

Vocabulary from an article in the Economist on Feb. 4, 2017 - America's president - An insurgent in the White House

Terror as a weapon has been wielded since early times, sometimes by insurgents, more often by governments.

an insurgent - a person fighting against a government or invading force; a rebel or revolutionary.

Washington is in the grip of a revolution.

in the grip of - Dominated or affected by something undesirable or adverse

Donald Trump lobbed the first Molotov cocktail of policies and executive orders against the capital.

to lob - to throw or hit a ball or missile in a high arc

People in such bleak circumstances often act with desperation.

bleak - a situation that is not hopeful or encouraging; unlikely to have a favourable outcome

Johnny got up and started clapping his hands in a fast rhythmic cadence.

cadence - rhythmic flow of a sequence of sounds or words

Trump has pledged to overhaul the country's immigration system and replace it with something better.

overhaul - Analyse and improve a system

They made sure that they were on the next flight bound for Toronto.

bound - going or ready to go towards a specified place

Firemen had to cut him free from the wreckage of the car

wreckage - The remains of something that has been badly damaged or destroyed

The incense will slowly smoulder, filling the room with its delightful fragrance.

to smoulder - to burn slowly with smoke but no flame

All aircraft produce wake turbulence - spirals of air that trail from the wingtips that can be a particular hazard when smaller aircraft follow a larger plane.

wake - a trail of disturbed water or air left by the passage of a ship or aircraft.

Boy racers face seeing their cars behind bars as part of a police crackdown on reckless driving.

reckless - Heedless of danger or the consequences of one's actions; rash or impetuous:

I drafted a letter of resignation

to draft - to prepare a preliminary version of a document

The ban on entry for Muslim citizens from seven Middle Eastern countries was drafted in secret and enacted in haste.

to enact - to put a law into practice

Unfortunately, in haste, mom used the diesel pump instead of unleaded.

haste - Excessive speed or urgency of movement or action; hurry

Violence marred a number of New Year celebrations

to mar - to impair the quality or appearance of; to spoil

Promises that sounded like hyperbole in the campaign now amount to a deadly serious revolt

hyperbole - Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally

The murder sparked public outrage in the province and led to renewed calls for the death sentence.

outrage - An extremely strong reaction of anger, shock, or indignation

But to plan somebody's murder is a particularly heinous crime and I think few people would do that.

heinous - an utterly odious or wicked crime

Steve Bannon has a strong and malign influence on Trump.

malign - Evil in nature or effect

Trump's campaign stump speech typically included a call for building a long wall.

stump speech - A speech repeatedly delivered by a politician during their campaign for election or re-election to public office.

The order enabled the police to evict any tenants and board up the property.

to evict - to expel someone from a property with the support of the law.

The earliest documented ballads feature Robin Hood as lusty, treacherous and violent.

treacherous - guilty of betrayal and deception

Someone chucked a brick through the window

to chuck - to throw something carelessly or casually.

Steven rails against Trump for all the wreckage he's leaving in his wake.

to rail - to complain or protest strongly and persistently about

It was difficult to understand what Trump hoped to achieve by his outpouring of vitriol.

outpouring - An outburst of strong emotion

People around the world were shocked by the vitriol in Trump's campaign and by American voters' poor judgment.

vitriol - Cruel and bitter criticism.

The untouchables of India are shunned by the rest of the castes.

to shun - to persistently avoid, ignore, or reject someone or something through antipathy

Trump will continue to find ways to subvert democracy in America and the rest of the world.
to subvert - Undermine the power and authority of (an established system or institution)

harnessed to - linked to

Trump believes that lesser countries reap most of the rewards while America foots the bill.
reap - to receive a benefit as a consequence of actions.

As long as someone else foots the bill, the sky's the limit.
to foot the bill - to pay for something, especially when the cost is considered large or unreasonable.

Trump believes in his ideological struggle between Judeo-Christian and Muslim cultures.
a struggle - a conflict or contest

The onslaughts on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon are being likened to Pearl Harbor.
onslaught - A fierce or destructive attack

amid - surrounded by; in the middle of

I had a couple of the trappings of success, a car and home.
the trappings - The outward signs, features, or objects associated with a particular situation, role, or job

You can count on Trump to be disappointing in the future.
count on - rely on

bilateral - Having or relating to two sides; affecting both sides.

Trump's misguided ban on visas for Muslims will likely increase terrorism.
misguided - Having or showing faulty judgment or reasoning.

Though America's military might is unquestioned, Trump may damage America's network of alliances.
might - Great and impressive power or strength, especially of a nation, large organization, or natural force.

It is important that we keep family ties strong
ties - A thing that unites or links people

He showed his contempt for his job by doing it very badly
contempt - The feeling that a person or a thing is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving scorn.

Numerous products claim to bolster strength or endurance in sports.
to bolster - to support or strengthen; to prop up

Rats and monkeys made dependent on cocaine will always strive hard to get more.
to strive - to make great efforts to achieve or obtain something

Strife is growing in America, but is still not as bad as during the Vietnam war.

strife - Angry or bitter disagreement over fundamental issues; conflict.

China is not ready to take on the mantle of leader of the world.

mantle - An important role or responsibility that passes from one person to another.

Obviously, the removal of a dictator by the people themselves is probably the most desirable outcome in these situations.

desirable - Wanted or wished for as being an attractive, useful, or necessary course of action.

to undercut - to weaken or undermine.

Damage to the brain's left side often undermines language abilities.

undermine – to damage or weaken someone or something, especially gradually or insidiously.

jerry-rigged - constructed in a crude or improvised manner

Democrats are becoming palpably apprehensive.

palpably - Noticeably or clearly

Her arms are crossed and her face apprehensive, but she claims she's not nervous.

apprehensive - anxious or fearful that something bad or unpleasant will happen

She ditched her husband to marry the window cleaner.

to ditch - to end a relationship with someone without their consent

It's sometimes difficult to switch to a different cable television provider.

switch - to adopt something different in place of something else; to change

Many Allied soldiers were simply too far away to influence the outcome of the battle.

outcome - The way a thing turns out; a consequence.