

Twitter Thread by Sarah Kendzior

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"With Hawley -- follow the money. Missouri is the dark money capital of the US. Hawley took in an enormous amount of NRA money right when the NRA was taking in Russian mafia money. He also has unnamed mega-donors. Find out who they are." -- @gaslitnation

"Hawley has no moral core. There's no 'there' there. He's a malleable actor and that's what makes him so dangerous -- he can be pushed in whatever direction his donors want him to go. He's full of greed and contempt for this country." --
@gaslitnation <https://t.co/m4fZruFSuE>

"Now that we don't have Trump creating a new crisis every hour, we have time to research the hard questions like 'Who funds the GOP secession Senators?' And 'Who paid off Brett Kavanaugh's massive debt?'" <https://t.co/m4fZruFSuE>

"This applies to the Dems too -- vet them all! Look at shady donors like Len Blavatnik who fund both sides. Vet the elderly reps too -- don't assume you know everything. Campaign financing changed over the decades and they changed too." --
@gaslitnation <https://t.co/m4fZruFSuE>

More on Josh Hawley from my book HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT -- and on Missouri as the bellwether of American decline:
<https://t.co/lpjLWPjBH8>

Josh Hawley after Hawley was endorsed by Donald Trump, who is, among other things, a self-proclaimed sexual assaulter who in 2016 paid off a porn star he slept with a decade before while his wife was caring for their baby son. McCaskill, a conservative Democrat, had been the target of a dark money propaganda campaign that labeled her a dangerous left-wing radical.⁴⁵ A 2019 investigation indicated that many of the 2018 ads for Hawley had been illegally coordinated by the NRA.⁴⁶

Within months of being elected, Hawley was being investigated for violating many of the same laws he had cited as reasons for Greitens to resign during his time as attorney general, including using apps to make documents disappear and hiding state information from the public.⁴⁷ He has also been accused of engaging in “an elaborate scheme designed to evade detection” of campaign finance violations involving the NRA.⁴⁸ (The NRA gave more to Hawley than to any other Senate candidate, and the organization has been accused of funneling money from Kremlin-affiliated oligarchs to the GOP.)⁴⁹ Calls have begun for Hawley’s resignation. In response, the Missouri GOP is striking down the voter-backed Clean Missouri, which would have forced political misdeeds involving finances into the open, in an attempt to ensure the longevity of their own corrupt rule.

Missouri is not a red state, but it is becoming a one-party state—a party ruled by mysterious megadonors, a party that openly disregards the will of its electorate. In the most damning of ways, we are the bellwether for the United States. We are losing not only our freedom but our sovereignty to forces we do not fully understand, but which understand our own vulnerabilities all too well.

Why don't you move? people ask. They ask me both about Missouri, and about America—and in many ways, it's the same question, for they share the same sins. I always answer: *Where is there to go?* Missouri is a symptom of the American disease, and America a symptom of an international disease.