

The cancel culture and social media

"I hate Twitter and I don't Tweet and Facebook leaves me incomplete. Email's fine and so's the phone, other than that, please leave me alone." That's my mantra when it comes to social media. I'm not a user and don't ever intend to allow these two digital bottom-feeders access to my money, my time or my personal data. And given the outrageous censorship that these 'platforms' are engaging in I simply can't fathom why so many millions of people continue to support them.

In the beginning, the promise of social media was to provide a forum for free and unfettered expression of views and a way to connect the world's populations. That gradually faded away like an old Polaroid photo when the tech giants realized that profit and power were a whole lot more desirable (and profitable) than idealism. I suppose that we shouldn't have been surprised that greed overcame the philanthropic motives of Jack Dorsey (CEO of Twitter whose net worth is estimated at over \$9 billion) and Mark Zuckerberg (CEO of Facebook whose net worth is estimated at \$97 billion) because to them greed fits in neatly into their business plans.

That said, these youthful billionaires have built digital empires that have dwarfed the likes of media moguls of old like William Randolph Hearst, Rupert Murdoch, Michael Bloomberg and Ted Turner. One person they don't dwarf, however, is the reigning potentate and owner of the nation's capitol-based and ultra Left-wing newspaper, the Washington Post. He is the world's richest man, Jeff Bezos (estimated net worth \$180 billion), and is without doubt, the king of mass media. Recently, it was rumored that Bezos was interested in buying CNN. If true, and were it to come to pass, it would add yet another jewel to Bezo's crown and complete the circle of partisan domination he has been actively working towards for years.

Ownership of America's air waves, printing presses and digital highways has created a formidable force for ideological persuasion and it has been painfully evident these past twelve years in particular, starting with the love fest they created for former President Barack Obama. Obama was their God child and they took great pains to protect and nurture him during his eight-year long quest to social-engineer and re-shape America. To them, he could do no wrong even when he lied to the rest of us about keeping our healthcare plans and our doctors or when he drew vanishing lines in Middle Eastern sand. They stood by him when he lumped all of us Conservatives into one reprehensible group that clung bitterly to our Bibles and guns.

And when Barack left, they completely switched gears and concentrated their fire on Donald Trump, a man they feared might actually usurp a bit of their power. Four years of incessant negative stories spewed from their maws. They gleefully reported on one fake story after the other and happily joined the chorus of two-bit duplicitous Congressmen who pedaled 'Russia collusion' conspiracies until their *own* collusion with House Judiciary Committee members finally resulted in impeachment of the 'evil-doer,' Donald Trump.

Not satisfied with his impeachment, they joined forces to keep him from winning a second term in office, using their unbridled power of censorship. His Tweets were stopped in their tracks and labeled as unfit for public consumption and so were the Tweets of several Republican Congressmen and one prominent newspaper, the New York Post that actually had its Twitter account suspended. Undeterred, Trump countered their efforts by calling them out as the demons of digital destruction they are. Criticizing mega billionaires is not for the faint of heart especially in the middle of a re-election campaign, but Donald Trump has never been one to shy away from a fight.

Now, today, two days after an election that has placed him squarely in a political life or death match-up with former Vice-President Joe Biden, he may be regretting that decision as he now calls out several states' election authorities and their systems for vote-counting irregularities and outright election manipulation. Both social media and the Left-wing traditional media are already working to minimize the seriousness of his claims and are even treating him as a has-been President by cutting away from his most recent press conference and shifting the camera and

microphones to their own internal political pundits who have proceeded to downplay his accusations as groundless.

Again, I suppose we should not be surprised, but what was surprising two weeks ago was the decision by the media to completely ignore the revelations of a Joe Biden/Hunter Biden business connection made by a former business partner of the VP's son. Mr. Tony Bobulinski made a credible accusation that was based on his first-person knowledge and later given under oath to a Senate Committee together with a tranche of documents that included email exchanges in which the VP was mentioned as having 'his' share of fees for 'introductions' held for him by his son.

Where were all the investigative reporters who were looking to make a name for themselves like Woodward and Bernstein? Answer: nowhere to be found, probably told to stand down by their partisan editors and/or producers. The only media outlet that has dared to focus on this story and other stories about social media bias and censorship is Fox News and the EIB Network that carries the Rush Limbaugh Show. Other than that, you have to go to Internet websites to find any discussion of the topics. Even those websites are being harassed by the digital giant, Google, that is forcing them farther down search results as 'punishment' for reporting on stories that don't please 'America's search engine of choice.'

We are certain not to see follow-up stories done on election fraud or abuse during the next few days or weeks by the mainstream media. Neither will we see an open and free discussion on social media. Not a chance. The real question is, "Will we continue to put up with this new age censorship or sloppy politically one-sided journalism or will we locate our spine and vote with our digital feet and cancel our membership in Twitter or Facebook?"

It will be an easy decision for me. I have no subscription to the Washington Post, nor do I read the New York Times and I certainly will continue to avoid (anti)social media. Maybe you should, too.

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