PROJECT 2025 A Blueprint for Tyranny

WHAT IS IT?

Project 2025 is a 900-page presidential action plan published by The Heritage Foundation, a right-wing think tank. It's supported by over 100 extreme, deep-pocketed organizations and individuals, such as the Koch brothers, whose beliefs and interests aren't shared by average Americans

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Before the 2016 election, The Heritage Foundation issued a list of policy recommendations, and Donald Trump enacted nearly two-thirds of them during his presidency. Many contributors to Project 2025 had key roles in the Trump administration. If you work, pay taxes, plan to start a family, want to educate your kids, need health care, or care about equality and personal liberty, Project 2025's policies would affect you.

WHAT IS ITS GOAL?

Project 2025 aims to transform America. Its policies would increase the President's authority, give the government control over our most personal decisions, and widen financial inequality. Its supporters seek to embed these policies into the government's institutions. It's a plan by a small group of wealthy ideologues for lasting minority rule. The casualties will be the liberty of average Americans and the right to have their beliefs and ideals count. Project 2025 details a "180-Day Playbook" for achieving this transformation.

WHAT ARE THE SPECIFICS?

Below are the core ideas driving Project 2025, its tactics for implementing them, and its strategy to permanently reshape American society.

PRECEPT 1: AMERICANS SHOULD BE RULED WITH A STRONG HAND

How to implement it: Expand the President's power by reducing Congressional oversight of the Executive Branch; eliminate the independence of the Department of Justice and the FBI; train over 20,000 loyalists to fill key government positions on Inauguration Day; give the President sole discretion to hire and fire non-political federal employees; restructure or abolish federal agencies, transferring their powers to the President.

How to make it permanent: Strip the Department of Homeland Security of its role in election security; enable a President-controlled FBI and DOJ to intervene in elections and punish the President's perceived enemies; replace civil servants with political loyalists who will serve the President, not the public; appoint federal judges who will uphold these policies; empower the President to deploy the military on American soil immediately after inauguration.

PRECEPT 2: AMERICANS' PRIVATE LIVES SHOULD BE CONTROLLED

How to implement it: Pass federal legislation restricting or prohibiting access to reproductive care, birth control, IVF, surrogacy, and STD testing; surveil pregnant women to ensure compliance. Criminalize what Project 2025 deems pornography, including non-explicit content related to sex or gender. Allow federal employees to be fired based on their sexual orientation and require federal grantees to adopt a "biblically based" definition of marriage and family.

How to make it permanent: Pass laws transforming private decisions into crimes and use criminal penalties to silence dissenters.

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PRECEPT 3: PUBLIC EDUCATION SHOULD BE ABANDONED

How to implement it: Defund public schools by using vouchers to finance private schools; defund early childhood education; eliminate common standards for an adequate education; bar public school teachers from organizing for decent wages and better classroom conditions; eliminate the Department of Education.

How to make it permanent: Fund private schools free to be denominational by religion, race, or ideology, eroding the sense of common American ideals. Produce graduates who are unschooled in democracy and unlikely to support its core institutions; create an uninformed, easily-led citizenry.

PRECEPT 4: AMERICANS SHOULD FACE THE BIG PROBLEMS ALONE

How to implement it: End federal efforts to mitigate or understand climate change effects, including natural disasters; terminate all renewable energy initiatives; impede state measures to reduce pollution. Advance Medicare privatization and end the government negotiation and limitation of drug prices. The Heritage Foundation has proposed reducing Social Security benefits and increasing the age for full benefits.

How to make it permanent: Weaken the EPA, Energy Department, and FEMA; roll back environmental oversight of oil, gas, and coal industries; boost for-profit hospitals; move towards privatizing Medicare; in general, outsource matters of public welfare to profit-driven corporations.

PRECEPT 5: SOME AMERICANS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS

How to implement it: advantage the wealthy by reducing their taxes; disadvantage average Americans by increasing their income tax and imposing consumption taxes; reduce corporate taxes and eliminate consumer protection rules; start taxing employee-sponsored health benefits; gut the IRS, reducing audits of the wealthy and corporations; disadvantage hourly workers by limiting overtime pay; advantage some personal beliefs by incorporating purportedly Christian beliefs into social policies; disadvantage women by limiting their ability to make decisions about their bodies; disadvantage members of racial and sexual minorities by making it easier to discriminate against them.

How to make it permanent: Elect a President indebted to a small group of wealthy ideologues, remove institutional restraints on his power, and appoint a federal judiciary unwilling to hold him accountable.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- The text of Project 2025: 2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf (project2025.org)
- An Analysis of Project 2025: https://www.mediamatters.org/heritage-foundation/guide-project-2025-extreme-right-wing-agenda-next-republican-administration
- Put a face on Project 2025: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/olMsBil-Pug (John McEntee, former Director of the White House Presidential Personnel Office under Donald Trump, is a senior advisor to Project 2025.)