

Yesterday's Hands Off! Rally in Bisbee (6 April 2025)

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I was glad to see what I estimate was about 300 people at the rally in Bisbee yesterday (about three times the number at the previous rally), filling Grassy Park, overflowing onto both sides of Main St., encouraging horn honking from cars and pickups as they slowed down to pass through the commotion.

Unfortunately, the sound system was inadequate, reaching probably only a fourth or less of the crowd. And, like almost all political gatherings for some time now, the number of people under forty was practically nil. The first problem can be fixed by better planning. I don't know how the second one is to be fixed.

But it was a high-spirited gathering of old-timers and some newcomers, relatively unused to demonstrating in public. Many speakers spoke to the blatant incompetence and myriad wrongs of the Trump-Musk oligarchy, the corruption of both houses of Congress and both political parties, the attacks on our institutions, our health, civil rights, social security, education, environment, and small democratic government in general.

FWIW, here are the notes for my two cents and three minutes at the mic.

I. The putsch in plain sight:

1. "Flood the zone with shit" (as per Steve Bannon) - ie, keep everyone too busy/agitated to keep up with everything
2. Create legal and bureaucratic chaos in first months in power
3. Pocket billions of taxpayer dollars while everyone is distracted by the bizarre flurry of disruption

II. Tariffs:

1. Cause stock price collapse and sell off
2. Billionaires buy up devalued stocks
3. Prices go up, billionaires make more billions

III. The bigger picture: Two worldwide forces joining to dismantle and replace democracy as we know it: fundamentalist religion and fundamentalist economics.

1. Attempt to establish White Christian Theocracy based on a fantastic mythology of supernatural beings, divine law, and wishful moralistic thinking about life after death.

2. Attempt to establish an authoritarian technocracy based on a fantastic ideology of privatization of public goods, endless economic growth and survival of the richest.