A Proposal for Correction

The Hook

The large portion of the American public that possesses pragmatism, maturity, work ethic, and emotional intelligence is the engine that keeps their respective organizations and their country moving forward. It is an unfortunate consequence that being level-headed also garners more productivity/responsibility and less expendable time, leading to limited resources for activism other than donation and voting. Circumstances have become so extraordinary, though, that the reasonable portion of the American public is needed to step up and grab the reins. In short, it is time for the adults to come home and restore sanity and common decency to America.

In the following, a plan is proposed to establish a network of the hard-working, rational Americans to:

- Allow each other to support one another, be encouraged, and reminded of each other's presence,

- Work together to suppress and erode the growth of fascism through distributed tactics that will go beyond the abilities of a political party,

- Form a highly-coordinated bloc of voters that can move in unison and accurately predict/measure turnout,

- Enable collective bargaining with a major political party to speed up platform changes that reflect the current desires of the rational majority,

- Exercise their powers as a large consumer market and dramatically influence businesses.

The goal is to create a social network and distributed policies to enable the many millions of smart, responsible, and logical Americans to boost morale, coordinate, and move as a collective arm of swift correction to fight cultural decay and pull the country forward.

Current Issues and New Tactics

The 2024 American election has made it unavoidably apparent that there are gravely concerning trends facing the United States public:

- An unignorable portion of the population will vote for an authoritarian demagogue leading a fascist party,

- Foreign states investing heavily in aiding the growth of fascism in the United States and are employing a variety of influence tactics,

- A major opposition party is having difficulty energizing and addressing the needs of its voter base.

Despite the cyclical nature of politics, these current tendencies have enough continued momentum to spark major concern with the public wanting to continue to protect the rights of its citizens and have a free and democratic process.

Issues with Sole Reliance on Opposition Party

For many who would like to resist the tide of fascism, the only current recourse is to support an opposition party (largely, the Democratic Party) through voting, volunteering, or actual employment. However, there are inherent limitations to the reach and efficacy of an opposition party. (Many of the following shortcomings are due to the nature of a political party in contemporary America and are not because of the tireless efforts of the current members and staff.)

The average American does not follow or subscribe to party information allowing for ongoing engagement; thus, it is difficult for the party to inform its members or gather feedback on recent platform decisions, events, and coordination; the market that most often sees party information is the same market who would most likely vote for the party anyway. Interactions with the party for the average person often involve overwrought requests for money, with very little personally-observable impact from resulting donations. In fact, most methods of outreach are now seen as antiquated as the populous are extremely busy and will not pay attention to advertisements, respond to home visits, answer phone calls, or read text message solicitations. Limited genuine engagement with the oversubscribed American people is a major weakness of the modern political party.

Another weakness of the modern opposition party is its mixture of competing objectives and reliance on financial support. For an apparatus that requires constant funding to operate, for instance, it is actually an *incentive* for the opposition party to have a party foe that imposes a dire threat. The scarier the enemy, the more donations can be expected from concerned party supporters. This, unfortunately, can undercut the motivation for the opposition party to effectively counter its rival party.

Most long-standing parties, in general, are entrenched in traditional playbooks, expensive campaigns, slow process, and deep, historic relationships with

external interests. This greatly limits the flexibility with which a party can change its platform to adapt to its market and makes the party focus heavily on financial support. All of these weaknesses can greatly restrict the ability of a party to actually serve its base.

A Push for Distributed Operations

Because of the weaknesses of an opposition party, it is imperative to investigate new methods of cultural and political correction[1]. It is proposed that the rational portion of the American public (i.e., those that can think critically, demonstrate emotional intelligence, and identify common manipulation techniques) form a distributed, nonpartisan coalition[2] to channel collective strengths to correct the course of the country.

Through concerted thrusts of the public, e.g., boycotts, promotions, social media movements, a coalition has significantly more power than a political party to *directly* affect the actual day-to-day lives of voting members of the fascist party; this is paramount as it has become evident that this is possibly the most important avenue of influence[3]. Additionally, the eventual power wielded by the coalition can be used as leverage for bargaining with a possible political party collaborator to adapt its platform and tactics.

The following are some of the many encouraging reasons that such a coalition has potential for success:

- Modern technology can allow a country-wide coalition to coordinate and securely communicate instantaneously with extremely little start-up costs,

- By definition, the coalition will include the smartest, hardest-working, and most creative members of the population (many of whom will already have important roles across a variety of sectors),

- Only lightweight efforts will be requested of the coalition—small tasks that, when performed simultaneously on a large scale, incur a major national effect,

- As rationality typically comes with maturity, the coalition will be able to minimize fracturing and infighting that can weaken larger activist organizations,

- There are no standing traditional structures or existing external forces to slow down or limit the influence of the coalition's efforts.

The remainder of the proposal will discuss the coalition in detail along with its immediate needs and foreseen obstacles.

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[1] Ideally, new methods can be made to eventually work in concert with a useful political apparatus and augment its operations.

[2] Note that the proposed concept is similar to a union, but the term is avoided to differentiate itself from the notion of a support system requiring member dues.

[3] The fascist will not respond to rational debate, indirect negative consequence, or any argument that requires considerations outside their immediate circumstance (discussed below).

A Coalition

As mentioned above, it is proposed to form a nonpartisan, country-wide body of Americans who:

- Think critically,

- Demonstrate maturity and emotional intelligence,

- Put pragmatism above dogma,

- Identify and avoid common manipulation techniques.

The working title for this group will be the Coalition of the Rational (CoRa). It will be the objective of CoRa to execute coordinated, legal, nonviolent social movements as to suppress and abate the growth of fascism, encourage and reinforce others amongst the coalition, and become an unignorable influence in the current state of politics. (Note that this will be a "process first, issues later" movement, as it is proposed to initially focus on fixing the political process first before making efforts to improve the government's stance on issues.)

Principles

To help ensure the safety of the coalition and maintain focus on the matters of most importance, the following principles shall be adopted:

- *Campaign Constraints*: All methods of any coalition campaigns shall be strictly legal and nonviolent.

- *Membership Requirements*: All members must be able to demonstrate the ability to think critically, emotional intelligence and maturity, a desire to put pragmatism above dogma, and being able to identify common scams and manipulation techniques. No member shall be turned away because of any preexisting party affiliation or education level (see *Membership* below). No membership dues will be required; self-funding will only be done voluntarily and as needed[4]. A list of current expenses will be maintained and posted to inform members of areas in which they can donate.

- *Democratic Procedure for Major Decisions*: For major coalition decisions, the choice shall be put up to majority vote amongst members. To retain speed and flexibility, there is a reasonable allowance for those coordinating a specific task to make decisions without relying on a full group vote.

- *Insulation from Exposure*: To safeguard the members and avoid single voices outweighing others, anonymity of members will be prioritized and preserved within reason. A notable exception would be if members met

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[4]Depending on growth and scaling, a lightweight non-profit corporation for coordination and legal reasons may be necessary. This should only be instituted if absolutely necessary, however.

in-person, such anonymity may be difficult and/or unreasonable to expect. As the majority of interaction and communication will be done via the internet, however, anonymity should be an achievable prospect to maintain. Additionally, the coalition will not be used as a method of gaining notoriety or power; creation of public figures should be kept to a minimum and voted on prior. [Cybersecurity experts and activist group leaders should weigh in on reliable methods of secure communications.]

- *Insulation from External Influence*: It is imperative that, if successful, the coalition be immune to reliance on financial relationships with external groups. As the coalition will inevitably incur costs (kept to a minimum by planning and exploiting free resources whenever possible), all operational costs will be first compensated by self-funding from coalition members. Upon need for further funding, other donations can be used to cover costs. Any external donations shall be anonymous and cannot be directly coordinated by any member. Additionally, sponsorship by existing public persona or celebrity should be done without requiring any concession of the coalition. [Accounting experts and organizational leaders should weigh in on setting up donation pipelines.]

Membership

A critical component of the coalition will be the membership process as it is imperative to gather a large base but ensure a membership that reflects the ideals set forth by the coalition. To achieve this, there will be two paths to membership:

- *Membership via Referral*: The main path (especially initially) to membership will be referral by existing member; this path should be revered with utmost respect and care as it is relying heavily on the integrity of its members to maintain the quality of the coalition. Referrals will be recorded and behaviors of members referred will reflect upon their referring member; thus, referrals should be used with great consideration. Further, being accepted by referral should be seen as a great privilege as the general application path will require much more effort. [Cybersecurity, general security experts, activist group leaders should weigh in on available ways to verify identity and perform background checking.]

- *Membership via Training and Contribution*: If referral is not an option for a prospective member, they will need to go through training—something similar to a driver's examination. Training will include the identification of common scams and deceitful political tactics, an education and required acknowledgment of current affairs, and a cursory psychological profile. Ideally, these tests will pose no issue for those with conventional and emotional intelligence. If needed, this may also require an interview with an existing member. Additionally, some amount of community service and interaction with coalition members may be asked of a prospective member,

especially if the member has an apparent ill-fitting background. Ideally, any service requested would put the prospective member in contact with a diverse demographic to foster relationships and experiences outside their current circumstance. [Psychology and polling experts, scientists, political activists, and community organizers should weigh in on developing these tests and desired contributions.]

Another aspect of membership that will be very important is account moderation. If the coalition is able to amass a large amount of members, it will be inevitable that some members may join that are either hindering productivity and/or providing information to an adversarial group. Community forums and discussions must be moderated and such activity should be reported.

Social Network

The main resource for the coalition will be a social network, herein nicknamed CoRaNet, that includes:

- Main informational page with upcoming events and latest news,
- Discussion boards for task coordination and brainstorming,
- Voting for coalition issues,
- Training resources,
- Lists of supporting communities and businesses,
- Feed for posting latest task updates, announcements, and encouragement.

The public space within the coalition social network must be carefully designed with constrained posting permissions; it must also be actively moderated as there may be members who attempt to redirect resources away from group-wide goals; the coalition should not attempt efforts in too many simultaneous directions as this will lead to weakness and division. [Full-/partial-stack web designers should weigh on available frameworks and platforms. Internet security experts can weigh on needs for a distributed, redundant architecture like Mastadon.]

Anticipated Obstacles

There will be challenges to forming CoRa and staging effective ongoing social campaigns. The problems described below can greatly benefit from crowdsourcing solutions.

Avoidance of Fad Activism

A stumbling block for many similar efforts is being limited to the quick rise and fall of a social network news cycle (days to a week). This is commonly caused by people being able to become complacent, too busy to help, or feel like contribution does not add to the group. Members (both prospective and active) must be periodically reminded of the group's importance in genuine and meaningful ways. Additionally, it should be made very clear from the beginning what is minimally expected of a member. [Activist and community organizers should weigh in on how to best keep members excited and aligned.]

Legal Challenges

If large campaigns are successful and make impacts with businesses or political groups, there may be legal challenges to the campaigns employed by the group (despite them being necessarily legal and nonviolent). Campaign choices should be made with this in mind, and legal counsel (hopefully within membership) may need to be periodically consulted. [Activist organizers and legal experts should weigh in on best ways to obtain legal counsel for an activist group.]

Initial Campaigns

The foremost objective of the coalition will consist of two primary campaigns: (i) immediately create an apparent support network for other rational members of the public, and (ii) undercut the current growing fascist movement. It is proposed that these be the leading areas of focus as collective morale is needed for an effective movement and fascism poses the greatest imminent threat to the ability to influence all other eventual issues.

Nationwide Support System

Any successful social campaign will require a large and energized group of participants. Thus, it is imperative that the coalition stage a large-scale membership drive, provide everyday encouragement amongst members, and regularly exhibit the power and extent of the group.

Membership Drive

As mentioned in the *Membership* section above, initial membership will only be obtained via referral, and the privilege of offering referrals must not be taken lightly. The curation of a helpful, aligned, and motivated base will be essential to ongoing success. If membership growth is slow, other paths of membership, e.g., interview, submission of personal statement, can be considered. After formation of the coalition, resources for general application, such as training and testing, will be constructed to allow the broader public to join.

Everyday Encouragement

To help invigorate members, it is proposed that there be a way to feel the uplifting presence of other rational members of the public daily, both in-person and online; through recognition of others, the coalition members can give each other support, e.g., friendly greeting, encouraging discussion, patronage of a coalition member's business. Recognition amongst the public requires a way to identify each other, however. It is suggested that any symbols of identification adhere to the guidelines below:

- *Avoidance of Cost*: Any symbol used should be inexpensive and (ideally) something most people already have available[5].

- *Avoidance of Targeting Using Varying Symbols*: To mitigate any potential adverse impact by recognition from outside groups, any identification schemes should be obfuscated by coordination, e.g., change colors depending on week. (This suggestion can be revisited depending on popularity and extent of coalition.)

[Brainstorm fun ideas for identifying symbols and schemes; can also add a "secret society" vibe to the group.]

Periodic Demonstrations of Reach and Impact

Maintaining momentum and morale of the coalition will be extremely important. Eventually, the primary method of ensuring a motivated coalition will be the fruits of the campaigns executed by the group. During the initial formation, though, it will be helpful to have other means of exciting the base. Some examples would be: (i) showing a map on CoRaNet with recent member login locations and new member demographics to exhibit the reach and growth of the group, (ii) have a feed with short overviews of in-person meetings and local community activities spawned by the coalition.

Weakening the Fascist Movement

As the coalition grows, its members will be asked to contribute to the suppression of the fascist movement—a movement that is currently focused on promoting the leadership of Donald Trump and a major portion of the Republican Party. Fortunately, fascism in America still requires the voting of the American public to put fascist politicians into power. If the coalition can strongly weaken and reverse the momentum and coordination of far-right growth, it can stamp out the political influence of the far right and, subsequently, use its power to push to install checks and safeguards to further mitigate the rise of fascist ideals. The successful execution of these objectives will first require understanding the mentality and worldview of the fascist. [Need input from psychologists,

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[5]Symbols can still be manufactured and sold, but minimal versions should be easily available to the public.

As fascism is a far-right ideology, its messaging has become intertwined with modern American conservative media and has become increasingly thinly veiled. Due to the blur between fascist and conservative media, many have fallen prey to the narratives of far-right media but may not know that they are supporting fascism. Those taken in by the fascist narrative typically exhibit one or more of the following:

- Low self-esteem,

- Immaturity,

- Self-centered posture,

- Susceptible to peer pressure and mob mentality,

- Eager to believe conspiracy theories,

- Lack of foresight or ability for empathy.

Unfortunately, most of these traits imply that all tactics employed by the coalition must meet the fascist *at a middle school level* to be effective; campaigns cannot rely on rational argument and instead must focus on making base impacts as close to the fascist as possible.

Another complicating aspect of the contemporary fascist's world is the persistent availability of online safe spaces and media outlets where they can seek reinforcement and pre-packaged, manufactured justification of their ideals. It should be assumed that the fascist will see no information outside these safe spaces; any left or moderate media should be assumed to have little to no effect. Further, safe spaces will also spin any negative consequences of a fascist administration or movement, making rational argument difficult or impossible.

Considering the constraints for a successful campaign above, it is proposed that suppression the far right movement be carried out in the following three proposed areas:

- Create direct and immediate consequences in everyday life for the fascist,

- Abate the efficacy and spread of far-right messaging and propaganda,

- Establish a path for deprogramming and integration.

These will now be discussed in detail.

Direct Impact via Exclusion from Opportunity

As the view of the typical fascist does not extend far past their immediate self, paths to effective change and impact on the fascist will require creating a consistently-encountered set of consequences for their actions. Ideally, the fascist should be made to feel shame and regret for their decisions; however,

this will often require acknowledgment of true circumstance, and, additionally, negative reinforcement may be difficult to enact reliably and safely in public. The proposed path forward is to, instead, create clear incentives for coalition members from which the fascist will be explicitly barred.

- *Exclusion from Desirable Community*: The coalition and its supporters must establish the group as the "cool party" (for lack of a better term) and appeal to the fascists desire to be accepted and upward social movement. This will involve a calculated spread of awareness and will also involve gathering endorsements from public persona. [Need input from public relations and brand experts on how to curate a desirable image.]

- *Exclusion from Financial Incentives*: Wherever possible, discounts and benefits should be offered exclusively to coalition members. The more excitement that can be drawn by the discount and/or product, the stronger the disappointment and pressure imposed on the fascist. (As a side benefit, a business owner would also be supporting their coalition customers.)

- *Exclusion from Desirable Dating Pool*: A major characteristic that fascist propaganda exploits is that the fascist often exhibits a lack of practical expectations for their future, e.g., they will make decisions that benefit the very rich, thinking that they will someday be rich (despite it being a near impossibility). In this vein, the fascist will often view desirable people around them and on social media as within their reach; thus, it would be a significant blow to the fascist's worldview to have members of the public and social media figures declare that they would only consider dating coalition members. This could be done, for instance, with dating profiles, social media posts, or symbols.

- *Exclusion from Careers*: Limiting the potential careers and/or career path of the fascist would also impart a widespread effect. This may be difficult to navigate legally but adding a stated incentive of coalition membership to job applications would be a strong push for non-coalition members to join. (Another side benefit would be the employer can ideally curate a better hiring pool.) [Need input from employment legal experts on what possible requirements could be used.]

Abatement of Far-Right Influence

The strength of the far-right movement heavily relies on the ability to consistently bombard its supporters (and potential supporters) with propaganda. This is currently being done through conservative media (e.g., television, podcasts) and social media bots. These outlets will convey a message with varying levels of subtlety supporting the main tenets of far-right ideology, e.g., misogyny, pro-rich, anti-intellectualism, homophobia, xenophobia, transphobia.

The stream of propaganda plays multiple roles in strengthening fascist support. The constant repetition of heavily-spun or false narratives from multiple

sources works to cultivate a faux reality in which the fascist appears righteous and important. Ubiquitous propaganda, especially through bots, appeals to those fascists that are particularly inclined to want to fit in and follow a mob mentality. Additionally, propaganda is also served with prepackaged talking points (usually with little to no actual backing by evidence) that can be parroted by a fascist supporter to appear justified in their beliefs.

As the distribution of propaganda is a keystone of the fascist movement, it is imperative that its apparatuses be a focal point of a campaign. In the following, critical tasks are proposed to weaken and limit the structure of the fascist propaganda machinery.

- *Degradation of Far-Right Safe Spaces*: Over the last decade, the internet has seen tremendous growth in forums and echo chambers where far-right ideals can be discussed and propagated. This has become extremely effective in the spread and reinforcement of fascism. To counter this, the coalition will mobilize its members to begin entering these safe spaces and employ tactics to effectively erode the morale and utility of these forums for a fascist. This will require standing up training on the best tactics to use along with safe privacy management, e.g., anonymous account usage, virtual private networks (VPN). Some examples of echo chamber denial would be becoming a "good troll" and post counter-fascist comments on social media to counter fascists and bots or join a forum and start spam posting to make the platform less useful. [Need input from internet security experts on how to maintain anonymity and activists on effective tactics.]

- *Negative Branding of Far-Right Ideology*: As outward appearance and perceived societal standing weigh heavily on the average fascist, it is important to brand their ideals negatively whenever possible. For example, making a campaign with images of fascists using pacifiers with far-right slogans on them; this is not only an accurate depiction of how many fascists use their ideology but would also brand them as infantile. If it can be done safely, a complement to negative branding would be to make effort to "out" fascists so they cannot dissociate from their toxic beliefs in public.

- *Siege of Fascist Corporations and Media via Boycott*: One of the biggest impacts the coalition can make is through coordinated boycotts as this can create dramatic financial impact on nationwide corporations. In fact, a critical piece of the coalition web presence will be a list of companies that should not be used, the reason for their specific boycott, and alternative companies that can be used instead. This can begin with simple boycotts to companies that have donated to far-right entities; however, as the coalition grows, this can take the shape of targeting advertisers for conservative media outlets with the goal of influencing them to end their business with the outlet.

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Deprogramming and Integration

As appeasing as it may seem to write off those currently under the influence of the fascist movement, the establishment of a pipeline out of the far right would be a necessary piece of the counter-fascist apparatus for multiple reasons. First, as campaigns are fielded that focus on demoralization and disappointment of the fascist, an alternate path needs to be introduced to avoid pushing them into further radicalization. Through offering a potential ex-fascist an alternative, the coalition can speed up rehabilitation of those fascists with wavering support of the platform. Additionally, ex-fascists would make excellent spokespeople to sway those currently under the influence as they can relate authentically. Ex-fascists would also have intimate knowledge of the ways in which people become introduced and potential ways that these could be affected.

There may be additional paths created, but the primary planned path for integration of ex-fascists will be done when trying to join the coalition. As mentioned under *Membership*, if not a prospective member is not referred, they will have to give cursory information on background and work through training and test exercises that are meant to verify a rational, empathetic entrant. If the person wishing to defect from fascism is unable to pass the training and testing, the coalition should make it a goal to provide further resources.

What's Next

If you are interested in helping and/or being a part of the coalition, there are many things that need to be done:

1. This proposal needs help from smart people and relevant experts to hone its message and fill out details,

2. When appropriate, it can be shared to be used as a seed for discussion,

3. Potential platforms for coalition website should be identified and tried; these may be preexisting social networks or could be homegrown. Start discussion with #coraproposal on BlueSky?

There are also many useful subprojects that can be spun off and built in service of the proposal. One example, as mentioned above, would be a website that keeps an updated list of companies that should be avoided with a list of possible alternatives.

For those interested in helping or have feedback, please email at:

coraproposal@proton.me