

Are our fellow Americans ill-informed, or do they just not care? When the President of the United States—who has just now pictured himself as “King” calls the President of another sovereign ally a “dictator”, who should we believe? Given the years of misinformation and outright lies, as well as shameful ignorance, by the present occupant of the Oval Office (and this time, I am referring to Trump, not to his co-president oligarch), we have to judge the situation by what people do. When our elected representatives in Congress don’t immediately stand up and repudiate Trump’s words, can we expect our ordinary fellow citizens to do what the politicians refuse to do?

In many cases, we CAN expect that. It has always been, and will always be, a grass roots movement that holds politicians accountable. With over 80 per cent of Americans believing that President Zelensky is the duly elected leader of Ukraine and that our support for that country is vital and right, I guess we have to light some fires under the self-serving people in Washington, D.C.

It goes without saying that our citizens are often the last to inform themselves. As long-time admirers of the work of historian Timothy Snyder, we have passed around many copies of his short, important study *On Tyranny*. And yet, I am pretty sure over half of the people in the U.S. would have no idea who this author/historian is or what he has written.

And yet, across the North Atlantic, in a column in a regional newspaper, a Swedish writer succinctly and perfectly distills Snyder’s meaning—that the superrich are now in ascendancy in the U.S.A.

This same column by Sune Tholin makes a statement that all Americans should think deeply about. Most of us can look back to forefathers and mothers who gave up everything for this country’s continued freedom and for the salvation of Europe, as well. How can we citizens of this country look back at World War II without seeing what Trump/Musk is offering in contrast. Tholin wrote: “I can’t quit thinking about the 407,000 American soldiers who died in the Second World War during the horrific task of defeating Nazi Germany.”

We don’t need to blow the dust off some old history book in our local library or search our attic for a vintage newspaper Grandma kept to check on this statistic. Use that marvel of the times, the Internet, to read these numbers for yourself. Then, ask

yourself, what is my responsibility now?