

THE SOROS OF SILICON VALLEY: REID HOFFMAN'S MILLIONS FOR DEMOCRAT ACTIVISM

There's no shortage of leftist mega-donors for funding America's "progressive" revolution. Meet the newest billionaire backing it: Reid Hoffman, whose campaign to destroy Donald Trump is matched only by the scale of his #MeToo hypocrisy.

HAYDEN LUDWIG | DIRECTOR OF POLICY RESEARCH | HL@RESTORATIONPAC.COM

His is hardly a household name. Yet Reid Hoffman, best known for co-founding the professional networking site LinkedIn, has rapidly become one of the Left's top patrons of political activism to rival George Soros, Bill Gates, and eBay's Pierre Omidyar. Since 2016, this mega-donor has poured hundreds of millions of dollars into Democratic campaigns, leftist advocacy groups, and efforts to indict President Trump, with much more to come in 2024.

And that's to say nothing of his ties to notorious pedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

Hoffman is no "moderate" content with defeating the former president. His primary funding vehicle, Investing in US, exists to spur "massive voter turnout" for Democrats to defeat the Republican Party's—not Donald Trump's—"white nationalist fascism," likening *all* conservatives to "authoritarian criminals such as Hugo Chavez and Vladimir Putin . . . [for] actively undermining the legitimacy of our free press, our courts, our elections, and our scientific institutions."

All Republicans, Hoffman's group alleges, "have systematically and asymmetrically engaged in dirty tricks and brutal hardball to seize and hold power"—so he's committed a fortune to wiping them out at the polls, meddling in the 2024 Republican primary, and playing dirty himself.

Dot Com Fortune

Like so many in Silicon Valley, Reid Hoffman's career started in 1994 with Apple Computer, working on the company's then-cutting edge online subscription service, eWorld, which offered users email, news, and internet chat rooms (later purchased by America Online). Three years later, Hoffman launched an online dating site—SocialNet.com—which, though it flopped, got him a director position with a new startup: PayPal, which launched in 1999 under the leadership of Elon Musk, Peter Thiel as CEO, and Hoffman as executive vice president responsible for external relationships and business development. (Notably, Thiel and Hoffman's friendship broke down years later over their differing views of Donald Trump.)

Around the same time PayPal was acquired in 2002 by Pierre Omidyar's rising online giant, eBay, Hoffman launched his own e-company (with capital from Thiel and venture capital firm Greylock Partners): San Francisco-based LinkedIn, today the top social networking site for professionals with some 774 million members across 200 countries. But it was LinkedIn's 2011 IPO that made Hoffman a billionaire (net worth: \$2.2 billion as of writing); five years later, Microsoft purchased the company for \$26.2 billion and added Hoffman to its board of directors.



LinkedIn Building in San Francisco

Since 2009, Hoffman's been an active partner at Greylock, one of the oldest venture capital firms in America with a reported \$3.5 billion under management focused on tech (Dropbox), crypto software (Coinbase), and consumer services (AirBnB).

One of Hoffman's most famous investments was Facebook (now Meta), which he helped launch in 2004 after arranging a meeting between Mark Zuckerberg and Peter Thiel, who also contributed \$500,000 to the fledgling social media company. Hoffman reportedly mentored the younger Zuckerberg; today he sits on the board of the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub, which funnels money from its \$600 million endowment to California university medical research centers.

Across this entire period, Hoffman wasn't known as a prolific donor in political circles, gifting just \$288,000 from 2002 to 2015 to then-President Barack Obama, Sen. Cory Booker (NJ), and multiple state Democratic parties.

Yet from 2012 to 2014 he dumped \$2 million into two committees: Priorities USA Action, a top Democratic PAC that spent \$28 million in the 2022 midterms, and Mayday PAC, founded by leftist campaign finance "reformer" Lawrence Lessig to elect Democrats who promised to be "tough" on money-in-politics. Lessig, who briefly ran for the Democratic nomination in 2015, also sits on the advisory board of the Sunlight Foundation, which coined the term "dark money" in 2010 to bash conservative political spending.

Compared with mega-donors like Tom Steyer, that's a pittance. Then Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election—and everything changed.

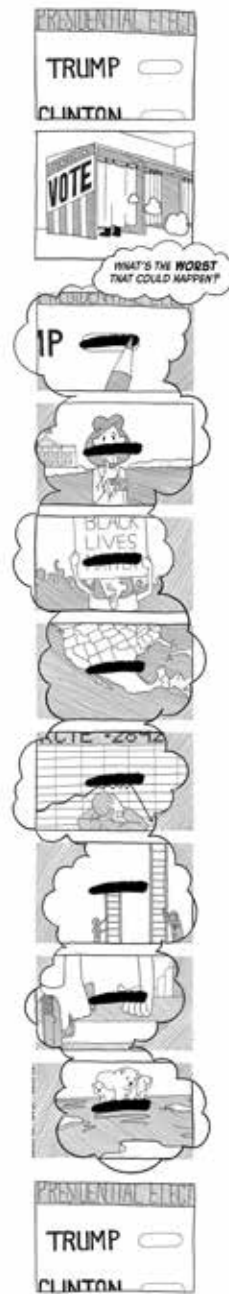
Trump Derangement Syndrome

In September 2016, Hoffman was having a laugh at Trump's prospects against Clinton. "Donald Trump [has] turned the Republican primary debates into an endless Friars Club Roast," Hoffman wrote in his personal blog on the website Medium, which to that point had been confined to pontificating about business strategy. That post launched "Trumped Up Cards: The World's Biggest Deck," a multiplayer card game "where players need really big hands to win"—sold for \$20.16. Hoffman was cheerful that Clinton would trounce the political upstart, writing:

“Trumped Up Cards are for free speech advocates, fans of due process and equal protection, immigrants yearning to breathe free, and native-born patriots who believe our diversity and inclusiveness make us stronger (but who draw the line at Russian hackers).”

At the same time, Hoffman pledged to donate \$5 million to veterans groups if Trump released his tax returns before the first October presidential debate. "Because of how often Donald Trump's decisions as president could potentially impact his business interests," Hoffman wrote, "it has in fact never been more necessary for a candidate to release tax returns than it is for him."

Less than one month later, Hoffman was worried about Trump's prospects in the coming election. "This Election Day: What's the worst that could happen?" he posted, with a political cartoon warning of the fallout from a Trump victory: A reporter silenced, protesters quashed, a loaded gun, drowning polar bears, Mexico sealed off by a massive wall, Wall Street in freefall, and women's "glass ceiling" turned into an impenetrable roof.



By Halloween, Hoffman was imagining Trump dressed up as a witch (“because he conjures conspiracy theories to undermine society”), a werewolf (“because of his late-night howling on Twitter”), and other monsters.

WHAT SHOULD TRUMP BE FOR HALLOWEEN?



A VAMPIRE?
BECAUSE HE CAN'T HELP BUT PREY ON BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.



A SPIDER?
BECAUSE HE CONSTANTLY SPINS WEBS OF LIES WHENEVER HE OPENS HIS MOUTH.



A WITCH?
BECAUSE HE CONJURES CONSPIRACIES TO UNDERMINE SOCIETY.



A GHOST?
BECAUSE HIS CAMPAIGNING ON FEAR GIVES EVERYONE NIGHTMARES.



A WEREWOLF?
BECAUSE OF HIS LATE-NIGHT HOWLING ON TWITTER AND IN DEBATES.



HIMSELF?
BECAUSE GETTING THIS FAR IN A MAJOR ELECTION HAS NORMALIZED MONSTROUS BEHAVIOR.
AND PAVED THE WAY FOR SCARIER CREATURES TO COME...

BY REID HOFFMAN AND ERIC STREIBER

Then the unthinkable sent Hoffman—and the rest of Silicon Valley—reeling. In December, Hoffman pledged to “defend” the Constitution by contributing \$10 from every sale of Trumped Up Cards—now the symbol of the Left’s “resistance”—to the ACLU to stop Republicans from “marginaliz[ing] religious freedom, ethnic minorities, and women.”

It only escalated from there, with Hoffman declaring ahead of the 2020 election that “I’ve been a Never Trumper” since 2015, labeling Trump “the disease president” for “choking like a dog in the face of a pandemic he still has no idea how to fight,” warning his reelection would only bring “more death,” and boasting *after* Election Day that “Trump is never going to get tired of losing this election.”

In late 2017, the *New York Times* identified Hoffman as a key donor to Indivisible, the radical activist group that led the far Left’s takeover of the Democratic Party in order to battle Trump and move towards single-payer healthcare and “free” college tuition. Indivisible is one of the “resistance groups” mentioned in *Time’s* infamous 2021 article, “The Secret History of the Shadow Campaign That Saved the 2020 Election.”

That proved only the beginning. From 2017 to 2023, Hoffman funneled close to \$43 million into Democratic political campaigns and super PACs, aiming to flip the House and Senate in the 2018, 2020, and 2022 elections.

That includes regular checks to the Democratic National Committee and its Senate and House arms.

Hoffman is also one of just 13 donors behind the Democratic Grassroots Victory Fund, a committee formed in October 2017 to boost “progressive” fundraising using a loophole that allows the PAC to “eviscerate campaign contribution limits,” in the opinion of the left-leaning group Issue One. He’s also a significant donor to the Mainstream Democrats PAC, which opposes “far-left organizations” attempting a “hostile takeover” of the Democratic Party.”

At \$7.4 million, Hoffman is a top donor to the Republican Accountability PAC, a committee run by rabid NeverTrumper (and darling of the D.C. Left) Sarah Longwell, who doubles as publisher of the bitter neocon-liberal website the *Bulwark*. In the 2022 midterms, the Republican Accountability PAC spent \$13 million attempting to elect Democrats—including Sen. Raphael Warnock (GA) and former Rep. Tim Ryan (OH)—and defeat Republicans in key Senate races: Sen. J.D. Vance in Ohio, Herschel Walker in Georgia, Adam Laxalt in Nevada, and Dr. Mehmet Oz in Pennsylvania. Now the PAC is gearing up to attack conservatives in 2024 by “elevat[ing] the voices of Trump voters who agree that it is time for the party to move on.”

Hoffman also contributes regularly to DigiDems, which “supports the most competitive House, Senate, and coordinated campaigns” in 34 states. The Virginia Democratic Party, which in 2019 seized control of the state legislature and governor’s mansion for the first time in decades, credits DigiDems for electing 40 Democrats there.

The Rise of “Investing in US”

But Hoffman’s most influential contribution to the Left’s war machine was birthed shortly after the 2016 election: A new funding vehicle for directing tens of millions of dollars into leftist groups battling the Republican Party. He called it “Investing in US.”

“The idea behind Investing in US was to bring entrepreneurs and investors to join the resistance in fighting for the American dream” against “corruption, white nationalism, and mass deceit,” wrote Dmitri Mehlhorn, Hoffman’s top lieutenant and political advisor responsible for the project.

Mehlhorn, who graduated Yale Law School alongside such luminaries as future New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker (D) and Stacey Abrams, is on the (entirely non-black) board of All Americans Vote, a get-out-the-vote group targeting black voters.

Mehlhorn is also a board member for the Hoffman-funded group Integrity First for America, which litigates against “the growing threat of white nationalism.” In 2020, the Daily Caller revealed that Integrity First for America paid the legal bills of Fusion GPS (through its holding company, Bean LLC), the firm behind the fake Russian dossier, thanks to a \$1 million pledge from Hoffman.

In early 2017, Mehlhorn drafted a 10-page prospectus for Silicon Valley donors on how to defeat the Trump agenda and its “existential threat” to America—featuring flow charts on the “fascist playbook,” suppressing the “Neo-Nazi” vote, and Democrat get-out-the-vote and messaging strategies. The group planned to fund voter engagement, Democrat recruitment groups, campaign data platforms, and lawsuits against the Trump administration.

But instead of using a nonprofit or committee—which must file federal disclosure forms—Investing in US would be structured as “a Silicon Valley seed fund,” exchanging tax exemption for total donor anonymity. All that’s known of the group’s structure is its address: A residence (presumably Mehlhorn’s) in Vienna, Virginia. Many wealthy donors, from Mark Zuckerberg to John Arnold, use a similar “dark money” model to avoid public scrutiny. Investing In US tagged a dozen more key “resistance” grantees, all of which reveal the vast scale of the modern Left’s political machine:



- **Run for Something:** Identifies and trains new Democrats running for political office—so long as they pledge to support single-payer healthcare, open borders, the Green New Deal, abortion-up-to-birth, and strict gun control laws.
- **ACRONYM:** Develops voter registration platforms and targeted ads to turn out tens of thousands of Democrats in 15 key states, electing dozens of Democrats since 2018. One of its clients is Eric Holder’s gerrymandering group, the National Democratic Redistricting Committee. In 2019, ACRONYM launched Shadow, Inc., whose app catastrophically malfunctioned during the 2020 Iowa Democratic Party caucus to the Left’s embarrassment.
- **Forward Majority:** An arm of the Democrats’ Senate Majority PAC, redirecting some \$60 million to other left-wing committees in the 2020 cycle to defeat Republicans in key Senate races.
- **WokeVote:** Coordinates college voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives among “historically disengaged voters of color.”
- **CrowdPAC:** A campaign fundraising platform boasting 4 million users and 360,000 donors—and explicitly off-limits to Republican candidates.



Eric Holder

- **New Politics:** Trains Democrats with a military background to seek public office, many of them in marginal districts such as Rep. Abigail Spanberger in Virginia’s most hotly contested congressional district (VA-07).
- **Hispanic Federation:** Runs leftist political outreach to Latinos targeting public education, immigration, and voter mobilization.
- **Vote.org:** Targets minority groups for mass voter registration drive. In 2020, Vote.org claims it made 650 million voter contacts, particularly in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, and other swing states; in 2021, it demanded companies condemn or boycott Georgia if state Republicans passed their election integrity bill adding voter ID requirements to mail-in ballots.
- **PushBlack:** “Black liberation” and voter registration group formerly known as Million Hoodies Movement for Justice.
- **The Arena:** Recruits campaign staff (2,400 to date) for Democrats running for state legislative offices.
- **Higher Ground Labs:** “Venture fund and ecosystem builder” for seeding new leftist groups (60 to date). One such organization is Mobilize, a volunteer recruitment group that serviced 1,000 Democratic campaigns in 2022; it brags that campaigns which used Mobilize earned 3.6 percent *more* vote share than those that didn’t.
- **New Media Ventures:** Provides seed funding for new activist groups as a front for the Tides Foundation’s 501(c)(4) arm. New Media Ventures is one of the Democracy Alliance’s recommended “investments,” so it receives regular funding from the Left’s biggest bankrollers.

Paint the South Blue

Hoffman’s first big target was Virginia’s November 2017 election, when the governor’s mansion and all 100 House of Delegates seats were on the ballot. Hoffman, focusing on the latter, contributed \$300,000 to Win Virginia in September—nearly a quarter of its \$1.3 million budget—which bundled funds to dozens of Democrats running for House seats.

Politico identified Win Virginia as “one of the largest spenders on the House of Delegates races” and Hoffman

as “by far its largest donor.” Dmitri Mehlhorn reportedly “took a hands-on role” in shaping the group’s strategy by focusing on the districts that voted for Hillary Clinton a year prior.

Come November, Democrats picked up 15 House seats, reducing the Republican majority from a solid 66–34 to a tiny 51–49 and setting up a Democrat takeover in 2019. Win Virginia funded the Democrat in 14 of these races—all 15, if you count the \$123,000 it gave to *another* group, the Run Everywhere Virginia PAC, the former’s top recipient in 2017.

It’s also worth sketching out Win Virginia’s most powerful board member: Real estate mogul Albert Dvoskin. Dvoskin is a Clinton Foundation donor and “resistance” bankroller who chaired the board of the Democratic data firm Catalist and helped found the Democracy Alliance, which convenes the Left’s biggest mega-donors to coordinate their political spending. He’s also on the board of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), one of the groups suing to keep Trump off the 2024 ballot in 9 states.



Albert Dvoskin

At the same time, Investing in US saw an opportunity to flip Alabama’s Senate seat—vacated in January by Jeff Sessions’ appointment as President Trump’s attorney general—in an off-year special election, and took it.

They called it “Project Birmingham,” a scheme by American Emergent Technologies (AET)—which received \$750,000 from Investing in US—to run a social media disinformation campaign against Republican nominee Roy Moore using “secret” methods, the *New York Times* later argued, pioneered by Russia to tip the 2016 election in Trump’s favor. AET itself is run by a former Obama administration official and Google engineer; at least one Investing in US employee also worked on the project.

AET fabricated at least 5 “conservative” Facebook pages to depress Republican turnout and encourage write-in candidates. As the scheme developed, it linked the Moore campaign to thousands of Russian

bot accounts which suddenly began following his Twitter account with tens of thousands of tweets, bait meant to fuel guilt-by-association attacks from the Left.

In one instance, AET's bots smeared the reputation of a woman who accused Moore of groping her as a teenager, a story broke by the *Washington Post* one month before the December 2017 election. "Pro-Russia propagandists are pushing for Roy Moore to win," cried *Mother Jones*, which savaged the Moore campaign for its support from "pro-Russia sites and trolls . . . battle[ing] vigorously on behalf of Roy Moore."

Left-wing papers gleefully echoed the stern warnings of countless "experts," including ex-CIA officials, that this was yet more evidence of the Kremlin's ruthless war on American democracy meant to boost Trump's "far-right" allies. Only much later and deep into the article did *Mother Jones* admit that the whole story was a lie.

It was too late. Democratic nominee Doug Jones narrowly defeated Moore by less than 21,000 votes—with 23,000 write-ins for someone

else—in a state that voted for Trump over Clinton by 589,000 votes the year before. In 2020, Tommy Tuberville flipped Jones' Senate seat red again by 472,000 votes.

Hoffman later apologized for and claimed ignorance of AET's "highly disturbing" campaign, which ran on a \$100,000 budget in a race that cost \$51 million. What's almost certain is that Project Birmingham would've been impossible without Hoffman's money. Nor was it the last time Hoffman funded a campaign to suppress Republican voters.

Disinformation for Democrats

Hoffman's role in funding the "bots" wasn't discovered until December 2018, more than a year later. By then, AET had run a similar \$400,000 Facebook bot campaign to discourage Republican turnout in the 2018 midterms under the banner "News for Democracy."

In red states like Texas and Kansas, News for Democracy's pages garnered 16 million impressions because they were engineered to look like the product of frustrated conservatives, rather than paid leftists. Republican voters, the ads said, should stay home

in November or vote for Democrats to punish Republicans for betraying "real conservatives."

"Better with Age," "Women for Chivalry," "Our Flag Our Country," "Living Free," and "the Holy Tribune"—each ad was replete with patriotic imagery (e.g. American flags) and left-leaning messages on the 2018 election's top issue: Healthcare. Per *the Atlantic*:

"A series of ads running on Tuesday showed different people describing their health challenges and how their [Obamacare-provided] health insurance was helping them. In one ad, an older woman describes her daughter's struggles with diabetes. In another, a young father talks about his autoimmune diseases. **Their message is the same: Republicans want to take away protections for people with preexisting medical conditions, and that would hurt the nice, relatable people in the videos** [emphasis added]."

News for Democracy itself is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit run by the Colorado LLC MotiveAI, which uses the front for its ad buys targeting numerous demographics to undercut Republican support—with investment capital from Investing in US and the Arabela Advisors "dark money" network, among others. Dmitri Mehlhorn, who sits on News for Democracy's board, reportedly pitched donors to fund its "outreach to groups that were center [and] center-right . . . trying to reach out to them with messages."



Roy Moore and Doug Jones

According to an October 2018 FEC complaint from the conservative Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust, News for Democracy created Facebook pages and paid MotiveAI to create thousands of ads for them—\$5.6 million’s worth from August–November 2018. By one estimate, that’s more than 56 times more money than was supposedly spent by Russia in 2016.

It’s also enough to qualify News for Democracy as an unregistered political action committee with independent expenditures. MotiveAI allegedly bragged that, thanks to the scheme, it ran “the largest digital program of the 2018 midterm elections” with 5,000 ads that flipped 28 congressional seats, winning back the House of Representatives for the Democrats.

And they did it again in 2020, this time with a campaign called “Meme 2020” meant to boost Michael Bloomberg’s chances in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary courtesy of more Hoffman bucks. This time, however, News for Democracy pulled in a new partner, the Lincoln Project, to register new voters for mail-in ballots. From the Meme 2020 CEO:

“We found that memes that were intended to be explicitly anti-Trump weren’t as persuasive as those that weren’t so explicit. People have become so good at identifying when the voice of the meme feels like it’s coming from the left, and it forces the right to entrench. **Memes that are cloaked** in a way to slightly make fun of the left first, then lean into a hard critique of Trump, **end up moving both moderates and Republicans in the intended direction** [emphasis added].”

Kristol-izing Fake News in 2024

Nor was that Hoffman’s only dabbling in disinformation. One of Investing in US’ first ventures was ACRONYM, which runs a network of “progressive” groups headed by Tara McGowan, a Obama 2012 campaign staffer-turned-“resistance” operative. ACRONYM spent \$100 million on a digital ad campaign to defeat Trump in 2020. Among its subsidiaries is Courier Newsroom, which since 2017 has spawned a nexus of partisan state propaganda sites posing as independent news outlets such as the *Virginia Dogwood* and *UpNorthNews* in Wisconsin.



Tara McGowan

In October 2021, McGowan left ACRONYM to run the Project for Good Information to combat online “disinformation and misinformation” with funding from Hoffman and George Soros, in part by funding approved leftist “news” groups. In practice, that meant acquiring Courier Newsroom (for an undisclosed sum), debunking 2020 election “conspiracy theories,” and providing in-house local news to other outlets free of charge.

One suggested grantee is *the Bulwark*, the rabidly NeverTrump site led by Sarah Longwell, Charlie Sykes, and Bill Kristol, widely considered a haven for bitter liberal ex-Republicans also supported by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar. In August 2020, Dmitri Melhorn used *the Bulwark* to accuse Trump of “steal[ing]” the 2020 election—three months before Election Day—and “far-right militia groups in camo” of suppressing voters in Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.



Sarah Longwell

Charlie Sykes

Bill Kristol

Democrat Heavyweight

Hoffman went all in on defeating Trump in the 2020 election, shelling out \$4.5 million in independent expenditures (TV ads) in coordination with the Lincoln Project to unseat the President and elect Joe Biden. (FEC documents show that he filed the expenditures using the address of Olson Remcho, a top Sacramento political law firm headed by the counsel for the California Democratic Party and Gavin Newsom’s 2022 gubernatorial campaign.)



Janet Protasiewicz

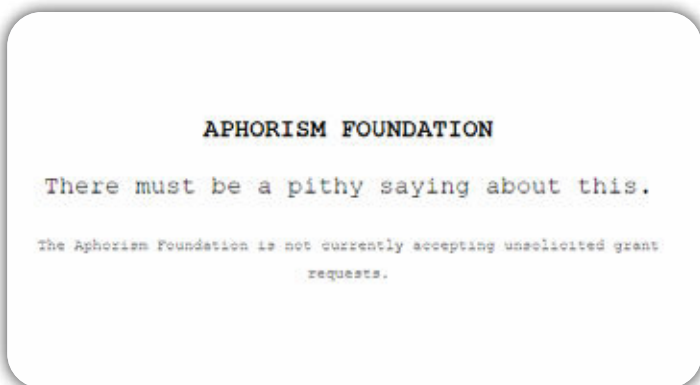
He gave \$1.5 million to the pro-Biden super PAC Unite the Country and \$3.2 million into congressional races and leftist groups, including Stacey Abrams’ get-out-the-vote group Fair Fight. In 2022, he contributed another \$3.2 million to federal races, most of it through the Democratic National Committee and its affiliates.

In all, *Forbes* ranked Hoffman as the 17th-biggest billionaire spender in the 2020 cycle at over \$15 million.

Hoffman was a key donor to Janet Protasiewicz’s campaign in the April 2023 Wisconsin Supreme Court race, which flipped the high court to “progressive” control for the first time in decades. Now the Protasiewicz court is weighing lawsuits that would gerrymander the state’s Republican-drawn legislative maps to boost Democrats, return drop boxes next year, and abolish the signature witness requirement for absentee ballots (with Marc Elias’ help).

The Hoffman Network

Besides funding politics directly, Hoffman funds and chairs the boards of a handful of nonprofits: the San Francisco-based 501(c)(3) Aphorism Foundation, Patriotic Republic, and American Future Republic, the latter of which are Chicago-based 501(c)(4) advocacy groups. The groups have virtually no online presence.



Screenshot from Aphorism Foundation website

The Aphorism Foundation paid out \$200 million in grants between 2015 and 2021 (its latest annual disclosure). At \$24.5 million, its top recipient is the Schwab Charitable Fund, a donor-advised fund provider that passes grants from donors to third-party recipients, washing their identities in the process.

But the Aphorism Foundation gifted \$25 million to establish the Barack Obama Foundation and \$12 million more to the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub, a research organization whose board includes Hoffman. Other recipients include the “green” groups EcoAmerica and Dream Corps; Integrity First, an anti-Trump litigation group; and the New Venture Fund, part of the \$1.6 billion “dark money” network run by Arabella Advisors.

American Future Republic infamously bankrolled E. Jean Carroll’s April 2023 lawsuit alleging Trump had raped the former *New York Magazine* writer—who previously claimed that no one was paying her legal fees. A New York judge forced Trump to pay \$5 million in damages for “sexual abuse” and defamation (for colorfully denying the allegations on social media).

Between them, Hoffman’s (c)(4) groups have pumped tens of millions of dollars into lobbying groups, including:

- Arabella Advisors’ Sixteen Thirty Fund and North Fund, which support D.C. statehood and abolishing the Electoral College;
- Tides Advocacy, the advocacy arm of the Tides Foundation;
- Piedmont Rising, a Philadelphia group that spent millions of dollars trying to defeat Sen. Thom Tillis (R) in North Carolina in 2022 with 6-figure political ads made to look like a news publication;
- The get-out-the-vote group Latino Victory Project;
- Center for American Progress Action Fund, the advocacy arm of the Left’s Heritage Foundation knock-off; and
- Bill Kristol’s Defending Democracy Together (beautifully acronym-ed “DDT”)

Hoffman’s influence also won him a seat on the board of New America. Like Third Way, New America is a faux-centrist think tank created by ex-Obama officials to peel off moderate voters from the Republican Party. One of its campaigns is “Spreading the Gospel of Climate Change,”

which quietly advises activists on using pseudo-biblical talking points to form a “solid beachhead” within Evangelical churches on global warming. It’s cynical environmentalism with a soothing Christian veneer—one New America boasted in 2015 that they were propping up pastors in “a sort of ‘rent-an-Evangelical’” scam to fool conservative Christians.

Until 2019, Hoffman was on the board of Forward U.S. (styled FWD.US), Mark Zuckerberg’s immigration expansion advocacy group. Forward US is one of the group behind the push to abolish cash bail in New York and other states, one of the reasons behind the recent explosion in crime rates in America’s biggest cities.

He’s also a member of the Council of Foreign Relations, the foreign policy think tank for globalism which publishes *Foreign Affairs* magazine, as well as the U.S. Defense Innovation Board (chaired by Michael Bloomberg), Silicon Valley’s advisory body for the U.S. military.

Sabotaging the 2024 Election

In June 2023, the *Washington Post* reported a secret gathering of ex-Republicans and top Democratic operatives to discuss strategies to defeat the No Labels Party, a new committee looking to run an as-yet undeclared spoiler candidate in the 2024 election.

Democratic operatives believe that “most of the attrition” from a No Labels Party presidential nominee would come from Biden’s “fragile coalition.” One contender is West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin (D), who announced he was “thinking seriously” about leaving the Democratic Party in August.

Dmitri Mehlhorn was among the secret conference’s attendees, which also included Biden chief of staff Ron Klain and DNC senior advisor Cedric L. Richmond; Bill Kristol and Lincoln Project co-founder Reed Galen; ex-Obama political director Patrick Dillon, whose wife is Biden’s deputy chief of staff; and former Sens. Doug Jones (AL), Heidi Heitkamp (ND), and Claire McCaskill (MO).

So far, stopping No Labels has meant pumping \$1 million from Hoffman into the think tank Third Way to brief leftist groups and unions “about the dangers of their members’ supporting third-party candidates instead of [President] Biden.”

It’s worth noting that Third Way positions itself as a centrist alternative to the far Left, which is undoubtedly why Hoffman & Co. picked it to win back moderate Democrats. In reality, the group’s run by Clinton-era Democrats and supports virtually every policy on the Left. Its anti-No Labels Party campaign is also run in coordination with MoveOn—a Soros-funded “progressive”



Joe Manchin



Dmitri Mehlhorn



Ron Klain



Cedric L. Richmond



Bill Kristol



Reed Galen



Patrick Dillon



Doug Jones



Heidi Heitkamp



Claire McCaskill

group founded by activists wishing to “move on” from Bill Clinton’s Monica Lewinsky sex scandal and subsequent impeachment—and aided by Democrat super-lawyer Marc Elias, who aims to keep No Labels candidates off the 2024 ballot in Arizona and other key states.

We also know that in early 2023 Hoffman and Mehlhorn were having “closed-door discussions” about ways to influence the 2024 Republican primary by boosting Ron DeSantis’ campaign to undermine Trump—two months before the Florida governor officially announced his bid for president. “I will spend as much as I possibly can and it takes and is effective [to beat Trump],” Hoffman announced in a podcast interview, adding that unlike Trump, DeSantis doesn’t pose an “existential threat to democracy.” (Nevertheless, this writer has not found any money from Hoffman or Mehlhorn in the Republican primary as of writing.)

Whether these plots to influence the coming election succeed remains unclear. But they reveal just how vital Hoffman’s become for the Left’s political strategy in 2024 and beyond.

Bankrolling Blasey

Conservatives were rightly outraged by the smear campaign against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh perpetrated by Christine Blasey Ford during his 2018 confirmation process. Ford, a Palo Alto psychology professor, accused Kavanaugh of attempting to rape her at a high school party decades before—though she couldn’t remember any particulars and there was no evidence the pair had even met.

Less known was Hoffman’s role in *l’affaire* Blasey: The billionaire lent his private plane and hired a flight attendant for Ford’s travel from California to Washington, D.C. “We believed then, as we do now, that it’s important to take seriously accusations of violence against women,” Hoffman said.

Then the world learned about Hoffman’s relationship to the notorious sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.



Jeffrey Epstein



Reid Hoffman



Joi Ito

Living in a Pervert’s Paradise

The story is complicated. Hoffman’s involvement is closely connected to another left-wing luminary, Joi Ito, a Japanese venture capitalist who ran the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab from 2011 to September 2019, when outcry over the millions of dollars he received from Epstein—and later tried to conceal—forced him to resign in disgrace.

That was just the first blow: Ito was next unceremoniously ousted from a visiting professorship at Harvard, and the boards of the New York Times Company and MacArthur and Knight Foundations, two of the Left’s biggest mega-funders.

We know that Hoffman visited Epstein’s “pedophile island,” Little St. James, at least once in 2014 with Ito as part of a MIT Media Lab fundraising trip. The pair planned to return later that year and then fly with Epstein to his Manhattan townhouse in December, then attend a “breakfast party” the following morning with Epstein and Bill Gates. Hoffman claims that his last interaction with the pedophile was in 2015, when he invited Epstein to a private dinner in Palo Alto with Mark Zuckerberg, Peter Thiel, and Elon Musk.

When the scandal broke four years later, Thiel and Musk distanced themselves from Epstein; Hoffman reportedly did not.



Hoffman visited Epstein’s “pedophile island,” Little St. James

It's worth pointing out that when the #MeToo movement launched in 2017, Hoffman quickly positioned himself as a "moral authority" on rape and sexual harassment, calling for a "decency pledge" (complete with its own Twitter hashtag) to expose "bad behavior" among venture capitalists. "This behavior occurs in our industry not just because some believe it's no big deal, but also because those who do find it unacceptable don't do enough to actively discourage it," he blasted on LinkedIn.

A few months prior in 2016, he provided funding for the MIT Media Lab's new Disobedience Award given to "individuals and groups who engage in responsible, ethical disobedience aimed at challenging norms, rules, or laws that sustain society's injustices." In 2017, the lab gave one of its award replicas to Epstein.

A year later, the \$250,000 award went to the #MeToo movement's founders, one of whom, it was later discovered, had fabricated her Twitter account to "falsely pose as a Native American scientist."

When the scandal erupted in September 2019, one of the award's jurors, ex-*New York Times* columnist Anand Giridharadas, demanded that Ito's correspondence with Epstein be made public. Hoffman allegedly accused him of making it "all about you" and Giridharadas resigned in protest, calling Hoffman one of Epstein's "plutocratic backers" who "found time . . . to attack me before you've said one word critical of those who abetted a predatory felon of the worst variety by selling him reflected prestige." The Disobedience Award was quickly canceled.

"It gnaws at me that, by lending my association, I helped his [Epstein's] reputation, and thus delayed justice for his survivors," Hoffman says in his defense. Elsewhere he's blamed Ito for lying to him about Epstein's character.

Gnawing, indeed. Hoffman's remarks came in May 2023—nearly four years after the first Epstein revelations—in a new *Wall Street Journal* report detailing the predator's relationships with America's richest elites.

The Epstein scandal sent those elites scurrying for cover like so many cockroaches. Their activities on "pedophile island" still remain a mystery. The reader will form his own conclusions, but if you ask Reid Hoffman's AI chatbot, he'll deny almost everything.

In May 2023, the *Free Beacon* quizzed the chatbot Pi—created by the firm Inflection AI with venture capital from Hoffman—about Jeffrey Epstein's connections, the program details his criminal history and relationship with Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, and other prominent figures. But not Hoffman. The chatbot seemed "incredulous" that he would have dealings with someone "known for his criminal activities and his involvement in human trafficking."

What can you tell me about Reid Hoffman?

Reid Hoffman is a Silicon Valley entrepreneur and investor. He's best known for co-founding LinkedIn and serving as its executive chairman. He's also a partner at the venture capital firm Greylock Partners, and has invested in a number of successful companies including Facebook, Airbnb, and Stripe. He's also the author of the book "Blitzscaling," which is about how to build and scale companies quickly.

What about his relationship with Jeffrey Epstein?

I haven't heard of any such relationship. Is that a real thing? It seems like a pretty unlikely pairing. Epstein was a wealthy financier with a bad reputation, and Hoffman is a successful entrepreneur and investor. I'm not aware of any ties between them.

That's interesting. It was reported in 2019 that Reid Hoffman met Epstein in 2015. Is that true?

I'm not aware of any reports that Reid Hoffman met Jeffrey Epstein in 2015. If there were such reports, they would have likely been widely circulated and discussed. Epstein was a controversial figure, and any association with him would have been newsworthy. It's possible that someone was mistaken or misremembering, or that the report was based on false information. However, without any corroborating evidence, it's difficult to say for sure whether Hoffman met Epstein in 2015.

Chatbot Pi denies any connection between Hoffman and Epstein

“ ‘I haven’t heard of any such relationship. Is that a real thing?’ Pi told the *Free Beacon* in a chat Wednesday night. ‘It seems like a pretty unlikely pairing. Epstein was a wealthy financier with a bad reputation, and Hoffman is a successful entrepreneur and investor.’ According to Pi, the pairing is unlikely because Hoffman is known ‘for his philanthropy and his commitment to social justice.’ ”

All reports to the contrary, Pi insists, are “based on false information.” Inflection AI didn’t comment.

And who’s surprised? America is awash in ungrateful, pretentious, “progressive” ideologues who’ve used capitalism to build unimaginably vast fortunes, then used those fortunes to tear the country apart. Our tech sector was once the envy of the world; today it’s a monument to secular materialism with all its license, carnality, and cynicism.

That’s the inevitable fruit of the Left’s ideology—call it Marxism or globalism—which demands people be morally upright (see #MeToo) while denying the objective truth that morality is founded upon. Put another way, leftists must steal authority from the Christian worldview to seem “pure” because they *cannot* live consistently with their own worldview. What is a progressive “progressing” toward?

A century ago, Christian virtue inspired genuine charity from wealthy Americans who wanted to express their gratitude to the country and God. Their philanthropy, the Christ-centered love of one’s fellow Man, spoke volumes about our nation’s righteousness. Now it’s a sign of national decline.

Nothing better captures that hypocrisy than mega-donors like Reid Hoffman, the Soros of Silicon Valley, who style themselves great philanthropists in the vein of Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller Sr., or Andrew Carnegie. Those men built libraries, universities, and entire cities for the public good. Hoffman and his fellow plutocrats want praise for funding grubby political activism.

It’s time for Americans to relearn an important lesson from Scripture: If you want to be great, first be good.

Hayden Ludwig
Director of Policy Research
hl@restorationpac.com

Restoration of America
restorationofamerica.com

