

November 7: Syria has joined the Paris Climate Accord, making the U.S. the only non-participating country in the world.

November 7: Trump administration begins to curtail Temporary Protected Status program, which has allowed undocumented

immigrants from 10 troubled countries to remain in the U.S.

November 7: In off-year election, Virginia voters elect Democratic candidate Ralph Northam, by wide margin.

November 9: After conciliatory, friendly meetings with Chinese President Xi, Trump turns combative at his next stop, the APEC Forum in Vietnam, hailing "America First" policies.

November 9: Recent stream of sexual harassment accusations hits politics, as woman charges that 38 years ago, when she was 14, Roy Moore (Republican candidate for U.S. Senate from Alabama) made inappropriate advances. Additional women alleged that Moore had relationships with them as teens, when he was in his 30s. Moore vehemently denied all accusations.

November 12: While in Philippines as last stop in Asian trip, Trump issues a stream of combative tweets, calling those who refer to allegations of Russian collusion in U.S. election "haters and fools." Responding to North Korean statement calling Trump a "lunatic old man," he tweets that he could call Kim Jong-un "short and fat," but restrained himself." As more campaign participants face possible criminal charges and the prospect of jail time, Trump calls the investigation a "Democratic hit job" and continues to insist that Russian-collusion allegations are totally false and a "hoax."

November 16: Even though some top Congressional Republicans urge Roy Moore to quit Senate race and more women allege sexual misdeeds, Moore digs in further, backed by Alabama's Republican party.

November 27: During ceremony to honor Navajo veterans of World War II, Trump mocks Senator Elizabeth Warren, calling her "Pocahontas." Senator Warren responds quickly, stating that Trump used a "racial slur." Trump has often referred to Ms. Warren as "Pocahontas," mocking her past claim to have some Native American ancestry.

November 29: Trump retweets violent video issued by far-right, anti-Muslim British group.

December 2: Senate passes massive tax bill in late-night session, without customary debate and with last-minute changes handwritten as

notes. Tax bill is approved by only one-fourth of polled Americans. Critics charge that it will give huge tax cuts to the most wealthy Americans and corporations, while raising the deficit by \$1.3 trillion over the next decade.

December 4: After period of silence about Roy Moore, accused of sexual misconduct with several teenage girls when he was in his 30s, Trump endorses him in Alabama's Senate race. Allegations of past sexual misconduct in entertainment and media fields result in immediate firing of a number of powerful and prominent men, in contrast to the accusations of similar behavior against Moore and Donald Trump.

December 5: Trump reverses protected status for two National Monuments in Utah. Loss of 2 million acres of federal land, now opening to commercial operations (including mining) is called "largest rollback of federal land protection in the nation's history" by *The New York Times*.

December 6: *The New York Times* advises that investors in commercial real estate, including Donald Trump, will benefit hugely from massive tax bill that Congress is striving to pass.

December 6: Trump announces that U.S. will recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, drawing quick rebukes from Pope Francis, the U.N. Secretary-General, and British Prime Minister, among other global critics. Some American Jews rejoice; others issue harsh criticism of Mr. Trump's action. As expected by critics, violence erupts in Middle East.

December 12: Democrat Doug Jones beats Roy Moore in Alabama Senatorial election, by 1.5 percentage points, narrowing Republican majority.

December 12: After Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) calls on the president to resign in wake of sexual misconduct allegations, Trump sends angry tweet calling her "lightweight" and claiming she "would do anything" for campaign contributions. USA Today Editorial Board reacts angrily, stating that a "president who'd call a senator a whore is unfit to clean toilets in Obama's presidential library or to shine George W. Bush's shoes."

December 15: Senate and House approach agreement on tax bill, as

two reluctant Senators promise “yes” vote. Final vote is expected before Christmas. Critics insist that tax cuts still go primarily to corporations and the ultra-wealthy, adding \$1.5 trillion to deficit over next decade.

December 15: Asked if he plans to pardon Michael Kelly, convicted of lying to F.B.I., Trump replies, “We’ll see what happens.” During same impromptu news conference, according to *The New York Times*, Trump intensifies his criticism of the F.B.I., while insisting that he has “nothing to do with Russia.”

December 20: House and Senate pass massive tax bill. Trump has called it great Christmas gift to middle-class, while critics assert that it's huge giveaway to corporations and ultra-wealthy (including Trump family), adding \$1.5 trillion to deficit.

December 21, 2017: United Nations votes against U.S., 128 to 9, on Trump's decision to move Israeli embassy to Jerusalem.

Year Two: January to December 2018

January 3, 2018: Trump taunts North Korean leader in retaliatory Tweet, insisting that his “nuclear button” is bigger than Kim Jong-un’s. After Kim Jong-un proclaims that a “nuclear button” sits ready on his desk, Trump reacts by claiming that his “button” is not only “much bigger and more powerful,” but that “my button works.” Critics respond swiftly, including Eliot A. Cohen, counselor to Condoleezza Rice when she served as Secretary of State. Trump’s response was “spoken like a petulant ten year old,” Cohen tweeted, according to The New York Times.”But one with nuclear weapons.”

January 6: Reacting to allegations in new book, including assertion that White House aides questioned the president's fitness for office, Trump tweets that he is a "very stable genius."

January 8: Trump orders deportation of 200,000 Salvadorans. Because of massive earthquakes in El Salvador in 2001, persons residing in U.S. (legally or not) were granted right to remain, under Temporary Protection Status program. Protection has been extended several times.

January 12: Trump reportedly uses vulgar term to describe Haiti and certain African nations. In White House meeting, he says he'd rather have immigrants from countries like Norway.

January 14: Trump denies using vulgarity during meeting, insisting he is not a "racist." Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), having attended that meeting, says vulgar term was used "repeatedly," while two Republicans claim it was never said.

January 19: As midnight deadline approaches, Senate vote on bill to keep U.S. government operating fails. As the clock strikes 12:00, the government officially shuts down.

January 20: While Trump marks first anniversary in office, massive Women’s March takes place around the country. An estimated 300,000 participants march in Chicago alone.

January 22: Congress passes short-term bill to reopen government.

Senate leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) promises full discussion and vote on DACA (“Dreamers”) issue prior to February 8, when funding bill is reconsidered. Trump stays on sidelines during shutdown, but still insists on border wall.

January 25: While attending Davos Forum in Switzerland, Trump proposes granting legal status to 1.8 million undocumented U.S. residents, more than double the number registered under DACA. If enacted, his plan could include "path to citizenship" after 10 or 12 years. Before leaving for Switzerland, according to *The New York Times*, Trump had stated that a revised DACA program could emerge only if Democrats agree to fund his Mexican border wall and back intense tightening of visa programs, to limit immigration to U.S.

January 26: According to *The New York Times*, in June 2017, Trump sought to fire Robert Mueller, but backed down when top White House lawyer refused that request and threatened to resign.

January 30: Trump gives one of longest State of the Union speeches ever, promising "New American Moment," drawing lavish praise and applause as well as harsh criticism. Rep. Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA) delivers pointed evaluation of president's record, without naming Trump.

February 2: President agrees to let House Republicans release memo alleging bias by FBI in investigation of Trump administration.

February 3: Trump claims newly-released memo gives him "total vindication" for allegations of Russian collusion and obstruction of justice. Democrats and other critics disagree vehemently.

February 5: Trump calls Democrats who sat motionless during State of the Union speech "treasonous" and "un-American."

February 9: President blocks Democratic memo on Russia investigation, citing national security concerns.

February 12: Trump submits \$4.4 billion budget to Congress, including massive hike in military spending, coupled with huge cuts to domestic programs, including Medicare. (*The New York Times*)

February 17: Reacting to Florida school shooting that killed 17,

Trump faults FBI for not acting on tips that the culprit was a threat. In one of many Tweets, he blames that omission on FBI's emphasis on investigation of Russian election meddling.

February 22: Trump's top solution to threat of school shootings: let certain teachers and staff take training and carry concealed guns. Surveillance video of school campus reveals that deputy on duty failed to enter the building during 4-minute period while shooting was taking place. Later, lawyer for newly-retired deputy denies assertions that his behavior had been cowardly.

February 26: Speaking to group of governors, Trump says he believes he would have rushed into Florida school at time of mass shooting, even if he had no weapon. Several days earlier, visiting survivors in Florida hospital, Trump began conversation with 17-year-old victim by noting that she was a "fan" of his.

February 27: Jared Kushner, president's adviser and son-in-law, loses his "temporary" top secret clearance. Kushner had been working at high levels in White House for a year, handling classified documents, without top clearance.

February 28: Dick's Sporting Goods, a major chain, announces that it will no longer sell assault-style rifles and will raise gun-buying age to 21.

March 2: Surprising many, even in White House, Trump announces tariffs to be applied to imported steel (25 percent) and aluminum (10 percent). Critics charge that tariffs could shrink, not increase, number of U.S. jobs.

March 5: Trump tweets that tariffs might not be applied to Canada and Mexico, if those countries agree to certain limitations.

March 6: White House economic adviser Gary Cohn, an opponent of tariffs, resigns.

March 8: Trump signs bill imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum, but exempts Canada and Mexico - at least for now.

March 8: Kim Jong-un invites U.S. president to meeting on nuclear weapons, in North Korea. Trump plans to attend.

March 10: As reported in *The New York Times*, Trump delivers "fiery"

75-minute speech at Pennsylvania rally, described as "vintage 2016."

March 13: Trump fires Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. *The New York Times* reports that Tillerson will be replaced by CIA Director Mike Pompeo.

March 15: Special counsel Robert Mueller issues subpoena for documents from Trump organization.

March 16: Attorney General Jeff Sessions fires Andrew McCabe, 26 hours before retirement of the former FBI deputy director. Trump administration alleges that McCabe "mised Justice Dept. investigators," according to CNN. As a result, McCabe will lose his pension after more than two decades of government work. Hours later, CNN reports that Trump "celebrates" the firing in a tweet.

March 17: President's attorney, John Dowd, calls for halt to Mueller investigation of Russian meddling in 2016 election. (CNN)

March 19: Trump hires attorney Joseph diGenova, a Fox News contributor who alleges that the Justice Department and FBI have attempt to "frame" the president, in connection with Russian meddling in 2016 election. Three days later, attorney John Dowd resigns.

March 20: Despite emphatic advance warning from advisers not to congratulate Russian president Putin on his electoral victory, widely considered to be a sham, Trump calls to convey congratulations. Nothing is said about election meddling or Russia's role in poisoning of former Russian spy, in Britain.

March 22: Major news services report that special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating tie between Trump campaign and Cambridge Analytica. British firm obtained personal data on more than 50 million Facebook members, allegedly for partisan use during 2016 U.S. election.

March 24: Millions participate in "March For Our Lives" protests in 800 cities, worldwide. Initiated by teenage survivors of Parkland (Florida) shooting, the marches demand action on steps to curtail gun violence. "Vote Them Out" is one of the dominant chants heard from participants.

March 25: Two lawyers, expected to be hired by Mr. Trump as part of White House shakeup, decline to accept. Joseph diGenova, the proponent of a theory that the Department of Justice and FBI has attempted to "frame" the president, cited a conflict of interest.

March 31: Blaming Democrats and alleging that "caravans" of immigrants plan to cross U.S.-Mexico border, Trump announces that there will be no DACA "deal" to protect "Dreamers" from deportation.

April 2: China retaliates against Trump's trade moves, placing tariffs on 128 products that are exported to U.S.

April 2: Trump warns against "caravan" of migrants headed for U.S./Mexico border. Buzzfeed news service reports that more than 1,000 people, mainly Hondurans fleeing dangers in that country, are indeed walking and riding north, through Mexico. They hope to be granted asylum or, if possible, cross the border. Migrants are assisted by Pueblos Sin Fronteras, a group of volunteers who oppose American anti-immigrant policies.

April 4: Trump to send National Guard troops to Mexican border.

April 4: Trade war with China escalates, as both countries apply tariffs to additional goods imported from the other nation.

April 9: F.B.I. raids office of president's lawyer. Trump calls action an "attack on our country."

April 18: White House announces that Mike Pompeo, CIA chief and secretary of state-designate, met with Kim Jon-un at Eastertime. Meeting took place as preliminary to plan for Trump to meet North Korean leader later this spring.

April 18: Trump warns that if his meeting with Kim Jong-un "isn't fruitful," he will walk out.

April 20: Democratic National Committee files lawsuit charging Trump campaign team, Russian officials, and Wikileaks with conspiring to disrupt 2016 election.

April 25: HUD director Ben Carson outlines Trump administration plan to raise rents for residents in federally-subsidized housing. Poorest residents could see their rents triple.

April 26: EPA chief Scott Pruitt faces Congressional questioning on ethical issues related to excessive use of government funds, including frequent First Class flights and a costly soundproof phone booth for his office.

April 26: Dr. Ronny Jackson, Trump's choice for head of Veterans Administration, drops out amid series of allegations of troubling behavior during his stint as White House physician.

April 28: For second year, Trump skips annual Correspondents' Dinner, opting to lead a campaign rally in Washington, Michigan. President unleashes barrage of harsh, angry words at immigrants, Democrats, the media, and other "enemies."

April 29: "Caravan" of migrants from Central America arrives at U.S.-Mexican border in Tijuana, hoping to apply for asylum. Fewer than 200 remain in the group. Immigration officials warn that children may be separated from parents. who may be placed in detention for months, awaiting decision.

April 30: *The New York Times* reports that special counsel Robert Mueller has 49 questions to ask Donald Trump, to assess whether the president obstructed justice with respect to the inquiry into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

May 9: North Korea releases three imprisoned Americans. Trump meets the released Americans as they return to the country.

May 9: Michael Cohen, the president's personal lawyer and alleged "fixer," reportedly received millions of dollars from corporations to provide "insider access," explaining how to deal with Washington in the Trump era. (*The New York Times*)

May 10: Trump tweets that his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will take place in Singapore, on June 12.

May 11: Shifting gears after backing out of the Iran agreement, Trump turns to pharmaceutical prices as his next task.

May 11: White House aide said to have mocked ailing Senator John McCain, stating that his vote was unimportant because "he's dying anyway." Critics call for apology, but White House declines to respond.

May 14: U.S. Embassy officially opens in Jerusalem. Move from Tel Aviv fulfills a Trump promise to supporters, but triggers massive protests in Gaza, with 60 Palestinians killed in two days and an estimated 2,800 injured, shot (typically in leg) by Israeli military. UN Ambassador Nikki Haley asserts that embassy move is unrelated to Gaza violence.

May 15: Responding to joint military activities by South Korea and U.S., North Korea warns that meeting between Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump could be cancelled.

May 21: Trump "demands" that special counsel be appointed to investigate origin of investigation into his campaign's ties to foreign meddlers. He charges that FBI sent informant to infiltrate Trump campaign, for "political purposes." (*The New York Times*)

May 24: Trump cancels June 12 meeting with North Korean leader, citing tremendous anger and open hostility" from Kim Jong-un.

May 31: Trump administration announces major rollback of auto-emissions regulations, allowing cars to emit more pollutants.

May 31: Meeting with North Korea is considered back on track, still planned for Singapore on June 12.

June 2: Citing phrasing in the Constitution, Trump's lawyers claim he cannot be ordered to face questioning by Robert Mueller in the Russia probe.

June 4: President tweets that he has the "absolute right" to pardon himself, but will not do so because he has "done nothing wrong." Not only is the Mueller investigation a "witch hunt," he asserts, but it's "unconstitutional."

June 8: Trump arrives late at G-7 conference in Quebec, Canada after alienating long-standing allies and calling for readmission of Russia to the group.

June 9: After departing early from G-7 conference, while in-flight to Singapore meeting with Kim Jong-un, Trump tweets that he refuses to sign joint communique and calls Canada's prime minister Justin Trudeau "very dishonest and weak." During a post-event news conference, Trudeau had criticized Trump's tariff demands, declaring

that Canada "will not be pushed around." CNN reports Senator John McCain's statement to U.S. allies: "Americans stand with you, even if our president doesn't."

June 10: Two presidential advisors escalate the verbal assault on Canadian prime minister. Peter Navarro declares that there is a "special place in hell" for any world leader who engages in "bad faith diplomacy" with Trump.

June 11: Attorney General Jeff Sessions tightens rule on asylum-seekers who flee domestic violence or gang attacks, making it far more difficult for them to be allowed into U.S. Tens of thousands may be adversely affected, according to CNN. Meanwhile, in the Mediterranean, Italy and Malta turn away a rescue ship carrying more than 600 refugees from Africa.

June 12: Historic summit between U.S. president and Kim Jong-un results in agreement to continue talks, but few details. Trump supporters hail the session as a diplomatic victory, while critics charge that the North Korean leader gained considerably more than he gave up.

June 13: Citing coverage of Singapore summit, Trump calls the media, led by NBC and CNN, America's "biggest enemy."

June 17: Photo of 2-year-old child in tears as her mother is searched by immigration agents spreads rapidly, intensifying criticism of "zero-tolerance" policy initiated by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Distressing audio tape of detained children crying and calling for "Mommy" or "Daddy" adds to the backlash.

June 19: Defiant Trump faces growing backlash from opponents of immigration policy that results in separation of border-crossing children from parents. Criticism comes not only from liberals, but from a number of conservative leaders and Republican lawmakers who ordinarily back the president.

June 19: U.S. withdraws from United Nations Human Rights Council.

June 19: Trump warns of immigrants who "infest" the U.S. During interview on CNN, former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski

responds to report on 10-year-old with Down Syndrome, taken away from parent at border, by uttering dismissive "Womp Womp."

June 20: Despite his previous insistence that Democratic-initiated "law" prevented halting practice of separating families at Mexican border, Trump signs Executive Order to accomplish that change.

June 27: Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy announces retirement. President quickly reveals list of possible conservative replacements, promising to make choice by July 9.

June 28: Senate leader Mitch McConnell insists that replacement Justice be selected and vetted quickly, so nominee can be sworn in before November election. Critics charge McConnell with hypocrisy, citing his blockage of Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, until after the 2016 presidential election.

June 28: In Washington D.C., some 600 women are arrested at a protest against continued mistreatment of undocumented migrant children.

June 30: Massive protests demanding humane treatment of migrant children separated from parents take place in cities across the country.

June 30: PBS reports that migrants seeking asylum are compelled to pay a Bond, if they want to be released from detention while awaiting a hearing. Minimum Bond cost is \$1,500, but some judges are requiring as much as \$25,000.

July 5: EPA head Scott Pruitt resigns, amid numerous charges of legal and ethics violations.

July 7: Following meeting on denuclearization with Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, North Koreans charge U.S. with making "gangster-like demands" and creating "cancerous" situation.

July 11: At opening breakfast of NATO Summit in Brussels, Trump assails allies for not spending enough on defense, as a percentage of their Gross Domestic Product. Rather than accept the goal of 2 percent by 2024, agreed to in 2014, Trump arbitrarily calls for doubling that amount. He later claims personal victory at the Summit, but allies disagree with his assessment.

July 12-13: Mass protests take place in Britain, Trump's next stop, including floating a huge balloon depicting Trump as a diapered, ill-behaved infant. In interview published in Sun newspaper, Trump criticizes prime minister Theresa May's handling of Brexit situation.

July 15: In Helsinki, Finland, Trump has two-hour meeting with Vladimir Putin, with only translators present. In news conference afterward, U.S. president appears to believe Putin's denial of Russian meddling in 2016 election, even though American intelligence agencies have stated firmly that Russia is the culprit. Additional Trump remarks suggest that he was taking Putin's side on related issues, prompting considerable outrage back home. Some critics call Trump's behavior "disgraceful," and even "treasonous."

July 16-19: Trump faces massive blowback, even from Republicans, for remarks in Helsinki that suggest he believes Putin more than his own intelligence services. Attempts to rectify those comments, claiming to have been "misunderstood," draw even greater criticism.

July 23: Using all capital letters, Trump sends ferocious tweet to Iran's leader, promising "consequences the likes of which few throughout history" have experienced, if that country ever threatens the U.S. again. Earlier, Iranian president Rouhani had promised that conflict between the two countries would amount to the "mother of all wars"

July 27: Immigration agency misses deadline to reunite remaining detained children with their parents. News agencies report that hundreds of parents have already been deported.

July 30: Trump administration considers \$100 billion tax break, nearly all for super-wealthy. President expresses willingness to bypass Congress, ordering revision of capital gains rules on his own.

August 1: Trump tweets that Attorney General Jeff Sessions should halt Mueller probe "right now." Meanwhile, president is willing to do in-person interview with Mr. Mueller, who agrees to limit questions on obstruction of justice.

August 13: *The New York Times* reports that Attorney General Jeff Sessions is taking legal steps to support states that have launched restrictive voter-registration laws, upturning actions taken by the

Obama administration. Critics assert that minorities, likely to vote Democratic, are most likely to be purged from voter rolls or prevented from registering.

August 15: Trump revokes security clearance of former CIA director John Brennan, a leading critic of the president. At a news conference, Sarah Huckabee Sanders reveals list of nine additional people, each critical of Trump, suggesting that any of them might be next to lose clearance.

August 17: CNN says Trump is considering revoking security clearance of Department of Justice Bruce Ohr "very quickly."

August 21: Paul Manafort, one-time Trump campaign manager, found guilty on eight counts of fraud; judge declares mistrial on 10 other charges. Former Trump attorney Michael Cohen pleads guilty, stating that he paid "hush money" to two women for the purpose of influencing the 2016 election.

August 25: Senator John McCain dies, one day after stopping treatment for brain cancer, drawing tremendous praise for his life – from POW in Vietnam to hugely respected, bipartisan work in Senate. McCain's funeral instructions specify desire to have George W. Bush and Barack Obama speak; but Trump, who has often mocked and insulted McCain, is not invited.

August 27: After lowering White House flag to half-staff on Sunday, in respect to death of John McCain, it's raised to full height a day later. Pressure from veterans result in resumption of half-staff position.

August 30: Trump to cancel 2.1 percent pay raise for federal workers, scheduled for January. Later, he claims to be reconsidering the move.

August 31: Trump announces halt to funding of aid to Palestinians via United National Relief and Works Agency. Aid has been supporting 5 million refugees.

September 1: Former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama deliver eulogies to John McCain at elegant, touching service in National Cathedral. Some 2,000 guests were invited, but Donald Trump was omitted from that list.

September 13: Contradicting recently-released study, Trump insists that claim of 2,975 deaths resulting from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, in 2017, is a Democratic plot to "make me look as bad as possible." Original estimate had been 64 deaths.

September 14: *New York Times* columnist notes that total of "false or misleading statements" by Trump has surpassed 5,000.

September 16: Road to confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court hits roadblock as woman alleges sexual assault by the nominee when both were high-schoolers.

September 21: After several days of silence on allegations of sexual assault against Brett Kavanaugh, a Trump tweet attacks the woman who has accused the Supreme Court nominee.

September 21: White House seeks to tighten restrictions on visas and green cards, barring immigrants who receive any sort of public funds (such as food stamps) or are deemed likely to do so. Critics assail subjectivity of such decisions, which would inevitably block low-income persons.

September 23: Accuser of Brett Kavanaugh, Christine Blasey Ford, agrees to testify in Congress on September 27.

September 25: Speaking to U.N. General Assembly, Trump assails "globalization," vowing that foreign aid will go only to countries that "respect" the U.S. and "are our friends." Early in his speech, the president boasted that his administration had accomplished more than nearly any previous one, drawing laughter from a number of attendees.

September 27: Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh adopts angry, combative stance in afternoon, totally denying allegations. While acknowledging drinking in high school and college, he denies excessive alcohol consumption to "blackout" level and insists that sexual encounter with Blasey Ford never happened.

September 27: Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, accuser of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, is questioned by Democratic senators and by Rachel Mitchell, an Arizona sex-crimes prosecutor, standing in for Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Dr. Blasey Ford testifies calmly but emotionally about sexual assault at a party,

when she was 15, in long morning session before Senate Judiciary Committee. Kavanaugh adopts angry, belligerent tone during his testimony in afternoon. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) delivers a particularly angry, threatening outburst.

September 28: Senate Judiciary Committee approves confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh for Supreme Court. Responding to proposal by Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and others, however, Committee calls for FBI investigation prior to final vote in full Senate.

September 28: Previously critical of Kavanaugh accuser, Trump declares Dr. Blasey Ford's testimony "very compelling."

September 28: Senate Republicans want immediate vote on Court nomination; Democrats insists that FBI should investigate further before a full Senate vote is taken. Judiciary Committee supports the nomination, but retiring Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) successfully pushes for FBI investigation, with one-week limit.

October 27: Eleven worshipers at Pittsburgh synagogue are shot and killed by man with long history of harsh anti-Semitic statements.

October 29: In wake of murder rampage in Pittsburgh, Trump continues to blame the media and insist that it's the "true enemy of the people."

October 29: Trump calls march of "caravanners" through Mexico an "invasion." Critics point out that the thousands of participants are refugees fleeing extreme danger in Central America, or simply seeking a better life in the north.

October 30: Trump claims he can halt "birthright citizenship," possibly by executive order. House Speaker Paul Ryan is among those denying that possibility, noting that the right to citizens of U.S.-born person is guaranteed by 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

October 31: After ordering 5,200 troops sent to U.S.-Mexico border, Trump says he may send as many as 15,000, claiming they are needed to help curtail the "invasion" of migrants, in the name of national security. CNN reports that veterans have called the action a "political stunt."

November 1: Trump uses his Twitter account to unleash online ad branded as racist by critics. News outlets recall the comparably racist "Willie Horton" TV commercial, issued during the 1988 presidential campaign by George H.W. Bush backers.

November 2: "Anybody throwing stones, rocks, stones... we will consider that a firearm." So said Mr. Trump, referring to the prospect of troops encountering northbound "caravan" migrants at the Mexican border. Hours later, Defense Department denies Trump's proposal to send troops to the border. (CNN)

November 6: In early returns from midterm election, Democrats appear to have taken back the House of Representatives, while Republicans hold the Senate. Races in several states, including Florida and Arizona, are considered "too close to call."

November 7: As votes continue to be counted, Trump and certain Republican congresspersons unearth claims of voter fraud, insisting, for instance, that in Florida, many Democrats voted more than once.

November 22: Trump claims that "a minimum of 500 serious criminals" are among the migrants who reached the U.S. Mexico border, variously calling them "bad people" and "rough people." As of November 22, an estimated 4,300 "caravanners" were in the city of Tijuana, just south of San Diego, mostly for an opportunity to request asylum.

November 22: Trump's Thanksgiving call to active-duty troops turns into a political event as much as a thank-you, as he focuses on trade and other non-military matters.

November 22: John Roberts, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, takes the startling step of rebuking Trump for claiming that federal judges who had ruled against him were "Obama judges," thus incapable of making independent decisions.

November 23: Federal government releases comprehensive report on climate change, predicting dire consequences. Critics charge that releasing it on Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is meant to minimize its impact, because it contradicts the president's belief that climate change is a "hoax."

November 23: As "caravan" migrants from Central America amass at

Mexican border, U.S. president advises that troops will be permitted to use "lethal force" against them "if necessary," adding that he has "given the O.K." Critics insist that American troops cannot legally use force on U.S. soil.

November 24: Trump administration announces a deal with Mexico, whereby migrants must remain in Mexico to wait for their asylum requests to be initiated.

November 25: Mexican government says no deal regarding maintenance of migrants has been made with Trump administration. New president of Mexico, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, takes office December 1.

November 25: Migrants trying to cross U.S. border clash with Mexican forces in riot gear at Tijuana. Tear gas is fired, and San Ysidro crossing point is ordered closed completely.

December 6: Trump claims, in a tweet, that "without the phony Russian witch hunt," his "approval rating would be at 75%."

December 7: After former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson describes failings of Trump administration in interview, the president tweets an attack, saying Tillerson "didn't have the mental capacity needed" for the job, and is "dumb as a rock" as well as "lazy as hell."

December 8: Trump claims that court documents released in cases against Paul Manafort and Michael Cohen clear him of any collusion with Russia. Analysts disagree. Prosecutors in South District of New York, according to CNN, have determined that Cohen made "hush money" payments to two women, at Trump's request. Trump denies any connection.

December 11: President meets with Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), seeking agreement on renewing funding of major government agencies. Trump insists that such a bill must include \$5 billion in funding for his prized border wall, intended to separate the U.S. from Mexico. During the meeting, Trump says he will "take the mantle," accepting responsibility for a partial government shutdown scheduled to take place on December 21, if an agreement is not reached.

December 20: Shortly after the president tweets his intent to abruptly remove American troops from Syria, Defense Secretary James Mattis announces his resignation, effective in February. Days later, Trump announces that Mattis will depart at the end of 2018.

December 21: Trump blames Democrats for failure of Congress to fund government agencies, whose authorizations are expiring. As a result, the U.S. government goes into partial shutdown at midnight.

December 22, 2018: Government shutdown means 400,000 federal employees are expected to work without pay, while 380,000 are laid off for the duration. Shutdown is expected to last through Christmas, at least.