

Dark Money: Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right
By Jane Mayer

Preface

Charles Koch's choice for 2012 presidency was Mike Pence.

Charles and David Koch: \$84 billion.

Marc Short, Pence's senior advisor managing Trump's transition to power, ran Koch's Freedom Partners. Americans for Prosperity, Koch's primary political advocacy group.

Trump had energy advisors, Michael McKenna (advisory to Koch Industries), Michael Catanzaro, a Koch lobbyist and Harold Hamm, Continental Resources Billionaire, Oklahoma shale oil fracker.

EPA ranked Koch Industries was one of three companies that was simultaneously a top ten air, water and climate polluter. Trump promised to get rid of the EPA, withdraw from Paris Climate Accord and called climate change a hoax.

Mike Pompeo, CIA, now Secretary of State – Largest single recipient of Koch campaign funds in Congress. (R Congressman from Kansas.)

In 2016, Koch network had a bigger payroll than the Republican Party. 1600 paid staff in 35 states, covering 80% of the US population – kept both Houses of Congress under Republican control and 32 state legislatures.

Mentor – Robert LeFevre – government is a disease masquerading as its own cure.

Trump's Inaugural Committee had Koch related billionaires: Diane Hendricks, \$3.6 billion, building supply company, means richest woman in Wisconsin and Sheldon Adelson, Las Vegas Sands Corporation casino empire.

Investors:

January 2009. Counter Obama. Renaissance Esmeralda Resort, outskirts of Palm Springs. Charles Koch called a gathering. Koch Industries is the 2nd largest private corporation in America. 4000 miles of pipelines, oil refineries in Alaska, Texas and Minnesota, the Georgia- Pacific timber company, coal and chemicals. Each worth about \$14 billion. Stop Obama from implementing policies. David Koch failed at the ballot in 1980 (Libertarian Party) – destroy the statist paradigm (1978)

The 2008 election was a complete disaster and the free market economy was in a free-fall. Market fundamentalism was under attack. Obama's election as the “greatest loss of liberty and prosperity since the 1930s” - letter to 70,000 employees.

18 billionaires joined the Koch network during Obama's first term. Some known contributors were:

Finance: Steven A. Cohen, Paul Singer and Stephen Schwarzman. Cohen's hedge fund SAC Capital Advisors at \$10.3 billion. Paul Singer, Elliott Management, at \$1.9 billionaire. Robert Mercer, Renaissance Technologies. Ken Langone, Home Depot. Richard Strong, Strong Capital Management. Tax evaders: Phillip Anschutz, Qwest Communications, \$11.8 billion. Richard DeVos, founder of Amway. His son Dick married Betsy (Prince) Devos.

Coal magnates, Corbin Robertson, Jr. (Quintana Resources Capital), Richard Gilliam (Cumberland Resources)

Hydraulic fracking: (gas from shale) – Larry Nichols and H. Hamm from Oklahoma. Hamm at \$8.2 billion and biggest operator in the Bakken shale.

Weaponizing Philanthropy: The War of Ideas: 1970-2008.