

. Ella Whelan

Elon Musk's sex harem exposes the emptiness of Republican 'family values'

Does the world's richest man really believe that the West might be saved by the same sexual practices found in a Chinese imperial court?

Ella Whelan

Elon Musk is a busy man. Along with inhabiting the fever dreams of Western liberals convinced that Twitter is behind every social ill and fist pumping his way round the Oval Office, Musk seems to spend his free time making babies. Making Boris Johnson look like a family man, Musk allegedly has at least 14 children with four separate women.

Ever the gentleman, Musk is also allegedly building a series of properties – a baby compound some are calling it – to house his various families. Only one of the mothers, Shvon Zilis, is reportedly living on the property as of yet, but Musk's aim seems to be to create a Mormon community for the modern age – with NDAs and rumoured demands for caesareans to enable “big brains” instead of books and bad suits. According to one woman claiming to be a Musk Mama, conservative influencer Ashley St Clair, Musk wants a “legion” of children to combat a coming apocalypse. Musk might be on the ludicrous end of the pronatalist Right, but his views on family are shared by many conservatives who perhaps just can't find as many women to procreate with. Musk's view that the collapse of Western civilisation is linked to a falling birth rate is not original – many UK Conservative politicians have been saying much the same for some time.

“A collapsing birth rate is the biggest danger civilisation faces by far”, he tweeted in 2022, sounding a bit like Miriam Cates or Jacob Rees Mogg. But does Musk really believe that Western Civilisation might be saved by the same sexual and moral practices found in a Chinese imperial harem?

It’s something feminist-y Lefties and holier-than-thou Right-wing pronatalists have in common: being full of it. Some of the most prolific proselytisers about family values – on Substacks or irritating podcasts – are the biggest philanderers. It would be funny watching these men lecture the rest of us ladies on how we should be having more babies to save the world if their views on women’s freedom weren’t so depressingly reactionary. Musk and the rest have no intention of changing nappies or burping after bottles in this brave new baby-filled world.

Like any other celebrity, Musk’s private life is of little interest to most of us. But there is a problem with the way in which discussion about family values and having babies is split into two extreme camps – the trad-wife Right and the “abolish the family” Left. For any young couple starting out, the choices seem to be to either raise your non-binary child in defiance of the nuclear family, or to go full homestead and demand that your wife wear gingham and churn her own butter amongst a multitude of children.

“There’s really no time like the present. Just have kids. You won’t be sorry. It’ll work out”, Musk told a pro-Trump rally on the campaign trail back in 2024. He’s right – there are always reasons not to have children, they’re expensive and time consuming and hard work. It’s only really when you have one that you realise that none of that matters because they’re the best thing that’s ever happened to you.

If we want to convince a young generation currently hesitant about taking the leap into parenthood, it has to be an equal one. Women are no longer willing to bear all the burden of childrearing – why should we, when formula and washing machines and paternity leave means there’s no

reason to? If all these pronatalists want legions of children, perhaps it's time they started being better fathers.