Trump’s ‘Muslim ban’ order may be another con job

By Frank Nixon

U.S. President Donald Trump signed another executive order Jan. 27. This order suspends all entry to the U.S. from seven Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East. The countries are Syria, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan and Libya.

At first glance, the ban looks like a bold and decisive step to secure the homeland from Islamic extremism, but to many observers it’s just the latest example of Trump’s predilection to deflect and distract – another con job.

Critics have noted that Trump’s list does not include other Muslim-majority countries where the Trump Organization has done business or pursued potential deals, which include two luxury towers operating out of Istanbul, Turkey.

Sad truth: Turkey has been rife with Islamic extremism leading to widespread carnage and bloodshed. Since 2015, more than 400 people have been killed in major attacks throughout the country, according to a New York Times report.

Other countries excluded from the Muslim ban, where Trump has ongoing and active business ties, are Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the home countries of all but one of the nineteen 9/11 hijackers.

The world should not be surprised by Trump’s latest confidence trick. After all, the president implicitly admits to being a con man in his book The Art of the Deal, which could easily have been titled The Art of the Con. The book is full of examples of how Trump misleads (“truthy hyperbole”) and manipulates people to take advantage of them.

Recently, Trump’s critics have moved forward with legal and numerous and on-going conflict of interest allegations. The watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington D.C., or CREW, filed a law suit alleging that Trump’s business holdings violate the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution, which makes it illegal for any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or Foreign State.

Could this eventually lead to the im- peachment of Trump?

Allan Lichtman, a political historian who teaches at the American University in Washington, thinks so. “The Republicans are nervous about Donald Trump,” said Lichtman, in part. “He is the nu- merous and on-going conflict of interest allegations. The watchdog group Citiz...”

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