

THE TRUMP PHENOMENON

How the Politics of Populism
Won in 2016

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How the Politics of Populism
Won in 2016

BY

PETER KIVISTO

*Augustana College and St. Petersburg
State University*



United Kingdom – North America – Japan
India – Malaysia – China

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*Dedicated to Congressman John Lewis — who has
proven his decency and courage throughout a life-
time and the memory of Ramon Casiano — who
never had the chance*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

During the summer of 2016, Philippa Grand and I discussed the possibility of a short book on what we assumed would be the rise and fall of Donald Trump. The idea was to write the book in the “not-too-distant future.” On November 9 we spoke again and agreed that I would begin writing at once. I did. In between these two dates, Nick Harney invited me to speak at the University of Windsor about the Trump candidacy. Even though my talk took place less than two weeks from the election, the assumption I held in August remained, though with a certain level of anxiety that was widely shared. It is to both Philippa and Nick that I owe a huge debt of gratitude for kick starting this project.

During the election season, the transition period leading up to Trump’s inauguration on January 20, 2017, and the first 75 days of the administration I have had conversations and email exchanges with numerous people in the United States and Western Europe that have proved to be immensely helpful in coming to terms with what for us was both unexpected and unwelcome. Several people read all or some of the manuscript and offered their criticisms and insights, including Dag Blanck, Steve Dawdy, Thomas Faist, Kay Herrala, Susan Kivisto, Joel Phillips, and Östen Wahlbeck. Others have aided in less direct, but nevertheless much appreciated ways. This list includes academic colleagues, students, friends, and family members. At the risk of leaving out names, I want to

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