

To Understand the Media Attacks on 'Sound of Freedom' You Need to Understand de Sade and Nietzsche

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Some of the criticism is easily brushed aside. For instance, this review by [Bloomberg.com](#) is easy to comprehend once you know the reviewer.

So, is *Sound of Freedom* a QAnon dog whistle, or is it just another thriller? The answer is that — whatever the filmmaker's intentions — it functions as both. These narratives do little to help victims. But they can create coalitions of feeling, disgust and righteous rage that connect conservative conspiracy theorists with the mainstream. That's why Trump's screening it. And that's why its popularity is ominous.

They post the review without ever noting that the reviewer, Noah Berlatsky, is the spokesperson for a pro-pedophilia — but without sexual contact (*I'm not making that up*) — or “minor attracted

[@nberlat](#). He was the spokesperson for M.A.P. (minor-attracted person) advocacy group, Prostasia. In 2017, he tweeted that pedophiles are a stigmatized group who get designated as deviants for... <https://t.co/SGqZ5CEqbB> <pic.twitter.com/6yq7LGqfgJ>

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [July 17, 2023](#)

The creep who wrote that article also wrote this <https://t.co/BudU4eUA2s>
<pic.twitter.com/t5DiBFPRkJ>

— Joel Berry (@JoelWBerry) [July 18, 2023](#)

Rolling Stone has been particularly vitriolic in its treatment of the film (see '[Sound of Freedom Sends a Rolling Stone Writer Into Fits of Rage](#)'). Some have attributed this bias to the fact that *Rolling Stone* editor-in-chief Noah Schachtman had intervened in the past to whitewash a story on [someone he was "friendly" with](#) that involved kiddie porn. The presumption is that Schachtman is soft on the subject. I have no way of knowing if this Twitter theory is correct.

Spoiler alert: Meek, toward whom *Rolling Stone* top editor-in-chief Noah Schachtman was "friendly", is accused of transporting CP. 🤡🙄 <https://t.co/3HUqDyXDg8>

It's weird how the legacy press — the Praetorian Guard of the ruling elite — is so damn upset about a movie, based on a true story, about the sex and slave trafficking of children.

I wonder if the concomitant move by ruling elites to suggest children have the appropriate... pic.twitter.com/2Dv7r26ygl

— Mulder's Long Fight for Account Reinstatement (@proteinwisdom) [July 23, 2023](#)

See also [Agent Who Inspired Box Office Smash 'Sound of Freedom' Warns: 'Trans Voice' Agenda Is Straight out of the Pedophile Playbook.](#)

My colleague Jeff Charles has written on what might motivate the left to come to the defense of child sex traffickers. Jeff sees tying the movie to QAnon as a way of discrediting the people flocking to the theaters; see [Why Is the Movie 'Sound of Freedom' Political? Because the Left Wants It to Be](#) and [Sound of Freedom: Why Are Progressives Targeting a Film Exposing Child Trafficking?](#)

I think Jeff is correct, as far as it goes, but we need to look a bit deeper into this to see what is

Below that top strata are the strap-hangers, those who want to be seen with the elites and try to emulate them.

Most of society lives out their lives without thinking a lot about the elite or their catchfarts.

If we look at France on the eve of the Revolution, we have a good explanation for the reception of *Sound of Freedom*.

Marquis de Sade did not exist in a vacuum. If you think of his more lurid writings as a DIY manual for deviant sexual practices, I think you are missing the point. He chronicled in literary form a debauched world nearly schizophrenic in its contradictions. On the one hand, France was the seat of Catholicism, and the Church had immense influence in society and government. In the governing Estates of Pre-Revolutionary France, the First Estate was Catholic clergy. Yet, existing parallel to this overt piety was a demimonde where men like de Sade lived. To be clear, I'm not asserting de Sade was an elite member. He wasn't. But he was that second category who ingratiated himself with the elite and was rewarded by their tolerance.

This parallel society was possible because the upper crust was immensely rich, untouchable by the law, and bored because their roles in governing and war-making had been farmed out to social inferiors. With nearly unlimited power and wealth at their disposal but with nothing useful

man's nature.

The lifestyle lived by the elite could have been what Charles Baudelaire described as “An oasis of horror in a desert of boredom.” The desert is the monotony and boredom of everyday life, while the oasis is that rare moment of excitement or pleasure. But the excitement and pleasure quickly become boring, and that leads to the search for new stimulation.

I would argue that while the visible excesses of the *ancien régime* were held in check by public morality, we have advanced beyond that stage. We are at the stage that Friedrich Nietzsche called the “transvaluation of values” and “the will to power.” Christian morality is dead as a restrictive force. Freed of that restriction, you can pursue whatever pleases you. There's a catch, though. When commoners are engaged in activities that would have drawn stiff prison sentences only a decade ago, you have to find something else to scratch that itch. Enter child sex trafficking.

Child sex trafficking is despised in most of the civilized world, so our elites tart it up with private islands and resorts only reachable by private jets. The clothing, food, and setting give the tawdry purpose a patina of elegance.

From the whole Jeffrey Epstein saga, we know there is a market for child sex trafficking. I think Epstein is only the tip of the iceberg. If commoners can take a trip to Thailand or Cambodia

I think when you view the attacks on *Sound of Freedom* as a reaction to the lower social orders stigmatizing something the elites believe to be perfectly fine, much of the media reporting starts to make sense. After all, who are these unwashed cretins to tell the Masters of the Universe what is right and wrong. Once you stir into that the non-trivial number of people in the media who use child pornography and who think “intergenerational love” is natural, it is easy to see the trashing of a film as being less an exercise in journalism than an attack on what is perceived as an outmoded sexual ethic.

What we should learn from this movie and the reaction to it is that child sex trafficking is a big deal. It is bigger than Chester the Molester in the pedo-van or the little Honduran boy being rented online. It is an activity favored by the upper crust of Western society, such as one might find on the passenger list of the Lolita Express. The QAnon focus is a smokescreen. It is a way of discrediting the film without defending child sex trafficking and pedophilia. By extension, that discredits any investigation into child sex trafficking. Most of America has never heard of QAnon, and the fact that so many media outlets grabbed the same angle shows there was some coordination on the theme. While law enforcement is not looking at this entertainment for the superwealthy right now, with enough of a public outcry, they might. That would be bad for a lot of very wealthy men.





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JIM CAVIEZEL

