Trump, Macron and the poverty of liberalism

Kishore Mahbubani

DAVOS - The Western liberal world found itself in discomfort after its two main champions, Donald Trump and Emmanuel Macron, were voted out of power. This is bad news for liberal democracy as we know it - an open society where the average income of the bottom half has not stagnated and where the quality of life has improved. In the US, the opposite may well be true, as evidenced by the election result.

The first question to ask is why people are engaged in violent street protests in Paris, but not in Washington, DC. I have personally experienced these protests, and the mood of these two cities is very different. Parisians are angry, while Americans are a bit more resigned.

Why are the yellow vests protesting? Because, at least initially, it was because they did not believe that Macron could or would understand their plight. The French President is often accused of being too complacent and insufficiently concerned with the plight of the working class. However, when the President made it clear that he would not accept the yellow vest protest, the protests promptly disappeared. The French President is not a populist, but a cautious and pragmatic politician. He understands that there is a limit to what he can do, and that in the end, he must work with the existing political system.

The second question is why people are engaged in violent street protests in Paris, but not in Washington, DC. I have personally experienced these protests, and the mood of these two cities is very different. Parisians are angry, while Americans are a bit more resigned.

Why are the yellow vests protesting? Because, at least initially, it was because they did not believe that Macron could or would understand their plight. The French President is often accused of being too complacent and insufficiently concerned with the plight of the working class. However, when the President made it clear that he would not accept the yellow vest protest, the protests promptly disappeared. The French President is not a populist, but a cautious and pragmatic politician. He understands that there is a limit to what he can do, and that in the end, he must work with the existing political system.

The third question is why people are engaged in violent street protests in Paris, but not in Washington, DC. I have personally experienced these protests, and the mood of these two cities is very different. Parisians are angry, while Americans are a bit more resigned.

Why are the yellow vests protesting? Because, at least initially, it was because they did not believe that Macron could or would understand their plight. The French President is often accused of being too complacent and insufficiently concerned with the plight of the working class. However, when the President made it clear that he would not accept the yellow vest protest, the protests promptly disappeared. The French President is not a populist, but a cautious and pragmatic politician. He understands that there is a limit to what he can do, and that in the end, he must work with the existing political system.

The fourth question is why people are engaged in violent street protests in Paris, but not in Washington, DC. I have personally experienced these protests, and the mood of these two cities is very different. Parisians are angry, while Americans are a bit more resigned.

Why are the yellow vests protesting? Because, at least initially, it was because they did not believe that Macron could or would understand their plight. The French President is often accused of being too complacent and insufficiently concerned with the plight of the working class. However, when the President made it clear that he would not accept the yellow vest protest, the protests promptly disappeared. The French President is not a populist, but a cautious and pragmatic politician. He understands that there is a limit to what he can do, and that in the end, he must work with the existing political system.

The fifth question is why people are engaged in violent street protests in Paris, but not in Washington, DC. I have personally experienced these protests, and the mood of these two cities is very different. Parisians are angry, while Americans are a bit more resigned.

Why are the yellow vests protesting? Because, at least initially, it was because they did not believe that Macron could or would understand their plight. The French President is often accused of being too complacent and insufficiently concerned with the plight of the working class. However, when the President made it clear that he would not accept the yellow vest protest, the protests promptly disappeared. The French President is not a populist, but a cautious and pragmatic politician. He understands that there is a limit to what he can do, and that in the end, he must work with the existing political system.

The sixth question is why people are engaged in violent street protests in Paris, but not in Washington, DC. I have personally experienced these protests, and the mood of these two cities is very different. Parisians are angry, while Americans are a bit more resigned.

Why are the yellow vests protesting? Because, at least initially, it was because they did not believe that Macron could or would understand their plight. The French President is often accused of being too complacent and insufficiently concerned with the plight of the working class. However, when the President made it clear that he would not accept the yellow vest protest, the protests promptly disappeared. The French President is not a populist, but a cautious and pragmatic politician. He understands that there is a limit to what he can do, and that in the end, he must work with the existing political system.

The seventh question is why people are engaged in violent street protests in Paris, but not in Washington, DC. I have personally experienced these protests, and the mood of these two cities is very different. Parisians are angry, while Americans are a bit more resigned.

Why are the yellow vests protesting? Because, at least initially, it was because they did not believe that Macron could or would understand their plight. The French President is often accused of being too complacent and insufficiently concerned with the plight of the working class. However, when the President made it clear that he would not accept the yellow vest protest, the protests promptly disappeared. The French President is not a populist, but a cautious and pragmatic politician. He understands that there is a limit to what he can do, and that in the end, he must work with the existing political system.

The eighth question is why people are engaged in violent street protests in Paris, but not in Washington, DC. I have personally experienced these protests, and the mood of these two cities is very different. Parisians are angry, while Americans are a bit more resigned.

Why are the yellow vests protesting? Because, at least initially, it was because they did not believe that Macron could or would understand their plight. The French President is often accused of being too complacent and insufficiently concerned with the plight of the working class. However, when the President made it clear that he would not accept the yellow vest protest, the protests promptly disappeared. The French President is not a populist, but a cautious and pragmatic politician. He understands that there is a limit to what he can do, and that in the end, he must work with the existing political system.

The ninth question is why people are engaged in violent street protests in Paris, but not in Washington, DC. I have personally experienced these protests, and the mood of these two cities is very different. Parisians are angry, while Americans are a bit more resigned.

Why are the yellow vests protesting? Because, at least initially, it was because they did not believe that Macron could or would understand their plight. The French President is often accused of being too complacent and insufficiently concerned with the plight of the working class. However, when the President made it clear that he would not accept the yellow vest protest, the protests promptly disappeared. The French President is not a populist, but a cautious and pragmatic politician. He understands that there is a limit to what he can do, and that in the end, he must work with the existing political system.

The tenth question is why people are engaged in violent street protests in Paris, but not in Washington, DC. I have personally experienced these protests, and the mood of these two cities is very different. Parisians are angry, while Americans are a bit more resigned.

Why are the yellow vests protesting? Because, at least initially, it was because they did not believe that Macron could or would understand their plight. The French President is often accused of being too complacent and insufficiently concerned with the plight of the working class. However, when the President made it clear that he would not accept the yellow vest protest, the protests promptly disappeared. The French President is not a populist, but a cautious and pragmatic politician. He understands that there is a limit to what he can do, and that in the end, he must work with the existing political system.