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January 20, 2017: Welcome, President Trump

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Title: Welcome, President Trump

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1/20/2017—Never has the loss of an election been so eventful. I have to distinguish between the bad things that are about to happen because America elected a Republican Congress and what may happen because of Donald Trump. So far, the harm I am worried about—the loss of healthcare coverage for poor and working people, the threat to Medicare and Social Security and the undoing of global warming efforts—are the result of votes for Congress, not because of President Trump. The same is true of what harm his nominees to the Supreme Court do. Different nominees might have happened if the Senate were Democratic and, anyway, any Republican President would do the same. But these were more or less legitimate results of what the American people have chosen. For years, people have been voting to slit their own throats by voting Republican. Progressives and the Democratic Party have failed to connect with a majority, or at least a large enough majority, to genuinely govern. So, I detest all these marches and protests. It only takes normal politics working well to elect Democrats and do normally good things. I don't need protests and lawsuits. I need ordinary voters. Others are worried about fascism. Maybe I am naïve, but the harms I'm seeing are coming from democracy.