

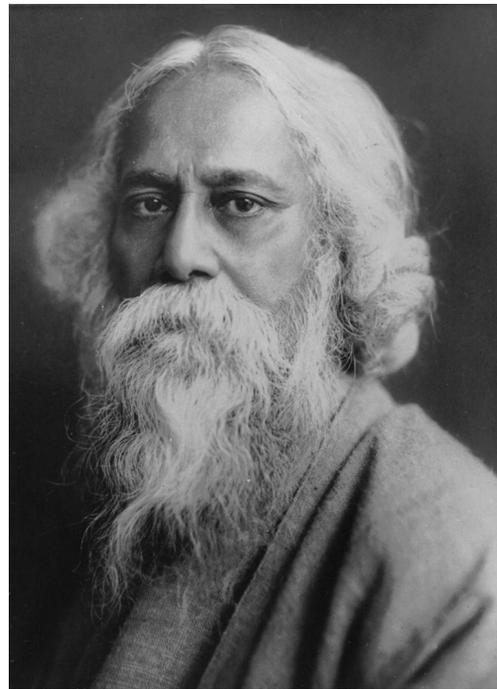
Essay

Trump's Triumphant Tour of Europe by Musafir

While you had your head buried in sand digging dirt to invalidate Trump's presidency, some historic events took place in Europe last week (week of July 3, 2017). During a difficult visit to Europe, Donald Trump appeared to uphold the Western values against the antagonists. He kept his campaign promise to fight for the good of America (America first). The critics call his approach egoistic as if the Europeans, especially Germany and France, are altruists who don't care for their countries' interests first. Read between the lines instead of believing in fake news.

His speech in Warsaw was by far the best he has given on the international stage. Trump's Warsaw address, which was a powerful defense of Western civilization and the values that underpin it, was one of the most significant foreign policy speeches delivered by a U.S. leader since the days of Ronald Reagan. He did something that no other president in recent times has done. He

guaranteed Poland and Balkan states an uncondit



ional supply of natural gas to free those nations from the Russian bondage. He also declared that he would defend Article 5 of NATO. Unlike other European allies, he prefers action above symbolism. I don't have room to cite examples in this article.

At the G-20 Summit in Hamburg following the Polish visit, Trump

met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in a highly anticipated match-up between the two leaders. There were not, as the Russians were hoping for, any concessions from the U.S. regarding the lifting of economic sanctions against Moscow over its illegal occupation of Crimea and Moscow's proxy war in eastern Ukraine. Trump pressed his Russian counterpart several times over the issue of Russian interference in the U.S. presidential election. No one should expect a reluctant Russia to accept her guilt. Those who hoped for such an admission, probably, believe in Utopia.

President Trump decided to do the next best thing under the circumstances. He decided to move on with Russia in achieving a truce in Syria. They agreed that they had a common enemy in ISIS and they must work together to get rid of them.

Elsewhere at the Summit, Trump stood firm in rejection of the Paris climate accord, and made clear his administration's opposition to an agreement that would be hugely costly to the US economy, and would undermine American sovereignty. It's not that he is opposed to saving the world from global warming, it's the way the

accord is framed that would harm America (read between the lines).

At the end of the Summit, Trump met with British Prime Minister Theresa May, underscoring his firm support for Brexit, and pledging to advance a U.S.-U.K. free trade deal "which will be a very, very big deal a very powerful deal, great for both countries and I think we will have that done very, very quickly."

Trump's trip should be viewed as a success. It was a firm rejection of the disastrous "leading from behind" approach of his predecessor in the Oval Office, and was the clearest sign yet that the president is settling in to his role as leader of the free world.

Those who observed that our President was isolated and not given enough attention by his European counterparts, I'd like to quote Tagore, a Nobel laureate from India "Ekla Chalo" meaning go alone.

"If no one heeds your call, then march on alone,
If no one dares to speak,
If everyone keeps their mouths shut,
everyone is afraid,
Then march on alone."

(Note: The author is in disagreement with Trump on several issues)