



## **The man behind the curtain**

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Regarding Mr. Mike Nielsen's letter about the "yellow brick road" (Jan. 18): Dorothy journeyed down this road to find a wizard, only to find that the wizard was just an ordinary man behind a curtain. So, let us look behind the curtain of Mr. Nielsen's comments. The Mercatus Center's mission (mercatus: Latin for "commerce" or "the market") is to advance market-oriented ideas. The Mercatus Center is also the end result of a long journey. This journey is well documented in Jane Mayer's book "Dark Money." Behind the curtain is a well-funded effort to direct public opinion towards some very dark places. It is no less than an effort by some very rich people to make the world safe for the very rich.

This new dark age would include a loss of democracy and a middle class oriented society. Mr. Nielsen reflects the mindset of people who believe the Mercatus Center's propaganda. This propaganda "trickle down" message is also advanced by think tanks such as the Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute, and the Cato Institute.

Beyond the slogan of "Making America Great Again," we have to remember that we cannot go backwards. Rather, to go forward, we must understand that America's future depends upon a population that is becoming more diverse. Myself included — it will not rely upon old white men.