

A Stalin-Koch connection

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[Josef Stalin](#), the ruthless Communist dictator of the Soviet Union, was the godfather of the Tea Party. Let me show you how that happened.

We first have to visit Texas around 1900, when a Dutch immigrant had a son named [Fredrick C. Koch](#). Fred got a degree in chemical engineering from MIT and formed a company named Winkler-Koch with a classmate. They developed a new method of cracking (refining) petroleum to get more gasoline out of it. Fred Koch was ready to roll into the American dream with his invention.

Texas oilmen tied up his refining methods in litigation in the 1920s so he was unable to market them.

Meanwhile, in the new Soviet Union, Stalin had embarked on his first 5-Year Plan, which included developing petroleum resources around the Black Sea. He needed refineries. Papa Fred contacted Stalin, who immediately hired him on to help with the 5-Year Plan.

In 1929, Winkler-Koch signed a \$5 million contract with Stalin to build refineries, the beginnings of the Koch fortune. He continued to work with the Soviets well into the 1950s, but is alleged to have become disillusioned. So after making an immense income from a totalitarian Communist State, going out of his way to please them with his work, he had some kind of epiphany and suddenly became a fierce anti-Communist, bankrolling the [John Birch Society](#), which saw Commies under every rock and carpet.

Fred had two sons, Charles and David, who parlayed their Commie fortune into one of the largest energy companies in the country.

With their staggering wealth, they now have unparalleled influence over American politics, founding (or funding) "think tanks" that preach Koch messages. They include the [American Enterprise Institute](#), the [Heritage Foundation](#), the [Cato Institute](#), the [Manhattan Institute](#), as well as Americans for Prosperity, a Koch Family PAC, and a number of climate denial groups and "researchers."

They are opposed to unions, regulations, taxes, [Social Security](#), and of course, pro free enterprise. Tea baggers love them because they carry Koch-funded signs, and ride on Koch-funded buses to their "grassroots" events.

Their [Federalist Society](#) has had a staggering influence on the selection of judicial nominees over decades, all of it bad. Please realize that members of the ruling elite play a long game, perfectly content to wait a generation before they take control of the country.

Four current members of the [Supreme Court](#), [Antonin Scalia](#), [Clarence Thomas](#), [John Roberts](#) and [Samuel Alito](#), were members of the Federalist Society, as are almost all of the federal judges appointed by [Ronald Reagan](#), [George H. W. Bush](#), and George W. Bush.

Federalist Society judges are steeped in the Koch brothers' agenda and regularly vote against environmental, labor, safety, women's rights, and voting rights issues in their courts. The recent Supreme Court rulings redefining corporate personhood and allowing limitless spending on political campaigns has completely undermined the average citizen's ability to have their votes count in an election.

The Koch brothers have provided the [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC), which has infected a number of local Connecticut legislators, with unparalleled influence over the laws that now govern us.

ALEC is responsible for establishing the "stand your ground laws" in 26 states, allowing anyone with a firearm to shoot people they perceive as a threat. The [National Rifle Association](#) worked in conjunction with ALEC in getting the laws written and passed.

There is an enormous racial disparity in victims and convictions with SYG laws; in a nutshell, if a white person shoots a black, the shooter goes free. But if the black shoots a white, he or she will serve prison time.

The Kochs have spent more than \$60 million making ads denying global warming/climate change, supporting anyone in Congress who considers it a hoax. Action on climate would require reduction in coal and petroleum use, harming Koch Industries' bottom line. When the worst happens, the Koch family can simply jump into their private jets and fly to safe locations.

If Josef Stalin, the family benefactor, had known how easy it would be to destroy Democracy in America, he would smile at the work of the Koch boys.