



## Letter: Tea partyers being manipulated

Chico Enterprise-Record  
Posted: 11/04/2011 12:13:11 AM PDT

Here's how the Koch brothers operate. In 2004, David Koch started an organization called the Americans for Prosperity Foundation. He is chairman of their board. Peggy Venable, who works for this foundation, said one of its roles is to help educate tea party activists and to provide them with lists of elected officials to target. However the Koch brothers vigorously deny any association with or direct contributions to the tea party. Why the stealth?

They have founded and funded dozens of such think tanks and citizens groups, going back to the libertarian Cato Institute, which they co-founded in 1977. In 1979 David ran for vice president on the Libertarian Party ticket.

After garnering only 1 percent of the vote, they retreated from the public eye, but intensified their political activities to promote an anti-tax, anti-regulation agenda. Members of the tea party are fine, upstanding, unfailingly patriotic citizens, but their activities and agendas are being cleverly manipulated and directed.

It is certainly true that wealthy people from all political parties openly contribute millions to candidates and party contests; and industries, corporations and labor unions openly spend millions on lobbying and campaigning; but the amounts of money spent by the Kochs, and the scope and efficiency of their operations, far exceed anything this country has ever seen.

Jane Mayer published a well-researched article on them entitled "Covert Operations" in the Aug. 30, 2010, New Yorker

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magazine. This can be downloaded from their archive.

— Martha Claudio, Chico