

# Talkin' 'Bout A Revelation

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You know that lesson in socialism we've been spoiling for? It's here, thanks to Covid 19. It turns out we must look after one another after all — just as we did with the New Deal. Helping the downtrodden and vulnerable in the '30s boosted the economy. “We have always known that heedless self interest was bad morals, we now know that it is bad economics,” said FDR. More recently, Molly Ivins said it best: “When everyone does better, everyone does better.” Now, will we find the courage and energy to put a visionary “socialist” in charge? Stranger things have happened. Stranger things *are* happening. Every day.

And here comes lesson number two: unexpected hope for the planet. The massive rebound we're seeing in air quality and animal survival day-to-day thanks to human lockdowns and social distancing make clear that we are capable of curbing global warming and saving species if we can just behave a little differently. The global slowdown has the efficacy of a Maori rāhui — a total ban imposed on certain resources and areas in New Zealand. The Kiwi government backs the natives in declaring rāhui and it works wonders in conservation. It's essentially a big time-out. A period of respect. The effect is to reveal what might be, if we give nature a chance. It restores hope and energy.

Trump, a slave of greed and consumption, is incapable of learning either of these lessons. They are incomprehensible to him. This is so obvious to everyone that the only way to ensure a Trump victory in 2020 is to do what we did in 2016 — oppose him only with another mainstream capitalist, against which he can pretend to be a populist. Trump is already slipping into the Bernie Sanders impression he perfected in 2016. It's working because we are determined to ignore the real Bernie.

The president knew we wouldn't let him down. He's been digging dirt on Joe Biden for most of his time in the oval office. Has famously spent loads of our tax dollars doing so, in fact. Now the Dems are ready to feed incoherent Joe — the political face of the 2008 Wall Street Bailout — to Mister Nasty. It's like sending a scarecrow into a flamethrower duel. And the Dems know it. The buyer's remorse is palpable. Yet neo-libs are so terrified of change — even egalitarian, universal-healthcare change — that they will insist that we all ride the Trump tiger to the bitter end. Why? Because mean old Bernie can't promise he won't touch the ten percent while aiding the ninety percent. Unbelievable.

Barack Obama need no longer worry about his reputation. The die is cast. He's on course to go down in history as the man who gave us eight years of Donald Trump. Failing to deliver hope and change was one thing. There's plenty of blame to go around there. But ambushing the one person who can still deliver hope and change is quite another. Obama's bullying phone calls in support of torch-able Joe on the cusp of the biggest day of primary voting defined the former president as a relic of failed neo-liberalism. Posterity will not be kind. Populists will never forget.

If Joe's the guy, the 2020 election will be even more cringe-worthy than 2016. Instead of a saintly working-class hero pitted against a pampered tyrant, we'll now have two shady

characters quibbling over who's worse. Again. We'll even get to compare sexual misconduct allegations. And we'll all hear a lot more about Hunter Biden than we ever cared to know. Or some of us will. Many, of course, will have much better things to do. Ratings for the Biden-Trump debates will go down like the Hindenburg. Wake the young, the hungry, the rank-and-file believers, when it's over. If you can.

The generation gap among those who call themselves liberal is Grand-Canyonish because the medium is the message. Those over 45 favor Biden and receive most of their information from cable news. Those under 45 favor Bernie and receive most of their information from internet sources. The narrative from cable is stunningly biased. Interviews with Biden are relentlessly fawning and allegations of misconduct are stonewalled. No one can quite remember what Joe said just five or ten years ago, despite carloads of video. The day after Super Tuesday, two leading stories declared that millennials are not to be trusted after all and that Bernie is a commie.

The narrative from populist videos is passionate and persuasive. The big lie that Biden is more electable than Bernie has been debunked *daily* by bright young commentators for two years now. The Hill, The Rational National, and The Young Turks, among others, make the case that attempts to appease conservatives will be a recipe for disaster for the Dems in 2020, just as it was in 2016. Hillary was also supposed to be more electable than Bernie, after all. She wasn't.

Bernie consistently polls six to eight points ahead of Trump. Still, victory will require a new strategy that is actually quite old: ramping up voter turnout across the board. How do you do that? By *inspiring* people. Voters are clearly inspired by candidates who are visionary and authentic (or apparently so, a la Trump in 2016). Many Dems say they support Biden, but is anyone inspired? Amazingly, pundits now implore Joe to *just stay alive* through the election. Literally, all neo-libs want is a warm body. They'll take anyone other than squeaky-clean, working-class hero Bernie — our FDR. Unbelievable.

Bernie's leadership throughout the pandemic is undeniable, even by neo-lib stalwarts. Yet, as weird as many Dems feel about Biden, they will never trust Bernie not to break some well-tended rice bowls. We can't have that. Someone should do a statistical analysis of money flow and political opinion; I'd bet the farm that the more money you have or (allegedly) earn, the more you will energetically delude yourself and others into preserving the status quo. The cush blinds you to the suffering going on right before your eyes — and blinds you to how ridiculous you look propping up what can no longer stand. Praying that Joe keeps breathing is not a strategy, it's an abdication.

Don't look now, but the pitchforks are coming. Put your own spin on it, but it boils down to too much inequality for too long. Young people especially and workers across the board are fed up. It's how we got Trump, remember? Now, the last *two* presidents have not delivered on hope and change. The media and neo-libs love to dwell on style, but populists and progressives are laser-focused on policy. As Emma Vigeland and Krystal Ball recently pointed out, Joe Biden has made clear that he will not deliver on Medicare For All, the Green New Deal, a wealth tax, student loan forgiveness, tuition-free college, legal marijuana, ending the wars, or reforming trade. How positively Trumpish.

In *Beautiful Country, Burn Again*, Ben Fountain points out that America seems destined to have an existential crisis every seventy or eighty years. The last go-round resulted in the New Deal. But we have relentlessly chipped away at that bulwark — especially since 1980. We are long overdue for a newer deal — two, in fact: one to aid American labor and another to slow environmental degradation. What shall we call them? How about Medicare For All and The Green New Deal? Covid 19 is telling us we need both together.

There's a tectonic quality to revolutions: the longer the delay, the bigger the quake. We could have had one in 2008, with Joe's Wall Street Bailout. We should have had one in 2012, with the Occupy Movement. And we actively sabotaged a revolution in 2016, when powerful Dems schemed to ensure every deck was stacked against Bernie Sanders. If we don't manage to address the demands of labor in this election year, how can we *not* expect random unrest? With a third of the population armed to the teeth, things could get ugly. As Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez says, we should not be afraid of trying; we should be afraid of what will happen if we *don't* try.

As this is an election year, we have a small chance to manage revolution in good order. But it will require a generational breakthrough. Boomers must dig deep and recognize that young people have a lot more to offer than we're willing to admit. We did, remember? We marched to end a war. We brought equality, social justice, and environmental awareness into every conversation. We made a difference. But only because our parents and grandparents eventually listened to us. No wonder many of our kids show us disdain. Not only have we abandoned those high ideals, we refuse to listen to our children as our elders once listened to us.

Hey boomers: I'm calling you out. This is our last chance to show that we're not sell-outs. That we really are revolutionaries. That we see what's at stake. So let's talk to the young. Check out their sources. (Some are listed below.) It's their world, after all. It's just possible we'll discover that Bernie Sanders is not a commie hell-bent on impoverishing us personally. That he's actually one of the few of us who never abandoned the principles we once held dear. It's hard to rewind to a more youthful worldview, but the consequences of not trying are unthinkable. As FDR said, "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear." Hmm. What's more important than fear? The future, perhaps? Our children? Our country? The planet?

As a young teen, I wanted nothing more than to be a flower child. I burrowed deep into the empowering music and painted peace symbols in my room. Mostly what I dug were stylish posters of a utopian future: examples of racial harmony, alternative energy development, healthy agriculture, innovative transportation, and great architecture integrated in vibrant communities. But even then I knew that we could only get there through some evolutionary leap in spiritual wisdom — a collective revelation that would focus all work on the greater good. The thing is, I think that's *still possible* — because it's still necessary. Will Covid 19 be the trigger? It had better be. We're running out of time.

As for the young and restless, we must not yield. The only way we'll get Bernie Sanders or any other populist leader is to accept nothing less. Revolutions — and revelations — are not about compromise. As Krystal Ball of The Hill said, "Vote blue no matter who" is a con. "How will you pay for it" is a con. How can we take those constructs seriously if Joe Biden is your answer? If you force us to, legions of us will just say no to Joe,

for good reason. He has not earned our votes. Neo-libs have not earned our support. They offer us — the country — nothing. No longer will we be bullied into choosing between the lesser of two evils. Again, the only way to ensure your politician has a conscience is to supply one. *Always* vote your conscience. Sometimes that choice is “None of the Above.” It must be ever thus, if we want a better world.

Listen: We are being called to our better selves. This is not the time to settle for mediocrity in anything. We must never settle for mediocrity again. Somerset Maugham said, “If you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it.” Some of us took the pledge in 2016. The longer you stick with it, the better it feels.

Let’s marshal our courage. Maya Angelou said, “Without courage you can’t practice any other virtue consistently.” Americans think of themselves as brave but we show it less and less. We go on about freedom but seem unwilling to defend it. Much is made of the “Greatest Generation,” but *every* generation must be great, sooner or later, to protect equality and freedom, which are always under attack. This is our time, boomers and zoomers. Let’s declare a rāhui on all this chickenshit clinging to a normal that always gets worse. America cannot be the land of the free unless it is first the home of the brave.

Krystal Ball: Vote Blue No Matter Who Is A CON

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Aq8CJYECLs&t=2s>

Krystal Ball: Bailouts show “how will you pay for it” is a con

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8VL0KrVWJg>

Saagar Enjeti: Biden's Disastrous Appearance Shows He's Unfit To Lead In A Crisis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNPFCONha02E>

Krystal Ball blasts media’s Joe Biden #MeToo coverup

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vZTuU-NDV4>

David Doel: Breaking: Bernie Wins Democrats Abroad Primary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aq36TqOfzR8>

David Doel: This One Poll Could Decide The Election

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JUCnfxInEw>

The Young Turks: Why Joe Biden Will LOSE To Trump

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFiX4aoNFLE>

“Coronavirus Capitalism”: Naomi Klein’s Case for Transformative Change

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFqNAEx1lm4>