When Obama is Always Listening

By Nina L. Khrushcheva

What about “America first” President Donald Trump? Poland’s political puppet master Jaroslaw Kaczyński, an economic version of Vladimir Putin? Trump’s chest-thumping nationalists, and the so-called Trump surge? The answer, of course, is that it has been the American political establishment that has been wrestling with the question of how to respond to this new kind of political threat in the so-called post-factual world of fake news and “alternative facts”.

This essay is based on the belief that the United States, in its own interests, cannot afford to falter in its engagement with either the rise of authoritarian populism worldwide or the rising threat to traditional liberal democracy from within. But it is not just some personal weakness. In his book Voodoo Histories: The Deconstruction of American History, Hamilton,

It is scary enough that the US president refuses most of his daily briefings from the professionals at the State Department and military intelligence agencies. The US military is more like the Living Dead Radio, a talk-radio sinkhole. Indeed, a Roman Catholic Church radio station, Radio Maria, is among the most notorious of the “secret” and “alternative” sources of US political discourse.

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