

[Extremism Playlist on YouTube description](#)

Ravi Chandra

8/27/23: Is the GOP a domestic terror organization? How can its proposed leaders advocate violence and hate without official censure, even disqualification from party membership and leadership?

Vulnerable people and democracy are under assault. Everyone's got a right to free speech, but threatening speech can lead to violence. There is a cause and effect. We can't give our support to people who act like this. If this continues, aren't we opening the door for death squads and militia?

Racism and radicalization escalated as part of the "whitelash" during the Obama years, with a rise in hate, extremist, and anti-government organizations. Trump leaned into all that, and won the electoral college and presidency. He became "The Great Disrupter," to use tech parlance. And now, Ron De Santis and Vivek Ramaswamy have leaned into/hacked the disruption in an effort to seize the MAGA momentum.

The MAGA echo chamber has become an amplification chamber, with speech growing increasingly unfiltered. What was unspeakable becomes spoken. What was forbidden becomes mandatory. Ron DeSantis talks about slitting throats. Trump and Palin have suggested violence will result from the current prosecutions. Vivek Ramaswamy curses diversity and insists we all have to agree on extremist viewpoints in order to be "acceptable" Americans. All of these are documented in this playlist.

Ramaswamy also claims we are in a "civil war" over the woke agenda, thus comparing those who advocate relating to and understanding minorities to the enslavers of the antebellum South. Gee, Vivek, are you talking about liberating the enslaved FROM plantations or making sure THOSE people stay on plantations? I can guarantee you, no one is trying to enslave you. We're honestly all just trying to be heard. You have a huge platform. As a fellow South Asian American, I'm not sure how to relate to you. You seem like you really want a lot of attention, now that you've earned your millions You've got my attention. Shall we dance? Read what I wrote about you here:

MOSF 18.8: A Modest Proposal: Vivek Ramaswamy Takes My Civics Exam

<https://eastwindezine.com/mosf-18-8-a-modest-proposal-vivek-ramaswamy-takes-my-civics-exam/>

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Oppenheimer and colleagues wondered if their critical mass would trigger an atmospheric explosion. We should be wondering whether the critical mass being generated in the MAGA world might also trigger a catastrophic outcome. Even a single victim of hate is a catastrophe, and we are looking at a party that seems increasingly bent on catastrophe for anyone whom it deems an enemy.

And in some way, I guess I'm always writing and hoping that we can instead achieve a critical mass of compassion.

When do compassion and shared humanity get as many eyeballs? Are journalists only interested in horse races? Are current political means of handling society's distresses the only way forward?

If you think so, then maybe that's part of the reason 100,000 people a year are dying from opioid overdoses. Addiction experts agree and research indicates that addictions are essentially frustrated belonging. We are not yet a society that promotes belonging for vulnerable people. We are not yet the beloved community. But we've had and have real leaders who know what that's about.

Can psychiatry and society do anything? Is there no filter on this? Is there any plan for dealing with the mental health outcomes of this presidential campaign cycle?

Machiavelli suggested it was better for leaders to be feared rather than loved. Aren't we a little past Medieval Italy?

As I suggest in "Late Night Thoughts", we all have distresses. We have our moments, and might think or say things we don't really mean. We all have to contend with love, hate and fear. We all might feel disappointment, rage, and even alienation when we don't get what we want. That's a time to seek support, not threaten or bully people into following you.

Why would you hit like or subscribe to that, lol?

Do you like or subscribe to that rhetoric because political power or wins in November are the only kind of relief you experience in your life? We need to talk, seriously.

We all have to deal with wins and losses. What win are we pursuing? What loss are we running from? Let's not lose our humanity. Let's use it to find a way forward.

My personal belief is that violent rhetoric should be disqualifying for political leaders. RDS suggesting throats will be slit. Trump and Palin suggesting violence will be the result of prosecution. Ramaswamy saying we're fighting a "civil war" over "woke" agendas.

Honestly, I'm sure you have to be a little inflated to run for political office, but this seems a tad much to me. If we are in a "civil war" (ridiculous) - then do any of these contenders seem like a Lincoln?

How far must we fall, oh GOP? Is there any Grand left in your party? Or just weak at the knees institutional governance granting total privilege to abuse?