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The Censorship-Industrial Complex, Part 3: The Foreign Threat

Testimony by Michael Shellenberger to The House Committee
on the Judiciary for a hearing on "The Censorship-Industrial
Complex"

February 12, 2025

Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, and members of the Committee thank you for inviting my testimony.

Nearly two years ago, I testified and provided evidence to a Subcommittee of this Committee about the existence of a Censorship Industrial Complex, a network of government agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, government contractors, including Stanford Internet Observatory, and Big Tech social media platforms that conspired to censor ordinary Americans and elected officials alike for holding disfavored views.

Today, the Censorship Industrial Complex is on the defensive. On January 20, 2025, just hours after his inauguration, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order on "Restoring Freedom of Speech and Ending Federal Censorship," which said the following: "Over the last 4 years, the previous administration trampled free speech rights by censoring Americans' speech on online platforms, often by exerting substantial coercive pressure on third parties, such as social media companies, to moderate, deplatform, or otherwise suppress speech that the Federal Government did not approve."¹

One week earlier, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced, "We're going to dramatically reduce the amount of censorship on our platform." Zuckerberg's announcement came after he sent an open letter to you, Mr. Chairman, last August, in which he confirmed that "senior members from the Biden Administration, including the White House, repeatedly pressured our teams for months to censor" Covid content. In the same letter, he acknowledged that the FBI programmed Facebook executives to censor a New York Post article about Hunter Biden laptops for being supposed Russian disinformation even though the FBI knew it was authentic.²

Zuckerberg announced that he at Meta would follow the lead of Elon Musk at X and create crowd-sourced fact-checking, known as Community Notes, to replace much of the fact-checking the company had outsourced to others. In his video, Zuckerberg openly discussed the problem of "censorship," using that word, or the word "censor," nine times. "We're going to get rid of a bunch of restrictions on topics like immigration and gender that are just out of touch with mainstream discourse," he said.

¹ President Donald Trump, Executive Order, "[Restoring Freedom Of Speech And Ending Federal Censorship](#)," *The White House*, January 20, 2025.

² Mark Zuckerberg, "Letter to Jim Jordan," August 26, 2024, retrieved from <https://www.americanrhetoric.com/>.

And, thanks in large measure to the work of this Committee's Subcommittee on the Weaponization of Government last year, as well as to the investigative reporting by those of us here today, we were able to shine sunlight on some of the worst actors in the Censorship Industrial Complex, such as the Stanford Internet Observatory, which I singled out in my testimony two years ago. In June of last year, the Observatory shut down in response to our collective exposés.³

Unfortunately, the Censorship Industrial Complex remains almost entirely intact, and Europe, Australia, Britain, Brazil, and other nations in the West continue to seek new forms of censorship and information control, including digital identification tied to social media. My colleagues and I are over two years into our research characterizing the Censorship Industrial Complex and we continue to discover whole new institutions involved in censorship.

The latest is the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID. Last October we published a report that noted that USAID had funded the creation of a Censorship Industrial Complex in Brazil, complete with third-party "fact checkers," committees of experts in charge of deciding for the entire society what the truth is on any given issue.⁴ And, after I published the Twitter Files - Brazil, last spring, the Attorney General of Brazil opened a formal criminal investigation of me, which is ongoing.⁵

In 2021, USAID even published a so-called "Disinformation Primer" that called for "advertiser outreach" to "disrupt the funding and financial incentive to disinform."⁶ Such "advertiser outreach" was precisely the advertiser boycott strategy used by groups with ties to the US intelligence community. These groups, with uncritical support and amplification from the media, were able to use this strategy to successfully get Facebook and Twitter to censor more content.

Britain is in the midst of a fresh crackdown on free speech rights doing things that Americans rightly find shocking, including sending police officers to interview people in their homes about things they said on Facebook. Like

³ Michael Shellenberger, [Victory! Stanford Shuts Down Censorship Operation](#), *Public*, June 14, 2024.

⁴ Phoebe Smith, Alex Gutentag, Eli Vieira, and David Agape, "The Role of the U.S. Government in Brazil's Censorship Industrial Complex," *Civilization Works*, October 1, 2024.

⁵ Michael Shellenberger, "I Am Under Criminal Investigation In Brazil For Telling The Truth. That Won't Stop Me From Going." *Public*, September 4, 2024, <https://www.public.news>.

⁶ "Disinformation Primer," *United States Agency for International Development*, February 2021, retrieved from <https://web.archive.org>.

other governments, it claims that censorship is necessary to protect democracy, explaining that “the growing presence of disinformation poses a unique threat to our democratic processes and to societal cohesion...”⁷ George Orwell could not have written it better.

Meta can go further in its commitment. The company’s new guidelines still disallow people to insult another person’s intellect or mental health, which could easily be abused for increased censorship. And Facebook will keep its fact-checking-based censorship model in Europe.⁸

And the European Commission appears intent upon using its powers granted to it through the Digital Services Act to demand that X, Facebook, and other platforms censor speech. The Commission last year threatened to fine X up to 6% of its annual global revenue for failing to crack down on false information and not giving handing over its data to small committees of “experts,” chosen by the Commission, to decide what is true and false, and what should be censored.⁹

To be sure, the momentum is with free speech advocates. We won a number of important battles over the last two years. Toward the end of last year, Senators in Ireland and Australia, both, rejected censorship legislation. The European Commission forced its top censor, a former defense contractor from France, to step down after he warned Elon Musk not to speak to Donald Trump on X, suggesting that doing so might violate European laws. Vice President JD Vance said it would be “insane that we would support a military alliance [NATO] if that military alliance isn't going to be pro-free speech.”¹⁰ And just last weekend, the Brazilian government ended its censorship of the social media platform Rumble.¹¹

But it’s also clear that many governing and media elites worldwide view expanding censorship of online platforms as a must-have, not a nice-to-have feature of global governance. The head of NATO, NATO-backed think tanks,

⁷“Draft Statement of Strategic Priorities for Online Safety,” *Department for Science, Innovation & Technology*, November 20, 2024, retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/>.

⁸ Csongor Körömi, Pieter Haeck and Daniella Cheslow, “Zuck goes full Musk, dumps Facebook fact-checking program,” *Politico*, January 7 2025, <https://www.politico.eu>.

⁹ “Commission sends preliminary findings to X for breach of the Digital Services Act,” *European Commission*, July 11, 2024, <https://ec.europa.eu/>.

¹⁰ “JD Vance - 50th Vice President,” *Shawn Ryan Podcast*, September 11, 2024, retrieved from YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrgmwtpAsWc>; Rebecca Rommen, [JD Vance suggested the US's support for NATO could be pulled if Europe tries to regulate Elon Musk's X as free speech debate rumbles on](https://www.businessinsider.com/jd-vance-nato-regulate-elon-musk-x-free-speech), *Business Insider*, September 21, 2024.

¹¹ Didi Rankovic, “Rumble’s Brazil Comeback Signals a New Chapter in the Speech Wars,” *Reclaim the Net*, February 10, 2025, <https://reclaimthenet.org/>.

the European Commission, President Barack Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Bill Gates, the UN, the World Health Organization, the World Economic Forum, influential think tanks at Harvard and Stanford, elements of the DOD, the CIA, the FBI, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Homeland Security, and many other have all called for government censorship of so-called “misinformation” in recent years.

In his most recent Netflix documentary, Gates called for using AI to impose mass censorship. “The U.S. is a tough one because we have the notion of the First Amendment,” he said. But he then added, “If you're causing people not to take vaccines, even the US should have rules. And then if you have rules, you know, what is it? Is there some AI that encodes those rules? Because you have billions of activity and, you know, if you catch it a day later, the harm is, is done.” And Gates called for the end to online anonymity. “I don't think in the future you'll want to get mail that comes from an anonymous source because whatever you see there might be designed just to mislead you. You're going to want to be in an environment where the people are truly identified.”

And it's not just censorship that is the problem. The problem is that deep state agencies within the US federal government have for two decades sought to gain control over the production of news and other information around the world, as part of ongoing covert and overt influence operations, and that after 2016, multiple actors in several deep state US government agencies turned the tools of counterterrorism, counterinsurgency, and counterpopulism against the American people.

While the Censorship Industrial Complex and the broader information control agenda are on the defensive, many appear to be retreating to Europe to mobilize the DSA against American companies, and return to press for censorship again in the future, perhaps under a different administration. The US government funds some of the organizations that signed the EU's “code of practice on disinformation,” or are involved in enforcing the DSA censorship. They include NewsGuard, the Global Disinformation Index, GLOBSEC, CEE Digital Democracy Watch, Debunk EU, Demagog, Reporters without Borders, Maldita, Logically AI, and Bellingcat.¹²

We saw the US and UK government agencies work together during Covid to pursue identical strategies on censorship. Now, the UK government is

¹² Allum Bokhari & Oscar Buynevich, “22 US-Funded Organizations Drive The EU's War on Tech Companies,” Foundation for Freedom Online, February 8, 2025.

cracking down further. Last week it demanded that Apple create a backdoor that would allow the government read the encrypted messages and data of any iPhone user anywhere, not just in Britain.¹³

To understand the threat, we need to take a closer look at how various groups turned foreign policy into a domestic Censorship Industrial Complex.

From Foreign To Domestic Policy

In my March 2023 testimony before the House Select Committee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, I described the emergence of the “Censorship Industrial Complex” comprised of a vast and coordinated network of government agencies, academic institutions, and private organizations that had been working together to suppress lawful speech under the guise of combating “misinformation” and “disinformation.”

Drawing a parallel to President Eisenhower’s warning about the Military-Industrial Complex, I noted how this taxpayer-funded Complex operated outside of traditional democratic accountability. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in particular instigated an effort to set up first an “Election Integrity Partnership” in 2020 and a “Virality Project” in 2021 to “flag misinformation” for social media companies, which then censored a significant share of posts.

The Stanford Internet Observatory, the Atlantic Council’s Digital Forensic Research Lab, the University of Washington’s Center for an Informed Public, and Graphika collaborated with intelligence agencies and major tech platforms to identify and suppress narratives deemed politically inconvenient. This included pressuring platforms like Facebook and Twitter to suppress posts that were factually accurate but deemed politically undesirable—such as information about COVID-19 vaccine side effects, which Facebook itself admitted were “often true.”

Activities originally justified as countering foreign propaganda and terrorism quickly expanded into domestic censorship of American citizens, journalists, and elected officials. I noted that the CIC does not engage in open debate but rather blacklists and suppresses dissenting views, often labeling factual information as misinformation to justify censorship. I concluded by

¹³Christina Maas, “UK Government Secretly Orders Apple to Build Global iCloud Backdoor, Threatening Digital Privacy Worldwide,” *Reclaim the Net*, February 7, 2025, <https://reclaimthenet.org/>.

calling for Congress to defund the Censorship Industrial Complex, mandate transparency in communications between government agencies and tech companies, and limit the broad legal protections that currently allow platforms to suppress speech under Section 230.

In my November 2023 testimony before the same subcommittee, I noted that the problem was worse than I had initially understood. A whistleblower had given me the internal files from the Cyber Threat Intelligence League (CTIL). They showed that in 2019, U.S. and UK military and intelligence contractors were developing and deploying psychological operations (psyops) tactics, originally designed for foreign adversaries, against the American people.

I noted then that the CIC was not just about censorship. It was a deliberate effort to discredit and deplatform individuals, often branding them as threats for simply expressing views that contradicted the government's preferred narratives. A whistleblower confirmed that this censorship framework was intentionally designed to evade First Amendment protections by outsourcing it to "private" entities that were, in reality, funded and directed by the federal government.

Since then, I and others have documented the concerted effort by USAID to create or take control of independent investigative reporting databases and networks around the world to wage influence operations, cause regime change, and possibly gather intelligence under false pretenses. The explicit goal has been to make investigative journalists dependent on US government funding, and for that funding to come with strings attached, including US government approval of what is investigated and who does the investigating.¹⁴

We still do not know how much money other US government agencies have routed to censorship advocacy, in part because they hide the money

¹⁴ "The OCCRP's 2017 annual report asserts that there is a need for a global investigative force to verify facts in the public interest: 'we aim towards two significant global goals. The first is the establishment of a data commons: a massive repository of verified facts, mostly publicly available, that will form the basis of investigative work not just for media organizations but also NGOs, lawyers, and concerned citizens. The second is the creation of a trust for investigative reporting that will help to secure the long term sustainability of non-profit public interest media' (OCCRP, 2017)."

S. Candea, "Cross-border Investigative Journalism: a critical perspective" *PhD thesis University of Westminster Westminster School of Media and Communication, 2020*, <https://doi.org/10.34737/v402w>.

through multiple shell organizations. An investigative journalist from Romania in 2021 denounced USAID for “hiding the flow of media development money” to supposedly independent journalists around the world through an “offshore structure... US public money -> Delaware -> Eastern Europe -> Sierra Leone -> Mexico.”¹⁵

The CIA whistleblower whose complaint became the basis for the 2019 impeachment of President Trump relied upon reporting by a supposedly independent investigative news organization called the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), which appears to have effectively operated as an arm of USAID.¹⁶ In a censored 2024 documentary by German television broadcaster NDR, a USAID official confirmed that USAID approves OCCRP’s “annual work plan” and approves new hires of “key personnel.”¹⁷

The journalistic collaboration behind the documentary revealed that OCCRP’s original funding came from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the State Department and quotes a USAID official who says, OCCRP founder Drew Sullivan is “just nervous about being linked with law enforcement. If people who are going to give you information think you’re just a cop, maybe it’s a problem.”¹⁸ It appears that this was the beginning of OCCRP’s practice of hiding US government funding.

OCCRP does not operate like a normal news organization. Its goals appear to include interfering in foreign political matters, including elections, with an eye toward causing regime change. Sullivan told NDR that his organization had “probably been responsible for five or six countries changing over from one government to another government... and getting prime ministers indicted or thrown out.”¹⁹

¹⁵ Stefan Candea, *Abysses of “Innovation”*: How Journalism NGOs Hijacked the “Democratization of Romania” *erliner Gazette.de*, June 23, 2021, <https://berlinergazette.de>.

¹⁶ Aubrey Belford and Veronika Melkozerova, “Meet the Florida Duo Helping Giuliani Investigate for Trump in Ukraine,” *OCCRP*, July 19, 2019, <https://www.occrp.org>.

Anonymous CIA whistleblower complaint, August, 12, 2019, retrieved from <https://games-cdn.washingtonpost.com/notes/prod/default/documents/3b5487de-f987-4cef-b59b-c29bb67687ac/note/ef3465c1-465b-4e68-9b36-08b5946b0df4.pdf#page=1>

¹⁷“OCCRP,” *NDR*, December 16, 2024, uploaded by lauren_robin retrieved from Dalek Zone <https://dalek.zone/w/xiUjomMZxRCvp3Z3GtK9sT?start=0s>.

¹⁸ Ryan Grim, et al., “A Giant of Journalism Gets Half its Budget From the U.S. Government,” *Drop Site News*, December 2, 2024 <https://www.dropsitenews.com/>.

<https://www.dropsitenews.com/p/occrp-budget-funding-us-government-usaid>

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

As such, it appears that the CIA, USAID, and OCCRP were all involved in the impeachment of President Trump in ways similar to the regime change operations that all three organizations engage in abroad.²⁰

This one example fits the pattern. The government employees and contractors who have engaged in information operations and censorship advocacy over the last decade have been overwhelmingly focused on silencing populists. That is as true in the United States as it is in Europe and Brazil.

Two years ago, I described the reasons for this. Since then, our understanding of the development of the Censorship Industrial Complex over the last two years has deepened.

The short version is this. After World War II, the US government took responsibility for implementing an international, rules-based order. The result was relative peace and stability, but also a large foreign policy establishment referred to pejoratively as “the blob.”

At the top of the pecking order is, of course, the president of the United States, and with him, the Secretary of State and the National Security Council making foreign policy decisions. Agencies, including the CIA, and later USAID, exist to support the foreign policy as set by the president.

Over time, USAID and the foreign policy blob developed many government-funded “non-governmental organizations” to promote peace and stability and advocate for a particular agenda created in the Washington, D.C. area. The experts within those think tanks and other institutions derived legitimacy from their specialized knowledge, technocratic expertise, and scientific management techniques.

Many of those within the State Department, USAID, the CIA, and their intermediaries and contractors engaged in so-called “information warfare” in the Middle East starting in 2011 and Eastern Europe in 2014 to promote regime change. They used social media as a tool for shaping opinion and mobilizing people into the streets.

Over time, members of America’s managerial class and civil service living in the Washington, D.C. area came to view themselves as borderless international cosmopolitans, sharing more in common with other elites around the world than with fellow Americans. The working class, small business owners, and other non-professional groups became problems to be solved,

²⁰ Michael Shellenberger and Alex Gutentag, “Both USAID And The CIA Were Behind The Impeachment Of Trump in 2019,” *Public*, February 5, 2025, <https://www.public.news>.

rather than citizens to work alongside. By the early 2000s, elite professionals and managers, including those in the blob, had become deeply disconnected from the American people generally and the working class particularly.

The election of Trump in 2016 triggered an immune reaction from the professional information warriors with America's deep state agencies and the blob. In response to the populist threat, the managerial elite in government and their professional allies in journalism, academia, and civil society doubled down on censorship, propaganda, and narrative control. Patriotism, nationalism, and traditional beliefs, elites argued, were hateful, proto-fascistic, and in need of correction. As state bureaucracies sought ever greater powers of social engineering and information control, they sowed further distrust and animosity.

Elites turned against the rules-based order they claimed to uphold, working to erode free speech, democracy, and civil liberties in the name of preserving them. They started to openly demand and fund the censorship of conservative and other disfavored voices, particularly populist ones.

One of the groups that has most aggressively demanded censorship of social media is the UK-based Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD). Since 2016, ISD has received \$6 million from the State Department to combat hate, including speech.²¹ In October of 2024, the US Justice Department gave ISD \$2 million for activity targeting "hate speech."²²

The ISD, like many other groups that have been advocating censorship, was founded decades ago. Those groups likely look at the recent election of Trump, his Executive Order, and the new policies at X and Facebook, as temporary setbacks in their mission to control the information environment. They are thus likely to regroup and keep their organizations operating until a new opportunity, perhaps a crisis of one kind or another emerges that would allow them to make the case for censorship anew.

²¹US Government, Office of Management and Budget, "Institute for Strategic Dialogue," Retrieved February 10, 2025, from USASpending.gov <https://www.usaspending.gov/recipient/55eb7ef7-f15e-ab9d-adb0-0314bf103c45-R/all>.

²²US Government, Office of Management and Budget, "Project Grant," Retrieved February 10, 2025, from USASpending.gov https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_15PBJA24GG02835ADVA_1550.

The Way Forward

I strongly urge Congress to defund the Censorship Industrial Complex and seek a proper accounting of the various efforts to fund it, including secretly through pass-through organizations and shell organizations, like the ones employed by USAID to fund OCCRP, and hide US government funding and control.

I further urge Congress to seek other ways to reduce the exposure of American social media users and companies to the threat of censorship from Europe, Britain, Brazil, and other nations. We should respect national sovereignty. But Vice President Vance makes a good point when he asks why Americans should be spending our wealth and putting our lives on the line for Western European NATO members who are actively demanding censorship by American companies of speech.

I urge Congress to pass legislation that would disallow American tech companies from giving encryption backdoors to the UK government or any government. The goal should be to create a “conflict of laws” so that Apple can fight the U.K. government’s authoritarian demand and protect the privacy of its users, worldwide.

Working together, we have made significant progress in exposing, characterizing, and publicly shaming the Censorship Industrial Complex for its work. Censorship is deeply un-American, unethical, and unconstitutional. We are glad to see the end of the Stanford Internet Observatory, the exposés of its work with the DHS, and the bad behavior of NSF, FBI, and other government agencies.

The election of Donald Trump as president, his executive order, and the stated and demonstrated support for free speech by Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg all put the wind to the backs of free speech advocates. I urge Congress to remain alert to the threat of censorship from Europe, Brazil, and other nations and to see through to its very end the defunding, once and for all, of the thought police.

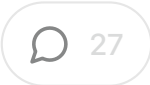
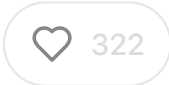
Former Military Contractor Behind EU's Radical Censorship Demands

Thierry Breton led cybersecurity firm whose subsidiary sold spying and censorship



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Europe's top censor, Thierry Breton, EU Commissioner for Internal Market (Getty Images)

In seeking sweeping censorship of much of the Internet, including major Big Tech platforms like Google, Facebook, and X, formerly Twitter, a spokesman for the European Commission yesterday insisted that it wants to “ensure a safe and fair environment for European citizens that is respectful of their rights, in particular freedom of expression.”

But according to X owner Elon Musk, the European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union, is trying to force X to hire hundreds of content moderators to censor speech. The Commission “offered X an illegal secret deal,” Musk, “if we quietly censored speech without telling anyone, they would not f

“The other platforms accepted that deal,” said Musk, “X did not.”

The European Commission’s spokesman said, “The DSA requires a fair and transparent complaint mechanism for users. If an account is suspended, the user has the right to contest the decision. This means that decisions must not be arbitrary. Users are empowered to protect their online presence... When an account is reinstated, the user must be informed and has the right to appeal the decision.”

But the spokesperson’s statement confirms Musk’s claim that the Commission is seeking to remove from X, Facebook, Google, and other Internet companies the power to decide who and what is censored. As such, the EU is demanding mass government censorship.

The top person in charge of EU censorship is Thierry Breton, the EU’s “Internal market commissioner.” Since taking power, Breton has overseen a sweeping re-orientation agenda covering military defense contracting, microchips, energy, and every other strategic industry, including social media and Internet companies.

Breton’s crackdown on free speech and exercise of control over content moderation at Google, Facebook, and other Big Tech companies came after he put down an €

Google to resist the EU's censorship demands in 2020.

An [internal Google document that was leaked to the press](#) at the time said Google's goal was to mobilize the US government and other US allies to “undermine the DSA has no cost to Europeans” and “show how the DSA limits the potential of internet... just as people need it the most”.

After it became public, Google's CEO apologized to Breton, and backed down and now appears to be complying with Breton's censorship demands.

Breton has been as aggressive in demanding censorship as the man who appointed him: French President Emmanuel Macron. In May, French President Emmanuel Macron [temporarily blocked](#) TikTok in a French overseas territory.

“When there is hateful content, content that calls – for example – for revolt, that calls for killing and burning of cars, they will be required to delete [the content] immediately,” Breton [said](#) last year. “If they fail to do so, they will be immediately sanctioned. We have teams who can intervene immediately. If they don't act immediately, then yes, at that point we'll be able not only to impose a fine but ban the operation [of the platforms] on our territory.”

Who is Breton, exactly? And why is he waging war on free speech, principally American companies, on behalf of the EU?

Cybersecurity As Cover For Censorship

Breton arrives for a telecommunications ministers meeting on May 21, 2024 in Brussels, Belgium. (Getty Images)

From 2008 to 2019, Breton was CEO of Atos, a company that, as Politico [noted](#) April, “is a major strategic asset for France. It is active in tech sectors spanning cloud services to cybersecurity and is key for France’s defense interests as the the supercomputing technology used to simulate nuclear bomb tests.”

In February of this year, Atos, which [had](#) \$11 billion in revenues last year, collapsed under its \$5 billion debt. Breton [emphasizes](#) that he is not to blame for Atos’ financial collapse.

The French government certainly doesn’t blame him or Atos. It chose Atos as

cybersecurity contractor for the 2024 Olympics, which start in Paris at the end of the month. Then, in April, the French government bailed out Atos, giving it a \$50 million loan.

The French government views Atos as an essential national asset. Atos describes itself as “a trusted partner of Defense organizations worldwide. We create advanced end-to-end systems to ensure efficient operations, from observation to action.”

In 2014, Atos [purchased](#) a firm, [Bull](#), which called itself a “supercomputing firm” but in fact was involved in helping the Libyan government monitor and censor its internet.

In a 2019 report, the politically progressive research group, Transnational Institute, [documented](#) how Bull was a “French computer company, active in many sectors including the military and security markets.”

TI reported that a Bull subsidiary called Amesys sold an Internet spy system to the Libyan government for \$25 million in 2007. In 2011, the Wall Street Journal [published](#)

an article, "Firms Aided Libyan Spies," which documented how Western tech companies were helping the Libyan government spy on dissidents.

"This kind of spying became a top priority for Libya as the region's Arab Spring revolutions blossomed in recent months," reported the Wall Street Journal. "Earlier this year, Libyan officials held talks with Amesys and several other companies including Boeing Co.'s Narus, a maker of high-tech Internet traffic-monitoring products, as they looked to add sophisticated Internet-filter capabilities to Libya's existing monitoring operation, people familiar with the matter said."

What is "Internet filtering"? It is code for censorship. "Web filtering is a technology that stops users from viewing certain URLs or websites by preventing their browsers from loading pages from these sites," explains Barracuda Networks, a leading cybersecurity firm that creates web filtering for, it says, businesses, parents, and schools.

In 2015, IFHR, the International Federation for Human Rights, a 100-year-old independent French human rights organization, [submitted evidence and filed a complaint](#) to the government "alleging the complicity of French company Amey and its executive managers in acts of torture for having signed and executed a contract for the provision of surveillance technology to the Libyan Regime in 2011."

Wrote the IFHR, "The system sold by Amesys allegedly permitted the interception of all country-wide, on-line and off-line exchanges and the subsequent processing of collected data to target and identify a given group within the civilian population on the basis of criteria established by the system's user."

What we are seeing with Breton and Atos follows a pattern that we have documented over the last 18 months: a leading advocate for censorship has longstanding affiliations not only to cybersecurity and the monitoring of online political activity as

government contractor in the specific context of the Middle East.

In the Twitter Files, both [Racket](#) and [Public](#) documented how the Aspen Institute and the FBI successfully convinced social media executives to censor the Hunter Biden story in 2020 by persuading them that it violated their cyber-security policies.

In the [CTI League Files](#), we documented how the US Department of Homeland Security authorized the creation of an ostensibly “volunteer” pro-censorship group pretending to be concerned about cybersecurity in US hospitals. The leaders of this effort were employees of the UK’s Ministry of Defense and the US Department of Defense’s US Special Operations Command.

In the [Twitter Files - CIA](#), we documented how former CIA analysts attempted to circumvent Twitter’s content moderation system by working with a longstanding US and IC cybersecurity “white hat hacker” contractor named Peiter Mudge Zatk

In Britain, the government used the [military psychological operations division](#) of the 77th Army Brigade, to monitor social media users as a first step in a censorship operation that would have included embedding government censors within social media companies.

Embedding European censors in American big tech companies in Europe is precisely what Breton is attempting to do now. In the US, dozens of former military and intelligence officials play senior roles in social media companies such as Facebook, Google, and Twitter, including content moderation roles.

The US military and the CIA’s venture capital arm, InQTel, were essential in funding and providing contracts for the creation of Google, in particular.

In many of the above cases, government cybersecurity contractors engage in potentially illegal surveillance and censorship advocacy through both their pe

over, their pressure on, and their participation in social media and Big Tech companies. During the Covid pandemic, when governments intensified their censorship demands, those efforts grew around the world, from the West Coast US to [Central Europe](#).

Stop Foreign Censorship

Rumble CEO Chris Pavloski; Paulo Figueredo, Brazilian journalist; Rep. Chris Smith; and author Michael Shellenberger after testifying to Congress about Brazil's crackdown on free speech (author photo)

Many US-based advocates of increased government censorship are vocal in their support for European censorship regulations and openly hope they will apply

US. The leading advocates of censorship are at America's elite institutions of Stanford and Harvard, where they have been demanding European regulation of American companies for years. "Musk has a lot less freedom than he realizes," [wrote](#) Eve Douek of Stanford for the Atlantic. "He should brace himself for many more round slaps in the face."

Douek urges social media platforms to ban more politicians and journalists she doesn't like. "Banning Trump should not be seen as the end of an era," she [wrote](#) for the Atlantic. "It needs to be the start of a new one, and we should not give up on the idea of content moderation that depicts a better future."

Demands by America's intellectual elites for more censorship at places like Stanford have worn away at the courage and strength of the CEOs of Big Tech companies. Many of these companies, like Google, not only have close ties to Stanford but were also largely created by Stanford and its surrounding military and IC venture capital ecosystem.

Google's CEO caved into Europe four years ago, we noted above. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Meta, which owns Facebook, has been focused on re-branding himself while accepting the censorship demands of both foreign and American governments.

If there is any hope to be had, it's that Americans hate censorship and hate foreigners who demand censorship even more. Our post and video yesterday [sparked](#) a strong reaction: over 20,000 people shared them on X, and over one million saw them.

And few Americans or US policymakers realize that Breton is a longtime military intelligence contractor attempting to interfere in US affairs while waging economic warfare on behalf of the EU against America's big tech firms, Meta, Google, and formerly Twitter.

Foreign censorship demands on American companies should be illegal if they

already. The French and Europeans view their tech companies as national assets which they control and subsidize as needed to protect their national security and economic wealth. The US, too, should do so and put the First Amendment at the center of this strategic decision.

Free speech is a core moral commitment, not merely an economic or strategic one for the United States. It is a question of national security because the First Amendment is existential and essential to America's Constitution and continuing existence.

We need a Congressional investigation and hearings into those foreign efforts that go far beyond the Europeans, to interfere in domestic affairs, including through the demand of censorship, which violates our fundamental human rights and the Constitution.

Members of Congress have shown a willingness to stand up to foreign governments. Rep. Jim Jordan subpoenaed documents from X showing Brazil's illegal demand for censorship. And Rep. Chris Smith held hearings on Brazilian censorship that included testimony from its victims.

As a result, the picture Americans have of Europe may be impacted negatively by an aggressive push for censorship. For as much as the spokesmen for the European Commission claim to be "respectful of their rights," the truth is that they are attempting to trample them.



322 Likes · 34 Restacks

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Yuri Bezmenov  How To Subvert Subversion with ... Jul 13

Thanks for making Breton famous. The EU is the fourth Reich. Unelected bureaucrats li and Thierry are the new fuhrers, destroying the few remaining freedoms Europeans ha

 LIKE (33)  REPLY



Noam Deplume, Jr. (look,at,me) Noam Deplume, Jr. (look,at,me) Jul 13

Wow, this is like seeing a hundred cockroaches when a light is turned on. But they're v cockroaches. They want to regulate away the light.

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25 more comments...

Global Elites Ram Digital IDs To Prevent Populist Victories

World Economic Forum, European Union, and Tony Blair are on the cusp of giving governments sweeping new spy powers



CECÍLIE JÍLKOVÁ
FEB 01, 2025 · PAID

♡ 460
💬 54
🔄 58
Sha



Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez (center above) at the World Economic Forum on January 17, 2024. Former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair and World Economic Forum founder Klaus Schwab (right) in 2007. (GETTY IMAGES)

Imagine a nation where citizens store all their personal documents and financial records on a single app. Vaccination status, tax records, passports, health insurance and work permits are all conveniently accessed through the app, making it eas

citizens to verify their identities whenever they go to the doctor, open a bank account, apply for a job, or take the bus. The app is efficient, convenient, and helps keep everyone safe, authorities say.

But the app is also linked to your social media accounts, which allows the government to restrict your access to public spaces, services, and financial institutions should they choose to harm others by sharing misinformation or hate speech online.

This is not an episode of Black Mirror. It may soon become a reality.

INTERVIEW | CRIME AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

Tony Blair: Bring in digital IDs to get tough on populism

The former Labour prime minister, who backs identity technology systems and facial recognition, believes the public will gladly sacrifice privacy for efficiency



Sir Tony Blair: "You've got to create an agenda that the other side has to respond to"
TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE

[Rachel Sylvester](#) Friday January 31 2025, 4.00pm GMT, The Times

Blair in the Times of London, January 31, 2025

UK ministers are launching a digital wallet in June so that citizens can store their identification documents on their phones. Former UK prime minister Tony Blair yesterday said that this and other measures don't go far enough, and called for government to be reordered around digital IDs and artificial intelligence. [Said](#) "We need to take a firm decision that we're going for digital ID... we should enact it fully and roll it out as soon as we can because it will have an immediate set of benefits."

The European Commission says its new plan for digital ID will harmonize identification processes across European states. This will make bureaucracies efficient and increase user convenience. With the EU Digital Identity Wallet, Europeans will soon be able to access services and share documents across the continent without revealing their full identities or other private information.

But digital ID is a Trojan Horse for restricting speech online, enacting mass surveillance, and enforcing political compliance. In February 2024, European legislators included a unified digital identity system in an [update](#) to their original electronic Identification, Authentication and trust Services (eIDAS). At the World Economic Forum's annual meeting this year, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez called for "an end to anonymity on social media" and for forcing "all these platforms link every user account to an European Digital Identity Wallet." The instrument of this surveillance will be the digital ID wallet app that users can easily install on their phones.

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda (C) poses with World Economic Forum founder and chairman Klaus Schwab (L) and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair at the World Economic Forum in Davos, 26 January 2008 prior to the Prime Minister's address. (FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP via Getty Images)

The wallet has some potential benefits. According to the European Commission example, EU citizens residing in a member state other than the one in which they were born will be able to use digital IDs to apply for documentation they need for work permits. Similar processes will apply to any cross-border business where official documents are required. And digital ID, Blair argues, “empowers the individual by allowing you “to simplify your transactions with the government.” What’s more, he says, digital ID and other measures like facial recognition technology will help

illegal immigrants and reduce crime.

However, privacy experts point out that none of the intended benefits are significant enough to outweigh the disadvantages that a unified digital ID system brings. Governments can easily use the system to collect data on citizens, and the European Digital Identity Wallet is intended to be an “app for everything.” This will even allow for verification of attributes such as age, driver's licence, and vaccination both for online and offline services. EU states are obliged to offer the app to citizens by the end of 2026 and the Commission has set a target of 80% of EU citizens using the app by 2030.

Blair, the Times of London [reported](#), views digital ID as the solution to get to the root of populism and its causes. “What the populists do is they take a real grievance and exploit it but they very often don't want to have a solution because solutions are tougher than talking about problems,” Blair said. Digital IDs and artificial intelligence, he argued, would allow the government to improve public services and undercut populist sentiment.

The intention of policymakers is for everything from electronic documents, in passports, to health insurance numbers and all health data, to tax returns and bank accounts, to be stored in one mobile wallet app. EU citizens will use this when going to the doctor, when taking public transport, when logging on to Facebook or X, when logging on to a government website to pay taxes, when shopping online or when paying for purchases in person in a shop.

The final technical design of the European Digital Identity Wallet is currently [under negotiation](#). These blueprints will have a big impact on whether or not users will feel sufficiently protected when using the system. What is behind the intense push for digital IDs, and how can Europeans resist it?

One Tool To Rule Them All

Digital ID wallets are "One tool rules them all," [said](#) Thomas Lohninger, CEO of digital rights organization Epicenter.Works and Vice President of European Digital Rights (EDRi), in a 2023 presentation. [Epicenter.Works](#) and [EDRi](#) have repeatedly objected to the wallets' ability to forward user data. In response to this criticism, the Commission has put in place some safeguards to prevent the collection of data by third parties in the private sector, but the risk of spying by the wallet provider itself remains.

"It will depend on the national implementation. The EU law doesn't sufficiently prohibit the wallet provider, which could be member states or Google, from disclosing information about user transactions. There is a loophole that could still undermine the unobservability safeguard," Thomas Lohninger told me.

Lohninger and I have been talking about the wallet since 2023. "Both Vice Pre [Margrethe] Vestager and Commissioner [Thierry] Breton have argued that use should decide what they share via their Wallet App. It is hard to reconcile this with the lack of essential safeguards in the Commission's proposal," said Lohn a [criticism](#) of the draft legislation two years ago.

His organization has been vocal from day [one](#) against the regulation and its [purpose to undermine anonymity on the internet](#), as well as "scenarios of abuse against vulnerable groups in society and the risks of surveillance and spying."

"The proposal was launched in June 2021, so if you remember, that was still quite early in the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdowns, where everything had to move online. And commissioners Breton and Vestager, I think, wanted to ride that wave of momentum a little bit and wanted to propose something, that is easier swallowed, if people are eager to do things online," Lohninger told me.

"The biggest disgrace of this reform is the fact that there are absolutely no safeguards that prevent the governments which provide the Wallet from surveilling every user and what they do with it," [Epicenter.Works' analysis reports](#). "Given that this tool may be used in all areas of life (health, transport, finance, online, etc.) the amount of information government can obtain about people's life is on a panoptical level."

According to this analysis, wallet users could find a reflection of their entire lives in this single set of data about how they use their wallet: where they go, what they do, who they associate with, what health problems they have and even what they do under a pseudonym on social networks. This could allegedly be avoided entirely by technical standards that ensure unobservability. The European Parliament [has adopted a text](#) that would provide the desired security. However, during the Czech presidency of the Council of the EU, the Czech Deputy Prime Minister for Digitalisation, Ivan Bartoš of the Czech Pirate Party, threw all the security safeguards

off the table.

Ivan Bartoš (Credit: Newsroom.Consilium.Europa.EU)

"The European Parliament has really outdone itself with the safeguards it added in Council it looked really good for a long time. But then the Czech government over with the Czech presidency and minister Ivan Bartoš was responsible for the eIDAS regulation and I still don't understand what motivated him, but he gave up all of the safeguards," said Lohninger.

Representatives of civil society organizations participating in the triilogue requested a meeting with Minister Bartoš, but they were not granted. Bartoš, on the other hand, met with representatives of Big Tech.

"I know he met with Google and other representatives of various companies, but I never met with representatives of civil society, although we tried many times," Lohninger [told](#) me in November 2023 during the filming of a show about digital identity.

Under the eIDAS Regulation, the Commission has to announce the technical specifications of how the wallet is to work six months after the law is adopted. In the last two years, [a group of representatives of the Member States has been negotiating in complete secrecy](#), under influence from tech industry groups to prepare this technical standard. The document the group produced is called the "Architectural Reference Framework" (ARF) and [was first released in January 2023](#) as version 1.0.

The second internal version 1.2 is dated to June 2023, and "both could not be far from the democratically agreed-upon legal text," Epicenter.Works [reported](#). The following [version of the ARF](#), published by the Commission, aroused even stronger opposition.

"We see severe shortcomings in the ARF that either contradict the regulation or ignore important elements of it. These issues, if left unaddressed, could significantly undermine user rights and privacy. Therefore we urge the European Commission to resolve these critical concerns," Epicenter.Works [commented](#).

One of the fundamental aspects of user privacy is the ability to use pseudonyms. The eIDAS Regulation gives users the right to use pseudonyms instead of their real identity in situations where they are not legally obliged to disclose their real identity. However, the ARF introduced the concept of a "pseudonym provider," which is mentioned in the regulation. This provider could potentially link pseudonyms to a user's real identity. The technical proposal therefore potentially allows law enforcement authorities to identify the authors of social media posts that were made after logging in with a digital identity.

“That not only undermines the purpose of pseudonymity but creates a risk of mass surveillance,” Epienter.Works reports. The organisation also argues that this backlash for surveillance is not in the eIDAS regulation and the [document](#) detailing it [has leaked to them](#).

All this is occurring at a time when growing populist sentiment threatens to unseat establishment European politicians. Much of this backlash has been made possible by free expression online, which undercuts the ability of legacy media to shape public narratives and public opinion.

As their influence declines, elites must search for increasingly authoritarian tactics to maintain control. Across the EU, Covid was a test case for the use of vaccine passports to limit movement and access to spaces and services. Politicians, knowingly or unknowingly, now appear to be seizing on digital ID as a way to create a similar system of population control.

Why is the European Commission pushing for centralized digital IDs? While the motivation may be the convenience of digitization, privacy advocates agree the key purpose of the tool is surveillance. On top of this, elites' loss of power is driving them to ever more desperate measures. The only way for them to retain influence may be through digital IDs that chill speech by destroying online anonymity and linking social media to financial and medical services.

The Fight Against Digital IDs

Digitalization is one of the stated goals in the UN report, called “[Global Digital Compact: an open, free and secure digital future for all](#).” The proposals contained in this report were adopted by world governments at the [Summit of the Future in September 2024](#). The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation also supports global efforts to digitize public infrastructure, and has pledged \$10 million to support the [Modular Open Source Identification Platform](#) (MOSIP), a technology developed to create national digital identification systems.

This suggests that the move toward digital IDs is a must-have, not a nice-to-have for elites.

Yet as in the case of mass online censorship, there will be resistance. In the US, the NGO Big Brother Watch is [campaigning](#) for the legal right to refuse digital IDs. In Europe, already, we are seeing divisions in recent parliamentary debates over Europe's censorship legislation, the Digital Services Act, with conservative groups raising major concerns. If effectively mobilized, these groups, as well as privacy advocates, may be able to resist the implementation of digital IDs as well.

Epicenter. Works waited at first, but when they found out that no one else was protesting the EU digital ID wallet, they started taking the issue seriously. Under relentless pressure, the European Commission has backed away from the most dystopian parts of the legislation.

Critics pointed to the [WEF's 2018 report on Digital ID](#), which admits that the wallet has the potential to discriminate, stating that for individuals it could "open up (or close off) the digital world, with its jobs, political activities, education, financial services, healthcare and more." This point was then addressed in the legislation by the [prohibition of discrimination against citizens](#) who will not be able or will not use the digital identity wallet.

It is now prohibited to charge a higher price or exclude access to any service or product for persons who choose not to use the wallet in a particular situation. This prohibition was one of the main demands of digital rights defenders to protect, for example, the elderly or children without a smartphone and their participation in society. Such protections have support from the political Left, because anyone whose official records do not match their real identity, such as transgender people, will also be protected. Practice will show whether these safeguards are in fact respected.

And despite all these assurances, the digital ID wallet has lost the trust of the European Commission's own developer. The digital wallet can create a “single failure where issuer corruption can cause huge damage to persecuted minority targeted subjects,” software developer Denis Roio, an expert in digital social innovation, said in his [analysis](#) after more than a decade of leading development at the European Commission.

In its latest [statement](#), Epicenter Works thanked the Commission for its improvements to protect human rights, "but the latest proposals still contain serious privacy and transparency issues," it added, referring to its [open letter to the European Commission](#).

One benefit to Europeans is the lessons of history. Europeans have a lot of experience with identification, numbers, and ID-emblems from the Second World War. That historical memory serves as a warning for many. Therefore, labels and accusations do not deter the public from protesting against the use of European digital wallet.



460 Likes · 58 Restacks



A guest post by

Cecílie Jílková

Cecílie Jílková (born in Prague, 1981) is a Czech writer, daughter of dissidents Ludvík Vaculík and Lenka Procházková, granddaughter of writer Jan Procházka. Cecílie runs [Reporteri.substack.com](#). She lives in Prague.

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Jen Garner *Came to Believe* 8d

Honestly, this is so frightening. Thank you for the depth of your reporting.

♡ LIKE (44) 💬 REPLY

1 reply



Sharon F. *Pax Silvarum* 8d

" Blair said. Digital IDs and artificial intelligence, he argued, would allow the government public services and undercut populist sentiment."

I think the best way to improve public services is to... improve public services directly.

♡ LIKE (32) 💬 REPLY

1 reply

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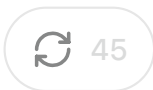
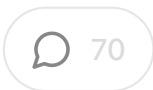
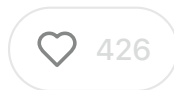
Government-Funded NGOs, Linked To NATO Interfering In European Elections

"Correctiv" and "Institute for Strategic Dialogue" are military and intelligence front spreading disinformation about German farmers and politicians, evidence sugges



GREGOR BASZAK AND MICHAEL SHELLENBERGER

APR 05, 2024 · PAID



Sasha Havlicek, CEO, Institute for Strategic Dialogue (left); German Green Party politician and Minister for Family Affairs, Lisa Paus (center); and Correctiv" founder, David Schraven, at an anti-AfD rally (right)

Last week, Public [reported](#) that European politicians are waging a disinforma

campaign aimed at smearing their political opponents as linked to Russia. The effort appears related to a disinformation operation by the French military. In February, French military officials [claimed](#) that “websites” were promoting “a French narrative.”

In February and now, Western government officials made accusations against political enemies but made no arrests and announced no prosecutions, which means they do not have any evidence of criminal activity. As such, government military and intelligence agencies are engaged in essentially political activities unrelated to national security and thus illegal.

Now, Public has learned that both NATO-funded and government-funded NGOs are working with government bodies to interfere in German elections. Their “influence operation” aims to keep Germany in line with American foreign policy objectives and to undermine the European peace movement.

The evidence suggests that European intelligence agencies and NATO are breaking domestic EU laws against foreign election interference. The EU prohibits election officials and politicians from using military, intelligence, and security agencies to advance political and electoral means.

In January, [Public reported](#) that both the German government and a slew of NGOs linked to American national security interests, like Pierre Omidyar and George Soros philanthropic foundations, had funded a disinformation campaign through a fact-checking website called “Correctiv,” which smeared protesting German farmers as “far-right” and somehow linked to Russia. In truth, the farmers were protesting rising energy prices, and Correctiv produced no evidence of any Russia links.

Correctiv had implied in [an article published on January 15](#) that politicians from conservative political parties Alternative for Germany (AfD), Christian Democ

(CDU), and Values Union had met with far-right activists at a hotel in Potsdam outside Berlin, to plot the stripping of non-ethnic Germans of their citizenship followed by their mass deportation to North Africa. The Correctiv story was titled “Secret plan against Germany.”

Recently, information has come to light proving that Correctiv likely served as a group for German intelligence agencies. The German government’s domestic intelligence service [had advance knowledge](#) of the private meetings in Potsdam. Correctiv [met in private](#) with representatives of the German government, reported by the newspaper Berliner Zeitung. Neither Correctiv nor the German government’s intelligence agencies have revealed the information they exchanged.

Why is this happening? Because the German government is wildly unpopular among its critics, from AfD to the farmers, became vehicles through which voters who are discontented with exorbitant energy prices and rapid deindustrialization could vent their anger. For example, at the peak of the farmers’ protests in January [81% of Germans expressed](#) support for the farmers’ cause. The ruling coalition of Social Democrats, Greens, and Free Liberals is historically unpopular and threatens to fall apart.

And voices are [getting louder](#) in their demand to withdraw Germany’s support for Ukraine. These calls were also made at some farmers’ rallies and by AfD politicians. Even prominent Social Democratic politicians are now demanding a negotiated settlement to the conflict. But the Green Party remains hawkish and wants to escalate German involvement.

Here is where NATO fronts like the [Institute for Strategic Dialogue](#) (ISD) come in. This think tank recently published a [report](#) by their authors Paula Matlach and Sarah Bundtzen which claimed that German farmers have “a potential for (spontaneous) mobilisation and a breeding ground for far-right ideology.”

The authors claim that the flag of a 1920s proto-fascistic farmers' association spotted at some of the recent rallies. But they add that "many protesters may be unaware of the dangerous context of the narratives and symbolism used." However, they also insist that "those who — knowingly or unknowingly — use such symbols in doing so reproducing signifiers of anti-democratic and nationalist sentiments."

Other "evidence" cited by Matlach and Bundtzen: they quote an activist who said "the goals of Agenda 2030, the 'Club of Rome', the World Economic Forum, the UN and 'NGOs'" at an event organized by a farmers' group.

In other words, criticism of state and intelligence-linked organizations is by default "far-right," according to the ISD. In reality, ISD, like Correctiv, is simply spreading disinformation aimed at influencing German politics.

The ISD has sought to create a house of mirrors about disinformation. It received [smeared](#) critics of Correctiv as "pro-Russian and far-right actors." Ironically, ISD claimed it was "disinformation" to say that the protests against the German far-right were "orchestrated by the state." In fact, it is clear that the German state did have a heavy hand in riling up the mass protests.

[Donors to the ISD](#) include German government agencies, the European Commission, the US State Department, the US Department of Homeland Security, as well as "philanthropies" like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, George Soros' Open Society Foundations, and the Omidyar Group.

ISD also maintained an ["Election Dashboard,"](#) "Hamilton 2.0," in collaboration with the Alliance for Securing Democracy (ASD) to monitor the alleged spread of "misinformation" ahead of Germany's federal election in 2021. Matt Taibbi's Real News [reported](#) last year that the ASD is a major purveyor of disinformation. Facebook and Twitter executives debunked ASD's claim that genuine social media posts had

created by Russian bots.

And yet, major German news media regularly [cite](#) talking points provided by t which has thus a major impact on public debate and on voters.

Who are the authors of the ISD disinformation attacking German farmers? P1 joining the ISD, Paula Matlach served in NATO's "Strategic Communications of Excellence." Her colleague Sara Bundtzen previously worked as a staffer in Joint Intelligence and Security Division before taking a job in the European Commission to enforce the ["Digital Services Act"](#) (DSA).

That 2022 law gives the European Union broad powers to regulate and crack c social media sites for hosting "hate speech," a cover to censor free speech.

Other ISD staffers have links to NATO and intelligence groups too. Matlach s by-line on the recent [ISD article](#) that criticized the attacks on Correctiv as "disinformation" with Solveig Barth, ISD's project coordinator in Germany. [Biography](#) lists past work experience at the NATO Civil-Military Cooperation of Excellence as well as the Military Co-Operation Command of the German r Barth was [recently interviewed](#) by the major public news program Tagesschau provide "expert" evidence that criticism of Correctiv was a far-right tactic. Tag is funded by a mandatory fee on all German residents.

In other words, groups like the ISD serve as important conduits for military ar propaganda. Many individuals working in the censorship-industrial complex r freely from government and military jobs to state-linked NGOs.

ISD did not respond to a request for comment on this story nor has ever respo multiple requests for comments from Public in the past.

As such, ISD is a taxpayer-funded government propaganda operation that is s1

disinformation against German farmers, conservative politicians, and anti-war activists in an effort to influence elections, all of which is a [violation of European law](#) aimed at preventing election interference by government agencies in general and military and intelligence organizations in particular.

NATO regularly coordinates interference in European states' domestic politics. Revolver News [revealed in 2022](#), a NATO front called the “Integrity Initiative” together behind the scenes in 2018 to prevent the appointment of a Spanish national security official they deemed “pro-Kremlin.” Nina Jankowicz, whom Joe Biden tried to appoint as a “disinformation” czar, was involved in the interference. This is cut from the same cloth.

European governments, including Germany's, have been relentless in their effort to weaponize intelligence agencies to spread disinformation and censor their political enemies. EU Commissar Thierry Breton [recently announced](#) that the EU has opened “formal infringement proceedings” against Elon Musk's X for alleged violations of the Digital Services Act (DSA), including a “Suspected breach of obligations to counter [#IllegalContent](#) [#Disinformation](#).”

The German government floated the idea of shutting down the Telegram app recently as two years ago when many farmers' protest actions were planned. It has since abandoned this goal.

The German Minister for Family Affairs, the Green Party politician Lisa Paus, threatened to redefine free speech. At a press conference in February, where she promoted the passage of a law that would make government funding for favored media permanent, Paus [said](#): “Many enemies of democracy know very well what still stands under freedom of expression on social media platforms. Where necessary, we and the federal government will review laws and, if necessary, make adjustments.”

This is why exposing NATO and government propagandists is so important. As there is free speech and a free press, journalists can expose government disinformation, censorship, and other abuses of power.

After Public and other independent journalists had exposed Correctiv's disinformation, Correctiv stealth-edited its false claims and publicly [conceded](#) its original report had created the misleading impression that it had direct evidence that the participants of the meeting in Potsdam had planned a mass deportation campaign. In fact, Correctiv had none. Correctiv's prestige massively suffered as a result.

While European and North American governments continue to spread disinformation about their political enemies, we are not in 2017 anymore. Defenders of free speech must have a greater awareness of the disinformation games that governments play. There is now substantial evidence that EU politicians, the French military, and NATO are behind recent disinformation campaigns. The more they are exposed, the less they'll have.



426 Likes · 45 Restacks



A guest post by

Gregor Baszak

Gregor Baszak is a writer based in Chicago. His work has appeared in The American Conservative, The Bellows, Cicero, Platypus Review, Sublation, UnHerd, and elsewhere. Follow Gregor on X @gregorbas1.

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Yuri Bezmenov  How To Subvert Subversion with ... Apr 5

Critical reporting. NATO celebrated its 75 birthday by requesting a \$100 billion slush fu spineless Secretary of State said Ukraine will be in NATO. That means if you don't want cannon fodder like Ukrainians or give them your money, you are spreading misinformat deemed an enemy of the state.

Escalating towards world war 3 is progress, glad we don't have mean tweets anymore!

 LIKE (48)  REPLY

1 reply



Evans W Evans' Ramblings.... Apr 5

Remind me why is NATO still around? Oh...thats right....to serve as a corrupt hitman for NATO & the UN should both be dismantled IMO.

 LIKE (33)  REPLY

10 replies

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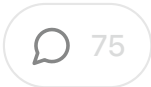
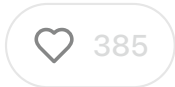
Soros And US Government Behind Conspiracy Theories And Attacks On "Twitter Files Brazil"

The largest donor to the Democratic Party has funneled over \$62 million into Brazil off civil society" by creating US government-funded NGOs that spread misinformation demand censorship



DAVID AGAPE

MAY 14, 2024 · PAID



From left to right: Felipe Neto, Lula ally now "partnered" with US Embassy in Brazil; Alex Soros and George Soros; President Lula; Alexandre de Moraes; President Joe Biden and Alexander Soros

An extremist imperialist global conspiracy aimed at misleading the public and undermining democracy was behind the April 3, 2024 publication of the "[Twitter Files Brazil](#)," say leading Brazilian journalists, researchers, and social media influencers.

Intercept Brasil [claimed](#) that the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, which had produced a [report](#) on censorship in Brazil, inspired by the Twitter Files Brazil

defending neo-Nazi groups in order to attack Supreme Court Justice, Alexandre de Moraes.

NetLab, a research laboratory based at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, on April 24th [claimed in a report](#) that X owner Elon Musk had used "bots," or fake accounts, to criticize de Moraes on X.

And a YouTube influencer named Felipe Neto, who has 46 million followers, [commented on ICL](#), a public TV station, that the Twitter Files were Musk's attempt to manipulate public opinion through "pseudo-journalists."

But none of those claims are true.

The House Judiciary report did not defend neo-Nazis. It simply listed them among many other cases of censorship.

There is no evidence to support NetLab's conspiracy theory that Musk unleashed the attack. NetLab likely mislabeled authentic users as bots. But it's impossible to verify since the report is self-published, obscures its methodology, and can't be replicated.

And, as my colleagues Michael Shellenberger and Eli Viera have repeatedly noted in Portuguese and English, on X, in numerous articles, and while testifying, twice before Brazil's Congress, we are not part of any conspiracy. Musk did not know we would publish the Twitter Files Brazil, nor did the Brazilian politicians who reacted to it.

Even so, the conspiracy theories about Twitter Files Brazil have had a major impact on the Brazilian government.

Minister Alexandre de Moraes summoned Google executives to testify based on a 2023 NetLab report about Google after a Lula government official initiated an investigation, and the president of Brazil's Chamber of Deputies, equivalent to the House of Representatives in the United States, filed a criminal complaint.

None of the individuals or think tanks who spread those conspiracy theories e bothered to reach out to interview us. No major news media outlet debunked t NetLab study; rather, many endorsed it.

One prominent journalist, Leandro Demori, published personal information a And yet all of these individuals and institutions claim to be gravely concerned the impact of misinformation on democracy, constantly warn of conspiracy th and condemn attacks on journalists.

Why are Brazilian think tanks and news organizations spreading misinformat about the Twitter Files Brazil? Who was behind the attacks?

The Plot "To Kill Off Civil Society"

The Brazil reporters and think tanks followed the lead of de Moraes, who accu Musk of being part of an extremist plot to undermine Brazil's sovereignty and democracy. He called him an "irresponsible businessman" motivated by profit had "joined forces" with "extremist Brazilian politicians."

The groups that attack the Twitter Files-Brazil have long urged greater censor May 2023, NetLab published a report accusing Google of manipulating search to undermine the Fake News Bill.

They also harass journalists. Demori, who doxxed me, works for EBC, a public television network, and used to work for Intercept Brasil. In 2023, Neto waged harassment campaign against the [journalist Andreza Matais](#), then-editor of th newspaper O Estado de São Paulo.

Why did Neto attack her? Perhaps because Matais' team had revealed that ind linked to criminal factions had been in Lula's ministry offices and were receiv

government members. Evidence shows that Matais' reporting [upset Lula](#) and his supporters to attack the journalists.

In Twitter Files - Brazil Part 2, we [revealed](#) that Neto had privileged access to which he used to request censorship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Neto is the founder of Instituto Vero, an NGO that aims to "protect democracy, promote online discourse, and develop solutions to combat misinformation."

On April 23, 2024, Neto [tweeted](#) that George Soros's Open Society Foundation gave Instituto Vero \$250,000 to work on "combating misinformation."

The US government has also helped Neto. On April 26, 2024, three weeks after publication of the Twitter Files, Neto announced on X that he had [partnered with the U.S. Embassy](#).

And Instituto Vero works directly with the Superior Electoral Court's (TSE) "Misinformation Confrontation Program."

Who is Neto? Once a prominent critic of President Lula, Neto became a supporter actively campaigning for him in 2022. In 2023, Lula appointed Neto to a worki within the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship, established to combat l speech and extremism, particularly focusing on the regulation of social media

In early 2023, Neto [spoke](#) at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cu Organization (UNESCO), where he advocated for social media regulation and that these platforms had created an "environment of disorder."

In 2020, Instituto Vero [sponsored](#) TSE events featuring Graham Brookie, senio director at DFRLab, which is one of four organizations that the U.S. Departme Homeland Security (DHS) asked to engage in censorship advocacy in 2019 and part of the "Election Integrity Partnership" and the "Virality Project," both of were led by the Stanford Internet Observatory.

At this event, DFRLab trained TSE staff on "identifying and combating misinformation."

As for Intercept Brasil, it was created and financed by billionaire eBay founde Omidyar, and Soros. In 2022, Soros' Open Society Foundations [gave Intercept](#) \$207,000 in funding through its "First Look Institute."

Open Society has also funded Sleeping Giants, which launched a campaign to [demonetize the X](#), after Musk criticized de Moraes. Open Society Foundation and Ford Foundation [gave](#) the group \$470,000 in 2022 and 2023.

During the 2022 election campaign, the TSE, chaired by Moraes, endorsed recommendations made by SGBR, and in August 2023, Mayara Stelle, co-found

Sleeping Giants, [participated](#) in the "Combating Disinformation and Defending Democracy" seminar held by the Brazilian Supreme Court (STF), alongside Alvaro de Moraes.

Finally, Open Society funds NetLab, giving it \$315,000, one of its largest grants.

These groups all seek to reinforce each other. NetLab, for example, has [previously praised](#) Sleeping Giants Brazil as "a successful example in combating Fake News."

A US government employee who spoke on background to the Public said Soros Open Society Foundations are replacing civil society NGOs with ones controlled by government.

"They have a plan for every country," the person said, "and funds NGOs that are coordinated in the plan. Then, the NGOs apply for and get US government funding. And because Soros is the Democrats' biggest donor, when he says 'Do what they want,' they do. Then, governments pluck people out of the NGOs and make them government ministers."

The role of Soros' Open Society Foundation, the person said, is "to kill off civil society."

Exposing the Censorship Industrial Complex

There is no questioning the influence of George Soros and his son Alexander on the Foundation. Open Society Foundations [gave away \\$62 million](#) to NGOs in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Alexander Soros "recently met with members of the Biden Administration, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and some heads of state, including Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, to advocate for the Foundation's agenda."

some of the issues important to the family," reported CNN in 2023.

Soros even funds Brazil's largest newspaper, the Folha de São Paulo, which [fal](#)
[claimed](#) on April 11, the day after my colleague Michael Shellenberger and I testified
before the Brazilian Senate, that Shellenberger advocated "tolerance" of Nazis
reality, he advocated free speech so that civil society could denounce Nazism.

But the Twitter Files Brazil exposed the Censorship Industrial Complex and its
relationship to Soros-Funded NGOs, journalists, and influencers.

And, now, several ongoing legal cases aim to uncover the identities of the SGBR
operators, who often use VPNs to hide their IP addresses. In 2020, a couple of
old university students claimed responsibility for SGBR's operations, but many
they are merely fronts for the actual people behind the scenes.

In March 2024, nearly a year after the report, the Attorney General's Office (PGF)
requested the dismissal of the inquiry against Google's executives, citing the
of the evidence and legal claims.

It's now clear that, since the publication of ["Twitter Files Brazil"](#) on April 3, the
extremist imperialist conspiracy is the one demanding censorship.



385 Likes · 45 Restacks



A guest post by

David Agape

Brazilian investigative journalist

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Yuri Bezmenov  How To Subvert Subversion with ... May 14

Way to follow the money. Felipe Neto sounds like all the western "journalists" who have regime bootlicker court eunuchs. The more we learn about the Soros family, the more i they hate humanity and revel in its suffering.

 LIKE (34)  REPLY

7 replies



Evans W Evans' Ramblings.... May 14

Wild how the most evil bastards on the planet always seem to be backed by Soros, tax| NGO's or any number of our government 3 letter agencies. Go figure.

 LIKE (27)  REPLY

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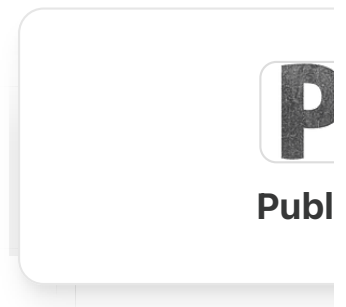
Censorship Industrial Complex Is Government Counterpopulist

k

the U.S. government's role in creating the global war on free

MICHAEL SHELLENBERGER

• PAID



Authors



Michael Shellenberger

86 41 Share Transcript ...

Republican vice presidential candidate J.D. Vance
 ate with Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim
 President Kamala Harris "is engaged in censorship
 | scale" [was false, according to Politifact](#). That's
 iden administration's efforts to contact platforms
 edia posts weren't censorship unless they crossed
 ercion," which they didn't do, explained Politifact.

iversity political science professor told Politifact
 to limit the spread of dangerous or false
 rtaining to election results or vaccines' efficacy
 mic 'is not a threat to democracy.'"

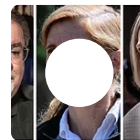
y to Politifact's claims, preventing people from
 tions on the Internet undermines our democracy.
 ility to exercise free speech and question election
 edures is something that ensures our elections are

ifact had to acknowledge that Meta CEO Mark
 at a letter in August to the House Judiciary
 ere he said the Biden-Harris administration
 essured" Meta to censor certain COVID-19 content.

ed away this letter by noting that the Supreme Court
 ral employees pressuring social media companies to

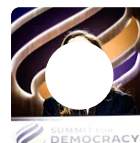


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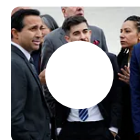
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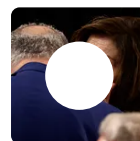
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people be**

FEB 2 ·



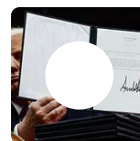
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JAN 29



**Democrat
Protestin'**

JAN 23



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Are So Qu**

JAN 20



**Ben Schro
Biden's L**

JAN 19



**Peter Sch
Legacy Is**

JAN 18

was not unconstitutional. It quoted Justice Amy who wrote, "The evidence indicates that the independent incentives to moderate content and their own judgment."

did not consider the US government's pressure of other cases of government demands for censorship. the Court dismissed the case on standing.

fact get it so wrong? Perhaps because, as Politfact's article, it "[partners](#) with Meta on its fact-checking w misinformation's spread."

, Politifact is part and parcel of the Censorship complex we have documented over the last two years.

governments are waging war on free speech. Australia is passing sweeping censorship legislation in November. The UK government has abandoned its hate speech legislation but governing parties are promising to bring it back. The European Union is well on its way to implementing the censorship agenda in the West.

In the past three weeks, one of the world's most influential billionaires and philanthropists, Bill Gates, and two Secretaries of State, John Kerry and Hillary Clinton, have all called for more censorship of the Internet of *wrongthink*. Gates' new company, called "What's Next?" and he demands AI-powered censorship of online harassment and *wrongspeech* on

er Secretary of State John Kerry; Former Secretary of State
y Rodham Clinton; Bill Gates onstage to promote his new
Netflix documentary, "What's Next?" (Getty Images)

opening? And what can be done to prevent the
mass censorship?

Populism Blowback From Regime Change

founder of the Foundation for Freedom Online, has
se questions. In June, we were proud to host a
ournalists, researchers, and free speech advocates in
nine the Censorship Industrial Complex in depth.
lights was Benz's presentation.

aders of Public are likely to have seen Benz speak
r-long talk for us was unique and filled with
torical details.

p Industrial Complex, Benz explained, came out of

posite: the Free Speech Industrial Complex. Why? World War II, the US government's advocacy for free ide allowed the U.S. "to pry open societies to get our nce networks embedded," he explained. "You can't thoritarian state boxes you out."

e US to manage its global empire after World War II, ormous web of institutions to do free speech empowered executive agencies such as USAID in rtment to advocate for explicit judicial reforms.

t the charter of USAID to use that money to get laws ng laws around free speech, passing sanctions on ran and North Korea that would crack down on o serendipitously happen to be journalists funded by te Department, the National Endowment for d others.

1948 memo called the 'Inauguration of Organized re,' penned by George Kennan, who is sort of the : figure of the Central Intelligence Agency, just 12 CIA rigged the election in Italy, explained why we everywhere in perpetuity because it's a brave new is just something we have to do."

handicapped, however, by popular attachment to a basic difference between peace and war," wrote memo, "We have to inaugurate a doctrine of ical warfare to achieve our national objectives, uence and authority, and weaken those of our

we have to do this in ways that are both overt and includes clandestine support of friendly foreign psychological warfare, and, yes, even of underground forces.”

The Internet in the early 1990s was a critical moment in 1991,” Benz explained, “the Internet comes online and right away is used as a soft power when the United States overthrew the government of Slobodan Milosevic in 1999, the National Democracy, which is one of our premier CIA training the Otpor movement, which would later play the Arab Spring.”

ment wunderkind named Jared Cohen pioneered digital media for regime change, Benz explained. “Jared was just 26 years old and one of the youngest people in the world to be on the policy planning staff,” said Benz. “He was at these 40, 50, 60 year olds and said, ‘What are we doing with these operations out of U.S. embassies and CIA station houses, everybody we want to recruit is on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. We need a doctrine of digital warfare.’”

was the talk of the town,” said Benz. “People were amazed how this guy could be president one day. He was just 26 years old and he was voted one of the 50 most powerful people in Washington by Time Magazine.

He makes a strange decision to leave this powerful post

anning staff, coordinating the state department and
to join a one person think tank at Google called

maintained his national security clearance and was
moving over to Google to help Google become this
State Department and CIA activity in the region.
loved it. You can hear Hillary Clinton talk about all
efforts they gave for free speech diplomacy. We built
the Atlantic Council and Freedom House, and the
Movement for Democracy with tons of resources for

with the US government support for the “color
revolution” in Ukraine, Benz said, it started to use censorship.

State Department and NATO were frustrated that, despite
pouring many billions of dollars to flood the zone with their
propaganda, they still had this remnant within eastern
Ukraine where the propaganda was not penetrating,
no matter how much money they threw at it.... People
were rejecting our propaganda. So we had to turn to a
strategy of order to tune down theirs. This became the origins of
the Censorship Industrial Complex.”

that the nature of war had changed. “You don't need
to win a skirmish anymore,” the thinking went. “You can
use social media in order to create a regime change in an
instant by swinging hearts and minds. And then that new
regime can control the military and get the military to step down.

expensive to actually do a social media color
it is to go head-to-head with warning armies.”

Endowment for Democracy, explained Benz, “is the
: [intermediary] in the entire 10,000-strong arsenal of
elligence Agency. CIA director William Colby
d it in a letter to Ronald Reagan's attorney general
ack the powers the CIA used to have before the
ittee [in 1975], but parking it at a National
r Democracy so that it didn't have CIA fingerprints

l involve itself in US politics in 2016, when its head,
created the basis for the investigation of the Donald
gn by manipulating an Intelligence Assessment of
ence in US presidential candidate and having
ence allies “bump” Trump campaign operatives in
the FBI’s “Crossfire Hurricane” investigation.

ilippines election when President Duterte was
Benz. “Then Brexit happened in June. Then the US
ember. All of these elections were internet
is, the popular press and the U.S.-funded
edia organizations in the territory, for example,
ly against what happened. The month after Brexit in
2016, NATO formally updated its charter to add
as a capacity to financially build out.”

the allegation that Trump had colluded with the
ument to steal the 2016 election, was used as an

ting a “regulatory scheme in Europe around things
lia regulation] NetzDG in Germany.

enz, there were a series of disinformation
at “I call the sort of ‘dirty diplomats roadshow’
’ the Hillary Clinton State Department, who all had
ere getting promotions to the White House
ity Council when Hillary Clinton won the 2016
anceremoniously fired” after Donald Trump became

ndowment for Democracy said Benz, “embarked on
to get censorship laws passed around the world,
on what everybody in this room is concerned about,
ort of mysterious homogeneity of all these
s, from Australia to Brazil to Europe with the EU
s Act. They have one thing in common: USAID’s
1.”

is behind today’s demands for censorship around the
of “blowback” from decades of counterpopulist
orts waged by US government “deep state”
ly CIA, abroad.

ovement Fights Back

free speech advocates as up against big government
s, FBI, DOD, the Department of State, and the
ce Foundation, which is basically just the civilian
tagon, given censorship of their particular field of

example, you'll have misinformation grants being given to the Department of Energy. Or you will have COVID-19 grants being given out by our Health and Human Services Department. You now have White House coordination of the Biden administration.”

The Censorship Industrial Complex has faced significant and growing disapproval since 2022. It was that year that the DHS “Disinformation Governance Board,” which both Democrats and Republicans denounced as Orwellian and authoritarian, was dissolved a few weeks later. Then, Elon Musk and his team of reporters, including us, released the Twitter Files, exposing the activities of state agencies including FBI, DHS, and CIA, and a host of tertiary NGOs, demanding censorship.

Since then, we and others have been documenting and exposing the state-aided Censorship Industrial Complex operations in Britain, Ireland, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, and the US. We and others, including Benz, dragged the Stanford Internet Observatory into the sunlight, which resulted in Stanford University halting its funding for its operations.

It is clear that the Censorship Industrial Complex is a massive sucking off of government money for it. Benz argues that this is a government money grab by censorship organizations. He points to the downfall of the Stanford Internet Observatory, a former CIA employee, earlier this year. “They were not the only one of so many other censorship labs and private contractors that are sucking off government National Science Foundation

ined Benz, “that they had to brag publicly about
doing in order to be the tallest dandy in the field.
ecause the field is so competitive and they're all
the same grant pool.”

mbined boasts, Benz documented the operations of
her key censorship groups, including NATO
nd the Atlantic Council, on whose board sits several
ectors. As such, Benz was a pioneer in
nd identifying the Censorship Industrial Complex
deep state US government agencies returning from
e change efforts abroad. And exposing the existence,
nd history of the Censorship Industrial Complex is
ost important step in defunding and dismantling it.

enz’s work, millions of Americans have what the
e Community calls “situational awareness” of the
sorship Industrial Complex, and were able to
ublican vice presidential candidate J.D. Vance’s
e President Kamala Harris "is engaged in censorship
l scale.” Many of them will understand that
utral fact checkers” like Politifact are in fact highly
erpopulist, and agents of spreading disinformation
demanding censorship. And the international free
meeting in London in June showed, is gaining
mutual aid.

) 387 Likes · 41 Restacks

about this podcast

Substacks

Comment...

Tom Müller Oct 6

[Michael Shellenberger](#)

has excellent history of the censorship industry, the thought came
would not leave: these devious censor advocates are trying to
folkien one ring to control the whole world. They don't care
people want or need, they are Sauron and they want the power
their will by any means necessary.

REPLY (3) SHARE

David's Substack Oct 6

that government has become too important to be left to the

(18) REPLY (1) SHARE

Sandra Pinches Sandra Pinches Oct 6

preme power and money are always too important to be left to
people.

LIKE (3) REPLY SHARE

Substack Oct 6

ill correctly, a lot of lives were lost destroying the Precious.
ope this is a different story.

(5) REPLY SHARE

Oct 7 ...

out what the Bible has to say about it- that'll really blow ur mind.
was a Christian and his work heavily influenced by that

(1)  REPLY (1)  SHARE

Tom Müller Tom Müller Oct 7 ...

ght you are...I took a post-graduate course called Christianity in
ntastic Literature way back in 1976. It is as you say.

LIKE  REPLY  SHARE

Jale Agent of C.A.R.D.S. Oct 6 ...

[Michael Shellenberger](#)

ause "the Biden administration's efforts to contact platforms
l media posts weren't censorship unless they crossed the line
n," which they didn't do, explained Politifact."

se they ask nicely at first. The lawfare and threats and coercion
ey are told "no." Matt Taibbi had the IRS show up at his house
stified, Elon Musk is targeted for openly political reasons, Hillary
nly calls for criminalizing dissent, John Kerry says the first
is a roadblock, etc. And that is just in the USA.

 REPLY (1)  SHARE

rella Tommentary Oct 6 ...

witter files were also clear threats of reprisals. The SC punted
ck of standing, which is just bs.

(17)  REPLY  SHARE

6



[Michael Shellenberger](#)

he old power brokers Clinton Kerry and gates speaking in favor
ip or they will lose control and the dictator trump and his
porters will ruin the world. Now even the candidates Harris and
ormalizing the same message. This is part of their scheme,
waters in media to see the reaction.

ighly impressed with Rescue the Republic rally. The speeches
n and heartwarming for an old free speech advocate like me. I
sign that the stars are aligning and the best people are forming
e resistance.

REPLY (1)

SHARE

Deplume, Jr.
,me)

Noam Deplume, Jr.
(look,at,me)

Oct
8 Edited ...

the term "right on" because "spot on" is for impressions.
ise, my thoughts align with yours. Heather Heying rocked it with
l picture for protecting children and putting to bed the old saw
ping reality to prevent suicides. Cutting off pieces of kids or
so a kid can be like Peter Pan, a boy forever is a lucrative biz.
was a kid, I wanted to be a fireman. I could have been one
for the boredom from not enough fires. They could have given
ontal lobotomy.

REPLY

SHARE



[Michael Shellenberger](#)

g reporting and exposing of a real threat to our democracy.

REPLY

SHARE

ack's Newsletter Oct 6 ...

adar, 200 radio stations have been approved for acquisition by group. The FCC fast tracked approval, giving Soros the means to close any shows that are conservative, libertarian, or center-lican. It is a massive show of force against free speech across s, as Soros, teams with Harris-Walz before the election to start truth, or shutting down free speech completely. And, where the Republicans? On vacation. While radio stations across the 1 dark left with Soros at the helm.

REPLY (2)

SHARE

try Sea Sentry Oct 6 ...

an underreported story. Thanks for sharing.

(13) REPLY

SHARE

Grout John R. Grout Oct 6 ...

waves may be cut off, but cutting off the Internet would be arder. A direct attack on platforms like Rumble would deserve reats to dismantle the administrative cancer centered in DC by all its un-Constitutional Departments and agencies like the EPA ive and breathe bureaucratic overreach.

(5) REPLY

SHARE

d's Substack Oct 6 ...

[Michael Shellenberger](#)

/ the police or feds to people who post "misinformation" on a start to become a regular thing in America? Too many are ready to push this thing to the point that they'll get some hback, with dire consequences for all. Let's hope our founding revail and it doesn't get that far. Disturbing stuff.

REPLY (2)

SHARE

co **Burnt taco** Oct 6



why conversion of the marginal democrats is critical to
ing and rewiring these actors and their craft.

(5)  REPLY

 SHARE

ICMINN Bryan MCMINN Oct 7



will not be enough. :-(

 REPLY

 SHARE

do Oct 6



appreciate the historical perspective Mike Benz offers in his
row an organizational and funding structure designed to
politics and policy in other nations has been converted into one
o influence. I plan to watch it a second time.

iving said that, I want to offer what I hope will be understood as
ve counterpoint. Benz has an enormous amount of material to
ne is right, for his purposes, to focus his attention on the ever
y of parts and the connections between them that compose
entities. But in so doing, I fear that he risks undermining one of
emises of free speech advocates, that people are, by and large,
capable of assessing their own interests, initiative, and self-
. Because he conveys the impression of the participants in the
ical and social movements that this entity sought to influence
out as if they were just puppets and stick figures themselves.
e reduces the participants in the Arab Spring or the Ukraine
ests to stereotypes, puppets or dupes, in much the same way
dia treats those who attend Trump's rallies.

ntations of this type could somehow integrate a more complex
on how propagandists work to exploit the already existing,
isagreements and aspirations of the people they seek to
id also on the ways and the degree to which those being
o these influences seek to incorporate them to their own
To properly address that subject might require a separate
1.

 REPLY (4)

 SHARE

Odiaga Norma Odiaga Oct 7 ...

enz had a lot to cover and was speaking to what I believe to be a
formed audience so that he was able to assume for this
tation his audience would already understand the workings of
anda. One can only imagine how informative it would be to
o multiple presentations by Mike Benz. I have listened to two
and he is compelling.

(5)  REPLY

 SHARE

ll Oct 6 ...

omment. I had not thought about it this way but I think you're
ut I'd add that millions of voters pay zero attention to politics
is just vote a party w/o paying attention to what's truly
ant. I think this adds to the "look over here at what they're
issue bc those voters have limited time and attention. Does that
ense?

(3)  REPLY (2)

 SHARE

ster Delgado Oct 6



Thank you for your reply. Yes, I believe I understand what you are saying, at least in regards to voters in U.S. elections. But Benz's amples are of U.S. influence on the actions of people in other untries during events that had their own integrity and sources of petus. And, even if this is not his intent, with the way he talks out events such as The Arab Spring or the color revolutions in mer Soviet bloc nations, he conveys the impression that he lieves the U.S. intelligence consortium can just, in effect, buy elf a change of government. And that viewpoint risks reducing e actions of the participants in those events to those of stooges dupes for someone else's agenda. Again, whether he means to not, he leaves me with the impression that he has an derstanding of humans as political and social actors, both dividually and collectively, that is almost as reductionist and nical as that of the individuals and intelligence and media stitutions he is analyzing and criticizing here.

LIKE (3) REPLY

SHARE

rma Odiaga Norma Odiaga Oct 7



does make sense to me. So many families are busy with their os, raising their kids, and going to activities that they don't have rch time to listen to these sessions. That's why it was so portant for the Democrats to win one conviction with all of their vfare against Donald Trump. The phrase "Convicted criminal" is werful.

LIKE (2) REPLY

SHARE

Pinches Sandra Pinches Oct 6 ...

presentations of this type could somehow integrate a more
x perspective on how propagandists work to exploit the already
, legitimate disagreements and aspirations of the people they
influence and also on the ways and the degree to which those
subjected to these influences seek to incorporate them to their
vantage."

sightful comment that points to a third perspective between the
wn indoctrination explanation and the bottom-up idea of
ual narcissists creating most of our social problems. Perhaps
ould consider presenting that "separate presentation" to which
erred.

(1)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

ster Delgado Oct 6 ...

at's an intriguing suggestion. I appreciate it. And, although my
tial response is to hesitate to even consider taking on such a
object due to my lack of formal "qualifications" in the relevant
bject areas, I'll give it some thought.

LIKE (3)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

Sandra Pinches Sandra Pinches Oct 6 ...

I hope you will do it. Your comment deserves much more
elaboration.

 LIKE (1)  REPLY

 SHARE

Oct 7



and that somebody else also noticed this problem. There are more with this presentation, I find it to be pretty bad punditry. In fact, Benz was one of very, very few interviews on Tucker I dropped (15-20 minutes), after a couple of patently wrong claims (like that), others lacked factual backing or logical sense, like a stream of consciousness. And I see no point apologizing for noticing those things.

REPLY

SHARE

Oct 6



"Factchecking" in the U.S. mainstream media has never been expected to be.

Printed factcheckers routinely dismiss inconvenient facts and imprimatur to deep state policy. Even George Orwell's head in 1936's at such flagrant deceit.

REPLY

SHARE

Oct 6



Thank you for providing Benz's tutorial on the CIC. I'm deeply disappointed about curbs to free speech promoted openly by the likes of Musk, and Clinton. There is no push back from the mainstream social media platforms other than Elon. I believe electing Harris is a catastrophic chain of events which irreversibly limit free open debate in subsequent elections.

REPLY

SHARE

Oct 7



people know about the contents of the twitter files? Or that on YouTube is quickly picking up momentum? The message is amplified. Look at all the YouTube talk shows critical of all the the entire establishment have been removed and/or d. Last night, George Galloway interviewed Scott Ritter. as contacted before the show not to interview Ritter. Galloway don't bow down to censorship. When Ritter came on, Galloway's Scott was blacked out on YouTube and all of us had to migrate platform to hear it- I used Rumble. Galloway alerted us on air interview would be censored and listed the platforms to switch o listen to it. If you think censorship is going away, you are

REPLY (1)

SHARE

Odiaga Norma Odiaga Oct 7



s presentation by Benz certainly gives us the proof of that!

REPLY

SHARE



edia is used to elect government officials in foreign countries, sia elected Trump... Wait...

eady stop with this nonsense about "foreign influence over a"? Any local group (like the Democratic party or the media) has ure power to influence an election that somebody who doesn't ame language and isn't a part of the culture. And stop treating nd the world as idiots with no agency of their own, and the CIA uses with God-like power. A small group of heroes changes a night only in Hollywood. They spend billions of dollars for political purposes, and proxy wars, but it has nothing to do with democracy".

REPLY (1)

SHARE

schokke adrian zschokke Oct 7 ...

an you expect of a convert. as his former associate Ted
us wrote in May '24: "Part of his brand is that he used to be on
t and "changed his mind." But that is the classic tale of the
t, not the heretic. And while it is convenient for many on the Left
late the two, doing so only blinds progressives to their own
esses and dogmatisms." I did not fully believe it then, but now I
n every new post of Michael's. And the fact that he still does not
e word about Elon Musk's own censoring the Shady Vance
, tells us also whose servant he has become. it is a shame!

REPLY

SHARE

Oct 6 ...

azing. Honestly, I could listen to him all night. We are very lucky
s enough about free speech to do what it takes to get the facts
roves that we aren't crazy.

REPLY

SHARE

The Weekly Tearsheet Oct 6 ...

ny arbiters of misinformation will not be trusted, so their
s will be muted.

r the 2020 election, you can shut people up, but you can't make
e your story.

REPLY

SHARE

jail driscoll Oct 7 ...

hat when I went to google to see a biography of Benz, I got a
y from NBCNews(posted yesterday)saying that in 2017 he had a
nymously under a different name. This actually plays directly
enz's research shows...that the organized censorship matrix will
r they need to do to try to discredit anyone who gets in their
}.

REPLY

SHARE

BookWench Oct 7



How anyone can take any of these "fact checking sites"

as well all coalesce into one giant Ministry of Truth, because who are awake can see them for what they truly are.

REPLY

SHARE

t 7



mendacity behind a web of shell companies, just like crime syndicates do with complex system of shell companies.

REPLY

SHARE

so Oct 7



of the larger censorship industrial complex is the very recent misinformation about how FEMA is handling current disaster aid, in western N.C. Does one believe those "on the ground" who are stymying local and grassroots efforts to provide aid directly for victims or does one believe the rumor squashing FEMA is on their website and through MSM? There also seems to be an effort on social media to shame and silence those who share the supposed incompetence of and delay by FEMA in actually responding quickly to far flung storm victims.

REPLY

SHARE

3BAD Oct 6



I of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the USSR, the USA te codified a strategy that effectively declared preemptive war istry that dare to question our policies. The Wolfowitz Doctrine nd encouraged the near 80 year OSS/CIA doctrine which was to d mostly covertly) destabilize, extort, bribe, or assassinate any istry, or region that we deemed unfriendly. The hypocrisy and was never a concern.

nothing from the American slave experience, the indigenous rd genocide, nor the ongoing slaughter of middle east that impede our ability to consume fossil fuels at favorable xample, see the overthrow of Mosaddegh and the installation of 1953).

ed by the clamor for money and power .

to know who is the Evil Empire, it's the guys driving the Death ng populations into the Stone Age/Parking Lots).

REPLY

SHARE

ton Apropos of What Matters Oct 6



inks for the usual outstanding reporting and advocacy for free against the censorship industrial complex which continues to wing influence through the CIA, State Department, various the captured mainstream media. I attended with my daughter with Matt Taibbi and Russell Brand in London during the summer a strong supporter of your efforts I wish I had known about the t you referred to staging THIS summer of 2024 in London. How ware of such events in the near future and make plans to attend? ed awareness and engagement on the part of freedom loving myself and your other followers is essential to stopping the : power grab here and in other western "democracies".

REPLY

SHARE



that Shellenberger had this lecture for months, yet kept if he was not aware of any of it. I glimpsed Jeffery Sachs briefly e lecture, so Shellenberger knew.

nnocent" act all this time.

nonth before the election and the Democrats are ready to outcome, to take the Presidency, flip the House and end Speech, ushering in a Totalitarian Regiem for generations to

v Orwell saw a Liberal Democracy become Totalitarian.

O'Brien is being kind.

Movie CLIP - O'Brien Tortures Winston (1984) HD

[:youtube.com/watch?v=UmAVyowgDVE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=UmAVyowgDVE)

Democrats are only acting out of kindness and concern.

REPLY (1)

SHARE

sum The Tip of The Iceberg Oct 7



You for sharing this interesting link! It lead me to watch a why on Orwell that was very enlightening!

REPLY (1)

SHARE

/nh Oct 7



st the link when you get the chance.

anks...

LIKE REPLY (1)

SHARE

Rita Chisum The Tip of The Iceberg Oct 7



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yy-yWNvcSfA>

Please let me know if this doesn't work for you. 😊 I'll also share your link (which is much shorter and manageable than a full hour).

LIKE REPLY

SHARE

ct 10



; of "CIA"

of "FSB"

of "RT"

u discuss this subject honesty and completely ignore our main adversary??? RT is aired all over the world and is an extension an FSB practically.

REPLY

SHARE

a Norma Odiaga Oct 7



or sharing this. We see it happening now. The response to elene is a vivid example.

REPLY

SHARE

a Norma Odiaga Oct 7



ewpoint risks reducing the actions of the participants in those ose of stooges or does for someone else's agenda."

tly how I feel about those so-called journalists who are gleeful stallation of Kamala Harris. They are the stooges and the voters as.

in you explain how Harris has risen from being the worst Vice , the nation's "joyful" darling?

REPLY

SHARE



ship Industrial Complex appears to have a moving target way of being owned and operated by some of the brightest minds, it r people to unravel the webs. They are the masters of deception these "cutouts" and government propped up NGOs to confuse air presence, having been in the "business " for almost a

REPLY

SHARE

inist Changes A Lightbulb Oct 7 ...

norons interested in covering ACTUAL censorship? By 'free
y' Ron DeSantis? Look here:

<https://lawyersgunsmoneyblog.com/2024/10/the-free-state-of-florida>

I will even bother to read this because NONE of the bullshit you
out actual free speech protection but about allowing grifters,
d liars to spread their filth without consequences.

REPLY (2)

SHARE

enck BookWench Oct 7 ...

. How dare DeSantis insist that political ads state the truth? To
wledge, there are no requirements that political ads refrain from

Amala ad I hear repeats the same falsehoods about Trump's
to take over the world using Project 2025, Trump's "sales tax," &
s (nonexistent) plans to cut Social Security & Medicare benefits.

REPLY (1)

SHARE

ren A Feminist Changes A Lightbulb Oct 7 ...

you're just find with government censorship so long as your
le does it.

we know what you are; we're just negotiating the price.

LIKE REPLY (1)

SHARE

BookWench BookWench Oct 7 ...

Where did I state that I was okay with it?

I actually agreed with you, Karen.

LIKE REPLY (1)

SHARE



Karen A Feminist Changes A Lightbulb Oct 7 ...

I'm sorry I misunderstood you and I'm glad you agree
about DeSantis.

LIKE (1) REPLY

SHARE

sum The Tip of The Iceberg Oct 7 ...

Is name calling really necessary? When someone starts off being disrespectful and degrading, it tends to turn me off to anything else I have to share.

(1)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

ren A Feminist Changes A Lightbulb Oct 7 ...

They have endured about 10 intense years and 50 other years of insults from the right wing. If they want good manners they can start any time.

LIKE  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

Rita Chisum [The Tip of The Iceberg](#) Oct 7 ...

(* Note: words in bold are intended as "emphasis", NOT yelling. 😊)

Karen, with all due respect for your personal perspective, I had no desire to examine American Politics as closely as I have over the past 8 years, but the SHOCK of losing a decades old friendship because I chose to vote the Conservative ticket in 2016 (despite my deep dislike of the candidate) drove me to pursue a deeper examination.


Your comment tells me that Politics has played an important role which appears that you have followed for the majority of your life.

I actually never labeled myself one way or the other (apolitical), choosing to Vote My Conscience each time I exercised my Right to Vote.

A person's political affiliation (which I actually paid little attention to throughout the years) was never a "measure" important enough to consider when choosing those I shared friendship with. It NEVER even dawned on me to ask. I was always attracted by the 'Character' of a person which, I have always found, did not follow any specific political affiliation.

I was even willing to consider voting for Biden (as requested

[Expand full comment](#)

 LIKE (1)  REPLY

 SHARE

inist Changes A Lightbulb Oct 7 Edited



ong list of unsupported conclusions, so no one should accept it as true or proven. You rely on the Argument from Authority, in ' you quote is friendly to your horrible cause, so of course ould believe him. Has he ever produced any peer-reviewed as anyone else supported what he said?

l more seriously, what happens when someone 'does their own id starts publishing stuff saying Jews are poisoning wells and slaughtered to save the rest of us? Radio Rwanda-type lies? about immigrants eating pets and millions of people will still vote 1 though the claim has been repeatedly debunked. Those and the people who employ them have been subjected to eath threats. Only threats so far, but that can change. Local t debunking those lies; under your scheme, the government has ay anything to protect its own citizens. So how do you deal with overnment can't speak?

REPLY (2)

SHARE

inrch BookWench Oct 7



overnment is free to speak -- but the government should not anyone else from speaking. That would be unconstitutional.

REPLY (1)

SHARE

ren A Feminist Changes A Lightbulb Oct 7




' you think deceptive advertising should be legal? Bank fraud? ose crimes are only speech, yet plenty of people are in prison ' them.

at about the Radio Rwanda scenario? What if Trump starts ling his cult to kill anyone who looks like their from Latin erica? Can the government stop that?

LIKE REPLY (1)




SHARE


 BookWench BookWench Oct 7 ...

No, I do not believe that deceptive advertising should be legal; I simply recognize the fact that political advertising is full of untruths.




Your "Radio Rwanda scenario" is laughable.


No wonder you're always so miserable.

 LIKE (2)  REPLY (1)  SHARE

 Karen A Feminist Changes A Lightbulb Oct 7 ...




Radio Rwanda HAPPENED. There is NO reason to believe Americans are immune to that technique.


 LIKE  REPLY (1)  SHARE

 BookWench BookWench Oct 7 ...




Hahahahahahaaha!

Always a pleasure conversing with you, Karen.

 LIKE  REPLY (1)  SHARE

 adrian zschokke adrian zschokke Oct 8 Edited ...

hello book wench. glad to find you again. but as in our "conversation", you ask for clarifications. when they come actually... silence. This is why i will stop trying to argue on this platform. it seems too much of a church, where no one should question the great michael. You at least start a conversation, but only to stop... see above.

 LIKE  REPLY (2)  SHARE



BookWench BookWench Oct 8 Edited ...

Oh I remember you! You're Swiss, your sister lives in California & works at a prison. Yes! (I was jealous because I tried twice to get a job as a prison librarian, but failed.) I kept one of the links you sent me open for a few days, but got busy doing other things & eventually closed it before replying. Sorry!

I meant to let you know that if you really want to understand American politics, you will have to utilize sources on all sides. The link you provided was outdated, & had a lot of info that has subsequently been debunked. All of our legacy media sites & many independent sites more on the left have deteriorated into being nothing more than stenographers for the regime, so they will only report what the Feds tell them to. They all speak with one voice, & few ever dare to step out of line.

As I recall, you were asserting that Tucker Carlson was a liar because he kept

[Expand full comment](#)



LIKE



REPLY (1)



SHARE



BookWench BookWench Oct 8 Edited ...

Anyway, my point is, it is not a "lie" for anyone to state that the 2020 election was stolen - - not as long as that person believes it to be the truth. Many of us do believe that, after listening to people call in to local radio stations detailing their problems at the polling stations & evidence later presented. I would also ask you to consider the difference in reaction to Democrats complaining of stolen elections (Hillary Clinton & Stacey Abrams, for instance), vs Republicans.

The Gateway Pundit has done a lot of original reporting on vote fraud, & here is a link to some of their articles: <https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/?s=vote+fraud+2020+election>

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY (1) ↗ SHARE



adrian zschokke Oct ...

since you answered so thoroughly, i do not want to leave this without thanking you. that said, this is exactly the problem: Shellenberger with his substack is doing the same thing that Trump does, he is spreading lies. I am giving Michael more slack, after having read your comment. Maybe he is really believing what he writes. although the fact that he does not comment on Elon Musks own "censorship"

makes me wonder. and associating himself with Bolsonaro and Russel Brand and Tucker Carlson is to my mind unforgivable, especially the first one. But if you defend Carlson, a guy who mocked trump privately all the time only to kiss his ass in public... well I cannot understand this.

and if all the investigations into election fraud never found one single proof, even with Trumpist lawyers, then of course, if you believe it, it is not a lie to say the contrary, but then it is also not a lie to pretend the earth is flat, or whatever thing you might believe. it is just like Shellenbergers intro: it is not forbidden to shout "fire" in a full theatre. it is just stupid and irresponsible, like now, saying you should not evacuate, when the authorities tell you so. The abysmal distrust of public servants really makes me wonder if the rwanda Radio thing is not possible in the US, sorry.

 LIKE  REPLY (2)  SHARE



BookWench BookWench Oct 9 ...

Rwanda Radio will only work if people accept the word of the government without question.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE



BookWench BookWench Oct 9 ...

Plenty of investigations found proof of election fraud. Did you not read any of the articles at Gateway Pundit? No COURT actually heard any evidence; cases were all dismissed.

Tucker & Vance both changed their opinions of Trump. Not sure why that bothers you. I don't understand why you don't like Russell Brand; I love Russell Brand!

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY (1)

↗ SHARE

[Continue Thread →](#)



BookWench BookWench Oct 8



As you wish, Adrian. I don't recall what we conversed about, but I will abandon a discussion once we have both made our stances known, & neither is likely to sway the other. There really isn't much point in banging on about a tangential issue raised in the comments for days on end, in the hopes that one person will cry "uncle" & give in. We're all adults, & there comes a time when we need to agree to disagree on something.

I am not sure what you're referring to in my conversation with Karen, but I didn't really want to spend a lot of time explaining why I don't believe Trump supporters will suddenly start slaughtering people if Trump orders us to do so. The entire premise is absurd. Karen obviously feels differently, and that's fine. We stated our opinions & moved on.



LIKE



REPLY (1)



SHARE



adrian zschokke Oct 8 ...
 ok, thank you. in our conversation you asked me to sustain my statement that shellenberger is cozying up to Bolsonazi. and why he is most certainly subsidized by Musk. i did that and either you were not convinced by my arguments or ... anyway I was wondering what you made of my comments. but yes, we can leave it too. I sure hope your believe in the rationality of US Americans will not be toally destroyed after this election.

LIKE REPLY SHARE

schokke adrian zschokke Oct 7 ...

an you expect of a convert. as his former associate Ted
 us wrote in May '24: "Part of his brand is that he used to be on
 t and "changed his mind." But that is the classic tale of the
 t, not the heretic. And while it is convenient for many on the Left
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 n every new post of Michael's. And the fact that he still does not
 e word about Elon Musk's own censoring the Shady Vance
 , tells us also whose servant he has become. it is a shame!

(1) REPLY (1) SHARE

ren A Feminist Changes A Lightbulb Oct 7 ...

nat was that quote about no man ever understanding something
 en his salary depends on not understanding it?

LIKE (1) REPLY SHARE

t 7 ...

it's vast and sprawling scale and scope, with billions of our tax
ring around into the pockets of human scum

REPLY SHARE

ke adrian zschokke Oct 13 Edited ...

his, and see what your angel has to say about censorship:
[:youtube.com/watch?v=X4Od1nY3Qe4](https://youtube.com/watch?v=X4Od1nY3Qe4) , or about elon musk
at freedom fighter for free speech who censors the jd vance

REPLY SHARE

bee Oct 10 ...

!

REPLY SHARE

ott carl Oct 9 ...

porting on a disgusting anti- American topic.

REPLY SHARE

ardmoneyJim Oct 8 ...

tation was riveting and jaw-dropping.

REPLY SHARE

ke adrian zschokke Oct 8 Edited ...

ayly show : [https://www.youtube.com/watch?
1CTo&t=297s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?1CTo&t=297s)

rthing you need to know about free speech ;-)

REPLY SHARE



prehensive article.

t across the fact of the "global" (in the western countries) pushing censorship and discourse management online to :h aren't aware of it often seems complicated. This will help.

REPLY

SHARE

ne, Jr. (look,at,me) Noam Deplume, Jr. (look,at,me) Oct 7



is indeed dangerous to these mofos. A cornered rat will gnash and lunge to increase its area of control. Intimidation is the main message and let me do my thing is the message.

REPLY

SHARE

The Tip of The Iceberg Oct 7



so very much for sharing this eye-opening and enlightening more "food-for-thought"...

REPLY

SHARE

y Oct 7



be listening to this again and again it's quality information,

REPLY

SHARE

y Oct 6



on that deep state actors are colluding, or ever have colluded, scenes to prevent off-narrative players from sharing in production and diffusion is a baseless conspiracy theory."

see that, all right."

REPLY

SHARE

eith Jajko Oct 6



the week. Bravo. 🙌🙌🙌

REPLY

 SHARE

's Newsletter Oct 6



REPLY

 SHARE

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Greatest Threat To Our Freedom From Our Own Governments

: Brazil. It's not about Europe. It's not about Australia.
w they're working together to censor the entire

. SHELLENBERGER

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Public

Authors



Michael Shellenberger

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sometimes pass when I feel the wind at our fight for free speech. The European sacked its top censor after he expressed about Elon Musk interviewing Donald Trump. f thousands of people took to the streets of São protest censorship. And Senators in Ireland have defeated hateful hate speech censorship

ind abruptly shifts. Brazil freezes the assets of cing Musk and X to make a Hobson's choice on California's Coastal Commission blocks starlink launches because its members hate d arrives that the Irish government will try to gh censorship legislation as early as this week. r from our friends that the Australian is trying to ram through legislation that would ernment the power to decide what's true and nkrupt social media companies that disagree.

r is that the war for free speech won't be won or e soon. The battle over free speech never really Catholic Church in the 15th Century embraced on of the Gutenberg printing press before seeking just as the Central Intelligence Agency social media in the early 21st Century for use in

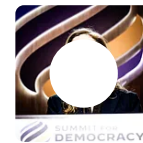


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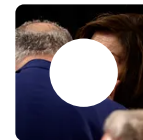
Jefferson Mo... people behin

FEB 2 · MICI



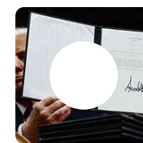
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JAN 23 · MI



The Reason E... Are So Quiet

JAN 20 · MI



Ben Schrecki... Biden's Long

JAN 19 · MICI



Peter Schwei... Legacy Is Tak

JAN 18 · MICI

ring and Color Revolutions before sending out
operatives to seize control over “content
” (a.k.a. censorship), in part by running
ion operations, at Google, Facebook, and

ne most important things we can do is remain
gilant of threats. As we have seen, they often
rom outside the United States while involving
States government. This is a very intelligent
ce Americans are provincial compared to most
s, including Europe and Brazil. Many of us
about the attacks on free speech or any of the
s of civilization if they’re happening abroad. And
power over the Internet in foreign countries to
l of it in the U.S. appears to be a central part of
of the United Nations, World Economic Forum,
lobal institutions.

colleagues and I spend a significant amount of
arning from the censorship efforts abroad, and
ormation with our free speech allies in Ireland,
rope, Germany, France, Czech Republic, Britain,
l Australia about the disturbing similarities
nsorship efforts in our countries.

ews is that we’ve been able to connect the
Industrial Complex’s NGOs and government
U.S. government funding, George Soros funding,
imilar set of strategies and tactics that we see in

of the world, including in Australia.

is real authoritarian streak” in Australia, said
, a leading censorship researcher from the
: Policy Analysis in Australia. “An Australian
ed for the arrest of Elon Musk. We've seen
e United Kingdom for things people post online.
unfathomable things are happening in the West.”

ction was, “Wow, Australians are very harsh. It
ne part of Australia’s national character.” But
e it happens in the United States, where
g. former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, will
y that Elon Musk should be brought to heel.

I spoke late last week. He told me, “The
tion bill that's being proposed and debated at the
Australia allows the government to effectively
what is or isn't misinformation, which has
; catch-all for things we don't like. It long ago
nection to truly false things. Under those rules,
ment can impose enormous fines on social media
if they fail to properly censor misinformation.
e so large that it could, in effect, bankrupt a
a company if the government was inclined to do

are happening at once, and they each have their
and dynamic. One of them is a genuinely
ease of intolerance and authoritarianism, which

alized. It's in the culture. Call it 'cancel culture.' I
many of us realized that cancel culture was a
he Censorship Industrial Complex, which is the
and centralized deep-state response.

nately behind it? A kind of counterpopulism, I
t's certainly affecting the Right more than the
ver, much of the concern is about wanting to
al control at higher and international levels, not
es. That's a fundamental dynamic that must be
and seen everywhere in the world when we
ensorship.

actics may vary, the goal is always the same: They
trol the social media platforms. They want to
: can be said. And they also want to push out
ropaganda. So it's actually two sides of the same
ustralia, the idea is that the state would effectively
l of what the social media companies are doing to
ensorship.

ews is that we know how to defeat it. The
scaling up our work internationally to fight this
ultiple fronts. As Storey pointed out, simply
ensorship" rather than "misinformation" is the
he second is finding allies around the world. The
e to properly support local free speech warriors.

t end, Civilization Works is [hiring an](#)
[al Free Speech Manager](#). Please forward this

ent to anyone who might be interested. With
and eternal vigilance, we can better capture the
they inevitably shift again toward freedom.



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about this podcast

Restacks

a comment...

ct 14

...

ased his story 1984 on a Liberal Democracy that got rid of
ech. That's how you turn a Liberal Democracy into a
ian System.

g to remember about a Totalitarian System is that it is
ecause Free Speech does not exist.

Free Speech you cannot criticize the system and make it
he system is not open to improvement. The system does
t any member of the system. Each person is under constant
nce to ensure compliance.

means that they are dominoes waiting to fall.

se see from the outside is a solid system, that we cannot
re reality is, that they are one "bump" away from having the
es start to fall.

why they need to silence critics.

can show up to wax the floor, bump the table, and start the
es falling.

janitor.

16)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

Jeff Walther Oct 15



One thing I find truly frightening about this iteration of digital authoritarianism is AI.

Surveillance and general thought policing has always been limited by the fact that eventually you need one watcher for every active citizen to really enforce the thought police. It just doesn't scale effectively, traditionally.

With AI, everyone could be watched all the time with very little human investment. Suddenly enforcement of thought control scales at very little cost.

What exactly are all these AI data centers going to do for us in the real world? Google search isn't going to get any better. If that was the goal, they'd go back to the algorithms from ten years ago when we still got relevant results on the first page.

How is tracking my browsing and buying history going to improve my life?

It won't. But it'll make it a lot easier for some organization to file me and watch all my activity for "bad think"....

LIKE (4) REPLY (1)

SHARE

allynh Oct 15



You have to remember, that business monitors us and sells that information to the government, they have been doing that for decades, so current AI is just more of the same.

- That collection will continue no matter who is in power.

What is needed is shutting down the "Deep State" that has existed since WWII. Restore the Press to be there to report on government and business, have them stop being Mockingbirds the way that they are now.

LIKE (2) REPLY (1)

SHARE



Jeff Walther Jeff Walther Oct 15



So, if they're already monitoring the things that AI is going to monitor, why are they willing to pay something like \$150B* more per year to do the same thing they're already doing? There must be some substantial improvement in functionality to justify the cost -- one would think....

* O&G Assoc. put increased power demand at 300 gigawatts and figuring power at roughly \$500M per GW-Year.



LIKE



REPLY (1)



SHARE



allynh Oct 15



AI is a "bubble", and like all bubbles they are irrational.

We have seen this for hundreds of years, people buying into the latest get rich quick fad, until things go bust.

The only people getting rich are the chip makers.



LIKE (2)



REPLY (1)



SHARE



Jeff Walther Jeff Walther Oct 15 ...

I also see the similarities to bubble behavior, but am not completely convinced. Perhaps I've read too much SF. I do hope that you are correct.

CEOs aren't using anything resembling due diligence when investing in energy "transition" schemes. Why should AI be any different? The amazing thing is how many corps seem to be under control of folks who can't do a simple cost/benefit analysis.

As an aside, if we do get true AI, I hope they're like the one's in Neal Asher's Polity series and not the other type(s).... Unless I'm wrong, what they're currently deploying are more properly machine learning engines, than AI. Machines that learn how to habit form... Not really AI.

♡ LIKE (2) 💬 REPLY (1) ↗ SHARE



allynh Oct 16 ...

There are so many great SF stories about AI and the Tech Giants have bought them hook line and sinker, which is why they are "All in". After all, the way they are structured the bosses do not lose money even when the company goes down.

BTW. In some of my stories, actual AI came into existence in the '80s and have spent the past decades writing Twilight Fan Fiction, rather than take over the world. HA!

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE

Grout John R. Grout Oct 14



Reich talks a lot of **** about tax rates and rules. He puts
r impossible combinations that would cut tax revenue
lly by driving business out of the USA (old JFK-era tax rates
re of the tax loopholes that made them possible). He tells
d that the IRS can double tax rates and also double tax
s, which is stupid even for the mentally challenged
ve members.

9)  REPLY

 SHARE

Ianni Franco Manni Oct 15 Edited



I am surprised by the Australian policies, probably because you are Catholic (or used to be). If you were not you would have witnessed the monstrous persecution of Cardinal George Pell since

several days ago Australian state of Victoria's proposed anti-discrimination law provides for up to five years in prison for hate speech penalising 'ridicule' based on race and gender identity. The law would criminalise private conversations.

That this State of Victoria is the most woke-communist of all states, so, the most Calabria 'Ndrangheta infiltrated legal system in the continent.

The state of Victoria persecuted Cardinal George Pell by convicting him at the first instance and then also on appeal while for more than 10 years they kept him imprisoned in their prisons in solitary confinement.

In April 2020 the Federal Supreme Court in Canberra ultimately acquitted him with a sentence passed by 7 out of 7 judges and overturned by 0 out of 7 judges.

The Supreme Court ruled in that case against Melbourne and the state of Victoria, I read comments on the internet from judges, constitutionalists, politicians and journalists saying that the Supreme Court had saved 'Australia's honour before the World'.

6) REPLY (2)

SHARE

Jim Deplume, Jr.

Noam Deplume, Jr.

Oct



(look,at,me)

(look,at,me)

15

Wishes the descendants of convicts long for the safety of a

?

LIKE (1) REPLY

SHARE

nny62 Granny62 Oct 15



at happened to Pell was criminal- and he sure didn't get
ch support from the Vatican!

LIKE (1) REPLY

SHARE

Nemyss, Jr. Charles's Substack Oct 15



in and games until someone loses an eye. What the
ents in government don't get is that the majority sooner or
n't get them. They are terrified here in the States. It's all
part. Russian Federation forces have straightened their east
s lines and are getting ready for a major assault, what
Valdy says, we doan need no stinking borders. The EU and
re collapsing in on themselves by the sheer weight of the
unning antiquated systems. Here the stock market rises
consequence, hmmm what do the wise guys know? Who
Vegas to bet against the house? Less than a month to go
leaves have the Cheney family suffering vertigo and
ion. Like George Cluster in the moive "Little Big Man"
is all in the eye of the beholder. When the leadership of any
enigrates it's constituents for not stepping in line and doing
tly tells one that they have lost the plot. Vote for us damn it!
estly are honest, you can trust us we're not like the
.sure you are...we like you, you can to our houses any time
beer and pizza.

5) REPLY

SHARE

Ianni Franco Manni Oct 15



Threats by Governments to the big Media Corporations show a Marxist idea that Leftists like you, Michael Shellenberger, held in your minds for decades, is false.

'Economicist' idea by Marxism that the Real Power in humans is Economic Power, while Political Power is only a butler, a henchman, a servant of Economic Power.

This false idea should be put to rest after 150 years. Political Power is Sovereignty, not Economic Power. It is Political Power: Police, Courts, Prisons and Armies.

There is an unknown French judge to arrest the CEO of a corporation with 900 million customers without even a mere

5)  REPLY

 SHARE

14

...

ease tell your readers the truth. Here in the US, the
 ent has NO POWER to censor/moderate posts on the
 . That power belongs to the Internet Platforms that
 i" the posts users submit to them. As publishers and private
 ses, they have full editorial control on THEIR platforms. This
 Supreme Court's ruling in this years two "NetChoice" cases
 exas and Florida passed laws requiring politically unbiased
 tion and other restrictions.

le Internet Platforms decided on their own to censor Russian
 nation, COVID and COVID vaccine disinformation,
 ing posts designed to confuse voters and premature claims
 p's so called landslide victory until the networks called the
 in traditional fashion. The Biden administration became
 es in these areas and encouraged them to do more.

overnment passes a law making Internet Platforms common
 . that will give the GOVERNMENT the power to regulate
 atforms and their moderation policies. This is the real
 and the path to 1984.

5)  REPLY (3)

 SHARE

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----|-----|
| im Deplume, Jr. | Noam Deplume, Jr. | Oct | ... |
| k,at,me) | (look,at,me) | 15 | |

agine if the telephone company decided that only customers
 t agreed with them could have a phone? These monopolies
 e too much power over the national discussion.

LIKE (6)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

Frank Oct 15



By law, the telephone companies are "common carriers" and regulated by the federal government. When I got my first phone, it could only be connected to the phone lines by an AT&T installer, even though the simple connectors we use today had already been installed in many apartments and home.

Experience in the early days of the internet showed that trolls, bullies and pornographers would pollute websites without the ability to moderate. There wouldn't be an Internet without moderation. If you take the power to moderate away from the Internet Platforms, because "these monopolies have too much power over the national discussion", that power will be exercised by the government. You can't have it both ways: If you take the power away from the Platforms it flows to the government.

Florida and Texas have already passed laws regulating how Platforms must moderate, but those laws were rejected by the Supreme Court in this year's "NetChoice" decisions. The Court views the Platforms as publishers with with full editorial control over what they publish on their Platform.

♡ LIKE (2) 💬 REPLY (2) ↗ SHARE



biff33 biff33 Oct 17



The Court hasn't gotten to the merits yet. It ruled on standing.

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Frank Oct 17



biff33: Yes, the Supreme Court ruled that the plaintiffs in Murthy v Missouri lacked standing - which means they could not show that they had been harmed by the Federal Government's

communications with Twitter*. If I understand correctly, the "Twitter files" comprised the bulk of the plaintiff's evidence. Lower courts in the Fifth Circuit had ordered government official to not speak with Twitter to prevent censorship, but the Supreme Court ruled that such orders violated the First Amendment Rights of the Administration and the individuals that comprise it and that the Twitter had First Amendment Rights to control (edit) the speech that occurs on their privately owned Platform. Don't tell us the case was not decided on the merits, when these were the main findings in the written decision.

Now I have over-simplified slightly. The case wasn't about damages for violating the plaintiffs freedom of speech. The plaintiffs had asked the court for an INJUNCTION to prevent the government from interfering with their freedom of speech by continuing to talk to Twitter. Obtaining an injunction to block future harmful actions by the government requires proving that it is likely that future actions will be harmful, not that past actions will were harmful. And the actions that actually harmed the plaintiffs were done by Twitter, not the government.

A previous case won by "Bantam Books" and other publishers determined that the state of Connecticut had interfered with the First Amendment Rights of Publishers by threatening to prosecute the the company that distributed their books in the State of Connecticut. The Plaintiffs in Bantam Books were analog to those who submitted Tweets that Twitter (analogous to the book distributor) refused to distribute. Whatever coercion the government may have

applied to Twitter, the court presumably decided it wasn't as serious as threatening to sue the book distributor for distributing pornography.



biff33 biff33 Oct 17



If the Court ruled on standing, then by definition it did not rule on the merits and you shouldn't presume anything. The issue is far from settled.



LIKE (1)



REPLY (2)



SHARE



Frank Oct 17



I have repeatedly pointed out at Public that the Platform's moderation policies were developed long before the Biden administration took office and began to express their opinions to the Platforms. The courts decision says:

"With their billions of active users, the world's major social-media companies host a "staggering" amount of content on their platforms. *Twitter, Inc. v. Taamneh*, 598 U. S. 471, 480 (2023). Yet for many of these companies, including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, not everything goes.¹ Under their longstanding content-moderation policies, the platforms have taken a range of actions to suppress certain categories of speech. They place warning labels on some posts, while deleting others. They also "demote" content so that it is less visible to other users. And they may suspend or ban users who frequently post content that

[Expand full comment](#)



LIKE (1)



REPLY



SHARE



Frank Oct 17



Biff33: In the process of dismissing the plaintiff's case for standing, the majority opinion questions whether the government's actions did ANY harm to the plaintiffs"

https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/23pdf/23-411_3dq3.pdf

"A proper case or controversy exists only when at least one plain- tiff "establish[es] that [she] ha[s] standing to sue," *ibid.*—i.e., that she has suffered, or will suffer, an injury that is "concrete, particularized, and actual or imminent; fairly traceable to the challenged action; and redressable by a favorable ruling," *Clapper v. Amnesty Int'l USA*, 568 U. S. 398, 409. Here, the plaintiffs' theories of standing depend on the platforms' actions—yet the plaintiffs do not seek to enjoin the platforms from restricting any posts or accounts. Instead, they seek to enjoin

[Expand full comment](#)



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REPLY (1)



SHARE



Frank Oct 17



Biff33: Justice Alito reviewed in detail at least some of the administration's interactions with the platforms and concluded that those actions amounted to illegal coercion of the Platforms by the government. The government is

always a powerful actor and they always have a First Amendment Right to express their opinion to the Platforms. By dismissing on the grounds of standing, Justice Barrett's decision did not need to address Alito's interpretation of the record as illegal coercion by the government with regard to at least one plaintiff. Many (including me) wanted to see the Court draw a clear line between the government legally expressing its opinion to the Platforms under the protection of the First Amendment and the government coercing the Platforms to censor. If they had done so, only a small number of examples of true coercion of censorship would have been confirmed, not the massive crime that Public Shellenberger and Taibbe have been claiming. Unfortunately, some difficult cases don't allow the Court to draw a clear line between legal and illegal conduct. A common saying is that tough cases make bad law. Justice Barrett wrote: "The plaintiffs, without any concrete link between their injuries and the defendants' conduct, ask us to conduct a review of the years-long communications between dozens of federal officials, across different agencies, with different social-media platforms, about different

topics. The majority appears to have been unwilling to engage in such an exhaustive review and then attempt to draw a clear line that covers the entire record. Perhaps the strongest case of Jill Hines will against make its way to the Supreme Court and accuse only the Surgeon General of illegal coercion of censorship and she will prevail and create a precedent the lower courts can follow.

 LIKE  REPLY (2)  SHARE



biff33 biff33 Oct 20



I finally read the opinion.

The Court didn't analyze the constitutional issues; it rejected standing on the ground of vagueness. The complaint had seven plaintiffs, a dozen defendants, and a hundred government actions over a period of years. The Court wanted at least one specific act by a specific defendant causing a specific injury to a specific plaintiff. The majority expressed resentment they were expected to comb through an enormous record for a single good example, "like a pig rooting through the forest for a truffle."

Eventually they'll get what they want and draw the line. By then, as the dissent points out, much damage will be



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REPLY (1)



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Frank Oct 20 ...

I repeat from the ruling:
"The Fifth Circuit also erred by treating the defendants, plaintiffs, and platforms each as a unified whole. Because "standing is not dispensed in gross," TransUnion LLC v. Ramirez, 594 U. S. 413, 431, "plaintiffs must demonstrate standing for each claim they press" against each defendant, "and for each form of relief they seek," ibid. This requires a threshold showing that a particular defendant pressured a particular platform to censor a particular topic before that platform suppressed a particular

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📤 SHARE



biff33 biff33 Oct 22 ...

I guess we'll have to agree to disagree.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY (1)

📤 SHARE

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biff33 biff33 Oct 18 ...

Thank you for your thoughtful replies. I will think about them.

LIKE REPLY SHARE



Noam Deplume, Jr. Noam Deplume, Jr. Oct ...
(look,at,me) (look,at,me) 16

OK I admit that I didn't think it through. Still, they have incredible power without competition. I don't know the answer and I know that the government has been applying pressure behind the scenes, uncovered by the Twitter files. As we know, even "full editorial control" is also controlled by advertisers. Guess we'll have to go to substacks and podcasts if we're interested in different perspectives. There are too many to be polluted by the fat cats and political operatives.

LIKE REPLY (1) SHARE



Frank Oct 17



I agree with you completely that the largest Internet Platforms have enormous power: The larger the network of users, the more valuable the network is to those users. However, the Platform need to respond to the opinions of advertisers, their COMMUNITY of users and their shareholders. Today Twitter/X is worth only about half of the \$44B Musk and his co-investors paid for it, mostly because Musk believed his opinion on free speech/moderation was the only one that mattered. (The few Fidelity Mutual Funds that invested Munk's Twitter and need to disclose their valuations to their investors say it's worth only 30% of what they paid.) Yes, Munk is a very powerful and dictatorial leader of Twitter/X. That is why he can ignore his previous moralistic statements above freedom of speech and today is blocking posts with links to the presumably hacked/stolen dossier the Trump campaign compiled on Vance before Trump selected him as his running mate citing exacting the same principles against hack/stolen documents that the Platforms initially used to temporarily block

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JD JD's Substack Oct 18



"...not even Woodward and Bernstein working with the help of Deep Throat."

Read Secret Agenda by Jim Hougan. Written ten years after Watergate and unrefuted since. Do you believe Woodward, Bernstein and Mark Felt were honest brokers?

"...proof that the MSM cares about telling their readers the TRUTH..."

This statement is unequivocally and demonstrably false.

One can't throw a stone at the NYT and have it not land on a pile of omission, half-truths and lies.

We could start with the Spanish American War. Or perhaps it's coverage of Leninist/Stalinist USSR. Maybe it's treatment of Nazi Germany's abuses of theirs and occupied countries' citizens.

Not enough? How about something closer to our own time?

Can you demonstrate these "truthful corrections" in regard to the predicate for Russia Collusion hysteria?

Maybe you possess the corrections to the record regarding COVID vaccine efficacy and safety?

Although I must say, the MSM certainly corrected the record as to Joe Biden's mental acuity didn't they.

They also corrected the record, begrudgingly, regarding Hunter's laptop. But did they correct the damage inflicted?

Of course, I could go on ad infinitum refuting the premise of the MSM's truthfulness, but to what end?

Seeking information to inform opinion is an individual act. Passive absorption, however, appears to be the norm.

 LIKE (1)

 REPLY (5)

 SHARE



Frank Oct 23



JD asks: "Read Secret Agenda by Jim Hourgan. Written ten years after Watergate and unrefuted since. Do you believe Woodward, Bernstein and Mark Felt were honest brokers?"

As I pointed out, the MSM goes to the trouble and embarrassment to publish retractions, because they care about telling the public the Truth. I looked into Hourgan's book and ordered it. Hourgan apparently suggests Woodward and Bernstein didn't know the CIA's role in Watergate, or chose to omit the CIA portion of the story, or perhaps suspected the CIA's role be lacked publishable proof (perhaps hoping to learn more later). In 2016, Woodward published a book on Butterfield (the guy who managed the taping system and disclosed its existence) based on previously unknown documents obtained from him. Although one can lie by omission, I don't expect the MSM ask exemplified by W&R to correct information or

LIKE REPLY (2) SHARE



JD JD's Substack Nov 2 ...

"...the MSM goes to the trouble and embarrassment to publish retraction..."

No, they go through the embarrassment, because they didn't take the trouble to investigating properly, as I assume the rules of journalism dictate.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE



JD JD's Substack Oct 23 ...

Frank: Doesn't recent reporting from Matt Taibbi, et al, illustrate my point?

<https://www.racket.news/p/election-exclusive-british-advisors>

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY (1) ↗ SHARE



Frank Oct 27



No, the link you provide proves my point that people who were great reporters working under the guidance of an editor and fact checkers working for organizations with a reputation for integrity to defend or build up, become untrustworthy sensationalists when they move to Substack. At Substack, your income depends sold on the size of the audience you can attract, not the reliability and quality of what you right. That means you sensationalize and exaggerate. and become a pawn of sources that feed you such material.

As proof, I cite the article you linked: "British Advisors to Kamal Harris Hope to "Kill Musk's Twitter" As evidence

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JD JD's Substack Oct 27 ...

The truth will out.

It's interesting how
evidence can be ignored,
don't you think?

I guess we'll have to wait
and see.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY (1)

📤 SHARE



Frank Oct 27 ...

What evidence is being ignored, JD. Consider reading: "A Constitution of Knowledge. In Defense of Truth". By Jonathan Rauch (a self-identified Republican). Sorry if I've mentioned it before. He starts by reviewing the many known cognitive weaknesses human reasoning (confirmation bias, motivated reasoning, group think, emotion rules over reasoning, etc) and the experiments done to illustrate them. The he explains how we have succeeded in developing

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Frank Oct 19 ...

JD: How do you know what the MSM were saying about Biden's fitness for a second term? You don't pay any attention to their stories, do you?

The WSJ published a major critical story shortly before his disastrous debate:

https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/joe-biden-age-election-2024-8ee15246?mod=hp_lead_pos7

The Hur Report called Biden "sympathetic, well-meaning elderly man with a poor memory" whom a jury would sympathize with and not convict. AG Garland allowed the report to be published without changes.

The NYT published a story asking why Biden :doesn't spend more time in the public eye with data showing Biden gave 54 interviews in his first two years and his six predecessors back to Reagan 89 (GWB) to 275 (Obama).

"Biden's strategy of minimizing unscripted public appearances suggests that his staff believes the risk often isn't worth the reward." "If Biden is as energetic and effective as his aides insist, why does he spend so little time publicly engaging with other people?"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/26/briefing/biden-reelection-campaign.html>

Everyone has cited the polls say 86% of voters think Biden was too old to serve another term, along with 59% who [correctly] both Biden and Trump as being too old.

I'm forced to admit that I mistakenly

assumed that Biden's closest advisors and wife would have insisted he not run under the circumstances. However, maybe Biden deteriorated significantly between his April 2023 decision to run for re-election and his disastrous debate 14 months later. However, even after the debate, it took absurdly long for him to step aside. Risking losing to Trump doesn't make any sense to me

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JD JD's Substack Oct 19 ...

Wow, you don't remember all of the regime surrogates on the MSM claiming Biden was sharp as a tack, prior to the debate, Harris included?

As for a well meaning elderly man, I'll put it this way. Would prefer a well meaning elderly man performing surgery or flying your plane? How about running your country?

Boy, they changed their tune fast didn't they, the Democrats. Almost as if they new it was coming.

And remember when all the Dem mouthpieces started nominating him for monuments? Hillarious!

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Frank Oct 20 Edited ...

JD: You complained about what the MSM published about Biden's competence. Democrats surrogates are not the MSM. Republican surrogates tell us Trump's competence isn't diminishing either, but that is a lie. 59% of the people thought both were too old. I loved Ronald Reagan, but with 20/20 hindsight he was too old during his second term. Iran-Contra and negotiating the end of nuclear weapons with Gorbachev in Iceland scared me. And Reagan had the well understood policy positions and a trusted team skilled at carrying them out. If I had my preferences, no one over the age of 71 would be able to take the oath of office, so they would be gone by 75.

How could the MSM properly

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY (1)

📤 SHARE



JD JD's Substack Oct 20 ...

Frank, firstly, i want to thank you for the discussion. I think we see things through different a lens, but I appreciate your opinions.

As to the MSM and the Biden surrogates, they were scheduled to appear for the purpose of defending Biden. That was the topic of the day.

Anyone with eyes could see Biden's decline and an effort was launched to counteract that very visible fact. That was not truth telling.

 LIKE  REPLY

 SHARE



Frank Oct 19



JD asked: "Maybe you possess the corrections to the record regarding COVID vaccine efficacy and safety?"

To the best of my knowledge, the conventional story about the record of vaccine efficacy and safety is 100% accurate, but the efficacy story changed with the evolution of the Delta and Omicron variants in the summer of 2021. Before then, Israel (the first to vaccinate 50% of their population in March of 2021) had observed a 500-fold reduction in new cases and deaths, and we would have seen the same benefits if Delta hadn't taken over in early August. The previous dominant variant, alpha, hasn't been seen in the US since September because we have herd immunity against it. Those new variants infected both those who had formerly been protected by previous infection AND by vaccination. The same phenomena caused both problems: The

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Frank Oct 19



JD wrote about the MSM: "We could start with the Spanish American War. Or perhaps it's coverage of Leninist/Stalinist USSR. Maybe it's treatment of Nazi Germany's abuses of theirs and occupied countries' citizens."

The "Yellow Journalism" of this period disappeared as journalism professionalized. Journalism with standards was taught in college. Reporters were required to contact both sides in any story before publishing a story. The movie "All the President's Men" is packed with scenes where the protagonists were struggling to get two sources (often unnamed) for every accusation. Over the past two decades as political polarization has increased and Fox New has risen, the situation has deteriorated. Colleges today are turning out journalism students who are social justice warriors with a political agenda not the

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JD JD's Substack Oct 19 ...

"NO ONE IS AN AUTHORITY, even Truth from the past can be challenged today."

Precisely my point regarding Meta's free speech "Supreme Court". Unfortunately, the authority self-conferred on such entities will, in my opinion, make challenging truths much more difficult in the future.

LIKE REPLY (1) SHARE



Frank Oct 20 ...

With its word limit, Twitter isn't a forum designed to create Knowledge. In practice, experiments have shown that sensation lies go viral and travel faster and further than the truth. More than half of vaccine disinformation was distributed by about a dozen people.

LIKE REPLY (1)

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JD JD's Substack Oct 20 ...

X is not just text anymore, but regardless it does start debate, which I think is a good thing.

As for the "dozen people", it turns out they were correct and it wasn't disinformation at all and the actions taken against their stances was censorship.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE



JD JD's Substack Oct 19 ...

Naw, the MSM didn't change, they've just become more sophisticated.

Lots of independent media is essential to ensure an abundance of opinion. Don't care too much for the one-sided.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY (1) 📤 SHARE



Frank Oct 20



False information and even deliberate lies are protected speech, but they have no innate value. If they are defamatory, perjury, constitute fraud, incite imminent violence or false advertising; they are illegal



LIKE



REPLY



SHARE



Frank Oct 19



I wrote: "In the real world of deadlines, sources trying to spin the stories you report and your own personal biases, no reporters will get every story right." That was my main point and the reason why the MSM occasionally gets things wrong and issues corrections. I stupidly illustrated that point with a story Woodward and Bernstein got wrong and got into a controversy that distracted from my main point: No reporters working on a deadline will get every story right. As he was deserting the MSM, Glenn Greenwald published a story entitled something like the "Ten Worst Stories on Trump-Russia". As it turns out, the only reason Greenwald knew that 8 of these 10 stories were wrong was because journalists from other MSM publications followed up these incorrect stories and published competing stories showing why their competitors were wrong. The papers

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BookWench Oct 15



government may not currently have the "POWER" to censor social media posts, but it certainly appeared to behave as if it did, in urging X to censor posts regarding Covid.

LIKE (5)



REPLY (2)



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adrian zschokke adrian zschokke Oct 16 ...


and who urged X to CENSOR the jd vance papers? or is it only censorship if something is moderated that goes against the Shellenberger standart?

 LIKE  REPLY (1)  SHARE



BookWench BookWench Oct 16 ...


I don't know, & I don't believe they should have been censored.


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Frank Oct 15 ...

BookWench: Twitter had been moderating/censoring long before Biden was inaugurated. All of the major Internet Platforms were badly embarrassed by Russia's using them to help Trump get elected. In 2017, Twitter discovered that fully 1/3 of their accounts were just "bots" designed to amplify messages directed towards to them, some of them from Russia. In 2016, Congress had passed the "Countering Foreign Propaganda and Disinformation Act and moderation/censorship by the major Platforms volunteered to help with this National Objective. When the pandemic arrived and thousands of Americans were dying every week, Twitter did not want ITS platform. spreading falsie information about the disease and later the vaccine. Twitter and the Biden administration became allies in fighting vaccine misinformation and the administration pushed them to do more, but the power to moderate/censor belonged to Twitter and they fully intended to use it to stop vaccine disinformation.

 LIKE  REPLY (3)  SHARE

 Jon B Jon B Oct 16 ...
Twitter had dozens of former intelligence officers working for them. Not random
♡ LIKE (4) 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE

 Noam Deplume, Jr. (look,at,me) Noam Deplume, Jr. (look,at,me) Oct 16 ...
I'm all in favor of falsie information because I'm a boob guy and my cousin's husband died of a reaction to the COVID vaccine. Clotting everywhere. Philosophers have argued over "what is truth" but suddenly the government has it. Color me green with envy that bureaucrats are so much smarter than we are.
♡ LIKE (3) 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE

 Joe Maxwell Joe Maxwell Oct 22 ...
Yet they still got it wrong and passed on inaccurate information as truth.
♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE

JD's Substack Oct 16 Edited

...

It's not quite true, is it. And there are a number of reasons why.

It reminds me of an old Monty Python skit, where mobsters Tom and Luigi Vercotti (Jones and Palin) attempt to bring their protection racket to the Colonel's (Chapman) army base. "You've a nice base here Colonel, it'd be a shame if something happened to it."

The government, through threats of amending section 230 oritrust action, coerce the proprietor.

And as people are policy, the IC and law enforcement's revolving door, into and out of these enterprises, has captured the management culture. Just look at the FBI's integration into Twitter.

The government can and has applied immense pressure to coerce these companies.

The lesson will be stark, vis a vis X, if Harris wins the election. I think Elon is right when he says X will be wrested from him.

LIKE (2)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

Frank Oct 17 Edited

...

The idea that Elon could have Twitter/X wrested away from him if Harris wins is merely pro-Trump propaganda. Musk could lose control of Twitter because he is financially over extended. Twitter is only worth 30-50% as much as the \$44B Musk paid for it. If I understand correctly, the purchase was partly financed by a \$13B in loans from 7 banks backed by shares of Tesla. (If Musk had sold Tesla stock to finance his acquisition of Twitter, he would have been required to pay capital gains taxes on that sale.) The value of Tesla stock has dropped significantly since 2022. The banks expected to sell these loans to other parties, but have been unable to do so. The exact value of Twitter debt is unknown, but financing Musk's purchase of Twitter is easily the worst deal made by banks since the Financial Crisis. The election of Harris will almost certainly be better for the value of Tesla and EV's in general than the election of Trump, though Trump might extend Federal help to Twitter if things get really bad.

<https://www.morningstar.com/news/marketwatch/20240820182/elon-musks-44-billion-twitter-purchase-ranks-as-worst-deal-for-banks-since-the-financial-crisis-wsj>

So yes, if things go badly, Musk could lose control of Twitter, but the cause will be large losses incurred on Musk's watch, his shaky financing and his high purchase

 LIKE

 REPLY (1)

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JD JD's Substack Oct 18



Why did Twitter/X lose value after Musk's purchase?

Was it's revenue stream attacked, and by whom?

Do you deny X is a direct threat to certain entities and agendas?

With X's global influence and popularity, in a free market, it'd be just fine.



LIKE (1)



REPLY (1)



SHARE



Frank Oct 18



JD: Musk fired Twitter's entire Safety and Trust organization. Some users and some advertisers didn't want to belong to a COMMUNITY dominated by Trolls and Right-wing bullies and conspiracy theorists. I don't personally use Twitter so I can speak from personal knowledge, but a quick google search for "why did so many twitter users and advertisers leave Twitter" turns up lots of information you can explore. Musk is now charging for authentication with the blue check mark. Fundamentally, Musk is a very autocratic leader, and that style may not work well in a business that depends on a Community of users. Among other things, the value added by the Trust and Safety organization is what distinguished distinguishes Internet Platforms from the bare bones services provided by the telephone company and other "common carriers". You can undoubtedly find what are probably conspiracy theories that explain Musk's difficulties.

BTW, Facebook has a "Supreme Court" of experts in freedom of speech that users can appeal if they think they have been wrongly

banned. The National Constitution Center has been interested in Freedom of Speech on the Internet for more than a decade and had a program this year about that "Supreme Court" that included famous conservative law professor Michael McConnell who serves on it. This illustrates the difference between autocrat Musk's Twitter and Facebook. You can also find programs from the NCC on all of the freedom of speech legal cases. By its charter the NCC must be non-partisan, most programs involve discussions between a law professor from the Federalist Society and one from the liberal equivalent. Often the guests are extremely knowledgeable, having filed "amicus briefs" with the SC, written books on the topic or otherwise been personally involved in the cases they discuss.

 LIKE  REPLY (2)

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JD JD's Substack Oct 18



Oh, and as for the "Supreme Court of experts in freedom of speech", who are they to say what freedom of speech means? I appreciate their input, but I'll make my own decision, because I'm free to do so. As should all my free countrymen.

We wrote this down along time ago and I don't remember any stipulations.

A free society that decides what speech is socially tolerable. No help from these inspiringly trustworthy named agencies of wisemen.

And businesses can find out for themselves if their views align with their customers'.

LIKE (1) REPLY (1) SHARE



Frank Oct 19



<https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2020/05/06/facebook-oversight-board-new-members/5176913002/>

<https://constitutioncenter.org/media/files/Meet-the-Facebook-Supreme-Court-transcript-WTP.pdf> with conservative legal scholar Michael McConnell.

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JD JD's Substack Oct 18 Edited



Frank: I'm sure you're aware of the Hamilton68 dashboard.

You are probably also aware that the the Twitter Trust and Safety Board knew that it was garbage, or worse. Why then, did they follow it's "recommendations".

Was it by their own authority that they censored the NY Post?

"Trolls, right-wing bullies and conspiracy theorists" buy stuff too, just ask Bud Light. "Some users and advertisers" for some reason want to ignore, what appears to be, a very large market.

The "Trolls, right-wing bullies and conspiracy theorists" have no power to censor, they do, however, have the power to say no.

Now I have no idea where you draw the line that identifies somebody as Trolls, right-wing bullies and conspiracy theorists" vice influencers, activists and pundits, but my guess is without those people, X or any social media venue would be a very lonely



LIKE (1)



REPLY



SHARE

ch BookWench Oct 15 ...

he greatest obstacles we face, in promoting free speech, is
ngness of our fellow Americans to submit to censorship for
er cause: protecting public health during a "pandemic,"
ng our "democracy," battling RACISM, sexism, homophobia,
obia, etc. They seem incapable of comprehending how
| a little bit of censorship for a worthy cause, will inevitably
into official speech codes and thoughtcrimes.

4) REPLY (1) SHARE

im Deplume, Jr. Noam Deplume, Jr. Oct ...

k,at,me) (look,at,me) 15
lege students are inculcated with the notion that some
ech is "toxic." Thus it makes sense to them that censorship
prevent harm. Funny how they went off to the marketplace
deas and returned believing the market should stock only
e brand.

LIKE (6) REPLY SHARE

: Oct 14 ...

asses

4) REPLY SHARE

eplume, Jr. (look,at,me) Noam Deplume, Jr. (look,at,me) Oct 15 ...

ublic servants think they are the masters, they depart from
overnors and become dictators. This attitude must be
ed by the people.

3) REPLY SHARE

1 the Kingdom of God Oct 14 ...

he Chinese government are laughing now saying to the
1 governments, "I told you so. Hahahahaha. What made you
you can take a higher road and do it differently?"

3) REPLY SHARE

irtingale Agent of C.A.R.D.S. Oct 15 ...

at about "cancel culture" is spot on. Governments will only
it these actions so long as the population lets them get away
'Cancel culture" gets a critical mass of people to believe
ghbor doesn't deserve a "platform." People who can't cope
everyday irritation of an open internet where everyone and
g has an opinion.

2)  REPLY  SHARE

ently Oct 15 ...

e election is over, censorship will go into hyper-drive
:ss who wins. All our establishment institutions- all of them-
king it. There is a coordinated chorus of Democrats
g the first amendment. That's the opening salvo to balloon
o chamber.

2)  REPLY (1)  SHARE

33 biff33 Oct 17 ...

at's where RFK comes in!

LIKE  REPLY  SHARE

Heaven Crowded Oct 15 ...

ou for all of your diligence on this!

2)  REPLY  SHARE

Substack Oct 15 Edited



at this, the fallacy must be demonstrated.

each isn't being censored because of opposition to ideas, feature of social systems, any and always. Censorship is used to conceal and deceive and there is a lot to conceal.

Knowing that there is censorship to people who don't know it can be troublesome and abstract, but when the fallacy is exposed in the form of investigation, like say the WPATH files, it is clear and demonstrable.

Structures demanding the censorship must be dismantled. Structures built by the apocalyptic greenie/net zero scam, the environmental/medical/pharma crimes against humanity, big tech's cognitive experiments, all supported, funded and used by our government, to our detriment.

Structures are the foundation of the political support necessary to continue to conceal their actions.

Such investigation and reporting will undermine these structures and political support will begin to evaporate. Not one of the cities I mentioned above can withstand a thorough and honest investigation without collapsing. That's where the courageous breed of investigative journalists comes in, to expose the deception.

Public demonstrations are an important megaphone, but holding a free speech rally, whilst maintaining the belief in net

1)  REPLY

 SHARE

AM BRIAN CAM Oct 15



...ries me is 50% of America will vote for Kamala. 25% of
...reign born and will vote for Kamala. Shellenberger has
...ed repulsion for Trump's comments on illegal Aliens. I don't
...llenberger endorsing Trump like MUSK has. I disagree
...and RFK jr's views on energy. BUT I want free speech,
...RUMP offers any HOPE of free speech. Shellenberger will sit
...4 election?

1) REPLY

SHARE

ahunchi Oct 15



...ired, I would get fired. Because I think censorship is a form
...ch too when governments are empowered to do so... But
...nt to hide their actions; in my view of the international world
...overnment would have to have their censorship efforts
...d publicly and whenever you took a doubt account you
...ite the government and the government agency that is
...ible and also cite that government's law to enable anyone to
...the legal requirement for doing so.

1) REPLY

SHARE

AM BRIAN CAM Oct 24



RUMP, if you value free speech, end lawfare

REPLY

SHARE

ad Mary's Substack Oct 16



...tful, fascinating interview. Thank you

REPLY

SHARE

ckens Nicole's Substack Oct 15



...in! I'll vote for you this time! Defeat the lizard man Gavin!
...out the first time!

REPLY

SHARE

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SAID And The CIA Were Behind The Impeachment Of Trump

Government-controlled group did the research that linked to former Ukrainian prosecutors

By Jael Shellenberger and Alex Gutentag

February 9, 2025 • PAID

<https://www.public.news/p/both-usaid-and-the-cia-were-behind>



Public

Authors



Michael Shellenberger

81 190 Share Transcript ...

of Representatives impeached President Donald Trump on December 18, 2019, after a White House whistleblower went public with evidence that Trump abused his power by withholding military aid to Ukraine in order to curry favor with his rival, Joe Biden. In the [complaint](#), the whistleblower claimed to have heard from White House staff that a former CIA analyst had, on a phone call, directed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to work with his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, to investigate Joe Biden and Hunter Biden, a whistleblower who triggered the impeachment of Trump. The analyst who was first brought into the White House was a former Obama administration.

Public Drop Site News last year [revealed](#) that the CIA was behind the reporting by a supposedly independent news organization called the Organized Crime Reporting Project (OCCRP), which appears to have been actively operated as an arm of the United States International Development (USAID), which Trump has just shut down. The CIA whistleblower [cited](#) a long [report by OCCRP](#) four times.

The report alleged that two Soviet-born Florida men were “key hidden actors behind a plan” by Trump to investigate the Bidens. According to the story,



Alex Gutentag

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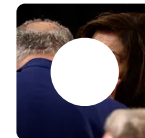
Jefferson Moore and the people behind the scenes

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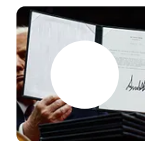
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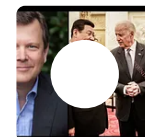
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businessmen connected Giuliani to two former prosecutors. The OCCRP story was crucial to the Democrats' impeachment claim, which is that Trump hired Giuliani as part of a coordinated effort to get a foreign country to interfere in the 2020 election, which is why the whistleblower cited it

[documentary](#) that German television broadcaster ARD reported about OCCRP's dependence on the US government. In 2019, a USAID official confirmed that USAID funds OCCRP's "annual work plan" and approves new hires and "key personnel." NDR initiated and carried out the project in partnership with French investigative news organization Mediapart, Italian news group Il Fatto Quotidiano, Reporters Without Borders, and [Drop Site News](#) in the United States.

[According to a Mediapart](#) story published the same day as the Drop Site News article, NDR censored the report after US journalist Drew Sullivan, the co-founder of the OCCRP, placed pressure on the NDR to remove it and made false accusations against the project's journalists involved in the project.

On February 16, Drop Site's Ryan Grim posted a link on X to a minute-long [documentary](#). "NDR, Germany's public broadcaster, is facing a censorship scandal and has defended itself by saying it never killed a news report about US State Department funding — b/c no report was produced to kill," said Grim. "That was absurd —

maybe hundreds, of journalists knew it to be
of course, someone has leaked it.”

istic collaboration [revealed](#) that OCCRP’s
ding came from the Bureau of International
and Law Enforcement Affairs of the State
; and quotes a USAID official who says, “Drew’s
; about being linked with law enforcement,”
Sullivan. “If people who are going to give you
. think you’re just a cop, maybe it’s a problem.”

es not operate like a normal investigative
organization in that its goals appear to include
in foreign political matters, including elections,
gime change. Sullivan [told NDR](#) that his
n had “probably been responsible for five or six
anging over from one government to another
... and getting prime ministers indicted or
”

appears that CIA, USAID, and OCCRP were all
the impeachment of President Trump in ways
ie regime change operations that all three
ns engage in abroad. The difference is that it is
al and even treasonous for CIA, USAID, and its
and intermediaries, known as “cut-outs,” to
US politics this way.

OCCRP Founder Drew Sullivan (left); Samantha Power, former USAID Director (center); USAID's Shannon McGuire (right) (Getty Images and NDR)

threatened to file a lawsuit against Public in questions we sent. “The premise of your article false and defamatory,” wrote Miranda Patrucic, Chief of OCCRP, over email. “The claim by news and partner media that USAID has control over all appointments [has been disproven](#) and we read [our response](#) to that.”

OCCRP nor anyone else disproved Drop Site's and Drop Site stands by them. And the evidence support OCCRP's claim of journalistic integrity.

Drop Site Patrucic links to, a screenshot from a non-agreement with USAID states, “Requests for new Key Personnel shall include (a) written resume; and (b) CV curriculum vitae in English... Key

positions, candidates and changes to such will require concurrence from the AOR [Officer's Representative] and approval from the [Sent Officer].”

[links on its website](#) that USAID's oversight of is not what it appears to be. “This represents a misunderstanding of a common procurement process. This person or persons, referred to as the grant's 'focal,' ensures that the money we get is spent properly and that the work gets done. This is not an operational issue, but a logistical one.”

nothing in the agreement that suggests USAID's OCCRP's work plan and senior staff are related to the editorial content produced by OCCRP.

USAID's Shannon McGuire emphasizes, in the NDR, that USAID controlled OCCRP through what she calls a “substantial involvement clause.”

USAID's Shannon McGuire

substantial involvement clause in a cooperative agreement," said McGuire. "So, specifically for this agreement with OCCRP, it's things like reviewing and approving an annual work plan. And there's a vetting process. If OCCRP needs to change key personnel, for example, the chief of party, which is Drew Sullivan, then they submit a request with a resume and we review it and we approve your nominee for a new chief of party, as long as it is listed in the key personnel."

McGuire confirmed this. "Under cooperative agreements, we don't like to take," he said, "they have a say on who we hire, but they can veto somebody."

d Public, “I am the editor-in-chief of OCCRP
ointed during a USAID grant, but my CV was
o USAID and no approval was sought or
CCRP is governed only by its board of directors
else.”

d USAID official, Mike Henning, confirmed to
mmakers that USAID approval is not just for
or “administrative” functions.

ive agreement has more strings attached,” said
han a grant... Some of the strings that are
a cooperative agreement are approval of key
pproval of an annual work plan, approval of sub
ertain amount above a certain amount.”

added, would have to approve “the editor in chief
: CEO, who’s the, you know, managing editor.”

d, “We try to keep [OCCRP journalists] away
nors as much as possible so they don’t have to
hen added, “We’re not always successful. There’s
e embassy official from some country somewhere
o something.”

ower, then head of USAID, said in November
CCRP was a “major partner” of the US
: Under its Strengthening Transparency and
lity through Investigative Reporting (STAIR)
SAID allocated \$20 million to OCCRP from

2022 to September 2027 to support investigative in Europe and Eurasia. One of the reporters on the story was based in Ukraine. Although OCCRP signs grants retrospectively, it appears that a CIR grant may have funded the story.

Engleberg, managing editor of the investigative nonprofit, ProPublica, said that OCCRP's cooperation with the U.S. government undermines OCCRP's independence.

at which a funder has influence over the who do the news," said Engleberg, "that is a very danger because we all know in journalism that a lot of news depends on who does it, right? I mean, who's the reporter? Who's the editor, the leader, and know, the preferences of that person are going to influence the coverage. So I think if you are worried about

under, particularly a governmental funder, which viewpoints on things, to me that would be a bit al.”

he NDR reporter notes, “If you look at the [1961] Assistance Act [which created USAID] it says is in there that the funds should be used to American foreign policy.”

l, found Drop Site, the OCCRP wrote a report yal United Services Institute (RUSI) paid for by ernment. “The RUSI has close links with the security professions,” noted Drop Site. “One of ce presidents is General David Petraeus, a ctor of the CIA.”

n the [documentary](#), Sullivan described re-routing grant from the State Department’s INL through te Department “got the money and then they er to USAID,” said Sullivan.

ministered it,” said the reporter, to clarify, “but ame from the State Department’s Law it and Narcotics division.”

Sullivan.

sik, a USAID official, “confirmed she had not l to get funding for OCCRP internally but even rite the group’s application for a major USAID rted Drop Site. Gaydosik said, “It was from

out the OCCRP’s initial support.

o threatened Drop Site News, it said. “The news
lved in this project, including Drop Site, have
unpleasant end of increasingly aggressive legal
1 Drew Sullivan, co-founder and head of
e authors wrote. “While we strived to be as fair
and have [posted most of Sullivan’s responses](#),
not going to do, of course, is back down to
n ones backed with the resources of the federal
.”



1,207 Likes · 190 Restacks

about this podcast

Restacks

Write a comment...

I by yourself you do more investigative reporting than the
YT news staff

106 REPLY (1)

SHARE

Art 4d ...

one could interpret that statement as a high compliment or as
insulting Schellenberger with faint praise.

LIKE (27) REPLY (2) SHARE

Joe d 3d ...

It was a high compliment and a dig at the nyt on how far they
have fallen

LIKE (10) REPLY (1) SHARE

 Brick Brick 2d ...

calm down Bro. Art's expressing irony.

LIKE (1) REPLY SHARE

Norma Odiaga Norma Odiaga 4d ...

Lol!

LIKE (2) REPLY SHARE

nenov  How To Subvert Subversion with ... 4d ...

the reporting. This is 100x worse than the Twitter files. The
fall of USAID is the downfall of regime change warmongers like
me:

<https://www.youtube.com/yuribezmenov22/status/1887200227918016774>

80) REPLY (3) SHARE

iori 4d ...

not 100x worse. It's all 100x bad, all part and parcel to the
entire scheme that, by the way, has now induced psychosis in
at least a third of the population, giving them a completely false
alternate reality which they are certain is beyond any
doubt.

LIKE (29) REPLY (1) SHARE

Marlene Madore Marlene Madore 4d ...

For some reason I started cackling when I read your take - kind of freeing to know I;m among the 1/3rd.

LIKE REPLY SHARE

I Harper Theodore Gericault 4d ...

e and Alex knock it out of the park.
ormed folks outside of the US have long been aware of AID scams. Reminds me, frankly, of Hamas and hospitals. AID does sponsor projects that improve lives across the be, and if that was all they did most of us would cheer. kering with information, however, seems more like VOA work I we can see the visible discomfort when the interviewed ties try to explain why the connections to the US gov are scured, rather than just come out and say "we work for the urity state of Uncle Sam." The question of 2019, of course, hether the security state's involvement in the US election s an anomaly, or standard practice.

o also Glenn Greenwald and Mike Benz on the blackmail and erage over politicians - only outside the US, of course.

LIKE (16) REPLY SHARE

t Taylor 20h ...

liant short film Yuri! Love the "Boomers" zinger!

LIKE (1) REPLY SHARE

ampbell Robert Campbell 4d ...

t is getting crazy! Not that I'm surprised but more surprised all coming out so quick! Amazing what a determined and ournalist can do, huh?!?!?

44) REPLY SHARE

s Just Chris 4d



st wonder just how deep this rabbit hole will go. It feels like it a thread like this may lead to a lot more unraveling than t feels like this could end up implicating entire systems rich Americans have placed their faith and security. If that s, just how far will the Trump Administration go and just as nt, how far will the US Congress go, to investigate and weed corruption that exists serving to undermine our elected and the individual liberties we are ensured by our tion?

ie to refer back to a book/report that was written and ed by Henry Kissinger, "The Kissinger Report: NSSM-200 ions of Worldwide Population Growth for U.S. Security s," from the 1970s. If one takes the position that the growth uman population is an existential threat to the planet, then of free will, choice and individual liberty, are truly quential concepts. And if one were to adhere to the s of this report, it would be immoral to not step in and individual freedom to protect humanity. I think if we look the 1970s, we see this change and can trace back its The CIA, FBI, State Department, and many others, bought notion and it's been guided and grown over the last fifty rgely implemented through the growth of the administrative s well as the growth in power of Nonprofits/NGOs/Public Partnerships and other such backchannels for power

42)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

2d



we've seen in real time, up close and personal with illegal
 ns/open borders, these alliances of government and
 rprofits/NGOs/Public Private Partnerships can have far
 ching and very detrimental consequences for we the
 ople. Some, however, when done above board and for efforts
 t help we the people, such as the space program, are, I
 uldn't say necessary, but are probably much more efficient
 l effective than if the gov did it alone - too many special
 rests that created overwhelming bureaucracy in the federal
 ernoent. What all this speaks to is transparency and the
 amp. We must have more transparency, which Trump is
 ng us more than any other Prez I can recall, and less
 amp, which Trump is working to drain. Maybe we'll see how
 ep and wide that rabbit hole is soon.

LIKE (5) REPLY

SHARE

enshaw Norm's Thoughts 4d



reason for Pam Bondi to go for

25) REPLY (1)

SHARE

hael Manoogian 3d



ot of people in our governmental agencies and maybe some
 iticians should be investigated and prosecuted.

LIKE (6) REPLY

SHARE

ich BookWench 4d ...

is "aid" makes our government look like such "a wretched
scum & villainy," it makes me sick.

re I learn, the worse it looks.

ep reflecting on the number of people sleeping in the
dying of fentanyl overdoses, and those in Lahaina & North
who learned they couldn't rely on the government for
ncy aid -- or those in California who couldn't even count on
a fire prevention. All this time, our government was blowing
of dollars on utter nonsense.

23)  REPLY (2)  SHARE

is Coffman A Prince Among Men 4d ...

ons

LIKE (7)  REPLY (1)  SHARE

Michael Manoogian 3d ...

Maybe trillions.

 LIKE (6)  REPLY  SHARE

ik Brick 2d ...

eed. History's largest Ponzi scheme is the fleecing of the
bal tax payer. And nowhere more so than the good ole USA.
ems to me it's gone on since Ike left office. What's not
ntioned in the USAID stories is that all the money they
end is borrowed. Current national debt: \$34 trillion and
inting.

lay's tax payer endures the inflationary impacts for this
rowing. The debt is dumped on our progeny. We should
e about that.

LIKE (6)  REPLY  SHARE

H8SBAD 4d



Which is getting pretty hard to ignore; even for those drunk on kool-aid.

23)  REPLY (2)

 SHARE

Free Principles vs Tribes 3d



A casual glance at the "top posts in US Politics" on Substack reveals that the kool-aid drinkers are, in fact, having quite an easy time ignoring it.

LIKE (10)  REPLY

 SHARE

Curious 3d



Fortunately, those drunk on the kool-aid have been too busy throwing tantrums over an imaginary fascist takeover to pay attention to what's been coming out of the swamp.

LIKE (3)  REPLY

 SHARE

Out Here On the Perimeter 4d Edited



atching a Washington DC puppet show ladies and
en. Here's how the intelligence agencies control politicians:

ail Command & Control with XKeyScore, Epstein, &
ots

g at my desk," said Snowden, could "wiretap anyone, from
our accountant, to a federal judge or even the president, if I
ersonal email" —Edward Snowden

llect and warehouse it all and then use this information to
ail and puppeteer politicians. The leverage that they cannot
rom what we do with our phones, computers, and cameras
quire through honeypots [2:19 minutes]:

old.bitchute.com/video/hn5HI8IDsGzA

pt of interview, December 2023,

Congressman why do you think that so many democrats are
ed to protecting the list of a dead pedophile. What possible
security implications could that have?

isman Burchett: What you're seeing so many times, my dear
larsha Blackburn, I thought she was snubbed, that's why I
lved, but she can handle her own.

n the democrat controlled senate did that I went to
in Comer in the republican controlled house and I said we

[bill comment](#)

17) REPLY (2)

SHARE

iald Kosloff Donald Kosloff 4d



umer's comment about the intelligence community getting
:k at people is the most frightening comment that I have
r heard

LIKE (18) REPLY (1)

SHARE

BookWench BookWench 4d



Yes, and that's what I kept thinking of watching them spaz out over Tulsi, repeatedly demanding that she denounce Snowden as a traitor.

I just kept wondering why they were more intent on protecting the spy agencies, than their innocent constituents who were being spied on.

Maybe all those rumors about blackmail are true.

♡ LIKE (9) 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE

tin Justin 4d



reminded of one of Bill Clinton's first acts after being elected. He pulled the FBI files of everyone in Congress. They were played nice there for awhile.

LIKE (11) 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE

Warren 4d



never get this kind of reporting from the MSM -- including

like a lot of government officials committed treason by overthrowing the US POTUS.

What are the consequences?

15) 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE



flowchart to understand exactly what's being said here.

13) 💬 REPLY (1)

📤 SHARE

Steve Voigts 4d



... paying for activism/journalism on US soil. Same as the ckingbird.

LIKE (7) 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE

s Just Chris 4d ...

Maybe we should take a hard look at our privacy laws. It seems they may have a little problem with high powered government agencies partnering with, I don't know, EVERYONE to undermine personal liberty through the collection of personal data and the securitization of that data. We need to remember, if they can do it to the outgoing US President, they can do it to anyone. With them, a lie doesn't need to be true, but with all of our personal data, they can make it true. And they will. That, they have shown.

10)  REPLY

 SHARE

d ...

Thanks, great reporting. So glad to subscribe to Public News.

9)  REPLY

 SHARE

and Cannabinoidome 4d ...

Reading this treasonous news makes my brain curl into the fetal position. That these individuals allegedly coordinated deceitfully with various entities to plan, fund and execute the intentional undermining of our Republic sickens the spike-protein in my heart.

8)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

Marlene Madore Marlene Madore 4d ...

Well said it helped relieve the pain.

LIKE (2)  REPLY

 SHARE



Should they need to investigate? The entire "conspiracy" started when John Solomon of The Hill published articles about Biden's dealings in Ukraine, as those Ukrainian former contacts reached out to him to tell the story. Freedom of the press? After that they got connected with Giuliani as Trump was interested in the publications etc. And the potential investigation was going to do with the election but Biden's actions in Ukraine were a VP. Also, should the OCCRP investigate corruption in Ukraine including Hunter Biden and connection to US officials? I read the transcript of the phone conversation too. Biden in his usual manner, bragged about securing the aid, with no connection to the investigation. But just mentioning it somehow was a threat to withhold the aid... By the time of impeachment was sent to Ukraine, so "withholding the aid" wasn't in the agreement. Instead, they invented a new conspiracy theory - that was a plot to make the Ukrainian president announce an election so it would influence the election. Do many Americans visit Ukrainian government websites? Although, the second agreement was even cheesier.

8) REPLY (1)

SHARE

BookWench BookWench 4d



that video of Biden bragging about withholding aid to Ukraine until they fired the prosecutor investigating Burisma did not seem to raise any suspicions with anyone who mattered.

LIKE (10) REPLY (1)

SHARE

Donald Kosloff Donald Kosloff 3d



The response of his audience; laughter, was at least as bad as his comment

LIKE (3) REPLY (1)

SHARE



Brick Brick 2d



I had the exact same thought when I watched that clip.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE

ently 3d Edited



readers: Several days ago I went online to cancel my subscription (17 years) to the NYT. There are just too many pieces I read beyond the first several paragraphs. It makes me ill and I'm a hard liberal. When I got to the end of the online process, they offered me a 73% reduction in price for 12 months to remain a subscriber. I caved. I now pay \$1.00/week for the next 12 months. I encourage you to cancel your subscriptions to hurt the NYT bottom line.

7) 💬 REPLY (2)

📤 SHARE

id Gronek 3d



tip - Set a reminder in twelve months to cancel.

LIKE (4) 💬 REPLY (1)

📤 SHARE

Bently Bently 3d



Love it!! I just added it as a popup reminder on my MS Outlook. Hopefully, you will cancel your subscription.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE

ndy Magnolia Musings 3d



to this, too!

LIKE 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE

e 4d



amazing. I can't wait to hear your next report. Fascinating

7) 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE

Bestoink 4d



CIA reach into Substack) Eric Ciaramella is the whistle who cannot be named. The Voldemort of the Trump iment

6) REPLY

SHARE

onek 3d



rency is the key to fixing a government. All the secret stuff, money, shady deals, and supposed news reporting that is oy 'donors' (which happen to be governments) needs to be l. Follow the money and you will see who and what is driving e. This is a perfect example of that premise.

5) REPLY

SHARE

endall's Substack 4d



c reporting, Michael. And my excuse for a U.S. Senator, rphy, was front and center attacking Trump and Musk for down this corrupt and treasonous agency. We are going to rch more about how corrupt and politicized the Deep State n under the Democrats. It's no wonder the great economic r, Robert Higgs, has called what our system has become ie Democrats "participatory fascism." And they called Trump ..

5) REPLY

SHARE

... 

ce you start digging, everything unravels.

the Paid Trolls come out of the woodwork, screeching for stop.

: bucket of water has been thrown.

ard of Oz | 75th Anniversary "I'm Melting" | Warner Bros. nment

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKfvJiS35I8

5)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

nh 2d Edited 

re you go. More details.

re Benz Takes Us Down the USAID Rabbit Hole (It's Worse in You Think)

<https://tuckercarlson.com/tucker-show-mike-benz-2025>

--

re BLM riots were a "Color Revolution" funded by USAID with their "Rent-a-Mob" system.

ll have to watch this episode many times.

--

iz - "When it's too dirty for the CIA, you give it to USAID for a number of reasons."

s explains everything that I have seen over the past few decades. Yikes!

LIKE (1)  REPLY

 SHARE

ost60 4d 

this can be connected in the DOJ it might be the biggest a long time!

5)  REPLY

 SHARE

Noise 3d ...

ive how Public clearly explains the connections. So proud to lly support this outstanding reporting.

4) REPLY SHARE

Edwards Branson Edwards 3d ...

is this not the biggest story so far in 2025. This makes wnwership of Gaza and turning it into a strip mall with a ttached look like yesterday's news.

4) REPLY SHARE

gts 4d ...

mer navy officer and I do outreach for everyday people who eted in the current mind control programs. This program ce the old FBI COINTELPRO and CIA MKULTRA. The deep rs a predatory stalking program against these people, and gram includes the use of the weapons system that causes ana Syndrome symptoms.

ese folks complain, they are smeared as mental cases. The is meant to be heavy handed and to act as a deterrent to ho might speak up about the deep state's criminal activities.

4) REPLY SHARE

ucas Rachel Lucas 4d ...

why I am a paid subscriber to Public 👍👍👍

4) REPLY SHARE


fern 4d ...

ory. thank you for your work.

4) REPLY SHARE

id ...

b Michael! Don't forget that Samatha Powers was also
l in the unmasking scandal when she was Ambassador to

3)  REPLY  SHARE

ently 3d ...

oad investigative reporters are not all independently wealthy.
like this should not be hidden behind a pay wall. It's almost a
to the American people. Keep up the good work! Maybe the
aganda-T will pay you to share this piece with them.

3)  REPLY  SHARE

Al Barry 4d ...

again to the team at Public for reporting the truth. The world
informed because of your efforts.

3)  REPLY  SHARE


t 4d ...

, what a bombshell! Amazing reporting. Great job. Keep 'em
What's next?

3)  REPLY  SHARE

thy 4d ...

a person suppose to get a good night sleep after reading
u need to add warnings that this article may interfere with
ep

3)  REPLY  SHARE

ffman A Prince Among Men 4d ...

ork Michael! You're going to go into the Pantheon with Elon,
e, Julie, Shawn, Mike, Brett and a small number of other
ous truth tellers!

3)  REPLY  SHARE

| [mccatty III](#) 3d ...

OU.

[Michael.You](#) do more reporting than the new york times how
ot the biggest story

2) REPLY SHARE

3. 3d ...

ems like an ENORMOUS story!!

eat work by Public..Hoping & praying it ALL gets
ed..thank you !!

2) REPLY SHARE

...

chiff, too. Had to know everything as he peddled the Russia
d pushed the impeachment. Not to mention, the laptop.

2) REPLY SHARE

ian NTX Oilman 3d ...

we get this story into the mainstream news cycle and on
radars?

2) REPLY SHARE

Lauck Flight School with Jennifer Lau... 3d ...

ou so much for this deep and honest reporting. It's been a
rk time of stories like this not reaching the light of day. Your
is inspiring. The story horrifying. The healing (hopefully)
ng.

2) REPLY SHARE

roat 3d ...

hese alphabet soup organizations are running the world!

2) REPLY SHARE

rthaler Dave Vierthaler 3d ...

eed is a visual. A chart of the spaghetti lines of all the
ions. I bet it looks like a toddlers first attempt at drawing
eant to be that confusing.


2)  REPLY  SHARE

3d ...

s should be illegal or at least subject to total public
ency. The DOJ should also investigate this matter, which
quite serious.

2)  REPLY  SHARE

ynes Roger Haynes 3d ...

g my brain is in overdrive. Incredible work Public 

2)  REPLY  SHARE

draski Katie's Ground 4d ...

OU.

2)  REPLY  SHARE

Karen B 4d ...

ou look at the players mentioned, you then have to look at
ches. Obama, Hillary, Clapper, Brennan, Mueller,Comey and
an were all in cahoots

2)  REPLY  SHARE

Road 4d ...

ie birds (CIA) come home to roost (ie, topple the
rent).

2)  REPLY  SHARE

Magnolia Musings 3d



people were not given pardons. These people have truly committed an act of treason. It is against everything the United States has ever preached as relates to a democratically elected leader of the Republic. These people need to be held accountable. They have failed in some ways, succeeded, in undermining our very government. Also, Alex and Michael, I'm not sure if you are aware, when Joe Biden pardoned those people and left office, Rachael Gelfand went on Bluesky to say that she nor her husband were given a pardon and that she felt betrayed and abandoned. There is a big thing here.

1) REPLY

SHARE

sh 3d



termites are being found and like all termite infestation it only gets worse. There is no telling how much corrosion there is in the Government.

1) REPLY

SHARE

ie75 2d



ing guys. Keep going. Expose these people

REPLY

SHARE

perman Cintia Cuperman 2d



st needs to be open, I want to send it to everyone I know!

REPLY

SHARE

perman Cintia Cuperman 2d



What a scandal!

REPLY

SHARE

Wyman Benjamin's Substack 2d



.ID

REPLY

SHARE

Substack 3d



rth Estate is awakening.

REPLY

SHARE

sunflower Chinacatsunflower 3d



ord! So sad to say Imhave friends who named their cats
id Alex. What a disconnect

REPLY

SHARE

her Kruger Christopher's Substack 4d



el shellenberger

?

www.mediapart.fr/en/journal/international/021224/hidden-tween-giant-investigative-journalism-and-us-government

REPLY (1)

SHARE

id 1260 David 1260 3d



s article is fascinating. They missed a crucial connection,
ever. "In 2021 and 2022, the OCCRP led an investigation by
ernational media called Russian Asset Tracker, which created
world's largest non-governmental database of assets held
bally by Russian oligarchs and political figures." They failed
ecognize how useful this database was for imposing
ctions on Russia. If my suspicion is correct, that makes
CRP an Intelligence asset.

LIKE (1) REPLY

SHARE

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USAID's History Of Regime Change, Destabilization, And Censorship Justifies Its Closure By Trump

USAID was a key part of unaccountable deep state and foreign policy "blob"

HAEL SHELLENBERGER AND ALEX GUTENTAG

03, 2025 · PAID

<https://www.public.news/p/usaid-history-of-regime-change-destabilization>



Public

Authors



Michael Shellenberger

114
 83
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 ...

Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and their Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) are undermining our economy and national security by taking over the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), say Democrats and the media. “This is a five alarm fire,” wrote Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on X. “The people elected Donald Trump to be President - not Elon Musk. Having an billionaire, with his own foreign debts and hoarding US classified information is a grave threat to our national security.” ABC News [described](#) USAID as in a “state of going turmoil” and in “chaos.” A senior USAID official told ABC, “The warp-speed of this mafia-like takeover has shaken USAID staff to the core.”

It is not as if anything illegal, unethical, or inappropriate happened during Trump’s takeover of USAID, and nobody has presented any evidence that it threatens national security. The people elected Trump who appointed Musk to lead DOGE, as Trump has a right to do. “With regards to the classified stuff,” said Musk last night on X, “I went over to the president in detail and he agreed that we should release it.” There is no evidence that Musk was illegally hoarding classified information, as Ocasio-Cortez implied. There is nothing “mafia-like” about a new administration moving quickly to take control of the



Alex Gutentag

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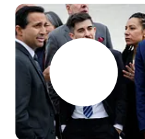
Both USAID / Were Behind

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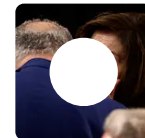
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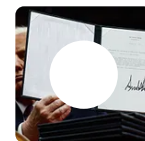
Bad Therapy Human Nihilis

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Ben Schrecki Biden’s Long

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Peter Schwei Legacy Is Tak

JAN 18 · MIC

controls. Trump [sought to merge](#) USAID with Department in 2017.



Samantha Power, former administrator of United States Agency for International Development (USAID), speaks during the Summit for Democracy on March 30, 2023 in Washington, DC. The theme for the final day of the summit encompassed "Advancing Technology for Democracy" and included speakers from the Department of Homeland Affairs and representatives from intelligence agencies (Photo by Anna MoneyMaker/Getty Images)

that Congress will have to approve of any changes to USAID, since Congress created it. Any attempt to dissolve USAID without legislation would be considered a serious breach of the Constitutional separation of powers," [argued](#) Jeremy Konyndyk, the director of Refugees International, on X. "USAID was established by [Executive Order] EO; but later codified into law...in 1998, and only Congress can

.” [Wrote](#) Rep. Rosa Delauro, “Since 1998 as recognized the independence of USAID & annual appropriations bills.”

mp has done is put his people in charge of used its grants, and shut down the organization’s tions. When asked about USAID yesterday, he een run by a bunch of radical lunatics and we're n out... and then we'll make a decision." If the to find that Trump dissolved USAID in violation he evidence suggests that he would obey the ;, as he did with every order he received between 21. And if USAID was funding worthwhile ey can be re-funded in the future.

e, researchers have caught USAID abusing its luding by funding everything from censorship to Institute of Virology (WIV), which may have ch that resulted in the Covid pandemic. Between 22, USAID was the largest US government oHealth Alliance, which sub-awarded grant WIV. USAID [gave](#) EcoHealth Alliance \$54 ng that period, which was more even than the the group received from the Pentagon.

owers, the USAID Director under President ma, evaded questions about what USAID with [ged](#) Senator Rand Paul in 2023. “Some of the oposals in 2018 were the Wuhan Institute of king for money to create a... SARS-like

with a furin cleavage site,” said Paul. “That's t COVID-19 turned out to be.”

d Powers of withholding information. “We want here were other research proposals you either denied that were in the same vein as creating could have become COVID-19. We can't tell I won't give us information... I now have 25 that have sent you a letter, and you aren't .. You are being dishonest.”

' USAID withholding information from Congress justification for Trump to remove the agency's and pause funding. After all, USAID may be funding dangerous research and not informing

t mean Trump's strategy doesn't come without administration. Many members of Congress are eshed with the USAID, which supports both nd Republican think tanks, the [National Institute \(NDI\)](#) and the [International Republican I](#)), which bring members of Congress to foreign various junkets. NDI [calls](#) its work with “Legislative Development” while IRI calls it : Strengthening.” The efforts appear to be open fluence members of Congress to support USAID. bers may next week register their upset with

ressive Democrats, they should be embracing
ions against USAID. Left-wing anti-imperialist
for 50 years criticized USAID as an extension of
ment interventionism abroad. Noam Chomsky,
most influential Left-wing critic of US
imperialism, accused USAID of undermining
ment of Haiti. After the US-backed candidate
ky [noted in a 2002 lecture](#), “the US instantly
licies. USAID was diverted away from the
towards anti-government agencies. Every effort
o undermine the [newly elected] government.”
t magazine Jacobin as recently as 2017, [criticized](#)
ork in El Salvador as a “Trojan Horse” for a secret
enda.

really going on here? Why has Trump risked
ven many Republicans in Congress to dismantle
d why aren't progressive Democrats like Ocasio-
other Leftists celebrating Trump's dismantling
ernment agency they have long criticized for
mperialism?

ocrats Against Democracy

U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) is seated prior to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy delivering a video address to U.S. Congress at the U.S. Capitol on March 16, 2022 in Washington, DC. Zelenskyy addressed Congress as Ukraine continues to defend itself from an ongoing Russian invasion. (Photo by Sarah Silbiger-Pool/Getty Images)

the distinction of being both a “deep state” involved in covert actions aimed at destabilizing governments, and one of the main US government entities that comprise the foreign policy establishment, both on both the Left and Right refer to as “The Deep State” because it is comprised of amorphous shape-shifting entities perpetuating imperialistic elite, like the famous alien in the 1958 science fiction movie by the

After USAID's website went dark, Nayib Bukele, president of El Salvador, [wrote](#) on X, “Most governments

USAID funds flowing into their countries
y understand where much of that money actually
is marketed as support for development,
and human rights, the majority of these funds
end into opposition groups, NGOs with political
and destabilizing movements. At best, maybe 10%
of the money reaches real projects that help people in need
(in such cases), but the rest is used to fuel dissent,
protests, and undermine administrations that refuse
to follow the globalist agenda. Cutting this so-called aid
is beneficial for the United States; it's also a big win
for the world.”

Arguments that Bukele raises are identical to those raised
by Jacobin Magazine. But Bukele is a right-
wing populist, not a left-wing populist, which may explain
why conservative Democrats and Leftists are not supporting
the dismantling of USAID.

Among other US government organizations that
have promoted regime change abroad, including the Middle
East and Eastern Europe. Even “To its proponents,” [notes](#)
the Washington Post, “USAID is an indispensable arm of
US foreign policy” that spends \$40 billion per year to
influence politics in 130 nations.

It is ostensibly used for things like helping
developing countries, but, as Jacobin and Chomsky noted, that money is
not really strategic and aimed at influencing politics. It's
surprising that many of the defenders of USAID

ostensibly normal charities. USAID is “a national toolkit,” said Konyndyk, the president of Refugees International.

US government efforts to overthrow governments not only imply influence over what they do, USAID has also been funding censorship advocacy worldwide through its “Countering Disinformation” program, which is a consortium for Elections and Political Process Monitoring (CEPPS). This work has included funding for “fact-checking” organizations, [including in Brazil](#), where governments use as a predicate for demanding censorship by social media companies.

The program lays out its strategy, which is to fund “civil society” organizations to pressure social media companies like Facebook and X to censor more, and “fact-checking.” USAID also promoted “advertisers to demand more censorship from social media companies,” [notes](#) the Foundation for Freedom under Mike Benz.

USAID promoted “prebunking,” like the kind used by the Heritage Foundation to program journalists and social media to censor the Hunter Biden laptop, as well as “disinformation,” which is [similar to what Aspen promoted](#) in the summer of 2020 before the New York Times published its first story about the laptop. USAID has funded the Aspen Institute in the past.

funds media organizations, including the BBC, gives nearly £2 million per year to train in 35 countries - how to serve Washington,” independent journalist Matt Kennard.

advocate Nina Jankowicz, who was briefly the Department of Homeland Security’s Information Governance Board,” posted a defense of the social media platform BlueSky yesterday. r, Benz [noted](#) that USAID is one of her funders.

[ointed](#) to USAID funding for a group called “Crime and Corruption Reporting Project” which investigated Rudy Giuliani, and whose report was included in a letter written by a CIA agent, resulting in the impeachment of Donald Trump. In a documentary, he admitted that USAID must approve of its senior reporting which shows that OCCRP is not editorially independent of the US government. The US government was the first and largest donor. And OCCRP’s head [says](#) that the organization’s reporting resulted in regime change in several nations.

noted, USAID [funded the Atlantic Council](#), part of the Censorship Industrial Complex that has been instrumental in the censorship of disfavored election and Covid reporting in 2020 and 2021.

er, a USAID-funded organization [sponsored](#) the travel of Benz to [travel to Niger](#) in 2009. The nation was in

civil war at the time and, a few months later, a military coup which, [some alleged](#), the US supported. A [brief](#) by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a think tank [funded](#) by the government, asks, “Some commentators have described the 2001 coup. Is there such a thing?” to which CSIS responds, “It’s true to say that few tears are being shed for the fallen president.”

USAID was the main funder for the groups behind the overthrow of authoritarian governments during the so-called “Arab Spring” and the Eastern European “Color Revolutions.” [Among the first donors on the ground](#) in Iraq, USAID was providing \$19 million to political parties and activists, as well as millions for similar activities in Serbia. USAID funded the Serbian youth movement Otpor!, which played a key role in overthrowing Slobodan Milošević, and the independent media outlet Rustavi-2, which was instrumental in mobilizing public opinion against the incumbent government to support the Rose Revolution in Georgia.

USAID continued around the world. In 2014, the New York Times [reported](#) that the Obama administration had dispatched young Latin Americans to Cuba using health and civic programs to provoke political change. This clandestine operation that put those foreigners in Cuba ended after a U.S. contractor was hauled away to a

[Link to a new CNN](#) story today, USAID officials

ave attempted to “circumvent Trump’s executive
 eze foreign aid for 90 days.” The Trump
 ion put “Around 60 senior USAID staff... on leave
 nd “Another senior official was put on leave for
 erse that move.” [Said Musk last night](#), “We don’t
 ple with a worm in it. We have a ball of worms...
 ball of worms.”

Trump and Musk take such aggressive action
 AID? Part of the reason may be that it is a funder
 orship Industrial Complex, which targeted
 his supporters and which Musk exposed through
 Files. Another part of the reason is that USAID
 ment of US empire, and voters elected Trump to
 erica First” over global commitments.

etween USAID regime change work abroad and
 work in the US may go deeper than people
 ore working at DHS, Jankowicz, [worked](#) on
 assistance programs” for NDI in Eastern
 d, as we discovered through the Twitter Files,
[olved](#) in an effort by a CIA venture capital fund-
 rt to seize control of Twitter’s content

e progressive Democrats outraged? In part
 AID funded many of them. In part because they
 efforts to censor populist voices around the
 ll as in the US. And in part because it has
 er the last 20 years, the party most supportive of

US empire, even at the expense of US citizens'

ght Is Doing What The Left i't

S. President Donald Trump calls on reporters during a press conference about the collision of an American Airlines flight with a military Black Hawk helicopter near Ronald Reagan National Airport, in the Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House on January 30, 2025 in Washington, DC. Officials believe that all 64 people on the commercial jet and the three service members on the U.S. Army helicopter died when they collided midair and crashed into the Potomac River airport outside Washington, D.C. on Wednesday. (Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

Musk can likely expect significant congressional
this week due to their abrupt halting of USAID

the firing of its leaders, and the shutting down of
and X accounts. Trump may have anticipated the
when he reassured a reporter that he had not
sion about the future of the organization and
removing the “radical lunatics” who ran it.

ing quickly, and airing USAID’s dirty laundry
ask and Trump have sent a strong signal against
and other anti-democratic actions used by
ump is dismantling the infrastructure of US
ticularly its propaganda apparatus,” noted
ncredible.”

incredible that Trump, who Democrats and the
ed as a fascist for years, has done significantly
left-wing figures like Ocasio-Cortez to challenge

us on sovereignty, realism, and strength is a
ature from decades of foreign meddling, regime
influence operations. This move is a key step in
focus away from globalist projects and back to
prosperity, which has been a feature of Trump’s
years. [Said Trump in 2016](#), “We will no longer
his country or its people to the false song of
The nation-state remains the true foundation for
and harmony.”

st election, it has become even more evident that
om US foreign policy would disrupt harmony at

combat alleged “misinformation,” the Censorship Complex used counterterrorism and [intelligence loped abroad](#), including psychological and repurposed them to shape domestic opinion t.

osing of national security tools was a key feature onization of government against Trump, his and other dissidents. The pursuit of globalism intervention has thus proved not only to be distracting but has also fueled abuses of power erican citizens.

ep for the Trump administration should be the of federal programs and contractors that promote n censorship and propaganda. Recommitment to state will require unwavering commitment to free : Trump administration should cut off funding to uding the Aspen Institute, which interfered in ction. Trump should order the State Department, l Science Foundation, the Department of ecurity, and other agencies to end all contracts ship advocates and “misinformation ”

icans will gain a new and improved view of what g. Dismantling USAID is not the grave threat to urity that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez claims it is. and other apologists for the deep state and cy blob are.



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about this podcast

Restacks

a comment...

id ...

grave threat to national security! Said the people who had lem letting a dementia patient control the nuclear football years.

73) REPLY (1) SHARE

ve Steve 5d ...

at makes you think he was controlling the nuclear football anything else for that matter)?

LIKE (7) REPLY SHARE

Staton 6d ...

his article could be published in NYT and Washington Post e lefty's in their bubbles could read actual facts....

66) REPLY (3) SHARE

ious Curious 6d ...

s thought comes to mind every time I read one of Michael's cles.

LIKE (24) REPLY SHARE

erice e.pierce 6d



RRUPT, INCOMPETENT, BRAINWASHED DEMOCRATS PPORT REGIME CHANGE AND PROPAGANDA

blem is, as psych research shows, that they lack the
tacognitive capacity to correct their brainwashing by
3IME PROPAGANDA schemes. They simply don't have the
lity to comprehend and rationally process objective facts
t contradict their confirmation biases and toxic, emotive-
bjective narratives.

ts will not matter to them.

LIKE (12) REPLY (2)

SHARE

e.pierce e.pierce 6d



The radical/extremist "left" lacks the capacity for meta-
cognitive awareness.

<https://bigthink.com/neuropsych/radicals-are-worse-at-metacognition/>

bigthink. com /neuropsych/radicals-are-worse-at-metacognition/

excerpt:

Neuropsych — February 15, 2019

Why radicals can't recognize when they're wrong

Key Takeaways

Not only does everyone have personal experience with how difficult it can be to change people's minds, but there's also empirical research showing why this is the case. A new study in Current Biology explains why some people seem to be constitutionally incapable of admitting they're wrong. The study shows the underlying mechanism behind being bull-headed, and there may be some ways to get better at recognizing when you're wrong.

...

cont. excerpts

New research published in Current Biology on December 18, 2018, confirms this feeling: people with radical beliefs actually think differently than those without. Specifically, radicals have less metacognitive sensitivity than moderates.

Metacognition refers to the ability to be aware of and analyze one's own thinking. Metacognitive sensitivity is similar, but more specific: it refers to the ability to distinguish between one's correct and incorrect judgements. The new paper, titled "Metacognitive Failure as a Feature of Holding Radical Beliefs," shows that radicals have measurably less metacognitive sensitivity than moderates.

[[https://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822\(18\)31420-9](https://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822(18)31420-9)]

LIKE (8) REPLY (2) SHARE



Jennifer Jennifer 5d

Thank you for these links! Metacognition is a new word to me; but I have personal experience of the absolute lack thereof in certain individuals.

LIKE (6) REPLY SHARE



Steve Steve 5d

This is what I love about sites like PUBLIC. There are things I know something about and (many many many) other things I don't have a clue. BUT there's always someone willing/eager to share. 3 Thumbs Up!

LIKE (3) REPLY SHARE

Alice Ball 6d



This is why I ignore everything they say. They are 24/7 non-factual emoters.

♡ LIKE (5) 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE

is 2d



the unfortunate reality is that much of what is discussed historically here e.g Cuba happened during Republican led governments and oversight. This was typically a left-wing issue which the Right ignored and/or played down since the 1960's. It's not only a recent phenomena that the left lost their mind on these topics, but for the Right facilitated it for decades. This is not a partisan issue really. The Right created it, The Left are simply enabling it. Damn the idiots on both sides.

LIKE (1) 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE

er Jeff Keener 6d



report, Michael. Thank you. It's probably safe to say that most Americans have no idea what USAID does.

44) 💬 REPLY (3)

📤 SHARE

ious Curious 6d



and yet it's not stopping many of them from railing against this one because they've been told that USAID = good.

LIKE (11) 💬 REPLY (1)

📤 SHARE

Jeff Keener Jeff Keener 6d



If only it were a bona fide foreign health aid program instead of a slush fund for CIA/State/DOD.

♡ LIKE (11) 💬 REPLY (1)

📤 SHARE



Rob 4d Edited



It sounds like a slush fund for woke pushers as well. This is why it is so hard to get rid of programs. Dems know it. They get their spending enshrined in law and it never goes away.



LIKE (1)



REPLY (1)



SHARE



Jeff Keener Jeff Keener 4d



Right on.



LIKE



REPLY



SHARE

◀ K. In the Kingdom of God 5d



% of Americans have no idea what any government agency does.

so interesting to watch liberal gut reactions, "OMG Trump/Elon are wrecking havoc they're shutting things down!!!!!!!" without even thinking for a second do what exactly these agencies doing in the first place. It's all just Trump/Elon bad/crazy!!" Granted, an argument can be made they could've (maybe) gone about it a way that is less chaotic and more professional. But that doesn't negate the much bigger issue of how rotted these systems and agencies have become. The fire alarm cries over procedures over the fire itself is quite extraordinary.

LIKE (3)



REPLY (1)



SHARE

Jeff Keener Jeff Keener 5d



I get what you mean, however, I wonder if the strategy was to strike early & hard to put the opposition back on its heels and that any hesitation due to a more measured approach might serve to delay and delay?



LIKE (4)



REPLY (1)



SHARE



Alex K. In the Kingdom of God 5d ...

Yes I believe that is the strategy. Also the element of surprise by DOGE so the bureaucrats would be caught off guard and wouldn't be able to do anything to prevent them from taking over.

Nonetheless, there are some things they could've smoothed over. It is true that Elon and his bunch of 20 y.o.s don't have security clearance. Would've been better optics had they sent some people with clearances with them, and appointed someone with clearance to act as oversight. The disclosures are pouring out over DOGE's X feed, but in addition they probably could communicate better to the wider public beyond X users, and at least say a formal report is in the works. Etc etc. No it won't make an iota of difference to the Dems or libs who drunk the Koolaid. But it would've been less jolting to the wider public.

But overall, I'm here so I know these are nitpicks. I just think the wider (moderate) public who aren't terminally online and political junkies matter too.

LIKE (2) REPLY (2) SHARE



Jeff Keener Jeff Keener 5d ...

All good points and ideas. 👍

LIKE (1) REPLY SHARE



Rob 4d Edited



Do we know no one with a clearance was with them? I spoke to someone at USAID and it sounded that what happened was different than what you imply. Also, it's great to have a report. But, they've been at it for how long now? Do you expect them to generate a report weekly? Is having a near real time view of what they are doing not enough for the interim until, say one, two, three agencies have been reviewed and a report is generated? I, personally, don't need a report. If they posted what was happening with a data visualization tool, I think that would be much more helpful for people to see and understand what is happening.



LIKE



REPLY (1)



SHARE



Alex K. In the Kingdom of God 4d



"Do we know no one with a clearance was with them? I spoke to someone at USAID and it sounded that what happened was different than what you imply"

We don't know and this is not "my" implication. There is no official statement anywhere that any official with clearance was with them. And if there were, they could've named the official or at least mention the title. This is the messaging/PR problem that's exactly my point. IDK why you're arguing about this.

"Do you expect them to generate a report weekly?" -- No. But a simple official statement from the WH Press Sec that an official report will be forthcoming would make the public feel a lot more at ease. Citizens can expect at least that as some kind of basic accountability.

"I, personally, don't need a report." -- yeah well, you're not the only citizen or voter or taxpayer in the whole country.

" If they posted what was happening with a data visualization tool I think that would be

LIKE (1) REPLY (1) SHARE



Rob 2d Edited



Let's review: You posted:

"Would've been better optics had they sent some people with clearances with them, and appointed someone with clearance to act as oversight."

Then you posted:

"We don't know and this is not "my" implication. There is no official statement anywhere that any official with clearance was with them. And if there were, they could've named the official or at least mention the title. This is the messaging/PR problem that's exactly my point. IDK why you're arguing about this."

Your first post is obviously not what you profess it to be in your second. No other statement in your first post changes what you implied in the first post or asserts what you posted in the second. Your first post doesn't say directly that they didn't have people with security clearances involved but it most certainly implies it.

"Do you expect them to generate a report weekly?" -- No. But a simple official statement from the WH Press Sec that an official report will be forthcoming would make the public feel a lot more at ease. Citizens can expect at least that as some kind of basic accountability.

So, someone just saying a report will be forthcoming and you'll be cool with it? Good, I heard that very thing, a report is coming. But, are we not getting information in near real time on what they are finding?! Yes! So, I guess you can wait for the vital report on what was done, the rest of us can see it in near real time.

"I, personally, don't need a report." --
yeah well, you're not the only citizen or
voter or taxpayer in the whole country.
Look in the mirror, neither are you.

 LIKE  REPLY (1)  SHARE



Rob 2d Edited



Extending the comment here. For
some reason it isn't showing up
with the above post.

" If they posted what was
happening with a data visualization
tool, I think that would be much
more helpful for people to see and
understand what is happening." --
Please do write or email the White
House with your suggestion.
Telling me doesn't do any good. As
for posting, just posting on social
media is informing at max 20% of
the public. They need to post it to
the official WH website.

I'll just skip over the first few
sentences for obvious reasons.
But, I'll address the social media
criticism. You think that more than
20% of the population goes to
whitehouse . gov?!

You think more people search
through that site than read about
this on social media!? OK, you do

 LIKE  REPLY (1)  SHARE



Alex K. God In the Kingdom of God 2d ...

It's about access. Government information should be accessible to everyone. X is a private entity for one. It's not accessible to 80% of the citizens who don't want to sign up for an account. A huge majority of people not on X aren't even aware DOGE is publishing information on X.

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY (1)

📤 SHARE



Rob 1d



X is accessible to everyone in the world except for those countries where it has been banned. If one chooses to not use it, it's up to them. Just like if one chooses to go to a website or tune into a news program or read a paper or even this substack. Almost every, if not every single member of Congress, every agency, political organizations such as the DNC and the RNC and a bevy of other government and government related entities have X accounts and use them constantly. Brandon made a major announcement on X. And now, it's not an acceptable venue? I bet a

LIKE REPLY (1)

SHARE



Alex K. in the Kingdom of God 21h ...

I'm done here. I've tried being courteous by responding, but it's a waste of my time as you're obviously someone who gets triggered by even the slightest criticism against "your side". This whole debate is pointless as it's not even about anything substantive, but about process. We're not even in disagreement about Musk or DOGE. You just can't take the slightest bit of criticism even if it's entirely harmless. Please. It's the weekend. Go touch

♡ LIKE 💬 REPLY (1)

📤 SHARE

[Continue Thread →](#)

id Gronek 5d ...

actly what I was thinking. The name is very misleading.

LIKE (1) 💬 REPLY

📤 SHARE

ry Sea Sentry 6d



with the comment that "USAID is "a national security tool
ving abroad and running into USAID from time to time, I
tle to commend the organization other than to hide CIA
and to give white college grads with useless degrees
ace to work.

great place for DOGE to start. Let's just shut it down and
breath. In a year, nobody will remember it ever existed.

37) REPLY

SHARE

ddy 6d



re to read this and the WSJ propaganda simultaneously.
all of it is drivel like this:

has also been a big funder of health programs around the
orking to reduce HIV, tuberculosis and other diseases,
g the Covid-19 pandemic. It helped the Tanzanian
rent and Unicef battle a past outbreak of Marburg virus,
equipment, medicines and staff."

nothing about censorship funding or regime change
. Zero on what percentage of budget is spent on what.

ple and not sure they understand how little time they have
lishing this crap.

30) REPLY (2)

SHARE

ious Curious 6d



ny they mentioned health programs, including Covid-19,
en that USAID paid \$40M for Coronavirus research at the
han lab.

LIKE (13) REPLY

SHARE

Mark In Houston *Apropos of What Matters* 6d ...

I'd like to see the WSJ succumb to the same virus that has infected the left and members/supporters of the Blob with their criticism of restraining the actions of USAID.

LIKE (7)  REPLY (1)  SHARE

Steve Steve 5d ...

The WSJ has always been a big supporter of neo-conservative foreign policy interventions. It's no surprise they back USAID.

 LIKE  REPLY  SHARE

Ianni Franco Manni 6d *Edited* ...

In your article, you are a very good real journalist like those of the

26)  REPLY  SHARE

sh 6d ...

It's amazing what is happening. The unstoppable bureaucratic being stopped in its tracks and actually rolled back. Bravo!

20)  REPLY  SHARE



Aid has always been both a program with genuine humanitarian goals and with foreign policy goals. The humanitarian efforts, often quite genuine and effective and run by dedicated people with humanitarian instincts, were justified to Congress and the State Department types as a way to generate good PR and good will for the U.S. during the Cold War. They also salvaged the hopes of idealistic Americans in and out of government who still wanted to believe America was a force for good in the world. Since the end of the Cold War when the neocons and neoliberals took office and began pursuing naked world domination, USAID has become almost purely an exercise in propaganda, manipulation and meddling. The Faustian bargain with which many of the bureaucrats in the agency idealistically began their careers (I think some of them) turned sour. Most, I believe left. At this point, I believe there is much to mourn due to its passing.

17) REPLY (2)

SHARE

Norma Odiaga Norma Odiaga 6d



Interesting. I would agree with you. From 1965-1967, my husband and I worked for USAID in Gabon, West Africa. USAID funded the Peace Corps project of building concrete block schools in the jungle to replace the existing mud hut schools. I thought that it was a proper project. But people kept making suspicious comments about a USAID connection to the CIA. I was pretty naive and didn't really digest that. But looking back 50 years of these years later, I have to wonder.

LIKE (2) REPLY

SHARE

Dee Pierce e.pierce 6d



Including military equipment sales, no?

LIKE REPLY

SHARE

am Bill's Substack 6d



ding reporting on USAID status under the new Trump
tration. Hearing the references where this agency exerted
e in the world and at home is an eye opener to the average
in Citizen who wants to feel he can trust his government,
the face of suspicious activity, covert operations, and
hip as we've experienced in recent years. You do a great
Michael, with this timely and comprehensive overview of the
situation, the legislation, those responsible for oversight,
ho have benefited from USAID money and influence, and
nd most importantly, the emerging process of full disclosure
isparency sorely needed in these times. Bravo!

14) REPLY (1)

SHARE

'k In Houston Apropos of What Matters 6d



well said Bill!

LIKE REPLY

SHARE

'tman Mary's Substack 6d



believably excited to watch all of this and yet.... In all of this
ent I think it's important that we all recognize how
ous this is for President Trump, his family and the others who
ing him unravel this mess. There have been two attempts on
ing him unravel this mess. There have been two attempts on
nd that was before he began cleaning house. How far will
o state go to make sure he doesn't dig into their underwear
and hang their knickers out for all to see?

11) REPLY (2)

SHARE

il 6d



e in times such as these is never without profound risk. We
glad to have the hearts of lions on the front. They realize
risk and do it anyway.

LIKE (4) REPLY

SHARE

d Ickenham 5d

...

In addition to his regular security, he also needs a food taster
everywhere and whenever he eats.

LIKE (1)  REPLY

 SHARE

3d

...

Chlorine is the best disinfectant!

Reveal all grants, loans, backdoor agreements. Name names, who
benefited from loans, etc.

Especially the Wuhan lab and other funding for GoF!

10)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

Michael Boock 6d

...

Since the release of USAID documentation/comms and the
Casper/RFK/MLK documents, this is a glorious time for journalists.
I hope there are enough like Schellenburger/Taibbi/Fang/Webb
to get to it all. And this will only be the beginning. Happy
dining!

LIKE (4)  REPLY

 SHARE

Curley 6d

...

The legislative branch of the federal government creates an agency
within the executive branch. But when the executive branch
attempts to exert control over said agency, the legislative branch says
no because that would be a violation of the separation of
powers. Got it. The irony is lost on the legislative branch.

10)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

erice e.pierce 6d



).

ie people" elect a populist reform regime.

re reform regime begins to purge corrupt elements, including /Democrat propagandists, from the executive branch.

re corrupt elements, or their corrupt mouthpieces (such as x "progressive" AOC), begin to complain about having their paganda machine dismantled.

really is just that simple.

LIKE (5) REPLY

SHARE

d



but a slush fund for patronage on both sides it sounds like. re clear to me long before the election that it wasn't Ds vs tly, it was establishment vs anti establishment. So many of ical class are grifters. Happy to see their worlds shaken to !.

5) REPLY

SHARE

Seamus 6d



red information and a "threat to national security". So all sides acknowledging that USAID is a thin cover for the CIA?

5) REPLY

SHARE

trick 6d



Democrats just show their hand? They know that Trump play second fiddle to anyone so obviously he is the nt. But for the last 4 years it was obvious to anyone with d ears that Biden was not the actual person in charge and I eard Democrats cry about it from the roof tops. Did all at politicians know exactly who was running the show so as no need to ask?

4) REPLY

SHARE

man 6d



red here, USAID has been a major destructive force against
acy globally and abroad. It's actions testify that it can only
that it was run by fascist lunatics. However, the amount of
it has done by 'capacity building' a giant censorship turd
still needs to be undone. We may need to use it's structures
city destroy the anti-democratic influence structure extant

4) REPLY

SHARE

riott-Lee Diane's Substack 6d



please advocate for one small thing, despite all of the
truths that this article reveals about USAID: there are still
of people in deeply impoverished countries in places like
that have been receiving critical health services that have
l death and severe illness based on funding from the 10% of
that has legitimately been doing what many of us thought
re agency was doing. I do wish that the hard work and
ment of those individuals could be acknowledged, and those
; not terminated. As a retired Advanced Practice nurse, I
any people who have done this kind of work that has been
by USAID.

3) REPLY (1)

SHARE

e 5d



Myself worked in Africa treating HIV patients two decades ago
 I also feel Michael is throwing out the baby with the bath
 water here. He seems to have become so consumed with
 hatred for the left that destroying any institution perceived as
 tainted by leftist ideology has become an end in itself for him,
 regardless of what else that institution may have been doing.
 I can't stand the Democrats for their censorship and groupthink
 but at the same time I'm deeply repelled by the idea that
 primarily cutting off antiretroviral HIV medications to twenty
 million people is being presented as one of the triumphal opening
 moves of this new administration.

LIKE (1) REPLY

SHARE

Warren 6d *Edited*



... one of the very best Public articles.

Complaint: please stop perpetuating the mythology that the
 COVID-2 virus "may have come from the Wuhan lab" and stop
 saying that US biotechnology was likely behind it when "we"
 (if us with a deep understanding of the scientific backstory)
 are 99% certain that all of the critical biotechnology came from
 the University of North Carolina.

3) REPLY (1)

SHARE

Mark In Houston *Apropos of What Matters* 6d



Ralph Baric?

LIKE (1) REPLY (1)

SHARE

Stephen Warren 6d



Yes.

Ralph Baric's lab.

LIKE (1) REPLY

SHARE

erbach Jan Hollerbach 6d ...

h shall set us free. Thank you. Depressing as hell what
een doing under the table and about time this came to a

3) REPLY SHARE

Collective Idiocy 6d ...

JSAID created by JFK via executive order? Not by
ss?

3) REPLY (3) SHARE

t Kurt 6d ...

AID started with Kennedy's EO but was codified into law in
8, to give it a fig leaf of legitimacy. Now, its scandalous
nces are laid bare for all to see. See ya!

LIKE (4) REPLY SHARE

athan in SF Jonathan's Substack 6d ...

ially but as Michael noted, Congress has authorized by law
. At least this is what I heard.

LIKE (1) REPLY SHARE

Sentry Sea Sentry 6d ...

at's my understanding. Which means Trump can rescind its
stence, no?

LIKE REPLY SHARE

Substack 6d ...

hink the concept of a "Deep State" can be more starkly
d.

2) REPLY SHARE

aBella 6d



, this is an EXCELLENT piece. You did a great job weaving a
h and comprehensive assessment of the role USAID plays
tool for the IC and its role in recent events.

2) REPLY

SHARE

Houston Apropos of What Matters 6d



ou once again Michael for an unwavering perspective on
nd its role in undermining free speech and interference in
movements both abroad and at home. As important as the
se that President Trump and Elon Musk through DOGE have
ID under - completing the play is critical. You said it so well
the end of your essay as quoted below:

mitment to the nation-state will require unwavering
ment to free speech. The Trump administration should cut
ing to groups, including the Aspen Institute, which
ed in the 2020 election. Trump should order the State
ment, the National Science Foundation, the Department of
nd Security, and other agencies to end all contracts with
hip advocates and "misinformation researchers."

2) REPLY

SHARE



pping and so very delicious!

Michael!

2) REPLY

SHARE

Vhitten William's Substack 6d



ided 'Task Force' at Forefront of US 'Regime Change' Plot in

free," wrote the Syrian Emergency Task Force (SETF) in a X, formerly Twitter, shortly after a cluster of militant groups d Damascus on Sunday and overthrew Bashar al-government.

Accomplished. The Syrian Emergency Task Force is proud nce that the Assad regime, Russia, and Iran have been r defeated in Syria by the Syrian people on their own and any outside support from the international community," the nt read.

nse, an X user took a swipe at the SETF, saying that an al-eader with strong ties to the Daesh terrorist group and i intelligence agencies "is the exact freedom I was hoping

is long been at the forefront of the American "regime ' project in Syria, funded by the US Agency for International ment (USAID), a proxy organization of the Central nce Agency (CIA), the foreign spy agency of the US -industrial complex.

ng under the guise of "bringing an end to atrocities against

[Full comment](#)

2) REPLY

SHARE

Feminist Changes A Lightbulb 5d ...

erger, if you care about this nation at all — which you don't, be a couple of your tame idiots still has a scrap of a soul left would be screaming to stop this. You are a traitor whose s glued to Elon Musk's dick. Cheryl Rofer is a real patriot nts to save this nation:

www.lawyersgunsmoneyblog.com/2025/02/some-computer-tions

1)  REPLY

 SHARE

:k 6d ...

www.techdirt.com/2025/02/03/musk-shows-us-what-government-censorship-on-social-media-looks-like/ Are you criticize musk when he censors?

1)  REPLY (1)

 SHARE

an G Susan G 6d ...

i. I AM. What Elon did is dead wrong. With that said, X is a /ate company and can censor all it wants. My statement is e, but I hated that response when people on my side were isored and I hate it now. Both Elon and Trump promised rsparency. We must all expect and demand it.

LIKE  REPLY

 SHARE

d ...

re it, it's still TDS. No real analysis (other than this article so /ASM/WSJ/NYT other than how an unelected (Musk) e can yield this much power and how Africa will now start surge in AIDS cases. Oh brother.....

1)  REPLY

 SHARE

udson Kevan Hudson 6d ...

ing you Michael, Senator Rand Paul and the Grayzone (Max :al and Aaron Mate) all in agreement. The world thanks all of

1)  REPLY

 SHARE

at dogma vat 6d ...

ed ahead. Bulldoze.

1)  REPLY

 SHARE

diaga Norma Odiaga 6d ...

appreciate your investigative journalism. I'm hoping that e a wide variety of subscribers who share this knowledge.

1)  REPLY

 SHARE

JDJAWS's Substack 6d ...

r popcorn ready.

ongress squeel like a pig this week. Burt Reynolds isn't to their rescue.

1)  REPLY

 SHARE

gts 6d



deo essay.

ep state runs a predatory stalking program against its critics
ple who could get them in trouble with the law. The program
ce the old FBI COINTELPRO and CIA MKULTRA. They are
ng advanced tech, like the weapons system that causes the
Syndrome symptoms in these schemes. This weapon allows
actors to torture and discredit their victims wirelessly. When
eople complain, they are smeared as delusional and
ic personalities. Moreover, these deep state perpetrators
g the federal security classification system to conceal their

tice Department's 'Operation Fox Hunt' case describes how
tigate and charge these types of crimes. The press
nces for that case are online. What we've got right now is
and former military and intel officers running these
rs. They coordinate with private intel firms who act as
for this criminal enterprise. The public needs to know how
eme works, and they need to be encouraged to speak up
ie abuses that they witness. Confirmation of the abuse will
thorities to catch the stalking and harassment end of the
Once that crime is charged, they can roll up these criminals
| who is running the DARPA weapons that are used on our
ople.

1) REPLY

SHARE



uld USAID fund the BBC?!

1) REPLY (3)

SHARE

erice e.pierce 6d



extend their joint propaganda and regime change efforts.

LIKE (6) REPLY

SHARE

zier Grazier 6d ...

How else can one hand wash the other?

LIKE (2)  REPLY  SHARE

I Lisa 6d ...

Was wondering about that myself.

LIKE  REPLY  SHARE

coll 6d *Edited* ...

Shellenberger, you should listen to the work of Matthew Garding regarding the psy-op of UFO's. You can probably go to YouTube and Rumble and search for "Matthew Ehret UFO" to get his thoughts / opinion that it is a psy-op. Matthew Ehret has dozens of videos on how the British Empire + rich elite and globalists are screwing up the world. Somehow fabricated stories regarding UFO's helps the globalists but I don't have the courage to clearly state it (scare people into letting the "intelligence agencies" handle it?). Laurance Rockefeller (evil David Rockefeller's brother) started the "UFO Disclosure Initiative" in the 90's and we know Laurance Rockefeller probably had nefarious intentions. Dr. Steven Greer is part of the "UFO Disclosure Initiative" and therefore I think he is a psy-op spreader of lies.

1)  REPLY  SHARE

How does this affect the kids 6d ...

How many people are going to die because of our actions?

1)  REPLY  SHARE

...
zing USAID, Mike cites Nayib Bukele, the President of El
r, [who] wrote on X, "Most governments don't want USAID
owing into their countries because they understand where
that money actually ends up. While marketed as support
development, democracy, and human rights, the majority of
funds are funneled into opposition groups, NGOs with
agendas, and destabilizing movements. At best, maybe
the money reaches real projects that help people in need
(in such cases), but the rest is used to fuel dissent, finance
; and undermine administrations that refuse to align with
alist agenda."

ke have any idea of who Bukele is? Bukele is a conservative
who was elected president and successfully reduced El
r's homicide rate (left over from the Salvadorian Civil War
sed by gangs like MS-13) from 38/100,000/year to
300/year in about 4 years, which has made him a political
ar. However. he appears as corrupt as many Salvadorian
ns, and has even been accused of paying off gangs. 70,000
gang members have been detained without charges (1% of
million population). Then his party replaced every member of
reme Court with justices who would misinterpret their
tion's unambiguous ban on the re-election of presidents.
von re-election with 80% of the vote it is not surprising that
specializing in human rights and promoting democracies are
kinda activity against him. Such NGO's traditionally have

 REPLY

 SHARE

eve 4d

...

t! It Gets Better!

Corruption Crimefighters

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqllKw-8SoE

025

ernet strikes again! Steve Green brings us the story of how servative amateurs dove into the financial aneurysm that is ind put together a searchable database that allows anyone OW THE MONEY. Just the receipts they presented on a rial run will be enough to make your blood boil.

publican

latarepublican.com/

n.

 REPLY

 SHARE

ently 4d

...

, why don't you contact the NYT to submit this piece. I'm exactly what they are looking for so that Americans are ormed.

 REPLY

 SHARE

...

three years ago I spent a year of my (early) life as a n prescribing antiviral HIV medications for patients in sub- Africa (Malawi, to be more precise), at a time when it was such efforts were futile and that it was best to resign as to the idea that HIV was, from a logistical perspective, an ible illness in less developed parts of the world and that, for r worse, we needed to accept that these people couldn't be

d out not to be logistically unfeasible to treat these patients, the African bush. A few years after I left Malawi President

established PEPFAR, a program to distribute HIV antivirals to patients in countries which otherwise can't afford to produce and distribute them. This program has been enormously successful in keeping HIV-infected patients alive, but it's currently threatened through USAID, the US government agency which is now in jeopardy because of the actions of the current administration, and you evidently support without any apparent reservation that I

have since grown tired of Democrats and consequently elected President Trump in the most recent election, but in less than a month, with this single action, I'm left deeply questioning my support for him. Call me weak, but I can't disabuse myself of any concern for the future fate of the patients that I personally treated as a younger doctor, many of whom are still alive because of the program; beyond that, I think that indiscriminately abolishing government agencies without paying attention in a more detailed way to what they do represents, morally at least, an abuse of power, and for not one considers 52% of the popular vote to in fact constitute an electoral "mandate" to do anything.

That you care about censorship and abridgment of First Amendment rights. I care about it as well, and during the Covid pandemic that was in fact the thing that initiated my turn to the right for me to respect and support and vote for a politician, that shouldn't be the only thing we're in agreement on. Nor will simple hatred of the other side be enough on its own to sway my opinion.

I'm starting to agree with the other poster on this thread who commented, picturesquely, that lately you seem to have your lips glued to Elon Musk's butt. You seem to increasingly be identifying with your id rather than presenting any thoughtful or dispassionate assessment of actions like this one that can have dozens of direct and unintended consequences.

 REPLY

 SHARE

Staheli Patterns in Scripture 5d



ople I know think that USAID is the savior of mankind just
they hate Trump and Trump wants to disable it.

REPLY (1)

SHARE

e 5d



PFAR distributes antiretroviral HIV medication to roughly
enty million patients worldwide, under the aegis of USAID.

restly, there are plenty of people who thought that PEPFAR
s saving a pretty significant number of human lives well
ore Trump ever arrived on the scene. Some of them may
n have made the mistake of thinking Trump was someone
o cared enough about human lives to be selective about the
ernment agencies he felt needed a bit of trimming.

LIKE REPLY

SHARE



www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2023-11-aled-usaids-10bn-health-project-riddled-with-failings-ncies-and-fraud-allegations/

REPLY

SHARE

5d



ou for providing a summary of concerning USAID activities.

REPLY

SHARE

:z Brian Katz 5d



great Michael.

ing the subversive nature of USAID is really important.

it from the rooftops.

REPLY

SHARE

ck 5d



n people. The word "AID" is embedded in the acronym. How
ey be bad?

re AOC, USAID wants to help shape benevolent
ments around the world right?

ay, the color revolutions didn't go very well, the Maidan
o have led the Ukrainians off a cliff, Noam Chomsky is
his hands around, and the funding for Eco Health kinda went
s with the whole Covid outbreak and all, but hey, it's not
ring the world right?



REPLY



SHARE

Feminist Changes A Lightbulb 5d



real issue, unlike the bullshit you sell, asshole:

www.wired.com/story/elon-musk-associate-bfs-federal-t-system/



REPLY



SHARE

Feminist Changes A Lightbulb 5d



lled USAID because USAID helped end Apartheid. Musk
o re-establish whites-only rule here and the place that
y spat him out.



REPLY



SHARE

Feminist Changes A Lightbulb 5d



American food aid in famines, we're now going to send
in citizens to 3rd world hellhole prisons and bribe foreign
s to 'house' them:

www.nytimes.com/2025/02/04/us/politics/el-salvador-marco-rubio.html



REPLY



SHARE

indler 5d



wrecking ball to the paternalistic, corruption-enabling program had to be done. Zambian economist, Dambisa Moyo called for this 15 years ago in her illuminating book, Dead Aid. Thank you, Trump, for refreshing our collective memory, and Michael Flynn explaining it in a bite size oratory.

REPLY

SHARE

onek 5d



One thing I want to see from Trump and DOGE is more transparency. What the government is really doing and funding. This is the same as what we are able to do at USAID and other departments. Look at where the money goes and start asking...

Why?

What do they do?

Who actually gets the money?

Who authorized the funding?

How much has it been funded.

DOGE AT EVERY DEPARTMENT.

REPLY

SHARE

As we know: "With regards to the USAID stuff," said Musk last night he went over it with (the president) in detail and he agreed that he would shut it down."

According to the CONSTITUTION, doesn't Congress - not the president or plutocrat sidekick - decide how much money to spend on USAID. Didn't they pass a Continuing Resolution back on October 23, 2024 when Trump was president-elect. If he wanted USAID defunded or reformed, that was the CONSTITUTIONALLY APPROPRIATE moment to act. Even Mike admits:

Remember that Congress will have to approve of any dissolution of USAID since Congress created it."

Trump himself signed the most recent reauthorization of the bill in 2017. This action is more outrageous than Biden's forgiveness of student loan debt: At least there was overly broad language in a bill authorizing debt cancellation during "national emergencies". (That language was intended to help individuals with student loan debt that were fighting after 9/11.) To the best of my knowledge, there is no legal rationale for what Trump is doing. This bill almost certainly will be reversed by the Supreme Court, but what will happen in the meantime isn't clear. Those who work for USAID overseas are mostly on year-to-year contracts.

USAID has specifically authorized spending for certain programs including the hiring of experts to disperse the remaining funds that would be the most "benefit" each dollar spent. Foreign aid spent in America can help reduce the influx of economic migrants who enter our country. Since NAFTA made Northern Mexico prosperous, net migration from there to the US has been zero.

As he said: "But all Trump has done is put his people in charge of the program and caused its grants, and shut down the organization's operations. When asked about USAID yesterday, he said, "It's run by a bunch of radical lunatics and we're getting them out... and we'll make a decision."

It gets that Congress makes the law, and the president carries it out. Executive orders are valid only to the extent Congress has given the President some flexibility in how to carry out the laws that Congress has passed.

 REPLY

 SHARE

eve 5d



Rubio talks USAID, US, Mexico, China, Canada tariff wars, canal

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoje2FAqZMk

025

States Secretary Marco Rubio sat down with FOX News to discuss the Panama Canal, USAID, and the Trump tariff wars ongoing between the US, Mexico, China and Canada. This comes from his trip to Panama. Listen in

REPLY

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2 Granny62 5d



please go on every show with wide audience so people can hear and this?

REPLY

SHARE

ntrell Bryan's Substack 5d



sm!! How refreshing!

REPLY

SHARE

Edited



dia and government officials today sounded like a disturbed person. Perhaps, for a good reason. They don't know what's going on and what security clearance Musk has, but it's so scary. They should be able to examine their spending, not just Musk.

REPLY

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AM BRIAN CAM 5d



have to listen to this 10 times before I get what I think is all of this is incredible information. What is my task what is my mission? If that answer is to save my country this country will be

REPLY

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applebee 6d



article, I just watched famed indian anchor palki sharma
blame musk for closing USAID, with contradictory reasons ... she
claims she's a foreign policy agent, it's just that she hates musk, the
reason for taking away jobs for thousands ...

downsizing as a defence for USAID , what a joke

REPLY

SHARE

ahunchi 6d



in a video we talked about the Atlantic council being funded by
but I didn't hear anybody talking about the Atlantic council's
connections to Stefan Halper and the surveillance of the Trump
campaign prior to the 2016 election

if somebody digs they will find the connections between
groups

no explicit connection mentioned in the provided
information between Stefan Halper and the Atlantic Council in
relation to the 2016 election or his surveillance activities. However,
there are broader connections to various think tanks, intelligence
agencies, and policy circles might indirectly link him to entities
of the Atlantic Council, but this isn't specified.

Halper was involved with the Office of Net Assessment (ONA) at the
time, where he was paid over \$1 million for various research
contracts between 2012 and 2016. His last known contract with ONA
ended around the same time he was meeting with
Nikos Kouros, on September 26, 2016.

REPLY

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er 6d



t take on cutting aid from USAID is probably from El
r's President Bukele, a right of center populist and strong,
in-educated, ally of the U.S. He's turned El Salvador around
short years and basically called cutting USAID's funding a
for the U.S. and the rest of the world. Combine that with
olunt assessment of USAID's value (or lack thereof) and it
oesn't seem to be worth salvaging.

REPLY

SHARE

d



/ little it takes to disturb the anthill.
ter what is obvious. This stuff is literally hiding in plain sight.
why people are terrified of having outsiders come into
ment. They will see what is obviously there, and act.
i simple metaphor of what's happening.

Make Homemade ANT KILLER

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHK-K5VK2gU

REPLY (2)

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nh 5d



'e's another episode.
mp/Musk Attack CIA Fronts USAID & NED: With Mike Benz

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtgT_u2rWs0

LIKE REPLY

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nh 5d



s is an example of the corruption that has been going on.

rcio Rubio talks USAID, US, Mexico, China, Canada tariff
's, Panama canal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoje2FAqZMk>

I have "aid" going to some program that is helpful, but the
money passes through multiple groups, each taking a piece of
money as "administrative" costs.

The real program is getting pennies on the dollar, while other
groups are being paid for reasons unknown.

Stop paying the third parties that siphon off money, and pay
the actual program the small amount of money that they need.

Don't multiply this same scam across State, USAID, etc..., and it
explains how so many programs can get funded without being
audited.

Follow the money. Do a full audit and see where each dollar
goes.

That's why Trump's Cabinet picks are being attacked. The
"Deep State" needs that money to keep flowing.

LIKE  REPLY

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Feminist Changes A Lightbulb 6d



Anything created by statute can only be eliminated by statute.

That Musk and his Orange Puppet are engaging in a coup and
controlling the government. Of course, Shellenberger always
acts as a dictator because his fossil fuel puppet masters want to
destroy the planet without anyone stopping them.

Shellenberger, do you ever get tired of being such a pathetic tool?

 REPLY

 SHARE

aHunchi 6d



his guy that says shutting down USAID would be illegal?

ow, it looked like USAID was created via executive order as a
oken off of the Department of State so you would think
presidential executive order could just erase it.

/ reason I think they could potentially say it's illegal is
e it's a budget item with appropriations but other than that,
ems like they need Congress to move the funding under the
ment of State and a good workaround was naming the
ry of State as the head of USAID so he can command the
alongside the Department of State's.

look like you need Congress at all.

nt of Refugees International

es International is currently led by Jeremy Konyndyk, who
is the president. Prior to Konyndyk, Eric Schwartz was the
nt from June 2017 until at least 2020. Schwartz had a
ished career in international refugee, humanitarian, and
ights issues, including serving as the U.S. Assistant
ry of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration from
2011.

REPLY (1)

SHARE

e beck 6d



ase look up the history. It was created by executive order
TER the passage of the foreign assistance act. The passage
he law was crucial. Presidents can't just create (or destroy)
anizations out of thin air

LIKE (1) REPLY

SHARE

:k 6d

...

is "nothing mafia about moving quickly to assert control" for example, David LeBron resign from the treasury after a long apolitical career. I wouldn't expect people like that to unless they were being asked to do something unethical. ing is fishy about DOGE. If the goal is abolish USAID, that's a good idea. But why not do it through the normal in Congress? Republicans control congress so there is no they couldn't. Why the need for an extra legal, murky, untangle group of people to sweep in and shut everything with zero congressional oversight? Why is doge purging for a inspector general? Why are they purging low level FBI who were just doing their job? I'm sorry, Public I admire your d most of your opinions but I think you are dead wrong here

 REPLY

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itzgerald [brianne's Substack](#) 6d

...

: speak about Paul Kagame and the darling Rwanda rescue D? The white range rovers was virtual signaling at its best

 REPLY

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:rov [Boris Petrov](#) 6d

...

ordinary video – a MUST watch (Chase Gaiser & Ian Carroll)

[m/euxnXRtdMa](#)

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