

## The Company He Keeps

What sort of comp'ny does Donald Trump keep?  
Just thinking of that makes it harder to sleep.  
It's not former allies; with them he's just shirty;  
He'd rather be friends with the likes of Duterte.  
He's insulting to Merkl and disses Macron.  
One imagines Trudeau he would like to see gone.  
For Boris and Brexit he happily cheers,  
But no trade deal with Britain? It'll drive him to tears.  
He's sure that with China a deal can be made;  
He's good friends with Xi – has it made in the shade.  
The Uighurs in camps and Hong Kong in distress?  
If China is buying, he couldn't care less.  
"I'm sure there's a deal and it has to be my way,  
So long as we make no concessions to Huawei."  
In attacking Iran, his hard words he won't mince,  
But the Saudis are allies; Bin Salman's a prince!  
If there's war in the Yemen, the blame must be shared,  
But Trump blames Iran and the Saudis are spared.  
He scoffs when we say he abandoned the Kurds  
To gain favour with Turkey, "That's just for the birds."  
If we let the Turks do the bulk of the shootin'  
Then maybe they'll stop buying weapons from Putin.  
For the Russians of course he has great admiration;  
Let's give them free rein in the Syrian nation.  
It's true they've supported Bashar Al Assad,  
But are we convinced he was really that bad?  
And if there's a really bad end to the drama,  
Of course all the blame can be put on Obama.  
And then, with reluctance, we turn to Korea:  
Trump's message to Kim? Always happy to see ya.  
The bromance continues despite missile testing;  
No nuclear talks? Never mind, we're just resting.  
No progress as yet? Complex deals can't be hurried.  
No wonder the Japanese are quite worried.  
Denuclearizing Korea you know  
To Kim also means that the US must go.  
Does Trump understand that (or anything much)  
About foreign relations and weapons and such?  
Is Ukraine just important for challenging Biden?  
Is it time for Zelensky to go into hiding?  
The world is in turmoil without any doubt  
And it's not clear that Donald can figure it out.  
So what's to be done when there's no room for laughter?  
Can we be sure there will be a hereafter?

I refuse to surrender to bleak desperation;  
I'm always prepared with one small consolation:  
Our best hope in times that we see are so risky  
Is warm reekin' haggis and good strong Scotch whiskey.

Robert Drummond  
University Professor Emeritus, Political Science  
Former Dean, Faculty of Arts