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The missing narratives

By Steve Bakke  November 30, 2021



What once were comprehensive explanations about a topic, “narratives” have evolved into “points of view” and too often, outright political “spin.” Politicians’ emphatic but incomplete narratives lead to uninformed voters, harmful legislation, and impetuous presidential actions. Following are three active “narratives” that give me concern.

The Kyle Rittenhouse trial in Kenosha Wisconsin was surrounded by narratives, mostly incomplete. For those disappointed with the trial’s outcome, reactions were variations of the following: “Our broken legal system permits bringing weapons into situations such as the Kenosha riots. That and ‘self-defense’ laws give white supremacists permission to commit murder.”

While stammering through explanations of what happened, their narrative ignores the atmosphere that existed in America during the summer of 2020. There were legitimate demonstrations to be sure, but in many cities rioting, looting and many kinds of destruction were out of control for up to several months. Kenosha was one of those experiencing serious rioting and arson. Many politicians seemed afraid to take a stand against lawlessness which was poorly disguised as social justice activities. Thugs often controlled the streets while much violence went unchallenged.

In city after city, businesses and citizens knew their only alternative was to rely on themselves, their friends, and those they could recruit to protect their property. Legal firearms were part of the solution to the absence of proactive law enforcement. Protection of property is what Rittenhouse was asked to participate in and what he thought he was getting into that night. The activity in Kenosha that week was real and desperate for the business owners, and Rittenhouse’s intentions were honorable. He was naively drawn into a dangerous situation in which he was pursued and attacked. Rittenhouse killed two white rioters among the several who violently attacked him.

The actual sequence of events is missing from most narratives. They don’t tell us that no real evidence of murder was presented by the prosecution. Nor would we learn that the extensive film record provided clear evidence of self-defense. Those realities comprise the “missing narrative.” This case represents the victory of rule-of-law over lawlessness. Without that complete narrative, one could conclude that the destruction and violence in Kenosha somehow represented evidence of

virtue. We've learned that proactive law enforcement and the judicial process must once again become inseparable partners.

The next incomplete narrative should have been quieted long ago. I'm referring to claims of Trump/Russia election collusion, and the debunked "Steele Dossier." As recent as last week I read politicians' comments about the illegitimacy of Trump's presidency largely due to the election collusion narrative built from that infamous dossier. The Durham investigation has established that the Steele Dossier and collusion charges were without basis.

Some officials and supporters of the Hillary Clinton campaign, which sponsored the fraudulent dossier, continue the incomplete account of events as if the Durham investigation hadn't occurred. This missing narrative has led to political fraud at its worst. Consider the impact of the scam on two foolish and unsuccessful impeachment trials. Whatever flaws possessed by Donald Trump don't justify such deceit. Perhaps public admission of their errors will occur as it has to a limited extent on CNN and in the Washington Post – about 5 years too late.

Green legislation has been in the forefront ever since the democrats took control of the U.S. House of Representatives and the "Green New Deal" was introduced. And the proposed "Build Back Better" legislation will eventually allocate trillions to "green-friendly" programs and eliminate fossil fuels altogether. The narrative includes promises of cheaper energy and a windfall of green technology jobs.

President Biden cancelled pipeline development and reduced availability of drilling contracts on public lands. This story can't be accurately told without disclosing that our national energy independence, so precious to our economy and national security, has disappeared as a result. The public must be reminded that dramatic energy cost inflation was also caused by those actions. And we must shine a light on the President going, virtually "hat-in-hand," to OPEC and asking them to increase oil production to help us out during this crisis.

We need to hear "the rest of the story" from politicians and media, and these are just three of many examples of why.