

Vocabulary from “When the Fire Comes” - by Paul Krugman FEB. 10, 2017

Despite whatever’s going on in the outside world, in your personal life you should **keep calm and carry on**.

to carry on – to continue with one’s usual activities or tasks

This is a struggle that will decide the **fate** of the USA.

fate – destiny; the outcome of a situation for someone or something

Surely there’s a pretty **good chance** that something nasty will happen at some time over the next few years.

chance - a possibility of something happening

After 9/11, the overwhelming public response was to **rally around** the commander in chief.

to rally - to come together again in order to continue fighting after a defeat or dispersion

Doubts about his anti-democratic machinations were **swept aside** as reality set in.

to sweep aside - to remove, dispel, or abolish something in a swift and sudden way

Surgeons have to remove damaged skin quickly and replace it to prevent infection from **setting in**

to set in - (of something unpleasant or unwelcome) to begin and seem likely to continue.

Republican exploitation of the **atrocities** for political gain began almost immediately.

atrocities - an extremely wicked or cruel act, typically one involving physical violence or injury.

Bush used the initial illusion of success in the Afghanistan war to **ram through** huge tax cuts for the wealthy.

to ram through – to force something to be accepted.

The consequences if Trump finds himself **empowered** in a way similar to Bush will be incomparably worse.

to empower – to give someone the authority or power to do something.

It was foolish to hope that Trump and his people would be even slightly **ennobled** by the responsibilities of office.

to ennoble - to lend greater dignity or nobility of character to

Every day brings further evidence that this is a man who completely **conflates** the national interest with his personal self-interest.

to conflate – to combine two or more things or ideas into one.

It was previously **inconceivable** that a president could attack a private company for decisions that hurt his family's business interests.

inconceivable – unbelievable; not capable of being imagined or grasped mentally.

Trump **frames** every issue in a way to make himself look blameless, or innocent of wrongdoing.

to frame – to give a news story a favorable interpretation; to spin.

Trump's **tirade** exposed his palpable eagerness to see an attack on America, which would show everyone the folly of constraining his power.

tirade - a long, angry speech of criticism or accusation.

Good students tend to be **eager** for knowledge.

eager - wanting to do or have something very much.

I have a foreboding that many Republicans will soon realize the **sheer folly** of having voted for Trump.

sheer folly – absolute lack of good sense; foolishness.

Trump cannot believe a judge would put the USA in such **peril** (by letting all those oh-so-dangerous Muslim families into the country).

peril – serious and immediate danger.

What we see here is the most powerful man in the world **blatantly** telegraphing his intention to use national misfortune to grab even more power.

blatantly – in an open and unashamed manner.

A tiny movement of his arm **telegraphed** his intention to strike.

to telegraph – to convey an intentional or unconscious message, especially with facial expression or body language.

Fortune knocks but once, but **misfortune** has much more patience. (Laurence Peter)

misfortune – bad luck

To ensure the continuation of democracy, the constitutional system is full of **checks** and balances.

checks and balances - a way of organizing institutions that ensures that political power is not concentrated in the hands of individuals or groups.

Authoritarianism can be **averted** only if people have the courage to stand against it.

to avert – to prevent an undesirable occurrence.

Ominously, the new attorney general has a long history of contempt for voting rights.

ominously - in a way that suggests that something bad is going to happen.

Trump is doing all he can to **delegitimize** judicial oversight in advance.

to delegitimize – to withdraw legitimate status or authority from someone or something.

Due to an unfortunate **oversight** by American voters, the progress of democracy may now be interrupted.

oversight – the action of supervising something

Trump's bizarre behavior raises doubts as to America's ability to **handle** upcoming crisis.

to handle – to deal with or manage a situation