

## Daily Meditation 02-24-25

### Elon Musk: The Mad King's Mad Hatter?

Good morning.

In today's daily meditation, I am talking about the Mad Hatter, who is working side by side with a Mad King. The Mad Hatter has a name, I propose, and his name is Elon Musk.

Now on Saturday, I think it was, I spoke about, or wrote about, since Trump held himself a king last week, that maybe he's not just a king, but a Mad King, "mad" being the word that stands for anger, when a person has been taken over by anger: so full of retribution, resentment, projection, violence — but "mad" also meaning "out of one's mind."

So in many ways I was adding satire, I think, in play, to this conflict that the world is going through, as America is becoming uprooted from its origins, its Constitution, its rule of law, by the current administration in the White House.

So in Monday's (today's) meditation, I'm carrying on this same attitude of humor and satire, which I think is a very important dimension, not the only dimension, but a very important dimension to criticism is to bring in humor, to bring in satire. One person commented on my previous meditation saying, "why don't you just call it what it is? It's the takeover of the oligarchy, etc. So in using the word King, you're picking up on his language and giving it support." But I don't think I am. I'm laughing at it. There's kings and there's mad kings, meaning kings driven by anger *and* by madness.

So today I really continue that flavor, that tonality, of satire. And I'm proposing that Elon Musk is part of this *Alice in Wonderland* world that we're in now, this hole we've all gone down since November 5th, and which is now coming very visible and apparent, even to many who voted for — Trump — I almost said Musk, since we now have two presidents working side by side.

And I want to share with you some more of the observations from this article that I refer to in my essay how Elon Musk is moving far-right politics across the globe. One student of the far-right movement has said that what Musk is doing is very dangerous. When a non-political actor now speaks with a sort of political legitimacy, he is changing the paradigm of politics. And of course, he carries a tremendous platform and weight. Part of it is his being the richest man in the world. Part of it is his owning X, where he reaches so many millions of people around the world. And also that he has accomplished things, such as Space X and Tesla and so forth, that have made him a public figure around the world. But he's responsible to no one, really. No accountability, he's certainly not responsible to voters, because no one ever voted him for anything. In fact, polls show that he's very unpopular at this time.

The writer says that “one component of Musk's advocacy is his embrace of nationalism or nativism, regardless of which country he's talking about, but especially European countries.” And so here are the 18 countries that he has interfered in on again, with his public persona, that is a worldwide persona. So he's acting like a Secretary of State, you might say. But he, of course, does not have that official designation. Nor again, direct oversight by electors in a democracy.

So he has interfered, if you will, or brought his powers and presence into New Zealand, to the right wing in New Zealand, Argentina, Italy, India, Turkey, and of course, in Germany. He is strongly supporting the far-right party, and He gave a talk telling them to “move beyond Nazi guilt,” as he put it. He's meeting with key foreign leaders, as Senator Chris Murphy has said, operating as the Secretary of State: not to ask for concessions that would benefit Americans, but for concessions that would make him rich. Really, the bottom line with Musk seems to be “the bottom line,” but capitalism comes first. One researcher in politics at the University of York in England, says:

*Musk is succeeding in branding himself as a kind of global spokesperson of the far-right. He is a product of neoliberal globalization. But there's an irony here, because far-right leaders usually want to protect the nations from outside influences, while Musk, as a billionaire, built his wealth from transnational corporate capital. In other words, the product of neoliberal globalization. And right-wing politicians and political movements benefit from Musk's support because of his worldwide celebrity, with Tesla, SpaceX, and his enormous megaphone on X, where he has 217 million followers, partaking of X. And*

*that is where so much of his influence and his power comes from. He has joined Trump in meetings with national leaders from Zelensky in Ukraine to, of course, Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Hungary. His kind of diplomacy is now getting backlash from various political leaders. For example, President Emmanuel Macron in France accuses Musk of promoting a new international reactionary movement. But a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace says the type of freelancing we are seeing from Musk is unprecedented. And all the parties he's supporting in 18 different countries, are rooted in nativism and supportive of deregulation.*

Deregulation, this, of course, is sweeping through America, where Trump is erasing as much oversight as he can, and as many laws as he can, that are, for example, protecting the environment and many other areas, that vampire capitalism does not want to see any regulation about.

Steven Feldstein at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, says that “Trump has exclusively thrown his support behind not just right-wing politicians, but very extreme parties, including, of course, the alternative German party that does not want to criticize Nazism from the past.”

So these are some of the realities about the Mad Hatter accompanying the Mad President. Food for thought, and for resistance, and for shedding light on, because you don't want to let evil fester. You want to shed light on it. Evil is afraid of light.

Thank you. We'll see you next week.