

The perils of ignoring historical parallels

I've avoided writing this article for a long time, but I can't put it off any longer. The consequences of remaining silent on this subject are just too dire. For years, the Left has claimed the right to call our President, *Hitler* and accused his supporters of being willing accomplices to a reign of dictatorial leadership. This has got to stop and stop now. Here's the facts.

Hitler was a madman. Donald Trump is not. Hitler was responsible for the deaths of millions of people. Donald Trump hasn't killed anyone. Hitler ripped up Germany's 'Grundgesetz' (their constitution). Donald Trump has defended ours, repeatedly. Hitler invaded sovereign nations, citing the need for 'Lebensraum' (living space). Donald Trump has respected our borders, strengthened them and stayed within them. Hitler sent millions of soldiers into battle. Donald Trump has brought BACK American troops from the battlefield. Hitler instituted a reign of terror against the Jews. Donald Trump has protected the Jewish people at every turn and even promoted peace treaties between the State of Israel and other nations in the Middle East. Hitler promoted the warped ideology of Aryan Supremacy in Germany. Donald Trump has created opportunities for people of all races in America. I could go on, but you get the point.

Now to the parallels between the rise of national socialism in Germany and the rise of anarchy, socialism and executive branch overreach in the USA. On February 27, 1933, the German Reichstag (parliament) was set ablaze. It is a widely held belief that Hitler's 'brown shirts' were responsible. This gave Hitler the opening to assume 'emergency powers' which ultimately led to dispensing with Germany's constitution and ultimately paved the way for his rise to absolute power over the entire country. Here, in the U.S., the Coronavirus pandemic has emboldened many of America's governors to assume all-encompassing sweeping 'emergency powers.' In so doing, they have bypassed the authority of their state legislatures in what can only be viewed as the equivalent of ripping up their state constitutions.

Hitler hated the capitalists but cozied up to them in the hopes of realizing his ambitions of world domination. America's Left also hates the capitalists but happily accepts their money to fund their organizations and their protests while many of America's elected representatives gladly take their campaign donations. Hitler's propaganda machine, headed by Joseph Goebbels, routinely and roundly demonized anyone that disagreed with the Nazi party's orthodoxy. America's mainstream media does the same when it comes to adherence to the Left's Progressive ideology. Don't believe me? Watch CNN, MSNBC or even the state-funded Corporation for Public Broadcasting and judge for yourself.

Hitler's Nazis willfully destroyed hundreds of Jewish-owned shops on 'Krystallnacht' (the night of broken glass) on November 9-10, 1938 and for many months thereafter. America's governors have turned a blind eye to the destruction of stores in many American cities by gangs of thugs, masquerading as peaceful protesters in the name of *racial justice*. Hitler appropriated the personal property of any citizen that disagreed with national socialism. Many of America's so-called 'people's rights organizations' like Antifa and Black Lives Matter and others advocate for confiscating the wealth of some people and 'redistributing' it to those THEY deem worthy of it.

Hitler's state-run universities outlawed the study of any discipline or doctrine that disagreed with Nazi ideology. Many of America's university professors denigrate, demean or deem irrelevant the teaching of conservative 'traditional American values'. Hitler mandated 'group conformity' and forbade free speech and made certain public gatherings, illegal. American universities regularly refuse permits to Conservatives who wish to speak on campuses. Hitler confiscated weapons from ordinary citizens. Many American cities' mayors, city councils and anti-gun groups advocate for stricter gun control laws and severe limits on gun ownership. Hitler mandated a strict curriculum of 'approved national socialism' and revisionist history study in German elementary schools. American teachers' unions and Left-wing Progressive school boards promote curricula that incorporate a strong 'cancel culture' bias.

These are but a few of the similarities that I see between Hitler's 1930s and 1940s Germany and our country, but there are many more. I'll just finish with three big ones. The first seems to be timeless and universally applicable as it's used around the world by despots and dictators. It is the recruitment of willing citizens as snitches who will inform on their neighbors who might be straying from the party line or who could be construed as *enemies of the state* or *subversives*. Hitler did it and so did the East German Stasi - or secret police - decades later after Germany's partitioning. I fear that we might see something like this here if the new Administration of Joe Biden actually hires the proposed small army of 100,000 'Contact Tracers' to deal, ostensibly, with the spread of Covid-19, but who could be collecting massive amounts of data on law-abiding citizens that could be used for other purposes, later.

The second is definitely something Hitler and Goebbels would have loved to use had they had it at the time... and it is America's so-called *social* media. Just this week, two, thirty/forty-something billionaire owners of Facebook (Mark Zuckerberg) and Twitter (Jack Dorsey) appeared before the Senate's Judiciary Committee to explain why they are blocking the accounts - and censoring the postings - of their members, among them the President of the United States'. After watching their performances, I came to the conclusion that either; a) they were purposely misleading the Senators who were questioning them or b) they flat didn't know what was going on in their own companies. I'm inclined to believe the first conclusion and that many Senators were either intimidated by these two tech moguls or they were afraid of losing their own accounts or more importantly political donations from them. Another possibility is that the Senators had no idea of how critical it is to settle the questions surrounding censorship of their platforms' members' social media accounts.

Finally, there is a new, insidious American-style abusive tactic. It's called public shaming and it's now being practiced by none other than the Liberal cable channel, CNN. Just this week, cable channel host, Don Lemon, fired the first salvo with an admonition to all those who voted for Donald Trump that "they had better be ready to explain themselves to their children and their grandchildren" (his words). Whether it was a warning or a threat, I do not know, but the gist of it was, we who voted for Trump better be prepared to defend ourselves for supporting this despot (my word) that we call the President. The implication was that they (the Left) were going to be compiling lists and names of the guilty parties and that CNN and their friends will be watching and will remember us.

This, my friends, is scary stuff. It is not a cliché to say that history in general repeats itself, and we should be careful, very careful, that we do not repeat it here. There is absolutely no redeeming value in being co-conspirators in making the same dangerous mistakes.

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