

# THE DAILY SENTINEL

## Looking for a leader

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All this week the term “confound” has been bouncing around in my head, which I suppose is due to the reaction of practically everyone in the media and the political commentating class to the trajectory of Donald Trump’s candidacy and his extremely impressive win in the Indiana Republican primary.

Some of the synonyms for the word convey precisely the differing reactions across the political and media firmament. They include dumbfound, stagger, surprise, startle, stun, throw, shake, bewilder, bedazzle, baffle and mystify. I particularly like bewilder, bedazzle and baffle as an expression, if for no other reason than it has great alliteration.

The only groups that seem to have an explanation for the Trump phenomenon lie at either end of the political continuum.

The far left believes that Trump is simply a sort of Robespierre figure who will stir up hatred and unleash something like the aftermath of the French Revolution on the country, with creaking ox carts moving down cobblestone streets carrying battered cable news hosts to the guillotine.

At the other end are those who believe Trump is a sort of self-made Manchurian Candidate and his populist rhetoric is a masquerade for a secret (super) liberal agenda which after winning the presidency will burst forth like a Jack-in-the-Box to continue doing everything the Obama administration did wrong plus a few more things that nobody’s even thought of yet.

That scenario is too convoluted for me to quite wrap my head around because for it to be correct assumes that Donald Trump has decided to put himself in the middle of a media and left-wing firestorm just so he can emerge to wreak havoc on our Republic.

That’s a tall order and when you’re a billionaire. It hardly seems like a good reason to put yourself to all that trouble.

Billionaires interested in destabilizing policies and the undermining of American values usually follow the example of George Soros and others who just fund groups and politicians and don’t let anything interfere with their vacations plans.

I believe the actuality of it is that it's a shared outcome of all the politically correct inflicting groups that make large swaths of the nation feel as though the country's biggest problem started when settlers stepped off the gangplank either in Jamestown, Plymouth or some Viking longboat.

Most Americans can only feel besieged for so long before they begin to look for someone to lead them in reclaiming the idea of America from folks who don't seem to like it very much.

I like to think of Charlton Heston in the movie "El Cid" as an avatar or Captain James Tiberius Kirk, before he left Starfleet for that police job in Southern California.

Funny thing, there is a coordinated effort to undo or reimagine the meaning of the American way that motivates such resistance.

For example, some people are fans of free speech when applied to them but would like to have the full weight of government's police power on their side to shut those darn critics up, especially if the critics seem to be winning.

Here's one of the happenings that send people looking for a leader who brushes aside conventional chatter and is unafraid to speak about the country in ways that was quite common not that long ago.

Very recently in the Virgin Islands which is, in fact, part of America and has its own attorney general (a Democrat) who has issued a subpoena to Exxon Mobil — as part of a criminal "racketeering" investigation — demanding copies of communications the oil company may have had with "other organizations engaged in research or advocacy concerning Climate Change or policies." Yes the term climate change is capitalized in the quote from the Washington Free Beacon, implying that it appeared that way in the subpoena.

She is seeking information about such criminally organizations such as the Cato Institute, the Federalist Society, the Hoover Institute and the Reason Foundation, just to name a few. There are apparently 90 in total who seem to be all conservative or libertarian-leaning organizations.

This is an alarming effort to quash speech that differs from accepted government policy and if this sort of thing doesn't make people vote for an iconoclast, what will?