

Joe Mathews Calls For Civil War Against Musk And Trump

To our self-proclaimed 'King,' Americans are all undocumented now

By Joe Mathews

We are all undocumented now.

We Americans no longer have undeniable legal status in this country. Our rights, our organizations, our jobs, our health, our schools, our laws, our Constitution — all are now provisional, subject to the whims of the self-proclaimed “King” in the White House.

Our very citizenship is provisional now. The U.S. Constitution may say that all persons born here are citizens. But the King says he may cancel the Constitution by executive order. He says he is only seeking to keep out the children of undocumented immigrants, or of “invaders” or “terrorists.” The precedent the King is setting is clear: Any of us may be declared terrorists or invaders or children of the same. Any of us may be stripped of citizenship, jailed or deported. Your U.S. birth certificate is just another piece of paper. We are all undocumented now.

The government itself is also provisional. We used to have confidence that when Congress appropriated the money for some service or your own government job, that service or job would be there. But Congress' appropriation power is constitutional, and the King does not care what is constitutional. The King and his billionaire friend fire people and shut down agencies as they wish.

The government promised you money after the fires burned down your community? So what? The King will only provide it if you [enact laws to suppress your own votes.](#)

You say the courts are making their rulings and will stop the “extralegal” federal actions. But the King says he does not have to obey the courts or the law because he is trying to save the country. He is ignoring and subverting rulings. The King and his allies are seeking to remove judges who dare get in his way.

The King already owns the Supreme Court, which is now giving its due consideration to his obviously unconstitutional canceling of birthright citizenship. The court already canceled prosecutions of the King, allowed the King to run for president though he was barred by the constitutional rule and granted the King legal immunity for any “official act.”

The King may prosecute anyone who offends him. He said as much at the Justice Department.

So, like our undocumented neighbors, we all must live in the shadows. We also must live without economic rights. Yes, we might have union contracts or economic regulations or Social Security accounts, but the King can cancel them all. He may launch tariffs against friendly neighbors with whom we have trade agreements that the King himself negotiated. He may violate the sovereignty of others, seizing whatever land he likes, from Greenland to Gaza. You say you have the right to protest under the First Amendment. Alas, that is a right in the Constitution, too. The King says he has the right to declare an insurrection and use violence against protestors. He just arrested and is seeking to deport a legal U.S. resident who was a pro-Palestine student activist. The King is attacking civil society — removing dissidents, threatening movements and organizations, silencing the press. He stripped \$400 million from private Columbia University and threatened to take more if the university didn’t shut down departments or stop teaching subjects he doesn’t like.

You may think we can overturn such actions with voting. But there is [no right to vote](#) in the constitution. And Donald Trump, now empowered, may ignore election results he doesn't like anyway.

So, what do we do?

Now that we are all undocumented, maybe we should listen to those who have been undocumented the longest. Our long-undocumented neighbors know us well — most have been here for more than 20 years. Many migrants are here because of authoritarianism and attacks on democracy in their own countries. They can tell us much about fighting people like the King.

“Learn from immigrants,” advised Angelica Salas, who has led the [Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights](#) for a quarter-century, at a Zócalo Public Square event. “And understand when you don't protect the most vulnerable in society, you open the door. I'm an immigrant. We're the canary in the coal mine. A lot of what is being tested (by the Trump administration) is being tested through us.”

If we listen to undocumented immigrants, maybe we can learn how to cope with the frustration of paying taxes to a government that attacks us instead of representing us. Maybe we can learn how to hide and protect ourselves from federal officials who might take us away on a whim.

And maybe we will realize that our decades of failing to protect and legalize our undocumented neighbors have left all of us in danger. Maybe then we will finally understand that protecting ourselves against a tyrant requires us to fight ... for everyone.