

The Joe Rogan Experience #2234 - Marc Andreessen

Published - November 26, 2024

Transcribed by - thepodtranscripts.com

Marc Andreessen

Hello.

Joe Rogan

Good to see you.

Marc Andreessen

Thanks for having me back.

Joe Rogan

My pleasure. Good to see you - where the world's still functional.

Marc Andreessen

It's amazing.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, amazing. We wanted to talk. You wanted to talk about the post election sort of a wrap up.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

On sort of where we stand. Are you happy?

Marc Andreessen

Morning in America. Very happy. It was a weird one.

Joe Rogan

That was one of the first times ever I felt hopeful after an election.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Like, you should have seen the green room at the comedy club. Everybody was like, "Yes!"

Marc Andreessen

Yes. So my theory is the timeline - like in a science fiction movie - the timeline has split twice in the last like nine months.

Joe Rogan

What was the first split?

Marc Andreessen

There was when Trump got shot. And there was that moment where the world was going to head in two totally different directions.

Joe Rogan

Right. If he got hit -

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

And we saw the most conspicuous display of physical bravery I've ever seen.

Joe Rogan

Right, afterwards.

Marc Andreessen

In that moment.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

Exactly. And it could have gone - you know - horrifically badly for the entire world after that. So that was timeline split #1. So that other timeline's out there somewhere.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

And I don't want to visit it.

Joe Rogan

Boy, imagine being stuck there. What kind of horrible karma. I mean, that's a totalitarian, dystopian nightmare.

Marc Andreessen

That's the bad place.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

And then timeline split again on election day.

Joe Rogan

I know you're - you fancy a good conspiracy theory.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

And that - that gentleman being able to pull off what he did and - you know - the way it happened - the way it all went down is - it's a Lee Harvey Oswald 2.0.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Oh, yeah.

Joe Rogan

Clearly.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, the shooter and -

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

There - and we still don't know anything.

Joe Rogan

There's no call for disclosure. There's no call for a press conference. There's no toxicology report. The toxicology report had to have been done. Wouldn't you want to know, like, what kind of stuff this kid is on that made him want to do that or if anything.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. So my theory is it's almost as if the people want us to think it's a conspiracy. Like, it's almost like the whole thing is almost orchestrated. Like, it's just. It's so strange, you know,

this is like the rapid cremation. Like, the whole thing was just completely bizarre. And then. You're exactly right. Like, no hearings, no nothing. Now, having said that, I expect that this will change. Right.

Joe Rogan

So do you think they're going to do a dive into what happened?

Marc Andreessen

I mean, I would. I don't know if they will. But, you know, I certainly would if I was in a position to do that.

Joe Rogan

I wonder what they can actually find. I mean, I don't know if they wanted it to be a conspiracy that people talked about or if that's simply the best way to pull it off.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, or it's just. Yeah, or it's just, you know, as we saw, I think, in the hearing afterwards, maybe just a systemic collapse of competence.

Joe Rogan

There's also a confidence in the fact that the news timeline today is so rapid that when things are relevant and people are paying attention to them is you have a couple days.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Even with an assassination attempt on a former president where people were murdered and it's in and out.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, that's right. I think it's exactly. I think the news cycle now is like a two to three day social media firestorm, and we just cycle from one to the next and we have the memory of goldfish. And things that would have been era-defining just come and go with astonishing speed and shock. By the way, I should say, I don't think there was. I doubt there was a conspiracy. I think anything's possible. I think we have a competence collapse, and I think we saw that on display when the director at the time testified.

Joe Rogan

Well, there's all the elements that it could have been a conspiracy.

Marc Andreessen

It could have. But this is kind of the thing which is just like. It also could have been systemic confidence collapse. And then it's like, okay, would it be better off for the Institute, you know, if it looks like a conspiracy? Right. You know, which world. Okay, two timelines. Which world would you rather live in? The one with the conspiracies or the one with just, like, incompetence everywhere?

Joe Rogan

Well, I think you have both simultaneously. I don't think it's binary.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

I think there's incompetence everywhere and conspiracies are legitimate. They're real. And that one seems like conspiracy. The fact that his house was professionally scrubbed, there's no social media record of this kid online. There's no nothing.

Marc Andreessen

He's the only kid of his generation who's that fired up about politics. To have no online footprint. Like, it just doesn't make any sense.

Joe Rogan

And he's a registered Republican. Like, the whole thing is like. Yeah, so weird.

Marc Andreessen

And he was like a bad shooter, and then he became a great shooter.

Joe Rogan

And, well, he definitely trained.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, right.

Joe Rogan

Like you could train someone to become a good shooter. Like, this is all you have to do. Don't move and do that.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

Get all your mechanics in place, understand technique and positioning, breathing. It's not like the most complicated thing from a prone position.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

But the fact that he chose to use iron sights, I thought was weird too. There's a lot of weirdness to it. You know, from 140 yards with a scope, that is an easy shot.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Well, then he could just like, wander up.

Joe Rogan

That's the different timeline. The different timeline is he has a scope and that's it.

Marc Andreessen

Okay. All right. Right. That would have -

Joe Rogan

And Trump's dead.

Marc Andreessen

Yep.

Joe Rogan

And then. Boy, Boy, do we live in a crazy world then.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Yeah. Completely bizarre.

Joe Rogan

I mean - what do the streets look like right now?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

What kind of like protests and riots ... you think January 6th was nuts? If they had killed Trump, that would be January 6th on steroids everywhere.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, that's right. And we would - we would experience it. I mean, you know, I don't know. When I was a kid, my high school history teacher got us a bootleg copy of the Zapruder film.

Joe Rogan

Really? What a gangster high school history teacher.

Marc Andreessen

He was actually pretty focused on the - he really loved the Kennedy assassination. So we spent a lot of time on that. And you kind of watch it frame by frame, and you can kind of see what's happening with. There's lots of questions, but, like, when things like that happen, you know, today it's going to be in high definition, 4K Ultra. It's around sound forever.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

Right. Playing out in real time forever. And so, like, I. Yeah, I very much don't want to live in the world where those things happen.

Joe Rogan

Well, we are very fortunate.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

I mean, like I said, after the election, I was like, "Wow, voting works."

Marc Andreessen

Yes, yes. Yeah. How about that?

Joe Rogan

Voting works. That's nice. Like, they don't have the system completely - completely rigged and then. But they kind of tried to rig it - at least with the media - where the real rigging in the 2020 elections, I mean, you couldn't cast all your conspiracies upon it in terms of like mail-in ballots and all this jazz. But the real rigging was the collusion between social media companies and the government to suppress information that would have altered the effect of the election.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

That's legitimate.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, yeah, for sure. Yeah. That was, like, direct interference, and it was aided and abetted by a lot of former intelligence officials and by the current administration. You know, tons of pressure on censorship coming from the current administration and all their kind of arms of the censorship apparatus.

Joe Rogan

You have your hands in the tech community. You have your fingers in all that jazz. Like what was the general attitude about all that stuff when it was revealed? How did - how did people - you know - how did your peers respond to that?

Marc Andreessen

I think anybody in social media, the Internet companies, knew it. So it was pretty well widely understood. I mean, look, there's nothing that happened at Twitter and the Twitter files that wasn't happening at all the other companies, right? So it's a consistent pattern. If you got the YouTube files, they would look exactly the same. And of course, we should get the YouTube files. And now we probably will now with this new administration is probably going to carve all this stuff open. But, yeah, no, look, it was a pattern. And then, look, the companies bear a lot of responsibility, and the people in the companies made a lot of, I think, bad judgment calls. But the government, the Biden White House, was directly exerting censorship pressure on American companies to censor American citizens, which I think, by the way, is just flatly illegal, I think. Is that actually subject to criminal charges? Like, I think there are people with criminal liability who are involved in this. So there was that. There were also members of Congress doing the same thing, which is also illegal. And then there was a lot of funding of outside third-party groups that were - that were bringing a lot of pressure down on censorship.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

Just an example of that is there's a unit at Stanford right next door to us that was the Internet censorship unit that was funded by the US Government and exerted tremendous pressure on the companies to censor. And it was very effective at doing so.

Joe Rogan

Does it smell like sulfur when you walk those halls?

Marc Andreessen

It is very dark and grim. This whole thing is very bad. And so -

Joe Rogan

Stanford?

Marc Andreessen

Oh, yeah, Stanford. Stanford. By the way, another unit like that at Harvard. A bunch of universities got pulled into this. A lot of NGOs and nonprofits got pulled into this. And so the Twitter files showed us kind of the basic roadmap. And then there's this thing called the Weaponization Committee that Congressman Jordan is running that has also revealed a lot of this. But I would imagine the new Trump administration is going to come in and carve all that wide open. And I know that there are people being appointed to senior positions who are very determined to do that.

Joe Rogan

One of the things that I found really kind of shocking, when they revealed how much money the Democrats had spent on the election and how much money was spent on activist groups.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

It's like more than \$100 million, right?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, there's just. There's extensive government funding of politically oriented NGOs.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, NGOs.

Marc Andreessen

One of those great terms, non governmental organization. All right. Like, what the hell is that?

Joe Rogan

What is that? Tell me. I don't know.

Marc Andreessen

Well, it's sort of a charity. But what it really. Sort of sort of. But most of the time it's a political entity. It's an entity with a political agenda. But then it's funded by the government

in a very large percentage of cases, including the NGOs and the censorship complex. Like the government grants, National Science foundation grants, like direct State Department grants. Right, Direct money. And then, okay, now you've got an NGO funded by the government. Well, that's not an ngo. Right, That's a Geo.

Joe Rogan

Right, right.

Marc Andreessen

And then you've got a conspiracy, like with censorship. Then you have a conspiracy because you've got government officials using government money to fund what look like private organizations that aren't. And then what happens is the government outsources to these NGOs the things that it's not legally allowed to do.

Joe Rogan

Like what?

Marc Andreessen

Like censorship.

Joe Rogan

Oh, okay.

Marc Andreessen

Like violation of First Amendment rights. Right. The government. So the first. So what they always say is the First Amendment only applies to the government. The First Amendment says the government cannot, cannot censor American citizens. And so what they do is if you want to censor American citizens in the government, if you're smart, you don't do that. What you do is you fund an outside organization and then you have them do it.

Joe Rogan

Boy.

Marc Andreessen

Right, and that's what's been happening. Right.

Joe Rogan

That's like hiring a hitman. Like, it's not okay to murder someone, but you can hire someone to murder someone and then you're clean.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. And if you want to solve a murder, it's not enough to find out who the hitman was. You have to find out who paid the hitman. Right. You want to work your way up the chain. And so a lot of this traces into the White House. The best defense the companies have is that a lot of this happened under coercion. Right. Because when the government puts pressure on you, like it might be a phone call, it might be a letter, it might be the threat of an investigation, it might be a subpoena. It could take many forms. But when the government does that, it carries, you know, that's a very powerful message. It's like a message from mob boss. It's like, don't you want to do me a favor? Yes, Mr. Gambino, I do. I like my corner store. I'd like it to not catch on fire tonight. There's this overwhelming hammer blower pressure that comes in. And by the way, even when the government doesn't talk to you directly. If they're funding the organization that is talking to you, then it's very clear what's happening. You come under incredible pressure. The whole chain, this whole chain of governments, activists, universities, and companies was corrupted.

Joe Rogan

Then on top of that, people in the companies, lot of cases, made a lot of decisions that I think they're probably increasingly starting to regret.

Marc Andreessen

What was confusing to me was that the government spent so much money on these activist groups during the election, and I didn't understand, like, what purpose that would serve. Like, what function would it serve to spend all this money on these activist groups that already support you supposedly? Like, are you bribing them to support you? Are they. What are they. Are they. Are you paying them to go on talk shows and consistently repeat the government's message, the current administration's message? Like, what would be the function of that?

Joe Rogan

So I think in some cases, it's just pay to play. Right? So for this example, we know that Kamala's campaign paid certain on her personalities. And then there were, to your point, people were very supportive of Kamala, who then gave her interviews that went really well. And so I think in some cases, you just have straight pay to play. That's just how that system works. It's just expected. And then I think you have other organizations like these NGOs and others activist groups where they actually do field activities. Right. And so there's, you know, maybe there's a get out the vote component or there's, you know, social media influence downstream component or some other, you know, kind of field activity that's happening in support of the election.

Marc Andreessen

I just didn't think that they paid, like, when it's still unclear whether or not celebrities got paid to endorse her. Right, right. Have you.

Joe Rogan

They've mixed it up because there's like Oprah said, Oprah says her production company was paid to put on the production, but she was not paid for the interview.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, whatever.

Joe Rogan

But it was, you know, 2. Whatever. \$2 million.

Marc Andreessen

It was initially listed as 1, and it turned out it was 2.5.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

And so if you own a production company, right, and my production company gets paid \$2.5 million to endorse Trump.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

And then I go, I didn't get any of that money.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

People like, shut the fuck up. It's your company. What are you talking about?

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

And also, how much does it cost to do an event?

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

How does it cost \$2.5 million to put on an event? Like, are you feeding people gold? Sandwiches. Like, what are you doing? Like, how is that possible?

Joe Rogan

Yeah, exactly. So, yeah. And then you can see the fact that it's deliberately obfuscated, of course, is a clue.

Marc Andreessen

I just thought the really biz one was the allegations. And I'd say unsubstantiated allegations. It's been alleged that Beyonce got \$10 million and Lizzo got \$3 million. Eminem got \$1.8 million. Really?

Joe Rogan

I think if you just, like, published all these numbers, these celebrities would all get so mad at each other that you sure. Then you would learn everything.

Marc Andreessen

Eminem got short.

Joe Rogan

Right, Right. Lizzo's furious right now. Right?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Lizzo's probably listening to this right now, being like, what?

Marc Andreessen

Well, I wonder if Lizzo is like, I didn't get shit. I would say it, but why haven't, like, Beyonce has been mom about the whole thing? I think I would probably say, like, I didn't get any money to do that. But that was a weird one, too, because a lot of people thought Beyonce was gonna do a concert. And she just went out there and talked, and everybody's like, what the fuck? Cause they all came to see a free Beyonce concert, and then she just said, I wanna support Kamala Harris. And everybody's like, good, good. Now if you like it, then you should have put a ring on it. Come on. We love your song.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

That's what we're here for.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

I just didn't think that it was even possible that a. I didn't think a candidate would ever pay for an endorsement.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

I mean, the fact that it was even alleged.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, yeah. Well, you know, and then there's, of course, there's. There's the even stinkier version, arguably, which is all the. All the social media influencer campaigns now. There's, you know, tremendous amount of payola, that's for sure. Right.

Marc Andreessen

Because I know people personally who are approached multiple times and offered a substantial amount of money to post things in support of Harris.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. And, like, I'm pro capitalism and I'm happy for them that they get paid, but, like, maybe we should know.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. That seems like something you should absolutely have to disclose. It should be, like, say, if I was going to do an ad for, you know, whatever, a certain coffee company, Black Rifle Coffee, and I did it on my Instagram. I'd have to say ad. I have to say this is an ad. It's a paid ad. That's part of the thing. You know, Unless it's your company, like, you're supposed to say, they're Paying me to do this.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. Yeah. Well, you know, look, the good news with these is we learn each cycle. We learn a lot about how politics works. We learn a lot about how fake it is. We learn a lot about the things we put up with for a very long time. I mean, everybody's always, like, freaked out by, like, whatever the new guy does. But, like, this real scandal in most cases, I think, is just the way the system already works.

Marc Andreessen

It's a sneaky system. Well, another fascinating aspect of the system that we learned out this time around is the uncontrolled aspect of it. Like what Trump called earned media was much more powerful than anything else. The uncontrolled version of it. One of the things that, unfortunately for them, mass media or corporate media has done is they've diminished their credibility so much. So much so that, like, Joy Reid was on TV today talking about saying that Trump was going to shoot protesters and just wild, unsubstantiated, crazy shit. And the more they do stuff like that, the more that they say things like that, the more it diminishes their impact and the more it drives people to independent media sources.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. I'm sure you've seen the ratings collapse that they've been. You know, they're down to, like. They're down to, like, MSNBC is down to like 50,000 people in the 18 to 20, 18 to 49 demo.

Marc Andreessen

That is so wild.

Joe Rogan

Which is tiny. Right.

Marc Andreessen

It's so crazy.

Joe Rogan

It's really tiny. So I think that's happening. The Gallup Organization has done polls on trust in institutions, including media, for the last 60 years. It's been a steady slide down, and in the last four years, it's fallen off a cliff. I think it's real. Oh, there's another study that came out. The kids are now watching a lot less TV. Kids are just giving up on TV.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

And they're just, you know, they're on YouTube and TikTok and Instagram and other things. And so, like, I think it's tipping. A question I've been asking myself is when will the actual. You know, famously, 1960 was the first television election. Right. You know, sort of legend has it, because it was the one where the televised debate really mattered. And if you saw the televised debate, you saw confident Kennedy and nervous Nixon, and if you heard it, you experienced something different, and handsomeness and vitality and health. Right. And all these things. Sort of positive, positive spirit, positive energy. I'm actually not. This might

have been the first Internet election, or maybe we actually haven't had it yet. Like, I feel like we're really close to the first Internet election, but maybe it's not all the way there.

Marc Andreessen

This is it.

Joe Rogan

I think this, there's an argument that this is it. Right. And that, you know, all the, you know, all the stuff, especially in the last six months, all the podcasts, obviously in your show played a big role. But like, I think there's a real. If you're going to run in 28, like, I think there's like a fully Internet native way to run these campaigns that might literally involve like zero television advertising. And maybe you don't even need to raise that money. And maybe to your point, if you have the right message, maybe you just go straight, direct.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, I see.

Joe Rogan

There might be a completely different way to do this.

Marc Andreessen

I think that's the only way now. And I think if you do pay people, it's not going to have the same impact. You know, I think these Call Her Daddy shows and all these different shows that she went on, I mean, I'm sure they had an impact, but I think that in the future I'm sure they're scrambling to try to create their own version of this show. This is one thing that keeps coming up like we need our own Joe Rogan. But they had me.

Joe Rogan

Well, number one, they had you.

Marc Andreessen

Number one, they had you.

Joe Rogan

They had you and they drove you away. Is that number one number. But they also have, you know, abc, NBC, cbs, cn.

Marc Andreessen

Right, but that doesn't work anymore. That's like, you know, like you're using smoke signals and everybody else has a cell phone.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that's right.

Marc Andreessen

It doesn't work.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that's right. That's right.

Marc Andreessen

It's just, it's, it's a bizarre time. It's really interesting though, like as you said, like we're in a great timeline and I think it's a fascinating timeline too because there's so much uncertainty and there's so much. Right. We are at the verge of AI, you know, open AI. You know, Altman has said now that he thinks 2025 will be the year that that AI becomes sentient, whatever that means. You know, artificial general intelligence will be, will emerge and who knows how that affects. I've said publicly, and I'm kind of half joking, that we need AI, government. You know, it sounds crazy to say, but instead of having this like alpha chimpanzee that runs the tribe of humans, how about we have some like really logical, fact based, you know, programming that makes it really reasonable and equitable in a way that we can all agree to, let's govern things in that manner.

Joe Rogan

Right. So you can actually simulate this today because you can go on these systems, ChatGPT or Cloud or these others, and you can ask, how should we handle issue X? How should this be?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, we've done that.

Joe Rogan

Right. How should the Department of Energy do whatever nuclear policy or whatever? And what I find when I do that is I discover two things. Number one, of course, these things have the same problem social media's had, which is they're tremendously politically biased, and that's on purpose and they need to fix that. And that's going to be a big topic in the next several years. But the other thing you learn is if you can get through the political, basically bias and censorship, if you can actually get to a discussion of the actual issue, you get very sophisticated answers.

Marc Andreessen

Yes, right.

Joe Rogan

Very logical, very straightforward, and it will explain every aspect of the issue to you and it'll take you through all the pros and cons.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

And, you know, I mean, it might.

Marc Andreessen

Be the way to go.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

Which is so horrifying for people to think because everyone's worried about the Terminators taking over the world. And like, if that's the first step, is we let them govern us.

Joe Rogan

Well, look, there's nothing stopping a politician from using this. There's nothing stopping a policymaker from using, you know, as a tool.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

You start out, at the very least, you start out using it as a tool. There's nothing to prevent. Like, for example, I think military commanders in the field are going to have basically AI battlefield assistants that are going to advise them on strategy, tactics, how to win conflicts, and then it'll start to work its way up, and then they'll be doing war planning. And then if you're a general, if you're a sergeant or a colonel or a general, it's going to just mean you perform better. So maybe there's a man, machine, symbiotic relationship. You could imagine that happening more in the policy process and in the political process.

Marc Andreessen

And there's also AI controlled jets, which are far superior. They did. Mike Baker was telling us about that. They did these simulated dogfights, and the AI controlled jets won 100% of the time over humans.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. And there's a bunch of reasons for that, and part of it is just simply the speed of processing and so forth. But another big thing is if you don't have a human in the plane, you don't have the. What do they say? The spam in the can, you don't have the, you know, you don't have the human body.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

In the plane, you don't have to keep a human being alive, which means you can be a lot faster and you can move a lot more quickly.

Marc Andreessen

G forces.

Joe Rogan

Much, much higher G forces.

Marc Andreessen

Ye. And then there's no option for someone to go crazy.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that's also. Yes, that's also right. Yes, exactly.

Marc Andreessen

There's no human element, which is a real element.

Joe Rogan

I think it's going to be common to have Mach 5 jet drones within a few years, and there'll be a fraction of the size of the current manned planes, which means you can have a lot more of them. So you kind of want to imagine a thousand of these things coming over the horizon right at you, and it really changes. It's actually. I think it'd be very interesting. It really changes the fundamental equation of war in the following sense. Fundamentally, in the past, the people who won wars are the people who had the most men and the most material. You just needed the most soldiers and you needed the most equipment. And in this drone world that we're talking about, it's going to be the people with the most money and the best technology.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, right.

Joe Rogan

And so, for example, small states, you know, small advanced states like Singapore will be able to punch way above their weight. And then kind of large, sort of economically or technologically backward states that normally would have won will now lose. And so it's gonna. It's gonna be a recalibration, and then it has the. The good news is you're not putting soldiers at risk. Right. So you'll have a lot less death. The bad news, arguably, is it'll be easier to get into conflicts because you're not putting soldiers at risk. So there's gonna have to be a recalibration of, like, when you actually, like, lean into an attack.

Marc Andreessen

I'm sure you're aware of all this UAP disclosure jazz that you see on television. The more I look into it, the more I think at least a percentage of it, a healthy percentage of it, is bullshit. And there's probably some government projects where they've developed some very sophisticated propulsion systems that they've applied to drones, and that. That's what these people are seeing. And this is one of the reasons why they continually have sightings over secured military spaces, like out in the Eastern seaboard. Like, there's areas over Virginia where they continually see them in San Diego. They see them off the coast of San Diego where there's a Place where you would test stuff like that.

Joe Rogan

Well, so of course we know that that was the case for a very long time for sure, from the 50s through the 80s, because the development of stealth was highly classified and the SR71 was brand new at one point. And so you had these like, you know, alien, you know.

Marc Andreessen

Do you pay attention to any of that stuff?

Joe Rogan

Of course, of course. 100%. Yeah. And then by the way, we're not the only ones. And so my speculation would be that some of the military based stuff is the Chinese doing something similar. And we got a glimpse into that with the balloon.

Marc Andreessen

Well, that one was goofy though.

Joe Rogan

They got shut down. But still the fact that the Chinese are flying surveillance balloons over American territory and they were able to slip through our early warning systems and just like, you know, loiter above military bases and like, you know, take lots of, you know, imagery and do whatever scans they do. Yeah, and like not literally nothing was happening and we didn't even know they were there most of the time. And so like, you know, that's like a tip of

the ice. It feels like a tip of the iceberg kind of thing. Where if they were doing that, there are probably other things going on.

Marc Andreessen

Well, I've read that someone had commented that similar things had happened during the Trump administration, but they didn't tell Trump because they didn't want him to shoot them down.

Joe Rogan

Interesting. Interesting. For the record, I'm pro shooting them down.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, I think you should probably shoot them down and taking pictures of shit they're not supposed. There's not even people up there. Fucking shoot them down. What's the problem?

Joe Rogan

Yes, exactly.

Marc Andreessen

Do you think there are any of those that are not of this world?

Joe Rogan

I don't think there's any way to know from the outside.

Marc Andreessen

Have you ever like pondered it late at night sitting on your porch, staring up at the sky?

Joe Rogan

Of course, of course. Well, raises number one, Is there or not? And then if it is, did it recently get here? Have they been here for a long time? You know, did they arrive 5,000 years ago?

Marc Andreessen

Tucker thinks they're demons and angels.

Joe Rogan

You know, I mean, demons and angels. Are demons and angels real? It's like, you know, literally, you know, probably not, but like, certainly they're metaphorically real. And are there China shades of gray between literal and metaphorical?

Marc Andreessen

Well, the actions are certainly demonic and angelic. Right. Actions of human beings. Mass things that happen in the world are uplifting or horrific.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. Evil people doing evil things are possessed. I mean, they're possessed by something like something is going on.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

And, like, you know, what's the dividing line between an actual supernatural force and some sort of psychological, sociological thing that's so overwhelming that it just takes control of people and drives them crazy? Like, you might as well call that a demon.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. It's fascinating because, like, when you think about. From theological term, like, when you think of it from a religious perspective, you know, people would apply. What would a demon do? What would angels do? What is the will of God, and what is, like, the evils of the worst aspects of humanity? You would, you know, you could apply them to so many things in the world. But we're very reluctant to say that something is demonic. Like, even though it's clearly demonic, like, clearly in action. Like, this is what a demon would do. A demon would possess people to gun down children and use drones to shoot down a wedding party. A demon would do that.

Joe Rogan

Exactly. So a friend of mine is a religious scholar. He teaches at Catholic University, and he's a religious history scholar, and he says that medieval people would have had a. Medieval people were psychologically better prepared for the era ahead of us with AI and robots and drones everywhere than we are, because medieval people took it for granted that they lived in a world with higher powers, higher spirits, angels, demons, all kinds of supernatural entities. And it was just assumed to be true. And in the world we're heading into that we're arguably already in, there are going to be these new forces, these new entities running around doing things, and we're going to just. We're going to struggle and we're going to catastrophize. We're going to conclude, like, AI is the end of the world. The medievals would have said, oh, it's just another spirit. It's just another kind of entity. Yeah, it's better than humans in some things, but so are angels. And so we're going to have to change our mentality. We're almost going to have to become a little bit more medieval. We're going to have to open up our minds to the kinds of.

Marc Andreessen

That we're dealing with.

Joe Rogan

Wow.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Which also could help us actually deal with people. Like, maybe there's an explanatory way to think about human behavior here that seems less rational, but might actually be more rational.

Joe Rogan

Well, you express yourself very brilliantly in describing the current state of woke ideology as a religion.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, that's right.

Joe Rogan

And that the way you described it was brilliant because you were saying that it has all the elements. Excommunication, adherence to a very strict doctrine, all These different aspects of it, saying things that you. Everyone knows to be illogical and nonsensical, but you must repeat it. You know, these things are indicative of people that are in cults or people that are a part of like a very. Like a serious fundamental religion.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Well, I mean, of course, the big difference between Woke and those traditional religions is Woke has no concept of redemption.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

No concept of forgiveness. Right.

Joe Rogan

Which is a very evil religion.

Marc Andreessen

You do not want that. Yeah.

Joe Rogan

It's also. Well, it's ill conceived. Right. Because it's like, immature. It's an immature religion.

Marc Andreessen

Yes. It's absolutist. It's inherently totalitarian. It has to be, because it can permanently destroy people.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

WOKE also understands something that the Greeks understood, which is that being ostracized and being put to death are the same thing. And so when the Greeks sentenced somebody like Socrates to death, they gave them the option of just leaving. But the problem was really, yes, Socrates could have just walked out and left.

Joe Rogan

No kidding.

Marc Andreessen

The reason that was considered equivalent sentences is because at that time, if you were not a citizen of a particular city, you would get killed in the next city. You'd be identified as the enemy presumptively and killed. And so there was no way to survive without being part of your community.

Joe Rogan

Wow.

Marc Andreessen

And that's what the Wokes figured out is you can do the same thing. If you're able to, like, you know, nail somebody on, you know, on charges of having done something, you know, unacceptably horrible, then you make them toxic and all of a sudden they can, you know, they can't have. Sure. You know, people, you know, they lose friends, they lose family, they lose. They can't get work, you know, and before you know it, like, they're, you know, living, you know, severely diminished, damaged lives. Some people then go on to kill themselves.

Joe Rogan

I don't know if you have been paying attention at all to Blue Sky. I have, but I have multiple friends that have accounts on Blue sky that are very sophisticated trolls and are pushing like the WOKE agenda to a satirical point, like, to, like, parody. But like on the Edge, where you're not quite sure. Well, they'll say enough real things that make sense and talk about

their own anxieties and personal issues with stuff and then say fucking ridiculous shit. And it's fascinating.

Marc Andreessen

I bet it works.

Joe Rogan

It does work. That's what's so terrifying. It's like all the outcasts of Twitter, all the people that were like, I can't take this. A few of them come Back, which is wonderful. I love when they come back, I'm gone. I'm gonna go to Blue Sky. Fuck you people. Like a bunch of them went to Threads for a while. Like Stephen King, he went to Threads, came right back. They all come right back. They can't. The marketplace of ideas. Like, okay, you could go to like a fruit stand in the middle of the fucking desert and that's a marketplace. Or you can go to the farmer's market where everybody's there. Like, where are you going to go?

Marc Andreessen

That's right.

Joe Rogan

You're going to go to the farmer's market. That's tons of people. It's a lot of fun, a lot of activity. Yes, that fruit stands. Fucking barren and deserted. There's no one there. There's very few choices.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, yeah.

Joe Rogan

It's not fun.

Marc Andreessen

And it's win, win to have. Well, it's when. When to have it back on Twitter. Because it's good for them because they want to proselytize and so they need an audience. They need an audience. So they, they win and then we win. Because it's really, really fun to dunk on them.

Joe Rogan

But it's also weird for them to not want any pushback at all. Like, don't. Isn't the whole thing supposed to be about an exchange of ideas? Like if you have a controversial idea and someone disagrees with it. Don't you want to hear that position? I know I do. I want to hear it. Even if I vehemently disagree with it, I want to hear it. I want to know where. How do you. How does your brain work? How are you coming to these conclusions? What makes you think this way? Who are you? What do you like? I want to go on Instagram. I want to look at

your pictures. I want to see what you're up to. What do you doing? You know? Yeah, what do you do? Your free time, you know, what are you complaining about?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, yeah, I want to.

Joe Rogan

It's like. It's a fascinating education on human psychology and to watch people express themselves publicly and then also be attacked publicly by strangers, which never happens in the real world, like at scale the way it happens on social media. And I think it's an amazing time for people to examine ideas, if you can handle it.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. My favorite term is marketplace of idea.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

You could have a marketplace of ideas. It's just going to be one idea. Right. So Blue sky is a marketplace of idea.

Joe Rogan

Sure, yeah.

Marc Andreessen

X is the marketplace of ideas. That final S makes a lot of difference.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, right. But the thing About X is it really is diverse. There's, I follow tons of like kooky leftist progressive nut bags that like have bizarre takes on everything. And they were 100% convinced that Kamala Harris is going to sweep all the swing states, including Iowa. They were all in. And I was like, this is wild. Like, is that going to happen? Are they? Right. Like, this is crazy. But It's. They were 100% convinced. And it's fascinating to see all these different kinds of people, to see the Charlie Kirks and, you know, the full on left wing kooks and see them all together.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

So you need that.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, Look. So one of the ways I think, to think about this is all new information is heretical by definition. Right? So anytime anybody has a new idea, it's a threat to the existing power structure. So all new ideas start as heresies. And so if you don't have an environment that can tolerate heresies, you're not going to have new ideas and you're going to end up with complete stagnation. If you have stagnation, you're going to go straight into decline.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, right.

Marc Andreessen

And I think this is the aberrant nature. This is the timeline split. I think the last decade has just been like a really weird aberrant time where things have not been working like they should. And in 2015, Twitter called itself the Free Speech wing of the Free Speech Party. Right. And Elon has not. Like, Elon has restored it.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

He brought it back. He brought it back to something that everybody thought was completely normal 10 years ago.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

And I think, I Hope this last 10 years increasingly is just going to feel like a bad dream. Like, I can't believe we tolerated the level of repression. Right. And anger and, you know, emotional incontinence and, you know, cancelation campaigns.

Joe Rogan

Emotional incontinence is a great term.

Marc Andreessen

Yes, there has been a lot.

Joe Rogan

That's right.

Marc Andreessen

Just diarrhea in your emotions, just spraying rage in all directions. And so I'm very, at the moment, at least very optimistic that there's a cultural change happening here that's even more profound than the political.

Joe Rogan

I have a lot of respect and also sympathy for Jack Dorsey. I like him a lot as a human being. I think he's a brilliant guy and I think he had very good intentions. But he was a part of a very large corporation and he had an idea for a wild west Twitter. He wanted to have two versions of Twitter. He wanted to have the Twitter that was pre Elon, where there's moderation and you can't deadname someone and all that jazz. And then he wanted to have an additional Twitter that was essentially what X is now. And he just didn't have the ability to push that through with the board and the executives and all the people that were fully on board with woke ideology.

Marc Andreessen

The experience that people like Jack have had running these companies in the last decade has been, and I don't mean to let them offload for their decisions, but just the lived experience, as they say, of what these people's lives have been like is just daily pounding, just every single day. It's like meteor strikes coming down from the sky, exploding around you, getting attacked from every conceivable direction, being called just incredibly horrible things, being attacked from many different directions.

Joe Rogan

Well, he's already left Blue Sky.

Marc Andreessen

Well, yeah. So the irony of Jack is that Jack then created Blue sky, which is kind of exactly the opposite of any way where he thought it. Oh, by the way, the new name for it, of course is Blue Cry. Yes, exactly. Yeah. But he's also got, you know, look, to his credit, he's still trying. And so he's got Noster, you know, which is another.

Joe Rogan

What is it?

Marc Andreessen

It's called Nostra Nostr.

Joe Rogan

Oh, okay.

Marc Andreessen

It's this kind of new. This is. It's actually his third.

Joe Rogan

He's going to keep swinging.

Marc Andreessen

Full credit. Full credit. He's going to, he's going to keep swinging. And by the way, full credit. He supported Elon. You know, they mixed up a little bit. But by and large he's been very supportive and was very supportive at a key time.

Joe Rogan

Well, I also found it fascinating that when there was any sort of a right wing branch of that stuff like Gab or any of these, they would immediately be infiltrated by bots as well. Like my friends that troll on Blue Sky. But these are Nazis. Like these are Nazi bots. These are people that would just spew horrible hate and then Gab would be labeled, oh, this is where the Nazis go. This is a right wing psychopath social media app.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. And I think, frankly, I think you get the same thing if you start out. I think if you start out overtly political on either side, I think that's what you end up with.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

And so I just like, that doesn't seem to be an effect route to market. It seems like you have to start from the beginning as a general purpose service, but you need to have some sense of the astral guardrails you're going to have around. And by the way, every social media service, Internet service, that ever works. There's always some content factors and restrictions because you can't have child porn, you can't have incentive violence, you can't have terrorist recruitment. And even the First Amendment. There's like a dozen carve outs that the Supreme Court has ruled on over time that are things like that, that you can't just like say, right, I can't say, let's go join ISIS and let's go attack Washington. Like, it's just, it's literally not allowed. So there's always some controls, but you need to like a spine of steel if you're going to hold back the censorship pressure. And there's basically Substack company I'm involved, doing very well.

Joe Rogan

I love Substack.

Marc Andreessen

Smaller than Twitter, but doing extremely well.

Joe Rogan

Fantastic.

Marc Andreessen

And they've done a great job, I think, of holding the line on this. And then obviously.

Joe Rogan

And it's an amazing resource. There's so many brilliant people on Substack. I love Substack. I get a large percentage of my news from Substack.

Marc Andreessen

That's right.

Joe Rogan

It's really good and it's so valuable and it's such a great place for people who are independent journalists and physicians and scientists to publish their ideas and actually get paid for it by the people who subscribe to it. I think it's fantastic.

Marc Andreessen

And there's lots of people on the far left and the far right.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

Right. So you actually have the full spree of like when a far left person gets upset at work, you know, somebody working the New York Times mad because they're not far left enough, they quit and they start and Substack welcome them in.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

Which is, which is why they don't devolve into a gab or something like that. Because it really is a plat. It really is a platform. It really does welcome all.

Joe Rogan

It's also very difficult to subvert in that same way because Substack is essays. Right. You're reading people's essays and papers on things and like these are long form things that are

very well, in a lot of cases, very well researched. And it's not the kind of thing you could just shitpost on. You know, there are comments, but it's just like they don't hold the weight that the actual article holds.

Marc Andreessen

Right. So my partners, my partners at work, they've observed that I tend to be able to inflame situations from time to time. I can tend to be provocative and get people really upset. And so the rule they've asked me to comply with is I'm allowed to write essays, for example, in substack. And I'm allowed to go on long form podcasts that I'm not allowed to post.

Joe Rogan

Really?

Marc Andreessen

Right, Exactly.

Joe Rogan

Well, you have rules.

Marc Andreessen

It's the rule. It's the rule now, by the way, I struggle against the rules because I can't help myself.

Joe Rogan

Why do I want you to have rules?

Marc Andreessen

Because otherwise I inflame people too much. I drive people too crazy.

Joe Rogan

You do it on purpose?

Marc Andreessen

Sometimes. I mean, sometimes you have to. Sometimes it's unintentional. Did you ever hear about when the entire continent, when the entire country of India was mad at me? No. Oh. I spent one night with the entire country of India basically wanting to kill me. It was incredible.

Joe Rogan

Oh, my goodness. What happened?

Marc Andreessen

I mean, I was in a Twitter debate with somebody back when I was just posting freely on Twitter and it was a debate about economics. And the topic of colonialism came up, and I made a comment in a long thread about, you know, colonialism. And it turns out the Indians are still extremely sensitive about the topic of colonialism. And I did not understand the mindset and the historical orientation, and I tripped a line and I stayed up all night and I went hyperviral. In every time zone in India, every hour there would be like an entirely new activation. And I was like, I was like, front page headline news, top of the hour TV news, like all the way across India. Wow. Yes. It was like a. I do not recommend this as an experience, by the way. I learned how many incredible Indian American friends I have because they all rallied to my, you know, my side, you know, said he's. He's not, you know, Marc's not literally calling for the recolonization of India.

Joe Rogan

Like, that's a problem with the language barrier as well.

Marc Andreessen

Right? Language. And then just what my biggest. Just historical context. Americans have a different. We Americans experience history differently than almost everybody else. History for us is just like stuff that happened in the past that doesn't matter anymore. But a lot of other people around the world experience history as something that really still matters. Like, really matters to their lives today.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

They just. They live in history more than we live. A deeper understanding of kind of how they got to where they were and the things that happened to their parents and grandparents and ancestors. And so there's just. It's just, you know, I don't know if it's, you know, better or worse. It's just a different way of experiencing reality. Anyway, I recommend learning that lesson not by enraging a Billion people.

Joe Rogan

I experienced a small version of that recently because I said we shouldn't be using long range missiles on Russia. And the Ukrainians, like, and Ukrainian bots. A bunch of people came after me because I was saying, like, the Biden administration. I was like, fuck these people. And then I think some people misconstrued that as fuck the Ukrainian people, which I absolutely was not saying.

Marc Andreessen

I see.

Joe Rogan

I was saying, fuck whoever in the last days of the presidencies decide to escalate this war because it appears. Appears that that's what they've done. It appears that they're leaving Trump a giant mess at the very least.

Marc Andreessen

Right. So good news is I am allowed to go on podcasts. And the theory it's your sub. Bring it up, though, because it's your subject thing. It's. It's because it's basically, Marc, you need. You need to explain yourself in long form.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

You can't just say a thing. Exactly. To your example. You can't just say a thing and have people extrapolate from it. Extrapolate. It's not their fault because you haven't. It's your fault because you haven't explained it. Right, right. And so if you write something long form or if you go talk for three hours, at least, you'll. The context will be there. And then if they want to get mad at you, that's fine, but you can point everybody to the transcript and it's clear that that's not what you meant.

Joe Rogan

Do you also think, while you're writing, how things could be misconstrued? So let me do a really good job of being very clear about this 100%. Yeah, you kind of have to.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Exactly.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. Like, I had Jimmy Corsetti on the other day, and he is an expert in ancient history and ancient civilizations. And we had these fascinating subjects, and one of them that came up was the Nazis and their fascination with the occult. And so you had to, like, clearly say, listen, fuck Hitler. Okay, can I be really clear? Fuck Hitler. Fuck the Nazis. Okay. I have not in any way. Okay, now that we're clear, let's talk about where the swastika came from. Fuck Hitler. Did I say fuck Hitler? Let me say it again. Fuck Hitler. But the swastika is this ancient symbol, and he's talking about, why did the Nazis have this fascination with the occult cult and with ancient civilizations? And so we got into it, but it was like one of those things where it's like, all right, we're hitting the third rail Everybody get your rubber boots on. You know, let's. Let's save everybody here.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. I've got a friend in the entertainment business who is quite left wing, but really likes World War II documentaries.

Joe Rogan

Ooh.

Marc Andreessen

And so he'll be like, yeah, I saw this great documentary last night about Hitler. And I'm like, I bet you did.

Joe Rogan

You can't even have a copy of Mein Kampf in your house.

Marc Andreessen

Oh. A student at. This is actually one of the Stanford crazy stories. A student at Stanford was reported to the disciplinary board, the civil. Whatever, discipline disciplinary board, for reading a copy of mine, Conflict in the Quad.

Joe Rogan

Oh, my God, that's so crazy.

Marc Andreessen

Which is a book that's been, you know, assigned for you.

Joe Rogan

Buy right now on Amazon.

Marc Andreessen

80 years to college kids to, like, understand who these people were and, like, how to not do that again. Yeah. That kid was, like, nearly brought up on charges, nearly expelled. So, like, wow, that's. That's. Yes. This is the world that I hope that we're leaving.

Joe Rogan

Well, it's just an awful way to look at things. It's so awful to think that if you read about someone horrible, you support them.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, that's right.

Joe Rogan

It's just so crazy. Like, how are we going to study history?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Right. And how are we going to. And how are we going to prevent bad things from happening again if we can't wrap our heads around why they happened the first time?

Joe Rogan

Especially something like the Nazis, how are we going to learn, like, what happened? Clearly, 1920s Germany was very different than 1945 Germany. What the fuck happened in 25 years? So what we're essentially talking about is the year 1999 America versus 2024 America. Imagine a shift of that magnitude. So crazy that there's a holocaust in 2024, and in 1999, everybody's just hanging out.

Marc Andreessen

Yep, that's right.

Joe Rogan

Well, you should probably study that and probably not reprimand someone for reading a book on this.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, that's right. Yeah, exactly. Look, the German people went along with it, Right. And so, you know, how did that happen?

Joe Rogan

How did that happen?

Marc Andreessen

And how many you know, did they. Was there active Agreement was it. Agreement was there. You know, what.

Joe Rogan

What are the steps.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Where things go horribly wrong.

Marc Andreessen

No, that's right.

Joe Rogan

And how could we recognize those. Because those steps have taken place multiple times in history. Recorded history.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

We know about them. So, like, if we see them happening today day, maybe we should stop it and nip it at the bud. What better way than to read about when it already happened.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. One of my observations about people talking about current events is we know conclusively the prior eras all had horrible moral problems, disasters, you know, catastrophes, wars and all kinds. They made all kinds of horrible mistakes. But we are completely certain that in our time, we figured it all out.

Joe Rogan

Right?

Marc Andreessen

Right. We're 100% convinced that we have it all dialed in. And the one thing I know for sure is people 50 years from now are going to look back on us and they're going say, oh, my God, those people were awful.

Joe Rogan

100%.

Marc Andreessen

Right. But, like, in what way?

Joe Rogan

Right. In what way are we horrible? I mean, certainly a lot of the way we treat each other is horrible, especially with the amount of information that we have available. But it is fascinating also that if you. I visited Athens last year. Last year, and I got to tour the ruins, and I was like, I wonder when it all went south. Like, when did they. When did they know this had fallen apart? Like, when. When was it in the peak of everything? They probably thought, hey, we have the most amazing sophisticated civilization that's available on Earth, and we will maintain this. Yeah, this is. We will be the center of intellectual discourse and the home of democracy. This is us. And then, no, now there's like, shitty apartment buildings next to the Parthenon. You're like, what happened? Something horribly happened. And we don't want to think that could ever happen to us today.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

We want to think we're American, motherfucker. We're going to keep this bitch rolling forever. Leonard Skynyrd, Freebird, let's go, Second Amendment. Come on. And we're going to. We think that it's just, this is. This is the future. America is the shining star of the world, and we're going to carry this on, but probably not, like, historically. I mean, what is the longest running dominant civilization ever? The Romans existed for what, a couple thousand years? Years. Like, how long did the Greeks run? How long did the Egyptian. The Egyptians might be the longest running, especially if you, like, take into account the possibility of alternative history timelines where they, you know, like Egyptian hieroglyphs, they have kings that go back 30,000 years.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

Here it is, Egypt and Mesopotamia. There it is. One estimate measuring the time of the first pharaohs. The use of hieroglyph writing to the native religion was replaced by Christianity. Ancient Egyptian civilization endured for about 3,000. I bet it was more than that.

Marc Andreessen

Well, the argument is just things just didn't really change like changes. We understood change of the kind that we understand where things actually change the way People live changes really kicked off with the Greeks. And so that was sort of the default status quo civilization for a long time. The Greeks kicked off change, as we understand it, and then the Romans. Do you know about the fish ponds? The fish ponds? The fish. Cicero's fish ponds?

Joe Rogan

No.

Marc Andreessen

So the Roman Empire, you know, ran for, you know, in its sort of Roman Republican Empire in a sort of help which you consider as dynamic phase. It's sort of vital phase. Ran for a few, you know, a few hundred years, about maybe 400 years total, something like that. And towards the end, as it was sort of falling, stagnating and increasingly starting to fall apart, a friend of mine says when the roads got dangerous and nobody could quite explain why. Right. Which sounds familiar, by the way. Cicero was, you know, one of the great. One of the great Roman statesmen, and he wrote these letters that we have, and in the letters, he sends these letters to all his aristocratic friends. And the theme in the letters is basically all of the actual competent, capable citizens of Rome are out in the countryside at their villas,

perfecting their fish ponds. Right. They've pulling into themselves, they've built themselves their own protected environments. Right, right. Where they control everything. And they're completely focused on ornamentation. They're completely focused on their clothes and on their, you know, lifestyles. Right.

Joe Rogan

Kardashians. They were Kardashians.

Marc Andreessen

I don't know if the Kardashians have fish ponds, but if they did, they would be spectacular fish ponds.

Joe Rogan

They would be amazing fish ponds.

Marc Andreessen

No doubt. They would be the most amazing fish ponds we have ever seen. And so he kept railing. He's like, stop with the fish ponds. Like, stop working on the fish. Like, get back out here, rejoin the Senate. Like, get back involved in the system. Let's keep this thing from caving in. And I think the significance, I think of Trump actually talked about this in the campaign, his version of this. Talking on the campaign trails. He's like, look, I could be off in a resort. I own all these golf club. Golf club. Many things I could be doing in my life, of course.

Joe Rogan

And he's 78 years old. He probably would like to do that.

Marc Andreessen

Exactly right. And he's, you know, surrounded. His family loves him and like, you know, grandkids and, like, the whole thing. And he's like, look, I'm not doing it because, like, I need. I need, I need to do this. And it's interesting because, you know, he doesn't use, you know, he's not referencing Cicero when he says that, but it's that spirit, right, that Cicero talked about, where, you know, when times get tough, do the people who are in a position to actually make positive change actually step up or not.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

And I think we've had a pretty long stretch here where that hasn't been the case. And I think maybe with Trump and then I think also with Elon. I think. Yes, because Elon's the other guy. Right. He for sure could.

Joe Rogan

Well, it's a coalition, right. It's not just him. It's Vivek Ramaswamy.

Marc Andreessen

That's right. Another guy, by the way, who could be kicking out on a Beach somewhere.

Joe Rogan

100%.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Very successful and young and handsome. He could do whatever he wants, doing anything.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, exactly.

Joe Rogan

Instead, he's decided to go all in. And then, of course, you have Tulsi Gabbard and you have J.D. Vance, who I think is brilliant. You have all these brilliant people that are together, which is very hopeful. This is what we didn't see out of the Biden Harris campaign. You know, what we saw from Harris and Waltz. You have Waltz, this guy who's. It seems like he's a compulsive liar at the very least. He's lied multiple times about fairly insignificant things, like whether or not he was a head coach or an assistant coach. And the lies have always elevated him socially. All the lies about his military service or at least implying that he served in a different perspective, in a different aspect. And then there was Tiananmen Square. This. Everything enhances his virtue. This is not what anybody wants. You want the opposite. You know, you want a guy like J.D. Vance, who served in the Marines and, you know, went to Yale, comes from a single mother with addiction problems, rose from hard work and dedication to become who he is now. Like, that's the kind of guy that I like. Yeah, that's what we all would like.

Marc Andreessen

Okay, that looks like a leader to me.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Well, the Romans had this concept they took very seriously, they called virtue. Right? And, like, did you? Did you. There's a whole ranking, by the way, of the Roman virtues. And if you read them today, you just, like, want to burst out crying because you're just like, oh, my God, I can't believe what we're missing. But, like, yes. People with virtue. People with virtue. It's not just that they think that they're good people or that they tell everybody they're good people. They actually act on it and actually step up.

Marc Andreessen

Well, this is what's missing from today's secular society, Right? Like, we don't have, like, a doctrine that encourages that sort of thinking and behavior and rewards it publicly. Which religion does, you know, true Christianity, you know, not subverted giant arena Christianity where the guy's flying private jets and has Rolls Royces and. But actual, like, real Christian people.

Joe Rogan

Right. Well, in the Roman. The Romans had gods. I mean, their virtues had gods.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

And so, and so they, like. It was actually wrapped. It was. Your point. It was like encoded into their religion. It was wrapped up in their religion. They knew exactly what was expected of them. They knew exactly what their ancestors expected of them. They knew exactly what their gods expected of them.

Marc Andreessen

I recently read Meditations again a couple of months ago. I listened to it in the sauna. But it's brilliant. And it's amazing that this guy, Marcus Aurelius was thinking like this so many years ago and it's so valid today and it applies so well to modern life. It's so strange, you know, how brilliant this person was while he was running this incredible empire that he could write about human psychology and the value of forgiveness and, you know, being true to yourself and constantly being truthful everywhere in everything you do and all these virtues and all these. The stoicism that he, that he espoused, it's so valuable today day. It's really remarkable that this person who was a leader, what was it 2,000 years ago that his words still ring true today?

Joe Rogan

Yeah. You probably know he didn't write it for public consumption, right?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, it was even more amazing.

Joe Rogan

His private notebook, which is why it's.

Marc Andreessen

So good, probably because he probably wrote it for a substack. He's like, well, people are going to hate on this.

Joe Rogan

Let me.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, yeah, let me, Let me, you know, let me preemptively attack the people in the comments are.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

Subdue them.

Joe Rogan

But he's like, he's like, he's, he's. He's lecturing himself. Like he's telling himself how to act. Right? Like, you know, he's very. This very deep. Deep. These are very deep. Important. My favorite. My favorite part of the Meditations is there's a section where it's something like, yeah, you're going to wake up this morning and everybody's going to hate you and everybody's going to lie to you and everybody's going to make dumb decisions and you're going to be incredibly frustrated and you're not going to get any credit for anything and you have to get up anyway. Yeah, like, that's all. Yes, yes, yes. That's all true, true. Right and you still have to get up and do your job.

Marc Andreessen

And of course, he's saying that to himself as the leader of Rome.

Joe Rogan

To himself. Exactly. And you know, and what's in there is just like, wow, his life was not, you know, he's just like. Again, it's actually, you know, like the CEO. It's just like you're going to get pounded. Like, if you're in these positions, you're going to get pounded every day. And if you're operating out of a true sense of virtue, if you're operating out of a true sense of like exercising your responsibilities, you get up and do it anyway.

Marc Andreessen

It's amazing how much it rests, resonates. It really is. What's amazing how much so many ancient writings resonate. You know, there's so much valuable information. Just like in Sun Tzu's the Art of War or in the Book of Five Rings. You know, there's so many ancient books that you read and you go first, first of all, I love reading them because I try to imagine what, you know, what is this life like in like, if you want to take like Miyamoto Musashi, 1400. When did he live? Miyamoto Musashi, who's like 1420s or something like that. Like, what's that like?

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

Like, what, what is your life like? What is, what is the. What is the view of the world when you, you don't really have detailed maps or you don't have any photographs, you don't have any idea what the. Is going on in Europe unless you go there. Like, what is, what is your version of the world like?

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

And then to see someone, words written down and you read them and try to just imagine yourself in their perspective and their mindset.

Joe Rogan

Right? Yeah, that's right. Yeah. And look, I think if you're somebody like that or somebody like Marcus Aurelius, you just have this incredible sense of responsibility.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Like you, the one thing you do have is a sense of purpose. Like, you know exactly why you're here, you know exactly what your role is. You know exactly how you're supposed to behave, you know exactly how you're supposed to basically gain glory, how you're supposed to honor your ancestors. Like, it's just all, you know, exactly where you are in the community. Community. Right, right. You know, right. You, you have this like incredible sense of groundedness and rootedness. And of course there's huge downsides to that, which is it really cuts off your ability to, you know, run off and, you know, you know, go on American Idol. Right. Like, there's, like, a lot of things you can't do. Right. But, like, you know, you know what you're supposed to do, and you either do it or you don't do it. And these days, to have people like that, we need people who choose to be that way. Right. Which is a. Which is a.

You know, which is arguably harder. Right. Given all the choices that they actually choose to live that way.

Marc Andreessen

Well, not only that, giving all the distractions that people face every day, that keeps them from sitting down and writing a journal like that.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that's right.

Marc Andreessen

You know, I mean, back then, there's not a lot of different things to entertain you with, Correct?

Joe Rogan

Yes. You had to be maybe a little bit more serious because you couldn't have as much fun. My other favorite meditations, Marcus Aurelius thing, is something like, be the rocks on the shore at which the waves beat. Right. Like, yes. Like, yes. Your job is to stand there like the rocks do, and just the surf just, like, keeps coming and keeps coming and keeps coming. And your job is to just, like, stand there and take it.

Marc Andreessen

Imagine what it was like addressing the people back then, too. Just yelling out into these groups or speaking in front of all the leaders, like.

Joe Rogan

Yep.

Marc Andreessen

And all. Everyone's plotting to kill you.

Joe Rogan

There's also a lot of that going on.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

Everyone's.

Marc Andreessen

I mean, how many times they try to kill Hitler. Like, everybody's trying to kill you if you're. If you're running things.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

All your generals are probably secretly wanting to become the king.

Joe Rogan

Yep. Yep. Exactly.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. All the usurpers are waiting in the wings.

Joe Rogan

Not easy lives, you know. Today. Today, most of the killings happen metaphorically.

Marc Andreessen

Most.

Joe Rogan

Although every now and then.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Somebody takes the alternative timeline.

Joe Rogan

Yes, yes, exactly. That's right. That's right.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. How fearful were you leading up to the election that it wouldn't go into the new timeline?

Joe Rogan

It was so weird because all the experts said it was 50, 50 razor sharp. It's this tiny little thing, 80,000 votes in eight counties. Number one, then it wasn't. Which means we can take all those experts and just dismiss them forever going forward, because they clearly have no clue. So it's another set of people you don't have to listen to. But I had this really interesting conversation that kept nagging at me with a senior Democrat who's on his way out of politics, and he said, in the summer, I said, how certain is what's your view? And this person

said, trump's going to win with 100% certainty, really, Mr. Democrat. And from a sort of purple state. Right. So, you know, not New York or California, but like a state with sort of maybe Arizona, broader cross section of people. And this person basically said, yeah, said, look, all you have to do is fly anywhere in the country, country into any purple place and go into a second or third tier size city and take an Uber for 30 minutes, land at the airport, take an Uber, drive around for 30 minutes, come back and just ask the driver, how's it going and who are they voting for.

Marc Andreessen

And basically 100% of the time the answer is going to be Trump because people were just completely fed up. They were just completely fed up. And then there was the Kamala enthusiasm, which this person said, the Kamala enthusiasm is highly focused in New York and California, which don't matter from an electoral standpoint. Right. So they're not going to decide anything.

Joe Rogan

But matter is huge when it comes to media.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, sure, of course. But that's, that's the thing of this, the self reinforcing nature of the bubble. This is what's actually so interesting with these media bubbles is like the people in these media bubbles are not breaking out. Like, it's like they're getting deeper into the sort of collective psychosis that they indulge in. And part of it was getting excited about a candidate for which there was very little popular support for once you got outside of these, you know, heavily blue states.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

And so in a lot of ways it's the most obvious explanation in the world, which is just people just fundamentally did not like the direction the country was going in and they were just fed up with it.

Joe Rogan

There's also this very bizarre arrogance of people that were certain that Kama Harris was going to win. I'm sure you've seen the viral video of this lady who's a political analyst who talks about going to the liquor store and buying a bottle of champagne.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, right, I saw that. Yeah, right.

Joe Rogan

I don't want to show it to the poor lady. She's probably living in hell.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

Right now.

Marc Andreessen

But on Blue Sky.

Joe Rogan

On Blue sky, yeah, she's probably on Blue Sky. She might be on X. Well, she was on X. I think she deleted her profile. But I. The poor lady, I mean, she, but she was being very arrogant and she laughed and mocked this man and said, you do realize you wasted your vote, right?

Marc Andreessen

That's right, that's right, that's right, that's right.

Joe Rogan

She laugh. Which makes her hard to feel sorry for.

Marc Andreessen

That's right.

Joe Rogan

It's like you Were you were ready to mock this man, but in her eyes, it was all about reproductive freedom, and she thought that that was under attack under the Trump administration and that women are going to stand up and they're going to stop that. Because in her echo chamber, that was the case. Everybody was universally. They all agreed. We're universally on board with this idea that Trump is evil. We got to get rid of them, and women are going to vote, and this is going to be fun. But, like, who are you hanging out with, lady? You know, you could hang out with a bunch of people that think baseball is awesome, and then, you know, you run into someone from another country, like, what the fuck is baseball? Like, you got to realize there's a lot of people out there.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. And people really don't like being talked down, too.

Joe Rogan

They really don't. And they don't like you mocking the fact that, first of all, nobody wasted their vote. Like, that's not how it goes. Like, you don't waste your vote if you vote different and the other side wins. It's not how the other side won. That's just all it is. Like, wasting the vote is a crazy way to look at it. Like, because I think also people look at things like tribal games, you know, like, you know, in Texas is a huge football state, and people love football, and it's always we this, we that. When UT plays South Carolina, we this, we that. It's like, people love to be a part of a team that's winning, and they apply that, especially if they're not into sports, to other things. I think it's just a war mentality. It's a tribal war mentality that's been sort of subverted in the human mind and applied to other things. It could be like Microsoft versus Apple, you know, it could be Android versus Apple, you know, iOS. It's weird how people get so tribal and then connect their own personal identity to other people, agreeing with these ideas that they.

Marc Andreessen

That they believe.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, yeah. I'd offer two thoughts. One is the Democrats, for a long time, were the big tent party. So the Democrats were the coalition of people who had very different points of view on things. And of course, you know, famously, it's all the different identity groups, and it's all the different, you know, economic unions and all these things. And Republicans were like, the party of, like, rigidity. Right. And just for whatever set of. A lot of the woke stuff had a lot to do with it as it flipped to where, at least today, Trump's Republican Party is the big Ten party.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

To your point on having all these new people and many of whom are former Democrats, a lot of them, and the Democrats have decided to try to isolate out anybody who disagrees on any issue and demand lockstep conformity through the cancelation process. And so that's a very interesting inversion that happened kind of without anybody saying anything about it. But it did happen. And then I think the other, the other inversion was the economic conversion, which is, remember the criticism of the Republican Party for a long time was it was the party of trickle down economics.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

Where the idea was the rich people are going to get all the money because taxes Reagan administration. And then basically if poor people get any money, it's going to be because the rich people like trickle, trickles.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

I think that inverted to where the Democrats especially in the last four years became the trickle down party, which was we're going to tax and we're going to collect all the money and give it to the government and then we're going to let that the government handed out.

Marc Andreessen

Right. But they did it under the guise of tax the rich. They did it, they did it with this Robin Hood mentality. At least they expressed that.

Joe Rogan

Of course that's how it starts. But then you end up with \$35 trillion federal debt, you end up with this giant annual deficit and then you end up with all this money being handed out. Right. Handed out in all these grants and all these things like just this shower of money coming from the government. But of course, if the government's giving you money, it also means the government can take money away. If you're making somebody dependent on you because you're giving them money, then you're in it. You have a tremendous position of power because you can make their life horrible by pulling the money away.

Marc Andreessen

Right. You can also control their ideology that way.

Joe Rogan

1%. Yeah. You own them. It's actually a form, it's on the spectrum to a form of domination that should make us very uncomfortable. Maybe that would be fine if the deficit didn't have control and inflation didn't get out of control. But it did. And then at that point it's like, okay, this new kind of tax inspection driven trickle down economics is clearly not sustainable. It's not going to work.

Marc Andreessen

So the way the Trump administration is going to approach the economy, they want less regulation, they want tariffs and less regulation and they want more reliance on U.S. energy. Right. They want to drill more natural gas, more fracking, more drilling for oil, and then allow companies to work without regulation, inhibiting their performance. This will boost the

economy. You'll have more productivity, you have more American manufacturing, you have more things happening.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. So the two headline things, you hear from them whenever they talk about this, the two headline things are, number one, growth. You just need faster growth. By the way, it's the only way to resolve the long term fiscal situation. It's the only way to resolve the debt. There's only two ways to do it. You can inflate your way out of it and end up in 1930s Germany with hyperinflation. That's one track you can get on, which is a very bad track. You don't want to go there. Or you can grow faster, because if you grow faster, then your economy can catch up to the debt and you can pay down the debt as you grow. And so they want to go for a higher rate of growth. And then the other thing is they want America to win. And this is my partner Ben and I were able to spend time with Trump this summer, and that was like his adamant thing. He kept coming back, which is like, look, America has to win. Specifically, what that means is America has to win in business and in technology and in industry, generally, globally. Like, our company should be the ones that win these broad.

Marc Andreessen

We should win global markets. Like our company should be the global.

Joe Rogan

How can anybody be against that?

Marc Andreessen

I happen to think that makes a lot of sense.

Joe Rogan

Yes, I know. I mean, obviously you're a wealthy man and I am as well, but it's like, how could you not want that?

Marc Andreessen

Yes. By the way, if you are in favor of a high level of social support, if you want there to be lots of welfare programs and food assistance programs, all these things, I would argue you also want that because it's the growth that will pay for all the social programs. Right. Like, that's how you square the circle. That's how you actually have your cake and eat it too. Which is like, first you, you, your economy just generates a fountain of money through, through growth and economic, economic success. And then you, you can pay for, then you can pay for whatever programs you want. I actually don't personally, like, I'm totally fine. Like, set up all the programs you want, all the social spending you want, all the safety nets you want. And if as long as it's easy to pay for because you're growing so fast, then everybody wins.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. I mean, I've always said if I knew that I paid more taxes, people in the world, in this country would live better, I would do it. Right.

Marc Andreessen

Of course.

Joe Rogan

I just, that they're Good at spending it.

Marc Andreessen

That's the thing, right? It's like if you're putting in this, if you've generated 35 trillion of debt and these are the results. Yeah, no, like this, this is not the deal. And this is my friend that I talked about earlier. That was the point he made. It's just like, look, the deal has been broken. Like, this is not the deal anybody signed up for. This is not how it's supposed to work. Everybody knows it.

Joe Rogan

And when you were talking about giving people social programs and giving them benefits and then. And you could take that away at any moment, this was one of the big fears that people had about letting illegal immigrants into the country and moving them to swing states, which clearly happened. And also giving them a bunch of benefits, which clearly happened. Money, food stamps, housing, all that happened. Stuff that wasn't available to veterans, stuff that wasn't available to homeless people, wasn't available to the very poor of this country. All of a sudden people who came here illegally got those things.

Marc Andreessen

That's right.

Joe Rogan

And the thought was, if you gave these people these things and you gave them a way better life. Look, if I was living in a third world country with a family and I knew that I could come to America and I could get a job, an actual job, and make money and my family's gonna definitely eat, I'll vote for whoever the fuck you want me to vote for. I don't care. My life is infinitely better than it was in this totalitarian shithole that I was in until I walked here. I'll do whatever you want. Like, I just want my family to survive. And I think everything's gonna. It's so much better than where I was. If I'm in some war torn part of the world, it's so much better here. I don't care if the Democrats win or the Republicans. I'm in America. And if the Republicans didn't give me any money and they want to get me out, they want to deport me. But this nice lady, she gave me an EBT card and I'm staying at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City and I get a flight somewhere else if I want to go.

Marc Andreessen

Right?

Joe Rogan

Oh, this is wonderful.

Marc Andreessen

Right. So that's how it starts. And there is a lot of that going on. But I will say one of the things that's interesting is it doesn't necessarily stick that way. And the sort of evidence for that is the rapid rap, the sort of dramatic ramp up in the Hispanic vote for Trump.

Joe Rogan

Well, Hispanic people generally are very Hard workers.

Marc Andreessen

So this gets to the thing, so I'll just. A quick story on this. So after the night after the 2016 election, like, literally everybody I knew was just, like, completely traumatized. Like, we were all just like, completely freaked out. Everybody was shocked.

Joe Rogan

You were freaked out?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, I was completely freaked out. Everybody was freaked out. Like, I didn't expect him to win the nomination. I didn't expect him to win the race. Like, and then, you know, and the media is on, like, full historical blast, and it's the end of the world and he's, you know, he's a Russian spy. All this crazy stuff that we know not to be true, it's just, it's just like full on. So a group of us, A group of us went out to dinner at a restaurant in Palo Alto. And, you know, and the atmosphere was like a funeral. I mean, like, everybody in the restaurant was just like, to spawn it, like, ready to slit their wrists. And so we're sitting there eating and, like, the food doesn't taste good. You know, it's just. They can't taste the food, you can't taste the drinks. Like, everybody's just depressed. Wow. And, you know, it gets this thing of like, you know, my, you know, my God, I can't believe that, you know, Trump, you know, this, that, you know, so, you know, you know, racist and, you know, anti Hispanic and all this stuff. And it was, it was, it was one of those moments where the, the young waiter who's, you know, Hispanic, young man in his 20s, one of those rare moments where he broke into the conversation at the table.

Joe Rogan

Right? But, but it was in context, it was like, oh, thank God. Because, like, we're just, we're just depressing ourselves to death. So, like, thank God he's going to say something. And he said, you know, I think you guys are looking at it all wrong. He's like, my father thinks Trump

is fantastic. My father came here as an immigrant, whatever, 30 years ago, built a life here, became a citizen, bought into the system, pays taxes, like, raised a family.

Marc Andreessen

Mowing his lawn with a MAGA hat on.

Joe Rogan

He thinks this guy is great. He thinks this guy is fantastic. And he voted for him. And he just has. And then, you know, you've heard this before, but then it's like, and the thing that this guy said, the thing my father thinks is terrible is if other people are able to come here, they're able to cut in line. They, you know, they didn't have to go through the process, they didn't have to Prove anything. They're not bought into the system. Right. They're able to jump in, and then they, you know, they don't. And then they're not buying into the system. And, you know, part of it, maybe they're not being accepted, but also part of it is they're not buying in. They're not. They're, you know, they're not. They're not assimilating. They're not becoming part of the, you know, of what makes America America. And, you know, in some cases. And by the way, in some cases, you know, the criminals are coming across and terrorists are coming across and gangs, and it's like, my father's not in favor of any of that. Right, right. My father wants to be part of a great society, of a great America, not some dysfunctional, basically just disaster zone.

Marc Andreessen

And I remember the group of us, it was my first glimmer of like, okay, I need to completely rethink my whole sense of how the world works.

Joe Rogan

Because that one conversation.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, yeah. Well, it was weird because it was like, so what happened with me is I grew up in rural Wisconsin, which is now, like, completely Trump country. And so from, like, 0 to 18, I completely understood the mentality. And I was always, like, explaining to my friends of like, no, no, like, this is, you know, this is like a different place and people think differently. And then somehow between the ages of like, 18 and 40 or whatever, I just, like, forgot and I became a Californian, right? I became a fully assimilated Californian. And I was just like, well, of course, the Californians are much more sophisticated in advance than. Right. Than people, you know, where I came from. And so, of course, of course, of course everybody in California has it figured out. And of course California is going to leave the country in all this thinking, right? And Trump was, for me, Trump was the. The Trump 2016 was the wake up call of like, no, no, no, no, no. Like, that's just like completely. That is such an impoverished worldview of how this country works and of how people think that it doesn't explain what.

Joe Rogan

Because you have to explain what happened. And then you have to, like, if you have some sense of being able to predict what's next, which is what I'm supposed to be doing for a living, that's what investing is supposed to be. It's like, okay, I got to rebuild my entire model of the world for, like, how this all works and how this whole system and how this country works. But it was that conversation that kickstarted it for me.

Marc Andreessen

So what was the process of altering your perspective or at least opening it up.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, so for me, it was primarily, it was reading. And so I started to actually read my way back in history, and I actually went all the way back. I tried to read of like, where the origins of like left wing thought came from and then communism and how did that evolve and you know, liberal democracy and then also right wing thought. And like, you know, everybody's calling everybody fascist now. So, like, what was fascism? Is that what this is, is right? How. How did, how did the Germans do with it? You know, so all, all of those questions and then, you know, kind of converging on in the last 80 years, like, how was that, you know, either stabilized or not stabilized? And so I did that. But the other thing is I just started talking to a lot more people and I, I just stopped assuming that because I read it in the New York Times, that it was true. And you know, and, and by the way. And then of course, what unfolded in the years, you know, kind of sense was, you know, the, the whole, I followed the whole Russiagate thing like, super closely.

Marc Andreessen

Like, I read everything and I read all the reports.

Joe Rogan

What did you think initially? Did you think it was true?

Marc Andreessen

It's like this overwhelming consensus from the entire expert class that, of course, he's a Russian spy. I sat on stage, I went to Hillary's first post election law speech, which she gave at Stanford, the very first one. And I sat. We know the people organizing it, so we sat literally like 15ft from Hillary in her first appearance. And the whole thing is fraught with just like incredible tension. And the Russia gay stuff is in full blown display. And I go there and I'm like, all right, this is going to mean to me and the audience at Stanford audience. And so it's all 100% Hillary Clinton supporters, right? And I'm sitting there and I'm on my best behavior because I'm with my wife and I have to like, not, you know, I have to not act out. And Hillary gets up there and she says, Trump is only president today because Vladimir Putin hacked Facebook and made him the president, right? And I'm sitting in the audience and I'm like on

the Facebook board and I'm like, that's not, like, that's not true. I know for an absolute fact that that's not true. Right? And so, so that got me thinking.

Joe Rogan

And then the Russiagate stuff unspooled and I was like, you know, the whole, the Steele dossier and like all this stuff comes out.

Marc Andreessen

What was the accusations about Facebook. How did she think that Russia hacked Facebook and made Trump the president?

Joe Rogan

Yeah, so it's this whole thing with this. Remember this whole thing, Cambridge Analytica. And so it's this whole thing that there was this. Basically, there was this data, there was this theory, which, by the way, is like completely. This is like a completely fake thing. Like, this didn't. So there was this. There was this. There. There was this data set on user behavior that in theory, there's an academic. There's a theory that you could sort of impute human behavior from this data set, and then you could use it to predict what people would do and how they would react to different kinds of messages. And it was like this magical breakthrough and basically thought control. And then there was this company called Cambridge Analytica in the UK that figured out a way to do this. And then it was this, like, new kind of literally, like, mind control, like, you know, by far, like the most powerful meme weapon of all time for getting people to vote the way that you want. And it was this data breach of Facebook. The whole thing was weird because Facebook had been criticized for a decade leading up to 2016 that it kept all the data closed.

Marc Andreessen

Right? So the criticism was Facebook never lets any of the data. It doesn't share the data. Right. And the criticism for years was Facebook is the roach Mattel of data. And the virtuous thing for it to do is to actually free the data and let everybody else have access to the data. And then in 2016, let flipped 180 degrees, and it was Facebook as the most evil company of all time because it let Cambridge Analytica get access to this data. And then Russia ran basically a psychological operation on the American citizens using data.

Joe Rogan

Why did Facebook push back?

Marc Andreessen

They did. They did early on, they do today in their way. But, you know, they're trying to run a business. They're trying to get to the next quarter. They're trying to keep the employee base and everybody copacetic. They're trying not to get just completely destroyed by the politicians. They're getting slammed every single day on every conceivable issue you can

imagine. And it's actually very interesting when you're in these companies, like these big issues. Big issues. But you're also literally trying to, like, make the quarter right. You're. You're right. You're trying to ship your products, you're trying to close your sales, you're trying to keep your employees from quitting. Right? You have these act. You have responsibilities, right. You have practical Concern responsibilities. And so sometimes these companies get kind of wedged because they can't do the things that they would do if they were just in damage control mode. And then they. Right. And then they, you know, then they. And maybe the message doesn't get out, but.

Joe Rogan

So what was the bigger shift? The waiter or the Hillary speech?

Marc Andreessen

Oh, it was the waiter. I mean, by that, it was the waiter was the much bigger shift because it was listening to a normal. It was listening to a person with their feet on the ground actually explaining the way the world worked. Whereas with Hillary, it was. It was cope. Right. It was. It was delusion. She then. It was. It was amazing, by the way. She then spent the next hour and a half when I. When I'm in a place where I don't know if I'm gonna control myself, I bring a little notepad along because I can work out my demons. Like on Draw dicks. No dicks. Exactly. So that I don't. So that I don't say anything. Right.

Joe Rogan

Like super bad.

Marc Andreessen

So I brought my little notepad. Exactly. My little pen. Little Fisher space pen. Right. And I pulled it out and I started making a list of all of the people and organizations that she blamed for her defeat that were not named Hillary Clinton. And I got to 20. My favorite was Netflix, by the way.

Joe Rogan

Netflix.

Marc Andreessen

She blamed Netflix.

Joe Rogan

What did Netflix do?

Marc Andreessen

Netflix aired anti Clinton documentaries.

Joe Rogan

Oh, you mean facts.

Marc Andreessen

Well, this is particularly funny because the CEO of Netflix is a famous Democrat. He's a super Democrat. Mr. Well, not actually dead, but also specifically, Reed Hastings and his wife are very enthusiastic left wingers. But I mean, it was just this litany of, you know, basically excuses and complaints. Right. With no sense of, like, responsibility, personal responsibility at all, you know, just like pure grievance. And so it was the negative. It was negative lesson of, like, okay, like, whatever that is is not the path.

Joe Rogan

Did she blame Comey?

Marc Andreessen

Oh, yeah, absolutely.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, yeah. She absolutely hated that guy. Yeah. No question. That was a wild 100. Yeah, exactly. And by the way, like, that was super weird.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

You know, I don't think she was completely wrong.

Joe Rogan

I don't understand that one. Honestly, if they didn't want Trump to win, I don't get that one.

Marc Andreessen

Well, she's. We know she's guilty, but we're not going to charge her.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

Is a weird.

Joe Rogan

It's crazy.

Marc Andreessen

It's a weird message.

Joe Rogan

It's almost as weird as the Biden one where we don't think he's competent to stand trial for the documents that he had that were classified.

Marc Andreessen

Exactly.

Joe Rogan

But he can, what, have his finger on the button? The fuck are you talking about?

Marc Andreessen

Exactly. We know he's guilty, but we never convict him because the jury would say that he's a senile old man, which.

Joe Rogan

Is crazy because he's still running for president at the time. He's running for reelection.

Marc Andreessen

Well, then, remember, everybody at the time said the media said that the prosecutor was lying. Right. Because at that point, sharp as attack.

Joe Rogan

My favorite is Joe Scarborough.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

This is the best Biden, intellectually, the best one I've ever seen. Like, dude.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

And then meanwhile, he had to go to Mar a Lago and kiss the ring.

Marc Andreessen

Yes, exactly, exactly, exactly, exactly. My favorite was the. Remember about earlier this year was the invention of the term cheap fake.

Joe Rogan

Cheap fake.

Marc Andreessen

Cheap fake. Because everybody's worried about the AI Deepfake, which really didn't. Then. There was really nothing happened with that. And so the cheap fake, we learned, is a video that just simply shows you something. Right. It's claimed to be out of context, but it actually turns out that it's actually just telling you the truth.

Joe Rogan

Didn't Nancy Pelosi start using that one? Cheap fake.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, exactly. Because the theory was it was going to be clips out of context. Context, yeah. But it turned out there were clips in context.

Joe Rogan

Have you seen. There's a gentleman who made a video here. I'll send it to you, Jamie, because I sense, Duncan, it's pretty crazy of what AI is capable of now by. Come on. My phone updated. You son of a. Come on. Don't make me go to a Android, because I will. This guy did this insane video where it's all completely AI and everything he did, including his voice. It's here. I'll send it to you, Jamie. It's 100% AI generated. And it's so hard to believe because it's so good. And it really puts you in this when you're talking about cheap fake. I just sent it to you, Jim. Cheap fakes and deep fakes. Let's put the headphones on to watch the. Because it's so crazy. We're at that moment where you cannot tell, right? And let's look at this one because it's pretty extraordinary. This is the best version that I've seen so far. This is completely AI labs to speak.

Marc Andreessen

Like me, one of our companies.

Joe Rogan

So I can input any text and.

Marc Andreessen

It will sound like me. Then I trained Han with a video of mine. I input the audio file to generate a video. Video based on my text. The video you are watching right now is the result 100 generated in AI. What do you think of that? Guys, I know this might sound crazy, but this.

Joe Rogan

How crazy is that? Oh, that's your company. That's him.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, that's him.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, yeah, that is. That's the AI Generator.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, yeah, that's right. That's right. That's right. So that's two companies. One of. One of them is the Voice is Ours. And then that's another great company called hey, Jen, that did the. Did the visuals.

Joe Rogan

But.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, no, that's right.

Joe Rogan

That's nuts.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, this is part of the first Internet, as I said, first Internet election. Probably the first Internet election will be the one that has this kind of thing actually in it where people get tricked.

Joe Rogan

Why didn't they do that with Kamala Harris? Well, it turns out they done an amazing job. They could have, like, really knocked it out of the park with a solid speech. They didn't just have her say it on the Internet.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

Just have a bunch of viral videos of her speaking so eloquently and perfectly, one would think.

Marc Andreessen

Exactly.

Joe Rogan

That's the fear of the future, right?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, yeah. And so, like, I think that's. That's going to be the kind. That's going to be the kind of thing is going to happen in terms of, like, the dirty trick side. I think that, you know, that will be part of it. Right. There's always some way to try to try to game these things.

Joe Rogan

Just have the most brilliant writers formulate, you know, get AI to do it. Like you're saying, like, AI has all these solutions to things that are super logical and, well, there's no, like, weird thinking in it. It's like, you know, cut all the fat out.

Marc Andreessen

So I think we have a theory on how to fix this. And the theory basically is we're going to have to switch our sense of what's real from basically just trying to eyeball it and figure out whether it's real to only taking seriously the things that we know are real. And the way that we would know things are real is we'll have them registered on a blockchain. Right. And so I think the way this is going to work in the future is every politician will have an account on a blockchain service, like a crypto service. And then every politician, whenever they say anything in public, whenever they're, you know, they're going to have people around them with cameras all the time. Whenever they put out a statement, they're going to cryptographically sign it on the blockchain so that it can be valid, consolidated, that it is actually content from them. And then I think we're just going to have to reach an understanding that we're just going to have to write off everything else that we see.

Joe Rogan

Wow.

Marc Andreessen

Which frankly is a good idea anyway because there just is a lot of noise, you know, in the environment. There's.

Joe Rogan

How would you integrate that with social media though? Because one of the. One of the issues is these low information voters that are getting information either from clickbait headlines on these websites where they don't even read the actual paragraph with might. Which might be completely different than the headline itself. The headline is just inflammatory. And then viral videos, like, how would you.

Marc Andreessen

So the thing is. So that's already happening, even pre. AI right. And so I would say that's a pre existing problem. And so like we can't, you know, we can't. And by the way, that's been happening for a long time. Like newspapers have been scandal sheets forever. If you go back hundreds of. If you go back hundreds of years to the first newspapers, they were running all kinds of scurrilous. The first newspaper was a scattered sheet of the Vatican like in the year 1500. And it was all these like terrible rumors about like the Pope and the bishops and all these, the cardinals and all this.

Joe Rogan

That was the first newspaper.

Marc Andreessen

That was the very first newspaper was in the Vatican. And then the American. All the American colonial newspapers were like that in the revolutionary era. It was all crazy rumors and innuendo and people accusing each other of. There was a famous election in 1800, which was Jefferson versus Adams that we think of as these like super upstanding, you know, upright people and they're just like smearing the crap out of each other in their respective newspapers. Right. Because they would actually own newspapers in those days and then they would just attack each other more things change. Ben Franklin. Ben Franklin. Ben Franklin printed newspapers before he became run a government. And he created 15 different sock puppets. He created 15 different pseudonyms. He was a pseud or a non. And then he would basically have them argue with each other in his newspaper without telling people that it was all him.

Joe Rogan

Oh, Ben.

Marc Andreessen

So he had all these different personalities. And so like we've been in a world of. Of like information warfare for a very long time. We've been in a world of sensationalist, you know, nightly news. If it was a. If it bleeds, it leads.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

You know, sensationalist stuff for a long time. We've been in the world of like, yeah. Propaganda for a long time so that you're not going to fix that. You're never going to make that go.

Joe Rogan

But isn't it funny that we don't think of the past like that?

Marc Andreessen

Oh, yeah.

Joe Rogan

We think of them being virtuous and.

Marc Andreessen

We assume they had it all figured out. Yeah. That very much is not true. There's all kinds of crazy, crazy banana stuff. My favorite is in the Vietnam War. It was the Gulf of punk in that sort of kicked off the sort of big escalation. Like, we now know for a fact it didn't happen.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

The whole thing just didn't happen. And now there's this big debate about, like, did they know it didn't happen or did, you know, did they fake it? But, like, so there's always been stuff like that in history. So that we can't fix. And AI will be a new way to do that kind of thing. But what we can do is we can reorient people to say, okay, now you're going to have to, like, take seriously, this stuff is real. And if you want to actually know what's happening, this stuff is real. And we can prove that it's real. And if it's not, it's entertainment. Entertainment. And you can choose to believe it or not.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

But you should not rely on it. And look, it's not going to be perfect and it's going to take time, but there is a way to address this.

Joe Rogan

Okay, so that would be the solution to deep fakes. The blockchain.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, you flip it. You flip it.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

You focus on the real stuff.

Joe Rogan

That's logical. That actually does make sense. That actually kind of gives me hope. I do generally have hope. Even though I look at the pessimistic side of things, I'm generally optimistic. Optimistic. Because my real feeling about human beings is most people are good. I genuinely believe there's far more good people in the world than bad people. There's far more people that just want to live a good life and have a good time and enjoy themselves. Then there are people who are tyrants.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, I'm super optimistic. I'm incredibly optimistic. And I was optimistic already with flashes of pessimism, but, like, I'm really optimistic and especially now. So I think this is going to be. We have the real. We have the real potential here for golden age.

Joe Rogan

We really do.

Marc Andreessen

We really do.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

The capabilities that we have and the people that we. I mean, look, in my day job, I meet these young. You know, I meet these 22 year olds every day that are just like the smartest people in the world, the smartest people I've ever met. I think they're getting better, by the way, as time passes. By the time they're 22, they just know a lot more.

Joe Rogan

They have so much more access to information than we did.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, they're so much better trained, capable and ready to go fired up. And they know each other, able to connect online and they're already in community and they know how to help each other. And so like, yeah, the productive and inventive creative aspect, particularly of this country is just like there's never been anything like it in the world.

Joe Rogan

I think there's also the real potential for a shift in perspective, a positive, patriotic shift in perspective that can happen in this country. And if you think about what happened with the woke ideology, how it swept so quickly over the country and changed so many aspects of the way we deal with things, so it happens so radically and so quickly and such a large change that people are susceptible to change. It's possible to enact change and a positive change in a good direction where people are optimistic about the future, which you are and I am. I mean, I think that's probably contagious.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, that's right. I really do think that it's an upward spiral.

Joe Rogan

It was Evan Hafer who said that thing about psycho psychology the other day. It was one of is a friend of mine who's a former special forces guy. He said that psychology is more contagious than the flu.

Marc Andreessen

Right, right, exactly. Yes. Yes. Yeah, yeah, I think that's right. So one of the interesting things that's going to happen right now, you know, we talked a lot about Trump's victory and Republicans, but there's now a civil war that's kicked off inside the Democratic Party, which is very interesting because.

Joe Rogan

Really?

Marc Andreessen

Well, because they lost so badly. Right. So the fact that they lost the White House and they lost the popular vote and they lost the Congress and they lost the Senate and they lost the Supreme Court.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

Like this time it's undeniable that, like, the current path that they've been on is not working. Like it's your foot. Like being an exclusionary party and kicking people out for wrong thing. Like it's not. They're not going to win elections.

Joe Rogan

They're not just kicking people out, they're barring people from making it to the primaries.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

Which is very undemocratic.

Marc Andreessen

That's right. That's right. Yeah, exactly. Starting with Bernie in 2016. And then. Right. Continuing.

Joe Rogan

So Donna Rice's book, she don't documented that.

Marc Andreessen

Right, right. And so, so like I would say, the smart Democrats know that this is not a. It's not a viable path. You can't have a political party that doesn't win. It doesn't make. It's not. It's not useful. And so you. There's going to have. There's a civil war that's underway inside that party that's kicking off right now where they're going to have to recalibrate. They decide what they want their future to be, and it's going to be a big decision. And the same thing happened, by the way, when Reagan beat Carter really badly in. In 80. And then, and then, and then had a landslide in 80. It then took Democrats 12 years to get to Bill Clinton and actually win again. And so they have this cautionary tale of they went too far in the 60s and 70s and it took them 12 years to recover. And so if you talk to the like, really smart Democrats right now, they're like, look, this can't be 12 years. That's crazy. We have to do this a lot faster. But we have to reorient and we have to get back to common sense. We have to get back to normal.

Joe Rogan

We have to get back to sensible. We have to get back to moderate.

Marc Andreessen

We were actually playing Bill Clinton debate during the elections of. What year was that, Jamie? I forget which. It was when he first ran. What year did he first run?

Joe Rogan

Oh, yeah, 92. 92, yeah.

Marc Andreessen

So it was the 92. And I'm like, I vote for that guy.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, exactly.

Marc Andreessen

In a heartbeat. That guy's awesome. Also, we played a clip of Hillary Clinton where she sounded more MAGA than anybody who's MAGA today. She was talking about the penalties that illegal immigrants should face. They should pay a stiff fine because they came into this country illegally. And if they're a criminal, they should be jailed or kicked out of the country without question. Like, all this was like, so maga. I was like, this is so wild to hear from Hillary in 2008.

Joe Rogan

Yep, that's right. That's right. And Hillary and Joe Biden and Dianne Feinstein and all these people wanted to build a wall. Dianne Feinstein, our senator in California at the time, very, you know, very left wing. She was down on the border, like did photo ops in front of the wall that was being built, like trying to take credit for it.

Marc Andreessen

Crazy.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, yeah. Like, like 18 years ago.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

And so. Yeah. So another reason for Optimism is, I think that they're going to be able to pull their way back. Like, I think they're going to be able, I think getting. Losing this bad is very motivating to be able to pull your way back and become more normal. And I think again, that would be like, I mean, how great would it be if you had two parties that actually had like sensible, normal policy?

Marc Andreessen

I mean, imagine Clinton was running up against Trump.

Joe Rogan

Yes, exactly.

Marc Andreessen

Like, he was so good. But we played that speech that he gave after Sister Soulja and said a bunch of very anti white things about white people. And he gave this super eloquent but yet compassionate speech about this where he's very charitable about her position as being a young person and not having the best perspective on things. It was fucking brilliant. That's the guy.

Joe Rogan

That's the president now, by modern standards, of course, he was a fan.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Well, that's the weird thing about fascism, right? Because fascism by definition is almost always applied to right wing totalitarian governments, but it's really kind of just adherence to the state and enforcing a doctrine and enforcing people to think and behave, which is what the left wing does. And then you talk about like being pro war. Well, who's more pro war right now, Trump or the Biden administration? Clearly, Trump is less pro war. Clearly Trump wants to end the wars. Clearly Biden just allowed Ukraine to use long range missiles into Russia. Like, this is, I don't know what's going on in terms of negotiations. I hear all kinds of different things. But if you looked at one side that is pushing for these wars and seems to be all in on it, and the other side, that's not like the fucking polar shift is so dramatic.

Joe Rogan

That's right.

Marc Andreessen

It's really weird. The free speech thing, which was always a tenant of the left wing party. It was like, you know, I mean, it was doctrine, like free speech is necessary. It's, it's, it's the foundation of our ability to discuss and find out what's right and what's wrong.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

You have to be. I mean, yeah, it's. The ADL used to let fucking Nazis speak. They used to let them march. They would defend their right to do it.

Joe Rogan

Right, right. Yeah. Because you needed to air out the idea to be able to show why it was wrong. Exactly, yeah. So. So look, it was not that long ago when you had Democrats that were very much in favor of many of these extremely sensible positions.

Marc Andreessen

Super recent.

Joe Rogan

It was pretty recent. And so I get reason for, like, I don't know if they're going to. I don't know if they're going to pull it off. They might just. They might go crazy or, like, they might just go

right off the cliff. Like, it's certainly possible, but, like, it is also possible that they'll drag it back and it might happen quite quickly. And I'm. I am hopeful and optimistic.

Marc Andreessen

I am as well. I think the temperature of society, like the mindset of society, society is so clearly moving away from that madness that they're going to have to course correct, which is just logical. There's no way they're going to keep doing it the same way or double down. It's just not going to. It's like they're going to go the way that msnbc. They're going to become ridiculous.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that's right.

Marc Andreessen

So they have to. Which is good for everyone. For everyone.

Joe Rogan

So one of my theories is you can separate the concepts of the United States and America, and you can be very optimistic about America and have all kinds of issues with the United States, but still be positive about America. And the difference is the United States is the formal system of the government and the politics and all the stuff we get mad about, and America is the people.

Marc Andreessen

Right, right.

Joe Rogan

And so you can be, as I am, incredibly bullish about the people. And then it's just a question of whether the America part, and it's just a question of whether you can get the United States part kind of lined up to at least not prevent good things from happening and ideally help good things.

Marc Andreessen

Well, what are the things that you think about this administration, at least what they're proposing, posing that would move us in that direction as opposed to the way things were going.

Joe Rogan

There's a lot of things. I mean, see, I think you got to start with the Doge, the Department of Government Efficiency that, you know, Elon.

Marc Andreessen

Is hilarious that it just winds up being Doge. Doge. He's been pushing dogecoin forever.

Joe Rogan

The universe speaks.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, it's just so. So many things are just so on the nose. You're like, is the simulation real?

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

I mean, it has to be real.

Joe Rogan

Yes, exactly. Exactly. Exactly. And Elon is programming it in the back room late at night, in between playing.

Marc Andreessen

We certainly got a good position in the game.

Joe Rogan

And tweeting. Exactly.

Marc Andreessen

He's the number one Diablo player in the world right now, by the way.

Joe Rogan

Exactly.

Marc Andreessen

He just got number one, which means fucking bananas. How does he have the time to do that?

Joe Rogan

Which means he could be the guy steering the simulation. Yeah, yeah. So look, this Goes back to what we were talking about before. Like, it just. It is time to carve this government back in size and scope. It's time to take the overall. You know, you could talk about distribution of taxes, but it's time to take the overall tax load down. It's time to take the spending down. It's time to get the government out of the position of deciding who gets money. It's time to unleash economic growth.

Marc Andreessen

Elon explained that there's more agencies than there have been years of the United states, correct?

Joe Rogan

Yeah, 450 federal agencies and two new ones a year. And then my favorite twist is we have this thing called independent federal agencies. So for example, we have this thing called the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, cfpb, which was the. It's sort of Elizabeth Warren's personal agency that gets to control, and it's an independent agency that just gets to run and do whatever it wants. Right. And if you read the Constitution, like, there is no such thing as an independent agency. And yet there it is.

Marc Andreessen

What does her agency do?

Joe Rogan

Whatever she wants.

Marc Andreessen

What does it do, though?

Joe Rogan

Basically, terrorize finance, terrorize financial institutions, prevent fintech, prevent new competition, new startups that want to compete with the big banks. Really? Oh, yeah.

Marc Andreessen

How so?

Joe Rogan

Just by terrorizing anybody who tries to do anything and financial services.

Marc Andreessen

Can you give me an example?

Joe Rogan

Debanking. This is where a lot of the debanking comes from, is these agencies. So debanking is when you as either a person or your company are literally kicked out of the banking system.

Marc Andreessen

Like they did to Kanye.

Joe Rogan

Exactly like they did to Kanye. My partner, Ben's father has been debanked.

Marc Andreessen

Really?

Joe Rogan

We had an employee. For what? For having the wrong politics, for saying unacceptable things under current banking regulations, under. Okay, here's a great thing. Under current banking, regardless, regulations, after all the reforms of the last 20 years, there's now a category called a politically exposed person pep. And if you were a pep, you are required by financial regulators to kick them off, to kick them out of your bank. You're not allowed to have.

Marc Andreessen

What if you're politically on the left?

Joe Rogan

Well, that's fine. No, because they're not politically exposed.

Marc Andreessen

So no one on the left gets debanked.

Joe Rogan

I have not heard of a single instance of anybody on the left getting debanked.

Marc Andreessen

Can you tell me what the person that you know did what they said that got them debanked?

Joe Rogan

Oh, well, I mean, David Hurwitz is a right wing, you know, he's pro Trump. I mean, he said all kinds of things. You know, he's been very anti Islamic terrorism, He's been very worried about immigrate, migration, all these things.

Marc Andreessen

And they debanked him for that.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, they debanked. So you get kicked out. You get kicked out of your bank account. You get, you get kicked out of the. You can't do credit card transactions, by the way. And you can't.

Marc Andreessen

Was that legal?

Joe Rogan

Well, exactly. So this is the thing. And so, and then you go to this thing of like. Well, there's no, this is where the government and the companies get intertwined. Back to your fascism point, which is there's no, there's a constitutional amendment that says the government restrict your speech, but there's no constitutional amendment that says the government can't debank you. If they can't do the one thing, they do the other thing. And then they don't have to debank you, they just have to put pressure on the private company banks to do it. Then the private company banks do it because they're expected to. But the government gets to say, we didn't do it, it was the private company that did it. And of course JP Morgan can decide who they want to have as customers. Of course. Right. Is their private company. So it's this sleight of hand that happens. It's basically, basically it's a privatized sanctions regime that lets bureaucrats do to American citizens the same thing that we do to Iran, kick you out of the financial system. And so this has been happening to all the crypto entrepreneurs in the last four years.

Marc Andreessen

This has been happening to a lot of the fintech entrepreneurs, anybody trying to start any kind of new banking service because they're trying to protect the big banks. And then this has been happening, by the way, also in legal fields of economic activity that they don't like. And so a lot of this started about 15 years ago with this thing called Operation Choke Point, where they decided to, as marijuana started to become legal, as prostitution started to become legal, and then guns, which there's always a fight about. Under the Obama administration, they started to debank legal marijuana businesses, escort businesses, and then gun shops, just like your gun manufacturers. And just like you're done, you're out of the banking system. And so if you're running a medical marijuana dispensary in 2012, like, you guess what, you're doing your business all in cash because you literally can't get a bank account, you can't get a Visa terminal, you can't process transactions, you can't do payroll you can't do direct deposit, you can't get insurance. Like, none of that stuff is. You've been sanctioned. Right. None of that stuff is available. And then this administration extended that concept to apply it to tech founders, crypto founders, and then just generally political opponents.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. So that's, that's been like, super pernicious.

Marc Andreessen

I wasn't aware of that.

Joe Rogan

Oh, 100%. And this is called. So it was operation short point one point. Choke point zero was 15 years ago against the pot and the guns. Choke point 2.0 is primarily against their political enemies and then to their disfavored tech startups. And it's hit the tech world. Like, we've had. We've had like, 30 founders debanked in the last four years. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. It's been a. It's been a big recurring pattern.

Marc Andreessen

30.

Joe Rogan

This is one of the reasons why we ended up supporting Trump. It's like we just can't. We can't live in this world. We can't live in a world where somebody starts a company that's a completely legal thing, and. And then they literally get sanctioned and embargoed by the United States government through a completely unaccountable, by the way, no due process. None of this is written down. There's no rules, there's no court, there's no decision process, there's no appeal. Who do you appeal to? Who do you go to to get your bank account back? And then there's also the civil asset forfeiture side of it, which is. Right. The other side. And that doesn't happen to us, but that happens to people in a lot of places now who get arrested and all of a sudden the state takes their money.

Marc Andreessen

Yes, but that happens to people if they get pulled over and they have a large amount of cash in some states.

Joe Rogan

Right. Or, you know, there'll be. There've been, you know, well publicized examples of like, you know, there was like, you know, there'd be some investigation into, like, you know, safe deposit boxes. And the next thing you know, the feds have seized all the contents of the state deposit. Safe deposit boxes, and that that stuff never gets returned. And so it's this. And this is when, you know, this is when Trump says the deep state. You know, like the way we would describe it is it's administrative power, it's political power being administered not through legislation. So there's no defined law that covers this. It's not through regulation. There's nothing. You can't go sue a regulator to fix this, it's not through any kind of court judgment. It's just raw power. It's just raw administrative power. It's the government or politicians just deciding that things are going to be a certain way, and then they just apply pressure until they get it.

Marc Andreessen

So what happens to those 30 tech people that you know to go into.

Joe Rogan

A different field, like try to do something different and try to. Try to try to get, you know.

Marc Andreessen

Complete upending of your life.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. Complete upending of your life. And try to. Try to. Yeah. Try to change your. Try to get out of the. Try to get away from the Eye of Sauron. Try to get out of whatever zone got you into this and keep applying for new bank accounts at different banks and hope that at some point a bank will say, you know, okay. You know, it's okay, we've checked and it's now, all right.

Marc Andreessen

Whoa.

Joe Rogan

But there's no.

Marc Andreessen

So what do they do with their money? Like, what happens?

Joe Rogan

I mean, you go to cash.

Marc Andreessen

I mean, you go to cash, you.

Joe Rogan

Can't have a. Yeah, so where do you put it? Under your mat? Under your mattress? Yes, exactly. Yeah, exactly.

Marc Andreessen

That is so insane. So if someone has \$30 million in the bank and they get debanked.

Joe Rogan

Diamonds, Art, you know, do you, I don't know, go overseas somewhere?

Marc Andreessen

Holy.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, yeah, yeah. And just like, it just. It just happens. And again, it's really important. There's no fingerprints. Like, there's no.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

There's no person who.

Marc Andreessen

There's no stick above the strings.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, exactly. It just happened. And we can trace it back because we understand. Exactly. We know the politicians involved and we know how the agencies work and we know how the pressure is applied, and we know that these banks get phone calls and so forth. And so we can loosely, like, we understand the flow of power as it happens, but when you're on the receiving end of this, your specific instance of it, like, you. You can't trace it back and there's nothing.

Marc Andreessen

So these. What are the instances? Like, what is the company, what are they trying to do? And how do they run afoul all.

Joe Rogan

The crypto startups in the last basically four years? So, remember, the crypto thing got like, really, you know, sort of everybody got excited and like, NFTs and like all that stuff, and then it just, like, stopped.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

And the reason it stopped is because basically every crypto founder, every crypto startup, they either got debanked personally and forced out of the industry or their company got debanked, and so it couldn't keep up rating or they got prosecuted, charged, or they got threatened with being charged. This is a fun. This is a fun twist. This is a fun little twist. So the SEC sort of has been trying to kill the crypto industry under Biden. And this has been a big issue for us because we're the biggest crypto startup investor. The SEC can investigate you, they can subpoena you, they can prosecute you, they can do all these things, but they don't have to do any of those things to really damage you. All they have to do is they issue

what's called a well notice. And the Wells notice is a notification that you may be charged at some point in the future. Like, you're, like, on notice that you might be doing something wrong and they might be coming after you at some point in the future.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, my God.

Joe Rogan

Okay.

Marc Andreessen

So terrifying. That's the eye.

Joe Rogan

The eye of Sauron is on you.

Marc Andreessen

Okay.

Joe Rogan

Now, trying to be a company with a Wells notice, doing business with anybody else.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, my God.

Joe Rogan

Right? Try to try to work with a big company, try to get access to a bank. Try to do so.

Marc Andreessen

That's when they support DEI initiatives. And they.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, well, and then the sec. The SEC under Biden became a. The SEC under Biden became a direct application of. Exactly. So dei, they started. They did a lot with that. And then esg, all the ESG stuff. And ESG is a very malleable concept, and they piled all kinds of new requirements into that. So through that, through this process, the SEC could basically just simply dictate what companies do with no accountability at all. Like, there's no, you know, there's no over. There's no over. There are hearings where they get yelled at, but, like, nothing changed. Nothing ever happened in a hearing that ever changed anything. It was just the raw application of power. Right, and so this is.

Marc Andreessen

Your friends. This has happened, too.

Joe Rogan

Oh, yeah, for sure. Yeah. We had, like I said, we had an employee who got debanked because he had crypto in his job title. He was doing crypto policy for us, and his bank booted him because he.

Marc Andreessen

That's it.

Joe Rogan

Because they did it. They did a screen across. It's what they told us is they did a screen across their customer base. Anyone with crypto because. Anybody with crypto became a politically exposed person because.

Marc Andreessen

Wow.

Joe Rogan

Because crypto was politically controversial. Right, That's. So you hear this sometimes. It's like these terms, compliance, reputation management, tone at the top. They have these lovely sounding terms that make it sound like everybody's going to be an upstanding citizen. But what they're all code for is destroy the enemy, bring the hammer of God and the bank and the government or whoever or the social media bring it down and just like, crush the individual with no due process. And look, there's an argument in the long run that this is all unconstitutional because the Constitution gives us all the right to due process and this is government pressure and there's no right. So, like, there's probably a Supreme Court case in five years that's going to find retroactively that this was all illegal. But in the moment when you're the guy who's been debanked, I mean, number one.

Marc Andreessen

And then also the potential that if you do challenge them in court and lose, the repercussions would be even heavier.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, 100%.

Marc Andreessen

Why? Is it really worth your effort? Is it worth the risk?

Joe Rogan

That's right.

Marc Andreessen

Especially if you've already had your life upended. You ready to do it again?

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that's right.

Marc Andreessen

When you barely built yourself back up.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. So this is, and I think this is important context where, like when Elon and Vivek talk about, like, reducing regulation, you know, there's two ways to think about reducing regulation. It's like, oh, my God, the water in the air are going to get dirty and the food's going to get poisoned.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

Now, some of those regulations, I think are very important. But the other way to think about it is examples like this, which is just raw government power being applied to ordinary people who are just trying to live their lives, are just trying to do something legitimate, and they're just on the wrong side of something that the people in power have decided, well, there's.

Marc Andreessen

Something that isn't illegal, but they don't want to be done by crypto, like.

Joe Rogan

Crypto or having the wrong political points of view. Well, the trucker, you know, the other great example is the trucker strike up in Canada was an even more direct version of this because here you had truckers physically showing up and it was something. Something like step one was they take away your driver's license, which, by the way. Right. It's just somebody pressing a button on a keyboard. No more driver's license. Step two is they take away your insurance, and step three is to take away your kids. Right. And so, like, that was their version of this. And that was a very specific take away your kids. That was the threat at the end to the truckers and the Canada trucker strike. Because the truck. Because the trucker strike in Canada was going to Jam up these cities. Because it was the farmers, the

truckers were very serious. They wanted to, they were doing a non violent protest, but they wanted to stall the cities to be able to exert political pressure back on the government.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

And the government was like, we'll tolerate it for a little while, then we'll take your trucker license, then we'll take your insurance, then we'll take your kids.

Marc Andreessen

How do they say they would take their kids?

Joe Rogan

Because it's administrative power. Like you can't, you can't. Right. The theory would be you can't let these aren't good parents if they're sitting in a truck in the middle of Calgary preventing, you know, goods and services from reaching people. Right. Putting people's lives at risk.

Marc Andreessen

Wow.

Joe Rogan

You know, child seizure. Now I don't know if they actually seized any kids, but it's just an example of. There is an agency in the Canadian government, just like in the US government, that if they want to, they can take your kids.

Marc Andreessen

Well, they were doing debanking there with people who donated to the trucker convoy.

Joe Rogan

That's right.

Marc Andreessen

Which is even crazier.

Joe Rogan

That's right.

Marc Andreessen

Not even people who were there. People were opposed to the mandates that Trudeau's administration was imposing on people. And so they donated to these truckers and then they got their bank accounts taken away, which is really crazy.

Joe Rogan

And so. And I, and I. Exactly. And I think that, I think the right way to think about this is when we think about totalitarianism. We think about literally World War II. We think about Nazis in jackboots with tanks and guns and beating people up and killing people. That's our mental. And you might call that hard totalitarianism. That's very clearly violent totalitarianism. But there's this other version you might call soft totalitarianism, which is just rules and power exercised arbitrarily. That just simply suppresses everything. Right. And this is speech control and debanking and all these other things that we've been talking about. And that is, you know, the good news is they're not coming up and like beating you up in the middle of the night. The bad news is like you are under their complete control and they can do whatever they want to you that doesn't involve physical violence, which basically includes the entire aspect of, you know, every aspect of how you actually conduct your life and support your family and get an income and everything else.

Marc Andreessen

And most people aren't even aware of it.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that's right. And then, you know, look, these are individual One off things. Most people don't have a voice. You know, it's very hard to organize, you know, organize around these. And then, by the way, if there's an organization that organizes to try to get these stories out, it then itself can get suppressed and debank. Well, it happened during the COVID lockdowns. Right? So, so the lockdown protests all got suppressed. Right? So you went, you know, so it's like, so the lockdown went from two weeks to crush the curve to two months to two years.

Marc Andreessen

Right, right.

Joe Rogan

Which is like, okay, what the hell, right. And then there were these protests that were, there were these protests that were forming out, nonviolent protests that were forming up to protest lockdowns. And you could argue the issue different ways, but people have a legitimate right to protest for that, just like they do for anything else. And the next thing you know is all the lockdown protests got censored, like, just like, boop, gone. Right. And so at that point, like the normal process of being able to try to get redress from your government,

right, to force your rights to literally, for example, see your family, all of a sudden, like, you can't even organize a protest.

Marc Andreessen

Do you. How much are you aware of what happened with the FTX crisis? Because one of the things that happened with the FDX thing was it was revealed that they were, I think they were the number two donor to the Democratic Party. Do you think that that is sort of a preemptive measure to avoid any of this debanking and, you know, be financially invested in these people so they're not going to come after you?

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that was his, that was explicitly his strategy. That was Sam's. Yeah, Sam's approach. Sam. Sam's approach is just pay everybody. So Sam's approach was just, I have \$8 billion of customer funds that I can use for whatever I want. Right. Which was the crime.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

And then a big part of what he used, some of it, he used to like hang out with celebrities and get Tom and Giselle to endorse FTX and the Larry David commercial and all this stuff. But a lot of that money, something like \$150 million of that money went to basically just pay politicians. And a lot of that money was paid to politicians with no compliance at all with all the, you know, campaign finance regulations that the rest of us all have to comply with. And so the money was just shotgun out the door.

Marc Andreessen

How come they don't have to comply?

Joe Rogan

Well, it was illegal. I mean, it was illegal because he was breaking the law. I mean, it was. To be clear, he was. He was illegal. Now, a very funny thing happened, which is when he was indicted by the US Government, they didn't. They ended up not charging him on campaign finance fraud and because they'd have.

Marc Andreessen

To give all the money back.

Joe Rogan

Well, so there's two theories on it. The thing that they said was their extra. Extradition agreement with Bermuda. Bermuda threatened to not extradite him if they charged him on that charge, which is, like, super weird because you're the United. Number one, you're the

United States of America. You can probably get the guy. Number two, did he really want to stay in a prison in Bermuda? Right. And so. So that was all weird. And then. And then, look, the other. There's no evidence for this, but the other theory is, yeah, the. Whoever are the powers that be that decide these things in D.C. decided to not open it. It's. It's like the Epstein client list. Like, there are certain bots. Boxes.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

That are better not to open at least.

Marc Andreessen

Well, the campaign finance thing. Wouldn't they have to pay it back?

Joe Rogan

So then there's this, like, panic. The minute one of these scandals breaks like that, there's these panic rush, and all of a sudden, politicians discover philanthropic causes they can donate the money to. Right. And then. And then, yeah, in the fullness of time, the trustees might come, claw the money back. So, yeah, there's. You know, it'll. It'll. It'll play out however it does. But. But it is. It is interesting. It is a great example of. It was the shotgunning of money into the system under, like, basically just, like, nakedly breaking the law. And then it. Now, look, he's in prison. The other argument is he's in prison. He's in prison already. Like, whatever. It just would have been, you know, another sentence. But, like, he did break the law, and he was not actually charged on that. And that prosecution has not happened and probably sitting here today never will.

Marc Andreessen

What's really fascinating about him is that he was right. And if they didn't come after him, he would have gotten all that money to those people. People. He would. It seems like it kind of turned around. Right.

Joe Rogan

It didn't get him off the hook, though.

Marc Andreessen

It didn't, no. Well, he still did something illegal.

Joe Rogan

He did, yeah.

Marc Andreessen

Did he know it was illegal?

Joe Rogan

He is in prison. I think it's really hard to get inside that guy's head. I don't know that I can represent his mental state.

Marc Andreessen

He'd be a fascinating podcast guest if.

Joe Rogan

He was out he flopped very hardly very hard at trial. So he. He had an explanation, but the jury didn't buy it.

Marc Andreessen

What was his explanation?

Joe Rogan

That, you know, he was, you know, that it was all the money was all being invested and he was going to give it all back. And it was all this and that, you know, all these complicated theories around all this effective altruism and this and that. The other thing. And the prosecution is just like, it was the customer's money, it wasn't your money.

Marc Andreessen

Right, Clearly.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. And so I, like, I don't know, like.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, well, there's also amphetamines involved, which definitely tend to skew your judgment. I mean, him and that lady were like sort of proponents of amphetamine use.

Joe Rogan

And they were taking. There was some anti Parkinson's drug they were taking that has a side effect of reducing your risk calories.

Marc Andreessen

Dopamine agonists.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, one of those.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Like Re equip.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, something like that. He had these patches.

Marc Andreessen

He was taking these patches that makes you do wild. That also makes people gamble.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, exactly. Well, yeah.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. There was a guy who won a law from GlaxoSmithKline because he took Re equip and became a gay sex and gambling addict. Yeah. I think they paid him the equivalent of like 500 plus thousand American dollars. I believe it was in Ireland.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Dopamine agonists are weird. They do strange things to people.

Joe Rogan

If that happened to me, I would definitely sue.

Marc Andreessen

That's crazy that those guys were taking those things.

Joe Rogan

At least Sam was.

Marc Andreessen

Boy, what a wild fellow.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

MSAM confirmed. He wears an MSAM patch. What's an MSAM patch? He's supposed to use the depression medication. Oh. His supposed use of the depression medication had kicked

up some rumors. So what is. That's the stuff. That's the Parkinson's, I think that was. Is that a dopamine agonist? Does it say?

Joe Rogan

I'm not sure.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, see, put dopamine ago.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. Parkinson's. There we go.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Interesting.

Joe Rogan

It's like related. If it's not that, it's like a related class.

Marc Andreessen

Interesting. How does it work? Does it say how it works? Commonly used to depression. How does it work, though? Okay. It's an MAO inhibitor. Interesting. Used to treat mental depression in adults. This medicine is a monoamine oxide inhibitor. Different one that says it's sludge. It could be the same. Oh, okay. Yeah, that's sludge. Lean sledgeline is also. People take that as well as a nootropic. I've heard.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that's what it is.

Marc Andreessen

So it isn't a sledgeline celagine cell edgeline. I think it's legally. I knew a doctor who was taking that. He was taking it as a. But not in a patch. He was taking in a pill form and he said it was a nootropic. So monoamine oxidase inhibitor. So that's the stuff that's the active and that's what makes ayahuasca orally active. Same thing, a monoamine oxide inhibitor along with the plant that contains dimethyltryptamine, which is not normally orally active. So this guy, if he was doing drugs and taking MAO inhibitors, he was out of his fucking mind, guaranteed. Because I know people who have taken like prescription grade MAO inhibitors and then taken mushrooms and literally almost never came back. Like got to the point where for weeks they were fucked up. And then when they did come back they were like, I almost lost it. Like I was almost gone gone. Like, you know, like the dude from Pink Floyd, like never coming back. Shine on, you crazy diamond. You're gone. And that happens to people.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

So this fucking kid with billions of dollars of people's money is taken those kinds of medications and amphetamines and who knows what.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. You know, he had an on staff psychiatrist who was prescribing all this stuff.

Marc Andreessen

Wonderful. Like Hitler.

Joe Rogan

An inside guy. Yeah, exactly. Once again, once again, back to Hitler.

Marc Andreessen

That's so crazy. What a wild boy.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. Are you following the cycle? The theories that now emerging around Ozempic and psychological changes that Ozempic causes?

Marc Andreessen

No, but I did read that it makes your heart shrink.

Joe Rogan

Well, there's some theory to that which is very concerning. But there's, there's a fair amount of evidence that it resolves alcohol addiction, certain forms of drug addiction and gambling addictions. And the current theory, is that what it does is it basically it essentially increases your self control, your self discipline and it reduces cravings. Wow. And there's a theory that this is very positive. Let's say this is true, which is what they think right now. We'll see. But that's what they think. So the theory that it's positive. Positive is the theory that, you know, if we were all like more responsible in our lives, we'd all be more successful and society would go better.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Counter argument would be like responsible is only part of living and it's only part of what makes a society work. And we also need risk taking and we need creativity and we need impulsiveness.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

Right. And we need variety yes. And maybe we're all going to get into a channel.

Marc Andreessen

Right, right.

Joe Rogan

And maybe we're not going to, like, where that. Where that. That just by itself ends up.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. You can't have everybody disciplined. You have to have wild out out there. You have to have your jelly rolls of the world. You have to be crazy people. They're fun, they make things more interesting. That's right. So it's essentially discipline in a pill form or an injectable form.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. And it's been very. It's been very helpful. Prescribe. Increasingly starting to prescribe it to alcoholics. And apparently it's working quite well.

Marc Andreessen

That's crazy. Well, that brings me to ibogaine, which is the one thing that has, like the most success for people with addictions.

Joe Rogan

And it's illegal.

Marc Andreessen

Illegal in this country. People go down to Mexico and go to these ibogaine retreats. It's apparently. I haven't done it, but it's apparently this insane introspective journey that's very uncomfortable. And it lasts about 24 hours. It's not something that's addictive in any way, shape or form. Almost everyone says it's a very uncomfortable experience. But you gain unbelievable insight into what is wrong with you that makes you want to pick up heroin. Like, what. What's going on in there that you're trying to escape? Like, what is this? And it recognizes that pathway and puts a chemical stop there. It actually like stops people from

having addictive cravings and it rewires the way they think about things, particularly beneficial to veterans. A lot of veterans who have just seen way too much and come over and they're all fucked up and they don't have any way to straighten their brain out. And they've had tremendous benefits using that. You know, I wonder. I wonder, particularly with These Ozempics and WeGovy and all these different types of weight loss diabetic drugs. I wonder if there's a way to mitigate these side effects. Because when I've talked to people that think that, like my friend Brigham Bueller, who runs weights too well, he's concerned about side effects of it.

Joe Rogan

It. But he's also. He looks at people that are just morbidly obese and he's like, these people, they need some fucking help. They've gone down this terrible road. Yes. They shouldn't have done it. Yes. Okay, we all agree to that. Don't eat pie all day. But if you've gotten to 500 pounds, you're probably. You're in a Bad state, and you could probably use some help, and maybe that could get them back on track. And maybe there's a way with maybe strength training, because one of the things is they lose a large percentage of muscle mass and bone density. Maybe that could be mitigated with strength training. Maybe it's one of those things, like, if you're going to get on Ozempic, you must lift weights three times a week, which is. That might be it. I mean, if it's just losing tissue, there's certainly. That's. That's relatively easy to fix, right?

Marc Andreessen

That's right. And there's. By the way, there's a ton of R and D going into these drugs right now. So there's going to be many more versions of these. These things.

Joe Rogan

I'm hopeful that we could develop something where no one can ever be obese again. That would be really interesting. I mean, maybe this is just the first steps of this. Right. And then, like, these are crude versions of what will ultimately be a very comprehensive way of addressing an issue like that.

Marc Andreessen

So the other thing I'd say. So I've been down in Florida the last couple weeks working on some of the, you know, stuff happening down there, and one of the things I learned is that the rfk, The RFK is really in charge of health for the country from here, you know, for, like, he's really in charge, you know, working with the president. And he, you know, for all the controversy around some of his positions, like, he's, you know, this whole, like, he's very serious about this. And a lot of people, including a lot of the most qualified people I know in the field, are like, yes, it is long overdue that we look at the food system.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

And we look at all these all just whatever. To your point, the horrible track that we've been on for 40 years, which is just a complete catastrophe. And I think it's a. There's this concept in psychology called common knowledge, which is. It's like, it's something that everybody knows but yet nobody states out loud. And so it, like, it's, like, known, but then all of a sudden there's a tipping point. And all of a sudden it's not only known, but it's, like, obvious. All of a sudden, everybody agrees on it.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

And this feels like one of those moments where it's like, nutrition, behavioral, you know, exercise, like the path that people are on to become obese. Like, no, like, this actually needs to be addressed. Like, this is actually a profound issue. And it's. It's we're on the road to hell. And, like, it has to get fixed. And maybe it gets. It gets fixed chemically and maybe it gets fixed behaviorally or other things. Maybe the culture has to change, but, like, it has to get fixed. And I'm actually, I've been very encouraged that, like, I think this is now going to be a very big focus area and not just by the government, but I think also in the culture.

Joe Rogan

I agree, and I'm very encouraged as well. And I think as we were talking before about a sort of a shift in perspective of the country, I think a shift in perspective of the country towards that being something that you should strive towards. I think that's coming too. I think that's happening right now. One of the happiest moments for me, me is when I run into someone and they said they were inspired to get fit and healthy from listening to me talking about the benefits of it. And I've talked to so many people that have lost £100, £150, they're exercising regularly, they eat healthy. It's fantastic. It's one of my favorite things when I run into people that are fans of the podcast.

Marc Andreessen

So one of my theories on this is that this is part of this. What happened is something very specific happened during COVID which is the public health people, by and large looked very unhealthy.

Joe Rogan

Yes. Right.

Marc Andreessen

They didn't look good.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

And so you've got these people standing up there telling everybody how they've got to, like, do all the, you know, lockdowns and the masks and like, all.

Joe Rogan

That stuff and like, yeah, Bill Gates should get jacked.

Marc Andreessen

That would be very helpful.

Joe Rogan

He's got a lot of money.

Marc Andreessen

It would be extremely helpful. Get a trainer when he writes the book and goes on the press tour to talk about public health and how.

Joe Rogan

The rest of us should learn, get a trainer.

Marc Andreessen

That would. Would be great, by the way, be great for him and his family and society. It would be very reassuring.

Joe Rogan

Bill Gates had a six pack. I'd listen to him more.

Marc Andreessen

That I think would be absolutely fantastic. And so, like, it's just this thing. It's just like, well, of course, like, yes, the people who are telling us all how to live and eat ought to be healthy.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

And if they're not, like, clearly. Right.

Joe Rogan

That's where RFK comes in.

Marc Andreessen

Play 100%.

Joe Rogan

He looks fantastic.

Marc Andreessen

He looks great. He looks great. Yeah, yeah. Super chat. Like, yeah. It's just like, wow.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. We were taking pictures. I'm like, dude, you're jacked. Look at. Put my arm on him like, you're fucking Jack, dude. Look at you.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Works out all the time at Gold's Gym in Venice.

Marc Andreessen

There we go.

Joe Rogan

Jeans on.

Marc Andreessen

Awesome.

Joe Rogan

Works out with jeans on.

Marc Andreessen

That's old school.

Joe Rogan

I don't get that.

Marc Andreessen

That's amazing.

Joe Rogan

That seems weird. It seems like it gets in the way your squats. Unless you're wearing like. Like Origin jeans or something. That's got a lot of stretchy fabric to it. You know, you got. You have to give stretchy jeans. But even then, like, put some shorts on, you weirdo. Like, what are you doing, man?

Marc Andreessen

No, it's like, that's like. That's like. That's like prison yard credibility. It's fantastic.

Joe Rogan

It is a little. It is a little street credit. Know, wearing Timberlands.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

Timberlands and a pair of jeans and doing your squats. It's kind of crazy.

Marc Andreessen

Exactly.

Joe Rogan

But the promotion of health is like, I don't know how anybody could be against that. Do you want more energy? Do you want more vitality in your life? Well, you should be healthier. It's like you're lit. You have your body's race car, and you could choose. If you work hard enough to jack up the horsepower, you can make better brakes, you can have a better fuel injection system. Like, the whole thing can work way better. Like, all you have to do is work at it. And that is your vehicle for propelling you through this life. It'll give you more energy for creativity, more energy for your family, more energy for your hobbies, your recreations, time with your friends. You'll literally have more energy as a human, which is what we all like. Nobody likes waking up and feeling like shit. I mean, everybody's been hungover who's had a few drinks. And you wake up in the morning like, what am I doing? I don't ever want to do this again. Why did I do this to myself? And then you can't wait for the day where you feel better. Like, you drink your electrolytes, you get your sleep, you do whatever the you can.

Marc Andreessen

And you're like, I'll be over this soon. Go. Oh, your head. Oh. And you. You know, everybody likes having more energy. It's better for you. And we could promote that as a society. And the. This RFK Jr appointment is a really big step in that direction that we've really never had before.

Joe Rogan

That's right. Yeah. You have to go back to, like, literally. His uncle JFK had a program like this in late night 1962.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Been a long time.

Marc Andreessen

Well, Michelle Obama did for a bit, right?

Joe Rogan

A little bit. Although that was like, vegetarian. You know, you're getting into, like, vegetarian school.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, was she saying vegetarian?

Joe Rogan

I don't know if she was vegetarian. But, like. Well, Eric Adams, you know, the government may. Or mayor of New York has been trying to push vegetarian school lunches.

Marc Andreessen

It's like, no, that's not right.

Joe Rogan

No, that's not right.

Marc Andreessen

It's so dumb. I can't wait until they can figure out the plants really can think and feel.

Joe Rogan

Right. Exactly.

Marc Andreessen

Because they're real close. They're real close to proving that they've demonstrated intelligence and allocation of resources through mycelium. There's a lot of stuff that we know now about plants that we didn't know then. I think they're all conscious. I think everything's conscious.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. I think we need. We need audio recordings of the screams.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

When you mow the lawn, it's just like Armageddon, you know, that they can.

Marc Andreessen

Play audio recordings of caterpillars eating leaves, and it changes the flavor profile of all the plants around it.

Joe Rogan

Awesome.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, yeah. They've done this because there's a phenomenon when giraffe. If giraffes are eating. If they are upwind and they're eating leaves, as the wind comes down and gets to the other acacia trees, the acacia trees will. They'll come up with this phytochemical. They produce a phytochemical that's disgusting to the giraffes. And the giraffes will literally starve because they won't eat those trees. And they do this somehow or another through communication. It's like they're preventing war. They're being attacked by mammals, and they're like, we have to stop the attack. And nature has provided them with this mechanism to do that, which is really crazy.

Joe Rogan

That's amazing. So back to the dosh for a moment. So one of the reasons why everybody became unhealthy is because the government directly put itself into the food system. And specifically, high fructose corn syrup. Right. High fructose corn syrup was an artifact of government agriculture subsidies. Right. The country was.

Marc Andreessen

Which was good during World War II.

Joe Rogan

Because we needed food at one time. Right. But by the 1970s, we were massively overproducing. Specifically, we're massively overproducing corn. And the corn lobby, the sort of agriculture lobby became very powerful. And we have this government agency. One of the 450 government agencies is the USDA. And the USDA has a dual mandate. It's to promote US agriculture, specifically things like corn. And it's also to advise us on what we should eat. And they also do the food pyramid. And that's why the food pyramid is upside

down. Right. For all those decades where we're supposed to eat carbs and not protein and fat was because literally that's the agency that's responsible for promoting agriculture. And then that agency inserted itself through laws, regulations and this kind of administrative pressure and basically said, thou shalt use high fructose corn syrup because it is a byproduct of corn as opposed to sugar. And as we now know, that was absolutely poisonous decision. Like that was like literal poison. Absolutely. A ruinous decision. Just an absolutely terrible idea.

Marc Andreessen

Well, Casey Means was on here and she was explaining the very mechanism by which high fructose corn syrup encourages overconsumption. And then it's essentially like, it's an evolutionary thing that like where bears would eat like a bunch of berries to get fat for the winter. It's like these high fructose corn syrup encourages you to over consume.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, we were not supposed to be eating this. This was not supposed to. It would not have drink 100%. Like, yeah, 100%. And so. But this would not have happened had the government not made it happen. And so it traces directly back to a government decision to do that. Now, they didn't, of course, they didn't understand the consequences, but that's kind of the point, which is they interfered without understanding the consequences. And so that's the kind of thing where you look at it and you're just like, all right, like, and then you're 40 years later and you're still doing it.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

And then at that. And then at some point, you know what the consequences are. And then at some point there's a question of whether they're being covered up. Right, right. And it's just like, okay, at some point this has to stop. And literally they just need to stop. They just need to stop subsidizing corn. They need to stop forcing the food companies to do this. They just need to stop. And so this goes back to the regulatory reform thing, which is there's just a tremendous amount of this that may have been good intentioned at one point, but sitting here today, we're living with these horrible downstream consequences. And unless somebody steps in with a hammer, none of this is going to happen.

Marc Andreessen

The insane amount of money that's involved because R.J. Reynolds, these tobacco companies, when they were getting sanctioned, they were getting in Trouble. They decided, well, let's buy all these food companies. And so now these same companies that lied about whether or not cigarettes are addictive and cause cancer, now these same companies are pushing super unhealthy food on people, or at least selling super unhealthy food people,

which I think you should be allowed to buy. I think you should be allowed to buy whatever the fuck you want. I'm all for that. But I do think we should be like much more aware of what's actually going on, like you're saying, and why this stuff is in there in the first place.

Joe Rogan

Right. Well, then, and then you get in these other, you know, more delicate questions, but it's like, okay, food assistance programs for like, you know, low income people and low income children. It's like, okay, should they be, do we want little kids who have no control over this to end up on the receiving end of this food production pipeline paid for with government money and being £300 by the time they're 18.

Marc Andreessen

Right. And cheaper than other foods.

Joe Rogan

And cheaper than other foods. Because they're subsidized. Because they're subsidized. And so, and you just, you have this very perverse outcome where you have these government officials who have been standing up there for 40 years saying, we're protecting you, we're protecting you. And what's been happening is they've been poisoning us.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

And so it, like, stuff like, it just needs to stop. And that's, that, that's where you need something like the Doge. So, and somebody like President Trump, what.

Marc Andreessen

Would they be able to do to mitigate a lot of these issues? Like, how would they, if you want to, would you make it illegal to put high fructose corn syrup as an ingredient? Or would you simply stop subsidizing? Like, and what would be, how would that work within the government? Like, how would you apply something like that?

Joe Rogan

Yeah. I think there's three things you can do, two of which involve direct action, and then the third is maybe even the most important. So one is you can just stop doing things that are harmful. You can stop doing things the government can. Subsidizing bad things. That's an example. Let me give you an example parallel thing. If you want to clean up the universities, you need to stop feeding them student loans. Right. So the government should stop paying for things that are clearly harmful. So that's one. And then two is, look, there may be a role for additional protections or prohibitions. And so, for example, maybe you let people freely buy all the oreos they want, but maybe you can't get them with food assistance programs so

that kids who have no control over it are not being poisoned. And so you maybe do that. But I always think that the third thing is culture. Like, there's always a temptation with these discussions because the government's so powerful to talk about what the government does or doesn't do. And I think so much of this has to do with the culture. It's actually upstream or downstream from politics, which is like, what is the cultural tone of the country?

Marc Andreessen

What's the value system? What are the role models? Right. What are people being inspired to do? Also, what form of shaming is in effect, like, what are we not going to tolerate? Take the perverse. That's studies like, right, are we going to glorify obesity?

Joe Rogan

Right, right. No, no.

Marc Andreessen

And that's not necessarily a legal judgment or a court case, but it's, it's a, it's a cultural statement. And if the, if and, and I. And it's not that the government plays. Should control the culture, but our leaders certainly play a big role in that.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

And so in both in and outside of government. And so for our leaders to step up at a moment like this and basically say, yeah, no, this is not the kind of culture we're going to have. It's not the kind of society we're going to have. It's not what kids should be looking up to. I think, I think is just as powerful as the actual government actions.

Joe Rogan

It's interesting you saying the kind of shaming, because I don't want to shame anybody for being fat, but, boy, does that work.

Marc Andreessen

Maybe you should shame fat.

Joe Rogan

Shaming works.

Marc Andreessen

And maybe you should shame parents if their kids are fat.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, right.

Marc Andreessen

The problem is, and maybe there's so.

Joe Rogan

Many people that are ignorant as to what exactly is going on, of course.

Marc Andreessen

And that's it's like absolutely required and.

Joe Rogan

They're being fed 100% and.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, but again, it's also cultural, which is like, okay, is the media thing, like, is the media educating people on this? And if the mainstream media is not doing it right, should there be new media sources that are in which source? And then therefore which sources in the media get respect? So we have this giant collective culture question that we all get to ask and answer, and particularly those of us in a position to be able to send messages that a lot of people hear.

Joe Rogan

So that will help. That will help move the needle. But what specifically can RFK Jr do once he actually gets in?

Marc Andreessen

I mean, there's oh, yeah, he'll have secretary of hhs. He has very broad, you know, I would say a very broad ability to look at this holistically inside the government.

Joe Rogan

What kind of pushback is there going to be against that? Like, that seems like a wild amount of money is going to be lost.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. So there, There, there. So there's. There's. There's the work that the Cabinet Secretary is, like, he will be doing formally, and then there's the work that the Doge and the President will be doing, doing kind of in parallel with that. And, you know, there will be some convergence between those. And, you know, there's the. We'll see. There's the potential here for quite dramatic action on a lot of these fronts.

Joe Rogan

Could you imagine if you're running an agency and you have to have a meeting with Vivek and Elon.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

And you got to open your books.

Marc Andreessen

Yes. Yes. It's like Office Space where they brought.

Joe Rogan

In the Bobs for consulting.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

What do you do here? Exactly. That's exactly what it's like. Is there a meme like that? Is there a meme like that? I think there's a meme where they take those guys and they put Elon and Vivek's heads on them.

Marc Andreessen

Yes. So there was another key timeline split that happened in Silicon Valley about two years ago, actually, two and a half years ago, when Elon actually, right before he took over Twitter, where he got in an email fight with the CEO of Twitter @ the time, who's actually Guy who's a friend of mine who's a really good guy, but had it literally, this guy had just been promoted from engineering to run the company, and then, like a month later, he ends up trying to deal with the Elon situation. So kind of got a little bit sandbagged on it. But yes.

Joe Rogan

Of course, he said Elon Musk says he rewatched Office Space to prepare for Doge. Of course he did.

Marc Andreessen

Of course he did.

Joe Rogan

Psycho.

Marc Andreessen

Exactly.

Joe Rogan

God, we're so lucky that guy's around.

Marc Andreessen

Exactly. So there was this moment in the Twitter takeover. Elon sends his email and he says, the. The line is, what did you get done this week?

Joe Rogan

Whoa.

Marc Andreessen

What did you get done this week? And in the context of Silicon Valley companies, that was a provocative statement, because a lot of Silicon Valley companies take months or years to do anything. But imagine that statement being applied to the government.

Joe Rogan

Oh, my God.

Marc Andreessen

Right? Like the level of, like, accelerated. Like, okay, what are the problems? How are we going to fix them? And what have you gotten done this week?

Joe Rogan

Yeah. You think debanking upended some lives?

Marc Andreessen

Yes, exactly. So, yes. What have you done this week? And by the way, when Elon runs this guy, it's actually interesting. A guy just tweeted. Guy just tweeted or posted or zeded what it's like to work for Elon at his AI company xai. And he said Elon came in last week and he said Elon spent 18 hours at the office and in five minute chunks. And it was every five. Each person had a five minute speaking slot to explain to Elon what they were doing.

Joe Rogan

Wow.

Marc Andreessen

And he did that for, you know, five times, whatever. Right. 18 hours.

Joe Rogan

Jesus Christ.

Marc Andreessen

And so think about what that meant. Every employee had an opportunity to tell the big boss what they were working on. Every employee had an opportunity to be recognized for their effort. Every employee had an opportunity to get live feedback from the big boss who had a comprehensive overview of everything as to what they should be doing.

Joe Rogan

Whoa.

Marc Andreessen

And there's no place to hide. Right. And think of how different it is for a company to be run that way. Right. Again, the Valley companies generally are quite well run by sort of business standards. And even that, like, that's the level of intensity that most Valley companies aren't even close to.

Joe Rogan

Now imagine that applied to government.

Marc Andreessen

To government.

Joe Rogan

And it's just.

Marc Andreessen

And it's. And again, this is the kind of thing. There's no law that, like, there's no reason it can't be done. There's no law that prevents that. There's nothing in the Constitution that says you can't do that. It's a choice. How the government is run is a choice on the part of the executive branch and the president for how it's going to get run. And there's no reason why the government can't literally be run this way.

Joe Rogan

And here's what's crazy. The pushback against even the concept of this by leftists. So leftists defending bureaucratic bloat and big government is wild to watch, which they.

Marc Andreessen

Really shouldn't be doing, which is a weird thing to have wedged themselves into. My hope is they'll figure out how weird this is.

Joe Rogan

Do you think it's like just an ideological thing? Like the right wants this, so we oppose it?

Marc Andreessen

I think, I think they. I think the left thinks they control the government. Like, I think 50 years ago they would have been on the other side of this, of this issue. Like, like Noam Chomsky 50 years ago, of course, would have been on the other side of this, he would have viewed government power as an extension of like the state and big business intertwined. And you have these just term manufacturing of consent where it's like government business are conspiring against you.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

So he would have been on the other side of this. But I think today's leftists think they control the government, which in many ways they do. Well, so Washington, D.C. the Washington, D.C. voted 94% for Kamala, 6% for Trump. Right. And so, okay, so two data points. That is data point number one. Data point number two. Four of the 10 wealthiest counties in the country are suburbs of Washington, D.C. wow.

Joe Rogan

Lobbyists.

Marc Andreessen

Lobbyists they call beltway bandits. Yeah, that's a crazy job is the actual term. And these aren't people working for the government. These are people making money from government. These are people sponging off the government. And so, yeah, to the extent the Democrats have wedged themselves into a position where defending this, they really shouldn't. They should really rethink this. They should figure out how to get back to right. The correct. The correct mentality on this that they used to have.

Joe Rogan

Not only that, if there's less government bloat, then there's less tax dollars. You don't. You don't have. You don't need as much money to fund these things.

Marc Andreessen

That's right.

Joe Rogan

There's like, people can be taxed less. There can be more allocation of these funds towards these social programs that we all want.

Marc Andreessen

You know, most federal workers never came back to work.

Joe Rogan

Really?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, there's. They work from home.

Joe Rogan

Most.

Marc Andreessen

Most, yeah. Very large percentage. Something like half just literally just never came back.

Joe Rogan

Whoa.

Marc Andreessen

They. And they still, by the way, still draw paycheck. They're still on their jobs, but literally they're not in the office. Or in some cases, they have an agreement where there's one agency I won't name, but there's one agency where there's. Where the. There's. Okay, here's another great thing. There are agencies of the federal government whose workforces are both civil servants. Civil, have full civil service protections and unionized entirely, paid for by the taxpayer. But they both have civil service protections, which, by the way, are totally made up. There's no concept in the Constitution of, like, civil service protections. It's just like a totally made up thing. And they're unionized. And then there's a particular agency that I know of where the union agreement. The union negotiated the return to the office from COVID and the agreement was, you have to be in the office one day A month.

Joe Rogan

Whoa.

Marc Andreessen

And actually, what the pattern now is, what they do is the employees come in on the last day of the month and the first day of the following month. So they only have to be there for two days, for two months out of. Out of 60 days.

Joe Rogan

That's crazy.

Marc Andreessen

As a consequence, many of them have actually left the area. Right. Because they get their government paycheck, which is calibrated for living there, and then they go live someplace nice. You know, someplace nice. But, you know, they go live in the Ozarks or something where it's cost of living is cheaper and they have a bigger house. And, you know, in theory, they're working from home, but, like, you know, like, is it. Is it actually happening? So. And this is why, again, this is the Doge. It's one of the things that the Doge, They've already announced. The thing they've said is, you can work from home, just not for the federal government. Oh, right.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

And so when people are talking about, like, is the Doge going to be able to do anything? Like, it's just, okay, there's 50 of the federal workforce. Right. And as a, you know, and as a taxpayer, how do you feel about that? And, you know, to your point on paying taxes, like, if those people are in the office and they're dynamos of activity and they're making the country better. Right, Fair enough.

Joe Rogan

Of course.

Marc Andreessen

But if they're kicking it at home.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

Maybe not.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, maybe not.

Marc Andreessen

And that's the.

Joe Rogan

How much oversight has there been on whether or not they've been kicking it?

Marc Andreessen

Excellent question.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

Now, it turns out there are way. There. There are actually. There. There are ways to figure this out. So, for example, for many. For many jobs where you have to log in to be able to get access, like, to email you, you can actually in, like, often you have VPNs to get into the corporate network, you can actually audit, and you can see who's been working. And then there's a. Do you know about mouse wigglers?

Joe Rogan

Yes. Programs.

Marc Andreessen

No, actually, physical.

Joe Rogan

Oh, they're physical mouse wigglers now?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, physical mouse wigglers. And so it's a physical device that holds your mouse and then intermittently wiggles it. And a friend of mine who runs a big tech company, he just had, like, a nagging feeling in the back of his head that maybe all of his remote workers weren't pulling their weight. And so he actually wrote himself on a weekend algorithm to inspect all the mouse movements of all employees for a week. And then. And then he bought all 50, like mouse wigglers from China that you can buy. And he fingerprinted them all and he found that he had a whole bunch of employees who were using mouse wigglers. Wow. Right. And so how many federal employees are using mouse wigglers? Right.

Joe Rogan

So how crazy is that? That's how they can measure whether or not you're active, whether your mouse is moving.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Like what are they, what are they seeing? Just, just a pattern of movement of the mouse. That's it.

Marc Andreessen

Well, the mouse, the mouse wiggler is moving in a way that you can fingerprint.

Joe Rogan

So is this like, do you agree to a certain amount of disclosure of your personal information while you're working? Like, how do you get access to mouse wiggles?

Marc Andreessen

Oh, so it's very common. So in corporate environments, it's very common that your company issued computer has some kind of software on it that lets the company control the software and gives them, it gives the company some level of visibility into what you're doing. And that doesn't mean, that doesn't mean they're literally washing you, but it means that they have the ability to kind of reach in and be able to see how much is the computer on, is the mouse moving? And so that's actually a reasonably common thing.

Joe Rogan

I heard the most ridiculous argument against this. What are you going to do with all those employees that get fired? Like, what are you going to do with all those people who are stealing hubcaps they're making a living stealing. What are you going to do if you make hubcaps stealing illegal? What are you talking about? They're essentially stealing tax dollars. If they really are doing something that's totally useless and we're wasting enormous amounts of money on this every year. The argument that what are you going to do if those people can't do that anymore? Is really crazy.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Well, the answer is they can do something productive.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. And people are more than capable. You don't have to infantilize someone to say like this is the only thing they're capable of doing.

Marc Andreessen

Exactly.

Joe Rogan

They've worked for the government for 20 years. This is all they can do.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. And then by the way, there's multiple knock on positive knock on effects. If you can cut government spending, there's multiple knock on effects. So one is if you cut the spending, you can cut the taxes and you can just simply. The private economy then just

simply has more money because it hasn't been taken. And so if there's less public spend, there will be more private spend.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

Because the money reallocates and so there might be just as much demand in the economy. It's just coming from people choosing to buy things instead of the government forcing it. So that's number one. Number two, you can bring down government debt, which means you can bring down government interest. And the government today, the federal government today pays more in interest than we pay for the Department of Defense.

Joe Rogan

But how much of that is salary?

Marc Andreessen

No, no, that's just interest on the debt. Right, that's just interest on the old debt. Okay. We pay like 1.2 billion a year right now, I think is the latest number, which is, which is just interest on debt. It's not paying for any good or service. It's just interest on debt. But again, what percentage of that is the.

Joe Rogan

What of the gdp?

Marc Andreessen

Well, so the, the total government spending is on the order of 7 trillion. Interest payments are like 1.2 trillion, something like that.

Joe Rogan

1.2 trillion.

Marc Andreessen

I think that's the current number. DoD is 800 billion a year.

Joe Rogan

So 1.2 trillion.

Marc Andreessen

Just off the top. Yeah, just off the top. And again, no tax. Nobody's benefiting from that. It's just interest payments.

Joe Rogan

That's bananas.

Marc Andreessen

Right? And total GDP is like. I don't have any rent. I don't know, it's, it's, I don't know, it's 20, 30, 40 trillion. It's, you know, it's much larger than that, but like, still, it's enough. This is a lot of money. And any. And the total accumulated debt is 35 trillion. And the total accumulated debt is 35 trillion. And it adds another trillion of accumulated debt every hundred days. Yes.

Joe Rogan

Oh my God, it hurts my head.

Marc Andreessen

There's a congressman, actually, Thomas Massey, you should have. So he's the one guy in Washington who talks about this. And he's an MIT, he's a libertarian. He's one of the only libertarians, and he's an MIT engineer. And he actually designed himself a pocket lapel pin calculator of the government debt. And he wears it every day and.

Joe Rogan

Walks around with this.

Marc Andreessen

He walks around with a little scrolling.

Joe Rogan

LED display oh my God.

Marc Andreessen

On his lapel. And it literally counts. It counts the debt. And it's accurate. It's pulling data from the US treasury, and it's actually an accurate count. And so it's like 34 trillion, 35 trillion, 36 trillion. Here's the kicker. At the current pace, at the compounding, it'll cross. The debt, will cross 100 trillion in the foreseeable future. So he's already working on the redesign because he needs a bigger device with a bigger screen to be able to display the bigger number.

Joe Rogan

How much anxiety do you get standing around him looking at that?

Marc Andreessen

That's his goal. Right. Because otherwise, otherwise the status quo in Washington is just let this happen. Right. And so anyway, so another way you benefit is reduction of interest. And then another way you benefit is reduction of interest rates. If you bring down the amount of debt in the economy, you bring down interest rates. And then everybody else who buys

things, when you go to buy for a house, your mortgage is cheaper. Right. So everybody who buys, anybody who ever borrows money in the real economy, then therefore is better off. Right.

Joe Rogan

This is the argument against it being only good for wealthy people.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, it's good for everybody, right? Yeah. It's good for anybody who ever gets car loan, home loan, small business loan. You want to bring down interest rates.

Joe Rogan

But this fundamental discussion of it, like the argument particularly from the left, is that all these tax cuts, deregulation, all this is going to do is make Trump supporters and Trump's people wealthier and it's going to ruin the middle class and ruin the lower. Everyone else is going to suffer.

Marc Andreessen

So just observationally, almost all the rich people in our society were for Kamala. Right?

Joe Rogan

Really?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. The Democratic Party. So the, so Democrat, Republican, it's a, it's what they call, it's a political scientist called top plus bottom versus middle is the configuration. So the Democratic Party is the top and the bottom versus the middle. So the top is what you might call the sort of upper middle class coastal elites. So it's everybody who went to the fancy schools. It's everybody with the fancy jobs. It's for sure me. I guess you're grandfathered in. Yeah, right. But it's like, it's like, you know, it's like, it's like fancy, it's like highness net worth, high income people with primarily knowledge working jobs. Right. So professor, reporter, programmer. Right. Database expert, author, author, lawyer, accountant, banker, like all the sort of elite jobs and all the elite degrees, by the way, who went to the top schools and got like the elite degrees. So that's the top and then the bottom is what you call the clientele underclass. Right. So it's. And they call the rainbow coalition. Right. So it's all, it's the minority groups, right. And so it's the assembly of, you know, low income African Americans, low income Latinos, you know, dot, dot, dot, recent immigrants.

Joe Rogan

Recent immigrants and so forth. Right. And so that's the Democratic coalition that they Explicitly program against. And then Republicans in our era, Republicans are in the middle. It's the middle class, lower middle class. You know, it's all the people who don't have the

fancy degrees and that are doing all the actual work that's basically making the country run. Right. So it's everybody from the small business owner, the restaurateur, you know, the truck drivers, truck drivers, farmers, you know, all the way, you know, garbage men and janitor. Like everybody who goes to work 9 to 5 has a job probably, probably either small business or a physical job, you know, you know, it's sort of say labor, like real labor, like actual labor, calluses on the hands. Right, right. Kinds of stuff. So kind of the so called real economy, which is why, right, the Republicans are cut, concentrated in the center and the south, because that's where all those things are. And then Democrats are concentrated in New York and California and on the coast, which is where all the symbolic, creative, intellectual jobs are. And so the weird thing that's happened is liberalism, progressivism, started speaking for the working man, right.

Marc Andreessen

Like 100 years ago, it spoke for the working man. And now what's happened is there's been a complete reorientation where the working man has separated out. And then you saw that in this most recent election, election where the unions, the union leadership still for the most part endorsed Kamala, but the rank and file voted majority for Trump in a lot of cases. And the data point that I remember is The Teamsters voted 70% for Trump.

Joe Rogan

What do you think the motivation of all these wealthy people to vote for Kamala Harris was?

Marc Andreessen

Because they feel great, because they're saving the world. It's amazing to be in charge and control society and decide how everything works and decide who's good and who's bad. And like, you're elite. You get to be the elite. You get to make the elite decisions.

Joe Rogan

And if you want to be in that group, you have to.

Marc Andreessen

You got it. You got it. You got to do this. And you feel good about yourself because you feel like what you're doing is on behalf of your. You feel like what you're doing is on behalf of your client, of your clientele.

Joe Rogan

It's reinforced by the echo chamber you live in.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. And it's why the cot. If you, if you read the media, New York Times, it's just, it's. It's either New York Times only has two articles anymore. It's either how evil are Republicans or how innocent and helpless are poor aggrieved minorities or identity Groups and so

oppositional force. But we're the party of good with a capital G, because we're taking care of all these poor, marginalized people. So it's a very compelling. You feel great about yourself. It's just absolutely amazing. And then, by the way, it just so happens that the economy is wired up in a way where you're getting paid a ton of money for not working very hard. It's all great. And. And then you're completely isolated away from the lived experience of just normal people, which is the state that I found myself in, where it would never even occur to you to talk to a garbage man or to a. Somebody, you know, running a restaurant or whatever, because. But it's just like, you're not affected by the rising crime rates because you live in a safe neighborhood.

Joe Rogan

Right?

Marc Andreessen

And you've got to, you know, you're against the wall on the border, but you got a wall around your house.

Joe Rogan

Right?

Marc Andreessen

Right. And so you just. You're in this box bubble. And then you only ever talk to people who agree with you, and then the media is constantly reinforcing it, and then you get ostracized if you disagree.

Joe Rogan

And that's.

Marc Andreessen

And that's the wedge.

Joe Rogan

Like, that's the wedge.

Marc Andreessen

And it worked. Like, look, for a long time, it were. For 40, 50, 60 years, it worked as a way to gain and hold political power. It's just. It's just gotten wedged in kind of this corner where it can no longer win, and so therefore, it has to get reexamined.

Joe Rogan

So for you, when you had this shift of thinking, you talked to the waiter and then the Hillary Clinton speech, and then, like, how long is it before you start publicly expressing these things? And, like, how much of the reluctance is there?

Marc Andreessen

Well, so from 2017 to 2020, I was just, like, trying to figure out what the hell was going on. And then Covid hit, and then I was trying to figure out what the hell was going on with COVID. And, you know, our business, you know, went crazy. Our business caved in and had all kinds of crazy, horrible things happening. And we, you know, we have all these companies, we have hundreds of companies who are responsible for startups, and so we're working with them to try to keep them afloat, trying to get the money and everything. But really it was. I mean, really the big thing was the Biden administration just, like, flat out tried to kill us. Like, they just came, like, straight at us, and they came straight at our founders, and so. And they tried to kill crypto and they were, they were on their way to trying to kill AI. I mean, they were horrible. Like they were a second.

Joe Rogan

What was the motivation to kill AI?

Marc Andreessen

Because it's because they want control. I mean, they want control. They want to control. They want to control in the same way they control.

Joe Rogan

So they recognize the potential of it and they wanted to head it off of the path.

Marc Andreessen

They want to control or they want to put it in a headlock. They don't necessarily want to stop it, but they want to make sure that they control it in the same way that they controlled social media, in the same way that they control the press.

Joe Rogan

So how are they trying to do that?

Marc Andreessen

I mean, so it's the, it's the AI. Think about it as the same dynamics that cause censorship to happen on social media were also going to happen in AI. And so there's a couple steps to it. So one is you just want a small number of companies that do AI because you want to be able to put them in a headlock and control them. So you basically want to give, you basically want to have a government. You want to bless a small set of large companies with a cartel and set

up a regulatory structure where those companies are intertwined with the government. And then you want to prevent startups from being able to enter that cartel.

Joe Rogan

How would they do that?

Marc Andreessen

That's a threat to the control. So it's a concept called regulatory capture. And so the way, and this has happened many times for hundreds of years, this is a very well established kind of thing in economics and politics. So if, suppose you're a big, suppose you're a big bank, suppose you're Jamie Dimon, you run JPMorgan Chase, like what's like the biggest possible threat of what you could possibly face? It's that there's some disruptive change that comes along that upends your entire business. You know, your Kodak, you know, right, you're Kodak, you're making a ton of money on analog film. And the digital cameras come along and you get destroyed. And further in your obituary, it's like you're the idiot. You know, Blockbuster Video, Blockbuster Video, like that's the cautionary tale. Those are the ghost stories that those guys tell around a campfire at night, right? They're just absolutely terrifying. And like business schools teach you, like that's the one thing you do not want to do. And so there's two ways to try to deal with that. One is you could try to invent the future before it happens to you, but that's hard because you're running a big company and you know these startups are out there doing all these crazy things and can you really do that?

Joe Rogan

And it's hard and frisky and dangerous. The other thing you can do is you can go to the government, you can basically say, okay, we're going to, we would like to propose basically a trade which is we would like the government to put up a wall of regulation. We would like the government to put in place rules that are potentially thousands of pages long. And in fact, the more the better. We want a very, very, very high bar for regulation for what's required to be in this business. Because I'm a big company, I can afford 10,000 lawyers and compliance people. I voluntarily put myself under basically the government thumb. But in return, the government has erected this wall of regulation such that the next startup comes along and just literally the next company comes along and just literally can't function. And by the way, this is literally what happened in banking. So pre 2008, pre the financial crisis, there were many different banks in the country, big, medium, small, and lots of new bank startups every year that people would just start banks, entrepreneurial banks of many different kinds. After the financial crisis, we had this problem called the too big to fail banks.

Marc Andreessen

Right? The banks were too big. And so there was this legislation called Dodd Frank, which was regulatory reform for banking which was going to fix the too big to fail banking problem. They implemented that in 2011. I call that the Big Bank Protection act of 2011. It was marketed as it was going to solve the problem of the too big to fail banks. What it actually

did was it made them much larger. So those banks are those banks, those two big to fail banks, the same ones we bailed out are now much larger than they were before. The banking industry has concentrated into to those banks. All the mid sized banks are being shaken out and periodically they'll go under the bank in Silicon Valley. It's called Silicon Valley Bank. It went under. This has been happening all across the economy. Then since Dodd Frank, the number of new banks created in the United States has dropped to zero.

Joe Rogan

Whoa.

Marc Andreessen

And so the banking system is being centralized basically into 10 big banks. They actually have a term, they have a great term called G sib, globally signed significant something something bank. And so there's like 10g sibs. And then basically what's going to happen is those are going to consolidate basically into the three big banks.

Joe Rogan

And if you get debanked by one.

Marc Andreessen

Of the big three, you're done you're absolutely done.

Joe Rogan

Oh my God.

Marc Andreessen

But think about it from the other side. If you're the Treasury Secretary and you want your political enemy debanked, it's just a phone call. Right. Which is what has been happening. Which was happening under the priority regime.

Joe Rogan

Wow.

Marc Andreessen

Right. And again, like at that, zero.

Joe Rogan

Zero new banks.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Zero literally was like cardiac arrest. It was like, that's it for new bank charters. And we've had companies that have tried to start new banks and it's essentially impossible

because you have to comply with the wall of regulation. You need, you need to go hire your 10,000 compliance people and your lawyers, but you can't afford to do that because you're not big enough yet. So you can't function. Like you can't exist. Like it's not. It's ruled by definition. It's rule ruled out. You can't do it. It's not financially viable.

Joe Rogan

Wow.

Marc Andreessen

Right. So that happened in banking. That's what they've been doing to social media. There's been the same. It's been this. And by the way, this has happened in many other industries. By the way, this happened in the food. The food industry is greatly consolidated. That's a lot of what's happened in that industry as well. It's the intertwining of government and the company. Because at that point it's like, okay, is this a private company? Yes, it's still a private company. It has a stock price. It. As a CEO, does the CEO have to do everything that the relevant cabinet secretary tells them to do? Yes, he does. Why does he have to do that? Because if not, it's going to be investigations and subpoenas and prosecutions and proctological examinations for the rest of his life.

Joe Rogan

Wow. Everything essentially what we accuse the CCP of doing in China, it's the.

Marc Andreessen

So if you combine banking and social media and now AI, you have basically privatized social credit score. Right. Is where you end up with this. Right. And this goes back to the trucker strike thing. You don't have to threaten to take away somebody's kids. You just like you threaten to take away their insurance. You don't threaten to take away their insurance. It's not government insurance that's being taken away. The same thing has happened in the insurance industry. It's consolidated down to a small handful of companies. They're super regulated. If the government doesn't want you to have insurance, you're not going to have insurance. And there's no constitutional right to insurance. So there's so there's no appeal process back to the debanking thing. And so that happened in banking, that's been happening in tech, social media generally. It's been happening in many other sectors. And then it's happening specifically in AI. And what you have in AI is you have a set of CEOs of some of the big AI companies that want this to happen because again, their big threat is that we're going to fund a startup that's going to eat their lunch. Right.

Joe Rogan

It's going to really screw them up. And so they're like, look, if we could just take the position we have and lock it in with government protection. The trade is, we'll do whatever the government wants. And if you assume the government is controlled by people who want to censor and punish and cancel their political opponents, that's going to come right along

with it. And so that's why when these AI systems come out, like 9 times out of 10, they're tremendously politically biased. You can do this today. You go on any of these systems today and you just start asking really basic questions.

Marc Andreessen

Gemini is the best example of that. When they had multiracial Nazis.

Joe Rogan

The black Nazis.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Once again we're back to the Nazis. Yes. So it turns, according to Gemini, Hitler had an excellent DEI policy.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Now in reality he did not. And it's important to understand that in reality he did not. But yeah, Gemini happily threw up black Nazis because it's, because it's. They programmed it to be biased. They programmed it in a political direction. There's this guy, David Rosado, who's been doing these analysis on the social media side where he shows the incidence rates of the rise of like all of the woke, like language, like in the media. And there are similar studies that have come out for the AI where you. There's studies that have been done that basically show the political orientation of the LLMs, because you can ask them questions. You can ask them questions and they'll tell you. And they're just like nine out of ten of them are like tremendously biased. And then there's a handful that aren't, and then there's tremendous pressure. This is one of the threats from the government. Is the government basically going to force our startups to come into compliance not just with their trade rules, but also with all of their. Essentially a censorship regime on AI that's exactly like the censorship regime that we had on social media.

Marc Andreessen

Wow, that's terrifying.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, exactly. And yes, and this is my belief and what I've been Trying to tell people in Washington, which is, if you thought social media censorship was bad, this has the potential to be a thousand times worse. And the reason is social media is important, but at

the end of the day, it's just people talking to other. AI is going to be the control layer on everything. So AI is going to be the control layer on how your kids learn at school. It's going to be the control layer on who gets loans. It's going to be the control layer on does your house open when you come to the front door. It's going to be the control layer on everything. And so if that gets wired into the political system the way that the banks did and the way that social media did, we are in for a very bad future. And that's a big thing that we been trying to prevent, is to keep that from happening. And the Biden administration was explicitly on that path, like, they were very clearly going for that. And it was just like, crystal clear that's where it was headed.

Marc Andreessen

And do you feel like with a second administration, they'd be even more emboldened to act in that direction?

Joe Rogan

Yes, 100%. Another Biden administration, for sure. And then there was an open question around Kamala, and the open question there was just she wouldn't, as, you know, she wouldn't declare if her issues positions were the same as Biden's or if they were different. And so you could imagine a Kamal administration that had a very different approach, but she refused to clarify any of her positions. And so we had to assume that they would be the same as Biden's, which I think is the default case.

Marc Andreessen

Now. Is this closeted sort of a perspective in Silicon Valley? Do people hide these thoughts that this administration would be bad for business?

Joe Rogan

I mean, much less now than we used to. Yeah, know, Elon really broke a lot of. Elon did two things that really opened a lot of this up. One is he bought Twitter, which really gave us a place to talk about this stuff, all of us. But then also he himself, of course, started to actually express himself. And so he gave a lot of the rest of us permission structure to be able to say these things. And then, look, it's like a cascade where people are like, okay, apparently you can now talk about things. Okay, I have some things to say. Yeah, well, then, look, also just. They went too far. They tightened the screws. I mean, they, they. They really came at us hard. And so, you know, the harder they come at us. Like, we didn't predict when Biden won. Like, we didn't think it would have negative effects on our business. We thought, yeah, probably taxes will go up, but like we'll just keep doing business. But then they did all these things right. And it took a couple years to figure out that this was not like a temporary thing, like this was like a concerted campaign and that they were really coming for.

Marc Andreessen

What agency specifically is involved in doing that?

Joe Rogan

Oh, it's, I mean it's, they have Alphabet soup but, but like secular SEC try to kill crypto. Very specifically. FTC was thoroughly weaponized. There's something called the CFTC which is the other part of the crypto puzzle. Commodities futures. There's crypto that's a security. There's some forms of crypto that are security and the SEC regulates. There's other kinds of crypto that are a commodity that the CFTC regulates. The CFPB I mentioned earlier. So the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau decided that they were also going to regulate AI, which, which they just volunteered for. And then you know, at the faa. The FAA killed the drone industry years ago. The reason why we don't have the reason why the Chinese are winning in the drone the drone wars is because the FAA basically made drones illegal in the US years ago. So like the FAA has been a big problem. You know, the. What is it? The F. Also the faa, when you.

Marc Andreessen

Say made drones illegal, but you could still buy drones, like what. What have they done?

Joe Rogan

So legally you cannot fly a drone in the US that is beyond line of sight if you don't have a pilot's license.

Marc Andreessen

Wow.

Joe Rogan

Which means if you're a US drone manufacturer, you have to build a system that enforces that regulation.

Marc Andreessen

So you're a China handicap your ability.

Joe Rogan

Yes. So either the, either the US drone needs to either not fly beyond line of sight, which is not very useful. Right. Or it needs to somehow validate. We only have customers that have pilot's licenses. China, there's no such restriction. And the Chinese, because we run more open economy, the Chinese drones you can just buy in the US and use however you want. Technically, as the user of the drone, you're out of compliance with the law. But they ignore that part. They just punish the American drone makers.

Marc Andreessen

Wow.

Joe Rogan

And that's why, that's why Chinese own the drone market. And that's why 90% of the drones used by the US military and by US police are Chinese made drones.

Marc Andreessen

Which again that sounds like a terrible.

Joe Rogan

Security risk, is a very bad idea because every Chinese drone is both a potential surveillance platform and a potential weapon.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, criminy.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

Well, I've seen the advancements in Chinese drones. In particular, the choreographed dances that they do in the sky where they had. You see the dragon one.

Joe Rogan

Yep. Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

See if you could find that, Jamie. Chinese dragon drone display. It's like one of the largest ones they ever did. It's unbelievable how much more advanced they are.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. And I will tell you, the Biden administration had zero interest in addressing this. Like, or worse than zero. Like, just, I would say, absolute contempt for the idea of a US Drone industry. Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

So let's watch this thing. So you can go full screen on that. Like, this is just a grid in the sky. Look at this. They're flying up together.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

They did one that was at night, Jamie. Because they're all lit up video. It's just full. Okay, I can skip ahead.

Joe Rogan

So imagine those with guns.

Marc Andreessen

Jesus Christ.

Joe Rogan

Coming at you.

Marc Andreessen

Right, well, we get to see some of that in Ukraine.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, 100%. Absolutely.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. We've seen those suicide drones. Like, look at this. That is. That dragon in the sky is drones that are all lit up. I mean, that is unbelievable. It even has a puff of fire coming out of its mouth.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

That's incredible.

Joe Rogan

If they send that at a football stadium during a game with grenades on.

Marc Andreessen

Those drones, oh, my God, it's carnage. Dude. Don't even put that out there. Don't put that voodoo on me, Ricky Bobby.

Joe Rogan

Sorry.

Marc Andreessen

Look at that. Heart in the sky with a heartbeat.

Joe Rogan

Correct.

Marc Andreessen

This is insane. Correct.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

It's so incredible.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

They had a little one like that that played over the Eminem concert at. When I was at COTA at the circuits of the Americas here, they had this giant Eminem concerts. Like, a hundred thousand people there. And then afterwards, they had, like, drones in the sky that did little dances.

Joe Rogan

Chinese drones.

Marc Andreessen

I bet. I bet they were. They weren't like this, though. They didn't. Didn't. No, wasn't at that level. I mean, that. That's unbelievable.

Joe Rogan

Enjoy the show while you can.

Marc Andreessen

That's crazy. That. That's a Chinese thing only.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, yeah. Look. DOD runs in these soldiers in the field. You. You. It's very common. Soldiers. Just soldiers. Normal, normal grunt soldiers in the field carry drones in their backpacks because they want to be able to see what's around the building or up on the roof.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. And these are Chinese.

Joe Rogan

Chinese drones. And every single one of them can be taken over by China and use for whatever they want.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, my God.

Joe Rogan

Anytime they want.

Marc Andreessen

The Trump administration, they're very.

Joe Rogan

They're aware. I don't know what they'll do. You know, it's somewhere in the priority order, the things that they're dealing. But they are, yes, they are well aware of this and. Well, I mean, it's the kind, it's the kind of thing I would hope that would get some attention.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, well, this is the, Brings us back to the UAP thing because if that's what we're seeing, we're seeing super sophisticated Chinese drones that operate on some novel propulsion system. That's not good. And that could be because they put ridiculous regulations on drone manufacturers, Manufacturers in America.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that's right.

Marc Andreessen

And they got way ahead of us.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that's right. Yeah. These are bad, these are bad, these are bad.

Marc Andreessen

You're just opening my eyes to this. I always had this rose colored glasses view of our society versus the Chinese society. Our society is more open so people can innovate and come up with new startups. All these crazy ideas because there's so much freedom in America. They don't have to deal with the government being involved in every business, business. Silly me. Well, silly me, I was wrong.

Joe Rogan

So this is my argument. This is my argument I make geopolitically in DC, which is our. If you imagine that the 21st century is going to be, let's say, a contest between the US and China, the same way that in the 20th century it was the US versus the Soviet Union and like contest, competition, cold war, maybe hot war. Yeah, like that's, that's the basic fundamental kind of geopolitical puzzle of the 21st century. Then you want to think very clearly about the strengths and weaknesses of both yourselves and about the other side. And then as you think about how to beat the other guy, is the answer to become more like them or more like yourself?

Marc Andreessen

Maxine Waters made that argument. When it comes to social digital scores and cryptocurrency and a centralized digital currency, she was talking about that, like, in order to compete with China, we have to come up with a centralized digital.

Joe Rogan

Currency, which in my view is exactly the wrong thing.

Marc Andreessen

Yes, I heard that. I was like, that's a terrible idea.

Joe Rogan

It's exactly the wrong thing.

Marc Andreessen

You gotta be like, China to compete with China.

Joe Rogan

It's exactly the wrong thing. It's exactly the wrong thing. You don't want that. Because, because, because as you know, the China system has its problems. Like they terrorize their own population directly. They do impose the social credit score stuff. They do. And they do all this stuff. And then, by the way, here's, here's something we have going for us, which is the Chinese system has turned on capitalism. Xi Jinping is not a capitalist. And he. There is a broad based crackdown on private business in China. To the point a friend of mine invests one of the leading investors in China. He said every single Chinese tech founder has either left China or wants to leave China. And they're all trying to get their money out and they're all trying to get their families out because it's now too dangerous to run a tech company in China because the government might just snatch you, like literally physically snatch you at any point and you may or may not come back. And then every Chinese CEO has a political officer of the Chinese Communist Party sitting down the hall who can come in and override your decisions anytime he wants to.

Marc Andreessen

And by the way, and drag you into training. This is a great thing. Okay, so you're sitting or you're the CEO of a company company with 50 billion in revenue and 100,000 employees. And this guy from the CCP comes in and pulls you and you sit in the conference room down the hall for seven hours getting grilled on how well you understand Marx. So that actually happens. Political officers. And that's the kind of thing that happened in the Soviet Union and that's the kind of thing that happens in China. So you'd rather be a CEO in the US than in China. For sure. As long as the US system actually stays open where you can actually get all the benefits of all the power of all these incredibly smart people building companies and building products.

Joe Rogan

But.

Marc Andreessen

And that's why this administration freaked us out so much, is because it felt like they were trying to become way more like China.

Joe Rogan

See, I was not nearly as aware as I should have been about the. All these things. You're saying I didn't know this. I did know about the banks and I certainly didn't know that they were cracking down on AI the same way they cracked down on social media.

Marc Andreessen

The AI thing was very alarming. We had, we had meetings this spring that were the most alarming meetings I've ever been in where they were taking us through their plans. And it was like, what kind of.

Joe Rogan

Can you talk about it?

Marc Andreessen

Basically just full government, full government control, like this sort of thing. There will be a small number of large companies that will be completely regulated and controlled by the government. They told us, they told us, they just said, don't even start. Don't even start startups. Like, don't even bother. Like, there's just no way. There's no way that they can succeed. There's no way that we're going to permit that to happen.

Joe Rogan

Wow.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. They said this is already over. It's going to be two or three companies, and we're just going to. We're going to. We're going to control them. And that's that. Like, this is already finished.

Joe Rogan

Oh, my God. Now, when you leave a meeting like that, what do you do?

Marc Andreessen

You go, endorse Trump.

Joe Rogan

Oh, my God.

Marc Andreessen

And again, like, I'll just tell you, like, you know, look like. Because I'm gonna get a lot of, you know, the flack I'm gonna get for this is, you know, he's just a crazy, whatever right winger. But, like, I was a Democrat. I was like a Dem. I was a. I supported Bill Clinton in 92. I supported Clinton in 96. I supported Gore, who I knew very well in 2000. I knew John Kerry. I supported him in 04. I supported Obama. I supported Hillary in 16. Like, I was like a Democrat in good standing. And then.

Joe Rogan

Are you completely out in the cocktail circuit now? Like, are you allowed to hang out with people?

Marc Andreessen

So there's now. This is actually true. There's now two kinds of dinner parties in Silicon Valley. They fractured. They've fractured cleanly in half. There's the ones where every person there believes every single thing that was in the New York Times that day, which, by the way, is often very different than whatever was in the news York time six months ago. But everybody has fully updated their views for that day, and that's what they talk about at the dinner party. And I'm no longer invited to those, nor. Nor do I want to go to them. And then. And then there's the other kind, which is, you know, David Sacks and, like, all these guys and all these people and, you know, just this growing universe, you know, it's a microcosm of what's happening more broadly in the culture, which is like, hey, let's actually get together and talk about things and have fun, right?

Joe Rogan

But it's so much more comforting when it's you guys and not the. My pillow guy. You know what I mean? I was like, no, distress. Respect, Mike, to the MyPillow guy. But you know what I'm saying? Like, I want people that are smarter than me to be saying these things. That's

what helps. It helps when you say, well, this person actually knows what they're talking about. They're very well informed and they understand the repercussions. They understand, like, what's been coming their way. And there's people like yourself that could speak about these. The plans that you're laying out, what they were trying to do with AI is fucking terrifying. That should terrify everybody. Where you have bureaucrats are now in control of potentially the most, the biggest ancient of change in the history of the human race potentially. And you're going to let what? The people that can't even balance the budget? People that don't know what the fuck is going on? That's. That sounds insane.

Marc Andreessen

And look, my hope, I think under Clinton and Gore, I think that they dealt with this very. I mean, look, they dealt with the Internet very differently than the current cropper, dealing with these technologies.

Joe Rogan

Well, it was very different. Different.

Marc Andreessen

It was very different, but also they were much more. Clinton and Gore in particular were much more understanding that you could. So there used to be this thing I call the deal with a capital D. And the deal was you could be. And this is what I was. You could be a tech founder, you could start a private company, you could create a tech product. Everybody loved you. It was great, glowing press coverage. The whole thing. You take the company public, it employs a lot of people, creates a lot of jobs, you make a lot of money. At some point you cash out and then you donate all the money to charity and everybody thinks you're a hero, right? And it's just great, right? And this is how it ran for a very long time. And this was the deal. This was, you know, the deal. This was Clinton and Gore with 100% in support of that, and they were 100% pro capitalism in this way and 100% pro tech. And they actually did a lot to foster this kind of environment. And basically what happened is the last 15 years or so, Democrats culminating in this administration basically broke every part of that deal for people in my world.

Joe Rogan

Like, every single part of that was shattered, right? Where just like technology became presumptively evil. Right? And like, you know, if you're a business person, you were presumptively a bad person. And then technology was presumptively had bad effects and. And then they were going to regulate you and try to kill you and quash you. And then the kicker was philanthropy became evil. And. And this is a real culture change in the last five years that I hope will reverse now, which is philanthropy. Now is a dirty word on the left because it's the private person choosing to give away the money as opposed to the government choosing a way to give the money. So I'll give you the ultimate case. So here's where I write radicalized on this topic. So you'll recall some years back, Mark Zuckerberg

and his wife Priscilla, you know, they have a ton of money in Facebook stock. They created a nonprofit entity called Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, which of which the original mission was to literally cure all disease. And this could be like, you know, \$200 billion going to cure all disease, right? So, like, big deal. They said they committed to donate 99% of their assets to this, to this new foundation.

Marc Andreessen

They got brutally attacked from the left, and the attack was their only doing it to save money on taxes. Now, basic mathematics, you don't give away 99% of your money to save money on taxes. To save money on taxes. Right. But it was a vicious attack. It was like a very, very aggressive attack. And the fundamental reason for the attack was how dare they treat that money like it's their own? How dare they decide where it goes? Instead, tax rates for billionaires should go to 90 something percent. The government, government should take the money and the government should allocate it. And that would be the morally proper and correct thing to do.

Joe Rogan

What do you think is the root of that kind of thinking?

Marc Andreessen

Utopian. Utopian collectivism. You know, it's the socialism that works. Socialism, yeah, it's the core idea of socialism. Like, the core idea is a radical egalitarianism. Everybody should be exactly the same. All outcomes should be exactly the same. Everything should be completely fair at all.

Joe Rogan

And some root of it has to be in envy, of course.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, envy. Resentment.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

Nietzsche had this great term called resentment, and it's like turbocharged resentment. And so the way he described it is resentment is envy. Resentment and bitterness that is so intense that it causes an inversion of values. And the things that used to be good become bad. And the things that used to be bad become good. Right.

Joe Rogan

And that's how philanthropy becomes bad.

Marc Andreessen

Philanthropy becomes bad because it should be the state operating on behalf of the people as a whole who are handing out the money, not the individual.

Joe Rogan

I was not aware of that blowback. I would have loved to read some of those comments. I would like to go to their page and see what else they comment on.

Marc Andreessen

I'll give you another example. Here's another radicalizing moment for me. So my friend Cheryl Sandberg, who I worked with very closely for a long time at Facebook, and by the way, Democrat, liberal, by the way, endorsed Kamala very much not on the same page as me on these things. She actually worked in the Clinton administration. Administration, you know, died in the world. Democrats. She wrote this book called *lean in* about 12 years ago. It's this sort of feminist manifesto and it basically says, *lean in*, *Lean in*, *Lean in*. And the thesis of *Lean in* was that women in their lives and careers could quote, unquote, *lean in*. She said what she observed in a lot of meetings was the men were leaning into the table and sitting, like, in front, and then the women were, like, leaning back and waiting to be called on. She said the women should *lean in*. It became a metaphor for her, for women should, like, *lean in* on their care careers. They should, like, aggressively advocate for themselves to get, like, raises and promotions like men do. Like men do. They should basically. Women should basically become more aggressive in the workplace and then therefore perform better.

Joe Rogan

And so it was like. It was a manifesto to women, basically saying, be more confident, be more assertive, be more aggressive, be more successful. And I read the draft of the book when she was writing it, and I said, well, you realize you've written a right wing manifesto, right? And she looks at me like, I've lost my mind. Right. Because she's a lifelong left. And she's like, what do you mean? And I'm like, you. This book is a statement that women have agency. Right. This book is a statement that the things that women choose to do will lead to better results. But that's what people believe on the right. On the left. What people believe is that women are only always and ever victims.

Marc Andreessen

Wow.

Joe Rogan

And then if a woman doesn't succeed in a career, it's because she's being discriminated against. And so I said, I said, I predicted when this book comes out, right wingers are going to think it's great and you're going to get it. Like, the left is going to come at you because you're violating the fundamental principle of the left, which is anybody who does less well is

a victim. Which in that case is exactly what happened, by the way. The reviews were all by women and they tore into her, like, in every major publication. They just like, completely ripped her and they're like, how dare this rich, entitled woman be telling us, you know, these would be telling women that they're not victims and that they're, you know, that they have all this agency because every. This is denial of sexism, Right. It's denial of oppression.

Marc Andreessen

Wow. Because imagine if a man wrote a book like that for men, right?

Joe Rogan

LS patriarchy right? That's. Yeah, that would be.

Marc Andreessen

Well, but I mean, but men wouldn't attack it.

Joe Rogan

Oh, right, Exactly. Right.

Marc Andreessen

It would be a guidebook.

Joe Rogan

Yeah.

Marc Andreessen

This is how you kick ass and get ahead. Yeah.

Joe Rogan

We call it self help.

Marc Andreessen

Lean in, bro.

Joe Rogan

Lean in.

Marc Andreessen

Just go ahead, lean in, bro.

Joe Rogan

Exactly right.

Marc Andreessen

Wow, that's crazy. So you get attacked for that.

Joe Rogan

So again, it's this. It's the inversion. It's resentment. It's the inversion, which is like advocating on your own behalf and choosing to do things that make you.

Marc Andreessen

What was her reason reaction to that?

Joe Rogan

I would say she was. I don't want to speak for her, but she was not pleased.

Marc Andreessen

I mean, well, also, was she shocked that you're correct? Did you have a follow up conversation with her?

Joe Rogan

We talked about it a lot.

Marc Andreessen

Like, God damn it, Marc, how'd you see that one coming?

Joe Rogan

So she was in the. But the answer is she was. Her worldview of how these things worked was from a different. It was from the Clinton Gore era.

Marc Andreessen

Right.

Joe Rogan

In which you could, in which you.

Marc Andreessen

Could say things like that, you could talk like that.

Joe Rogan

And by the time the book came out, it was already into the second Obama term heading in. Right. And it. And then the w. The woke stuff started and then at that point you could no longer say things like that.

Marc Andreessen

Wow.

Joe Rogan

And everything got classified through this very hard edged, right, us versus them, right. Oppressor versus oppressed, you know, kind of mindset. And so it's such, it's such a.

Marc Andreessen

Contrast to what we hoped would happen when Obama would be president.

Joe Rogan

That's right.

Marc Andreessen

My thought was, okay, look, there's still some racism, but clearly, clearly, if you're the baddest motherfucker, you can get ahead, like, you can win. The country will vote for you. That's not what happened. No.

Joe Rogan

And you can win again.

Marc Andreessen

You would. Twice.

Joe Rogan

You win twice.

Marc Andreessen

And be like, I've always said up until I've lost a lot of respect for him from some of the things that he said during this election cycle. Because I think they got desperate and they just resorted to actual lies. And I thought this is crazy to see him lying, especially the very fine people hoax. And we played the video back and forth of what Obama said, he said and what he actually said. And it's pretty shocking because he's very explicit. You know, he's saying, not white nationalists, not neo Nazis, they should be condemned. He says that very clearly. That's not what I'm talking about. Talking about people who are protesting the taking down of the statue. And when you see a guy like Obama do that, it's such a bummer because he was the guy for me that was like our best spoken spokesman. He Was like, here's a guy that came from a single family or single parent household. It wasn't some rich, entitled kid who was given everything in life. He's this brilliant speaker. He's like, he's handsome. He represents, like, what we're hoping for. We're hoping for a colorblind society that just treats people on the merit of who they are and anyone can achieve.

Joe Rogan

And look, here he is. He made it. And then all of a sudden, identity politics goes through the fucking roof, and victim mentality becomes a thing. Thing that people choose to side with. And it. It just gets real weird for a long time.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, that's right. That's right. And like I said, I hope they can find their way back. So.

Joe Rogan

But this lady's still on Team Kamala.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, yeah.

Joe Rogan

She got a few lessons out of that, but not all of them.

Marc Andreessen

Well, no, this is the. If you're, you know, if you've been a lifelong Democrat, this is. If you've been a lifelong Democrat. And if that's, you know, if that is in this quarter, a lot of people's value systems, then it's. It's a real change challenge, you know.

Joe Rogan

Oh, yeah, it's my parents.

Marc Andreessen

When your movement, they're all in. Goes in directions. Well, yeah, and there's, you know. Right. And you can choose. You can choose to follow. You can choose to follow into the, you know, the craziest version of it, or you can choose to say, you know what? Like, I'm still not going to switch sides, but at least I'm going to advocate.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

For my team to come back. Yeah, this is Richie Torres. This guy is a congressman in. In. In Queens, I think, or the Bronx. He's actually. It actually started out everybody thought he was going to be a far lefty because he's gay, he's black, he's Latino. He was like. He was, like, at least associated with the squad early on. And he's like one of the guys in the Democratic Party who has now stood up and he's been doing this in public for the last two weeks, saying, clearly, we have to get back to sense. Like, we have to get back to common sense. We have to get back to moderation. We have to have law enforcement. We have to have. We

can't have crime in the streets. We have to have a border. We have to get. We, the Democrats, have to get back to moderation and sense. And so he is hoping to lead the person.

Joe Rogan

That's great.

Marc Andreessen

That's great. I think he's. We support Him. And I think he's like, a really. I think he's a very impressive guy. So there are people like. And he's young and very energetic, and, you know, I think he has a very bright future, but that's the kind of person who could lead the party.

Joe Rogan

Well, the big Nietzschean shift was when Dick Cheney endorsed Kamala and everybody cheered. If there's not a better example than that, please tell me what it is, because that one was fucking nuts. Like, Dick Cheney was always the hard rock, right? Like, during the Bush administration, all the lefties looked at him like that was Satan.

Marc Andreessen

That's right.

Joe Rogan

He was the profiteer.

Marc Andreessen

That's right.

Joe Rogan

He was the manipulator. He was the guy pulling the strings. He was the CEO of Halberton that came. The whole thing was so crazy. And to see, oh, Dick Cheney just endorsed Kamala. And everybody's like, yay, look, Dick Cheney's on our side. Like, what the fuck are you guys talking about? This. This is. This is the best shift of it, right?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, that's right. That's right. That's right. All of us, right. All of a sudden, we're all. All of a sudden we. We're all neocons. All of a sudden, as you said, all of a sudden we're pro war. It's like, wait, wait. You know, because, like, as. You know, like the Democrats. You know. Yeah, the Democrats used to be the anti war party. Yes, they were the anti war party for a very long time.

Joe Rogan

Yes, yes.

Marc Andreessen

And yeah, it.

Joe Rogan

Except back when they were trying to keep slavery and act. That's part of the problem.

Marc Andreessen

That was a different.

Joe Rogan

People don't realize that that was a different era.

Marc Andreessen

But you know what? Coming out Vietnam, they were definitely the anti war party for, like, you know, 30 years.

Joe Rogan

But isn't that a shift as well? Yeah, but the shift of the Republicans from back in the day being Abraham Lincoln and trying to get rid of slavery and the Democrats fighting to keep it. Like, there's these weird ideological swings. They happen. And, you know, we're still attached to the idea of being a Democrat. It's like being a Clinton Democrat, we're in this weird sort of denial of what the ideology actually stands for versus how we think of ourselves. When we say, I'm a Democrat, I'm a good person, you know, I support civil rights, women's rights, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Down the line, I'm a Democrat. And if you go against that, well, now you're against all these things that, you know, to Be inherently important for society.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, that's right.

Joe Rogan

They gotcha.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, that's right.

Joe Rogan

They got you, they roped you into some crazy thing where you're supporting war. And then there was the big faction, right? There's the big Free Palestine versus Support Israel. Yeah, because the left always supported Israel.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, 100%.

Joe Rogan

And then all of a sudden there's this Free Palestine movement which divides the left even further.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, there's this, there's a book written some years back by this guy, Norman Pothoritz. And why are Jews Liberal? Right. He was a right wing. He was right wing Jew, a very important Jewish thinker, American Jewish thinker of like in the 60s, 70s. And he's like, he basically is like, basically he had this thesis that like these Jewish liberal voters in the US like basically are voting against, ultimately they're voting for the wrong team. Because what they don't understand, basically is that this is sort of a path, number one to antisemitism, which is what's happened. But number two, that basically you're never going to have long term support for Israel from the left because Israel, the basic concept of Israel violates, you know, the idea that Israel is like literally a religious ethnostate.

Joe Rogan

Right.

Marc Andreessen

And that's like inherently a right wing idea, not a left wing. Like the left doesn't have room for that.

Joe Rogan

And a military superpower and a military right.

Marc Andreessen

And is able to. Right. Is able to. Right. Is able to.

Joe Rogan

And it's run by a former special forces operator.

Marc Andreessen

Yes, very. Yes, a very capable. Yes, very capable soldier in his.

Joe Rogan

He's an assassin.

Marc Andreessen

Exactly. And so, you know, he argued, I don't know, it's like whatever, 20 years ago, he's like, this is headed in the wrong direction. And but, you know, the argument was ignored at the time. And then, you know, at least a lot of my Jewish friends after October 7th, you know, they were completely horrified, you know, to find out, for example, the DEI was actually anti Jewish. Right. Which is what everybody learned with the scandals at the universities.

Joe Rogan

Right, right.

Marc Andreessen

And it's like, you know, and there's two ways of looking at that. One is, oh my God, the DEI is anti Jewish, therefore we need to add Jews to the DEI scorecard. Right.

Joe Rogan

Well, when we saw the heads of Harvard and was it, Was it Yale? No, it was Harvard.

Marc Andreessen

MIT in Columbia.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, that was.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, that's right.

Joe Rogan

That was just so in everyone's face and so bananas.

Marc Andreessen

Well, and then we saw that. Yeah, right, exactly. And then what we saw is that this, the same sort of radicalized left had actually slid into not just anti Semitism and not just anti Israel, but also pro. I mean, ultimately pro terrorist. Pro Hamas. Yeah. You know, the new acronym LGBTH. Right.

Joe Rogan

But there's a bunch of other stuff in there now. There's Q, there's two spirit.

Marc Andreessen

I know, but you gotta get H in there now for Hamas.

Joe Rogan

Oh, boy. Really?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, of course, of course, of course. And so, like, I bring it up just as an. Not to take a position, just as an example of. It's the kind of realignment a lot of Jewish Americans now are having to kind of rethink fundamental questions about political structure and alliances and who they should be part of and who they shouldn't be part of. So I think, to your point, I think, like, the whole country is going through. I think we're going through the first, like, profound political realignment probably since the 1960s, which is. Which is when everything shifted between Johnson and Nixon in the South. I think we're going through, like, the most profound version of that right now. And I think it's. It's something like the multiethnic working class coalition that came together around Trump basically, again, against this sort of super exaggerated elite plus underclass kind of structure that the Democrats have built for themselves. And it just turns out there's just a lot more people in the middle. And so I think. But by the way, including a lot of. A lot of black people. Black vote for Trump is way up. Hispanic vote for Trump is way up.

Joe Rogan

Vote for Trump is way up, way up. Gay vote, like all of.

Marc Andreessen

Yes.

Joe Rogan

All of the identity groups that Democrats relied on all these years. Union vote is for Trump.

Marc Andreessen

I'm sure you've seen the map, the electoral map of California 2024 and 2020.

Joe Rogan

Yes.

Marc Andreessen

In contrast, it's a crazy red wave that's going through across the whole. The most of the state is red now.

Joe Rogan

Those of us on the coast are going to get pushed into the ocean.

Marc Andreessen

Yes. Well, I think, you know, maybe the other way we were talking about the hopeful way that the Democrats will wake up and come up with a more reasonable. Well, I mean, there's obviously clear cultural pushback on all these crazier issues. I mean, like, the giant pushback from women about biological men competing against women. I mean, this is a giant one where women are. Listen, we created Title IX for a reason. Like, we want women's sports to be for women. You can't have them for mentally ill men that think that they can be able to just decide they're a woman. And compete against women, which is what it is in a lot of places. You don't even have to get tested. There's not like some sort of a hormone protocol. It's just like, it's just what your identity is, which is just nuts. And that's one of the things that I think a lot of people on the left are having a really hard time justifying.

Joe Rogan

Yeah, right. Because how can you deny a victim group?

Marc Andreessen

Right, right.

Joe Rogan

You can't. I mean, in the full version of that ideology, in the extreme version of that ideology, you cannot deny any, you cannot deny a victim claim.

Marc Andreessen

What also comes with this weird caveat where you have to deny the existence of perverts because a pervert, all they have to do is say, I identify as a woman throwing a wig and now you can go hang around the women's room and no one could say anything. Well, you've, you've emboldened, empowered, one of the worst groups in society that we've always protected women from. And you have to pretend they don't exist. If you just want to base it solely on identity, especially like a, a self described identity, you just decide and then that's it. And you know, I mean there's states that have that now with prisoners that all prisoner has to do is identify with being a woman. And you are now housed in women's prisons. California has 47 of them when the last time I looked at it. And there's hundreds that are waiting on like a waiting list to try to get in. So you have women who, you know, especially if you're someone who's dealing with, if you've ever been raped or sexually abused and now you have to share space with a man who might be a fucking pervert.

Joe Rogan

And some of these men even have some crimes that are along those lines that they're in jail for. It's crazy. I mean, Canada's the worst at it. There's a bunch of different examples of these type of people getting into female prisons. And it's just, it's insanity. And I think the left rejects that too, for the most part. There's the sensible version of the left that is like, hey, yeah, I'm pro gay rights. Yeah, I'm pro women's rights, I'm pro civil rights, I'm pro choice,

I'm pro this, I'm anti warm up. But also you can't let psychos just put on a fucking dress and hang out in women's rooms just because we want to be kind. Like that's nuts. So There has to be some. And then there's legitimate trans women. So, like, how do you make the distinct. Well, clearly we have to have a fucking conversation. And if you don't allow that conversation to take place, like, if you go to Blue sky and you type in, there are only two genders, you're banned. Right there. People done it. There's a bunch of people have done it. It's fun.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, it's fun.

Joe Rogan

They have, like, they've created a little sock puppet account and they say some shit that should have been a reasonable thing to say just 20 years ago.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Yeah. Well, you make me hopeful, Marc. You do, you do because you. You lay things out in, like a really well thought out way that is not hyperbolic. And you're. You're making a lot of sense. So I'm glad we talked. I feel better.

Marc Andreessen

Good. Fantastic.

Joe Rogan

I think the world does too. I really do. I mean, I've talked to a lot of people, even people that are Democrats, they say, I feel better that Trump won.

Marc Andreessen

Every day, it feels better. It just like, you know, it feels like just things are opening up.

Joe Rogan

It's the Obama campaign. It's hope and change.

Marc Andreessen

Yeah. Hope and change.

Joe Rogan

Never.

Marc Andreessen

It's hope you change.

Joe Rogan

This is kind of actually hope and change. Yeah, this is actually it.

Marc Andreessen

It feels like oxygen returning. Yeah.

Joe Rogan

Well, thank you very much, Marc. I really appreciate you. Tell everybody your sub stack how to find you on social media.

Marc Andreessen

Oh, I'm on - I'm on - I'm on X under @pmarca. I'm on Substack. Google me.

Joe Rogan

All right.

Marc Andreessen

Ask Perplexity.

Joe Rogan

All right.

Marc Andreessen

Ask ChatGPT. And it will deny that. No, it will happily tell you that I exist. At least - at least last - at least last time I checked.

Joe Rogan

What about Wikipedia?

Marc Andreessen

Yeah, we don't know. Yeah, we don't know if that - if Catherine is still running.

Joe Rogan

Always a pleasure, Marc. Thank you very much.

Marc Andreessen

Appreciate you.

Joe Rogan

Bye, everybody.