Media Targets Center-right Donors: Koch Brothers

Post by Ben Wetmore Feb 4th 2011 at 9:00 am in Mainstream Media, New York Times, conservatives, journalism, media bias | Comments (37)

Recently the organized left has been focusing its ire on a new group of center-right donors: the Koch brothers. The British Guardian ran a story with a nice picture of a Greenpeace blimp with a nice stencil of the brothers with the words in red: dirty money. Protesters swarmed a retreat to decry their “corporate greed.”

Is this really the face of evil?

It seems as though the left has figured out whom to personalize for their political failures of late. They have picked a target, personalized it and are now busy polarizing it. Political targets are nothing new, but the emphasis on demonizing right-wing donors is a tactic unique to the left but disgusting when the media willingly toes that line and uncritically pushes that underlying message.

A month ago we were getting lectures from the media and elites to ‘tone down’ the rhetoric that targets individuals, and now we’re being sold the line that everything anti-progressive is funded by two billionaire brothers. Amazing that they think a few million dollars could so easily derail the tens of billions spent on global warming research, currently $4 billion a year from the feds.

The theory’s beauty is its simplistic analysis: Center-right donors only give money to fulfill their financial interests. There are no issues on the right, only business interests to pursue. Right-wing politics in their minds is just a disingenuous ploy to further corporate interests.

Thomas Franks wrote a book on this simple thesis several years ago by saying, "What’s the Matter with Kansas?" arguing that the masses were fooled into voting for the right because of social issues, when left-wing economic issues were their real interests.

Franks, and the left, suffer from the inability to look critically at themselves. Never do they question whether Soros’ funding of left-wing groups helps line his currency trading pockets, whether the Rockefeller’s promote population control in order to maximize their patent returns. Tom Daschle was a healthcare lobbyist and married to a lobbyist and yet there was no conflict of interest in being suggested to head HHS, Al Gore and friends no doubt have entirely charitable purposes when they push false, misleading and distorted bad science in order to set up an unprofitable industry.

When it’s a real conflict of interest, when Goldman Sachs alumni are running the monetary policy of the nation in order to steal from the nation writ large, that’s less relevant. Koch has a libertarian economic philosophy that those who are taking something that ought to be suspect, not the one who is arguing for more economic freedom for everyone.

But that’s to admit and assume that every donation is motivated solely by material concerns. What about the underlying actions, the ‘dirty money’ in politics? It’s silly to constantly decry money in politics when one considers...
that the biggest political expense is always media and advertising. Groups spend money to buy commercials to broadcast a 30 second message. They spend money to send out mail. They’re pushing information to people. The protesters and leftists are never honest in admitting that they want to restrict information, they want the media to control the public’s perception. Money in politics is used to reach people with ideas, and the forces of ignorance want to keep people like the Koch brothers legally bound not to promote those ideas. Pushing out and legally bullying dissidents is the natural position one would take if you ideologues brethren controlled the information and the airwaves.

The influence in politics, the agenda we talk so often about, is really just a method of reaching the people with information to make more informed voting. The method of controlling smaller competitors is called “rent-seeking” and is a great way to keep a monopoly.

The media does this and calls it “investigative journalism.” They targeted center-right donors the Koch brothers last August in the New York Times and then in the New Yorker in order to harass and defame them away from continuing to donate. They target those giving money because they want to defund the right, and scare away similar donors. Richard Scaife was the center-right donor target of choice for the left in the 90s. Other center-right donors have similarly come under scrutiny for their political involvements, for giving a non-profit a relatively trivial amount of money to communicate with the public.


For this they receive negative press, recent protests, and examinations into their deepest motives and attempts to connect every donation they’ve made into some wild vast right wing conspiracy.

Even the LA Times, not exactly a bastion of free enterprise, noted that the protests against the Koch brothers seems a bit hypocritical, one-sided and out of place.

But even they couldn’t resist saying that the Koch brothers are still pushing their own financial self-interest in politics, not that, you know, they actually believe it.

There’s no perspective, no sanity. Going after donors is more interesting than discussing the policies. It’s easier than pointing out that those in politics who can pay their own way are a bit hypocritical when they say they’re the party of the little guy.

The New York Times is even going after the family who gave us Chick-Fil-A and makes donations they dislike. Unable to comprehend the tea party, perhaps feeling guilty for having so poorly covered the underlying financial and budgetary topics that has led to the current depression, they instead follow their moronic journalistic reflex to “follow the money” and try and malign the millions of tea party activists by implying that they’re just marionettes held by the Koch brothers to line their pockets.

It shows just how bad journalism is that this is what they resort to, that they’re incapable of sanely describing and detailing diverse views and then attacking the source and not the idea, when they face a political force they don’t understand. It’s even more ridiculous when they so clearly take one side in their news judgment and never do ten minutes of research and apply the same critical eye to their leftist friends.

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Tags: chick-fila, common cause, George Soros, koch, Koch brothers, lat times, media bias, New York Times, new yorker

37 COMMENTS

PETROGLYPH • February 4th, 2011 at 9:13 am

No surprise here, Soros driving attacks on the Conservatives.

Daily, it’s almost like wading through a waste deep cesspool of pig shit in the never ending search for the truth. There used to be it’s almost when journalists would find the truth for us, let us decide. Those days are long gone,
there are only a small handful of people out there who expose the evil writers/minions of the Soros/Obama machine.

The truth will destroy the Progressive movement, it already is.

EDSKI - February 4th, 2011 at 9:16 am
Anybody who supports the Cato Institute is okay in my book!

CTOTO - February 4th, 2011 at 9:22 am
i never knew why I feel a certain way about politics. Now, I understand I’m following the Koch brothers’ marching orders. Thanks for the clarification. I do hope a check is in the mail.

JAMIEHOFFA - February 4th, 2011 at 9:23 am
The anti-Soros.

PHITALOBLU - February 4th, 2011 at 9:24 am
And I guess Soros only funding left wing interests is ok. The man has more money than god and he sure isn’t building little cities of free homes for the homeless with it.

THOMAS_TALIONIS - February 4th, 2011 at 9:38 am
American companies, the backbone of our economy, can’t have a say in politics. But a foreigner, Soros, can?

How soon we forget that Soros funded MoveOn.org just before the election with the intention of stopping the Republicans. Then a “Mover” attacks Rand Paul before a debate and gets away with it.

LYNCHED - February 4th, 2011 at 9:46 am
Just pissed off because the two are very effective at subverting the union machine. Nothing like a counter balance to rock the boat.

DARBY64 - February 4th, 2011 at 10:06 am
More efforts by liberals to censor conservative views. The MSM happily plays along to assist in this effort any way they can. At the Common Cause rally the liberals used over the top violent rhetoric against conservatives. The implication being that if you hold conservative views you will be targeted for attack, without actually saying that specifically, they come darn close. The MSM had nothing to say about this rhetoric. Not so much as a headline.

GB8898 - February 4th, 2011 at 10:10 am
"...the Koch brothers are still pushing their own financial self-interest in politics...

And what exactly is it that’s wrong with that, LA Times? Every single voter in this country votes for what he or she believes is in his or her best interest when it comes to money issues. Half the country believes more government is beneficial to their financial self-interest, and the other half believes less government is beneficial to their financial self-interest.

The question folks should be asking is this: In what way is it moral to take money from one person and give it to another? Theft is theft, even if the stealing serves someone’s financial self-interest — and even if the government is the one doing the taking.

The Koch brothers argue against theft and they’re the greedy ones? Ok...

DIRTT - February 4th, 2011 at 10:24 am
"...the Koch brothers are still pushing their own financial self-interest in politics...

Well. SHOCKING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In other news, Ezra Klein in now claiming he misspoke when he claimed the Constitution is 100 years old. He said he now believes it may be 110 years old.

CANUCK_GRIT - February 4th, 2011 at 10:29 am
"Political targets are nothing new, but the emphasis on demonizing right-wing donors is a tactic unique to the left"

Of course demonizing right-wing donors is unique to the left. The right are constantly demonizing left wing donors such as Soros. What is the difference?

ALIENRANTS - February 4th, 2011 at 10:24 am
You can’t win with the left. If you bank the profits, you’re bad. If you try to do something good with your profits,
You're bad. Only if you give it to Media Matters to spin the truth are you good. I'm convinced that the left is upset only because others are succeeding at public enlightenment and they are not. They are losing the narrative on global warming, immigration, the "goodness" of big government and collective bargaining in the public sector. Palin, Beck and Breibart are drawing far bigger crowds and doing it without free lunches and stipends. It's tough to lose at your own game.

COWBOY LOGIC - February 4th, 2011 at 10:42 am
It called Capitalism.
It is foreign to the LA Times.

GB8898 - February 4th, 2011 at 10:44 am
There really is no difference — unless you take a step back and look at intent.

One side advocates less government control, and the other side advocates more government control. The second group seeks to achieve that goal by effectively paying people to go work for the government and initiate the kind of control they want. It's decentralized power versus centralized power.

A strong government is always the best means for ensuring monopoly and stifling competition. The motives of a man like Soros are less than sincere, and folks on the Left would be wise to start questioning what his true goals actually are. He's made his fortune by essentially manipulating entire economies and wrecking the lives of some of the poorest people on this planet.

But he gives money to the "good guys," so it's easy to forget about such trivial matters, right?

HANK SCORPIO - February 4th, 2011 at 10:46 am
How many economies have the Koch brothers tried to collapse? Have they been asked to leave any foreign countries? How many of their neighbors did they turn in to the Nazis?

Comparing the Koch Brothers to Soros is like comparing a vegan to Hannibal Lector...

WHATS_UP - February 4th, 2011 at 10:47 am
I'm just ... think we need an AUDIT... a thorough AUDIT.

Exactly HOW much does the left donate, funnel through and to ALL of its 1,000's of 501c Progressive Socialist Org's... I'll bet it is FAR MORE than what the Conservatives have going on !!! Just take a look at the Federal Gov't handouts alone ... I'd gander to say 75% goes to the Leftists. Unfrigginbelievable.

COWBOY LOGIC - February 4th, 2011 at 10:47 am
Personally, the Progressive let demonizing the Koch Brothers is NOTHING new.

It is a one hundred year old progressive game, going back to Teddy Roosevelt, Ida Tarbell and her Mackrakers, Woodrow Wilson and the rest of the slimeball leftist movement. It was the original game played by the "Trustbusters", who wrapped themselves in the cloak of "Social Justice" for the good of the people, and set their sights on destroying John D. Rockefeller, Standard Oil, the Railroad Monopolies, Andrew Carnegie, and the rest of what were deemed at the time evil "Robber Barons".

The Koch Brothers should smile, and wear this as a badge of honor. They have reached the pinnacle of success.

HOLDMYNOSE - February 4th, 2011 at 10:53 am
Really, because I don't remember the right bringing in busses of people to protest Soros's free speech or funding habits. You hypocrite.

DEUSEXMACHINA - February 4th, 2011 at 10:53 am
That is why the biggest threat to the Progressives is the TRUTH....

HOLDMYNOSE - February 4th, 2011 at 11:04 am
Fortunately conservatives and libertarians are not effected by the juvenile temper tantrums of a tiny minority of American hare brains.

LIBERTYLOVER - February 4th, 2011 at 11:07 am
If you have not read Burton Folsom's "Myth of the Robber Barons", you might give it a read. It's an excellent work and it 'shows the truth of your post.

http://www.amazon.com/Myth-Robber-Barons-Business...

RED47 - February 4th, 2011 at 11:15 am
Well done.
What is corporate greed? How does hearing it make you feel about corporations? Does that mean that GE should have to pay more taxes? How much profit?

Is corporate greed a manufactured term designed to make you feel that corporations making money is somehow "bad"? So are the Koch Brothers labeled "bad" because they have a corporation or because they have an opinion or goals that contradict the propaganda written for the Progressives?

These Progressives don’t get to define my vernacular. How about yours?

PATRIOTGAL257 - February 4th, 2011 at 11:34 am

The Left increasingly reminds me of a couple LaRouchies I once encountered handing out literature on a sidewalk in front of a post office decades ago: relatively calm as they handed me a pamphlet, then flying into a crazy, spitting rage when I handed it back and told them I wasn’t interested.

RLD77 - February 4th, 2011 at 11:56 am

Nice name— and so do you.

RLD77 - February 4th, 2011 at 12:00 pm

Can we say this together?— "Corporate Cronyism". See —That was easy,— just like all the passes GE, Soros, and the Unions get.

DIAMOND JOE QUIMBY - February 4th, 2011 at 12:17 pm

I find it exceedingly funny how you and many others consider the Koch Brothers right-wing. At best, they’re centre-right libertarians.

Maybe if those lefty goons looked up how David Koch was against the Iraq War, supports gay marriage and stem-cell research, and saw his myriad of donations to cancer centres throughout the United States, they would know exactly what they’re protesting but, oh no, he’s economically conservative so he must be a bad guy!

Also, right-wingers don’t bus entire towns of protesters to Soros-related events.

Dg5MAY - February 4th, 2011 at 12:58 pm

The left is upset because the right is messing with their bottom line. It’s all about their funding to their special projects, like abortion, climate “change” (which really is redistribution to green jobs). They need the immigrants to vote (because most immigrants are minorities). Their big upset is public pensions and their benefits. Doesn’t it tick anyone off that many of the waivers from the HHS has been to public unions (police, Fire, teachers) and government workers. The reason Nancy Pelosi said that they would have had to pass Obamacare is because their own benefit programs are in trouble and they need regular citizens to pay for their high cost pensions and benefits. THEY ARE THE GREEDY. Include in all of these the media who haven’t even reported this. They need us on medicare and medicaid so that they can all enjoy their costly health care benefits. The Public UNIONS (7%) ARE KILLING THIS COUNTRY, they are only 7% of this country.

HARLEY2002 - February 4th, 2011 at 2:32 pm

Hey come down here and take your idiot countrymen back OK. They drive like you with their heads up their a$$$. Problem is you are not driving.

THE_REAL_RANDY - February 4th, 2011 at 2:33 pm

Climate crimes? LOL If they want to start locking people up for that they should start with Al Gore, Robert Redford, and James Cameron.

"Thomas Franks wrote a book on this simple thesis several years ago by saying “What’s the Matter with Kansas?” arguing that the masses were fooled into voting for the right because of social issues, when left-wing economic issues were their real interests"
You want proof that leftists are evil? You always here them claiming that they somehow know what people's best interests are. At best, they're egomaniacal idiots and worst they're bloodthirsty tyrants. No sane, decent person talks like that.

THE_REAL_RANDY • February 4th, 2011 at 2:37 pm
You'll find thta just about every crusade the left ever made was based on lies.

ALIENRANTS • February 4th, 2011 at 3:13 pm
So true. Obama's big bailout was saving jobs in the public sector by pumping up the state budgets and the school districts, all loyal democrat voters.
The trouble is, that only made the REAL economy worse and postponed the inevitable-- cuts in government jobs at all levels. And the greedy 7% you speak of will not take it lying down.

LEPANTZEUS • February 4th, 2011 at 3:29 pm
Gentle Readers,
The Progressives need a new villain for their MEME.
For years they've used "BIG OIL". Trouble is, too many people have figured out that 'BIG OIL' supports the Progressive Agenda! They give millions to Greenpeace and other ecogroups who fight tooth & nail against atomic, hydroelectric and coal power plants. What does this leave? Natural gas plants -- with the gas sold by "BIG OIL".
Greens promote wind & solar, but over 80% of the electricity from wind & solar actually comes from a non-descript, unmarked utility building with a gas-fired generator as wind & solar don't provide power on demand -- they provide power when the wind is blowing or it's nice & sunny! Solar won't work at night--that's when we turn on our lights!
They're creating the best new market for natural gas in 50 years! And getting millions from BIG OIL!

LEPANTZEUS • February 4th, 2011 at 3:29 pm
Ecogroups make much of the fact that former Exxon CEO Lee Raymond (the only Exxon CEO to have a Ph.D) publicly stated he did not personally believe human CO2 emissions cause global warming. What they don’t talk about is how remarkable this public statement was, as his Board of Directors opposed him! They want to sell natural gas! Mr. Raymond was giving his opinion as a Chemical Engineer, but so far as Exxon was concerned, he was going against the corporations interests!
So, the new 'villian' for the Progressive MEME is the Koch Bro's.

Sincerely,
John Lepant
Brighton CO

RED47 • February 4th, 2011 at 5:46 pm
Even more fun, take a look at who's deep into other "alternative energy...Big Oil = Big Green. Too funny for the little brainwashed unwashed Progressives.

FIX_IT • February 4th, 2011 at 8:25 pm
The left runs it's discrimination campaigns against achievers (like the Koch brothers), Christians, police and military people and gun owners. They never deviate or waver!
There are a few "free pass" people...like Soros (if we consider scam a success) and Sheriff Dupnik because these goof balls are important to keeping the momentum of the lefties. There are a few free pass people at all times.
Schultz claims to be a gun owner.
A sailor once surfaced by the National Lawyers Guild because this VERY junior man was posed as an expert on an aircraft carrier's combat capability--and wrong! But the goal was to make military planners look stupid at the time.
The Koch brothers are forthrightly weathering a terrible discrimination campaign aimed at them and others!
There is a formula tho the MSM's lies!

LEPANTZEUS • February 5th, 2011 at 7:15 am
Dear Red47,
Thank you for the favor of your reply.
It is astonishing how few people notice these things. It doesn't fit the MEME.

Sincerely,
John