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This is a good point.

When anti-vaxxers cite their freedoms, constitutional rights, and—the whitest thing of all—the Founding Fathers to rail against vaccine mandates, do they know what they're talking about?

What if I told you this happens EXACTLY every 100 years?

A thread. <https://t.co/oKHhVozGhO>

In 1706, the members of a Boston church gave the pastor Cotton Mather a gift bag with a very special present--an enslaved Black man named Onesimus.

( That's how they collected tithes and offerings, but times were very different back then)

But Mather couldn't STAND Onesimus

Some of it was because Onesimus laughed his ass off when Mather tried to convince him that God was white. Mather said Onesimus was "wicked" because he was too smart. Plus, Onesimus tried to tell Mather something that was unbelievable.

In Africa, they had cured smallpox. <https://t.co/qEVFJwcRne>

People take Juice of *Small-Pox*; and cutty-skin, and putt in a Drop; then by'nd by a little *sicky, sicky*: then very few little things like *Small-Pox*; and no body dy of it; and no body have *Small-Pox* any more.

Smallpox was a deadly, contagious disease. When it came to the US, they blamed the pandemic on immigrants who came here on ships. Then...

You know what?

There's no way anyone living today would understand this part.

Anyway, Mather didn't believe Onesimus' BS.

But he told his pharmacist friend about it, and they decided to try it. So Mather & his doctor friend inoculated 248 of their friends and family.

When white people heard this, they lost their minds. One Boston newspaper stayed impartial. But the publisher and his little brother secretly printed pamphlets that said the slaves were trying to kill the white people by injecting them with

smallpox

It sparked the first anti-vaxxer movement. They even firebombed Mather's house with a note that said "I will inoculate you with this."

Then, in 1721, 5,889 people in Boston – about 1/2 the town– caught smallpox & 1 out of every 7 died. Only 6 of the 248 people inoculated by Onesimus' recipe died—or one in 40.

Massachusetts quickly became the first state to promote public vaccination.

The next year, another smallpox epidemic hit. Less than 3% even caught it. It worked.

But that publisher's little brother, who was printing those anti-vaxx pamphlets, he was too embarrassed to get his kids vaccinated and his son died.

He regretted it so much that he moved to Philadelphia, opened America's first hospital.

I'm not saying this guy was more intelligent than you, but when you talk about your "freedoms" & what the Founders stood for, you should know that this guy was kinda like a Founding Father. His nickname was "The first American"

But most people just call him Ben Franklin

Ben was all for vaccine mandates, but a lot of people weren't. States banned vaccines, & people rioted in Virginia in 1769. One Virginian wasn't worried because he had already gone to Philadelphia to get vaccinated.

Ben even helped him edit this breakup letter he wrote. <https://t.co/vnDqhF80ot>

I would give you an account of the rejoicings here on the repeal of the stamp act but this you will probably see in print before my letter can reach you. I shall proceed tomorrow to Philadelphia where I shall make the stay necessary for inoculation, thence going on to New York. I shall return by water to Williamsburgh, about the middle of July, till which time you have the prayers of Dear Page your affectionate friend,

THOMAS JEFFERSON

It was called the Declaration of Independence

In his 2nd term as president, he began mandating vaccines.

Literally 100 years after someone put a human being in the offering plate, Jefferson wrote a doctor concerning vaccines calling it the greatest discovery in medical history. <https://t.co/RiX0p5EyKA>

Sir

Monticello, Virginia, May 14. 06

I have received the copy of the Evidence at large respecting the discovery of the Vaccine inoculation, which you have been pleased to send me, & for which I return you my thanks. having been among the early converts, on this part of the globe, to it's efficacy, I took an early part in recommending it to my countrymen. I avail myself of this occasion of rendering you my portion of the tribute of gratitude due to you from the whole human family. Medicine has never before produced any single improvement of such utility. Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood was a beautiful addition to our knowledge of the animal economy, but on a review of the practice of medicine before & since that epoch, I do not see any great amelioration which has been derived from that discovery. you have erased from the Calendar of human afflictions one of it's greatest. yours is the comfortable reflection that mankind ~~can~~ never forget that you have lived. future nations will know by history only that the loathsome small pox has existed, & by you has been extirpated. Accept the most fervent wishes for your health & happiness, & assurances of the greatest respect & consideration.

Jefferson

The rec<sup>d</sup> Doct<sup>r</sup>. G. C. Jenner

A few years later, Jefferson's homeboy created the National Vaccine Agency. If you believe in the Founders, you should know the guy who created the Agency was some dude named James Madison, who also wrote this thing called the Constitution of the United States of America.

In 1900, another smallpox epidemic broke out, The city closed all the schools and told everyone to get the vaccine or pay a fine. Another preacher, Hennig Jacobson, protested & refused to pay fines for the so-called vaccine mandate.

Again, this would NEVER happen today.

Newspapers called the so-called vaccine mandate the "greatest crime of the age" and said it was "worse than slavery." To be fair, it's possible that the people in this city didn't really know much about vaccines because it happened in \*checks notes\*...

## IN BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS!

So what did the Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, say about the "freedoms" and the Founding Fathers' intentions? <https://t.co/T1J4qhVeY6>

We come, then, to inquire whether any right given or secured by the Constitution is invaded by the statute as interpreted by the state court. The defendant insists that his liberty is invaded when the state subjects him to fine or imprisonment for neglecting or refusing to submit to vaccination; that a compulsory vaccination law is unreasonable, arbitrary, and oppressive, and therefore, hostile to the inherent right of every freeman to care for his own body and health in such way as to him seems best; and that the execution of such a law against one who objects to vaccination, no matter for what reason, is nothing short of an assault upon his person. But the liberty secured by the Constitution of the United States to every person within its jurisdiction does not import an absolute right in each person to be, at all times and in all circumstances, wholly freed from restraint. There are manifold restraints to which every person is necessarily subject for the common good. **On any other basis organized society could not exist with safety to its members. Society based on the rule that each one is a law unto himself would soon be confronted with disorder and anarchy. Real liberty for all could not exist under the operation of a principle which recognizes the right of each individual person to use his own whether in respect of his person or his property, regardless of the injury that may be done to others.** This court has more than once recognized it as a fundamental principle that 'persons and property are subjected to all kinds of restraints and burdens in order to secure the general comfort, health, and prosperity of the state; of the perfect right of the legislature to do which no question ever was, or upon acknowledged general principles ever can be, made, so far as

"It is within the police power of a State to enact a compulsory vaccination law."

Apparently, the highest court in the country doesn't seem to think that spreading a pandemic is a constitutional right.

In 1906, EXACTLY 200 Years after Onesimus arrived, Jacobson got the shot.

This brings us to the modern anti-vax movement.

I'm sure you've heard about this one. In 1998, a British medical journal published a study by Andrew Wakefield concluding that the Measles/Mumps/Rubella vaccine caused autism.

After it made headlines around the world, parents around the globe refused the MMR vaccine. The story just kind of went away, which is why many people still believe that vaccines cause autism

But that's not what really happened.

See, that study never actually said that vaccines cause autism. But, just like in 1706 and 1806 and 1906, newspapers didn't really understand science, so they just wrote what they heard Wakefield say. But the other doctors in the study said, "Ummm... that's not what we found."

Then investigators discovered the whole thing was a hoax. A rival vaccine company & lawyers hoping to file a civil suit paid him millions to falsify the research. Some of the kids didn't even have autism! <https://t.co/H2OnZHccqt>

Wakefield's fraud is beside the point. He was able to do so much damage for so long because the media, the scientific community, politicians and trial lawyers found it in their interest to believe and lionize him. We ate our young. Wakefield just gave us the recipe.

The *Lancet* published Wakefield's original article in 1998. Though the study's weaknesses were evident back then, it was also clear -- to Wakefield and the law firm that paid him millions to concoct the research and falsify his conclusions -- that it would be enough, once published in a major medical journal, to spread a wildfire of fear about vaccine safety.

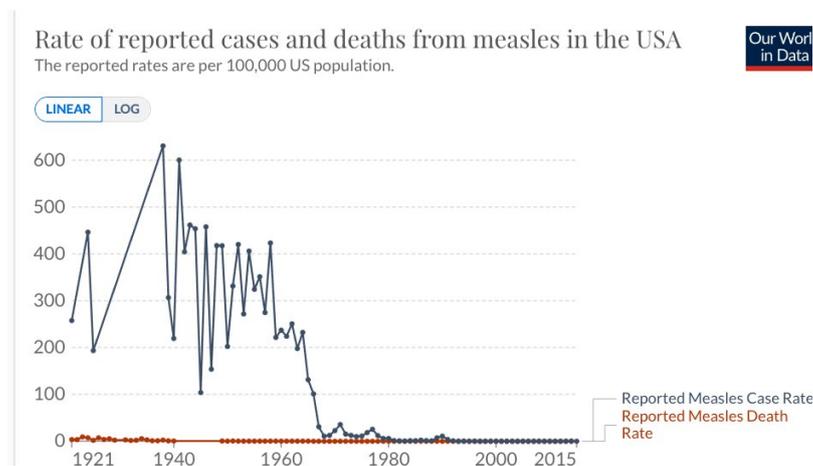
But the biggest news outlets never reported this. VERY FEW reported that THEY had misreported the initial research

Because of the Wakefield hoax, measles children around the world died.

Well...Except for one place...The good ole USA.

Why?

BECAUSE WE HAVE A VACCINE MANDATE! <https://t.co/3AmCR389fx>



When did we discover out lawyers, medical companies and individuals had paid \$19 million for Wakefield to create this hoax?

Exactly four hundred years after a Boston Church gave away the worst gift bag ever. <https://t.co/aJ9UTuJGF6>

So no, the Founders would not have turned over in their graves. But, to be fair, you gotta admit...

The anti-vaxxer movement and white people dying science because of their "freedoms" is a time-honored American tradition.

One last bit of proof:

During the Revolutionary War, smallpox ravaged British and American troops. So George Washington came up with an idea on how he could gain an advantage.

Yep, a VACCINE MANDATE literally helped a ragtag group of soldiers create this thing called America <https://t.co/Ljxpx84nU0>

After weeks of indecision, Washington issued the order to have all troops inoculated on February 5, 1777, in a letter to President John Hancock. The next day, a second letter was sent to Dr. William Shippen, Jr. that ordered all recruits arriving in Philadelphia to be inoculated:

“ *Finding the Small pox to be spreading much and fearing that no precaution can prevent it from running through the whole of our Army, I have determined that the troops shall be inoculated. This Expedient may be attended with some inconveniences and some disadvantages, but yet I trust in its consequences will have the most happy effects. Necessity not only authorizes but seems to require the measure, for should the disorder infect the Army in the natural way and rage with its usual virulence we should have more to dread from it than from the Sword of the Enemy.* ”

The practice was soon implemented across the colonies. Army physicians also inoculated veteran soldiers who had yet to be exposed. Washington needed the process to be done in secret. He feared that the British would learn of the army's temporary weakness and use it to their advantage. In March 1778, the inoculation orders were altered slightly. At Valley