Twitter Thread by Seth Cotlar



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It's important to note how deeply rooted & completely canonical these kooky ideas are in the US far right, & how dangerous it is that a sitting president is giving legitimacy to them. It's like Father Coughlin, the John Birch Society, and Geo Lincoln Rockwell had an orange baby.

> January 6th. See you in D.C. https://t.co/vynZTv9lHb
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) January 1, 2021

Thanks (I think) to @z3dster for bringing this batshit tweet to my attention.

There's a long history of the American center-right and center-left laughing at this kind of stuff. It is indeed laughably ludicrous. But it's important to know that to millions of people, this is their truth. This is how they see the world. And now the President is condoning it.

One hallmark of fascism is that it defines "communism" as its enemy. One can be opposed to communism without being a fascist. But it's impossible to be fascist without being obsessed with the existential (and often hysterically overblown) threat of communism.

Every significant, US variant of fascism has depicted itself as a movement of Christian patriots defending the US from anti-American enemies of Christ. One can be a Christian and/or a patriot without being a fascist, but fascists almost always call themselves Christian patriots.

At the outset the speaker identifies the "goals of the Communist Party" as outlined in Congressional testimony in 1963. What he doesn't mention is that these come from a book written by an American fascist named Cleon Skousen. https://t.co/s6xgMRKuZ7

Skousen was so far right that Goldwater and then the John Birch Society distanced themselves from him. His "ideas" made a big comeback when Glenn Beck mainstreamed them in the late 2000s. https://t.co/PVUf0aeFp7

> Skousen's ludicrous historical work would likely be long forgotten if Glenn Beck had not so aggressively promoted it and put it at the center of the ideology of the Tea Party movement in 2010. Tell me again how the Tea Party was about fiscal responsibility? pic.twitter.com/PyWWV508qT

— Seth Cotlar (@SethCotlar) October 10, 2019

Another thing to know about Skousen is that he's also been a big influence on Senator Mike Lee and other LDS conservatives. https://t.co/R79ZunWBTa

The guy who made that video is, of course, connected to the far right conspiracy paper The Epoch Times which is owned by Falun Gong. https://t.co/UkWdz1DvNG

TIL that Ben Carson is a Cleon Skousen fan as well. https://t.co/lQbX5zXUa6