

RAMASWAMY GAVE VOICE TO A VARIETY OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Highlights:

- Vivek Ramaswamy pushed September 11 conspiracy theories.
 - Ramaswamy questioned how many federal agents were on the planes that hit the Twin Towers.
 - While visiting the September 11 memorial on the anniversary of the attacks, Ramaswamy said he stood by his comments calling for the government to tell the “truth.”
- Vivek Ramaswamy promoted various conspiracy theories around January 6 and the legitimacy of the 2020 election.
 - Ramaswamy suggested that the January 6 attack was an “inside job.”
 - Ramaswamy said that, despite evidence, there were federal agents in the crowd outside the Capitol on January 6.
 - Ramaswamy claimed the 2020 election was stolen by “big tech.”
 - Ramaswamy promoted the conspiracy theory that government agents manipulated defendants in the Gov. Whitmer kidnapping case.
- Vivek Ramaswamy promoted a conspiracy theory that the chiefs would win the Superbowl because Taylor Swift was going to endorse Biden.
- Vivek Ramaswamy expressed skeptical views about climate change.
 - Ramaswamy claimed, “the climate change agenda is a hoax.”
 - Ramaswamy compared belief in climate change to a religion.
 - Ramaswamy implied that the climate change debate was a Trojan horse to penalize the West.
- Vivek Ramaswamy promoted the “great replacement theory.”
 - Ramaswamy said the “great replacement theory” was part of the Democrat Party’s platform.
- Vivek Ramaswamy defended his rhetoric promoting conspiracy theories.

Ramaswamy Pushed September 11th Conspiracy Theories

RAMASWAMY QUESTIONED HOW MANY FEDERAL AGENTS WERE ON THE PLANES THAT HIT THE TWIN TOWERS

Ramaswamy Said He Questioned How Many Federal Agents Were On The Planes That Hit The Twin Towers.

According to the Atlantic, “I [Ramaswamy] think it is legitimate to say how many police, how many federal agents, were on the planes that hit the Twin Towers. Maybe the answer is zero. It probably is zero for all I know, right? I have no reason to think it was anything other than zero. But if we’re doing a comprehensive assessment of what happened on 9/11, we have a 9/11 commission, absolutely that should be an answer the public knows the answer to. Well, if we’re doing a January 6 commission, absolutely, those should be questions that we should get to the bottom of,’ he said. “Here are the people who were armed. Here are the people who are unarmed.’ What percentage of the people who were armed were federal law-enforcement officers? I think it was probably high, actually. Right?” [Atlantic, [8/21/23](#)]

Ramaswamy: “I Want The Truth About 9/11.” According to the Atlantic, “But is he actually confused about who was behind the 9/11 attacks? It was hard to get a straight answer from him. ‘I mean, I would take the truth about 9/11,’ he said. ‘I am not questioning what we—this is not something I’m staking anything out on. But I want the truth about 9/11.’ Some truths, it seems, can be proudly affirmed; others are more elusive. (Asked to clarify Ramaswamy’s views on 9/11, his spokesperson pointed me to a 1,042-word tweet from the candidate, in which he suggested that the U.S. government covered up involvement by Saudi intelligence officials in planning the attacks.)” [Atlantic, [8/21/23](#)]

While Visiting The September 11 Memorial On The Anniversary Of The Attacks, Ramaswamy Said He Stood By His Recent Comments Calling For The Government To Tell The “Truth”

While Visiting The September 11 Memorial On The Anniversary Of The Attacks, Ramaswamy Said He Stood By His Recent Comments Calling For The Government To Tell The “Truth.” According to NBC News, “While visiting the Sept. 11. memorial Monday in Lower Manhattan, Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy said he stands by the comments he had made regarding the terrorist attacks in a recent interview. ‘So today’s not the day to talk about the comments I made, which I stand by. But it is important to have a government that tells the truth to its people, that people can trust, and trust its people back,’ he said while attending the Fire Department of New York’s pipe and drum tribute at Station 10.” [NBC News, [9/12/23](#)]

Ramaswamy Promoted Various Conspiracy Theories Around January 6 And The Legitimacy Of The 2020 Election

RAMASWAMY SUGGESTED THE JANUARY 6 ATTACK WAS AN “INSIDE JOB”

Ramaswamy Suggested The January 6 Attack Was An “Inside Job.” According to NBC News, “Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy voiced support for a variety of far-right conspiracy theories at the fourth GOP presidential primary debate Wednesday, suggesting at one point that the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol was an ‘inside job.’ ‘Why am I the only person on this stage, at least, who can say that Jan. 6 now does look like it was an inside job?’ Ramaswamy said, before he listed other topics popular in conspiracy circles. ‘That the government lied to us for 20 years about Saudi Arabia’s involvement in 9/11? That the great replacement theory is not some grand right-wing conspiracy theory, but a basic statement of the Democratic Party’s platform? That the 2020 election was indeed stolen by Big Tech?’” [NBC News, [12/7/23](#)]

Ramaswamy Said, Despite Evidence, That There Were Federal Agents In The Crowd Outside The Capitol On January 6

Ramaswamy Said, Despite Evidence, That There Were Federal Agents In The Crowd Outside The Capitol On January 6. According to the New York Times, “At a CNN town hall on Wednesday evening in Des Moines, Abby Phillip, the CNN anchor, asked Mr. Ramaswamy about previous comments in which he had said that the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol was an ‘inside job’ — a claim for which there is no evidence, and which has been refuted by numerous criminal indictments and bipartisan congressional investigations. Instead of walking back his remarks, he dug in. ‘The reality is, we know that there were federal law enforcement agents in the field. We don’t know how many,’ Mr. Ramaswamy told the audience at Grand View University, at which point Ms. Phillip interrupted him to clarify. ‘There’s no evidence that there were federal agents in the crowd,’ she said. Mr. Ramaswamy suggested, without providing specific details, that he had seen ‘multiple informants suggesting that they were.’” [New York Times, [12/13/23](#)]

RAMASWAMY CLAIMED THE 2020 ELECTION WAS STOLEN BY “BIG TECH”

Ramaswamy Claimed The 2020 Election Was Stolen By “Big Tech.” According to the New York Times, “As if reading a far-right message board, Mr. Ramaswamy continued, claiming that the 2020 election was stolen by ‘big tech’ (several intelligence agencies called it ‘the most secure in American history’) and that the 2016 election, which Mr. Trump won, was also ‘stolen from him by the national security establishment’ because of the investigation into allegations that his campaign had colluded with Russia.” [New York Times, [12/6/23](#)]

A JANUARY 6 DEFENDANT INVOKED RAMASWAMY’S REMARKS ABOUT THE 2020 ELECTION BEING STOLEN AND JANUARY 6 BEING AN “INSIDE JOB” DURING HIS SENTENCING HEARING

Alan Hostetter, January 6 Defendant, Invoked Ramaswamy’s Debate Remarks About The Election Being Stolen As Evidence That These Theories Were “No Longer Fringe.” According to the New York Times, “Ms. Phillip’s question on Wednesday referred to Alan Hostetter, a Jan. 6 defendant who invoked Mr. Ramaswamy’s debate remarks during his

sentencing hearing last week in claiming that conspiracy theories about the 2020 election being stolen ‘are no longer fringe.’” [New York Times, [12/13/23](#)]

- **Hostetter Was Sentenced To More Than 11 Years In Federal Prison For His Actions On And Related To January 6.** According to NBC News, “Hostetter was sentenced to more than 11 years in federal prison on charges of conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding, obstruction of an official proceeding, entering or remaining on restricted grounds with a deadly or dangerous weapon, and disorderly or disruptive conduct on restricted grounds with a deadly or dangerous weapon.” [NBC News, [12/22/23](#)]

Hostetter Specifically Noted Ramaswamy’s Comments, And Said “These Conspiracy Theories Are No Longer Fringe,” During His Sentencing Hearing. According to NBC News, “Like GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy and many far-right members of Congress, Hostetter has spread conspiracy theories about the attack on Jan. 6, 2021.

Ramaswamy said, without evidence, during the Republican debate Wednesday night that Jan. 6 ‘now does look like it was an inside job,’ while Hostetter said during his trial that he believed ‘that the entire thing was staged.’ Hostetter, who was found to have carried a hatchet during the attack, brought up Ramaswamy’s debate comments at his sentencing hearing Thursday.

‘These conspiracy theories are no longer fringe,’ he said, noting Ramaswamy’s comments specifically.” [NBC News, [12/7/23](#)]

Ramaswamy: “I’ve Met Many Peaceful Protesters From Jan 6. That In The Stories I’ve Heard From Them Seemed Like Unjust Prosecutions”

Ramaswamy: “I’ve Met Many Peaceful Protesters From Jan 6. That In The Stories I’ve Heard From Them Seemed Like Unjust Prosecutions.” According to NBC News, “NBC News asked Ramaswamy how he felt about Alan Hostetter, a convicted participant in the Jan. 6 riot and a former California police chief who called for the execution of Donald Trump’s political enemies, offering praise for Ramaswamy and his statements during his sentencing for his activity on Jan. 6.

Ramaswamy, in response, did not specifically address Hostetter’s praise of him but spoke more broadly about the Jan. 6 prosecutions. ‘I’ve met many peaceful protesters from Jan. 6 that in the stories that I’ve heard from them seemed like unjust prosecutions,’ Ramaswamy said.” [NBC News, [12/22/23](#)]

RAMASWAMY PROMOTED THE CONSPIRACY THEORY THAT GOVERNMENT AGENTS MANIPULATED DEFENDANTS IN THE GOVERNOR WHITMER KIDNAPPING CASE

Ramaswamy, Speaking About The Kidnapping Plot Against Governor Whitmer, Said Government Agents “Put Them Up To Do Something They Otherwise Wouldn’t Have Done.” According to the New York Times, “He [Ramaswamy] turned to another conspiracy theory — involving the kidnapping plot against Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat of Michigan. He claimed, of some defendants in that case, that ‘government agents put them up to do something they otherwise wouldn’t have done.’ (That claim also has no evidence to support it.)” [New York Times, [12/13/23](#)]

Ramaswamy Promoted A Conspiracy Theory That The Chiefs Would Win The Superbowl Because Taylor Swift Was Going To Endorse Biden

RAMASWAMY FLOATED THE IDEA THAT THE CHIEFS WOULD WIN THE SUPERBOWL BECAUSE TAYLOR SWIFT WAS GOING TO ENDORSE BIDEN

Ramaswamy Floated The Theory That The Chiefs Would Win The Superbowl Because Taylor Swift Was Going To Endorse Biden. According to a tweet from Vivek Ramaswamy, “I wonder who’s going to win the Super Bowl next month. And I wonder if there’s a major presidential endorsement coming from an artificially culturally propped-up couple this fall. Just some wild speculation over here, let’s see how it ages over the next 8 months.” [Twitter, @VivekGRamaswamy, [1/29/24](#)]

Swift Endorsed Biden In 2020. According to the Associated Press, “Swift endorsed Biden in 2020. She also backed former Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, a Democrat, in his 2018 run for Senate, which he lost to Sen. Marsha Blackburn, a Republican.” [Associated Press, [2/8/24](#)]

Ramaswamy Expressed Skeptical Views About Climate Change

RAMASWAMY CLAIMED, “THE CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA IS A HOAX”

Ramaswamy Claimed, “The Climate Change Agenda Is A Hoax.” According to POLITICO, “GOP candidates during the first Republican debate argued over climate change, with Vivek Ramaswamy calling the agenda over the issue a hoax. ‘I’m the only candidate on stage who isn’t bought and paid for, so I can say this — the climate change agenda is a hoax,’ he said. ‘And so the reality is more people are dying of bad climate change policies than they are of actual climate change,’ he added.” [POLITICO, [8/23/23](#)]

Ramaswamy Said The “Climate Change Agenda Is Shackling This Country.” According to the Washington Examiner, “‘This climate change agenda is shackling this country like a set of handcuffs,’ he said. ‘I said it the first debate and I stand by it — the climate change agenda is a hoax because it has nothing to do with the climate. That’s what we have to see — 98% reduction in the climate disaster-related deaths in the last century. Eight times as many people are going to die from cold temperatures this year than warm ones.’” [Washington Examiner, [12/7/23](#)]

RAMASWAMY COMPARED BELIEF IN CLIMATE CHANGE TO A RELIGION

Ramaswamy Compared Believing In Climate Change To A Religion. According to the Washington Examiner, “‘If you thought COVID was bad, what’s coming with this climate agenda is far worse. We should not be bending the knee to this new religion,’ said Ramaswamy, who has made ‘God is real’ one of his campaign mantras. ‘That is what it is. It is a substitute for a modern religion. We are flogging ourselves and losing our modern way of life to bow to this new God of climate, and that will end on my watch.’” [Washington Examiner, [12/7/23](#)]

Ramaswamy: “Climate Religion Actually Has Nothing To Do With The Climate. It Is All About Power, Control, Dominion, And Apologizing For America’s Own Success.” According to Fox News, “VIVEK RAMASWAMY: ... I mean, you think about actually handing \$40 billion-plus to Ukraine with one hand at the same time that Biden was lobbying actually the EU from its Russian oil import ban. The reason is because we’ve shot our own fossil fuel industry in the foot, and it is because of this climate religion, but the dirty little secret, Maria [Bartiromo], that not a lot of people know is the climate religion actually has nothing to do with the climate. It is all about power, control, dominion and apologizing for America’s own success.” [Fox News, [3/5/23](#)]

RAMASWAMY IMPLIED THAT THE CLIMATE CHANGE DEBATE WAS A TROJAN HORSE TO PENALIZE THE WEST

Ramaswamy Implied That The Climate Change Debate Was A Weapon To Penalize The Success Of The West. According to a tweet from Vivek Ramaswamy, “The problem with nuclear energy is it’s *too good*. And if you solve the ‘clean energy problem’ activists lose their favorite Trojan Horse for advancing ‘global equity’ by penalizing the West. That’s what the climate change debate is about.” [Twitter, [@VivekGRamaswamy, 4/25/23](#)]

Ramaswamy Promoted The “Great Replacement Theory”

RAMASWAMY SAID THE “GREAT REPLACEMENT THEORY” WAS PART OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY’S PLATFORM

Ramaswamy Said The “Great Replacement Theory” Was A “Basic Statement Of The Democratic Party’s Platform.” According to the New York Times, “And Mr. Ramaswamy claimed that the ‘great replacement theory’ — the racist idea that minorities, sometimes manipulated by Jews, want to replace white Americans — was not a conspiracy theory but instead a ‘basic statement of the Democratic Party’s platform.’” [New York Times, [12/6/23](#)]

The “Great Replacement Theory” Was The Racist Idea That Minorities, Sometimes Manipulated By Jews, Want To Replace White Americans. According to the New York Times, “And Mr. Ramaswamy claimed that the ‘great replacement theory’ — the racist idea that minorities, sometimes manipulated by Jews, want to replace white

Americans — was not a conspiracy theory but instead a ‘basic statement of the Democratic Party’s platform.’” [New York Times, [12/6/23](#)]

“Great Replacement Theory” Was Recently Popularized By Tucker Carlson And Was Referenced By Several Mass Shooters

“Great Replacement Theory” Was Recently Popularized By Tucker Carlson And Was Referenced By Several Mass Shooters. According to the New York Times, “The ‘great replacement theory’ has been creeping into the conservative mainstream, popularized by hosts like Tucker Carlson, and has been referenced by several mass shooters.” [New York Times, [12/6/23](#)]

Replacement Theory Was A Common Threat In Many Recent Mass Shootings As Well As The 2017 Right-Wing Rally In Charlottesville. According to the New York Times, “Three shootings, three different targets — but all linked by one sprawling, ever-mutating belief now commonly known as replacement theory. At the extremes of American life, replacement theory — the notion that Western elites, sometimes manipulated by Jews, want to ‘replace’ and disempower white Americans — has become an engine of racist terror, helping inspire a wave of mass shootings in recent years and fueling the 2017 right-wing rally in Charlottesville, Va., that erupted in violence. But replacement theory, once confined to the digital fever swamps of Reddit message boards and semi-obscure white nationalist sites, has gone mainstream. In sometimes more muted forms, the fear it crystallizes — of a future America in which white people are no longer the numerical majority — has become a potent force in conservative media and politics, where the theory has been borrowed and remixed to attract audiences, retweets and small-dollar donations.” [New York Times, [5/15/22](#)]

Neo-Nazi Nick Fuentes And QAnon Influencer Jordan Sather Applauded Ramaswamy’s Endorsement Of The Great Replacement Theory

Neo-Nazi Nick Fuentes And QAnon Influencer Jordan Sather Applauded Ramaswamy’s Endorsement Of The Great Replacement Theory. According to the Daily Beast, “Vivek Ramaswamy’s endorsement of the widely debunked Great Replacement Theory during the fourth GOP debate earned him the praise of many on the far right, among them neo-Nazi Nick Fuentes. ‘Great Replacement Theory is not some grand right-wing conspiracy theory, but a basic statement of the Democratic Party’s platform,’ Ramaswamy said during a debate performance that also saw him claim the Jan. 6 riot ‘does look like it was an inside job.’ A video of Fuentes reacting to Ramaswamy’s endorsement of the the Great Replacement Theory with glee was at one point retweeted by Ramaswamy himself, before being removed. QAnon influencer Jordan Sather was among those to heap praise on Ramaswamy’s debate performance, writing: ‘Vivek is basically Trump’s campaign surrogate on the debate stage. It’s awesome.’” [Daily Beast, [12/7/23](#)]

Ramaswamy Defended His Rhetoric Promoting Conspiracy Theories

RAMASWAMY DOUBLED DOWN FOLLOWING A DEBATE WHERE HE SPREAD CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Ramaswamy Touted Himself As An Outsider Willing To Speak “Truth” And Said He Was “Proud” Of Having Stirred Discussion Of The Issues. According to ABC News, “Entrepreneur and Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy shared multiple conspiratorial or controversial claims at Wednesday night’s debate, amplifying them to a new level of prominence in the 2024 race. Ramaswamy touted himself as an outsider willing to speak ‘truth’ on stage. But most of his assertions on hot-button topics like Jan. 6, the 9/11 terror attacks and demographic changes in the U.S. were groundless or have been repeatedly debunked. He told ABC News at a campaign event the following day that he was ‘proud’ of having stirred discussion of the issues, he said.

Ramaswamy Said He Did Not Believe The Theories He Discussed Had Been Debunked. According to ABC News, “He [Ramaswamy] also said he didn’t believe the theories had, in fact, been debunked. ‘I think it is important to speak to the hard truths and I would love to have a strong discussion on the merits of it,’ he insisted.” [ABC News, [12/7/23](#)]

RAMASWAMY SAID HE WANTED TO GIVE PEOPLE PERMISSION TO SAY IN PUBLIC WHAT THEY WOULD OTHERWISE SAY IN PRIVATE

Ramaswamy Said He Wanted To Give People Permission To Say In Public What They Would Otherwise Say In Private. According to ABC News, “Ramaswamy alleged during the debate that the theory ‘is not some grand right-wing conspiracy theory but a basic statement of the Democratic Party’s platform.’ He subsequently said on CNN, ‘I don't care about skin color ... Do you share the ideals of this country?’ He also said that he did not want to stir violence. ‘I want to be careful in the way that I speak about this,’ he said. But he added, ‘As a leader, it is important to give people the permission to say in public what they'll otherwise say in private.’” [ABC News, [12/7/23](#)]