

Suppose you discovered that cancer was present in your body, that it was metastasizing and destroying your health and would prove fatal if decisive measures were not taken immediately. What would you do? The malignancy we now face is lodged in our body politic. It will only get worse until we do something to remedy the situation.

Several things need to happen now. The first is to render Trump impotent and remove him from office. The second is to avoid scapegoating him, as if he is the source of all that ails us rather than its chief exploiter and most visible manifestation. Getting rid of him will be far from a cure-all. We must simultaneously hold Trump and all his enablers accountable to whatever extent the law and common decency allow. And then we must try to understand why 74 million people voted for him in the last election. Understanding that won't absolve them of supporting a grotesquely corrupt, dishonest, anti-democratic, delusional sociopath, but it may help reveal how the rest of us have contributed to a culture and society that have failed to instill values and virtues necessary for democratic self-governance and fulfillment of the best of human aspirations.