

# Je Amerika 'svobodná země?', Gregory Hood

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January 6, 2023

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Je Amerika "svobodná země?"

[Gregory Hood](#) • 6. ledna 2023

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Bílí zastánci doufali, že Elon Musk akvizice Twitteru pomůže obnovit svobodu slova. Zatím jsme byli zklamaní. Pan Musk však vydal „Twitter Files“ několika vybraným novinářům, včetně [Matta Taibbiho](#) a [Bariho Weisse](#). Nyní víme, že současní a bývalí vládní úředníci a dokonce i jeden kongresman tlačili na společnost, aby zakázala konkrétní účty, kontrolovala, co mohla veřejnost vidět, a pohřbila určité příběhy způsoby, které pravděpodobně určily prezidentské volby v roce 2020.

Pro mnohé z nás to není překvapení. Představitelé Trumpovy i Bidenovy administrativy se netajili tím, co chtějí. V roce 2019, dokonce i za Trumpa, tehdejší úřadující ministr pro vnitřní bezpečnost Kevin McAleenan hovořil o prioritách své agentury na

akci, kterou spolufinancovala konzervativní Heritage Foundation. "V naší moderní době je pokračující hrozba rasově založeného násilného extremismu, zejména násilné bílé nadvlády, odpornou urážkou národa," řekl .

Pan McAleenan poté – šokujícím způsobem – pochválil rozhodnutí Cloudflare stáhnout službu z webu 8chan. Funkcí Cloudflare je zabránit útokům typu Denial of Service, což jsou těžké zločiny. Jinými slovy, DHS bylo rádo, že Cloudflare selektivně *povolilo* spíše *předcházení* trestné činnosti.

„Ministerstvo vnitřní bezpečnosti říká, že pokud je váš web takzvanou ‚žumpou nenávisti‘, chce, aby vás soukromá společnost nechala bez ochrany před nezákonným útokem, aby vás vaši političtí nepřátelé mohli vyhnat z internetu,“ řekl Jared . Taylor v té době. Přirovnal to k tomu, že se místní policie rozhodla podívat jiným směrem, pokud lupiči zaútočí na „nenávistníka“ s certifikací hlídacího psa. Odvaha pana McAleenana do antirasistického autoritářství nezabránila levičákům v tom, aby označili prezidenta Trumpa za bílého supremacistu, ani nezabránila tomu, aby byl prezident sám deplatformován.

Bidenova administrativa na tom byla hůř. Během pandemie COVID-19 generální viceadmirál Vivek Murthy citoval zprávu z „Centra pro boj proti digitální nenávisti“, která obsahovala „tucet dezinformací“ a obviňovala je ze šíření dezinformací. Prezident Joe Biden dokonce řekl, že Facebook „zabíjí lidi“ tím, že povoluje určité účty, i když ustoupil. Přesto prezident dostal, co chtěl. "Facebook ve středu oznámil, že podnikl kroky proti takzvanému 'desinformačnímu tuctu'," napsal Oliver Darcy pro CNN, "měsíc poté, co Bílý dům vybral dvanáct lidí." „Vybírání“ účtů Bílého domu pro ukončení nebylo zjevně ani kontroverzní.

V únoru 2022 se cenzura a deplatformace, které začaly u bílých obhájců , rozšířily na populárního podcastera Joea Rogana. Spotify zveřejnil varovné štítky u svých epizod ohledně COVID-19. "Takže toto vyloučení odpovědnosti je pozitivní krok," řekla tehdejší tisková tajemnice Bílého domu Jen Psaki, "ale chceme, aby každá platforma i

nadále dělala více, aby upozorňovala na dezinformace a zároveň poskytovala přesné informace." V dubnu ministerstvo pro vnitřní bezpečnost oznámilo novou „radu pro řízení dezinformací“, kterou by vedla Nina Jankowicz. Sama šířila nesmysly o mnoha věcech, zejména o notebooku Huntera Bidena, který nazvala „produktem Trumpovy kampaně“. Rada pro kontrolu dezinformací „milosrdně zemřel“ příští měsíc.

Senátoři Josh Hawley a Charles Grassley poté zveřejnili dokumenty, které ukazují, že správní rada uzavřela partnerství s Twitterem v boji proti „dezinformacím“, včetně „konspiračních teorií o platnosti a bezpečnosti voleb“, „dezinformacím souvisejícím s původem a účinky COVID-19 vakcín nebo účinností roušek“ a „nepravdy kolem imigrační politiky americké vlády“. Přibližně ve stejnou dobu videa z projektu Veritas ukazovala inženýra Twitteru, který připustil, že společnost cenzuruje pravici, ale ne levici.

V říjnu The Intercept informoval o dokumentech DHS, které unikly nebo se dostaly na veřejnost kvůli soudnímu sporu. DHS a FBI se zjevně snažily ovládat online řeč. Představitelka FBI Laura Dehmlowová řekla: „Potřebujeme mediální infrastrukturu, která bude hnána k odpovědnosti. Zpráva také odhalila „formalizovaný proces pro vládní úředníky, aby přímo označili obsah na Facebooku nebo Instagramu a požádali o jeho omezení nebo potlačení“. FBI také údajně vyráběla případy potenciálně násilných bílých, pravicových extremistů, *aby splnila vnitřní kvóty*.

To vše bylo hlášeno po částech, než se objevily „soubory na Twitteru“, ale lidé zvenčí mohli jen spekulovat o tom, jak přesně fungují sociální média s federální vládou. Elon Musk, šéf Twitteru, nyní říká, že „téměř každá konspirační teorie, kterou lidé o Twitteru měli, se ukázala jako pravdivá“. Dodal, že nejhorší spekulace mohou být ještě „pravdivější, než si lidé mysleli“.



Elon Musk. (Kreditní obrázek: © Patrick Pleul/dpa přes ZUMA Press)

Jak to všechno začalo? Novináři, představitelé médií, zpravodajští úředníci a liberální politici byli zjevně šokováni, že prezident Donald Trump vyhrál v roce 2016. Podcenili jeho i nacionalistickou pravici. Mnozí měli podezření, že právě tehdy se rozhodli, že zvolení někoho, jako je pan Trump, už nikdy nebude povoleno, a že nejlepším způsobem, jak zabránit katastrofě, je zabránit Američanům v získávání určitých informací. Tiše slíbili, že už nikdy neztratí kontrolu nad online řečí. V tradici Herberta Marcuse by cenzurovali pouze pravicově smýšlející lidi a říkali, že jde o „obranu demokracie“. Vítězství prezidenta Trumpa v roce 2016 proto *omezilo* to, co bylo možné říkat online, a když měl moc, nic s tím neudělal.

Andrew Prokop z Vox má jasný pohled na liberální motivy. „Poté, co Trump vyhrál,“ napsal , „mnoho předních osobností v politice, technologiích, médiích a vymáhání práva dospělo k závěru, že hlavní platformy sociálních médií jako Twitter a Facebook měly udělat více

pro zastavení tohoto ruského zásahu. . . . Nicméně pro mnohé s významnou mocí nad médii to byl problém Donald Trump, ne nutně Rusko. Pokračoval:

Jeden světonázor – přijatý v různé míře liberály, konzervativci proti Trumpovi a významnou částí technologického a mediálního průmyslu – byl ten, že Trumpovo prezidentství představuje bezprecedentní hrozbu pro americkou demokracii, že umožňuje nárůst nenávisti vůči menšinovým skupinám, které žije v ohrožení, že jeho neustálé lži se rovnaly útoku na pravdu a že bylo nutné celospolečenské úsilí postavit se mu na odpor. „Obchod jako obvykle“ v mediálních nebo technologických společnostech již není udržitelný, pokud se domníváte, že vaše země sklouzává k autoritářství, zní tento argument. Novináři a tech pracovníci by neměli být neutrální vůči vyhlídce na konec americké demokracie, ale měli by na její obranu zaujmout postoj založený na hodnotách. . . .

Cenzura je dost špatná. Lidé by měli mít právo se mýlit. My, bílí zastánci, jím však obzvláště pohrdáme, protože máme objektivní pravdu o rase a rovnostáři se mýlí. Svou neschopnost vyvrátit nás zakrývají tvrzením, že věda je vyřešena .

Levice by měla ustoupit před cenzurou ve jménu „demokracie“ – vždy obviňovala pravici z autoritářství. Nyní je to levice, která zničila kdysi nezpochybnitelné demokratické normy svobody slova pomocí vládních agentur proti politickým protivníkům. Když prezident Richard Nixon uvažoval o použití IRS proti svým nepřátelům, liberálové to označili za zločin . Toto bylo jedno ze specifických obvinění v článcích o impeachmentu z roku 1974 . Nyní Kongres demokratů zveřejňuje osobní daňové přiznání prezidenta Trumpa, i když v nich nebylo nic šokujícího nebo nezákonného. To je typický levicový rozmar: "Je to v pořádku, když to děláme."

Twitter po volbách v roce 2016 zesílil cenzuru. Nejnovější soubory Twitteru ukazují, jak zpravodajské agentury přešly na Twitter a změnily jeho politiku. Po vítězství prezidenta Trumpa vyvinul senátor Mark Warner (D-VA) na společnost nátlak . Myslel si, že to nestačí k zastavení ruského vměšování. Když Twitter našel jen málo důkazů o vážné ruské manipulaci, demokraté pohrozili Twitteru a dalším společnostem novými předpisy. BuzzFeed se hromadil a tvrdil, že na Twitteru našel „sít“ s odkazy na „účty botů propojených s

Ruskem“. Zaměstnanci Twitteru doufali , že přežijí mediální bouři, ale kombinovaný tlak novinářů a politiků na větší cenzuru zlomil vůli společnosti.

30.“REPORTERS NOW KNOW THIS IS A MODEL THAT WORKS”

This cycle – threatened legislation, wedded to scare headlines pushed by congressional/intel sources, followed by Twitter caving to moderation asks – would later be formalized in partnerships with federal law enforcement. [pic.twitter.com/DWSIHkk2cm](https://pic.twitter.com/DWSIHkk2cm)

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [January 3, 2023](#)

Matt Taibbi zveřejnil interní sdělení ukazující, že United States Intelligence Community (USIC) má velkou moc nad tím, co bude na Twitteru povoleno, zatímco Twitter tvrdil , že rozhoduje. To bylo předmětem druhé části Twitter Files, kterou zveřejnil Bari Weiss. Twitter opustil své původní poslání propagovat svobodu projevu a místo toho vybudoval tajný systém na propagaci zpráv, které preferoval. Bylo to vinné z klamavé reklamy .

2. Twitter once had a mission “to give everyone the power to create and share ideas and information instantly, without barriers.” Along the way, barriers nevertheless were erected.

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) [December 9, 2022](#)

Pokud jste před rokem tvrdili, že Twitter musí mít kategorie jako „Search Blacklist“ nebo „Do Not Amplify“, které lze použít proti mainstreamovým konzervativcům, jako je Dan Bongino nebo Charlie Kirk, zněli byste jako blázni. Přesně to Twitter udělal.

5. Twitter set the account of conservative activist Charlie Kirk (@charliekirk11) to “Do Not Amplify.” [pic.twitter.com/dOyQIVdsW2](https://pic.twitter.com/dOyQIVdsW2)

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) [December 9, 2022](#)

7. What many people call “shadow banning,” Twitter executives and employees call “Visibility Filtering” or “VF.” Multiple high-level sources confirmed its meaning.

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) [December 9, 2022](#)

To, co slečna Weissová nazvala „tajnou skupinou“, která určovala osud účtů na vysoké úrovni, byla „Zásady integrity webu, podpora eskalace zásad“ nebo „SIP-PES“. To zahrnovalo generálního ředitele

a bývalého šéfa Global Trust and Safety Yoela Rotha, krajně levicového aktivistu, který Trumpovu administrativu považoval za nacisty. Pan Roth obzvláště dychtil po „deamplování“ obsahu, který se mu nelíbil.

25. Roth wrote: “The hypothesis underlying much of what we’ve implemented is that if exposure to, e.g., misinformation directly causes harm, we should use remediations that reduce exposure, and limiting the spread/virality of content is a good way to do that.”

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) December 9, 2022

Zvláštním cílem byl účet „@libsofTikTok“, který většinou znovu publikuje věci, které zveřejňují sami leváci.

17. The account—which Chaya Raichik began in November 2020 and now boasts over 1.4 million followers—was subjected to six suspensions in 2022 alone, Raichik says. Each time, Raichik was blocked from posting for as long as a week.

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) December 9, 2022

Pravidla o doxingu byla také selektivně vynucována.

22. When Raichik told Twitter that her address had been disseminated she says Twitter Support responded with this message: "We reviewed the reported content, and didn't find it to be in violation of the Twitter rules." No action was taken. The doxxing tweet is still up. [pic.twitter.com/tUeaBP1bS4](https://pic.twitter.com/tUeaBP1bS4)

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) December 9, 2022

Part three of the Twitter files showed that Twitter removed President Donald Trump even though employees themselves admitted he hadn’t violated policy. Extensive communication with government officials preceded this decision, something Mr. Roth seemed to enjoy. Mr. Roth met weekly with the FBI, the DHS, and even the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. These agencies seemed to tell Twitter what it should and should not allow to be said about the 2020 election. Intelligence agencies were also involved in the decision to censor an accurate story about Hunter Biden’s laptop. According to a poll published by the *New York Post*, almost 80

percent of Americans think “truthful” coverage of Hunter Biden’s laptop would have changed the election result. (Eleven percent still think Russians made it all up.)

Many internal communications used the messaging app Slack.

11. After J6, internal Slacks show Twitter executives getting a kick out of intensified relationships with federal agencies. Here’s Trust and Safety head Yoel Roth, lamenting a lack of “generic enough” calendar descriptions to concealing his “very interesting” meeting partners. [pic.twitter.com/kgC4eGykcO](https://pic.twitter.com/kgC4eGykcO)

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 9, 2022](#)

21. Roth’s report to FBI/DHS/DNI is almost farcical in its self-flagellating tone: “We blocked the NYP story, then unblocked it (but said the opposite)... comms is angry, reporters think we’re idiots... in short, FML” (fuck my life). [pic.twitter.com/sTaWglhaJt](https://pic.twitter.com/sTaWglhaJt)

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 9, 2022](#)

The FBI would flag specific tweets. After that, Twitter would invent an excuse to take them down.

24. Here, the FBI sends reports about a pair of tweets, the second of which involves a former Tippecanoe County, Indiana Councilor and Republican named [@JohnBasham](#) claiming “Between 2% and 25% of Ballots by Mail are Being Rejected for Errors.” [pic.twitter.com/KtigHOiEwF](https://pic.twitter.com/KtigHOiEwF)

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 10, 2022](#)

27. Examining the entire election enforcement Slack, we didn’t see one reference to moderation requests from the Trump campaign, the Trump White House, or Republicans generally. We looked. They may exist: we were told they do. However, they were absent here.

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 10, 2022](#)

The Twitter Files Part Four showed that Twitter no longer cared about free speech. Executives just wanted to boot Donald Trump. However, this didn’t just happen all at once. Activist groups, especially the ADL, pushed for this. There was a coalition against free speech. Pressure was also coming from progressives inside the company, especially Mr. Roth. CEO Jack Dorsey seemed to be the lone voice who valued free speech for its own sake.



On Jan 7, senior Twitter execs:

- create justifications to ban Trump
- seek a change of policy for Trump alone, distinct from other political leaders
- express no concern for the free speech or democracy implications of a ban

This [#TwitterFiles](#) is reported with [@lwoodhouse](#)

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [December 10, 2022](#)

But after the events of Jan 6, the internal and external pressure on Twitter CEO [@jack](#) grows.

Former First Lady [@michelleobama](#) , tech journalist [@karaswisher](#) , [@ADL](#) , high-tech VC [@ChrisSacca](#) , and many others, publicly call on Twitter to permanently ban Trump. [pic.twitter.com/RzNj7WJReg](https://pic.twitter.com/RzNj7WJReg)

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [December 10, 2022](#)

As context, it's important to understand that Twitter's staff & senior execs were overwhelmingly progressive.

In 2018, 2020, and 2022, 96%, 98%, & 99% of Twitter staff's political donations went to Democrats. <https://t.co/XdwkdPwYVQ>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [December 10, 2022](#)

“Progress!” exclaims a member of Roth's Trust and Safety Team.

The exchange between Roth and his colleagues makes clear that they had been pushing [@jack](#) for greater restrictions on the speech Twitter allows around elections.

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [December 11, 2022](#)

**This article is being published on January 6, 2023, the date of the riot at the Capitol and the killing of Ashli Babbitt. The violence at the Capitol was wrong and set back the American Right. However, President Trump's actual tweets (now on his unused but restored account) call on the crowd to stay lawful and peaceful.**

Please support our Capitol Police and Law Enforcement. They are truly on the side of our Country. Stay peaceful!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) [January 6, 2021](#)

I am asking for everyone at the U.S. Capitol to remain peaceful. No violence! Remember, WE are the Party of Law & Order – respect the Law and our great men and women in Blue. Thank you!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) January 6, 2021

Employees struggle with whether to punish users who share screenshots of Trump's deleted J6 tweets

"we should bounce these tweets with a strike given the screen shot violates the policy"

"they are criticising Trump, so I am bit hesitant with applying strike to this user"

[pic.twitter.com/dhHF2nXsHz](https://pic.twitter.com/dhHF2nXsHz)

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) December 11, 2022

What if a user dislikes Trump \*and\* objects to Twitter's censorship? The tweet still gets deleted. But since the \*intention\* is not to deny the election result, no punishing strike is applied.

"if there are instances where the intent is unclear please feel free to raise"

[pic.twitter.com/8bdG6b38ej](https://pic.twitter.com/8bdG6b38ej)

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) December 11, 2022

President Trump, quite directly, said the election was stolen. He also praised the crowd. However, he did not tell the crowd to attack the Capitol. In the past, Twitter said that the way tweets are interpreted — an exercise in mind-reading — couldn't be what determines policy. However, after January 6, that changed.

On J8, Twitter says its ban is based on "specifically how [Trump's tweets] are being received & interpreted."

But in 2019, Twitter said it did "not attempt to determine all potential interpretations of the content or its intent." <https://t.co/2jW1s5pH4W> [pic.twitter.com/8gZwIDtyUQ](https://pic.twitter.com/8gZwIDtyUQ)

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) December 11, 2022

In Part Five of the Twitter Files, Bari Weiss explains the precise details of President Trump's ban. He earned a "strike" when he posted a video that told protesters/rioters to "go home" but also said "we love you" and that the election was "stolen." One employee compared this to Communist dictatorship.

7. There were dissenters inside Twitter.

“Maybe because I am from China,” said one employee on January 7, “I deeply understand how censorship can destroy the public conversation.” [pic.twitter.com/LtonK0gfS3](https://pic.twitter.com/LtonK0gfS3)

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) [December 12, 2022](#)

President Trump later posted this.

2. 6:46 am: “The 75,000,000 great American Patriots who voted for me, AMERICA FIRST, and MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, will have a GIANT VOICE long into the future. They will not be disrespected or treated unfairly in any way, shape or form!!!”

[pic.twitter.com/7L252fqgK6](https://pic.twitter.com/7L252fqgK6)

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) [December 12, 2022](#)

Twitter employees acknowledged that this did not incite violence.

14. Another staffer agreed: “Don’t see the incitement angle here.”

[pic.twitter.com/6mbUU2Tma0](https://pic.twitter.com/6mbUU2Tma0)

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) [December 12, 2022](#)

President Trump said he would not be attending in the inauguration. This was also not a violation.

18. Next, Twitter’s safety team decides that Trump’s 7:44 am ET tweet is also not in violation. They are unequivocal: “it’s a clear no vio. It’s just to say he’s not attending the inauguration” [pic.twitter.com/zdxSsG1UBS](https://pic.twitter.com/zdxSsG1UBS)

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) [December 12, 2022](#)

Bari Weiss gives examples of other world leaders, including those of Iran, Malaysia, and Ethiopia, who tweeted things far more violent than anything President Trump did. They were not banned. Thus, there was no reason to suspend Donald Trump. Twitter did it anyway, because Vijaya Gadde, head of “Legal, Policy, and Trust” said that although his tweet about American Patriots wasn’t a “rule violation on its face,” it could be “coded incitement.” Thus, her fantasies about what President Trump’s rather clear statement might mean sealed his fate.

26. Less than 90 minutes after Twitter employees had determined that Trump’s tweets were not in violation of Twitter policy, Vijaya Gadde—Twitter’s Head of Legal, Policy, and Trust—asked whether it could, in fact, be “coded incitement to further violence.”

[pic.twitter.com/1lJRMfpOPi](https://pic.twitter.com/1lJRMfpOPi)

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) [December 12, 2022](#)

After that, other Twitter employees decided that the reference to “American Patriots” supported terrorism. President Trump’s account was finished.

29. Two hours later, Twitter executives host a 30-minute all-staff meeting.

Jack Dorsey and Vijaya Gadde answer staff questions as to why Trump wasn’t banned yet.

But they make some employees angrier.

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) [December 12, 2022](#)

30. “Multiple tweeps [Twitter employees] have quoted the Banality of Evil suggesting that people implementing our policies are like Nazis following orders,” relays Yoel Roth to a colleague. [pic.twitter.com/cm5yzuSYSV](https://pic.twitter.com/cm5yzuSYSV)

— Bari Weiss (@bariweiss) [December 12, 2022](#)

Progressive employees who oppose freedom of speech for people they think are “Nazis” overcame Jack Dorsey’s reluctance to ban a head of state. Mr. Dorsey should have done a better job preventing extremists from gaining power inside the company. Twitter employees clearly didn’t care about free speech and activist groups and journalists were also demanding more censorship. The result was capture by the authoritarian and “woke” Left, something we’ve also seen at PayPal and elsewhere. It has become a drearily familiar story.

We should not overlook direct government involvement. “I think we can say pretty conclusively,” wrote Matt Taibbi, “after looking at tens of thousands of emails over the course of these weeks, that the government was in the censorship business in a huge way — that’s, I think, provable now.” He went on to say that “really every conceivable wing of the enforcement agencies of the U.S. government were in some way or another sending moderation requests to Twitter

and in many cases those requests were being fulfilled.” The FBI has fallen back on dismissing these reports. “It is unfortunate that conspiracy theorists and others are feeding the American public misinformation with the sole purpose of attempting to discredit the agency,” it said. This is no conspiracy theory. This is conspiracy fact. FBI denials show how arrogant the organization has become. Even the *Wall Street Journal* has published an opinion piece called “Abolish the FBI.”

Some of the Twitter staffers who eventually overruled Jack Dorsey were former FBI employees themselves. With Twitter meeting regularly with the agency, these were essentially colleagues working together. *The New York Post* reported that more than a dozen former employees moved from the bureau to Twitter and that James Baker, the FBI’s former general counsel, worked for Twitter. According to the Twitter Files Part Six, arguably the most shocking, the FBI treated Twitter like a “subsidiary,” identifying specific accounts it wanted taken down. Twitter than dutifully removed them. The FBI had a social-media team of about 80 agents. “The FBI has agents — lots of them — analyzing and mass-flagging social media posts,” wrote Mr. Taibbi. “Not as part of any criminal investigation, but as a permanent, end-in-itself surveillance operation. People should not be ok with this.”

But perhaps it is Rep. Adam Schiff (D-California) who played the most contemptible role in all this. His office sent a message to Twitter demanding action. “Suspend the many accounts, including @GregRubini and @paulsperry, which have repeatedly promoted false QAnon conspiracies.”

27. They also received an astonishing variety of requests from officials asking for individuals they didn’t like to be banned. Here, the office for Democrat and House Intel Committee chief Adam Schiff asks Twitter to ban journalist Paul Sperry:  
[pic.twitter.com/SX11ekqi13](https://pic.twitter.com/SX11ekqi13)

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) January 3, 2023

A Twitter employee was taken aback by the audacity. “No, we don’t do this.” Unfortunately, they do — Mr. Sperry was suspended. Why Paul Sperry? He reportedly was going to expose the whistleblower who revealed the phone call to Ukraine by President Trump. That phone call led to President Trump’s first impeachment. Rep. Schiff wanted to smother information that could be politically inconvenient.

Mr. Taibbi shows that the reluctant 2017 decision to remove users identified by the USIC had by 2020 become routine.

31. Remember the 2017 “internal guidance” in which Twitter decided to remove any user “identified by the U.S. intelligence community” as a state-sponsored entity committing cyber operations? By 2020 such identifications came in bulk. [pic.twitter.com/OrSC1uwgm8](https://pic.twitter.com/OrSC1uwgm8)

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) January 3, 2023

To see hard proof of one’s worst fears is shocking. However, the mainstream media is indifferent to these revelations. CNN’s Oliver Darcy is typical:

Led by Fox News, the right-wing media machine is treating the ongoing series of stories as if they were the next Pentagon Papers, breathlessly hyping each new batch of documents as earth-shattering scoops that illuminate horrific abuses of power by woke Twitter overlords of yesteryear.

It’s worse than the Pentagon Papers. The Pentagon Papers showed that the American government had secretly expanded the war in Vietnam and lied about it. These documents show that government officials, including intelligence agencies, are trying to control public discussion in the United States. The Pentagon Papers were about a foreign war. The Twitter files are about a domestic war on the First Amendment, led by the very people who are supposed to defend it. Mr. Darcy continues:

The chief reason most news organizations aren’t up in arms about the story is because the releases have largely not contained any revelatory information. So far, the files have failed to do much outside highlight exactly how messy content moderation can be — especially when under immense pressure and dealing with the former President of the United States.

Many journalists don't care that we have a government bureaucracy that works with media companies to censor speech and take sides in elections. (We have the Hatch Act to keep government employees out of politics.) It is apparently not major news that intelligence agencies and a congressman can silence political opponents. The efforts to control speech about COVID-19 and vaccines would be a separate article in itself. What's more, the Twitter Files expose only what happened at Twitter. We can sure that the government has been just as deeply involved with every other platform.

Mr. Taibbi showed that media, agitation from activist groups, and pressure from the government can silence dissent. Only a few journalists, such as Mr. Taibbi himself, still seem to believe that the government should not force a political ideology on the people. Journalists who agree with that ideology think it's fine.

That doesn't make it legal. Attorney Jed Rubenfeld writes in *The Wall Street Journal* that a lawsuit filed by Alex Berenson over his Twitter suspension was dismissed because the judge thought it "implausible" the government was involved in censorship. Now we know it happened all the time. The Catch-22 is that thanks to Elon Musk, we can assume the policies have changed. It could now be hard to sue Twitter, especially if suspended accounts are restored. However, there is an alternative to suing Twitter or any other platform. Mr. Rubenfeld suggests a class-action suit against the *government employees* who asked that users be censored. At stake is not just the right of the speaker to speak, but the right of the audience to hear. The Supreme Court agreed in *Virginia Board of Pharmacy v. Virginia Citizens Consumer Council* (1976).

Furthermore, in *Norwood v. Harrison* (1973), the Court held it was "axiomatic" that the government "may not induce, encourage, or promote private persons to accomplish what it is constitutionally forbidden to accomplish," namely, engage in censorship. This is precisely what the Twitter files show the government was doing.

The Trump DHS was doing it when it urged private companies to censor people because the feds couldn't do it directly. Mr. Rubenfeld quotes Judge Richard Posner of the Seventh U.S. Circuit of Appeals in *Backpage.com v. Dart* (2015): "When a government official unconstitutionally attempts to induce a private company not to carry someone else's speech, the official's conduct 'is actionable and can be enjoined.'" It's actionable even if the company ignores it. The mere fact of *trying* to censor speech is a violation of the First Amendment. Mr. Rubenfeld thinks a user class-action suit against federal defendants has real potential. "The freedom of speech can't survive in this country if the government is free to work with tech companies to control what can be said or seen in the square," he concluded. Unfortunately, while Mr. Musk has done America a great service by bringing these possible crimes to light, he has already turned his back on principle. He refuses to lift the ban on Alex Jones, on the grounds that he has "no mercy for anyone who would use the deaths of children for gain, politics or fame." Does that include David Hogg and other gun control activists who milk every tragedy to chip away at the Second Amendment? Free speech is not about personal preference. It's the right to say anything that is not illegal or a direct threat of violence. Mr. Musk is now a censor, and has implicitly *endorsed* every other account on Twitter because, out of personal preference, he's letting them stay up. Banning Kanye West and the National Justice Party sends the same message. Journalists will find Twitter accounts they don't like, write stories about them, rally activists, and blame Mr. Musk for not banning them. We will be right back where we started. The American solution is to restore free speech for all.

Whether journalists or ethnic lobby groups get upset should have no bearing on whether a citizen can express his opinion. The truth also matters. Going along with delusions about racial equivalence is destroying our country and has already destroyed many once-great cities. We can't solve problems we can't discuss.



Nor can anyone claim that Twitter is just a private company that can choose what it publishes. It was becoming an arm of American law enforcement. Access should be a civil right.

Our own accounts at AmRen are still reportedly under review. We will not start new ones lest we be accused of “ban evasion.” We patiently await the promised “amnesty” for banned accounts. We never broke any Twitter rules, never promoted an illegal act, never used vulgar language. It may be *because* we were effective that we were banned. If Mr. Musk dumps all the “Twitter Files,” someday we may see what rationalizations, if any, Twitter employees came up with to ban us.

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There is *nothing* more fundamental to what this country is supposed to be than freedom of speech. The next time our rulers demand a crusade against an authoritarian regime with censored media, questionable elections, and unchecked intelligence agencies, we need not look to Moscow or Beijing. There’s an increasingly authoritarian regime that poses a far more direct threat to Americans right here at home.

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**Trim Comments?**

1. HammerJack says:

January 7, 2023 at 5:15 am GMT • 2.1 days ago • 200 Words ↑

FBI official Laura Dehmlow said, “We need a media infrastructure that is held accountable.”

Yeah, you already have that. 99% of it.

It’s that other 1% that’s driving you crazy.

Mr. Dorsey should have done a better job preventing extremists from gaining power inside the company. Twitter employees clearly didn’t care about free speech and activist groups and journalists were also demanding more censorship. The result was capture by the authoritarian and “woke” Left, something we’ve also seen at PayPal and elsewhere. It has become a drearily familiar story.

After all, who are they going to hire, even if they wanted to? The vast majority of Gen Z and Millennials are thoroughly wokified. And sure, they believe in free speech—but only for those who agree with them.

Control of mass-media propaganda, lost to the Tribe several decades ago, made these automatons what they are, essentially creating a new reality along the way. Until control is somehow wrested back, there will be no progress. Trouble is, about 300 million people have been brainwashed.

Taibbi, Weiss, Greenwald and others (including many published right here on unz.com) are doing great work. But the Empire has survived more grievous assaults than this in the past. The assaults need to be ramped up, and reactionary political tastemakers need to be challenged. Anywhere and everywhere.

• **Agree:** ruralguy, Renard

Reply/Agree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter

2. Biff says:

| Is America a 'Free Country?'

No.

• **Agree:** JimDandy, JackOH

ReplyAgree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter

3. Jewish Power can freely do as it pleases.

It's good to be the king.



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/8z8SpgmFosA>

ReplyAgree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter

4. Tono-Bungay says:

January 7, 2023 at 11:20 am GMT • 1.8 days ago • 100 Words ↑

1. Thoroughly agree that Twitter-government collusion in censorship is wrong.
2. Thoroughly agree that media's ignoring of this is outrageous.
3. Still, I think it somewhat muddies the waters to bring the Covid matter into this. Almost everyone would agree that in emergencies the government should not be indifferent to what is being said. Take, for example, a situation where a flood is imminent because of a dam's rupturing. Imagine someone deliberately lies about where people should go to avoid oncoming flood. Does government really have no responsibility to ensure people are accurately informed? Covid, obviously, is a more complex and somewhat less urgent problem, but it was still an emergency.

Reply Agree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter

## 5. Arenous says: • Website

January 7, 2023 at 2:24 pm GMT • 1.7 days ago • 200 Words ↑

In short, America is indeed a free country, but Americans are not a free people.

To take up the available freedom, they would have to do something that takes more work than whining on twitter, and they don't feel it's worth the effort. E.g. you can just not take the vaccine. However, if you do that, your neighbours might say unkind things about you, so they do take the vaccine.

There are many, many ways to produce a decentralized version of twitter that would drop nodes that the users considered compromised. It is likely that spies and hall monitors wouldn't even be able to develop an initial following except among other spies – the way KKK groups tend to be 80% FBI agents. The network simply wouldn't make a place for them. As a bonus, your tweets would be held locally, allowing you to easily migrate to a different network, and disallowing the service to unilaterally delete your tweets.

However, it is clear that not only do Americans not care for decentralized ideas, they actively despise them and want the government to tell them clearly what to think.

It is apparently not major news that intelligence agencies and a congressman can silence political opponents.

Indeed, it is not. Woke is more correct than the mainstream. Like the Romans, Americans admire cruel, sadistic leaders. If nobody can delete your account at whim, they get disappointed and upset. The more iron the fist, the more excited they are to be tyrannized by it. Nietzsche was right.

### • **Replies:** @Flatirth

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6. Phibbs says:

January 7, 2023 at 3:08 pm GMT • 1.7 days ago • 100 Words ↑

You know what? The vast majority of Americans don't care about moral issues anymore. They don't care about "President" Biden and his evil character and policies. They don't care that the government is stoking the fires of World War Three in Ukraine. They don't care that Jews own the government and the media. We (Caucasian) Americans are a contemptible people who deserve to lose our freedoms and have blacks overrun us with the full support of the Jews and their skills.

ReplyAgree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter

7. Tranceislife says:

January 7, 2023 at 5:07 pm GMT • 1.6 days ago • 100 Words ↑

None of this is new and nothing will change because this whole exercise by Musk and his deep state compatriots is to divert attention to known players who executed the orders while the people who conceived and gave the orders remain unidentified and hidden and free to sharpen their playbook and come up with more covert options to continue doing what is being done currently

ReplyAgree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter

8. tyrone says:

January 7, 2023 at 6:58 pm GMT • 1.5 days ago ↑

| Is America a 'Free Country?'

.....America is a free shit country, why do you think all those ILLEGALS are pouring over the border.

ReplyAgree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter

9. [ruralguy](#) says:

[January 7, 2023 at 7:22 pm GMT • 1.5 days ago](#) • 100 Words [↑](#)

If you walk around any mall in America, you'll find strange people from every country in the world, none of whom have anything in common with you. Legal theory emphasizes the importance that laws reflect common values and traditions. There are no common values among the hordes of immigrants that are rapidly dominating our demographics, other than a frightening cult-like woke standard, modeled after the Chinese Red Guard revolution. If we are all just strangers with no shared values, law and order should disintegrate, if legal theory is right. Already, like the Chinese revolution, our history is being rewritten and people with the wrong views are canceled, though not yet executed. Is anyone "free" in these revolutions? No.

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10. [Flaturth](#) says:

[January 7, 2023 at 8:23 pm GMT • 1.5 days ago](#) [↑](#)

[@Alrenous](#)

Would appreciate a pointer to where I can read more about your Nietzsche reference regarding Americans' desire for tyranny. I'm a big fan of that point of view but I'm not well read on the subject.

[Reply](#)[Agree](#)/[Disagree](#)/[Etc.](#) [This Commenter](#) [This Thread](#) [Hide Thread](#)

11. SafeNow says:

January 7, 2023 at 11:01 pm GMT • 1.3 days ago • 100 Words ↑

Twitter Files expose only what happened at Twitter...the same happened with other platforms as well- the essay

As long as we are expanding the reach of banning, there is this. What about the banning that happened in countless families and friend groups. What happened is that Conservatives were ostracized, because their liberal family and friends were getting all of their information from Twitter etc. And so, the Conservative seemed to be grossly misinformed; and more than that, evil.

• **Agree:** Catdompanj

• **Replies:** @RadicalCenter

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12. E Perez says:

January 8, 2023 at 2:39 am GMT • 1.2 days ago • 100 Words ↑

| Is America a 'Free Country?'

Funny that Dr. Hood asks that question based on the Twitter files.

A country that has been lied into two World Wars, into the Vietnam war, into attacking Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan – you named it, into bold cover-ups like 9/11, the Israeli attack on the Liberty and many others, cannot be said “a free country” unless these decisions had been freely debated, which was never the case.

Since more than a century your media are under Jewish control, you never had any saying or “free speech”, in any political issue of real importance.

Don't complain about Twitter censorship, its only the most recent nail in the coffin ... and not even the biggest.

• **Agree:** HammerJack

• **Replies:** @Justvisiting

Reply Agree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter This Thread Hide Thread

13. WorkingClass says:

January 8, 2023 at 9:01 am GMT • 22.2 hours ago ↑

You legitimize the Fascist Regime in Washington when you refer to it as “the left”.

• **Agree:** Franz

• **Replies:** @Franz, @Alrenous

Reply Agree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter This Thread Hide Thread

14. Priss Factor says: • Website

January 8, 2023 at 9:11 am GMT • 22.1 hours ago ↑

Mexico is pretty awesome

Intense footage shows the moment the Mexican military comes under heavy fire from cartel gunmen. This is what the military has to deal with across

[#Mexico](#) [#OvidioGuzman](#) [#Sinaloa](#) [#Culiacan](#) [#Juarez](#) [pic.twitter.com/dQxRAtLsM0](https://pic.twitter.com/dQxRAtLsM0)

— Donkey Junk (@DonkeyJunkMedia) [January 5, 2023](#)

Reply Agree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter

15. Franz says:

January 8, 2023 at 2:15 pm GMT • 17.0 hours ago • 100

Words ↑

@WorkingClass

| You legitimize the Fascist Regime in Washington when you refer to it as “the left”.

In fact, Left and Right are now pretty useless for determining things. What kind of democrat wants weapons for the Ukrainians and thousands of military-aged “migrants” pouring into the country?

Phil Ochs sang it right long time ago: “This country’s under some kind of cures.”

Reply Agree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter This Thread Hide Thread

16. [Arenous](#) says: • [Website](#)

[January 8, 2023 at 6:49 pm GMT](#) • [12.4 hours ago](#) • 100

Words [↑](#)

[@WorkingClass](#)

Fascism is by far the best and most accurate umbrella term for leftism. There isn't and never was anything rightist about Fascism, except in reference to other Fascists.

The core doctrines of leftism are egalitarianism and irresponsibility. Everyone is identical – e.g. man = woman – and if you make a mistake you should never have to pay for it yourself. If anything bad happens to you, it must have been someone else's fault. It's Capitalism's fault. It's the fault of White Men. It's the fault of Da Joos. Anything is fine as long as it justifies continues Fascist stagnation.

The core doctrines of the right are inequality and responsibility. Some people are plain better than you are, and that's why they're doing better. If something bad happens to you, no matter how little it may be your own fault, it's even less the fault of your poor neighbours, who shouldn't have to deal with it if they don't want to. If you screw up, you deserved to get fucked and die. If you want better, be prepared to pay for it yourself.

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17. RadicalCenter says:

January 8, 2023 at 8:20 pm GMT • 10.9 hours ago • 100

Words [↑](#)

@SafeNow

Yes. In addition, millions of us stood up for liberty, freedom of choice, bodily autonomy, freedom of movement, freedom to conduct honest business and earn a living, freedom from constant surveillance, who are NOT “conservatives.” We also bore the brunt of rude, hysterical, medically ill-informed, closeminded, bullying relatives and coworkers.

• **Agree:** SafeNow

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18. Justvisiting says:

January 9, 2023 at 3:00 am GMT • 4.2 hours ago • 100 Words [↑](#)

@E Perez

| A country that has been lied into two World Wars

After we got dragged into the wars those who dared dissent were declared “traitors” and often jailed if they made too much noise. The masses were whipped up into wild hysteria.

This garbage has been going on for a long long time—the “free” country myth was propaganda for more than a century.

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19. Mac says:

January 9, 2023 at 5:11 am GMT • 2.1 hours ago • 200 Words ↑

If answering article title, though some examples in article, think is more basic, and should divide in groups, because is the country free assumes one group, when there are two. Those claiming to be state, corporations, false doctors pharma, lawyers, media, etc take power as group, as everyone else is another group. Supposed groups such as race or religion they pander to temporarily as if 'in' group but are not, they are in second group. Including some of dupe jews who get some special treatment but still told same dictates, such as 'lockdown, or supposed gun laws, more immigrants, or pay tax so the power group have more weapons, etc. Obviously many jews in power group though some dupe jews aren't, but ignore, which is same problem as others ignoring.

So question is really on two groups. Those acting for power, so they are free, as other group chooses not to, except some who try, though seem static because of those who ignore. Appreciate the article, also other comments.

Reply Agree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter

20. loner feral cat says:

What to Expect from the (((U.S. Government))) in 2023?

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/what-expect-government-2023-more-same/5803876>



ReplyAgree/Disagree/Etc. This Commenter

← Senator Cardin Betrays the Constitution

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