

BY LUIS MIGUEL

CPAC and the War for **the Soul of the GOP**

The war is accelerating and coming to a tipping point.

It's not a military conflict, although the result of this war has far-reaching national defense ramifications. It's a contest of ideologies, a struggle for hearts and minds, a battle for institutional power.

It's the war within the Republican Party.

The Left — and that includes not only garden-variety liberals, but also globalists, Deep Staters, and totalitarians of all stripes — has long understood the importance of controlling institutions and systems, methodically infiltrating everything from government to media to universities to local libraries and PTAs.

The Right, on the other hand, has traditionally tried to work from “outside the system.” Conservative activists won't get involved in electing their people to office; they'll just flag wave outside the homes of the Marxists who *do* get elected. They won't get on the school board themselves (“we're too busy working” is the popular refrain), just vent on social media when an inane policy is enacted.

But owing to a shift in understanding among the electorate brought about by decades of grassroots effort by America-first organizations, a new generation of patriots is poised to accomplish what has not been seen in this nation since the War of Independence: the creation of an organized political movement that combines the intellectual policy depth to be relevant in today's political discourse, the emotional and rhetorical appeal to win over a broad swath of the electorate, and the political acumen necessary to gain and successfully exercise structural power.

This patriot movement is a broad coalition of truthers, medical freedom advocates, paleoconservatives, anti-communists, immigration hawks, populists, Christian reactionaries, and economic nationalists.

What unites them is a decidedly anti-establishment mentality. Those who comprise this movement have read their history. They understand who the specific players destroying their country are, and by what philosophical and institutional means they have done so.

Public vocal rejections of the Council on Foreign Relations, Bilderbergers, World Economic Forum, Chamber of Commerce, and other globalist power brokers are now commonplace. Vitriolic opposition to individuals such as Mark Zuckerberg, George Soros, and Bill Gates is the norm.

And these patriots are unifying, not only to fume and com-



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plain, but to obtain decision-making power.

While most conservative Americans have little patience for party politics, the Left has shown that in a representative system of government where policy is enacted through blocks of ideologically aligned lawmakers in a legislature, control of a major political party is essential to ensuring one's vision becomes reality. This is why the Democratic Socialists of America went through such pains to take over the Nevada Democratic Party by means of a years-long effort to elect

their people to the party's top leadership positions.

Donald Trump and his allies have focused and directed the attempt to achieve the same on the Right. Trump is on a quest to transform the Republican landscape by endorsing candidates at all levels of government, from state representatives and local elections officials to U.S. Congress and Senate hopefuls.

These efforts are already paying dividends. In Alaska, the state GOP made the surprising move of going against a sitting U.S. senator from their party in the 2022 primary race, and instead endorsed challenger Kelly Tshibaka over Senator Lisa Murkowski, a Trump critic who voted to convict him during the second impeachment trial.

In Ohio, two county Republican parties endorsed challenger Jim Renacci over incumbent Republican Governor Mike DeWine.

Even House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), who once defended impeachment supporter Liz Cheney (R-Wy.), has now shifted gears and endorsed Harriet Hagemen, the Trump-backed challenger to the unpopular congresswoman.

The gradual transformation of the GOP could be seen at the 2022 Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in February, where President Trump was the centerpiece of the event and Trumpian officeholders such as Florida Governor Ron DeSantis were the talk of the town. Moreover, the “fiscal conservatism” of yesterday's GOP made way for topics such as election integrity, immigration, trade, CRT, China, and medical freedom during CPAC's various speeches and panels.

Fifty years ago, the Republican Party vehemently ostracized those (such as The John Birch Society) whom it considered “fringe.” Now, the “fringe” are the majority at the grassroots and are on their way to becoming the dominant force within the party — and are building its influence in other sectors such as the media (via alternative media) and education (via the home- and private-school movement). ■