

American Dream—or Bay State Nightmare?

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An Embodiment of the American Dream

Get this picture: a four-year old boy, son of a military officer who fought for his nation's freedom, flees with his family from a Vietnam taken over by communists. Losing every physical possession they had, the family spends two years in refugee camps, survives a perilous voyage in which fellow exiles literally perish at sea, and finally, through the sponsorship of a humane Catholic priest, winds up in Clinton, Massachusetts. The family later relocates to Fitchburg. The boy attends local public schools where he is a distinguished pupil, commended by his teachers. After graduation from Fitchburg High School, he goes to Brandeis University, earning a bachelor's degree.

The young man marries and fathers four children who, like their father, attend Fitchburg public schools. He does all that any decent and honorable American would for his children, including volunteer coaching for his son's sports teams.

He works as a senior project manager for an international firm, managing major accounts for production on three continents. His application earns the firm millions of dollars in revenue. He does not limit himself to success in the private sphere, in his community he serves on the boards of such institutions as the YMCA, the Boy Scouts, and the board of trustees of a local community college.

In 2005 he undertakes a political career by running for the Fitchburg city council. Despite claims that he stood no chance, he is elected a councilor-at-large. He is the first minority in Fitchburg history elected to the city council and the first Vietnamese-American elected to any office in Massachusetts' history. In the period 2007-2017 he is repeatedly reelected to city council and is in fact the city's top vote-getter. He serves 12 years as councilor-at-large and then as council vice-president.

Throughout his career as city councilor, he is distinguished by his dedication to the people he represents: even a major political opponent described him as "a pioneer of constituent service."

In 2017 he runs for the Massachusetts state Senate. Once again, critics said that he—a Republican—didn't stand a chance, that he would need a miracle to win. But he wins. In a state dominated by the Democrat Party, he flips a seat held by Democrats for more than twenty-five years. He is the first Vietnamese-American elected to the Massachusetts state legislature, the first Asian-American elected to the state Senate.

In 2018 he is told that he couldn't expect to be reelected. And the infamous Massachusetts Democrat Machine does all it can to see to his defeat: they spread the usual lies whenever a Republican exhibits success in the state and flood the district with mailers full of falsehoods. But, once again, he wins.

As 2020 dawns, this man is the most popular conservative Republican in Massachusetts—and the third-best known Republican in the state (right behind Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito).

The man of whom we speak is **Dean A. Tran**.

But now—the end of the year 2024—this man, who has accomplished so much for so many and done so so honorably, stands convicted in a federal court seated in Boston, Massachusetts of crimes. *What happened?!*

Progressives in Power: Corruption as a Way of Life

Massachusetts is a liberal state. That comes as no surprise even to political illiterates. *So* liberal is the state that the expression "Massachusetts liberal" was coined to designate what is *de facto* not just liberalism but *arch-liberalism*. A higher percentage of Massachusetts voters (35%) self-identify as liberal than in any other state. As "liberal" originally meant one who pursued his own interests within the limits of the law—but today's arch-liberals go well beyond that, by seeking to criminalize certain interests they repudiate (including religious belief)—it would be more appropriate to label Massachusetts liberals not just as *progressives*, but as arch-progressives. But here, too, the word has undergone change. Originally, in the early 20th century, the word "progressive" meant those dedicated to correcting social problems that were an outgrowth of the industrial revolution. Republican Theodore Roosevelt was a progressive in that sense. Where progressives once sought to reform social wrongs through governmental intervention by working within the existing, constitutional,

system, today's progressives have not only expanded the field of asserted social wrongs but have implicitly argued for the replacement of the existing constitutional system. Currently, this is vividly illustrated by Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey's sweeping attack on the Second Amendment.

Any one-party state is inherently suspect. Massachusetts has effectively been a one-party state for most of our adult lifetimes. And the political ideology of those in power in Massachusetts in that time has moved not just to the left but to the far left. It cannot be assumed that Massachusetts Democrats in power are believers in the Constitution; rather, by their policies they have shown that they are believers in socialism. Or worse: totalitarianism.

For as Russian dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn put it in his Harvard commencement address of 1978: *"Liberalism was inevitably displaced by radicalism; radicalism had to surrender to socialism; and socialism could never resist communism."*

One of the major means by which this displacement to totalitarianism occurs is through propaganda. In a state as politically partisan as Massachusetts, the media, too, is deeply partisan. The Massachusetts media very frequently is simply the bearer of propaganda. Propaganda has been defined as "the concerted effort to spread biased, misleading and damaging information to advance or destroy a political cause or point of view." Illustrations we have witnessed in the four years of the Biden administration would include: *the claim that America is inherently racist; that white people are the root cause of our problems; that white supremacists are the greatest threat to national security.*

As the year 2020 loomed, Massachusetts progressives discerned a frightening possibility: that a popular *but Republican* politician would seek election to the U.S. House of Representatives. Dean Tran was that politician. And in his case, there was another dimension to the threat he posed: Tran was not one of those "white people who are the root cause of our problems." Far from it: Tran was Asian-American. He stood a real chance of being elected. (Recall that no Republican has been elected to the U.S. House from Massachusetts since 1994.)

On the mere face of it, it is incredible—it is absurd—to think that a man with an absolutely unblemished record of fifteen years of service to his constituents as an elected representative should find himself in a federal court convicted of attempting to defraud the

Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance and failing to report income to the federal Internal Revenue Service.

What had happened that brought Dean Tran to this?!

What happened was that Dean Tran was seen by the progressives in power as a real threat. He had to be taken down.

So his progressive opponents—and their supine media—got to work to make sure that Dean Tran was removed from Massachusetts politics. By hook or crook.

In June 2019, Democrats persuaded an elderly and confused female constituent in Tran's district to accuse him of the theft of her firearm. The actual history revealed that the woman in question had accused others of the same deed, including family members. And in fact, the firearm was subsequently discovered in the woman's own yard. Both the Fitchburg police and the Massachusetts state police investigated the matter and dismissed the charge. But a liberal reporter wrote the matter up—and gave Democrats campaign material.

In September 2019, Democrats concocted a sexual harassment claim against Tran—but the attempt to besmirch him fell apart when a female state Senate staffer reported that she had been coerced to cooperate. Extortion of a sitting Senator is serious, calling for FBI investigation: but in the Democrat-controlled institution the matter was swept aside and the FBI not contacted.

In December 2019, Democrats in the state Senate contrived another scheme: based on an anonymous letter and anonymous witnesses, they accused Tran of using his staff for campaign purposes in working hours. Because of this false accusation, Tran was stripped of his leadership positions—and the ensuing report was issued for broadcast to a compliant media. This effort was last-minute as the Democrats were running out of time to immobilize Tran and find a candidate to run against him in his campaign for reelection to state Senate.

Nor was the effort to frustrate Tran's reelection limited to Democrat state officials. Senator Elizabeth Warren and Congressman Jim McGovern actively campaigned for Tran's opponent. They, like the state officials, were all decisively anti-Trump and recognized Dean Tran as a real threat.

However, the smears worked: Tran's opponent—assisted by a store of negative news articles, progressives in power, and the Democrat Machine—narrowly won.

In 2022 Tran determined to be a candidate for the Massachusetts Third Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. His campaign on the ground received tremendous support. Once again, the morally bankrupt progressive Massachusetts administration stepped in: on July 3—the day before the celebration of our national independence—Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey indicted Tran on the firearm-theft charge, although there was absolutely no evidence against him other than a confused woman's words. There can be no doubt that this indictment was politically-motivated: this same Maura Healey sued Donald J. Trump over 100 times! Through legal discovery, Tran learned the details: the firearm had never been stolen—it was on the woman's property all along! Moreover, Tran subsequently learned that an anonymous letter to Healey's office admitted that the accusation was a set-up involving a member of the Fitchburg Democrat City Committee.

Having targeted and smeared Dean Tran politically and legally, Maura Healey got to work actively campaigning for his opponent to the House race—and, predictably, the lapdog media followed suit. A *Boston Globe* reporter wrote a full-page editorial urging Tran's defeat. The forces of progressivism—the state government, the media—cooperated to take down Dean Tran. His campaign was frustrated and he lost the race.

Still, the progressives were not satisfied. In 2022, U.S. Attorney Rachel Rollins initiated major investigations of Tran. This occurred at the same time that Maura Healey got involved. It was a collaborative effort by the state's two top law enforcement officers to go after Tran at the very time he announced his candidacy for the U.S. Congress. The U.S. Attorney used the FBI election crimes unit to target his campaign and personal finances in the hope of finding illegal activities on which to indict him. When their probes into his campaign accounts, donors and donations revealed nothing illegal, a narrative was concocted to the effect that Tran had defrauded the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program in 2020 and filed false tax returns. This despite the fact that the Massachusetts unemployment assistance department found no evidence of wrongdoing. Nor did the IRS audit him. (Rollins was herself later forced to resign for misusing her office.)

In June 2023, Tran's home was raided and his financial records thoroughly exposed. Federal agents from the FBI, Department of Labor, and IRS violated his constitutional rights, specifically his Sixth Amendment right to counsel, when they illegally detained and interrogated him, forcing him to sign a waiver without his counsel being present.

In October 2023 the state attorney general's office indicted Tran on the basis of the state Senate ethics report of 2020.

In November 2023, Rollins' office indicted Tran on wire fraud and false tax filing charges.

In June 2024, Rollins' office indicted Tran for obstruction of justice—as a retaliation for his refusal of their plea offer. A federal agent even contacted the state Registry of Motor Vehicles to suspend his car registration!

In September 2024, in Tran's own words, "Rollins' office got a jury not of my peers, who rendered the verdict—twenty wire-fraud charges and three charges of filing false tax returns—; while ignoring the prosecution's distorted presentation of the facts, and a federal agent who admitted at the trial that she gave false information to the grand jury, which secured the original indictment. Subsequent to the trial we learned that an FBI forensic account provided manipulated data."

In sum (continuing Tran's own words): "The Democrats have spent millions of dollars to come after me, demonized me, destroyed my life, raided my home, indicted and convicted me just because I am an electable Republican."

Striking Parallels

No one who reads this account of the fate of Dean A. Tran can be unaware of the parallels between his experience and the experience of Donald J. Trump. The single word that links what they have endured is *Lawfare*. Lawfare is defined as "the use of legal systems and institutions to damage or delegitimize an opponent, or to deter an individual's usage of his legal rights." Donald Trump has been charged with 88 felony counts in four separate criminal investigations. He has been found guilty of 34 of them. Interestingly, every charge emanated

from jurisdictions politically dominated by hard left progressives. In fact, a key such hard leftist, Matthew Colangelo, was hand-picked from his position as third highest figure in the Biden Justice Department specifically to go after Trump. The Biden-Harris administration and their lapdogs in Congress and the media did everything they could to prevent Donald Trump from running for the presidency in 2024, *because they knew in their cowards' hearts that he would win!* As the world knows, they lost decisively, because the American people saw through the lies. And their despicable schemes of lawfare, crumbling at this very moment, were exposed for the mass of distortions and deceptions that they are. Donald J. Trump has been vindicated.

Dean A. Tran has yet to receive his vindication.

Tran was subjected to lies from progressives in power in Massachusetts—backed by a corrupt, lying, media—; Tran's house was illegally raided, just as Trump's house at Mar-a-Lago; Tran was indicted and convicted—just as Trump. Tran's opponents sought to smear his name and reputation—just as Trump's opponents sought to smear his—; Tran was subjected to a weaponized administration—just as Trump. Tran was demonized, his reputation besmirched, his financial situation reduced to near-ruin, his and his family's life nearly destroyed. And why? *Because his Massachusetts opponents knew in their cowards' hearts that he could win!*

Donald Trump's battle for the American soul has issued in triumph.

Dean Tran's battle has yet to triumph.

Dean Tran must receive his vindication.