

## Funding the Future

# The Washington Post abandons press impartiality

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Unsurprisingly, Jeff Bezos of Amazon and the Washington Post still uses Twitter:



**Jeff Bezos**  

@JeffBezos

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Bezos Earth Fund. Bezos Academy.

He used his [Twitter account](#) to post this yesterday:



**Jeff Bezos**  

@JeffBezos



...

I shared this note with the Washington Post team this morning:

I'm writing to let you know about a change coming to our opinion pages.

We are going to be writing every day in support and defense of two pillars: personal liberties and free markets. We'll cover other topics too of course, but viewpoints opposing those pillars will be left to be published by others.

There was a time when a newspaper, especially one that was a local monopoly, might have seen it as a service to bring to the reader's doorstep every morning a broad-based opinion section that sought to cover all views. Today, the internet does that job.

I am of America and for America, and proud to be so. Our country did not get here by being typical. And a big part of America's success has been freedom in the economic realm and everywhere else. Freedom is ethical — it minimizes coercion — and practical — it drives creativity, invention, and prosperity.

I offered David Shipley, whom I greatly admire, the opportunity to lead this new chapter. I suggested to him that if the answer wasn't "hell yes," then it had to be "no." After careful consideration, David decided to step away. This is a significant shift, it won't be easy, and it will require 100% commitment — I respect his decision. We'll be searching for a new Opinion Editor to own this new direction.

I'm confident that free markets and personal liberties are right for America. I also believe these viewpoints are underserved in the current market of ideas and news opinion. I'm excited for us together to fill that void.

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Jeff

The deluded mindset of the billionaire is revealed.

Amazon is not a free marketeer. It has created a monopoly.

It uses its considerable market power and the full force of law only available to the wealthy and their companies to create barriers to entry around its market space.

It has used tax havens, which only exist to undermine the operation of free markets by creating unfair and unnatural competitive advantages, to facilitate its operations and support its profitability.

Its platforms have been widely used to facilitate tax abuse by others, for example, with regard to abuse of VAT on imports into the UK, which is well documented. This activity has undermined free markets.

Its view of liberty is that it has the freedom to do as it wishes but wishes to deny that freedom to others.

In this sense, Bezos and Amazon take the libertarian view of freedom, which is you might do as you wish as long as you have the means to ensure others cannot challenge you when doing so. That others might not have those means is not your concern by this definition. It is the fault of those without such means that they cannot afford to assert their rights. That they might be systemically prevented from doing so is not considered a possibility.

And the fact that Bezos has said this the day after Trump announced restrictions on access to the White House, only allowing the opportunity to question at Presidential events to those who agree with his positions, cannot be a coincidence.

Staggeringly, Bezos is proud of the fact that he is withdrawing from impartiality and that his paper will no longer seek to offer alternative views. His claim is that the web provides the alternative view. The disparity of resources between his organisation and those challenging his opinion must be known to him, but again, he does not care.

Let me, however, note that he says the web must deliver the alternative view, and so I will. Around fifty per cent of my YouTube traffic is in the USA. It is lower for this blog, at around fifteen per cent. That is not surprising, given I come from a European perspective. But what it does make clear is how important some of the commentary in places like Substack really is now. That is where free expression might be found. It is not where Bezos wants to be, which is precisely why I wonder for how long such platforms might be allowed their freedom to publish? When will Trump come for them? Is it just time?