

Notes, Sources and Prep Work for No Kings Segment 7-12-25

1. Introduction (1–2 minutes)

The “No Kings” protests are being pitched as a mass grassroots uprising, a spontaneous rejection of authoritarianism. But when you pull back the curtain, what you find isn’t a groundswell of public frustration—it’s a top-down orchestration funded by massive political organizations and old players with familiar agendas. This segment isn’t about telling anyone what to think. It’s about laying out the facts, following the money, and letting people decide if they still believe this is a true people’s movement or just another round of elite manipulation in street-level clothing.

2. The Facade of Grassroots (2–3 minutes)

On the surface, “No Kings” looks like a spontaneous, decentralized uprising—thousands of events popping up across the country. But it’s being organized by over 100 groups led by Indivisible, a political nonprofit started by former Democratic congressional staffers. This isn’t new: these are the same types of organizers who were behind the “resistance” campaigns against Trump in 2017. The messaging is unified, the branding is polished, and the logistics are too well-oiled to be a coincidence. This is strategy, not spontaneity.

3. Funding the Movement (3–4 minutes)

Indivisible alone has taken in over \$7 million from the Open Society Foundations, backed by George Soros. That’s just one piece. Groups like Black Voters Matter and the Tides Foundation are funneling money into this network, either directly or through fiscal sponsors. Tides is a master at this—laundering money through donor-advised funds to avoid transparency. Some of these protests are also indirectly supported by federal grant money via agencies like USAID. So, when you follow the dollars, you find a tight circle of high-dollar donors shaping the entire thing.

4. The Shell Game: Obscuring Accountability (2–3 minutes)

The organizational structure is designed to blur responsibility. The

Tides Foundation, for instance, serves as a fiscal sponsor for many smaller groups, meaning it legally houses them under one umbrella. This gives cover—journalists can't follow the money easily, and the IRS doesn't force disclosures the same way. These groups share addresses, staff, consultants, and even branding assets, yet claim to be independent. It's a maze of entities designed to deflect scrutiny while centralizing control.

5. Media and Institutional Amplification (2–3 minutes)

The media plays right into it. Legacy outlets frame “No Kings” as a grassroots uprising and downplay or ignore the financial and institutional ties. These same media outlets often receive funding or sponsorships from foundations tied to the same networks organizing the protests. Meanwhile, government agencies like USAID are cutting multimillion-dollar checks to groups that later show up on the ground as activists. This isn't just narrative control; it's collaboration. The state and media ecosystem work together to sell a story the public is expected to buy uncritically.

6. Recurring Patterns: Lessons from BLM (2–3 minutes)

We've seen this exact playbook before. During the BLM protests, hundreds of millions were raised—often through Tides, ActBlue, and other intermediaries—but little of that money made it to actual community projects. Instead, the headlines eventually turned to misused funds, real estate purchases, and missing accountability. Minority-owned businesses burned, cities suffered, and the promised transformation never came. The same groups and funders are now behind “No Kings.” Different banner, same results incoming.

7. Silencing Dissent (1–2 minutes)

What happens if someone from within the community being “helped” speaks up against the movement? They're quickly labeled a traitor or co-opted by the right. Dissent, even from fellow minorities or former supporters, is shut down. You're not allowed to question where the money goes, what the leadership is doing, or why the outcomes never match the promises. This social and media pressure ensures groupthink, not reform. The illusion of consensus is critical to maintaining the movement's legitimacy.

8. Consequences and Predictions (2–3 minutes)

Based on past patterns, we know what's coming: protests may escalate into riots, urban damage will be felt most heavily in low-income and minority communities, and the very people supposedly being uplifted will be left with higher crime, lost businesses, and burned neighborhoods. Meanwhile, the organizers and nonprofits will walk away with more funding, more power, and more connections. These outcomes aren't accidental—they're a direct result of the structure and incentives at play.

9. Conclusion (1–2 minutes)

This isn't about denying the right to protest or pretending there are no real grievances out there. It's about recognizing when a movement is being hijacked—or built entirely—from the top down. The “No Kings” narrative is compelling, but the receipts tell a different story. When protests are funded, planned, and broadcast by powerful interests, they aren't protests anymore. They're marketing campaigns. Know what you're looking at—because if you don't, you'll get used.

Show Outline for Presentation

1. Introduction (1–2 minutes)

- Opening Statement: "Today, we're unpacking the 'No Kings' protests—events portrayed as grassroots movements. But are they truly organic, or is there a deeper narrative?"
- Objective: To analyze the funding and organization behind these protests, revealing the underlying structures and agendas.

2. The Facade of Grassroots (2–3 minutes)

- Claim: The "No Kings" protests are presented as spontaneous, grassroots movements.

- Reality: Involvement of over 100 advocacy groups, including Indivisible, indicates a high level of coordination and planning.

3. Funding the Movement (3–4 minutes)

- Major Donors:
 - Open Society Foundations: Indivisible has received over \$7 million from this organization. [vermontdailychronicle.com](https://www.vermontdailychronicle.com)
 - Tides Foundation: Acts as a fiscal sponsor, channeling funds to various activist groups.
- Government Grants:
 - USAID and State Department: Allocated over \$27 million to organizations under the Tides Foundation, some of which support protest activities. [shorenewsnetwork.com](https://www.shorenewsnetwork.com)

4. The Shell Game: Obscuring Accountability (2–3 minutes)

- Fiscal Sponsorship: Use of entities like Tides Foundation allows for pooling and distributing funds while maintaining donor anonymity.
- Shared Infrastructure: Organizations often share addresses, staff, and resources, creating a network that's difficult to trace and holds little accountability.

5. Media and Institutional Amplification (2–3 minutes)

- Media Coverage: Mainstream media outlets often provide favorable coverage, reinforcing the narrative of organic, widespread support.
- Government Involvement: Federal agencies have provided substantial funding to organizations involved in these protests, blurring the lines between activism and state endorsement. [shorenewsnetwork.com](https://www.shorenewsnetwork.com)

6. Recurring Patterns: Lessons from BLM (2–3 minutes)

- **Similar Playbook:** The organizational structures and funding mechanisms mirror those used during the BLM protests.
- **Outcomes:** Despite significant funding, the communities purportedly served often see little benefit, with funds not reaching grassroots levels.

7. Silencing Dissent (1–2 minutes)

- **Internal Criticism:** Voices within minority communities that question the movement's direction or funding are often marginalized or labeled as opposition.
- **Media Narrative:** Contrary perspectives are frequently underrepresented in mainstream media coverage.

8. Consequences and Predictions (2–3 minutes)

- **Community Impact:** Historical patterns suggest potential for unrest leading to damage in minority-owned neighborhoods. [axios.com](https://www.axios.com)
- **Political Exploitation:** These movements can be leveraged for political gain, with little regard for the actual needs of the communities involved.

9. Conclusion (1–2 minutes)

- **Recap:** The "No Kings" protests, while presented as grassroots, are heavily funded and organized by established entities with specific agendas.
- **Call to Action:** Encourage listeners to critically assess protest movements, investigate funding sources, and seek diverse perspectives.

Sources Cited

Indivisible's Funding from Open Society Foundations

<https://vermontdailychronicle.com/soros-backed-group-plans-30-vt-no-kings-protests/>

Federal Grants to Tides Foundation

<https://www.shorenewsnetwork.com/2025/02/13/federal-agencies-allocate-millions-to-activist-groups-with-protest-ties/>

No Kings Protest Organization

<https://www.nokings.org/news/projected-millions-across-1500-cities-to-join-the-largest-protest-to-reject-authoritarianism-since-president-trump-took-office>

Media Coverage of No Kings Protests

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/trump-military-parade-birthday-news.html>

BLM's Financial Transparency

<https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/national-international/black-lives-matter-opens-up-about-its-finance-for-the-first-time/2530911/>

Tides Foundation and Donor-Advised Fund Strategy

<https://capitalresearch.org/article/the-tides-foundation-and-center-selling-foundation-philanthropy-on-the-idea-of-structural-racism/>

USAID and State Department Grants through Tides

<https://www.shorenewsnetwork.com/2025/02/13/federal-agencies-allocate-millions-to-activist-groups-with-protest-ties/>

Indivisible's Origins and Strategy

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/04/indivisible-guide-government-bureaucracy-215013/>

Mainstream Media Promotion of No Kings

<https://www.axios.com/2025/06/07/no-kings-protest-trump-military-parade-june-14>