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Theres a lot going on in the
world right now If youre not Canadian
then the protest in
Ottawa might not be top of your list of
things to worry about But Im afraid you
should be worried You should certainly be
paying attention Whats unfolding in
Ottawa

is not a grassroots protest that has
spontaneously erupted out of the
frustration of local
lorry drivers Rather its an astroturfed
movement – one that creates an impression
of

widespread grassroots support where
little exists – funded by a global
network of highly
organised farright groups and amplified
by Facebooks misinformation machine The
drama

may be centred in Canada but what is
unfolding has repercussions for us all
They may be a fringe minority but that
doesnt mean you should as Trudeau seems
to be doing

downplay or dismiss them For one they
have a lot of powerful supporters The
usual crowd of
rightwing politicians in the US including
Donald Trump and Ted Cruz have been

cheering them on

They have also been getting millions of dollars in funding across crowdfunding sites from international donors

Donations from abroad are quite a common part of any large crowdfunding campaign Ciaran O'Connor

an expert on online extremism at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue told Politico

But the scale of this one is unprecedented

Another reason why you should take the Ottawa protests seriously Thanks to the wonders of modern technology

fringe groups can have an outsize influence Im sure youve heard of troll farms organised groups that

weaponise social media to spread misinformation promote division and influence public opinion Get this

in the long runup to the 2020 US elections Facebooks most popular pages for Christian and Black American

content were being run by eastern European troll farms According to an internal Facebook report written in

late 2019 and leaked to MIT Technology Review troll farms were reaching 140 million users every month

Threequarters of these users had never followed any of the pages theyd had the content thrust upon them

by Facebooks engagementhungry
contentrecommendation system
After that report was leaked in September
Facebook made a lot of noises about how
it was aggressively cracking
down on troll farms Has it followed
through on these promises Meta Platforms
Facebooks owner said on Monday
that it had removed dozens of scam pages
associated with the convoy protest from
Facebook; however there are
still a huge number of recently created
pages supporting the hauliers with
suspiciously large numbers of followers
Meanwhile on Telegram a social network
favoured by the right people across the
world are urging each other to
replicate the tactics in Canada in their
home towns Canada may not be on the brink
of civil war but what is
happening in Ottawa is one small front in
a global information war And the baddies
Im afraid to say are winning
Armed police in Ottawa have begun seizing
fuel from truckers protesting Canadas
vaccine mandate after a state of
emergency was declared over the worst
crisis the city has ever faced
Ottawas Mayor declared the emergency to
help deal with an unprecedented 11day
occupation by protesting truckers
who have crippled the national capital
A stretch of trucks in downtown Ottawa is

blocking Canadas parliament central bank
and buildings including
Prime Minister Justin Trudeaus office
Overtly racist white people defacing
national monuments while simultaneously
gripping about how put upon they are
when they are very much not put upon at
all is kind of our thing It was modeled
in grand scale during the Jan
6 attack on the US Capitol building a
deadly temper tantrum by pretend patriots
in thrall to a noted huckster
So it makes sense that last week Ottawa
Police Chief Peter Sloly called the
Canadian protests a nationwide
insurrection
driven by madness and said We are now
aware of a significant element from the
United States that has been involved in
the funding the organizing of the again
hilariously named Freedom Convoy
The whole mess started with ginned up
anger over the US and Canadian
governments requiring COVID19
vaccinations for
truckers entering their countries I say
ginned up because the group representing
Canadian truckers the Canadian
Trucking Alliance has disavowed the
protests and noted that most of its
members are vaccinated
To that point most of us in America like
most of you all are fine wearing masks to

help slow the spread of a deadly virus and getting vaccinated to avoid hospitalization or death The protests you all are seeing are just people in desperate

need of a club that will have them opting to fend off the virus by hollering blowing their truck horns and shouting incendiary nonsense

A protester in Toronto named Robert who bravely declined to give his last name told Reuters Were all sick and tired of the mandates

of the intimidation of living in one big prison We just want to go back to normal without having to take into our veins the poison which they call vaccines

Ah yes one big prison Trust me my Canadian brothers and sisters we hear stuff like this all the time I wish there was a vaccine

that could protect you from the American stupids but theres not Screaming into a bag can help but its only a temporary fix If I had to guess Id say the dimestore con artists presently getting rich on destabilizing America are eager to do the same thing in

your fine country as their revenue streams bubble up from hot springs of chaos

Focusing on the protest in Ottawa and

noting police estimated the peak turnout there at somewhere between 8000 and 15000 people Sandy

Garossino of Canadas National Observer wrote For all the Sturm und Drang the convoy is an extraordinarily weak national turnout in a

country where 500000 showed up to a climate march in Montreal Or even 60000 to a marijuana celebration in Vancouver Absent the trucks which are really just big noisy props it was essentially a national antivax rally which has now turned so dangerous

that police are afraid to break it up The low turnout is even more surprising in the midst of massive American promotion by those in the

Trump orbit Fox News Donald Trump Jr Tucker Carlson Mike Flynn Joe Rogan and many others

Small loud and obnoxious Yep thats the American stupids Canada Youve got a bad case Im afraid

Id offer to send some chicken noodle soup or something but your protesters would likely erupt in claims that a liberal fake news

demonworshiper is trying to mentally imprison Canadians by delivering vaccineladen poison soup that will turn everyone into experts on critical race theory

SoftBank Group and Nvidia are terminating the sale of Britbased chip designer Arm to the US tech firm due to significant regulatory challenges amid concerns from the tech industry that a deal would stifle competition

The buy price initially set at 40bn cash and Nvidia shares when first announced in September 2020 has risen closer to an estimated 66bn given the intervening hike in Nvidias stock – making this the biggest deal in the semiconductor market

The parties agreed to terminate the Agreement because of significant regulatory challenges preventing the consummation of the transaction despite good faith efforts

by the parties Arm will now start preparations for a public offering said Arm

Under the terms and conditions agreed by the companies SoftBank Group will retain the fee of 125bn paid by Nvidia this will be recorded as a profit in its fourth quarter

and Nvidia will keep hold of its 20year Arm licence

As the Switzerland of the chip industry Arms proposed sale proved controversial for Nvidias rivals who feared their access to chip designs would be restricted should

things proceed Both Arm and Nvidia played

down those worries but regulators on
three continents opened investigations

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