

# Super-rich must stop meddling in democracy, says Disney heiress

- Two thirds of world's wealthy people view influence of rich on Donald Trump as dangerous
- DC now the worlds largest collection of douche-bags, narcissists, alcoholics and assholes

Donald Trump's billionaire clique is a "threat to global stability", a group of millionaires including a Disney heiress and Dale Vince, British energy boss, have claimed.

Pressure group Patriotic Millionaires said a survey it had undertaken of the world's wealthy found almost two thirds viewed the influence of the super-rich on the new US president as a danger to the world.

Just over half of the 2,900 millionaires surveyed agreed that "extreme wealth concentration is a threat to democracy".

Billionaires had some of the prime seats at Mr Trump's inauguration on Monday, with wealthy guests including Elon Musk, the boss of Tesla; Mark Zuckerberg, the chief of Facebook-owner Meta; and Jeff Bezos, the Amazon founder.

(L-R) Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk all had prime seats at Trump's inauguration Credit: Getty Images North America

Bernard Arnault, the founder of luxury group LVMH and Europe's richest man, was also in attendance, as was Mukesh Ambani, India's richest man.

Abigail Disney, an heiress and the face of Patriotic Millionaires, said Mr Trump's election was the result of the "extreme inequality" on show at the inauguration.

She said: "It's easy to see the election of a figure like Donald Trump as an aberration, but that's not the case. Donald Trump – along with his so-called 'first buddy', Elon Musk – is the final and inevitable conclusion of decades of inaction on the part of world leaders to put a check on extreme inequality.

"It's hard to be optimistic about what lies ahead over the next four years – and maybe more – but if officials want to do something to ensure the stability of our democracies, they need only find the political resolve to once and for all tax wealthy people like me."

## ‘Political fear of upsetting the rich’

The campaign group has taken a letter to Davos, in Switzerland, to hand to attendees of the World Economic Forum's annual jamboree, at which the super-rich mingle with business and political leaders. Mr Trump is not attending in person this year.

"Oligarchy cannot be born from the political fear of upsetting the super rich," the letter warns.

"You may dismiss this as hyperbole, but we know differently. We are people who have wealth. We know how money can buy access. Our experience tells us the super rich are offered more of a say than everyone else."

The campaign is being supported by actor Brian Cox, who starred as foul-mouthed fictional billionaire Logan Roy in Succession, the award-winning drama which cast an unsympathetic light on the influence America's business and media elite hold over elections.

‘Our leaders have lacked the backbone needed to put ordinary people first’: Succession’s Brian Cox has supported the campaign Credit: HBO via AP

Mr Cox said: “The super-rich now manage so much more than money – they manage what we read, what we watch, the information we’re given, and ultimately, how we vote.

“When a super-rich elite is determining the outcome of elections purely to protect their vested interests and accelerate profits, it’s clear that we are in a terrifying age of wealth extremism.

“Our leaders have lacked the backbone needed to rein in political capture and put ordinary people first.”

Mr Trump won both the popular vote and the Electoral College in the US election, with a majority of US counties shifting towards the Republican. Although initially scorned by swathes of the coastal elites and much of the billionaire class, the president has since been besieged by wealthy tech bosses keen for close links with the White House.