



# Bombthrower TV #9 – BJ Dichter: Honking For Freedom

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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## SPEAKERS

B. J. Dichter, Announcer, Mark Jeftovic

### **B. J. Dichter** 00:05

We're no longer a science-based society, we are now a belief-based society.

### **Announcer** 00:11

Welcome to the show that the fact-checkers warned you about: the one that debunks the mainstream narrative and gives you high-signal, actionable content that helps you navigate the cloud world. It's Bomb Thrower TV with your host, Mark Jeftovic.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 00:35

I'm going to do a very quick intro. My name is Mark Jeftovic. This is Bomb Thrower TV, and I am thrilled to welcome to the show today B. J. Dichter, one of the founding three of the Freedom Convoy, the movement that I think changed the world; actually, we'll get into that today. But it really was something to behold. And I have your book, "Honking for Freedom: The Trucker Convoy That Gave Us Hope". And that's exactly what it did right there. And what it was about, what it became, how it was framed, I mean, all of that fascinates me. I got involved very tangentially.

### **B. J. Dichter** 01:19

Okay.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 01:19

And we'll get into that. But why don't we start with your background, for those who haven't heard it. I know that being a trucker its your retirement plan, so to speak in a way. What were you doing before and how did you become a trucker?

### **B. J. Dichter** 01:39

Yeah, I described it as a side hustle.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 01:41



Yeah.

**B. J. Dichter** 01:41

More of something to do, especially during the COVID years when we were locked in a virtual prison in Canada. My background: I've done a bunch of things. I went to school for geology and diamond grading. I specialize in diamond grading. I've worked in a number of varied careers. I invented a product for motorcycles many years ago and patented it in the United States and ended up working for Harley Davidson. I worked as a project manager for a large chain. That's where I really learned how to manage large staffs of people, which normally would have been a huge asset at the Freedom Convoy, and I guess, in some ways was, in some ways wasn't. And I got into trucking after I sold my business.

Several years ago, I had a business on Ryerson University campus in Toronto. I saw the shift in culture towards what I described as extreme post-modernism, or Neo-progressivism, as I like to call it. I saw it before my very eyes and that's what really convinced me to get away from that business.

And I started, out of curiosity, to do a podcast, I have a background in music; played with sequencers when they were first invented in the 80s. I've always been a fan of computers since I was three years old, started with a PET emulator. So I'm kind of a techie guy in that respect. So I started doing podcasts. And, what before COVID started, my brother, or my biological brother came to me and said, "you know, let's roll this by trucks." And I looked at him, I said, "What, are you crazy?" And he knew I used to race my car at the track. I mean, the motorcycles like, he knows I'm a car guy. And he said, "No, I used to drive a truck when I was younger. And I always wanted to get a truck and maybe set up a trucking business for one and retire from policing. And said, Why don't you get your license because the regulations are changing. It's cheap. Now, it doesn't take a lot to get it. And maybe we'll do something when I retire. Maybe not. But you know, just something to do." And I said, "Sure." And I love road trips. I love driving long-distance. So it just became on the days that I wasn't doing podcasts or other things that I had a free few days, I'd reach out to dispatch and I'd hop in the truck. And I'd go to the US often with my brother in tandem, but not always. To have some personal time and to get away from the craziness in Canada.

**Mark Jeftovic** 04:17

Is your brother a cop or was?

**B. J. Dichter** 04:20

Yeah, the story is this. I was at my business on campus maybe 10 years ago. And I got a call from the police looking for me. And they said, "Stay where you are. We're going to come see you in an hour." So a cop comes in plainclothes dress like you and I right now. And I remember it I can still it's imprinted in my mind. I can see him talking to one of my employees, Phil. Right in front of the door pulls out his—like Law and Order—pulls out his ID. And they're pointing to me in the back and like, oh, would I do? I didn't do anything wrong! And he sits me down and he's like, "Are you Benjamin Dichter?" And I said "Yes." "Sit down. I might as just tell you this." First, he was like, "I'll tell you nobody's hurt injured or hurt injured or killed." So okay, great. Maybe I'm just very positive. That was the farthest thing from my



mind. "This is yeah, I've done a lot of that in my career, but I might as well just tell you about your brother. Do you know you're adopted?"

**Mark Jeftovic** 05:16

Wow.

**B. J. Dichter** 05:17

And that's my biological brother. And it turns out he, at that time, was a detective. And now he's a sergeant coming, getting close to retirement age.

**Mark Jeftovic** 05:29

A little bit of a tangent because our daughter is adopted, so I have to know. Yeah, I'm curious. Did you know you were adopted before that moment?

**B. J. Dichter** 05:39

Oh, yeah. From the age that I could speak and understand that I remember one of those early memories. I remember my parents calling me into their bedroom. Still remember the red carpet on the floor. And they said, "mommy and daddy need to tell you something. Do you know what adopted is?" And I'm like, "No," and they explain what it is. And it's okay your adopted. And my response was something to the effect of, "Okay, can I go play now?" That was it! Right.

**Mark Jeftovic** 06:09

Yeah, yeah. We told our daughter when she was, I think, like five years old. And I remember the moment well, and she said something, she asked a question. I can't remember what it was off the top of my head right now. Probably just because of the fret, the hecticness of the interview, but it was like, we explained it to her and she knew it. There was a cartoon on TV in those days called Dinosaur Train. Without ever saying it, it was like this one dinosaur was not like the other dinosaurs, but it kind of found its way into their nest. And when he hatched, they just took him in. And it was one of the family and it was kind of like Dinosaur Train.

**B. J. Dichter** 06:51

If I can put your mind at ease, or anybody who's adopted children, it's something that I learned. Our first conversation, we really kind of connected. And he explains to me, "by the way, it's not just the two of us. We're full brothers and sisters, and we have two full sisters." Oh, wow, we were all given away to different cultures, different backgrounds, whatever. And he gave me the whole extended thing, which is not important here. But he was telling me, we just got talking, he's telling me about a case that he was investigating. I think he was in homicide at the time. And, obviously not divulging too much information, but just general stuff that he's seen recently. And my automatic nonverbal reaction to him was 'oy vey'. And then he does this. And I looked at him like, what's the problem? He says, "What did you just say?" And he's a detective. He's Mr. Attention to detail. And I said, "I don't know what I said. I said, 'oy vey'." And he was, "what is that?" I said, "Wait, you've never seen The Daily Show. You've never seen the Jackie Mason like, it's Yiddish." He's like, "I have no idea what you're talking about." Because of course,



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he grew up first in a Mennonite family, and then his parents passed away, a long story. But, and then I realized, despite the fact that we are genetically identical, we look very similar. We have some similar traits. But he has none of the cultural experiences that I have in my life. And that really reaffirmed to me that my parents who adopted me are my parents because I have all their behaviors, a combination of their worldviews and understandings and ethics and all that sort of stuff.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 08:35

Yeah, I'll leave it after this one. But I've always said our daughter single-handedly settles the nature versus nurture argument because she is an amalgamation of my wife and I to the T, much to our consternation sometimes, but she's iron-willed and will not, will not budge on certain things.

But anyway, let's talk. One thing that was always frustrating to me when talking about the Freedom Convoy, and we'll get into the whole narrative and spin and media, but let's state it for the record here. What was the goal of the Freedom Convoy?

### **B. J. Dichter** 09:14

Oh, it was pretty simple: to end the vaccine mandates and to end the ArriveCan app. Obviously, whenever you get a large group of people together, there's going to be various sub-grievances and whatever. But that was the primary goal of it. And it's not that people were like this, despite what the mainstream media wanted to smear us and label us with. It's not that people were necessarily anti-vax, although there were a lot of people who participated who felt that way. But it was pro-choice, right? It was, yeah. If you want to give me whatever, especially the fact that it was new technology, experimental that always scares people. You know, Bitcoin scares people. So imagine, shouldn't putting something in your veins, right? So I think we tried to focus on what we all agreed on the largest common denominator. And for me as a techie guy, I might have been least skeptical about the mRNA than most people, but I was not completely sold. And it was not completely against I was very much inconclusive, I don't know, which is a space that we often forget in our society now, right? I couldn't, didn't have enough data to form an opinion. But what I didn't know, was government tracking, which I discussed in Tucker Carlson. When I pulled up to the booth, and the border agent said, "I don't need to see your phone. We already detected your phone because of the app. And I have all your information here." That for me was a concern, because well, is this going to end up in police cruisers and government offices all over the country? Like that's what really hits home for me most. Yeah, the mandates were a problem already. It was the government response to COVID in general, but the data collection part really, really aggravated it for me.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 11:15

Yeah, and I think it was on Robert Breedlove's podcast, when I heard your story about you pulling up to the booth. And like you said, the phone was broadcasting everything. So there was actually the ArriveCan app that was done differently than the exposure app, because the exposure app, I actually had that on my phone. And I was putting out a tech newsletter at the time. And we still put it out actually at easyDNS, my main business. And we said, we feel okay, putting this app on your phone, because the source code is on GitHub. Right? We know what it does, it's up there, it's we can have thousands of



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eyes on it. There's nothing nefarious in there. This is how you do this kind of intervention during a pandemic, to get that public confidence and to allay privacy fears is you publish the source code and put it up on GitHub. As far as I know, that wasn't the case with ArriveCan. We had no idea what was in that app.

**B. J. Dichter** 12:22

That's right. Yes. Right.

12:25

And so we'll get to Bitcoin in a sec. But, it was very quickly when the framing, well, not very quickly, but at some point and you go through it in your book, you don't have to like wade into the gory details of the Pat Kings and the Canada Unity. But at some point, if there was like the narrative just turned into something else, or it was always served up to the public as something else, that these are white supremacists, these people are looking to overthrow the Government of Canada. I mean, I still talk to people to this day, and that is their mental model for the Freedom Convoy.

**B. J. Dichter** 13:09

Yeah, because they're suffering from narrative poisoning. And depending on what media they're subjected to, that's really the opinion that they ended up hearing or holding because they've heard one opinion repeated to them over and over and over again, which is my concern with media, that everybody's using the Goebbels tactics now, it's just whatever the narrative, and just plug and play.

One of the other things, when we started this this podcast, and you wouldn't know, but it really didn't start with myself, Chris, and Tamara. It actually started a group of it was, I think, 11 truckers in Western Canada, they started it and then Tamara somehow got involved. And then she called me and asked me for a favor to help with messaging. But because it was so complex, there was nothing but deception from legacy media, there was deception from alternative media as well on all sides. And no one was being straight with what was going on. I was doing my best to try to manage that and to leverage one media over the other, to do my best to get the story out while also trying to bait the legacy media to cover it. Because in the beginning, the legacy media wasn't covering it. They're trying to ignore it, which is one of the reasons I banned them from our press conferences. And I knew that would set them off. What people don't know is not only did I ban them from our press conferences, but I also sent invites to all my contacts in the legacy media. And then when they responded, I said, "oh, sorry, you can't come."

**Mark Jeftovic** 14:46

I think marketers call that the takeaway sale.

**B. J. Dichter** 14:53

That's right. That's right.

**Mark Jeftovic** 14:56



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You know what infuriated me about that, when you look at headlines throughout the world, there was one guy with a confederate flag, who was hounded out of the crowd by the Convoy, and there was one guy with the swastika flag. I would pay money to know, to have that person revealed and outed because what I think, and I'm not the only one, that that was a plant, because it was just so convenient that there was a photographer there getting professional quality photos of this person walking through the crowd. And yet, those two images were on an infinite loop all over the world. They just looped the same image over and over. And then it's so subtle. I mean, Noam Chomsky's original book *Manufacturing Consent* talked about all of this, and it's kind of almost disheartening how he became sort of a COVID authoritarian later.

**B. J. Dichter** 15:53

Yeah.

**Mark Jeftovic** 15:54

You know, suddenly the headlines, say, confederate flags and swastikas — plural. Like it's, and it's so subtle, right? And so it gets into the mind of the masses. And they think that this place was overrun with Hitler Youth and Klansmen, and people and it was one guy of each: one swastika, one confederate flag, and they were hounded out of the area by the participants. And so that was infuriating. And the other thing I'll say about this when I tried to engage with people who disagreed with me about what you were trying to do, what the goal, the stated goal, of the Convoy was, the discourse would be civil, and it would be polite, until one thing happened when I challenged their source of news. When I called into question the veracity of the mainstream media, the conversation turned nasty immediately. So what I found very odd about this is you can oppose people's premises and you can attack even their beliefs. But if you attack their support structure for how they base their knowledge, they get defensive and they come out swinging.

**B. J. Dichter** 17:19

Yeah, it's because you've triggered them into cognitive dissonance. And one of the people that benefits of all this, I managed to connect with some people that have large platforms, people who I admire, one of them was I messaged him back and forth just a couple of times, is Scott Adams. And Scott Adams describes this as the seven signs of cognitive dissonance trying to do his best to get people to understand this. Once you challenge their belief system, they do one of the seven, they jump into one of the seven categories which are: chained to the topic, ad hominem, mind reading, word salad, analogy instead of reason, it's too complicated to explain, or the 'so you're saying' straw man, which is what you saw, if you remember, Jordan Peterson and Cathy Newman is a good example of that. And that's what you've done, you've managed to force them, and into second guessing their belief system, because we're no longer a science-based society, we are now a belief-based society. And we don't challenge our own beliefs. I've always grown up listening to people of different perspectives and opinions than I do. Not a huge fan of Noam Chomsky but I've read and at least had exposure to 90% of his stuff. So I understand what the other side thinks. Right. And sometimes there's crossover, we agree on stuff. And that's the direction we need to go in society. Like, I have discord now. And my discord which we're slowly building it out in data (it's in sort of beta testing), if you will, because it was started



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by some people who are kind of lefty, but they're supportive of freedom. We disagree on stuff. But we want to have a place for us all to talk without the vitriol and noise from the political actors who don't want that to happen. So we have a right-wing room, a left-wing room, and I-don't-know room. So we can over time just start to hear each other out. That's the way it used to be. And I think we need to go in that direction. In my opinion, that will solve a lot of it.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 19:31

Well, what's very ironic now is that a lot of the dissent—the pillars of dissent, like sort of disputing mainstream narratives, framing that sort of thing—that all as far as I can remember, originated on the left, like it was the leftist, progressive that were sort of the resisters, the free speech champions, that sort of thing. And now there's almost an inversion, or now it's like the left is very establishment and I think that the whole left/right dichotomy is sort of obsolete in the sense that now it's more of a tension between centralization and decentralization. I mean, you've probably heard this a million times talking to Bitcoiners. But it's, I just distill it down to you either think you have a moral right to tell everybody else or other people what to do and how to think or you don't. And that's the whole differentiation right now, like you said, the Freedom Convoy was a pro-choice, it was basically, I can't decide for you whether you should get the vaccine or not. I can decide for me, that's a big enough job. I mean, it's hard enough to make your own decisions and gather your own information in the world. How on earth do you expect it to do it for other people? But that's the situation we're in now. And so that straddles left and right.

### **B. J. Dichter** 20:56

Yeah, I agree. I think what we're seeing, like if, if we were to live in this 17th or 18th century, French Revolutionary perspective, where there's left and right. If that's the case, then I have news for everybody on the left, you're the right-wing authoritarians who wanted to censor my video games and music in the 90s. That's what you've become, you've become the very people you profess to be fighting against. And that's why I think I don't like dichotomies and explain this, both with Robert and on Michaela Peterson's podcast, that I think we have at least, at least three perspectives on every topic, but probably a much broader spectrum. And where we have, like I explained, I like the goals of the left, where they want to help people, I like the systems of the right, where they want to organize things so things make logical sense for us to do that. And I love the freedom of libertarianism, that we all get the choice to decide where we want to plot on that graph. And that's going to be my mission moving forward to try to pull people out of this left/right, lazy binary view of the world that our median politicians like, but unfortunately, it's just not accurate.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 22:15

Right. Have you ever read Martin Gurrie's "The Revolt of The Public"?

### **B. J. Dichter** 22:19

No.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 22:21



He came out with this. I'm trying to think if it came out before Trump and Brexit or after, but sort of like because somewhere in the 20-teens, he was an ex-CIA analyst, but I mean, he's like it wasn't as glamorous as it sounds. But he talks about basically how our legacy institutions are completely out of touch with its roots like their governing mandates and out of touch with the people and traces it all the way from the Arab Spring and the colour revolutions and that kind of thing. And I think, he actually was recently, but he doesn't do a lot of public appearances. But he was just on Trigonometry. I don't know if you're familiar with it. Yeah, he was just on their show a couple of weeks ago. And he referenced the Freedom Convoy, actually in that interview. And yeah, it brings in this atrophy of our institutions, or institutions or industrial age behemoths that function on a top-down, pyramid structure, and we're in this network world. That's what a lot of my reading covers and stuff over the years is like, we're in this network world where everything is distributed, not hierarchical. And so it sort of corresponds with what we call "The Fourth Turning" that's another book that sort of I don't know if you're familiar with that one that, it's just this inflection point where the old systems are breaking down, the new systems are coming into take their place is probably as good as places any to start talking about Bitcoin, which entered the scene during the whole trucker convoy.

**B. J. Dichter** 24:20

Yeah, and boy, I got a lot of heat for that.

**Mark Jeftovic** 24:25

You and me both.

**B. J. Dichter** 24:26

Yeah, I didn't realize until recently, I was in a Twitter space. And somebody who is a Bitcoiner I don't know if I should say who he is. He uses a pseudonym. But he says, he said in his Twitter space that he tried to reach out to Tamara, before anybody got to Ottawa, to say that "I'm in a Bitcoiner or I have a bunch of Bitcoiners we want to raise money for you. You're raising a lot of money, we know it's going to be frozen or we believe it's going to be frozen. So it's a decentralized alternative." And her response, according to this Bitcoiner, she was in the truck apparently with Chris or something and she said, "I don't need video game money, I need real money." Okay, we've all been there, right? We've all heard those sorts of things. And it wasn't until we had been in Ottawa for several days, that Caribou found me online. Because they were raising money in Bitcoin. They wanted to figure out how they can help us. And then they saw me in one of the interviews, and searched me on Twitter, and saw that I had hash tagged Bitcoin. So they called me in there. He messaged me, he's like, "Wait, are you a Bitcoiner?" I'm like, "I'm a quiet one. But yeah, I've been in learning about Bitcoin since '15 into it since I think '16 When I first bought it." And he's like, "Oh, okay, can we come meet with you? Where are we trying to do this?" I'm like, "Sure, sure. Come." So he came the next day there was, I don't 12, 13 of them showed up in their parkas and ski suits, because it's minus 40 degrees. And they didn't know each other. I didn't know this but Caribou was going around and other Bitcoiners saw his Bitcoin hat. And they said, "Hey, you're a Bitcoiners." He's like, "Yeah, I'm going to meet with B. J., you want to come with me?" So yeah, they all kind of formed some sort of friendship collaborative. And we all know, there was friction there. And people didn't know what to do. And they were trying to figure out how to make it work. They





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came to me I gave them, I don't know 'the blessing', but to say, Yeah, we're, I'm on board. I'll deal with the board, or the Freedom Convoy organizers, whatever, you go do the fundraising, we'll take care of each other, everything will work out. I'm glad you're doing this. This can be an amazing moment for Bitcoin, let's stick together and make it happen. And then later on that day, I went to the board members, I don't know who I went to but we would communicate through text messaging, or they'd come one at a time coming into my room or whatever. But I mentioned to, I can't remember who I mentioned it to first, there's a couple of them in my room. And I said, yeah, good news. There's a bunch of Bitcoiners that are raising money for the convoy, and it was 'not credible money' and 'for drugs and stuff like', oh, here we go again. And I joke often I tell people, I had to figure out a way to rapid-fire orange pill people, and was not having success, but slowly over time. Some of them at least, I don't want to say they warmed up to the issue. But it was like, well, we have bigger issues to deal with. So you can do whatever you're doing with Bitcoin. I'm like, "Oh, well, that was basically it."

### **Mark Jeftovic** 27:50

So how many people became instantly orange-pilled when bank accounts started getting frozen?

### **B. J. Dichter** 27:57

It's amazing. You know, it's just like the narrative poisoning problem with messaging. Once you once you throw them the counter-narrative. Either people slip into the seven signs of cognitive dissonance, at least based on my experience, or if it's really serious, it really hits them emotionally where it's important, like their freedom and their wealth, then they switch to "Okay, tell me more." Right. So we got a little bit of that. There was so much. I mean, I spent a week on the phone with lawyers trying not to get arrested. There were so many other things going on that it's not even covered in the book, stuff I haven't talked about yet, because there are so many things. But what it did is it allowed me to do consecutive Twitter spaces towards the end and then after the convoy and leading up to Bitcoin 2022 in Miami, that I had people saying, "Okay, tell me about Bitcoin. How did it work during the convoy? How do I buy it? Should I keep it here?"

You know, it just really opened up the doors, where people previously they dismissed it, because look in the Western world, we're spoiled. We don't deal with regular currency collapses we're not in Argentina and Brazil, right? Yeah, but so what is Bitcoin here? It's an investment. Well, once the Freedom Convoy came around that hyperbolic scenario that we all thought would never happen here. It's always going to happen somewhere else. Well, it happened here. And now it's more than just an investment for a small group of people that's growing daily. That's why in my discord, we have a Bitcoin chat for people who are new, and still learning and don't understand and I like the soft pill approach, the soft orange pill approach of letting people come to you and they are definitely coming because of the Chief Marketing Officer of Bitcoin: Justin Trudeau.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 29:56

Indeed, I mean, that was a defining moment for Bitcoin. I've been following Bitcoin, I got involved with it in 2013. I was writing then that the **Cypress Balan** was what was pushing Bitcoin above \$100 for the first time, like people were realizing, hey, wait a minute, you mean the banks can just reach into your



account and they can recapitalize a zombie bank with my savings. And then that language suddenly appeared all over the world. Like it started in Canada. Again, it showed up in it was the Harper government in those days, it showed up in a budget plan to rapidly convert certain assets in the unlikely event to a systemically important bank. And then it got re-upped into the budget. And then it was formalized under Trudeau. So it's now that bail-ins are bank-baked-in, in Canada, like just bank.

**B. J. Dichter** 30:49

And if you remember, because I remember that was going on the narrative around bail-ins is, oh, it's just a precaution. But it'll never actually ever actually happen. Just like we're never actually going to freeze your bank accounts.

**Mark Jeftovic** 31:01

Yeah. And the bail-in language is enshrined in pretty well in all the G20 nations now. And in fact, there's even a supranational treaty that covers it. And so at the time, I was saying someday banks are just going to be like this as the financial system teeters on collapse, governments are going to get desperate, and they're going to be like seizing bank accounts and stuff. And then fast forward a bunch of years, I launched my newsletter, in 2021. The Convey happened in 2022 so I launched the newsletter in 2021. And everything I was talking about and the government's are gonna get desperate and you need Bitcoin. It's not an investment. It's like an outside monetary system, there's going to be two monetary systems in the future CBDCs which will be like social credit systems, and cryptocurrencies, like Bitcoin. And we're going to have this sort of monetary apartheid between the two. And everything I was talking about in that newsletter and the initial report that launched it, I was thinking five and ten-year increments—like 5-10 years out, this sort of thing is going to happen. But less than a year later, it started happening, like, especially with Trudeau, seizing the bank accounts that was crossing the Rubicon, there is no going back. You are right. I mean, nothing did more to market Bitcoin than that I tell this story a lot. Sorry, if you're listening, you've heard this one. I got a neighbor nearby. Right after that happens, he rolls by in his Tesla, rolls down his window and he yells “Mark, I gotta get me some Bitcoin.” Right. And so it wasn't about making money on it. It was about preserving his funds. And I mean, another person I know had a relative lose an acting position because she contributed to the Freedom Convoy, and she got dogs, and that spreadsheet came out and yeah, you're gone. So I mean, that was such an act of violence really, like just it was such a violation of human rights to seize bank accounts and to dock the people who were making perfectly legal donations to that. What did you think when the hearing, what was it called the review? the Emergency Act had to be reviewed?

**B. J. Dichter** 33:35

The POAC, yeah.

**Mark Jeftovic** 33:37

Because if you are paying attention, right, again, we have this framing. So I subscribe to Blacklock's Reporter which I think is like the only media worth subscribing to and paying money for is blacklocks.ca. I have no connection with them. I don't know them, but they're the best. If you were following the coverage of that through them, you would know that every mainstream media talking point throughout



the convoy had been proven false, right? There were no truckers setting fires to apartment buildings. There are no truckers deprecating and urinating on the Unknown Soldier Memorial. There was, no, the Ottawa police did not beg Trudeau to invoke the Emergencies Act, like none of that happened. That was all categorically false yet most of the Canadian public doesn't know any of this because of the way the media has framed it.

**B. J. Dichter** 34:34

Yeah, the Canadian public is being treated like the public in China who have no knowledge of Tiananmen Square, the Tiananmen Square Massacre. It's exactly the same thing. It's really concerning. The hearing itself was, I tried to put some faith in the Justice presiding over it, and was very disappointed in what I saw. I saw a lot of people who had faith in, or at least were holding on to a little bit of hope in the judicial system, just wither away. Because of what happened when we went in. And this is where I get smeared by the political class because they don't like that I won't tow a political narrative, and I'm sorry, but I'm 'trust but verify'. I like truth, even when truth sucks sometimes. And we were going into it with two narratives. One was from the Liberal Party, which was, it was Mad Max pandemonium and chaos, die killings in the street, whatever. And then there was the Conservative narrative, which was that it was peaceful and they got out of hand, which is also false. It's the exact opposite. It was chaos the first weekend, we got it under control, we got it organized. And then you had dance parties every night and barbecues and feeding the homeless, right? Because neither anybody in the political class could see the Freedom Convoy's grievances be validated. The Conservative Party in particular couldn't see a Facebook group of half a million people who are upset with their own party, their own base out fundraising any political party in Canadian history, they couldn't allow that to happen. And what's the best way to crush it? Well, during the convoy, you get hold of it and you co-opted to help end it prematurely. And then in the preliminary hearing, sorry, in the preliminary hearing in the POAC you ensure that one of your narratives dominates, but neither of them are true. And so there's some pain in the ass named Dichter, who gets up there, who gets subpoenaed, which they weren't counting on, who told the truth, that it was a beautiful moment in history. Like I haven't gone to too many Grateful Dead concerts when I was younger. But I went to a few of them, went to a bunch of Phish concerts, Allman Brothers, like, that's what I grew up listening to that sort of friendly vibe, where everybody loves each other. Yeah, we're all different. We come from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Some of us couldn't say socioeconomic backgrounds, but we all love each other. Little too much drugs for my liking. But whatever you do you, I do me sort of thing. And that's exactly what we had. And it's just amazing to see all these people in our society that look to historical moments, like, I don't know Woodstock, where people came together around loving one another, and a spirit of positivity. They had it right in front of their faces they had right in front of Parliament Hill. And what did they do, they targeted and smeared it. And they did everything they could to destroy it to the point where it may affect Canadian jurisprudence for generations in the future because of the outcome in the report. And then there's a political side, by the way, and that's another thing that a lot of people have missed. If you look at the recommendations from the POAC, it is a direct target against CSIS. Now we are all sure we're much more libertarian than most people. But given the type of corruption we see in our political class, we do at least need if we're going to have an institution that investigates corruption within politics, they need to be able to function and the recommendations that were presented in the



POAC, basically take CSIS and make it completely ineffectual when it comes to looking at foreign money that's entering the political sphere and causing a lot of damage to this country.

So there are so many political pieces going on. And that's just some of them, so much more to it. As being somebody who is on the stand and knowing a lot of the players having been involved politically in the past, running as a candidate, and knowing most of our MPs, it's a shame that we don't have an actual media that would dissect it. There's one more, I'll just mention this. There's an independent media source called Diverge Media, and independent guy, I think that's the future. It's not alternative media, it's going to be independent media, the small guys. And he reached out to me and did an interview with me. Did a whole bunch of background before our interview was done, interviewed other people, and realized that the entire narrative that he's been sold is a lie. And he's been delving deep into it over time conducting interviews and all that sort of stuff. And he said to me, when he spoke a few days ago, he says, "you know, what's really frustrating to me what's really insulting? Is everything I've just I've discovered, you could discover in five minutes, if you just looked at it, right?" Yeah. And he says, "I look at legacy media, like, you know, we have this journalist Glenn McGregor, the guy who was stalking me in front of my hotel room. All Glenn McGregor needed to do was look at point A, B, and C listed them off." He's gonna be doing something about in the near future. And he would see right in front of his face that this is a lie, but he doesn't do it because –

**Mark Jeftovic** 40:12

Isn't he a CTV news guy?

**B. J. Dichter** 40:13

Yeah, he's a CTV guy.

**Mark Jeftovic** 40:14

He reached out to me too. I'll make it quick. So I run a company, my main business: I run a web hosting domain registrar company called easyDNS been doing it since '98. We were first registered to take Bitcoin as a payment method since 2013.

**B. J. Dichter** 40:34

Awesome.

**Mark Jeftovic** 40:35

Yeah, I've been orange-pilling my customers ever since. And, and, and I was against vaccine mandates. I'm vaccinated, but I'm against vaccine mandates, right. I haven't taken any boosters, though. And I won't, but this, this happened, you did your thing. You took action. And we put out a post and we said until they succeed, we're going to donate all Bitcoin payments to the trucker convoy. And that's how I met Greg Foss actually through that, and yeah.

**B. J. Dichter** 41:15

He's a good dude. I love him.



**Mark Jeftovic 41:16**

What a shitstorm that caused, right. So I've said things over the years, I've caused the occasional... I'm known for being against cancel culture. I'm known for being opposed to deplatforming. I actually wrote a book about it. So people, my customers, aren't like usually they're not that surprised when I come out and say something like bombastic, I mean, my blog is called bombthrower.com. This is Bomb Thrower. It's just Mark being a bomb thrower. This was something else. So we didn't succeed. But we had people initiate a campaign to have us decertified as a Cira registrar. Like they said, you should strip them of their certification. And we lost a lot of customers over it, we gained a few customers over it as well. When, when the Emergency Act was invoked, we got a legal opinion. And she was like, "Mark, you could be captured by this, like easyDNS could be captured by this, like within this regulatory legislation. Because you've publicly said this."

And for a while, I just felt like I was persecuted. It was like, okay, we're on the run here. I don't know if my bank accounts are gonna get seized. I don't know what's gonna happen. We actually hadn't managed to. EasyDNS was just pooling it in our one wallet. And this and then the emergency act happened before we had sent any over. So the lawyer said don't send any over, just keep it where it is. So then we said, okay, look, we'll fund things like the Canadian Constitutional Foundation and the JCCF. And we'll put our will put the funds toward that until we have some regulatory clarity. But man, it was crazy. I actually remember I spiked a deal, I was about to invest in a company, and I said, I can't do it because I don't know if my bank accounts are about to be seized. And all I have left is just my crypto, that might be all I have left to make payroll and fight this in court and do that if I wake up tomorrow and my bank accounts are seized. So, it was quite harrowing.

**B. J. Dichter 43:39**

Yeah, I can only imagine, you have enough aggravation to deal with running a business. I can only imagine to add that layer. And I complained about my business. Just had a few employees and dealt with university students all day long. I didn't have to deal with my government breathing down my neck, right, in a way that has never been done before. But yeah, everything that you went on, you went through times a 1000 and every day. It was a crazy time.

**Mark Jeftovic 44:10**

Plus, we never actually had our account seized but many Canadians did. And many people there's still; like I see tweets and accounts from people who say "yeah, my account got frozen, it took this long to get unfrozen. I still can't get credit. I still can't get bank." They still can't do this. So I mean, we got off easy. I will say that it really was in Canada, an unprecedented, I never would have dreamt of such a thing happening in Canada.

**B. J. Dichter 44:38**

Well, let me ask you something having gone through that. Do you regret it?

**Mark Jeftovic 44:43**



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It's funny. I was having lunch with the CEO of Cira about a year later, and I said that I'm keeping my mouth shut from now on because I don't need the aggravation. And he said, "That's really sad. Everyone in Ottawa, everyone in the office, probably disagreed with you. But we need people like you out there saying this."

So what I have done, I have I'm still vocal over on my personal blog Bombthrower.com, BombThrower TV, here we are, you know, we're doing this interview.

I stopped writing the weekly newsletter over on AxisOfEasy, we have somebody else writing it now. I send ideas. I write the occasional thing. But I said, I'm going to just be who I am over here I have my own audience and I'm just going to run easyDNS, we're just going to run the business.

And when there's something that is topical, we come out under easyDNS. We commented and put out a piece about Bill C-26, the cyber security bill, I sit on the board for the Internet society, Canada chapter and we do a lot of policy work. So I'm still active. But I guess I sort of try to confine my bombastic ranting to the Bombthrower channel, and I just sort of let easyDNS go. And maybe that's me being gutless possibly? I don't know,

### **B. J. Dichter** 46:18

I don't think that's been gutless. But I mean, it's disappointing. This is the side effect, the self-censorship. And that's, that's the worst form of censorship in my mind. And we've all been subjected to it myself as well, we have, we have this \$450 million class action suit, yeah, that I have to figure out a way to fundraise around it for myself and everybody else who doesn't have any representation? Because the few people who have representation have taken have hoarded as many donations as possible, kept it for themselves and abandoned the rest of us. So much for unity. And then it's oh, let's unify.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 46:59

Is there like a crowdfunding fundraiser for your defense on this? Or is there one?

### **B. J. Dichter** 47:07

I'm actually getting my counsel to accept donations directly. So we don't deal with crowdfunding issues.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 47:15

Yeah, true.

### **B. J. Dichter** 47:16

So it goes directly to his trust, or escrow, or whatever. And I've been spending the past six months reaching out to people who don't have representation to put something together for us. So we don't, because what's going to happen is whoever doesn't have representation in the class action suit, everybody else is gonna blame them. And I don't want anybody to be kind of left hanging, especially people that don't know what they've gotten involved in. There are a lot of people who don't understand.



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And I'm no lawyer. But I've grown up around lawyers, I understand a little bit comfortable in this space. I produce a podcast for lawyers. So I have a better-than-average understanding of the process, but still quite lacking. For some of these people don't know, not even the slightest clue of how this all works. To say, Oh, I'm gonna go and defend myself. Like, you're not going to do that. Because that doesn't work. So I've been spending a lot of my time on that. But yeah, we have something set up with my counsel, it's just a matter of, we haven't announced it yet. Because there are some other issues around it, which I should probably tell you off the record.

**Mark Jeftovic** 48:24

Okay.

**B. J. Dichter** 48:25

That will have some other effects on some other people, but that's an issue.

**Mark Jeftovic** 48:29

All right. Well, after the show or something, but when you want, we can put links to it in the show notes. If it's not ready yet. We can hold it back for now.

**B. J. Dichter** 48:38

Okay.

**Mark Jeftovic** 48:39

You know, I've heard it said many times that the Freedom Convoy was the beginning, it was the beginning of the tide turning on COVID tyranny throughout the world. What do you think?

**B. J. Dichter** 48:55

Yeah, it was very funny during the protest, I remember that it started on the provincial level. And for those of you, your listeners and viewers who are in the United States, that's our equivalent of states, and a premier is the equivalent of your governors. So we saw the premiers, you have to know how politics works. They'll test messaging. That's why sometimes, you see politicians say one thing one day and the complete opposite the next day, and then revert back, they're testing messaging, and I saw them testing messaging into the first week. I think it was if I'm not mistaken, from a number of premiers, including the Ontario Premier, who is just as bad as Trudeau, just as bad so it's this not a left and right thing. This is they're all bad.

**Mark Jeftovic** 49:44

Yeah. Cuz he was from an Conservative party, and Trudeau was Liberal just to spell it out.

**B. J. Dichter** 49:48

That's right. So the Premier of Ontario is Conservative. He sought an injunction on sending go money. Trudeau went after our bank accounts, they're both culpable there. They're both working together. So



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we can get beyond this fantasy that there's two different parties. It's the Union Party. I'm sorry, people get upset with me when I say that, but truth sucks sometimes. Right?

**Mark Jeftovic** 50:11

Yeah.

**B. J. Dichter** 50:11

And so we saw them testing messaging. And I remember saying to some people, some of the other road captains, people are organizing and saying this is good. They're testing messaging, that means they have data showing that there's overwhelming support for us. They don't know what to do. Just wait, let's wait it out a couple of days. And then lo and behold, we started to see provinces. What's his name? Scott Moe, in Saskatchewan, I believe that the same. They started testing messaging and saying, Oh, well, maybe we're gonna roll back. Maybe it's time to end the pandemic and restrictions. And I was, you know, laughing, #nothingtodowithtruckers, right. Yeah. Because they'll never admit it. But that's, that's all it did. And I found out from a number of people, there was 30+ convoys around the world, that people realize in various jurisdictions that this tactic was working. And this also had the same ripple effect and jurisdictions outside of Canada. So yeah, I think it did. The only one that held on were the Trudeau administration. And as I explained, because extremists only know one worldview, and they'll always double down on their strategy, they'll never sit back and think, what's the other guy thinking? Right? There is zero respect. And they eventually, how many months later, was it eight months later, they eventually removed the restrictions within Canada and the mandates. And once again, #nothingtodowithtruckers; just because you think you can hang on for additional six months? You think we don't know it? It was the convoy. We know it did. And what was the reason? You know, I've been very vocal, my criticism of all aspects of the political class, the people who got involved and co-opted the convoy, like it's very convoluted and confusing. Diverge Media is doing a lot of work on this and we'll be releasing some of it. But part of the reason I was so frustrated and so angry about it is because look what happened in the Netherlands. Jordan Peterson explained to me on one of our calls, he said, the people in the Netherlands who eventually connected with, they looked at what happened in the convoy. They tried to look at the weaknesses that were exposed by the government. And they tried to hedge against that. They had regular protests, they would break it up, they'd start again, you know, always kept the government guessing. And what was the eventual result of that was the fact that they protected against all the things that we dealt with. They actually formed a party, and they got 20% of the vote. And now they have the political capital, and the votes in their parliament to block any of this nonsense, whether it's WTF or Neo-progressive, whatever you want to call it, to block any of these restrictions on farmers, because they have 20% of the parliament. So they won.

**Mark Jeftovic** 53:13

Yeah.

**B. J. Dichter** 53:14

That's what we were robbed of, we were robbed of building an equivalent grassroots movement, that wasn't tied to any political party that we could have maneuvered and found candidates, politicians,





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groups of people, advocacy groups to align with, to have that sort of effect on Canadian politics, we were robbed of that, and that I will never forgive them for.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 53:41

You know, that goes, this brings us back to Martin Gurrie's book, who said that the fatal flaw in a lot of these populist movements was that they didn't have a coherent strategy for what to do with the momentum and the inertia and the victories that they achieved, like they could overthrow a government, but then, you know, just someone worse would take its place. And so there was no coherent methodology to sort of channel it all into and what you were describing the Dutch, the Netherlands. They transcended. That they figured it out. And they did it all say, though, its early days here in Canada. I mean, maybe that particular chapter went the way it did. But you guys did something immutable, something transformative, really, you set off the whole movement, and that set the entire thing in motion so that I wouldn't sell yourself short there because it all started in Canada with you guys.

### **B. J. Dichter** 54:52

Yeah, and I think we're right now at the stage where people are, you know, independent journalists. YouTubers are now talking to myself and other people are understanding the nuance of what went on behind the scenes. And they're now understanding that there are two convoys there — that what I call political convoy and freedom convoy. And freedom convoy was much larger. The political convoy was a small group of people trying to co-opt us for the political class, which is going to happen everywhere, whatever. So we're going to have some rough waters for a little while as we kind of purge out the political convoy and political conflict and go back to their parties. And the rest of us can refocus on unifying and building something with people we don't necessarily agree with everything, but we agree on respect and unity and tolerating each other.

And this one, I love the Bitcoin community and I hate the word community. But it's so awesome and it's so many people in politics don't have this advantage, the die-hard politic political people, to go into a space, where there's a whole bunch of people have a whole bunch of different views on the world, and how the world should operate, but they agree on one thing, which is freedom, sovereignty of money, decentral decentralization, and it's become this, this undercurrent that allows us all to talk to each other. And I've only ever experienced that in Bitcoin. So that's the societal benefits and political benefits, if you will, with Bitcoin on top of the monetary value that it has, and I'm trying my best to make more and more people realize that and see that and some of them have.

### **Mark Jeftovic** 56:41

I think you've done a monumental amount of work in that regard. And I know, you took a few hits to the body to do it. And so the rest? And the rest of us are in your debt for that. So we thank you for it. So you've been great with your time, why don't you give us a rundown of how to follow your stuff, contribute where we can buy the book, and keep in touch with what you're doing?

### **B. J. Dichter** 57:14



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Okay, so the easiest way, I've set the domain with my name, which is so embarrassing, there's something I never thought I would do, but it is what it is. So you got to BenjaminJDichter.com, that'll send you to the link tree that has all my stuff, my sub stack, just released the sub stack today on Tarek Fatah, where to buy the book, the various places where you can get all my social media, I started doing: live streams with some of my followers slowly building it up over time, because again, this issue hasn't died down. And I want to try to orange pill as many people as possible are still concerned. So just go to BenjaminJDichter.com, you'll see all the links there. And that will always be updated with new stuff.

In terms of contributions, I'll get back to you and I'll let you know when we figure out right now, which is going to my counsel Jim **Carlhousie** and we'll set something up. But he can take donations, also, by the way, in Bitcoin, because I made him a Bitcoiner a couple of years ago, and he's still new doesn't really know it. He's like, he understands it in principle, why it's important. Yeah, he holds a little bit. And I said, here's your opportunity to so actually. Caribou is trying to help him on board to accept Bitcoin donations, I don't know if he's inside of a Bitpay or something like that but he's gonna walk him through it. So again, we're all coming together to help each other which was the spirit of the Freedom Convoy. Great.

**Mark Jeftovic** 58:46

Okay, you going to Miami next month?

**B. J. Dichter** 58:48

I am going to be in Miami. I'm looking very forward to it. So I wasn't gonna go and then **breathe** was like, Are you gonna come? Come hang out? I'll come.

**Mark Jeftovic** 58:58

I'm gonna see you there. So awesome. It'll be great to meet you in person. And thanks for coming on today.

**B. J. Dichter** 59:05

My pleasure, anytime.