

# The Battlefield is in the Soul

Alastair McIntosh



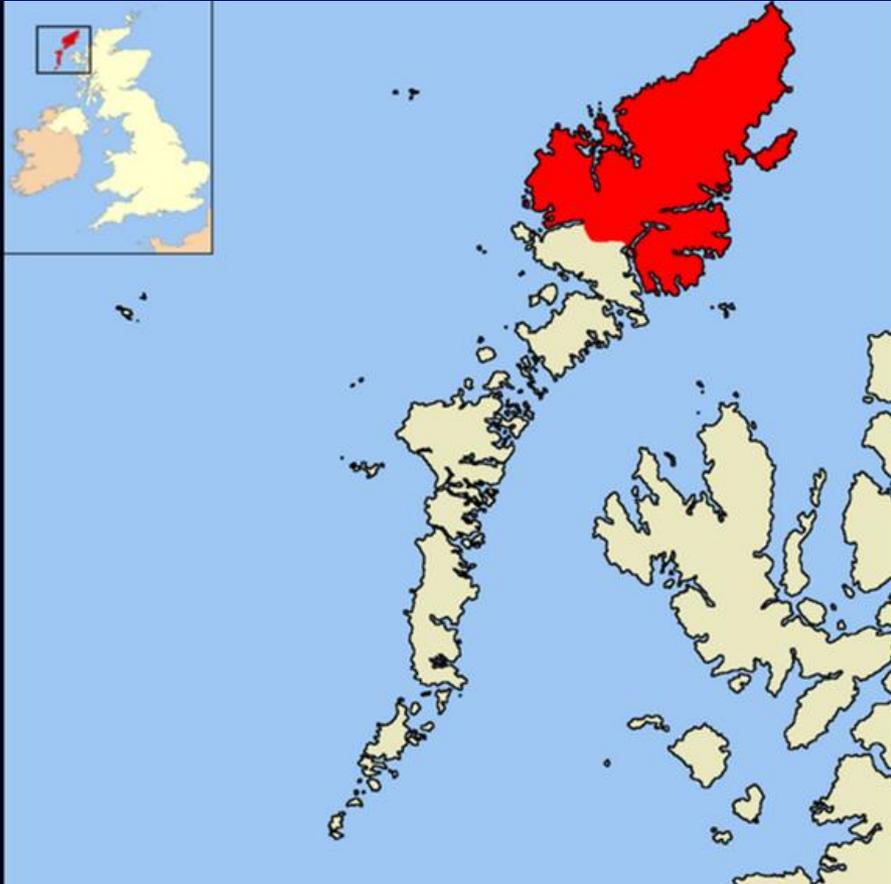
St Francis United Methodist Church, MN

22 February 2026

*In these slides* to introduce my talk, I set who I am in the context of having been raised in the Isle of Lewis in Scotland. I believe that it might shed some light not just on President Trump and the actions he has precipitated through ICE, but more importantly, on the psychohistory (the psychological and spiritual history) of the people who comprise his base, our neighbours.

In the talk that accompanied these slides, now a Zoom recording, I describe the kind of island people and community that I grew up amongst. I outline their connection to the land and sea and their deep values of mutual care in community. I then tell of the multiple layers of trauma that impacted the island for the century following the 'Highland Clearances' (i.e. the evictions of the peasantry) of the 1820s. I illustrate with the case study of one island woman, Mary Anne Macleod, who took the opportunity to emigrate to the New World in 1930, but then perhaps forgot her roots, and chose a very different way of life.

# The Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides of Scotland











Dixie Knight



BEISCHA

PLAN



“People were so interdependent.  
I just accepted that.”

Photo: Paul Strand 1954, S. Uist;  
Quotes: MacKinnon 2007, Skye



“We lived for one another.  
We worked for one another.  
And we cared for one  
another.”

Photo: Paul Strand 1954, S. Uist;  
Quotes: MacKinnon 2007, Skye



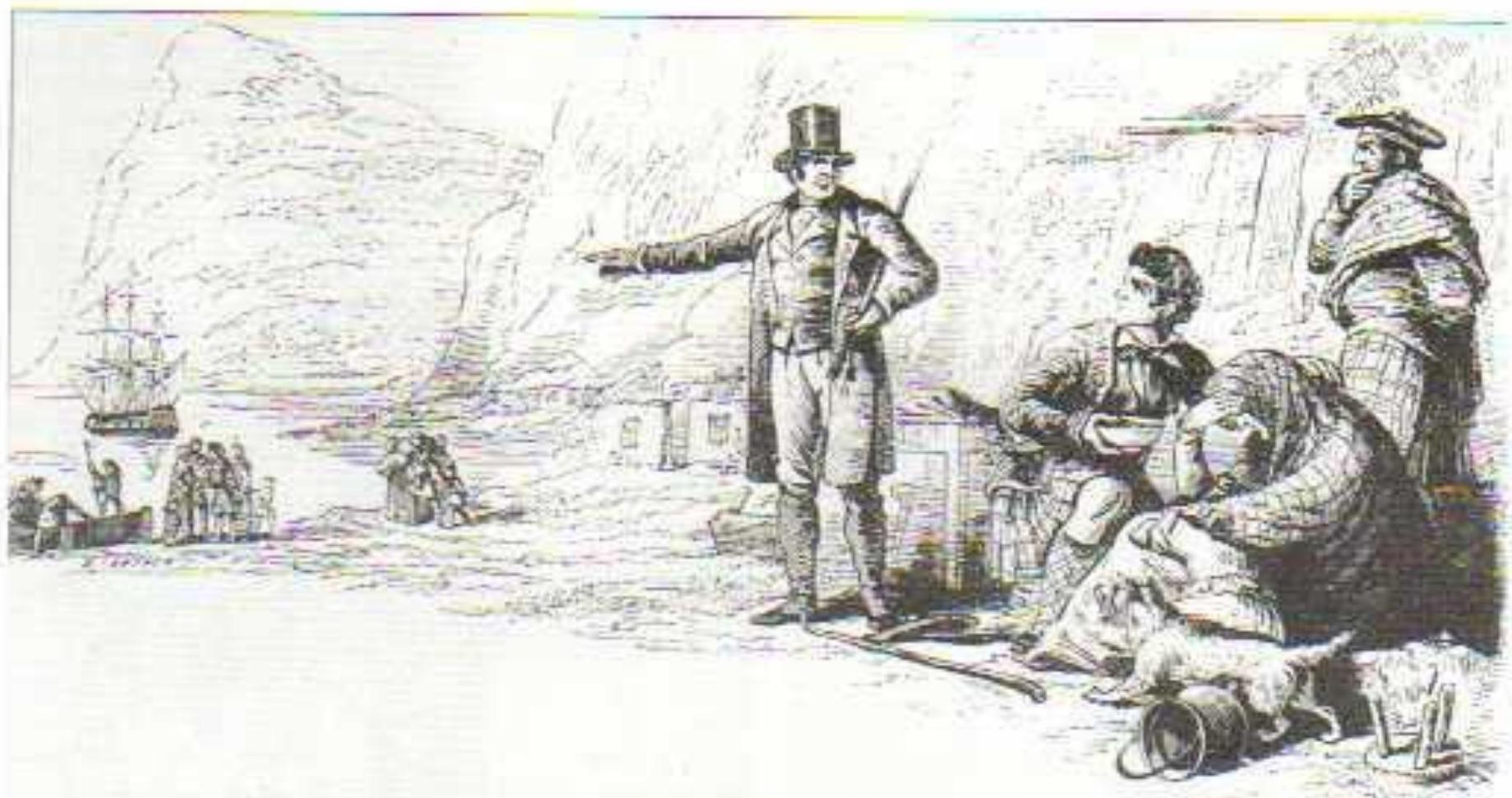
“What you are is  
your community.”

Photo: Paul Strand 1954, S. Uist;  
Quotes: MacKinnon 2007, Skye









A REAL "SCOTTISH GRIEVANCE."

HUKKAN.—"Will her mother be frail, and can't be sent out of the country in that ship; will you not let Flora and her——"  
FACTOR.—(mildly) "Nol on lad—move on with the old woman; she will not be free in the way of His Lordship's sheep; and fear,"

Above: Collection of Museum nan Eileag



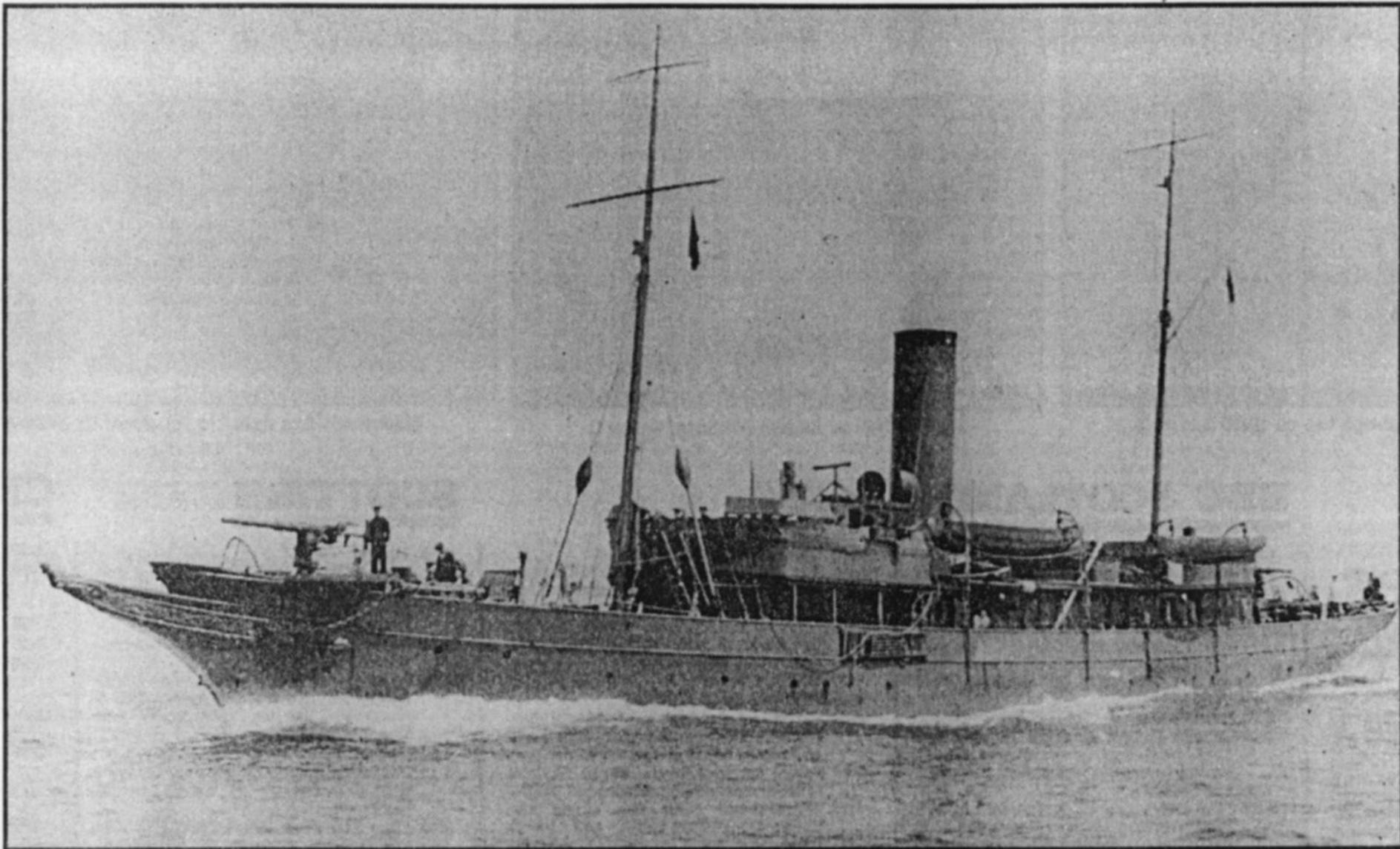
## **Mary Anne Macleod**

Born Isle of Lewis, 1912

Emigrated to New York, 1930

### **7 Layers of Cultural Trauma**

1. The 1820s Clearances
2. Multiple mass drownings
3. World War 1 (1 in 6 young men dead)
4. The Iolaire disaster 1919 (200 drown)
5. The Spanish flu (post-war)
6. The TB (brought back from the war)
7. Mass emigration in the 1920s



Heartbreak at Hogmanay: the doomed Admiralty yacht *Lolaire*, pictured shortly before her fateful final voyage, which still haunts the memory of Donald Morrison, 7



# Some portraits of the lost generation of the Iolaire disaster, New Year's Day, January 1919

(Mary Anne was just 7 years old. She lived just 4 miles up the coast.)

Portraits: [Margaret Ferguson](#)



# The sailing of the *Metagama* to Canada in 1923

260 island youth, 4/5 of them young men



# Mary Anne Trump's journey to New York

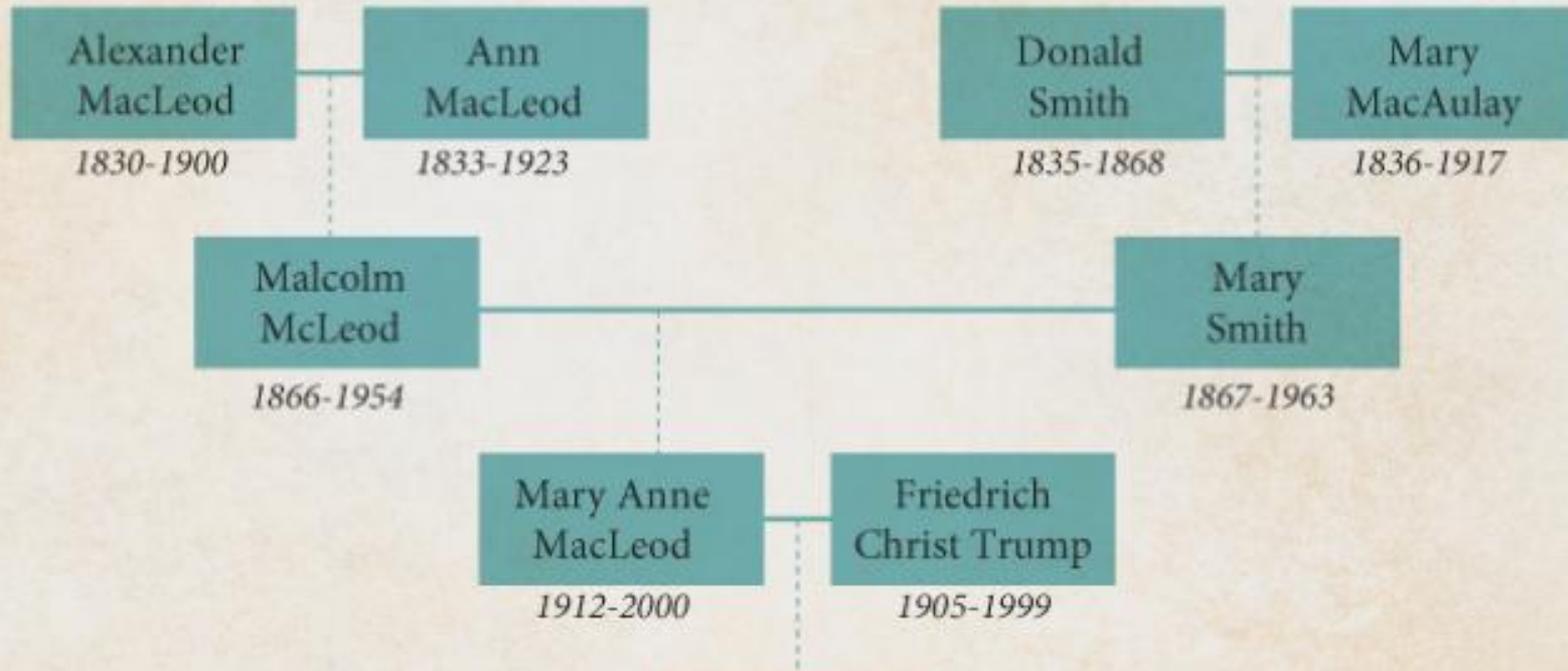




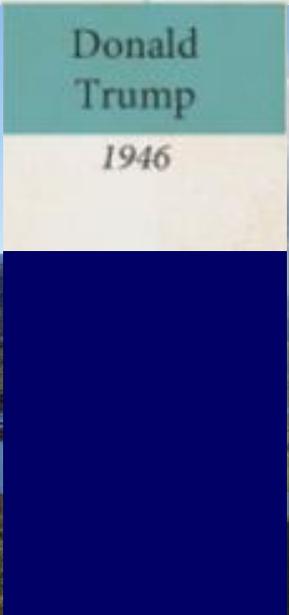


Mary Anne Trump with son Donald and his then wife Ivana in the 1980s

# Donald Trump's maternal family tree



Source: CNN





## Donald John's visit back home, June 2009

... with his sister (left), the press timed him: he stayed for only 90 seconds in these good people's family home, he only went to get the photograph

Watch CNN Video of Trump's mother's Isle of Lewis ancestry:  
<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/11/02/politics/donald-trump-ancestry-scotland/>

# Stornoway Gazette

## GAZETTE CELEBRATES 100th ANNIVERSARY

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## National medals for Connor

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'Streamlined' check-in begins this month

# Fear bags won't be searched at airports

BY ERIC MACKENNON  
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**A new security procedure is to be rolled out at three Highlands and Islands Airports which could mean bags and passengers are not searched.**

From the end of this month passengers boarding at Barra

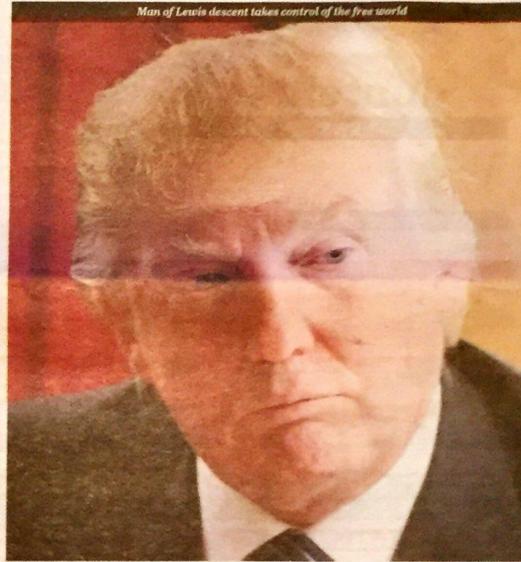
Airport, as well as Campbelltown and Tiree, will undergo a streamlined check-in process' at their departure airport ahead of their flight.

Passengers connecting to onward flights would be required to reclaim their luggage, check-in and join the existing security procedures at Glasgow Airport but those with Glasgow as a final destination may not require any bag or passenger searches at

all. A spokesperson for HIAL said: "The new measures, agreed with the CAA and DfT, are proportionate, and take full account of safety and security. The move follows a review of the security procedures at each of the airports operated by Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) by the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of Transport.

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Man of Lewis descent takes control of the free world

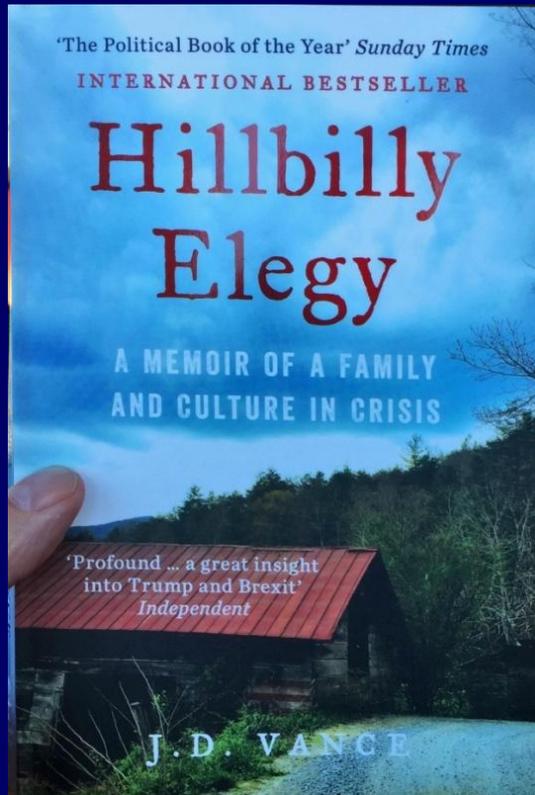


## President Trump sworn in

A man sprung from the loins of a woman from Lewis has taken official control of the most powerful political office in the world. Donald Trump's inauguration took place in Washington last week and Mary Macleod from Tong's son is now the 45th President of the United States of America.

No Island pride in this, as: "A man sprung from the loins of a woman from Lewis has taken official control of the most powerful political office in the world."

**J.D. Vance**  
from his 'Introduction',  
on the “*spiritual and*  
*material poverty*”

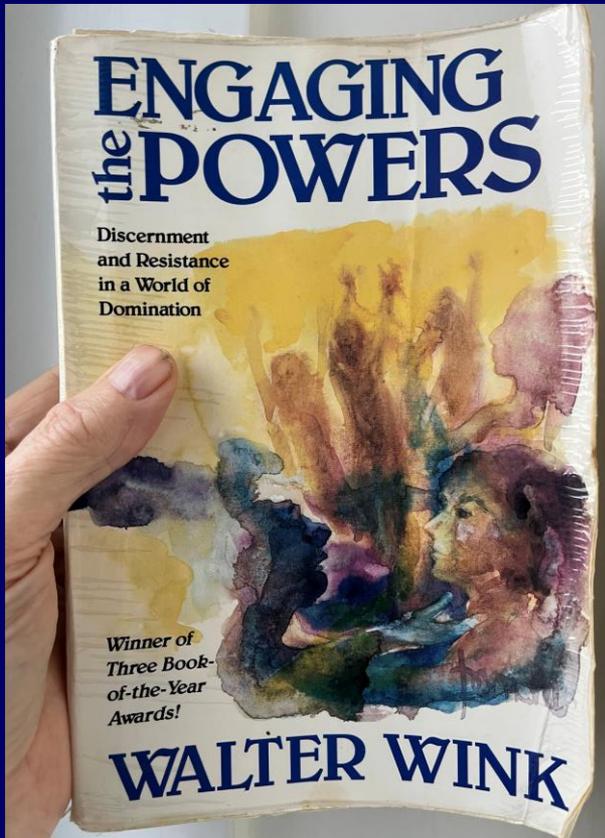


“I do not identify with the WASPs of the Northeast. Instead, I identify with the millions of working-class white Americans of Scots-Irish descent ... [whose] ancestors were day laborers in the Southern slave economy....

“Americans call them hillbillies, rednecks, or white trash. I call them neighbors, friends and family. [But] we’re more socially isolated than ever, and we pass our isolation down to our children. Our religion has changed – built around churches heavy on emotional rhetoric... Our men suffer from a peculiar crisis of masculinity ... reacting to bad circumstances in the worst way possible....

“There is a lack of agency here.... The fact that Hillbillies like me are more down about the future than many other groups ... suggests that *something else is going on.*”

**Walter Wink**  
from his chapter,  
'Prayer and the  
Powers'



“We are not easily reduced to prayer. We who grope towards praying today are like a city gutted by fire....

“We have in our experience discovered the mystery of the Beast of the abyss: He can allow the righteous to destroy him because he is virtually assured that in so doing they will be changed into his likeness.

“Prayer is never a private act. It may be the interior battlefield where the decisive victory is first won, before engagement in the outer world is even attempted.

“Unprotected by prayer, our social activism runs the danger of becoming self-justifying good works, as our inner resources atrophy, the wells of love run dry, and we are slowly changed into the likeness of the Beast.”

