

Lives 1st Gatherings ***Things to Explore & Discuss***

The Consent of the Governed

By Jim Myers

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness, --**That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men**, deriving their just powers from **the consent of the governed**.”¹

The words above were written in 1776. The words below were written on April 28, 2025.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker (D) on Sunday called for **mass protests against the Trump administration** and blasted “**do-nothing Democrats**” who have failed to mount a stronger opposition to the Republicans in control of the federal government.

“Never before in my life have I called for **mass protests**, for **mobilization**, for **disruption**. But I am now,” Pritzker said in his keynote address at the New Hampshire Democratic Party’s McIntyre-Shaheen 100 Club Dinner.

“**These Republicans cannot know a moment of peace**,” he continued. “They have to understand that **we will fight** their cruelty with every megaphone and microphone that we have.”

“We must **castigate them** on the soapbox and then **punish them** at the ballot box,” he added.²

The political strategy described above has been used by both political parties since 2013. In 2020 “**The easy weaponization of social media: why profit has trumped security for U.S. companies**” was uploaded to the National Library of Medicine’s National Center for Biotechnology Information website.³

¹ Declaration of Independence

² <https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/5270744-pritzker-calls-for-protests/>

³ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7212244/>

American-based social media companies have become active players in digital war, both by accident of design and a subsequent **failure to address the threat due to concerns over profits** . . . With its current composition and lack of regulation, social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter are **active agents of disinformation**, their **destructive force in society outweighing their contributions to democracy**. While this is not by deliberate design, the twin forces of **capitalism** and a lack of **regulation** of the world's largest social media platforms have led to a situation in which **social media are a key component of information war around the globe** . . .

Can Americans **be convinced** that social media regulation is a security issue? We can turn to the issue of terrorism as a shift in thinking from civilian to defense issues. Prior to 9/11, the idea that U.S. citizens would go through body and luggage searches for all domestic flights would have been laughable . . . his will likely mean much more stringent government regulation and a change from Section 230. While this is disappointing for liberal **concepts of free speech**, free speech **cannot work in a system in which it is weaponized** by foreign adversaries.

What evidence supports the claims that **social media is not only a weapon of war**, but **“a weapon of mass social destruction”** (WMSD)?

In December 2010, Tunisian street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire in protest outside a government office in the little-known town of Sidi Bouzid. In a matter of days, **his act of defiance set off a revolutionary movement that rippled across the Middle East and North Africa, toppling some long-standing authoritarian regimes** . . . Looking back, the uprisings, commonly known as the Arab Spring, produced modest political, social, and economic gains for some of the region's inhabitants. **But they also sparked horrific and lasting violence, mass displacement, and worsening repression in parts of the region.**⁴

Many questions have been raised about the Islamic involvement with protests in democracies around the world, including America. There is evidence that Islamic groups have viewed themselves as being at war against America from over 40 years. Should what's happening now be called the **“American Spring Protests?”**

⁴ The Arab Spring at Ten Years: What's the Legacy of the Uprisings? <https://www.cfr.org/article/arab-spring-ten-years-whats-legacy-uprisings>