



## Threshold Crossed

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We've seen many sad days for our republic. But now the country has crossed a certain horrible threshold of banana-republic-hood.

Guided by a corrupt judge, a New York City jury has found former President Trump guilty of all 34 of the District Attorney Alvin Bragg's bogus charges. Something or other to do with Stormy Daniels, an alleged affair, paying off an extortionist, federal election laws, and bookkeeping.

With Trump targeted by so many show trials launched solely to punish his ascendancy and prevent his reelection, chances were that at least one of these elephantine efforts would extract a conviction. Even people lousy at darts hit the dartboard sooner or later if they throw a thousand darts.

As Katie Pavlich [notes](#), during the trial prosecutors didn't "focus on proving the fraud charges" but on "hush-money payments" and "irrelevant salacious details of an alleged affair." Who needs a definable crime when Being Trump is crime enough?

The verdict made one reader at [Instapundit](#) "realize just how dependent the Democrats have become on appearing legitimate. Where there is no substance, form must take precedence. [So we're] offered oppression as 'democracy' and Stalinist show trials as 'justice.'"

There are so many irregularities in the charges and the conduct of the trial that the verdict is bound to be overturned on appeal.

By some court. Somewhere. No?

But the damage has been done. The worst politicos and operators are now high-fiving each other, little caring about implications and long-range effects. As if they cannot see the next step.

As if they cannot see they are behaving like the caciques of a banana dictatorship.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.