

Preface to: “Trumponomics: causes and consequences” *RWER* special issues, 78 and 79

It is generally agreed that the most important determinant of the recent US Presidential election result was the economic reality now experienced by the majority of Americans. Given that over decades that reality came into being through economic policy largely designed by the economics profession, it follows that our profession deserves much of the credit or blame for that election result. Economic thinking will also, directly and indirectly, play a strategic role in determining how that economic reality will or will not change under the new President and after he has left office. It therefore seemed imperative that economists come together now rather than later to exchange observations and entertain new ideas regarding this major historical threshold. And where better to do so, we thought, than on this platform both noted for its open discussion and blessed with an uncommonly large professional readership.

We expected difficulty recruiting from eminent economists and related thinkers enough papers for a full issue on such short notice. But the acceptance rate on our invitations was astonishingly high. Now with 29 papers accepted we have decided to publish two “Trumponomics” issues a week apart. These will then be combined into a paperback, *Trumponomics: causes and consequences*, to be published by WEA Books in late April.

We hope this collection of papers will be the beginning of a major rethink of how economics should and shouldn't be conceived when its ultimate point of reference is, not itself, but rather today's real-world.

Edward Fullbrook,
Editor