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Section: Opinion

Americans should care

Americans should care about the Trump impeachment because the use of constitutional legal procedures to achieve overtly political goals or change political circumstances by a political party is to use legal process as a political weapon (Dec. 21, Op-Ed, "Impeachment's sound and fury leaves voters largely unmoved").

Use of Framers' rhetoric clothed in arguments springing from the authority of law cloaks partisan aims in the legitimacy of the law. No doubt throughout our Republic's history Republicans and Democrats appropriated these processes in furtherance of overtly partisan causes. The attractiveness of the tradition, substance, and authority of the U.S. Constitution to support political change through use of its measures to create favorable public sentiment to implement a faction's aims is almost certain.

All partisan actors should refrain from using lawful procedures to disguise political messages as legal arguments. The Constitution, in restricting impairment of fundamental rights of the states and populace by the federal government, protects against oppression. Assuring future uses of constitutional mechanisms by all parties to further these essential necessary principles preserves the rule of law rather than a rule by law.

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