

The Media Firewall and the Vendor-State: A Forensic Audit of the Geopolitical Thermostat (2008–2026)

1. Introduction: The Architecture of Regulated Friction

The contemporary geopolitical landscape is no longer governed by the static certainties of Westphalian treaty alliances or the transparent binaries of traditional partisan politics. Instead, it has evolved into a complex, subterranean architecture defined by "Sovereign Capital" flows, "Regulated Friction," and "Binary Immunity." At the heart of this system lies a sophisticated mechanism of narrative control and capital management identified in this forensic audit as the **"Media Firewall."**

This report posits that the "New Right" media ecosystem—exemplified by high-visibility influencers such as Tucker Carlson and Candace Owens—operates not as a genuine revolutionary force, but as a "Loyal Opposition" or "Heat Sink." While these figures aggressively critique the cultural establishment ("Wokeness") and the foreign policy establishment (NATO, Ukraine, Israel), a forensic examination of their capitalization reveals a systemic, structural prohibition against auditing the domestic financial architecture. Specifically, the conspicuous silence regarding the "Great Taking"—the systemic dispossession of private assets via the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Article 8 and the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC)—is not an oversight. It is a structural necessity imposed by the financial intermediaries (Prime Brokers, Clearing Houses, and Distressed Debt Funds) that capitalize these media ventures.

This analysis integrates the **"Geopolitical Thermostat"** theory, which suggests that high-visibility "friction events" (scandals, leaks, social unrest) are synchronized with "institutional compliance" events (bank bailouts, regulatory waivers, infrastructure transfers) to obscure the transfer of power and capital. By synthesizing data from the "Project Trident" temporal studies, the "Sovereign Capital Audit," and the events of January 2026, this report demonstrates how the "Media Firewall" serves as the narrative lubricant for the transition of the United States into a **"Vendor-State."** In this new configuration, the U.S. supplies "Code" (AI/IP) and "Security" (Defense Guarantees) on a transactional basis, while relying on foreign sovereign capital (Gulf and East Asian) to fund the physical infrastructure required to maintain imperial function. The following analysis is exhaustive, tracing the origins of this system to the 2008 financial crisis, mapping the biographical and financial trajectories of its architects, and culminating in the "Binary Sink" operations of January 2026.

2. The Media Firewall: Anatomy of the "Heat Sink"

The central finding of this audit is the identification of a structural conflict of interest that delineates the boundaries of permissible dissent within the "New Right" ecosystem. This boundary is defined not by ideology, but by the financial imperatives of the "Prime Brokerage" class. The concept of the **"Heat Sink"** is critical here: in engineering, a heat sink dissipates thermal energy to prevent a system from overheating. In this geopolitical context, the "system" is

the domestic financial plumbing (the clearing grid, rehypothecation chains, and the Federal Reserve), and the "heat" is populist rage. The function of the Media Firewall is to direct this heat away from the plumbing and toward high-valence, low-risk foreign policy disputes.

2.1 The Tucker Carlson Paradox and 1789 Capital

Tucker Carlson is widely perceived as the vanguard of anti-establishment thought in the United States. His rhetoric consistently targets the "Deep State," the intelligence community, and the foreign policy consensus. However, a forensic audit of the capital structure underpinning the **Tucker Carlson Network (TCN)** reveals a direct linkage to the apex of the establishment clearing grid, rendering him structurally incapable of critiquing the fundamental mechanisms of financial dispossession.

The Omeed Malik Dossier

The primary financier of TCN is **1789 Capital**, a venture capital firm founded by **Omeed Malik**. Malik's professional history is not merely adjacent to Wall Street; it is embedded in the specific mechanisms identified as existential threats in the "Sovereign Capital" research.

- **MF Global (The Segregation Failure):** Malik served as a Senior Vice President at MF Global, where he helped reorganize the firm's global distribution platform. MF Global is infamous for its 2011 collapse, which was precipitated by the misuse of client funds to cover proprietary losses. This collapse highlighted the fragility of customer asset segregation—a core concern of the "Great Taking" thesis, which argues that "customer assets" are legally treated as general credit to the firm in insolvency. Malik's role in "reorganizing distribution" places him inside the machinery that failed.
- **Bank of America (The Rehypothecation Engine):** Following MF Global, Malik served as Managing Director and Global Head of the Hedge Fund Advisory Business at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. In this capacity, he oversaw the **Prime Brokerage** unit.
 - *Mechanism of Control:* Prime Brokerage is the business of financing hedge funds, primarily through the practice of **rehypothecation**—the lending out of client assets to secure cheaper funding for the bank. This practice creates the "securities entitlement" structure (UCC Article 8) where investors do not own their assets but merely hold a contractual claim against a counterparty.
 - *The Conflict:* The "Sovereign Capital" thesis identifies rehypothecation as the primary vector for the systemic dispossession of private property. Malik built his career and fortune on this specific mechanism.
- **Fannie Mae (The State-Banking Nexus):** Malik currently serves on the board of directors of Fannie Mae, placing him at the heart of the government-banking mortgage complex and the securitization of American housing debt.

Insight: Tucker Carlson cannot expose the risks of "Security Entitlements" or the dangers of Prime Brokerage rehypothecation because his boss, Omeed Malik, is a creature of that system. The "anti-establishment" energy of TCN is therefore rigorously directed outward—toward NATO, Ukraine, and cultural issues—rather than inward toward the financial plumbing that sustains the asset-stripping of the American middle class.

2.2 The Daily Wire and the Debt Barons

A similar structural constraint is observed in **The Daily Wire**, the media platform that incubated

Candace Owens (prior to her departure) and hosts Ben Shapiro. The incubation of this ecosystem was funded by the **Wilks Brothers** (Farris and Dan Wilks), billionaires who made their fortune in fracking services but pivoted to a specific form of financial predation.

The Distressed Debt Business Model

The Wilks family office operates as a sophisticated "Distressed Debt" fund. Their strategy, often described as "Loan-to-Own," involves extending financing to distressed companies (such as CARBO Ceramics) and then converting that debt into equity during bankruptcy proceedings.

- **Creditor Priority:** This business model relies entirely on the legal supremacy of **Secured Creditors** over equity holders and unsecured creditors in bankruptcy court.
- **The Conflict:** The "Sovereign Capital" research warns that in a systemic crisis, this exact legal hierarchy will be used to confiscate assets from the public (who are legally "unsecured creditors" of their banks/brokerages) to make whole the "secured creditors" (the Prime Brokers and clearing houses).
- **Narrative Control:** Influencers funded by capital that relies on "Creditor Priority" are structurally discouraged from criticizing the sanctity of creditor rights or the bankruptcy code (UCC). Consequently, the discourse on The Daily Wire focuses heavily on cultural wars and foreign policy disputes, which pose no threat to the legal frameworks that underpin the Wilks' wealth accumulation strategies. The silence on financial structure is purchased with the seed capital.

2.3 The "Parallel Economy" Trap

The Media Firewall extends beyond narrative control to the capture of dissident capital itself. The "Parallel Economy" movement, championed by these influencers, encourages conservatives to "stop giving money to woke banks" and invest in "anti-woke" alternatives. However, the audit reveals this to be a recursive loop that routes capital back into the DTCC system.

- **PublicSq (PSQH):** The flagship of the "Parallel Economy," PublicSq, went public via a SPAC (Colombier Acquisition Corp.) led by Omeed Malik.
- **Cantor Fitzgerald:** The SPAC merger was advised by Cantor Fitzgerald, a primary dealer and bond trading giant.
- **The Custody Trap:** Investors who purchase PSQH stock to support the "Parallel Economy" do not hold the stock in their own name. The stock is held in "street name" at the DTCC (Cede & Co.), meaning the "dissident" capital is legally owned by the clearing house. The movement generates transaction fees for Wall Street firms like Cantor Fitzgerald while offering the retail investor no legal protection from the systemic risks (such as the "Great Taking") that the movement ostensibly opposes. The "Parallel Economy" is, structurally, a tributary of the mainstream economy.

3. The Anti-NATO Paradox and the Vendor-State Transition

The original query specifically requested an evaluation of the "anti-NATO" stance of Carlson and Owens in light of the Media Firewall. This audit finds that their opposition to NATO is not merely a distraction, but a functional alignment with the transition of the United States into a

"Vendor-State."

3.1 The Obsolescence of Westphalian Alliances

The "Vendor-State" hypothesis posits that the traditional "Westphalian" alliance model (NATO, G7), based on shared values and mutual defense treaties, has been superseded by a Capital-Driven Asymmetric Alliance.

- **The Old Model (NATO):** Based on treaty obligations. The U.S. provides security to Europe because Article 5 requires it. This is "bad business" for a Vendor-State because the revenue capture is indirect and often insufficient (e.g., the "2% of GDP" spending complaints).
- **The New Model (Vendor-State):** Based on transactional exchanges. The U.S. sells "Security" (protection) and "Code" (technology) in exchange for "Physical Infrastructure" funding and capital injection. This model is exemplified by the relationship with the Gulf Monarchies (Saudi Arabia, UAE) and the "Stargate" infrastructure deals.

3.2 Why Anti-NATO Rhetoric is "Safe"

In this context, attacking NATO is the "Safe Third Rail". It appears rebellious, challenging the post-WWII consensus, but it actually aligns with the financial interests of the "Sovereign Capital" class (Thiel, Musk, Ellison, and the Gulf SWFs).

- **Supporting the Pivot:** By delegitimizing NATO, influencers like Carlson and Owens help manufacture the consent required to pivot U.S. strategic focus away from Europe (a legacy cost center) and toward the Gulf and East Asia (the new profit centers).
- **The "Silicon Shield":** The audit reveals that the U.S. missile shield is increasingly powered by chips made in Vermont but owned by Abu Dhabi (GlobalFoundries, majority-owned by Mubadala). The U.S. defense industrial base is becoming structurally dependent on Gulf sovereign wealth. An anti-NATO stance facilitates this shift by weakening the argument for "values-based" alliances and strengthening the argument for "transactional" partnerships.
- **The "October 7" Regime:** The Vendor-State maintains leverage not through treaties, but through export controls (the "October 7" rules on AI chips). This allows the U.S. to dictate terms to its "partners" (like the UAE's G42) without the cumbersome consensus-building required by NATO.

Conclusion on Anti-NATO Stance: Carlson and Owens are not undermining American power by attacking NATO; they are marketing the new business model of the Vendor-State. They are clearing the brush of the old alliance structure to make way for the high-margin, capital-intensive bilateral deals favored by their financiers.

4. Historical Forensics: The 2008 Genesis of the Vendor-State

To understand the current alignment of the "New Right" media and the "Silicon Right" capital, one must examine the genesis of this architecture in the 2008 financial crisis. The audit identifies the crisis as the moment when traditional Western capital markets failed, forcing the architects of the current system to seek alternative (sovereign) liquidity.

4.1 The Crisis Cohort

The key individuals who now sit at the nexus of the Asymmetric Alliance experienced 2008 as an existential threat that necessitated a structural pivot.

- **Peter Thiel (The Pivot to Sovereigns):**
 - *Collapse:* Thiel's hedge fund, Clarium Capital, collapsed from \$6 billion AUM in mid-2008 to roughly \$460 million by 2011 due to mistimed bets.
 - *Pivot:* Thiel exited public market strategies and pivoted to venture capital (Founders Fund, Mithril), a model that requires "patient capital" locked up for 7-10 years.
 - *Sovereign Capture:* This pivot created a structural demand for Limited Partners (LPs) with infinite time horizons. **Sanabil Investments** (Saudi PIF) was founded in 2009 specifically to exploit this vacuum, becoming a key LP in Founders Fund vintages as early as 2010-2012. Thiel's empire—and by extension, the ideology of the "Silicon Right"—is structurally underwritten by Gulf oil wealth.
- **Elon Musk (The State-Sponsored Survivor):**
 - *Near-Death:* In late 2008, both Tesla and SpaceX faced imminent bankruptcy. Musk was personally "days from broke."
 - *The Bailout:* Survival came via state injection: a \$1.6 billion NASA contract for SpaceX and a \$465 million DOE loan for Tesla.
 - *Precedent:* This established the precedent that when commercial markets fail, sovereign (or quasi-sovereign) entities provide the bridge. This model has now scaled to "Project Stargate," where Gulf SWFs are expected to fund the \$1 trillion AI build-out that Musk's xAI requires.
- **Donald Trump (The Brand-for-Cash Pivot):**
 - *Insolvency:* In 2009, Trump Entertainment Resorts declared bankruptcy. Trump reported over \$700 million in business losses.
 - *Transition:* Trump pivoted to a licensing model ("The Apprentice," real estate branding) that required no personal capital deployment. This "transactional" approach defines his geopolitical strategy: the "America First" re-industrialization is not funded by American taxes, but by "allied" sovereign capital in exchange for regulatory fast-tracking (the "One-Approval" process).

4.2 The "Great Capital Rotation"

This historical context explains the current "Great Capital Rotation." Capital is not "hiding" in China; it is fleeing China to underwrite the U.S. Vendor-State. **SoftBank**, for example, has systematically divested from Chinese legacy tech (Alibaba) to funnel proceeds into the U.S./U.K. innovation layer (Arm Holdings, OpenAI). The "Asymmetric Alliance" is the consolidation of Japanese, Gulf, and Silicon Valley capital into a single bloc, with the "Media Firewall" providing the necessary political cover.

5. The Geopolitical Thermostat: Mechanisms of Control

The "Media Firewall" operates within the broader "**Geopolitical Thermostat**," a system that regulates public attention to enable structural shifts. This system relies on two core

mechanisms: **Regulated Friction** and **Binary Immunity**.

5.1 Regulated Friction and Binary Immunity

The "Convergence Model" identifies a statistically significant correlation ($r=+0.6685$) between "friction events" (scandals) and "compliance events" (policy shifts).

- **Regulated Friction:** The controlled release of damaging information (e.g., Epstein files) to consume public attention bandwidth. This friction is not a bug; it is a feature used to "price in" liability.
- **Binary Immunity:** The state reached when an institution (like a Global Systemically Important Bank) is insulated from existential consequences (license revocation) in exchange for participation in structural operations (liquidity transmission). The "friction" is the tax paid for this immunity.

5.2 Case Study: The Deutsche Bank Precedent (2020)

- **The Systemic Need:** In Q2 2020, the Fed needed primary dealers like Deutsche Bank to transmit massive liquidity via Repo markets to stabilize the post-COVID financial system.
- **The Liability:** Deutsche Bank faced existential risk from its laundering of Epstein funds and Russian "mirror trades."
- **The Trident Operation:**
 1. **Regulatory Exemption:** On April 1, 2020, regulators excluded Treasuries from the Supplementary Leverage Ratio (SLR), granting Deutsche Bank massive capital relief.
 2. **Administrative Timing:** On July 2, 2020, Ghislaine Maxwell was arrested, creating a global media flashbang.
 3. **Compliance Event:** On July 7, 2020, amidst the noise, Deutsche Bank settled with the NYDFS for \$150 million. The bank admitted to "critical mistakes" but retained its license and access to the Fed window. The fine was a 0.06% "tax" on its assets, a trivial cost compared to the value of the SLR relief and continued operation.

5.3 Case Study: The JPMorgan Pincer (2023)

- **The Systemic Need:** In May 2023, the U.S. government needed JPMorgan to acquire the failing First Republic Bank to prevent a regional banking contagion.
- **The Liability:** JPM faced the "Project Jeep" scandal—revelations that top executives (Jes Staley) actively maintained the Epstein relationship for profit.
- **The Trident Operation:**
 1. **Regulatory Exemption:** On May 1, 2023, the OCC waived the **10% Deposit Cap**, allowing JPM to legally acquire First Republic despite antitrust prohibitions.
 2. **Friction Event:** Simultaneously, Jamie Dimon was deposed (May 26) and the "Project Jeep" files were unsealed (May 30).
 3. **Compliance Event:** JPM settled with Epstein victims (\$290M) and the USVI (\$75M). While the media focused on the salacious details of the deposition, the bank booked a **\$2.6 billion gain** from the First Republic acquisition. The "friction" cost was covered ten times over by the "compliance" profit.

6. Project Trident and the Venezuela Convergence (2025-2026)

The Thermostat mechanism is further validated by "Project Trident," which analyzes the temporal clustering of events in late 2025 and early 2026.

6.1 Statistical Verification of Ritual Timing

The "Project Trident" study confirms that "Ritual Events" (rare, controllable religious markers) cluster with policy events at a rate **3.5x higher** than the baseline of annual holidays (50.7% vs 19.9%, $p=0.002$). The December 2025 window serves as the definitive case study.

- **The Cluster (Dec 14-22, 2025):**
 - *Dec 14 (Ritual):* Chanukah begins. **Bull & Bear indicator** hits 7.8 (Market Pre-positioning).
 - *Dec 19 (Friction):* **Epstein Library Release** (13,000 pages). Consumes domestic media cycle.
 - *Dec 22 (Compliance):* **VOCA Funding Freeze** (\$88M cut to victim services) and **TeraWulf AI Pivot** (Bitcoin miners pivoting to AI compute).
 - *Insight:* The Epstein release acted as the "Flashbang" that allowed for the "Cover-and-Liquidate" sequence of the VOCA freeze and capital pivot.

6.2 The Graham-Venezuela Analysis

The Venezuela intervention of 2025-2026 demonstrates how the Thermostat is used for foreign policy execution.

- **Pre-Positioning:** For 54 days prior to the Epstein release, Senator Lindsey Graham escalated rhetoric on Venezuela ("Time for action").
- **Convergence:** On Dec 16 (Day -3), Graham linked Venezuela to the "CRINK" axis (China-Russia-Iran-North Korea).
- **Execution:** On Jan 3, 2026 (Day +15 from the Epstein release), U.S. forces captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. This aligns with **Granger Causality** findings that friction events predict compliance actions 1–4 weeks later. The domestic chaos of the Epstein files provided the vacuum for the foreign intervention.

7. The Binary Sink and the Administrative Kill Chain (January 2026)

The culmination of these mechanisms is the "Binary Sink," observed in January 2026. This represents the industrialization of friction, where dissent is managed to create legal pretexts for capital seizure.

7.1 The Binary Sink Mechanism

The Binary Sink creates a "Main Character" battle between two funded sides.

- **Side A (The Resistance):** Funded by entities like Open Society/Tides. Utilizes "Crowds

- for Hire" and recruitment ads for "Brave/Tough Men" to ensure kinetic friction.
- **Side B (The Enforcement):** Funded by the state. Exemplified by the **\$100M ICE recruitment campaign** launched Jan 2, 2026.

7.2 The "Stop FUNDERS Act"

The "high heat" generated by the clash of Side A and Side B (e.g., the Minneapolis ICE clashes on Jan 15, 2026) is used to justify the **"Stop FUNDERS Act"**.

- **The Kill Chain:** The act amends **RICO laws** to include "rioting" as a predicate offense.
- **Asset Seizure:** This allows the DOJ to seize the assets of the foundations funding "Side A."
- **Capital Redirection:** The audit suggests these seized assets are not destroyed but redirected into "Side B" infrastructure, specifically **Project Stargate** (private AI compute). This is the "Administrative Kill Chain"—using managed dissent to legally transfer capital from NGO adversaries to state-aligned tech infrastructure.

7.3 The FCC "Delete" Rule

Simultaneously, on Jan 14, 2026, the FCC implemented the "Delete" rule. This ensures that outages at critical infrastructure (data centers, cell towers) caused by the "paid protests" are not reported to the public in detail. This "technical opacity" allows entities like **SoftBank** to acquire disrupted assets under the guise of "National Security" stabilization.

8. Detailed Timeline of Geopolitical Thermostat Events (2008–2026)

Date	Event Category	Event Description	Mechanism/Prong	Source
2008	Systemic Crisis	Financial Crisis. Western capital markets fail. Thiel/Musk/Trump face insolvency.	Genesis of Vendor-State	
2009	Capital Shift	Sanabil Investments Founded. Gulf SWFs reorganize to deploy capital into Western VC.	Capital Structure	
2011	Systemic Context	MF Global Collapse. Omeed Malik reorganizes distribution; segregation failures exposed.	Prime Brokerage Risk	
2020 Apr 1	Regulatory	SLR Relief Granted.	Trident: Exemption	

Date	Event Category	Event Description	Mechanism/Prong	Source
		Fed/FDIC exclude Treasuries from leverage ratio for banks.		
2020 Jul 2	Friction	Ghislaine Maxwell Arrested. Media flashbang consumes global attention.	Trident: Timing	
2020 Jul 7	Compliance	Deutsche Bank Fined \$150M. Closes Epstein file; retains license/repo access.	Binary Immunity	
2023 May 1	Compliance	JPMorgan Acquires First Republic. OCC waives 10% Deposit Cap; FDIC loss-share.	Trident: Exemption	
2023 May 30	Friction	"Project Jeep" Unsealed. JPM Epstein files released; Dimon deposed.	Trident: Timing	
2023 Jun 12	Compliance	JPMorgan Settles (\$290M). Pays victim class action; books \$2.6B gain from FRB.	Binary Immunity	
2025 Mar	Infrastructure	DOGE Adobe Cuts. 11,020 licenses cut, creating redaction vulnerability.	Infra Vulnerability	
2025 Oct 26	Geopolitics	Graham Escalation. Trump briefs Congress; Graham threatens "land strikes."	Pre-Positioning	
2025 Dec 14	Ritual/Fin	Chanukah Begins / Bull & Bear 7.8. Market signaling aligns with ritual	Project Trident	

Date	Event Category	Event Description	Mechanism/Prong	Source
		calendar.		
2025 Dec 16	Geopolitics	Graham "CRINK" Statement. Links Venezuela to Axis 3 days pre-release.	Convergence Window	
2025 Dec 19	Friction	Epstein Library Release. 13,000 pages released; consumes media cycle.	Flashbang Event	
2025 Dec 22	Compliance	VOCA Freeze / TeraWulf Pivot. Funding cuts and AI infra shifts occur under cover.	Cover-and-Liquidate	
2026 Jan 2	Enforcement	\$100M ICE Campaign. Massive recruitment for "Side B" of Binary Sink.	Binary Sink	
2026 Jan 3	Geopolitics	Maduro Captured. US military action in Venezuela (Day +15 from friction).	Granger Causality	
2026 Jan 14	Regulatory	FCC "Delete" Rule. Infra outages no longer reported in detail.	Technical Opacity	
2026 Jan 15	Friction/Leg	ICE Clashes / Stop FUNDERS Act. Kinetic friction used to justify RICO asset seizures.	Admin Kill Chain	

9. Conclusion: The Silence of the Secured Creditors

The forensic audit of the "Media Firewall" and the "Geopolitical Thermostat" leads to a singular, structurally validated conclusion: The "New Right" media ecosystem, the "Binary Sink" of protest and enforcement, and the temporal clustering of friction events are not disparate phenomena. They are integrated components of a single control architecture designed to facilitate the transition to the **Vendor-State**.

The "Media Firewall" exists to protect the financial plumbing of this state. Tucker Carlson and Omeed Malik cannot critique the "Great Taking" because their capital base is derived from the

very mechanisms (Prime Brokerage, Rehypothecation) that enable it. Their anti-NATO stance is not a challenge to empire, but a marketing campaign for the new "Asymmetric Alliance" model—one that replaces treaty obligations with transactional deals funded by Gulf Sovereign Wealth.

The "Thermostat" exists to regulate the pace of this transition. By synchronizing the friction of the Epstein files with the compliance of bank mergers and AI infrastructure transfers, the system ensures that the transfer of wealth—from the public to the "Silicon Right" and their sovereign partners—proceeds without structural interruption. The "Stop FUNDERS Act" of 2026 represents the final consolidation: the use of manufactured friction to legally seize the assets of the opposition and redirect them into the machinery of the Vendor-State.

10. Source List

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