

POPULISM WON'T DIE AND THEY CAN'T KILL IT

*"Shortly before the vote, Mr. Sánchez linked attempts to question the legitimacy of his new government to part of a global trend. He referred to the presence of former Fox News TV anchor Tucker Carlson at a recent protest outside the Socialist Party headquarters in Madrid. "We've seen it in the United States, in Brazil and other parts of the world where there is a political right and political far right who do not accept the result of elections." **Socialist Pedro Sánchez**, new Spanish prime minister, 16 November 2023, BBC news report.¹ [Emphasis added]*

*Ruling classes do not voluntarily leave the stage of history. – **Josef Stalin***

Among mainstream media and politicians there is a virtual cult that reflexively denounces all opposition to globalism, centralization, and big government as "right wing populism" and "fascism." Anyone who dares question elections is branded an unspeakable "election denier." These and other terms have little if any content; they are merely pejoratives thrown to blacken all opponents of the Establishment's status quo.

And because the 350 year social trend of centralization began to reverse into decentralization with the Soviet Union's fall in 1992, the opponents are many and multiplying.

In this issue I have reprinted an article I wrote in April 1995, "The 350-year Wheel Turns: The Global Rise of Ethnic Nationalism." When the Soviet empire fell, that left only one global empire standing: the American. Francis Fukuyama famously called it "the end of history." Since there is no centralization more centralized than *one* empire, that event marked the definitive peak of the centralizing social trend that began around 1650.

That 350 year centralizing social trend sent power flowing *away from* ethnic groups, regions, communities, guilds, church, and family and *toward* some central government. Now the social trend has become **decentralization**, and for the next three or four centuries power will flow *away from* the center *toward* peoples, region, communities, families, and individuals.

Where Europe was once a patchwork of little principalities, after about 1650 local ethnic groups and regions were increasingly swallowed up, digested, and homogenized into centralized nation states. Empires were built outside Europe, centralizing power away from peoples and communities in Africa, Asia and the Middle East into Europe. Finally all those Empires fell and then the Soviet empire in 1992.

Obviously, the emergence of a single global empire marks the *peak* of the centralizing trend. After all, you can't get more centralized than one, single global empire. For the next three or four centuries the tide will be reversed as power flows away from centers and toward regions, peoples, localities, and non-state institutions, including the family.

SYMPTOM: RISE OF POPULISM

The most glaring symptom of this decentralizing social trend is the rise of so-called "populist" parties and secessionist movements around the world. The media sneeringly calls them "populist", "right wing," "extreme right wing," and "fascist" because these movements insist on what the people want and reject not the Global Establishment's dictates. Since the media belongs to the Elite,

though, they quickly kick into high gear to blacken and badmouth populists whenever possible.

Examples of these outsider populist movements and leaders abound, and their power is growing: Brexit, Trump, Bolsonaro in Brazil, *Alternativ für Deutschland* in Germany, Marine Le Pen and the National Rally (formerly National Front) in France, Beppe Grillo and the Five Star Movement and the Lega (formerly Lega Nord) in Italy as well as current Prim Minister Giorgia Meloni ("Italy and the Italians first!"), Viktor Orbán in Hungary, Polish leader Jarosław Kaczyński, Geert Wilders² and the Party for Freedom in the Netherlands (election winners on 23 November 2023), Sweden Democrats, Danish People's Party, Freedom Party of Austria, the UK Independence party and how many others I know not. Icing the cake, now libertarian Javier Milei has been elected in Argentina that had been tortured by socialist Peronism for nearly 100 years.

What do these populist movements have in common? They are

- Nationalistic, putting the interests of their own nation first, especially economically
- Culturally proud of their identity
- Pro-freedom and against big government
- Anti-immigration
- Socially conservative and pro-family
- Anti-globalist, opposed to foreign influence, Eurosceptic
- For law and order
- Often explicitly Christian and anti-Islamic

What else do all these national movements have in common? They oppose the centralizing, homogenizing social trend of the last 350+ years and embody the new social trend of decentralization, of power flowing away from centers. *They are the product and exponents of the new decentralizing trend.* The Establishment may labor mightily to destroy a thousand Trumps, but every time the new trend will produce two thousand replacements. In spite of 91 felony charges against him, Trump only gets stronger.

LOSS OF ESTABLISHMENT CREDIBILITY

Now add to this the Covid episode, which has fatally wounded government and Establishment credibility. Plainly the *centralized* Covid catastrophe, the economic damage from the Covid shutdowns, the quarantine's psychological and physical damage and the now-undeniable fact that the vaccine was both ineffective and lethal, along with the propaganda and speech suppression that accompanied them, have left millions worldwide unbelieving and disaffected from the Establishment and its government and media.

The truth suppression backfired, driving hundreds of thousands of ordinary people and professionals to risk their reputations, their lives, and their livelihoods to oppose the Covid scam. The Establishment sowed the Covid dragon's teeth and fully armed warriors sprang up to oppose them.

Covid drew a line across society. Now we know that about a third of the American populace will do whatever the government commands without thinking or hesitating, another wavering third will lean to obeying or disobeying according to whomever they're listening to at the time, and another third are saying, *NO!*

In my lifetime the outlook for freedom has never been brighter.

CONSPIRACIES PROVEN

For the Establishment, rebuilding the people's gullibility is a hopeless task. Proverbs 17:14 says, "The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water." Once it starts, it can't be stopped. So it is with the Establishment's hopeless efforts to repair its Covid-tainted credibility. Chronic suspicion has replaced propaganda gullibility.

For years the Establishment has banished information it wanted kept secret by simply branding it a "conspiracy theory." However, in Covid's wake the public is discovering that conspiracy *theories* are now conspiracy *facts*. For example, now even John F. Kennedy's nephew is charging the CIA with his assassination. The climate change deniers are being proven correct, as the "science deniers" were correct about Covid and the vaccine. Not too long ago Matt Taibbi through the Twitter papers revealed that the federal government actually did work hand in glove with Big Tech to suppress the truth about Covid. Covid really was a manufactured virus, after all. In fact, almost all the claims the government and Big Tech named conspiracy theories, from inflated Covid death numbers to the vaccine's effectiveness and safety, have proven true.³ The FBI really did have a secret and illegal program called "Cointelpro" to spy on domestic Americans from 1956 to 1971. Seems like the FBI's partisan and illegal shenanigans today are nothing new. The CIA really did have propaganda program called "Project Mockingbird" to influence on the mainstream media for, oh, the last 70 years. And the government's 9/11 explanations just won't hold water. The list of conspiracies theories proven to be fact – or at least much more believable -- in the last three years just stretches on and on.

Now I am not maintaining that *every* conspiracy theory is true, only that the French have a wise proverb that Americans are now adopting: "Nothing is proven until officially denied." We have all learned how to tell when a government spokesman is lying: His lips are moving.

DEFINITIVE *vs.* CONSUMMATION

I wrote above that the fall of the Soviet union marked "definitive peak of the centralizing social trend." A "definitive" step only marks the beginning of a trend. The *consummation* of a trend marks its completion.

Josef Stalin said, "Ruling classes do not voluntarily leave the stage of history." Today's ruling class, the Establishment here and abroad, are nothing without centralization. Centralization of power in government enables them to control the economy and society and money and therefore any enemy of centralization is their enemy.

Those wielding power will bloodily combat shifting power from centers back to peripheries. Three hundred years is a long time, and from its first definitive step the decentralizing trend will only slowly work its way through society. It is a long, long road to consummation, but together with the new Covid-born courageous willingness to fight for the truth it appears that history favors freedom. – F. Sanders

¹ "Spain's Pedro Sanchez wins new term as PM after Amnesty Deal," 16 November 2023, <https://bbc.in/49I0HpT>

² Wilders and his party won the election on 23 November 2023 and now must form a coalition government. See <https://bbc.in/3Rh8QdL> and <https://bbc.in/49JDYJU> but be braced for the BBC's prejudiced reporting.

³ See, for instance from 10 February 2022, "COVID 'Conspiracy Theories' Have Now Magically Become 'Fact-Checked' Mainstream Narrative," <https://bit.ly/46wOhhR>