Fly the Fascist Skies
“fascist storm troopers [and] hairless simians” – Ann Coulter

Frequent flyer and columnist crier Ann Coulter once bemoaned airline disasters, not because they’re tragic but because they would preempt her on-air punditry. “Hopefully no planes will go down so they will use the contributors.”

Coulter’s cavalier approach to death included these ditties:

“I’d much rather die in an airline crash than in a car crash because no one really pays attention. You feel a lot sorrier for somebody who dies when a lot of people die around them.”

Eight months later, Coulter reiterated the benefits of death via disaster: “On top of that they’d be memorializing you and your name would be on TV a year later.”

“Hero” Passenger

One of Coulter’s first syndicated columns called airline security personnel “brownshirts,” “hairless simians” and “airline fascists” for preventing a passenger without a boarding ticket from entering a “jetway leading to the aircraft.” Said passenger then became violent and was detained. To Coulter, America needs more “heroes” like this passenger. But Coulter omitted the fact that this passenger broke the neck of that employee!

Oh what a difference a war makes. But, wait! The airlines still employ fascists, but they’re not doing enough for security.

Fascist Airports

Since 9/11, Coulter condemns the “fascist intensity of airport security,” “sullen, dictatorial security personnel,” with “some Americans [who] are relishing their new roles as fascist storm troopers.” In fact, “airports already resemble the torture chambers in Orwell’s ‘1984,’ [which could] lead to the Khmer Rouge.”

(But they should be doing more for security!)

Fraudulent Arguments

Quick to judge and denounce airline personnel as fascistic simians, Coulter pays no heed to her own advice:

“Obviously, I’m no enemy of colorful rhetoric, as my avid readers know. But there’s a difference between accusing people of being ‘nattering nabobs of negativism’ or of ‘kissing the ring of the NRA’ and somberly declaring someone a ‘fascist.’ Or there ought to be.

“Incidentally, if a person makes an argument that is, in fact, ‘racist,’ etc., shouldn’t that fact be self-evident? Simply restating the argument ought to demonstrate the bigotry – if bigotry it is – without a big warning label screaming ‘Racist!’ ‘Sexist!’ or ‘Anti-Semitic!’ A false argument should be refuted, not named. That’s the basic idea behind freedom of speech. Arguments by name-calling, rather than truth and
light, can generally be presumed fraudulent.”

**Natural Monopolies**

But why are airlines fascistic? Coulter contends airports are “natural monopolies” because “If you live in Chicago” you can’t fly from Dallas. (Coulter has discovered that she is not omnipresent!)

In reality, most major metropolitan areas have multiple airports. Beyond that, Coulter forgets that airports are at the mercy of the government which heavily regulates carrier service routes and airport protocols.

**National ID Cards**

Coulter’s Five Point Airport Safety Plan included using passports for domestic travel. Having proffered her passport plan, Coulter then roundly rejects national I.D. cards. (Passports good; national I.D. cards bad.) But Coulter never explains why one is beneficial and the other is not.

> “What precisely would a national ID card accomplish? The hijackers were in this country legally!”

Promoting elitist passport identification and stricter security measures (for *some* people), Coulter then complains about the *nuisance* of identity checks.

> “Liberals have leapt at the opportunity to create their ideal fascist paradise with fascistic gendarmes randomly asking to see our I.D. cards.”

> “Thus, one of the FAA’s recent safety innovations is to demand photo IDs from passengers at various checkpoints throughout the terminal. … No one has told the FAA this – but terrorists have ID cards.”

Nonetheless, we should all be prepared to present our passports for any domestic travel. (Didn’t that idea become obsolete with the demise of the Soviet Union and the dodo bird?)

**Impossible Security**

Demanding *increased* action against targeted groups, Coulter seeks removal of other measures altogether. For instance, Coulter considers the question – “Did you pack your own bags?” – manifestly irrelevant, without appreciating that this “irrelevant” question has prevented a reoccurrence of Pan Am Flight 103.

Vociferously demanding racial profiling for the prevention of future terrorist attacks, Coulter also suggests a relaxation of some security procedures, declaring that it is utterly impossible to prevent weapons from being brought on planes.

> “Unless the government is going to require passengers, crew and pilots to travel naked and with no luggage, there is no spot search devisable that can keep the skies safe – no matter how irritating.”

Coulter eviscerates airport security personnel for lax security, then concludes that only totalitarian governments could make airports secure.

**Human Instinct to Fascism**

Apparently fearing the death she once preferred (being memorialized in an airline crash), Coulter’s analysis of airline security protocols has changed, even though her perspective of people remains hostile and bleak. Compare these views from 1999 and 2001.
“The lesson of this and many other happy travel stories is that humans are fascists by nature … [with] the human instinct to fascism.”

After all, “If you give humans power over other humans their natural instinct is to be fascist.”

In 2001: “The natural state of man is to oppress and kill one another,” adds Coulter. “You see that in practice if you ever fly commercial air.”

Hence, Coulter’s own schizophrenic security prescriptions.

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Endnotes:

1 Ann Coulter email, August 11, 1997.
2 Ann Coulter, MSNBC, November 24, 1996.
14 Ibid.
15 Ann Coulter, Universal Press Syndicate, August 4, 1999