## The Left's Tesla Terrorism Agenda

By Victor Davis Hanson

I'd like to talk today about what I think I would call terror porn.

Terror porn is analogous to Hitler porn. Hitler porn, of course, is when you castigate or denigrate a public figure by comparing them to Hitler. Sort of like The New Republic putting a cover with <a href="President Donald Trump">President Donald Trump</a> with a Hitler mustache dressed up as a Nazi leader. And that, we saw that all during the campaign in various manifestations.



But right now there's an effort to sort of legitimize terror, and here's what I mean. As we scan the news,

Tesla dealerships, Tesla charging stations, individual Tesla owners are either being doxxed or targeted for violent acts. We've had cases where Tesla drivers were pushed off the road and confronted by left-wing activists. We've had Molotov cocktails thrown at dealerships and we've had Tesla charging stations that were attacked.

What is the point of all of this? The point is to send a message that anyone who would buy a Tesla or drive a Tesla or

even have Tesla stock should not because by the use of this violent activity, they're trying to drive down <a href="Elon Musk">Elon Musk</a>'s popularity and indeed his viability.

And this is what's very ironic about it. One of the ways that the Left is doing this is not just to use all of this left-wing money that comes through nongovernment organizations, foundations, political action committees, and filter it to these various groups, but to have mainstream spokespeople engage themselves in terror porn.

I'll give you some examples.

The late-night comedian Jimmy Kimmel said something along the lines, "Well, we shouldn't burn Teslas." But then he had this pregnant pause, "We shouldn't burn Teslas." Meaning, of course, you should do that.

Gov. Tim Walz, we talked before, has sizable investments in Tesla stock in Minnesota, of which he is the governor. He's in charge of protecting that investment for the taxpayers. He went on stage and bragged that his app said that the Tesla price was going down, down, down. He called Elon Musk an a—. He was back at it again. We mentioned earlier he'd called him a nepo baby and a South African, questioning the legitimacy of his American citizenship, apparently.

Then we had Rep. Jasmine Crockett, who is online in Zooms and other venues trying to help organize "Stop Tesla" with a little qualifier: We don't quite want violence—even though she knows that almost all of these efforts have a violent aspect to it.

You would've thought that astronaut Mark Kelly might have wanted to comment on the spectacular rescue of two astronauts that were brought back to Earth on the SpaceX super rocket. Instead, he didn't do any of that sort. Instead, he cut a video showing that he's getting rid of this car because he said he didn't want this Tesla anymore because it was made by

an a—. There must be some type of Democrat talking points that says you're supposed to call Elon Musk an a—.

What is going on? What's going on is this is the legacy of asymmetrical law enforcement over the Biden years.

If you were a protester on the abortion question and you were peaceable, peaceful, and you protested peacefully, but you were trying to limit abortion, the FBI was unleashed on you.

If you were a rioter in 2020 and for the month, the end of May, June, July, August, September into October you participated in burning a federal courthouse, a police precinct, an iconic church, you were part of the movement that destroyed \$2 billion in property, resulted in 35 deaths, 1,500 police officers, and you were one of 14,000 people arrested, the chances that you were going to be arrested if you were 14,000 and then subsequently arraigned, indicted, convicted in jail were minuscule. It was just a fraction. In comparison with the Jan. 6 protesters, many of whom four years in prison and over 900 of them were convicted.

So what I'm getting at is, there was a message to the Left and it said, "If you engage in street violence, that is considered legitimate political protest, legitimate political protest, and there will not be legal consequences."

A final note, <u>Sen. Chuck Schumer</u>, we've talked about before, is a very funny person and he poses as a sober and judicious senior spokesman of the Democratic Party and he is the Democrat, now, minority leader in the Senate.

He was the one, remember, as I've said on at least one broadcast, that said, "You, Justice Neil Gorsuch; you, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, have sown the wind and you will reap the whirlwind and you don't know what's hit you."

He returned to that type of threats again when he recently said that, in defense of his activism—and remember, the far

Left says he's not activist enough—what he said was, "You shouldn't get angry about me. I got all of these left-wing judges appointed that were cherry-picking to stop the Trump agenda through executive orders." But here was the keyword, and he said, "We are sending people into Republican districts to disrupt and have consequences for their votes."

So what I'm getting at is there's a two-tier system. There's the front-line soldiers who were burning Teslas and intimidating Tesla owners. Then there is the sober and judicious Democrat functionaries, the architecture of the progressive movement, who, with a wink and a nod, says, "We've gotta protest. We've gotta organize. But let's not get violent." But in fact, they are greenlighting violence themselves.

First published in the <u>Daily Signal</u>