



Written by [Luis Miguel](#) on January 6, 2020

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Democrats' Paper Tiger Impeachment

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It's official.

Democrats have made Donald J. Trump the third American president to be impeached. And in all likelihood, he will soon be the third president to be acquitted in a Senate impeachment trial.



Despite the bursting headlines and the melodramatic one-liners from the pundits, the impeachment of the 45th president of the United States is ultimately anti-climactic for one reason: No one, not a single person, is surprised by it.

That Democrats would impeach the president was a foregone conclusion — from the moment Donald Trump won the presidency in 2016.

Democrats have spent the last three years since then looking for a reason — any reason — to oust the man who for millions of Americans has come to symbolize the hope that the great American experiment can still be saved from the claws of a tyrannical establishment, that America truly can be made great again.

But with three years to dig up dirt and with the advantage of the Deep State and the mainstream media on their side, the results of the Democrats' fishing expedition are painfully underwhelming.

Of everything they could have pinned on President Trump, the two impeachment articles against him are the thoroughly unexciting "abuse of power" and "obstruction of Congress."

Where's the charge of treason? Where's the charge of bribery? After all, House Democrats such as Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Intelligence Committee Chair Adam Schiff were quick to throw the word "bribery" around before they actually had to commit themselves to anything that would be held to legal scrutiny.

"I don't think there's any question that the uncontested facts show this president solicited a bribe," Schiff told NPR in December of President Trump's alleged quid pro quo with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to have the foreign leader investigate the business dealings of Hunter and Joe Biden in exchange for military aid.

"The bribe is to grant or withhold military assistance in return for a public statement of a fake investigation into the elections. That's bribery," Pelosi said. "What the president has admitted to and says it's 'perfect,' I say it's perfectly wrong. It's bribery."

While the Constitution does list bribery (along with treason and "other high crimes and misdemeanors") as an impeachable offense, the implication in Article II, Section 4 is that it would be an impeachable



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action for the American president to accept bribes. Bribing foreign leaders has been the policy of governments — including this one — since time immemorial. Have we already forgotten Obama's delivery of \$1.7 billion in cash palettes to Iran? If bribing foreign governments were the standard, every president would have been impeached by now.

Of course, it didn't help Pelosi and Schiff's "bribery" case that Zelensky himself has repeatedly said there was no quid pro quo and no pressure to investigate the Bidens. Ukraine got the military aid, and the announcement by the European country of a probe into the former vice president never materialized.

It's no surprise that Pelosi ultimately got wet feet about a bribery charge, though she deflected when asked about the lack of a bribery article by saying she isn't a lawyer.

What we're left with, then, is "abuse of power," which boils down to the idea that President Trump jeopardized national security by delaying military aid to a nation all the way on the other side of the Atlantic — aid that Obama himself *never* provided the Ukrainians. And, allegedly, the president was motivated by a desire to harm his probable 2020 opponent, Joe Biden.

Would Democrats have been so quick to cry "election interference" had Hillary Clinton won in 2016 and investigated Trump's supposed Russia ties once in office?

And then there's "obstruction of Congress," a non-crime that means Democrats are mad at the president for not letting certain administration officials testify during the impeachment hearings. But they apparently weren't mad enough to take the White House to court and compel their testimonies, as they could have done had they wanted to.

During the House Judiciary Committee hearings, George Washington University Law School Professor Jonathan Turley, an admitted anti-Trumper, said the Ukraine allegations would be remembered as "the shortest proceeding, with the thinnest evidentiary record, and the narrowest grounds ever used to impeach a president. That does not bode well for future presidents who are working in a country often sharply and, at times, bitterly divided."

Turley's prediction that the Ukraine controversy "would easily collapse in a Senate trial" will now be put to the test. Will Democrats' impeachment bid backfire on them come election time? Probably. Will it set a negative precedent of partisan impeachments? Almost certainly. Do they care? Clearly not.

Democrats are sold on impeachment. But garnering a political victory from it seems a hard check to cash.

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