

The Power Play Behind The Musk Nazi Salute, When Wealth Transcends Accountability



Finks

I can't help but shiver watching [\[this\]](#).

On January 15th, 2025, at Trump's inauguration, Elon Musk made gestures that multiple outlets called Nazi salutes. His response wasn't just surprising — it showed something far more sinister about power in our digital age.

What I think it most worrying isn't what happened, but how predictable it should have been. Each provocation by Elon Musk has been bigger than the last, while each response has been weaker than before.

While researching this, I found myself wondering — what happens when the richest man in the world realizes there are no consequences?

When he finds out he can mock the Holocaust at a presidential inauguration and get nothing but wall-to-wall press coverage?

Even the ADL dismissed Musk's raised arm as "an awkward gesture in a moment of enthusiasm" in a social media [post](#) on Monday.

The Pattern Was There All Along

The trend is clear. In 2018, he called a Thai cave rescuer a “pedo guy”.

He was angry because the rescuer, Vernon Unsworth, publicly dismissed Musk’s mini-submarine as a useless PR stunt and said it had ‘absolutely no chance of working’.

Musk, feeling insulted and frustrated by the criticism, lashed out on Twitter with the baseless insult, which he later deleted, but initially defended, claiming it was a common phrase used in South Africa to describe an ‘old creepy guy’ rather than an actual accusation.

In 2022 he compared Canadian PM Trudeau to Hitler. Musk made the comparison during the Canadian trucker protests against COVID-19 mandates, known as the “Freedom Convoy”.

The Canadian government invoked the Emergencies Act to disperse the protests, which included freezing bank accounts linked to the demonstrators.

In response, Musk posted a meme on X (formerly Twitter) that showed a photo of Adolf Hitler with the caption: ‘Stop comparing me to Justin Trudeau. I had a budget’.

Before Trump’s inauguration, Musk’s social media behavior took a turn that many dismissed as trolling or eccentric humor. By taking the title “Kekius Maximus” — a reference to the meme culture surrounding “Kek”, an online symbol associated with the alt-right and 4chan communities — he signaled he was in with the internet subcultures known for their political trolling.

His use of the Pepe the Frog avatar, an image that had been co-opted by far-right groups despite its benign origins, further fueled speculation about his leanings.

We laughed it off as eccentric billionaire behavior. We shouldn't have.

Viewed in hindsight, these actions show a pattern of provocation and disregard for social norms. Each time, he pushed further, testing more boundaries.

The Inauguration That Shook Us

That brings us to the inauguration.

First the salutes. Then instead of apologizing he posts Holocaust jokes about Nazi leaders.

“Don't say Hess to Nazi accusations! Some people will Goebbels anything down!”

When challenged, he mocks the criticism — “The ‘everyone is Hitler’ attack is sooo tired”.

But he knows exactly what he is doing.

With \$200 million invested in Trump's victory and direct control over X's narrative-shaping algorithms, Musk has built something unprecedented: a political operation combining platform control, massive financial resources, and direct political leverage.

“Elon and Vivek talked about having a naughty list and a nice list for members of Congress,” revealed Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene.

This how explicit these power dynamics have become.

Money Talks, Democracy Walks

Suddenly, the inauguration incident becomes more than mere provocation — it's a demonstration of force.

Every group's reaction revealed how compromised they were:

- Trump's administration couldn't condemn their largest donor
- Republicans dependent on PAC funding had to defend it
- Media platforms risked algorithm penalties for criticism
- Even the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) initially attempted to explain it away

Through campaign finance records, we can see \$262 million flowing from Musk to three organizations:

- \$238.52 million to America PAC for swing states
- \$20.5 million to RBG PAC (ironically using Justice Ginsburg's name)
- \$3 million to MAHA Alliance backing Kennedy

But that's just the official money. Watch how his Dogecoin tweets move markets [[link here](#)]. See how his attack on the UK's Online Safety Act as a "dystopian police state" sent regulators scrambling [[link here](#)].

This isn't just wealth — it's weaponized influence.

The Global Power Play

Musk's influence isn't confined to the U.S.; it's going global.

On January 13th, 2025, he virtually addressed 4,500 AfD supporters in Germany:

"It's good to be proud of German culture, German values and not to lose that in some sort of "multiculturalism that dilutes everything" [[link here](#)]."

The idea of an “American” billionaire telling Germans about cultural purity would be hilarious if it weren’t so terrifying.

Professor Kai Arzheimer calls AfD “quite extreme even by European far-right standards” [\[link here\]](#), yet now they’re polling at 20% for the February election.

Musk also has influence in the UK, where he’s called for PM Keir Starmer to be removed and backed Tommy Robinson, a jailed far-right activist [\[link here\]](#).

I’ve watched British politics for years. Seeing a foreign billionaire openly interfere in their democracy through platform manipulation is alarming.

His “Make Europe Great Again” campaign [\[link here\]](#) isn’t just a slogan — it’s a playbook for tech enabled authoritarianism.

Platform Control and Manipulation

The numbers are brutal.

Under Musk’s ownership, antisemitic content on X increased by 919% after October 7th 2023.

We’re not just talking about subtle changes in content moderation — this is what happens when the richest man in the world decides hate speech is acceptable as long as it serves his purpose.

Algorithm changes after July 13th 2024 [\[link here\]](#) have also systematically favored conservative views while silencing critics. The verified users responsible for 74% of viral misinformation during key events [\[link here\]](#) weren’t random trolls — they were paying customers Musk personally protected.

The New Era of Political Influence

Post-election, the mask came off entirely.

Musk was appointed to lead the unofficial “Department of Government Efficiency” alongside Vivek Ramaswamy.

It would be almost comical if it weren’t so deliberate. This position sits outside formal ethics rules, granting enormous influence over regulations tied to his companies:

- Tesla’s autonomous vehicle rules
- SpaceX’s government contracts
- xAI’s development guidelines
- Neuralink’s medical approvals

The placement of his allies tells its own story:

- Jared Isaacman as NASA Director [[link here](#)] — convenient for SpaceX
- David Sacks as cryptocurrency and AI regulation chief [[link here](#)] — perfect for xAI’s interests

Every regulatory obstacle his companies were facing has now been removed by someone friendly to Musk’s interests.

This isn’t just corruption — it’s corruption on a scale that makes traditional influence peddling look quaint.

The Financial Rewards of Power

Since October 2024 the numbers are mind boggling:

- Net worth went from \$237 billion to \$362 billion [[link here](#)]
- xAI hit \$40 billion valuation [[link here](#)]
- Political “investments” were 0.07% of his wealth [[link here](#)]

Remember when we thought billionaires buying newspapers was a problem?

Musk spent pocket change to remake democracy itself.

His \$262 million in political contributions seemed like a lot until his wealth grew by \$125 billion after the election.

That's not just return on investment — that's the price of democracy itself.

The Core Problem

Traditional power structures assumed wealthy individuals would want respectability.

But what happens when they explicitly reject it? When they use their resources not to join the upper class but to show disdain for the basic rules of society?

Looking at the facts, a clear picture emerges. The combination of:

- Unlimited resources
- Platform control
- Political influence
- Provocation tactics

These are creating something new: power without accountability, influence without responsibility, wealth that doesn't just bend the rules, but breaks them entirely.

We're witnessing a system fail in real time. **Every institution meant to stop this — media, regulators, politicians, civil society organizations — has been compromised or intimidated into silence.**

The few voices speaking out are being algorithmically suppressed, retaliated against financially, or mocked by the richest man in the world.

This doesn't excuse it, but it explains how a toxic cycle of technological control, political leverage, and financial might is undermining democracy in the digital age.

Final Thoughts

The path forward is unclear. But recognizing the true nature of the threat — not just individual bad behavior, but the threat to accountability itself — is necessary to preserve the social contract that wealth can't buy.

Future historians will mark this moment — when a billionaire could make Nazi salutes at a presidential inauguration and walk away unscathed — as the turning point where we realized what we're dealing with.

The question is — will we act on that realization before it's too late?