

Social Unrest Mtg #2

Monday August 31, 2020



The rise and impact of Black think tanks in the U.S.A.

- <http://ourweekly.com/news/2010/sep/22/the-rise-and-impact-of-black-think-tanks-in-the/>
- “In November 2008 in New Orleans at one of the first major African American oriented conferences after the Obama election, Ron Daniels, Ph.D., the relatively new executive director of the Institute of the Black World, issued a call for the partnering of all progressive Black think tanks in the U.S.A.”
- “Unfortunately, that call for Black think tank consolidation has not yet occurred, and subsequently, Black progress that could have been made has gone wanting. “



How the right's radical think tanks reshaped the Conservative party

- <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/nov/29/rightwing-thinktank-conservative-boris-johnson-on-brexit-atlas-network>
- “in 1955, Fisher used his money to set up the IEA with his friend, businessman Oliver Smedley. Smedley wrote they would have to be “cagey” about what the thinktank’s real function was: “Imperative that we should give no indication in our literature that we are working to educate the public along certain lines which might be interpreted as having a political bias.”
- “In the late 60s and early 70s, as his long-term thinktank strategy was finally about to pay off, Fisher decided to sell his idea of the thinktank as agent of political change to another wealthy proponent of libertarianism, US fossil fuel magnate, Charles Koch.”



Lee Atwater

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Atwater
- “Harvey LeRoy "Lee" Atwater was an American political consultant and strategist for the Republican Party. He was an adviser to US presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush and chairman of the Republican National Committee. Atwater aroused controversy through his aggressive campaign tactics.”



Lee Atwater con't

- Atwater: Y'all don't quote me on this. You start out in 1954 by saying, "Nigger, nigger, nigger". By 1968 you can't say "nigger"—that hurts you. Backfires. So you say stuff like forced busing, states' rights and all that stuff. You're getting so abstract now [that] you're talking about cutting taxes, and all these things you're talking about are totally economic things and a byproduct of them is [that] blacks get hurt worse than whites. And subconsciously maybe that is part of it. I'm not saying that. But I'm saying that if it is getting that abstract, and that coded, that we are doing away with the racial problem one way or the other. You follow me—because obviously sitting around saying, "We want to cut this", is much more abstract than even the busing thing, and a hell of a lot more abstract than "Nigger, nigger". So, any way you look at it, race is coming on the back-burner.
- <https://mobile.twitter.com/reesetheone1/status/1299713312880496641>



Martin Luther King Jr.

- <https://www.futurity.org/martin-luther-king-jr-economic-justice-1716672/>
- “Labor rights and economic justice were always part of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s progressive message, historian Michael Honey reminds us in a new book.”
- in Memphis: *“It’s a crime in a rich nation for people to receive starvation wages.”*



Martin Luther King Jr. con't

- <https://theundefeated.com/features/lets-not-forget-martin-luther-king-jr-was-preaching-economic-justice-too/>
- “The civil rights leader was assassinated in Memphis while fighting for sanitation workers’ rights”



Martin Luther King Jr. con't

- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/03/martin-luther-king-50th-anniversary->
- “Martin Luther King's forgotten legacy? His fight for economic justice”
- “the country’s adoption of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act completed a “first phase” of the freedom movement, King said. Now he wanted a “second phase” struggle for “economic equality”, so that everyone could have a well-paying job or a basic level of income, along with decent levels of healthcare, education and housing.”



Proposed: We need a think tank

- Canadian based
- Funded exclusively by non corporate individuals in small donations
- No specific advocacy work, just think tank only

What Say You?

