Neocons Reviling Trump, REJOICING IN BIDEN

Claiming to represent "real conservatism," the left-tilted establishment GOP intelligentsia is cheering for the demise of President Trump.

by William F. Jasper

Olga Khazan, a reporter for *The Atlantic,* sat in as an invited observer for an Election Night Zoom Panel of a certain media organization. Her report will serve as an eye-opener for many conservatives and Republicans. As the evening progressed and President Trump won Florida and appeared to be leading Biden in North Carolina, the panelists were muttering, moaning, and cursing. When it appeared that Biden might also be losing Pennsylvania, anxiety turned into desperation, dread, and despair. The thought of losing Pennsylvania to Trump was just too much to bear. A prominent panelist cried out: "Right now, we are facing the possibility of not only not getting that, but having that f****r in office for four years!" (Though, naturally, *The Atlantic*, being a liberal-left, virulently anti-Trump publication — and thoroughly *sophisticated* to boot — didn't bother to bleep the expletive, as we have done above.)

No, Khazan was not sitting in with Rachel Maddow, Joy Reid, and Joe Scarborough for MSNBC. Nor was she with Don Lemon, Anderson Cooper, and Brooke Baldwin at CNN — or any of the other Big Media mouthpieces that President Trump rightly denounced as Fake News and "enemies of the American people." She was reporting from the election-night meltdown at The Bulwark, Bill Kristol's latest neoconservative, online venture. And the f-bombing individual was The Bulwark's policy editor Mona Charen, one of the most venomous Never Trumpers, which therefore qualifies her as a "responsible" conservative in the eyes of the leftists and globalists who run Big Media. Khazan was observing the meltdown via remote video hookup as an invitee to the home of Charen.

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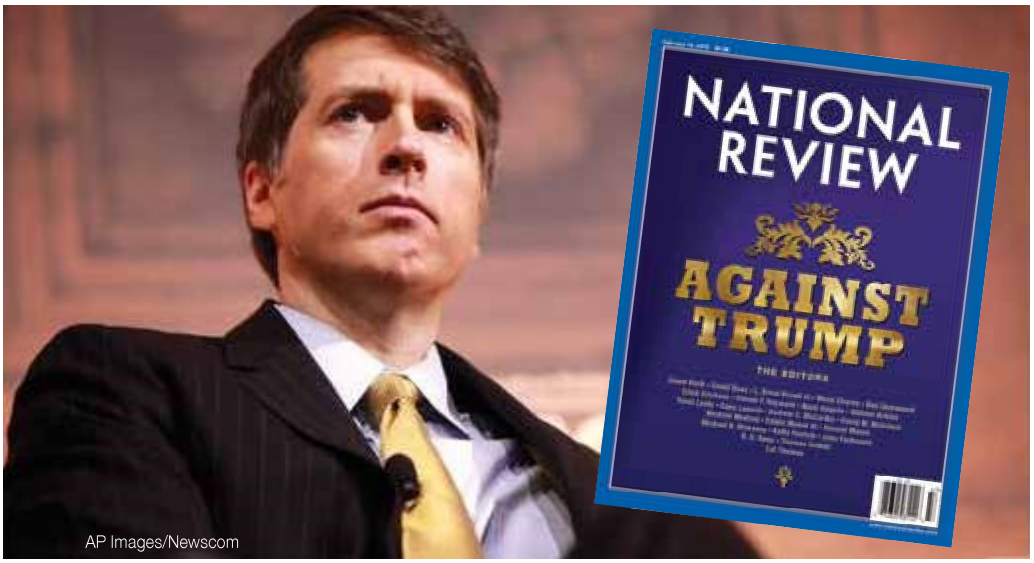
Unhinged with hate: Republican columnist/pundit Mona Charen, a policy editor at The Bulwark, hates President Trump so intensely that she voted for Biden, as well as every Democrat down-ballot.

Mona Charen, like many of her neoconservative colleagues at *National Review*, The Bulwark, and Jonah Goldberg's more recently launched publishing effort, *The Dispatch*, has been a fixture among the chattering classes of Big Media for decades. She's a syndicated columnist (carried by mostly "progressive" newspapers), CNN commentator, and guest on network talking-head programs. She currently hosts The Bulwark's *Beg to Differ* podcast. Not all of the neocon Never Trumpers have gone as far as Mona Charen and Bill Kristol. They and much of their Bulwark crew not only hate Trump — passionately — but have gone so far as to root for Biden, endorse Biden, vote for Biden, even campaign for Biden. According to *The Atlantic's* Olga Khazan, "Charen even phone-banked for Biden" and "even voted for Democrats in down-ballot races this year."

Khazan expressed surprise at Charen's profane outburst. "This surprised me because although the Bulwarkers had been dropping more f-bombs as more states went for Trump, Charen, a nice Jewish woman in her 60s, seemed too prim for that," she wrote. "She had done her makeup and dressed in a blazer. She had corralled her dog, Ike — like Dwight D. Eisenhower — away from the camera. She had made printouts of various polls and bellwether counties."

William F. Jasper is senior editor of The New American.

In other words, she and her fellow neocons want to restore all of the things that alienated millions of Republicans who have been brought back to the party (along with many Democrats) by Trump's "America First" MAGA policies.



Vengeful Never Trumpers: *National Review* editor Rich Lowry, who led a group of two dozen neocon Republicans attacking Trump in 2016, has been lambasting him ever since.

"I want the Republican Party to feel spanked, so that it reforms and makes a U-turn," she told Khazan. Hmm. What kind of "reform" does the rankled pundit have in mind? And a "U-turn" from what? Well, we can suggest that among the many things she has in mind is expelling all the Trump deplorables from the Grand Old Party and restoring the glory days of the Bush dynasty — along with its embrace of globalism, the United Nations, Big Government, perpetual war, more taxes, more regulation, expanded immigration, expanded "refugee" acceptance, and continued GOP surrender on abortion, gun rights, LGBTQ issues, China trade, and environmental extremism. In other words, she and her fellow neocons want to restore all of the things that alienated millions of Republicans who have been brought back to the party (along with many Democrats) by Trump's "America First" MAGA policies and rhetoric, which the internationalist-minded neocons despise.

"If a more typical Republican runs in 2024, people like Charen may simply migrate back to the GOP — she's fond of Senator Mitt Romney and Maryland Governor Larry Hogan," Khazan writes. Yes, the Romney-Hogan-Bush-McCain-Collins "moderates" have always been the prescription of the neocons. Real conservatives (also known as paleocons) and constitutionalists have long regarded the neocons as fake conservatives, RINOs (Republicans In Name Only), and Democrats-Lite. Like "progressive" Democrats, ACLU activists, and most denizens of the Left, neocons like to sing hymns of praise to the U.S. Constitution, while simultaneously promoting policies that undercut its restraints on government and its protections of liberty.

Before Trump, Charen, Kristol, and their coterie of Beltway neocons ruled the roost — not only as the senior "thought leaders" of the GOP, but also as the favored pundits of the Fake News media so despised by President Trump and his growing throng of followers. For the past four years, however, the Never Trump neocons have been knocked from their prideful perches and exiled, relegated to irrelevance. That has been a blow too low. "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned," playwright William Congreve famously noted, and the banished neocons have nourished their rejection into a hellish wrath.

Since November 3, the *faux* conservative pundits at The Bulwark, *National Review*, and *The Dispatch* have been working in tandem with their boon companions at the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, CNN, PBS, NBC, and the rest of the Big Media herd to convince America that Biden-Harris beat Trump-Pence in a "free, fair, secure" election. Like the Fake News outlets, they rushed to falsely hail Joe Biden as "president-elect," ignoring the fact that he could only legitimately be referred to as such *if and when* that title is *officially* bestowed upon him. The Electoral College, not Fox News, the Associated Press, or *National Review*-Bulwark-*Dispatch*, makes that call. Writers and editors for the neocon apparatuses have done their best to ratify the stolen election and to sneer at every effort by the Trump campaign to demonstrate massive voter fraud.

Repeated Again and Again

National Review editor Rich Lowry must be taking immense pleasure at the prospect of seeing his antagonist, President Trump, being evicted (Lowry hopes) from the White House. In his syndicated column for November 30, entitled "Trump's ugly exit not unexpected," Lowry wrote: "No one expected Donald Trump to handle a defeat in the 2020 election well. It was predictable he'd deny that he really lost and allege the vote was rigged, that he'd tweet wild and misleading things, and that he'd lash out in absurd and sophomoric ways."

"All that was inevitable," said Lowry. "What's been more disturbing is how far he and his allies have been willing to push it, not content only to delegitimize the election, but actively seeking to invalidate it."

Like his liberal-left counterparts in Big

Media, Lowry scoffed at Trump's charges of election fraud and claimed the president is disseminating "a constant flow of bad information and conspiracy theories."

On the same day, November 30, "The Editors" of *National Review* (presumably including Rich Lowry) issued a similar collective attack entitled "Trump's Disgraceful Endgame." The *NR* editors slammed "Trump's disgraceful conduct since losing his bid for reelection to Joe Biden on November 3." Disgraceful? How? Well, he has refused to concede to Joe Biden, who has already been anointed and crowned — by the media. "The president can't stand to admit that he lost and so has insisted since the wee hours of Election Night that he really won — and won 'by a lot,'" says the editorial collective.

"There are legitimate issues to consider after the 2020 vote," say the editors, "but make no mistake: The chief driver of the post-election contention of the past several weeks is the petulant refusal of one man to accept the verdict of the American people. The Trump team (and much of the GOP) is working backwards, desperately trying to find something, *anything* to support the president's aggrieved feelings, rather than objectively considering the evidence and reacting as warranted."

As we have detailed in these pages and online, the evidence of blatant election fraud, on an unprecedented, massive scale, should be more than sufficient to convince all but the willfully blind that there is good reason to challenge the results.

Nevertheless, the *National Review* scribblers declare: "Almost nothing that the Trump team has alleged has withstood the slightest scrutiny. In particular, it's hard to find much that is remotely true in the president's Twitter feed these days. It is full of already-debunked claims and crackpot conspiracy theories about Dominion voting systems."

"Trump's most reprehensible tactic," *National Review* insists, "has been to attempt, somewhat shamefacedly, to get local Republican officials to block the certification of votes and state legislatures to appoint Trump electors in clear violation of the public will." Reprehensible? How so? It is his duty, as president, to employ all legal, moral, constitutional avenues to ensure that the election was truly fair and free of massive corruption.

"Getting defeated in a national election is a blow to the ego of even the most thick-skinned politicians and inevitably engenders personal feelings of bitterness and anger," the editors write, before concluding with this swipe: "What America has long expected is that losing candidates swallow those feelings and at least pretend to be gracious. If Trump's not capable of it, he should at least stop waging war on the outcome."

Yes, they insist, Trump's refusal to concede is solely about ego. It is an editorial that would have been at home at the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, The Daily Beast, or any of the other myriad belchers of anti-Trump vitriol. Well, Lowry and "The Editors" at *National Review* know a thing or two about ego, bitterness, and anger; and their smoldering anger against Donald Trump is finally giving way to full rage. Lowry, who is also a columnist for left-leaning *Politico* and a welcome guest on all the establishment media gabfests, launched the hate-Trump neocon vendetta with a 2016 special issue of *National Review* dedicated to "Against Trump." It featured more than 20 neocon luminaries, from Lowry, Bill Kristol, and syndicated columnist Cal Thomas, to Ben Domenech, publisher of the Federalist; Yuval Levin, editor of *National Affairs*; and John Podhoretz, editor of *Commentary*. After four years in exile, they are more than ready to reclaim their spots as the controlled opposition, the Judas goats who lead conservatives into gradual acceptance of all that is the antithesis of the beliefs they once held dear.

The neocons, who fashion themselves as "intellectual conservatives," despise not only Trump and Trump supporters, but all of the ordinary, hardworking, common-sense conservatives of middle America, rural America, and small-town America. Like the Beltway Democratic Left, the neocons have nothing in common with the conservative residents of Red State "flyover country," or with the hapless inhabitants trapped inside

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Neocon deceit: Irving Kristol, a former Trotskyite and the "godfather of neoconservatism," and his son, Bill Kristol (shown), have played pivotal roles in redefining and corrupting conservatism and the Republican Party.

the increasingly oppressive, Democrat-controlled, Blue State hellholes. They gleefully support Biden-Harris in order to rid themselves of Trump-Pence, and then, expect to resume their rightful place as the babbling brain trust that will help the Republican Party "reform" itself into a pale reflection of the party of Obama-Clinton-Pelosi, and continue to "gracefully" lose on all fronts.

Their desperation to regain power is evinced in their relentless attacks on Trump, which compete with CNN and MSNBC for intensity and spleen. According to *National Review's* Michael Brendan Dougherty, Trump "represents a social-media age, which fixes a digital sewage pipe to the brains of every single person on earth and allows the mental diarrhea to gush upon an unready world."

In a November 24 article snidely titled "It's Only 'Free and Fair' When We Win," *National Review* senior writer and syndicated columnist David Harsanyi declares: "There is no credible evidence Barack Obama is a foreigner. There is no credible evidence that Donald Trump was a Russian asset. And so far, there is no credible evidence that widespread cheating gave Joe Biden the presidency this year."

So it goes also over at *The Dispatch*, where Jonah Goldberg, Stephen Hayes, David French, and other assorted veterans from *National Review* and *The Weekly Standard* (Bill Kristol's former sounding board before founding The Bulwark) are celebrating what they hope will be President Trump's ouster and the new Neocon Age under Biden-Harris.

The Neocon Heresy

Many Trump supporters only recently became more fully aware of the extent to which the neoconservative cabal has hijacked conservatism, as well as the Republican Party.

But in his 1996 book entitled *The Essential Neoconservative Reader*, editor Mark Gerson triumphantly noted: "The neoconservatives have so changed conservatism that what we now identify as conservatism is largely what was once neoconservatism. And in so doing, they have defined the way that vast numbers of Americans view their economy, their polity, and their society."

Gerson's boastful assertion is certainly, and unfortunately, true. With the help of America's archenemy globalists, the neocons were ensconced in places of prominence in the GOP and the media.

But what is "neoconservatism"? Even many of those familiar with the term are rather fuzzy on just what it is that neocons believe and propose. That is as intended. For the most part, neocons are adept at sounding conservative, which they mostly accomplish by playing the foil to the most radical Democratic proposals. It's relatively easy to pull it off when one is allowed to pose as the champion against the nostrums of Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi, Maxine Waters, and The Squad. But what do the virulently anti-Trump neocons say they believe? Well, for starters we can look to the man known as the "godfather of neconservatism," Irving Kristol, father of The Bulwark's Bill Kristol.

In his 1995 book *Neoconservatism: The Autobiography of an Idea*, Kristol explained neoconservatism thusly: "[We] are conservative, but different in certain respects from the conservatism of the Republican Party. We accepted the New Deal in principle, and had little affection for the kind of isolationism that then permeated American conservatism."

"So, neocons are for the New Deal — which is socialism," explained John F. McManus, author of *William F. Buckley: Pied Piper for the Establishment*, the most thorough exposé of neoconservatism. "And," McManus continued, "they despise 'isolationism,' which means Kristol and his neocon friends are internationalists. In a 1993 article appearing in the *Wall Street Journal*, Kristol expressed his enthusiasm for Social Security, Medicare, food stamps, Medicaid, even cash allowances for unwed mothers. You won't find a neocon opposing the UN, although he might issue a recommendation merely to reform the world organization. And you certainly won't find any neocon challenging the growth of big government because they love big government."

The late Robert Bartley, a longtime editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, was an ardent neocon internationalist who once declared, "I think the nation-state is finished." A member of the globalist Council on Foreign Relations, he saw the end of America's national sovereignty and inde-

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Pompous pundits: Jonah Goldberg, a former editor at *National Review* and a favorite "conservative" of the Fake News herd, now runs *The Dispatch* with neocon regulars Stephen F. Hayes and David French.