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The Intimidation Factor

When I was a young man, free speech was more or less absolute. Except, you couldn't use free speech to put another person's life at risk—as in, you couldn't yell 'fire' in a crowded theater. The Supreme Court ruled on *clear and present danger*—no speech to incite violence. Outside of endangering lives—you were free to say what you would.

But now comes *equity*, wit its mainstay to protect the feelings/comfort zones of groups. Forget the Bill of Rights—say the wrong thing and you could be stripped of wealth. And hard on the heels of the EU—comes a big push to criminalize free speech.

What's called *hate speech* is generally protected in the US unless it puts lives at risk through violence or breach of the peace. In the EU, hate speech lands one a jail term.

Europe is the poster child for the degradation of free speech. Macron and Starmer extol the long history of free speech while locking-up miscreants for spreading facts. US policies, following EU dictates, is headed in the direction of curbing free speech.

Hypocrisy abounds. While JD Vance admonishes the EU over free speech restrictions, the Trump administration is demanding US universities reject students who are *hostile to American values*. American values are to being determined by such luminaries as Marco Rubio/Kristi Noem—and Trump's proposed anti-semitism commission.

My friend sees the degradation of real money, gold/silver, as having created our problems. But it is the currency of free speech, along with a gold standard, and a robust 2nd Amendment, taken together, that makes possible freedom for the citizens.

There's progress towards liberty—as in those states that make gold/silver legal tender. But, as in Florida, where a bill to recognize gold is 39 pages long, doesn't include US-minted gold/silver 1 oz. coins/pre-65 90% silver. Real money recognition is slow.

There can be no free speech where rulers are ideologues. In cracking-down on college protests, Trump/Biden/Obama each display (ed), dismal ignorance about the Bill of Rights. From whence do they derive authority to restrict which views American citizens can and cannot express. And it gets worse: Rubio's policy is to scrutinize social networks of students applying for visas to the US. And no matter what the NYT writes, they is not looking for anti-semitism—they want anti-Zionism punishable under the law.

Jefferson/Franklin would look askance, in horror—at the attacks on free speech. The problem with despots is we only find out who they are when things get tough for them. Trump is okay with Putin, they're good friends, but only until Trump understands that

Putin doesn't much care what Trump thinks—and it is Putin who controls the battlefield.

That's when accusations fly about Putin killing people, without any mention that Russia, in retaliation to more than 1000 Ukraine drones (including a Putin assassination attempt), returned fire with 300 drones and 100 missiles—killing 13 people. Precise Russian targeting shows real concern for civilians—as opposed to Zelensky murdering whomever, and Trump allowing slaughter of Yemeni shepherders by the 100s.

Trump doesn't get it that students protesting genocide, lines up with the Bill of Rights—and he does not. Trump doesn't get it that he could easily have ended the Ukraine war on day 1, by recognizing the facts. Trump doesn't get it that madman such as Netanyahu need called-out for going after Lebanon/Syria/Iran—for crimes that don't exist.

Now, EU fools are upping the anti, lifting restrictions on long range missile attacks on Russia. Fortunately, the EU doesn't have many to give and Ukraine will use them all at once to make a big show. Russia will likely shoot most down, along with F-16s launching them. Also possible: Macron/Starmer don't wake-up one morning to a loud noise.

For conservatives who have a difficult time with my critique of Trump—keep in mind that we didn't vote for this. We assumed Trump (freed-up in his 2nd term), would be able to take steps to do the right thing. We thought that neocon Rubio (put in place to pay-back the Adelsons), would be one of the 1st to hear: *You're fired*. But no, Rubio's hypocrisy, directing criticism at the loss of free speech in the EU, while going after student protestors on Trump-ed up lies—flies in the face of what we hoped for with Trump.

Americans don't have to be that informed to see, just as there was no emergency to roll-out vaccines, there is no emergency to allow the Executive to install tariffs. That was just a ploy to sidestep Congress—and push American citizens under 1-man-rule.

Without consulting Congress, executive orders (unless the judiciary sees otherwise), have the force of law. An inherent problem (DEI/equity), is in all branches of government, so we take solace when Trump goes after illegals, woke judges, men in women's sports, but not when he criminalizes student, genocide protestors—as anti-semites.

Where did this horror show that goes by the name: US Government, get it's start. Some take it all the way back to the *War Between the States*, but the acceleration of control happened on the morning of 9/11. W Bush was in trouble—and 9/11 saved his ass. He and neocon, warmonger buddy, Cheney, were given despotic carte blanche.

Think back on Guantanamo, where 779 prisoners were swept up from the Middle East—if someone made a rumor about them. Of those prisoners, 8 were convicted of a crime—3 of the 8, overturned, on appeal. And, on the way to non-convictions, Don Rumsfeld subjected them to Nazi terror. For that, as is always the case, no apologies from any US agency for what was done at Guantanamo came—it simply went away.

Consider similarities: W Bush was floundering when 9/11 saved him. Trump (not the guy we voted for), opts to be king/3rd term—if he makes it through this term. Dismantling Biden's mess, illegals, getting men out of women's sports, functions to balance-out heinous missteps, going after universities (not just the DEI bullshit), but in support for unconstitutional ideologies, for which Trump is willing to tread on the Bill of Rights.

In Palestine, Trump may outdo Biden as a mass murder—because Trump is truly a Zionist while Biden was simply a warmongering moron. Trump has a legacy: he moved the US embassy to Jerusalem—declared Golan Heights as Israel. Getting us to the edge of nuclear war, he scuttled JCPOA—which, hopefully, gets re-instated as a treaty.

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