Cordova for President

Moving Forward Together

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The United States Constitution

Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution imposes only three eligibility requirements on persons serving as president, based on the officeholder's age, time of residency in the U.S., and citizenship status:

U.S. Constitution – Presidential Candidate Eligibility

"No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States."

THE MUTUAL DIGNITY TRADE DOCTRINE

Foreign Policy Document

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PART ONE: A NEW AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

America has spent decades telling the world it stands for freedom, democracy, and human rights. Meanwhile it has backed the corporations that strip Congo's minerals, the trade agreements that keep Latin American farmers in poverty, and the financial institutions that loan money to developing nations with conditions designed to keep them dependent.

The world has noticed the gap between what we say and what we do.

This document closes that gap.

The Mutual Dignity Trade Doctrine is America's new operating principle for every relationship it holds with every nation on earth. It is not a rebranding of the old system. It is a replacement of it. Built on a foundation that has no exceptions, no loopholes, and no tolerance for the manufactured poverty that has defined global trade for centuries.

The doctrine is simple enough to say in one sentence:

Every relationship America holds with another nation must create measurable, equal, and genuine value for the people of both nations — or it does not happen.

Everything that follows is the architecture of that sentence made real.

PART TWO: WHAT WE ARE REPLACING

To understand where we are going, we have to be honest about where we are.

The Current System

The current global trade system was not designed to create prosperity for all nations. It was designed to create prosperity for the nations and corporations that designed it. The institutions that govern global trade — the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank — were built by Western powers after World War Two to ensure that capital flowed on their terms and their terms alone.

The results speak for themselves.

Nations rich in natural resources — Congo, Bolivia, Nigeria, Venezuela, Afghanistan — remain among the poorest on earth. Not because they lack wealth. Because their wealth has been extracted, processed, and sold by foreign corporations that leave behind poverty wages, environmental devastation, and corruptible governments kept in power specifically because they are willing to sign away their nation's birthright for access to foreign capital.

Nations that tried to break free from this system were punished. Economically. Politically. Sometimes militarily. The system does not reform itself. It protects itself.

The Debt Trap Architecture

The IMF and World Bank loan money to developing nations with conditions attached — conditions that require those nations to open their markets to foreign corporations, privatize their public resources, eliminate protective tariffs for their domestic industries, and cut social spending. These conditions are called Structural Adjustment Programs.

What they actually are is a mechanism for keeping poor nations poor enough to remain dependent on the system that is exploiting them.

A nation drowning in IMF debt cannot afford to say no to a mining corporation that wants to strip its cobalt for two dollars a day in wages. That is not an accident. That is the point.

China's Belt and Road — A Different Package, The Same Contents

China's Belt and Road Initiative presents itself as an alternative to Western extraction. It is not. It is extraction with Chinese characteristics. Loans for infrastructure that the borrowing nation cannot repay. Debt that converts into Chinese control of ports, roads, and resources when payments default. A new colonialism wearing the language of partnership.

The nations trapped in Chinese Belt and Road debt did not choose it because it was good for them. They chose it because the Western alternative was not meaningfully better and China was offering money that appeared to come without the IMF's ideological conditions.

We are offering something actually different. Not a better debt trap. Not extraction with better marketing. A genuine alternative architecture in which both sides own what they build and both sides benefit from what they trade.

PART THREE: THE CORE PRINCIPLES

Every element of the Mutual Dignity Trade Doctrine is built on five core principles. These principles are not aspirational. They are the operative standard against which every trade relationship, every partnership agreement, and every diplomatic engagement under this doctrine is measured.

Principle One: Mutual and Equal Value

No American trade relationship is acceptable unless the working people of the partner nation are measurably better off because of it. Not the government of the partner nation. Not the corporations operating in the partner nation. The working people.

This is measured concretely:

- Are wages rising?
- Is productive capacity growing in the partner nation?
- Does the partner nation own equity in what is built there?
- Is the partner nation's domestic economy stronger because of the relationship?
- Are the people of the partner nation better fed, better housed, better educated, better served by their healthcare system than they were before the partnership?

If the answer to these questions is yes — the relationship continues. If the answer is no — we go back to the table.

Principle Two: No Extraction Without Equal Return

American corporations and American government partnerships may not extract raw materials, labor, or any other form of value from a partner nation without returning equal or greater value to the people of that nation.

Equal return means:

- Fair market prices for raw materials — not prices held artificially low by the leverage of poverty
- Local processing and manufacturing investment — raw materials become finished goods inside the nation that owns them
- Revenue that stays in the country where value is created
- Infrastructure that serves the local population, not just the extraction operation

A mine that pays two dollars a day and ships cobalt to a foreign refinery while the surrounding community has no clean water is not a trade relationship. It is a crime dressed in a contract.

Principle Three: Sovereign Equality

Every nation that enters a partnership under this doctrine does so as a sovereign equal. No partnership may be conditioned on:

- Military access or basing rights
- Political alignment or electoral outcomes
- Debt that creates leverage over the partner nation's decisions

- Privatization of public resources as a condition of trade access
- Any reduction in the partner nation's right to govern itself

America does not get to choose another nation's government, policies, or priorities as a condition of trade. We offer partnership. We do not impose it.

Principle Four: Bidirectional Flow

Every partnership under this doctrine moves value in both directions. Always. Without exception.

America does not simply send technology and receive raw materials. America sends technology, manufacturing capacity, expertise, and educational investment — and receives the partner nation's foods, cultural products, artisan goods, creative works, specialized knowledge, agricultural products, and unique specialties.

The partner nation is not a supplier. It is not a recipient. It is a trade partner with its own identity, its own contribution, and its own claim to the value of what flows between us.

Principle Five: The Absolute Prohibition

No partnership under this doctrine may create, sustain, or benefit from the poverty of any group of people. Ever. For any reason.

This is not a guideline. It is the constitutional foundation of every agreement, every negotiation, every trade relationship under this doctrine. It cannot be waived by treaty. It cannot be suspended by executive order. It cannot be bargained away in a broader diplomatic package.

If a partnership violates this principle — it ends. The enforcement mechanism is described in Part Seven.

PART FOUR: THE PARTNERSHIP ARCHITECTURE

The Global Partnership Exchange

The Global Partnership Exchange is the open platform through which partnerships form under this doctrine. It operates transparently, publicly, and without the control of any single nation including the United States.

How it works:

American states list their manufacturing identities, productive capacities, and what they are seeking in a partner. Nations and regions list their specialties, resources, cultural products, needs, and what they are seeking in an American state partner. Either side may initiate contact. Neither side may be coerced.

The Exchange facilitates introductions. It does not make decisions. The parties negotiate. The Global Partnership Council certifies. The partnership launches.

The Exchange is also open to non-American participants. A Japanese prefecture seeking a partnership with a West African region. A German state seeking a partnership with a South American community. A Brazilian state seeking a partnership with a Southeast Asian nation. The architecture is open. The principles are universal. Any nation that adopts the doctrine may use the Exchange.

The Partnership Agreement Standard

Every partnership formalized under this doctrine is governed by a standard agreement that includes the following non-negotiable terms:

Equity provisions — the partner nation holds meaningful ownership equity in every manufacturing or processing facility built within its borders under the partnership. Minimum equity stake is negotiated between parties but may not be less than 49%. The goal is majority local ownership as capacity and expertise develop.

Technology transfer mandate — every partnership must include a structured technology transfer program. The American state partner does not simply build a factory. It trains the partner nation's workforce, develops local technical expertise, and builds the partner nation's independent capacity to operate, maintain, expand, and eventually replicate the technology without American involvement.

The measure of a successful partnership is the partner nation's growing independence — not its growing dependence on America.

Living wage guarantee — all workers employed in partnership operations within the partner nation are paid a living wage as defined by the local cost of meeting basic human needs, updated annually and independently verified.

Environmental protection terms — all partnership operations meet or exceed the environmental standards described in the Domestic Policy document. Partner nations are not a place to offshore pollution. Every standard that applies in America applies in the partner nation.

Cultural and creative trade provisions — every partnership agreement includes explicit provisions for the bidirectional flow of cultural goods. The partner nation's foods, artisan products, music, art, textiles, agricultural specialties, and creative works have guaranteed access to the American state partner's market. These are not charity purchases. They are trade goods with real market value, marketed and distributed with the same seriousness as manufactured goods.

Education partnership terms — every partnership agreement includes the education framework described in the Education Policy document. The partnership is not only economic. It is generational.

Rotation terms — every partnership operates on a five to ten year renewable term. Both parties evaluate honestly at the end of each term. Either party may choose to rotate with a structured transition period. No penalty for rotation. No coercion to renew.

PART FIVE: THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

What It Is

The Global Partnership Council is the independent international body that sets ethical standards, certifies partnerships, monitors compliance, mediates disputes, and admits new participants to the doctrine's framework.

It is not American controlled. America proposes it, helps build it, funds its initial establishment — and then steps back and lets it operate independently. An institution controlled by America enforcing standards on America's behalf is not an independent institution. It is a compliance theater.

The Council is governed by representatives of partner nations — weighted toward nations that have historically been on the receiving end of extraction rather than the delivering end. The nations that know what exploitation looks like are the most qualified to define what it is not.

What It Does

Certification — before any partnership is formalized, the Council reviews the proposed agreement against the core principles and the partnership agreement standard. A partnership that does not meet the standard is not certified and does not proceed until it does.

Monitoring — certified partnerships are subject to ongoing independent monitoring. Annual reports on wages, equity distribution, technology transfer progress, environmental compliance, and cultural trade volumes are submitted to the Council and published publicly.

Dispute resolution — when a partner disputes the terms or performance of a partnership, the Council mediates. Its decisions are binding on all parties who have adopted the doctrine.

Enforcement — when a partnership is found to be in violation of the core principles, the Council has authority to suspend the partnership, require remediation, and — in cases of serious or repeated violation — expel the violating party from the framework until compliance is restored.

Admission — any nation that wishes to adopt the doctrine and participate in the Global Partnership Exchange applies to the Council. Admission requires a demonstrated commitment to the core principles in the nation's own domestic and trade policies.

What It Does Not Do

The Council does not govern the internal policies of member nations. It does not tell nations how to run their governments, their economies, or their societies. It has one jurisdiction: the partnerships formed under this doctrine. Outside of those partnerships, member nations are sovereign.

PART SIX: THE OPEN ARCHITECTURE INVITATION

An Invitation to the World

The Mutual Dignity Trade Doctrine is not American intellectual property. It is an open architecture. Any nation, any economic bloc, any regional body may adopt it, adapt it, and run it through their own governmental structure.

We extend this invitation explicitly and without conditions to every major economy on earth.

To Japan — partner your prefectures with Pacific Island nations and Southeast Asian communities that have been treated as labor colonies and tourist economies. Your manufacturing precision and your technological expertise matched with their resources and their cultural wealth can build something genuinely new.

To Germany — partner your states with African nations whose resources have fueled European industry for centuries without commensurate return. The relationship between Europe and Africa does not have to be defined by what was taken. It can be redefined by what is built together.

To Brazil — partner your states with your South American neighbors. The continent that contains the Amazon, the world's greatest agricultural diversity, and some of the most innovative populations on earth does not need to remain organized around inequality. A Brazilian-led partnership framework for South America would change the continent.

To India — the largest democracy on earth has the scale, the technical capacity, and the moral authority to lead a partnership framework across South Asia and East Africa that could lift hundreds of millions of people within a generation.

To China — this invitation is extended to China explicitly and without hostility. If China chooses to adopt this framework genuinely — to replace extraction with equity, debt traps with real partnership, Belt and Road leverage with mutual dignity — the door is open. The framework has no enemies. It has only one standard. The standard applies to China the same way it applies to America. The same way it applies to everyone.

We are not naive. We know that genuine adoption of this framework requires a fundamental change in how economic power is currently organized and exercised. Not every nation will choose it immediately. Some will resist it because the current system serves them well — and the current system's beneficiaries are not eager to replace it.

But we are building the alternative. We are proving it works. And as it works — as partner nations grow, as American states prosper, as the evidence accumulates that mutual dignity produces better outcomes than extraction — the pressure to adopt it will grow from the bottom up. From the workers and the communities and the populations who are tired of being the ones who suffer so that others can profit.

That pressure is more powerful than any trade war. And it lasts longer.

PART SEVEN: REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Africa — The Continent That Was Never Allowed to Keep What It Had

Africa is the most resource-rich continent on earth. It is also the continent that has been most systematically stripped of the value of those resources by external powers. The extraction of African wealth — first through the slave trade, then through colonialism, then through the corporate extraction model that continues today — is the defining economic crime of modern history.

The Partnership Doctrine approaches Africa not as a development project. Not as a humanitarian mission. As a reparative trade framework.

Every African nation that chooses to partner under this doctrine begins from the position that value has been taken from them that has not been returned. The partnership framework is structured to return it — not as a payment, but as an architecture of genuine economic participation that allows African nations to finally capture the full value of what their land and their people produce.

Priority partnership areas:

- Congo — cobalt, minerals, processing capacity
- Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal — technology manufacturing, agricultural processing
- Ethiopia, Kenya — agricultural technology, coffee and specialty food trade
- South Africa — manufacturing technology, renewable energy
- Mozambique, Tanzania — infrastructure, sustainable resource development
- Sahel region — solar energy, sustainable agriculture, water systems

The African Union is recognized as the legitimate continental body for coordinating African participation in the Global Partnership Exchange. America deals with African nations as sovereign equals and with the African Union as a legitimate continental authority — not as a collection of corruptible governments to be negotiated with individually and played against each other.

Latin America — Solving at the Root What We Have Failed to Solve at the Border

The immigration debate in America has produced decades of wall-building, deportation policy, and border militarization. None of it has worked. Because none of it addressed the actual reason people leave.

People do not risk their lives crossing a desert because they want to. They do it because staying means watching their children go hungry. The Partnership Doctrine addresses the reason people leave — by building the conditions under which they choose to stay.

Priority partnership areas:

- Haiti — food systems, medical manufacturing, infrastructure, cultural trade
- Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador — manufacturing partnerships with living wages, agricultural development, trade access
- Bolivia — lithium processing, battery manufacturing, renewable energy
- Venezuela — clean energy transition, food systems, cultural trade
- Colombia, Peru — agricultural technology, sustainable resource development, creative economy

The test of success in Latin American partnerships is simple: are people who would have left choosing to stay? If the answer is yes — the partnership is working. If the answer is no — we go back to the table.

Asia — Replacing the Sweatshop Economy

Much of Asia's current economic relationship with America is built on the sweatshop model — American corporations manufacturing in Asian nations because wages are low, regulations are weak, and workers have limited rights. This model has generated growth statistics while keeping workers in conditions that American consumers would never accept for themselves.

The Partnership Doctrine replaces this with genuine manufacturing partnerships in which Asian workers are paid living wages, own equity in what they build, and trade their nations' cultural and agricultural specialties into the American market as real economic participants.

Priority partnership areas:

- Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos — ethical manufacturing transition, worker ownership models, cultural and food trade
- Myanmar — humanitarian manufacturing partnerships with the civilian population, bypassing military structures
- Bangladesh — textile manufacturing transition to ethical and sustainable production with worker ownership
- Indonesia, Philippines — renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, maritime technology
- Pacific Island nations — ocean technology, sustainable fisheries, climate adaptation technology

Middle East — Dignity in the Most Neglected Corners

The Middle East's relationship with American foreign policy has been defined by oil, military intervention, and geopolitical calculation. The human populations — particularly in war-devastated nations — have been treated as secondary to strategic interests.

Priority partnership areas:

- Yemen — medical supply manufacturing, food systems, Yemeni honey and coffee as genuine trade goods
- Jordan, Lebanon — manufacturing technology, agricultural development, cultural trade

- Palestine — economic development as a foundation for political resolution
- Iraq — infrastructure reconstruction, renewable energy, agricultural recovery
- Afghanistan — agricultural development, medical access, women's economic participation as a non-negotiable partnership condition

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Cuba — The Neighbor We Chose to Punish Instead of Know

Ninety miles from Florida sits a nation America has blockaded, sanctioned, and isolated for over sixty years. The stated justification has shifted over the decades. The actual result has been consistent: the Cuban people have paid the price of a geopolitical grudge that has served neither nation and harmed both.

The Partnership Doctrine ends the embargo. Not as a reward for any government. Not as a diplomatic concession. As a recognition that collective punishment of an entire population for the political decisions of their government is a moral failure — and that six decades is long enough to prove it does not work.

Cuba has extraordinary assets that make it a natural partner nation under this framework:

Cuba's healthcare and biotechnology sector is one of the most sophisticated in the developing world — producing vaccines and medical innovations that are used across Latin America and Africa while Americans remain blocked from accessing them by the embargo. A Cuba partnership unlocks genuine medical and biotechnology collaboration that benefits both nations.

Cuban agriculture — organic by economic necessity — has developed some of the most innovative urban farming and sustainable agricultural practices in the Western Hemisphere. That knowledge is real, valuable, and freely available to a partner willing to trade honestly.

Cuban music, art, architecture, cuisine, and cultural output are among the richest in the Caribbean. Florida as the natural state partner for Cuba creates a cultural and trade corridor that enriches both sides and opens the American market to Cuban creative and agricultural goods for the first time in generations.

Cuba's educated population — one of the highest literacy rates in the hemisphere — represents a workforce and a knowledge base that partnership can activate rather than leave dormant behind a wall of sanctions.

The partnership terms are the same as every other partnership under this doctrine. Bidirectional. Equity-based. Living wage guaranteed. Environmentally sound. Culturally inclusive. Neither extractive nor condescending.

The Cuban people did not choose sixty years of economic isolation. They inherited it. The Partnership Doctrine offers them what the embargo never did — a genuine economic relationship with their closest neighbor, built on mutual respect and mutual benefit.

Florida is the natural American state partner for Cuba. The geographic proximity, the cultural connection, the existing Cuban-American community that has maintained ties across six decades of political hostility — all of it makes Florida and Cuba a natural partnership waiting to be formalized.

The American Territories — Full Participants, Not Footnotes

The United States territories have been treated for too long as neither fully American nor fully sovereign. Their people serve in the American military at some of the highest rates in the nation and cannot vote for the Commander in Chief they die for. Their economies have been shaped by federal neglect and corporate extraction with no meaningful political recourse.

Under the Partnership Doctrine, every territory is a full participant in both the domestic manufacturing framework and the international partnership exchange. They are not administered afterthoughts. They are partners.

Puerto Rico holds one of the most sophisticated pharmaceutical manufacturing bases in the world and sits at the crossroads of Caribbean and Latin American trade. Its natural partnerships extend throughout the Caribbean and its manufacturing capacity is a national asset that belongs fully in the ethical manufacturing framework.

Guam is a Pacific gateway whose civilian economy has been subordinated to its military function for generations. Its sustainable fisheries, marine technology capacity, and Pacific trade position make it a natural hub for Pacific partnership networks.

The United States Virgin Islands sit at the heart of the Caribbean with natural partnerships throughout the Caribbean basin and Latin America. Its marine technology, sustainable fisheries, and cultural economy are genuine trade assets.

American Samoa produces some of the finest tuna in the Pacific — a resource currently extracted by distant corporations at minimal return to the local community. Under this framework that resource is processed locally, owned locally, and traded at fair prices.

The Northern Mariana Islands are a natural node in the Pacific partnership network with sustainable fisheries, tropical agricultural products, and strategic Pacific positioning.

Every territory participates in the Global Partnership Exchange as a full partner — able to initiate partnerships, receive partners, and rotate by mutual consent on the same terms as every American state. Their economic participation is full and equal. The question of their political future belongs to their people.

PART EIGHT: WHAT AMERICA GETS

This doctrine is not altruism. It is enlightened strategic interest. And we will say so plainly because honesty about self-interest is more durable than pretended selflessness.

Supply chain security. America currently depends on adversarial or unstable supply chains for critical materials. Genuine partnerships with the nations that hold those materials — partnerships those nations choose and benefit from — are more secure than extraction relationships that breed resentment and instability.

Geopolitical allies that actually choose us. Nations that genuinely benefit from their relationship with America do not become adversaries. The most effective foreign policy America has ever conducted was the Marshall Plan — rebuilding Europe after World War Two created the most durable alliance in modern history. The Partnership Doctrine is a global Marshall Plan that costs less and lasts longer because it is self-sustaining through trade.

Resolution of immigration at its source. A fraction of the money spent on border enforcement, detention, and deportation — redirected into genuine economic development in the nations from which people flee — produces better outcomes faster and permanently.

Moral authority. America cannot lead the world by telling it what to do. It can lead by demonstrating something worth following. A doctrine that demonstrably lifts partner nations, that produces genuine mutual prosperity, that treats every human being as worth the dignity of a fair trade — that is something worth following. And the world will follow it. Not because America demands it. Because it works.

Markets. A world full of prosperous trading partners is a world full of customers for American goods. Poverty is not a market. Prosperity is. Every nation lifted by this doctrine becomes a more robust participant in the global economy — including as a buyer of what America makes.

PART NINE: THE ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM

Domestic Corporate Accountability

American corporations operating internationally under this doctrine are subject to American law for violations of the core principles regardless of where the violation occurs.

An American corporation that extracts from a partner nation without equal return, that employs workers below living wage in a partnership operation, that violates environmental standards — is in violation of American law. Not just the partner nation's law. American law. The executives responsible are personally liable. The corporation's access to American markets is contingent on compliance.

This closes the legal loophole through which corporations currently evade accountability by moving the exploitation offshore.

Trade Access as Enforcement Leverage

Nations and corporations that operate in partner nations in violation of the core principles — whether American or foreign — lose preferential trade access to the American market. This is not a sanction. It is a consequence. Access to the American market is a privilege that carries the obligation to meet the standard.

Transparency as Enforcement Infrastructure

Every partnership under this doctrine publishes annual compliance reports — wages, equity distributions, environmental metrics, technology transfer progress, cultural trade volumes — publicly available to anyone in any nation. Sunlight is the most effective enforcement mechanism available. When the data is public, the violations are visible. When the violations are visible, the pressure to correct them is real.

PART TEN: THE BOTTOM LINE

America has the power to shape the world. It always has. The question is never whether we shape it. The question is how.

For too long the answer has been: through extraction, through leverage, through debt, through military presence, through the quiet support of governments willing to sign away their people's futures in exchange for American backing.

That answer has made us powerful in the short term and despised in the long term. It has created instability, resentment, and the conditions that breed the conflicts we then spend trillions trying to contain.

The Mutual Dignity Trade Doctrine offers a different answer.

Shape the world by building with it. By trading with it honestly. By treating every nation's people as fully human. By creating a framework so demonstrably better than the current one that the world adopts it not because America demands it but because the evidence is undeniable.

That is the foreign policy of a nation that intends to be great for the right reasons.

That is the Mutual Dignity Trade Doctrine.

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