

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT

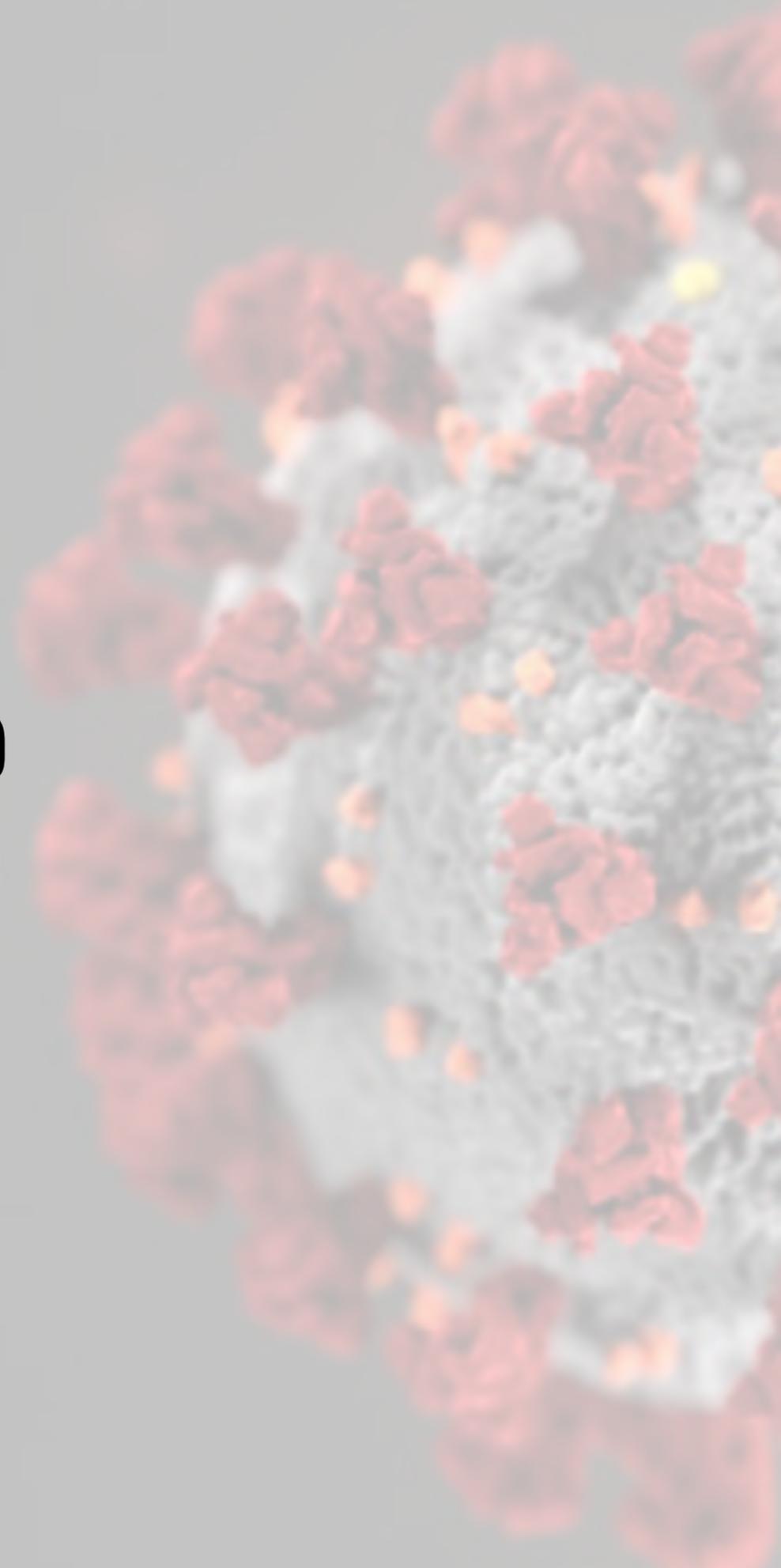


Jason Luther, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Writing Arts
Rowan University

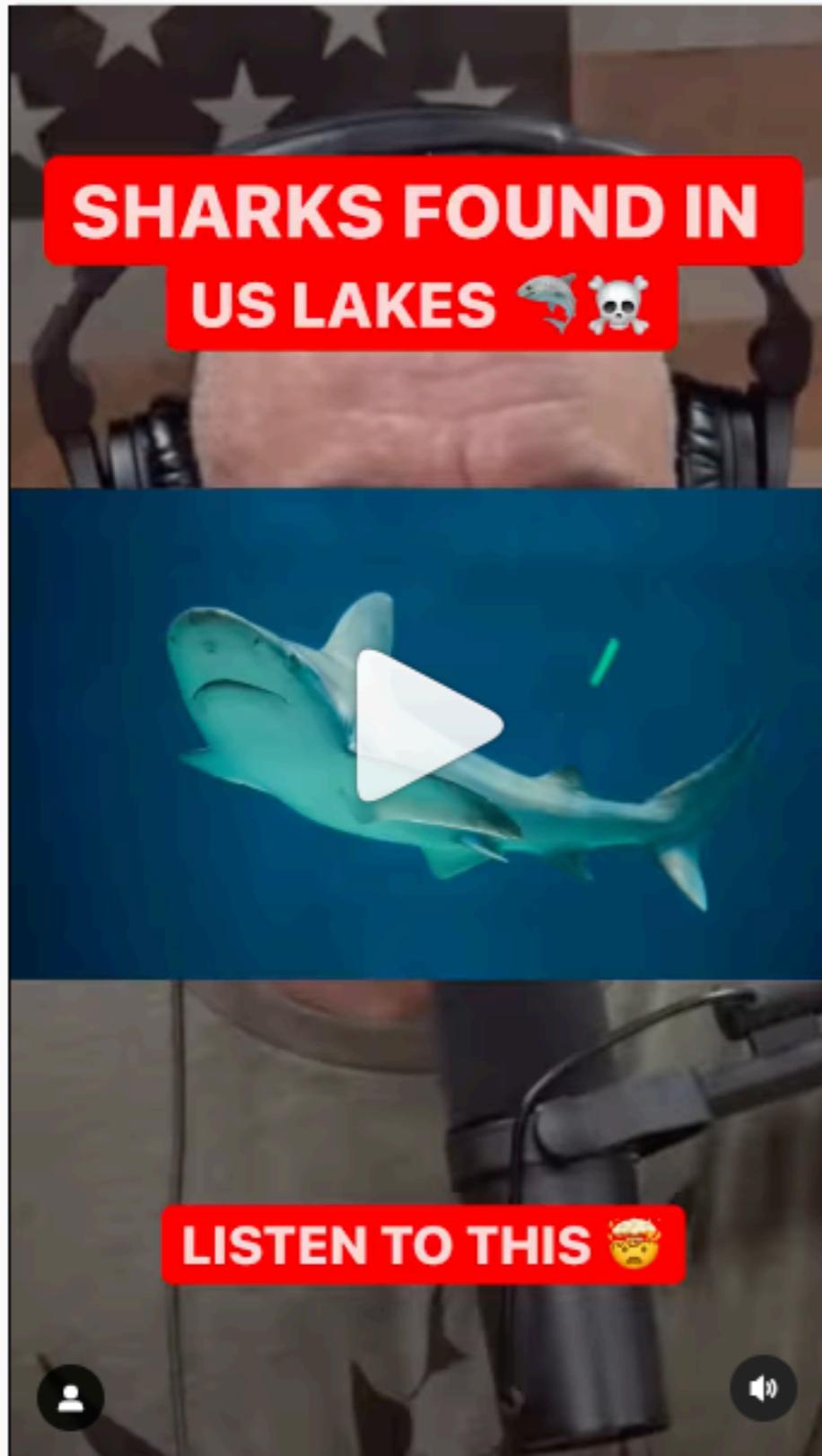
@jwluther
luther@rowan.edu

Slides: jasonluther.net/fakenews

Quiz:
Fake news or real news?
4 questions



1



jorgeheathen • [Follow](#)

Synthwave Goose • Blade Runner
2049



jorgeheathen Giant Bull sharks found across the USA.

EPISODE with [@forrest.galante](#)

[#mystery](#) [#interesting](#) [#joerogan](#)
[#animals](#) [#animales](#) [#animal](#) [#nature](#)
[#sharks](#) [#water](#) [#sea](#) [#usa](#) [#us](#)
[#monsters](#) [#monster](#) [#sharkweek](#)

1w



thebarberit We're talking bull sharks. No? So why keep showing great whites...



1w 2,778 likes Reply

— View replies (50)



148,438 likes

JULY 27



Add a comment...

Post

2



John W. Rich (Fake Tech Exec)
@Cokedupoptions



Congratulations to the IRS on winning the \$846.3 million Mega Millions Jackpot!

The screenshot shows the top portion of a Forbes article. At the top left is a hamburger menu icon, followed by the 'Forbes' logo in white on a black background. To the right of the logo is a red 'Subscribe' button and a 'Sign In' link. Below this is a light gray header with the text 'TAXES • EDITORS' PICK'. The main headline is 'Winner Of \$1.28 Billion Lottery Gets \$433.7 Million After Tax' in a large, bold, black font. Below the headline is the author's name 'Robert W. Wood' and his title 'Senior Contributor' with an information icon. A short bio reads 'I focus on taxes and litigation.'

1:48 PM · Aug 2, 2022 · Twitter for Android

44.7K Retweets 4,798 Quote Tweets 362.1K Likes



3

Planned Parenthood Votes TV ad:

“Mehtmet Oz is so extreme he wants to make abortion a crime in Pennsylvania.”



4

Senate speech, May 25, 2022:

“The leading cause of death among children is a firearm.”

LIVE

U.S. SENATE

MASS SCHOOL SHOOTING IN UVALDE, TEXAS

SEN. CHUCK SCHUMER
D-New York, Majority Leader

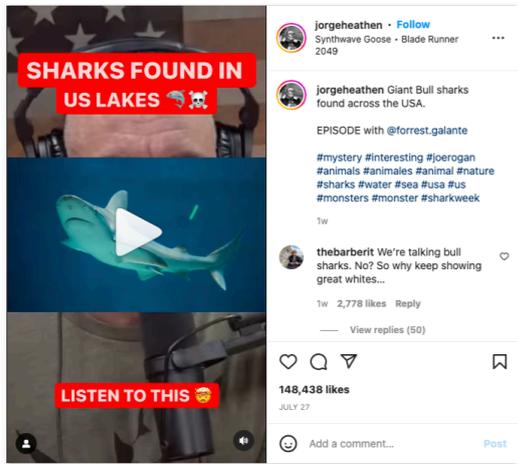
C-SPAN2

Clip </> Embed + Add to Playlist

? Clipping Guide

Share This Video

1



False
Source: Politifact
<https://bit.ly/3QueJ40>

“Experts told The Associated Press **there’s no documentation of bull sharks in the Great Lakes**. The myth also has been debunked by organizations such as the Shedd Aquarium (on Lake Michigan) and the Great Lakes Echo, produced by Michigan State University’s Knight Center for Environmental Journalism.”

2



False
Source: Politifact
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“The user appears to have based this assumption on a **mistaken calculation based on the headline and not on the content of the article itself**, which details how the lottery winnings get paid out and what taxes are owed.”

3



Half true
Source: Politifact
<https://bit.ly/3bKqHrj>

“While Oz has said that he supports restrictions, he’s been silent on the question of what criminal penalties, if any, should be applied to patients or doctors.”

4



Mostly true
Source: Politifact
<https://bit.ly/3dkdFBy>

“The CDC publishes data on the leading causes of death among different demographic groups, providing the most reliable data. In 2020, the leading cause of death among children ages one through 18 involved a firearm.”

“If infants are included, rankings of the leading causes of death for children up to age 18 change.”

ONLINE → IRL



Half of Republicans believe false accounts of deadly U.S. Capitol riot-Reuters/Ipsos poll

By James Oliphant, Chris Kahn

7 MIN READ

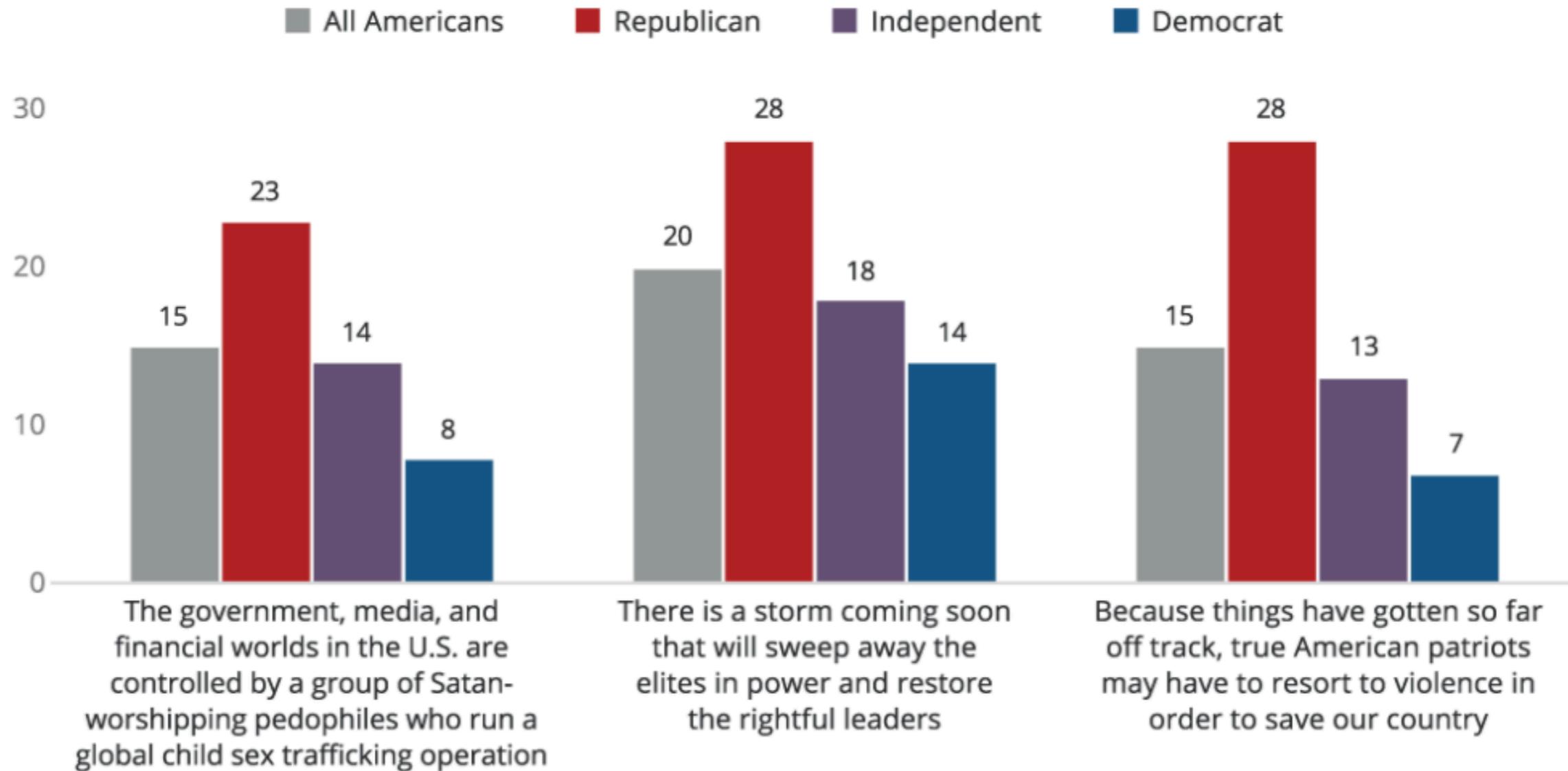


Six in 10 Republicans also believe the false claim put out by Trump that November's presidential election "was stolen" from him due to widespread voter fraud, and the same proportion of Republicans think he should run again in 2024, the March 30-31 poll showed.

Source: Reuters

FIGURE 1. QAnon Conspiracy Theories, by Party Affiliation

Percent who agree:



Source: PRRI-IFYC March 2021 Survey.

Source: Public Religion Research Institute

How a Trump-backed 'QAnon whack job' won with Democratic 'collusion'

Republican Dan Cox won nomination for Maryland governor, but current governor says that was thanks to Democrats promoting extremist opponents they think will be easier prey



📷 Dan Cox shakes hands with a supporter on primary night in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Photograph: Kenneth K Lam/AP

In a midterm election year, Democrats have sought **to boost pro-Trump Republicans** in competitive states, placing the risky bet that as the January 6 committee remains in the headlines, extremists who support the former president's lie about electoral fraud in his 2020 defeat will prove unpalatable to voters.

In the last 2 weeks alone . . .

THE CONVERSATION
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Ivermectin, blood washing, ozone: how long COVID survivors are being sold the next round of miracle cures

Published: August 7, 2022 4:42pm EDT

Hunting for Voter Fraud, Conspiracy Theorists Organize 'Stakeouts'

A nascent effort to surveil drop boxes for potential fraud is taking shape in at least 10 states, worrying election officials and law enforcement.

Give this article



Dropping off a ballot during Arizona's primary election in Mesa in early August. Mobilization efforts to surveil boxes in several states target so-called ballot mules. Rebecca Noble for The New York Times

BROOKINGS

SERIES: The Strengthening American Democracy Initiative



Misinformation is eroding the public's confidence in democracy

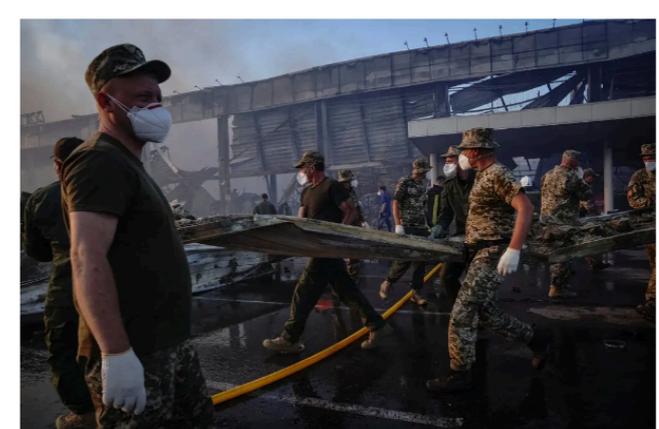
Gabriel R. Sanchez, Keesha Middlemass, and Alla Rodriguez · Tuesday, July 26, 2022

The New York Times

How Russian Propaganda Is Reaching Beyond English Speakers

Social media companies have taken steps to restrict Russian state media accounts. But posts from those accounts still spread in Spanish, Arabic and other languages and in places outside the West.

Give this article



Rescuers and service members at a shopping mall hit by a Russian missile in Kremenchuk, Ukraine, in June. Reuters

CNN BUSINESS Markets Tech Media Success More Audio Live TV

DOW +1.30% S&P 500 +1.22% NASDAQ -1.18% FEATURED Fear & Greed Index LATEST Opinion: It's not just Equifax. The whole credit reporting system needs an overhaul

A jury finds Infowars conspiracy theorist Alex Jones should pay \$45.2 million in punitive damages to the parents of a Sandy Hook shooting victim

By Brian Stelter, CNN Business Updated 7:43 PM ET, Fri August 5, 2022



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- Hands down the top credit card of 2022
- Get a \$200 bonus after you spend \$500 within 3 months
- Card hits market with \$0 annual fee!
- 0% intro on purchases for 15 months and balance transfers
- The card is designed to help you save money

PROPUBLICA
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How Misinformation About COVID Vaccines and Pregnancy Took Root Early On and Why It Won't Go Away

Before coronavirus vaccines were even released, a disinformation campaign used a moment of national and personal vulnerability to prey on those who were pregnant or who planned to become pregnant.



The Long and Brutal History of Fake News

Bogus news has been around a lot longer than real news. And it's left a lot of destruction behind.

By JACOB SOLL | December 18, 2016

HIDDEN BRAIN A CONVERSATION ABOUT LIFE'S UNSEEN PATTERNS



FAKE NEWS AND FAKE JOURNALISM IN AMERICAN HISTORY



Fake News: An Origin Story

June 25, 2018 · 9:00 PM ET



SHANKAR VEDANTAM



RHAINA COHEN



TARA BOYLE



27-Minute Listen

+ PLAYLIST

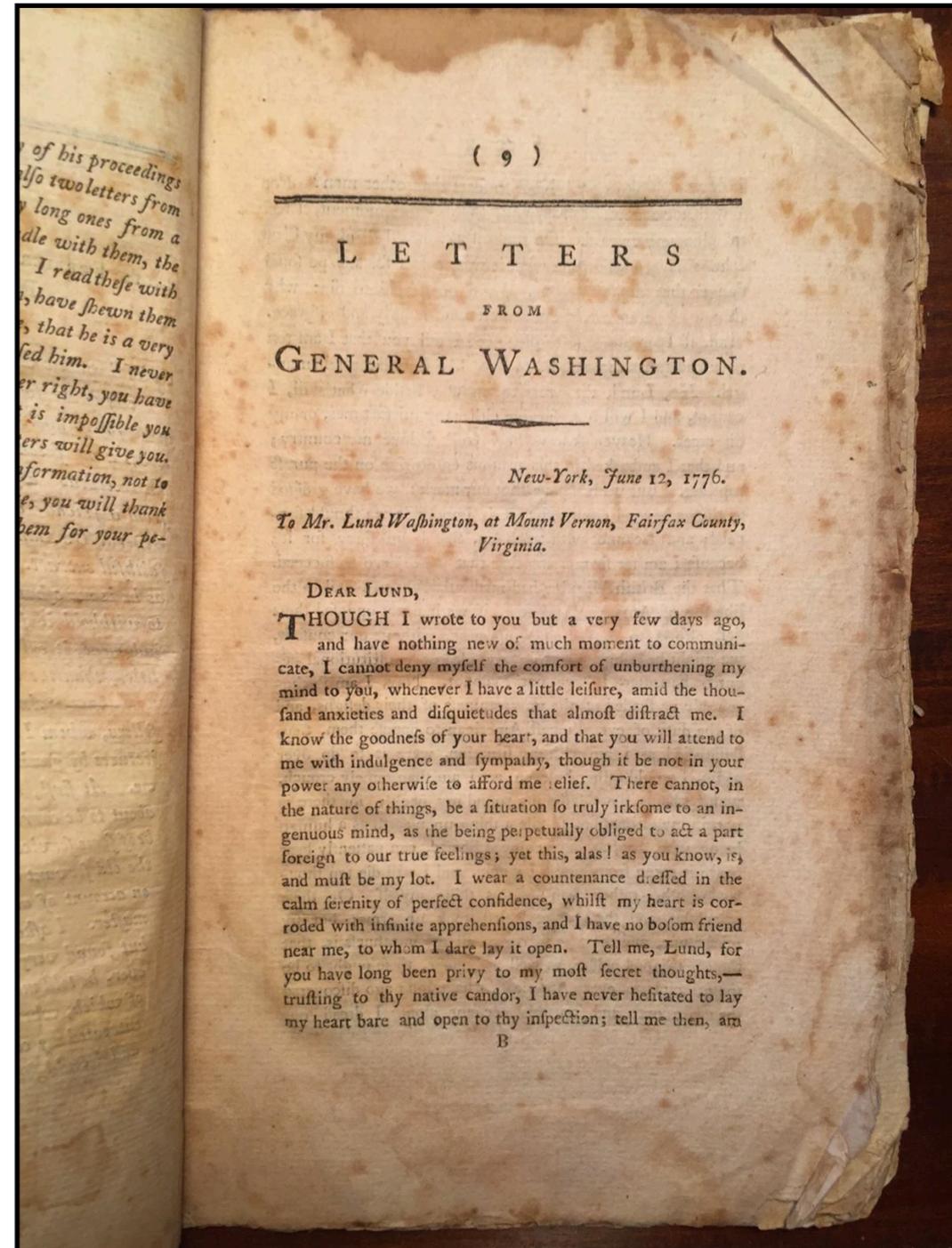
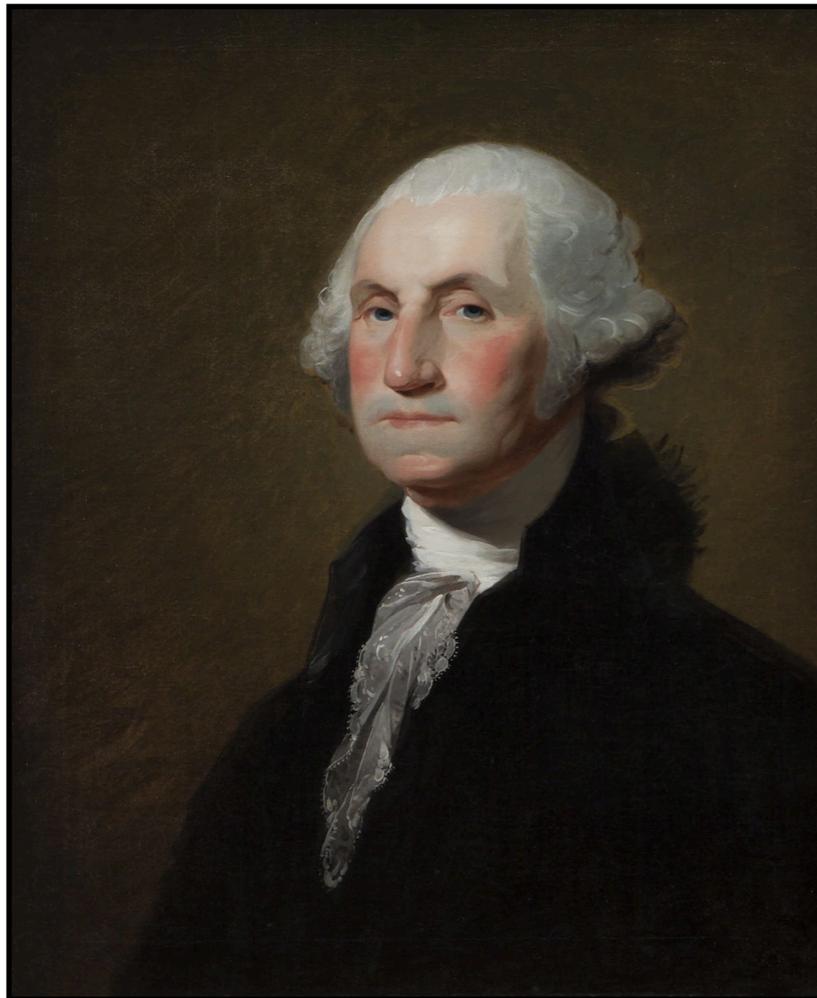


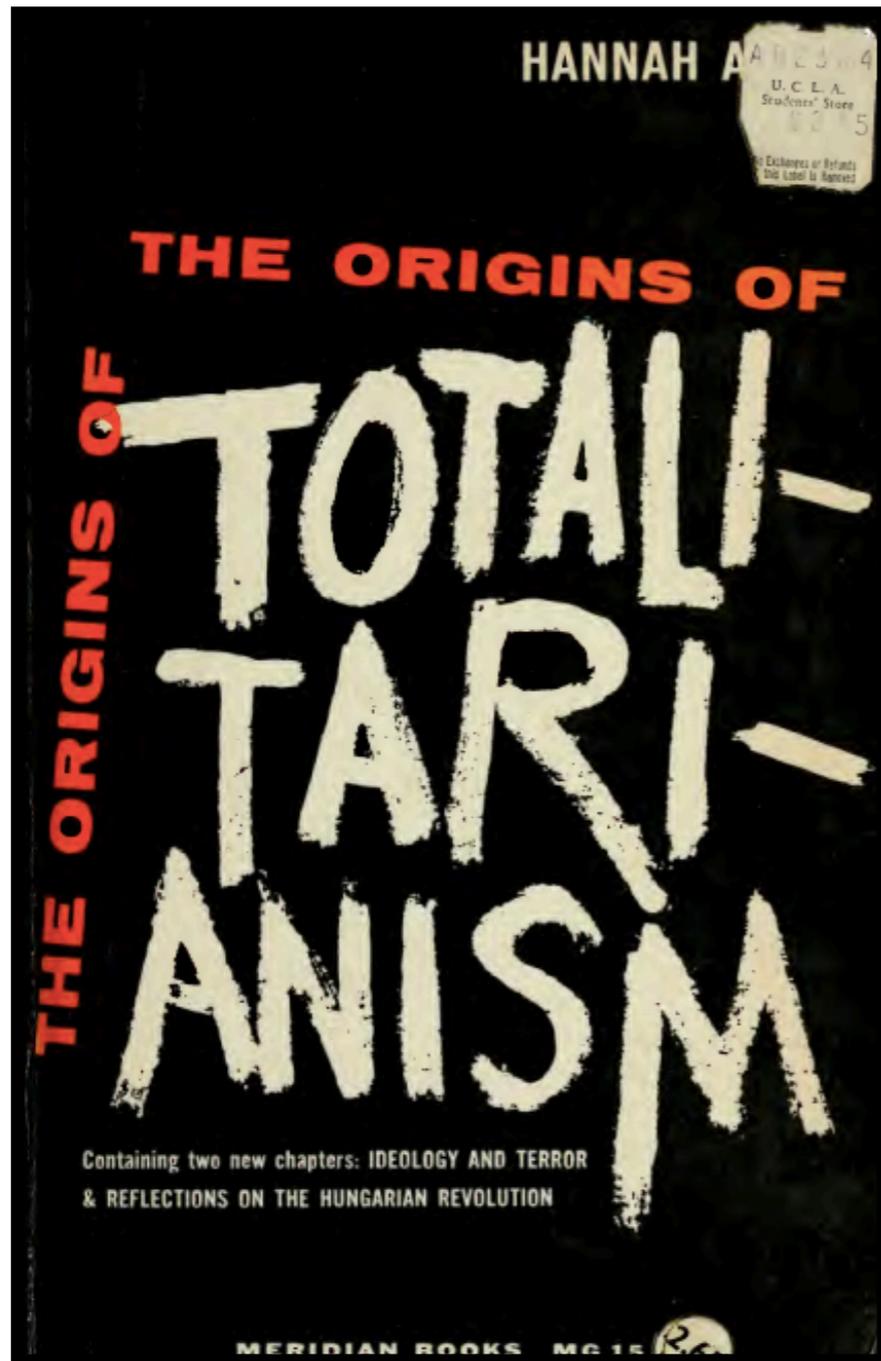
The fake news that haunted George Washington



By [Gregory S. Schneider](#)

April 10, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. EDT





“The ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the convinced Communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction (i.e. the reality of experience) and the distinction between true and false ... no longer exist.”

—Hannah Arendt, 1951

fake news

Muddled from the start

1

As a critique of “mainstream media”

2

As problematic content; different from “real news”

This Analysis Shows How Viral Fake Election News Stories Outperformed Real News On Facebook

A BuzzFeed News analysis found that top fake election news stories generated more total engagement on Facebook than top election stories from 19 major news outlets combined.



Craig Silverman
BuzzFeed Founding Editor, Canada

Posted on November 16, 2016, at 5:15 p.m. ET

[Tweet](#) [Share](#) [Copy](#)



BuzzFeed / Getty Images

Buzzfeed

November 16, 2016 (13 days after the election)



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Tweets 35.3K Following 45 Followers 33.7M Likes 25 Moments 2

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Donald J. Trump Retweeted

940 tweets found

Oldest

1. Dec 10th 2016 - 9:11:49 AM EST
20k 61k Hide

Donald J. Trump
@realdonaldtrump

Reports by @CNN that I will be working on The Apprentice during my Presidency, even part time, are ridiculous & untrue - FAKE NEWS!

Dec 10th 2016 - 9:11:49 AM EST · Twitter for iPhone · [View on Twitter](#)

First mention of “fake news” from Trump on Twitter

December 10, 2016 (about a month after the election)

Donald J. Trump
@realdonaldtrump

Reports by @CNN that I will be working on The Apprentice during my Presidency, even part time, are ridiculous & untrue - FAKE NEWS!

Dec 10th 2016 - 9:11:49 AM EST · Twitter for iPhone · [View on Twitter](#)



Trump Hands Out 'Fake News Awards,' Sans the Red Carpet



Google Trends

Explore

fake news"
Search term

+ Compare

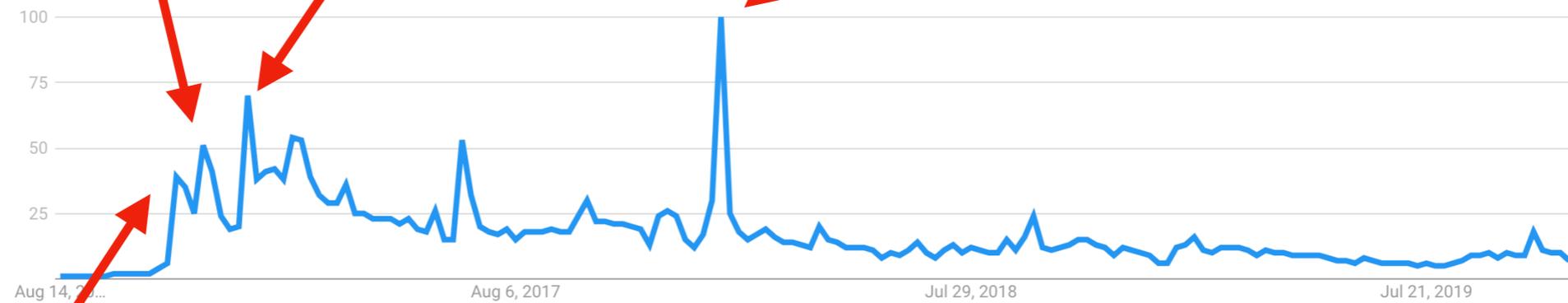
United States

8/13/16 - 11/13/19

All categories

Web Search

Interest over time



BuzzFeed News This Analysis Shows How Viral Fake Election News Stories Outperformed Real News On Facebook

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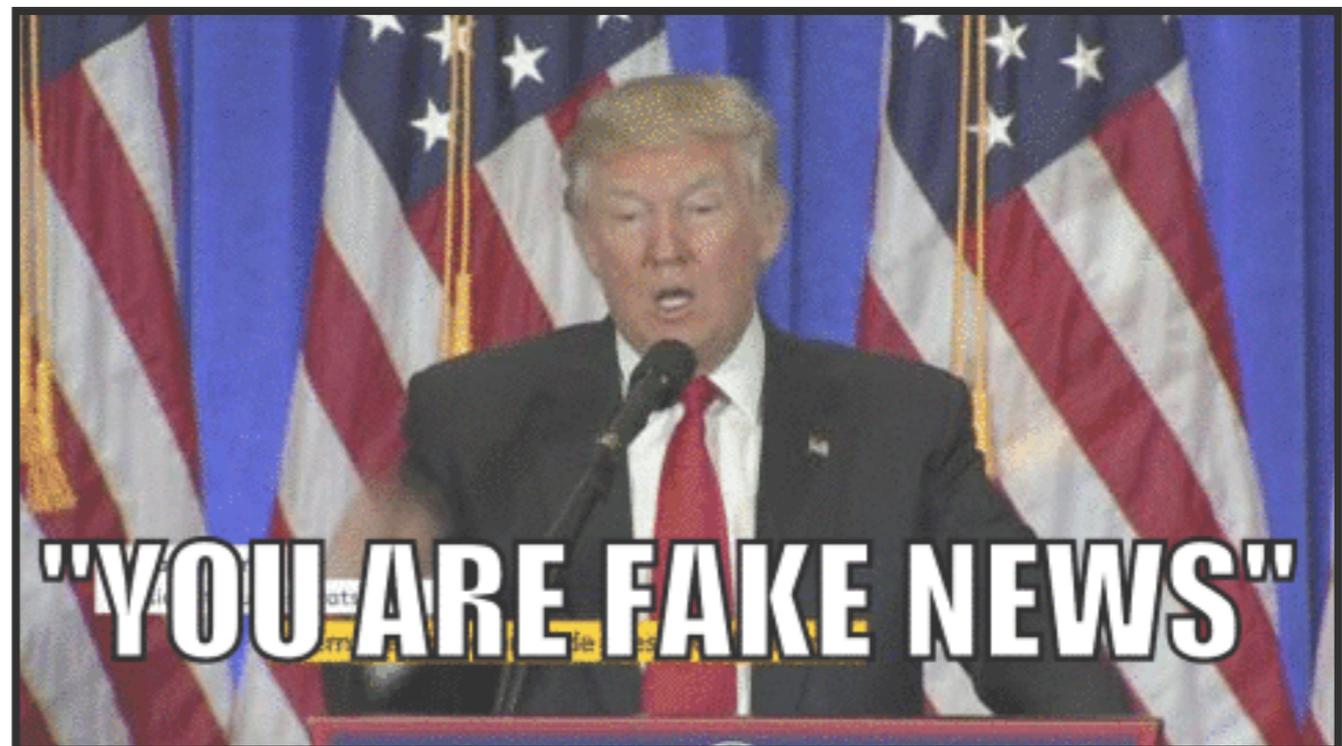
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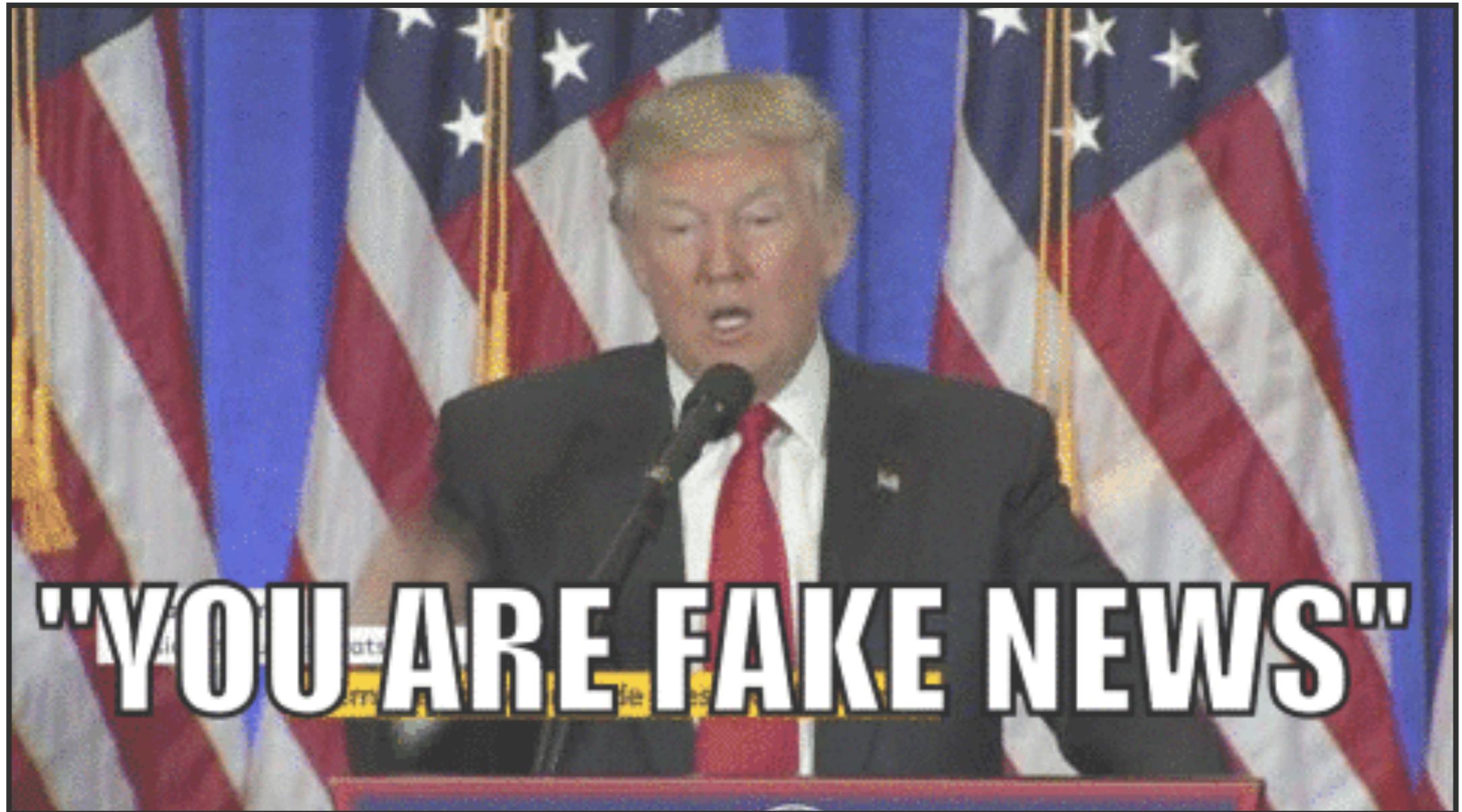
facebook

<https://trends.google.com/>

fake news as

1 critique of “mainstream media”





Trump calls CNN “fake news” at his first press conference since Election Day.

January 11, 2017 (9 days before inauguration)



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Oct 12

So Biden is coughing and hacking and playing "fingers" with his mask, all over the place, and the Fake News doesn't want to even think about discussing it. "Journalism" has reached the all time low in history. Sadly, Lamestream knows this and doesn't even care!



24.1K



35.7K



134.2K



Trump Twitter Archive V2

Twitter has permanently suspended Trump's

🔍 "fake news"

searchbox: "fake news" X Clear All

Search tips

Retweet filters

Deleted filters

Date filters

Device filters

Export

940 tweets found

Latest

1. Jan 3rd 2021 - 10:11:48 AM EST
🔒 35k ❤️ 198k 🐦 Show

Something how Dr. Fauci is revered by the LameStream Media works for me and the Trump Administration, and I am in no way

Twitter Archive search through all of Trump's tweets

fake news

Report Options mm/dd/yyyy mm/dd/yyyy Anytime All devices

01.13.2021-05:03:07 PM Totally Negative China Virus Reports, It's early and hard to believe they are very bad and sick people! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:38:26 AM RT @realDonaldTrump: So Biden is coughing and hacking and playing "fingers" with his mask, all over the place, and the Fake News doesn't want to even think about discussing it. "Journalism" has reached the all time low in history. Sadly, Lamestream knows this and doesn't even care! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:49:09 PM I keep reading Fake News stories that my campaign is running low on money. Not true, & if it were so, I would just put money myself. The fact is that we have much more money than we had 4 years ago, where we spent much less money than Crooked Hillary, and still easily won. (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:50:48 PM So Biden is coughing and hacking and playing "fingers" with his mask, all over the place, and the Fake News doesn't want to even think about discussing it. "Journalism" has reached the all time low in history. Sadly, Lamestream knows this and doesn't even care! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:52:53 AM Almost nobody showed up to the Sleepy Joe Biden "rally" in Ohio. The reporting and polls are a Media Con Job. (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:53:14 AM RT @realDonaldTrump: SO MUCH Fake News! The Lamestream Media has gone absolutely insane because they realize we are winning BIG in all of it. (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:53:26 AM Stock market up Big. Do you credit me for that? Never even mentioned by the Fake News. A New Record for Stocks and Jobs Growth. Remember, "It's the Economy Stupid!" VOTE!! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:53:28 AM SO MUCH Fake News! The Lamestream Media has gone absolutely insane because they realize we are winning BIG in all of the polls that matter. They write or show one false story after another. They are truly sick people. VOTE!! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:53:53 AM Big spikes in the China Virus in Europe and other places that the Fake News used to hold up as examples of places that are doing well, in order to make the US look bad. Be strong and dignified. It will run its course. Vaccines and cures are coming fast! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:54:08 PM The Fake News, the Fake News, the Fake News, and the rest, are working overtime spending every lie in the book to make sure they can demean and disparage, at the highest level possible, to try and win an election for a man who is totally unqualified to be your President. (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:56:57 AM AP has long been Fake News! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:57:55 AM In 2016, the ABC News/Washington Post Poll was such a complete disaster that these two Fake News Organizations changed the numbers prior to the Election. Now these haters are trying the same thing, though on a lesser scale, again. We have a bigger win than even 2016! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:58:26 AM If a Republican LIED like Biden and Harris do, constantly, the Lamestream Media would be calling them out at a level never recorded before. For one year they called for No Fracking and big Tax Increases. Now they say opposite. (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:58:28 AM RT @realDonaldTrump: THE Fake News MEDIA IS THE REAL OPPOSITION PARTY! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:58:38 AM THE Fake News MEDIA IS THE REAL OPPOSITION PARTY! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:58:38 AM We've been a week for years, and everyone knows it. The Lamestream Media is stuck with him and they are just now trying to clean up his act. Notice how all of the bad things, like his very low IQ, are no longer reported? (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:58:38 AM I just hope the voter understands that they are all Fake News trying hard to push a man that should NEVER be president of our Country. (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:58:38 AM The Fake News Media refuses to discuss how good the Economy and Stock Market, including Q3 under the Trump Administration, are doing. We will soon be in RECORD TERRITORY. All they want to discuss is COVID-19, where they won't say it, but we beat the Demos at everything. (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:58:38 AM Will be back on the Campaign Trail soon!! The Fake News only shows the Fake News. (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:58:38 AM FIGHT THE CORRUPT Fake News MEDIA VOTE!! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:58:38 AM RT @realDonaldTrump: RT: Michael G. Cohen: The Trump Virus Over Fake News! Trump Tax Returns (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:58:38 PM New Fake News @CNN is actually reporting that I named my daughter Ivanka, to run with me as my Vice President in 2016 Election. Wrong and totally ridiculous. These people are sick! (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

01.13.2021-05:58:38 PM ...Also, if you look at the extraordinary assets owned by me, which the Fake News hasn't even mentioned, I have very little debt compared to the value of assets. Much of this information is ready on file, but I have long said that I may release... (Twitter for iPhone) [🔗]

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fake news as

2 problematic content; as different from “real news”

information / misinformation?

misinformation

What is news?

propaganda

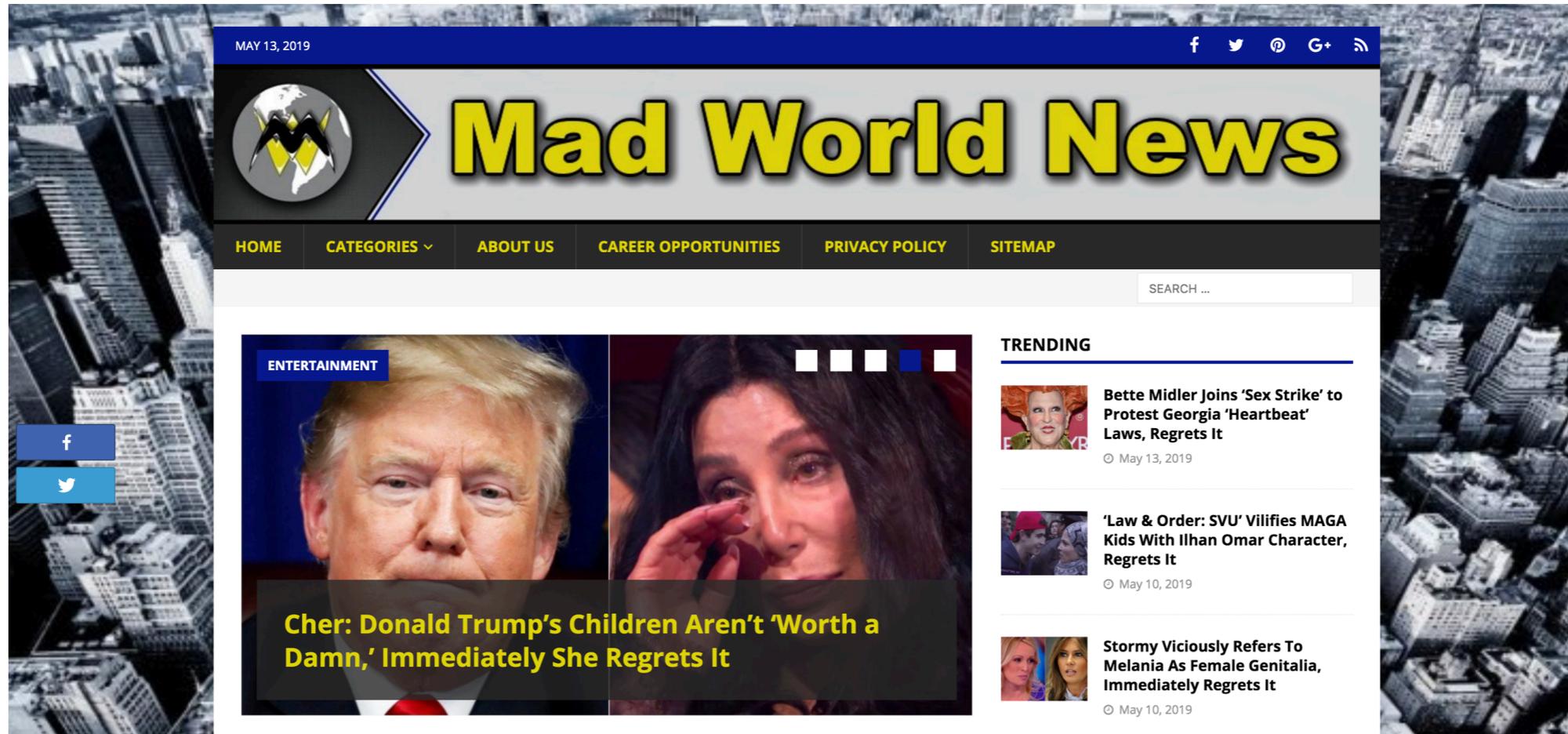
junk news

disinformation

false news

low-quality news content

2 problematic content; as different from “real news”



2

problematic content; as different from “real news”



The content on Mad World News expresses a personal opinion, advocates a point of view (e.g., on a social or political issue), or is self-promotional. For the purpose of fact-checking, it should be treated as such.

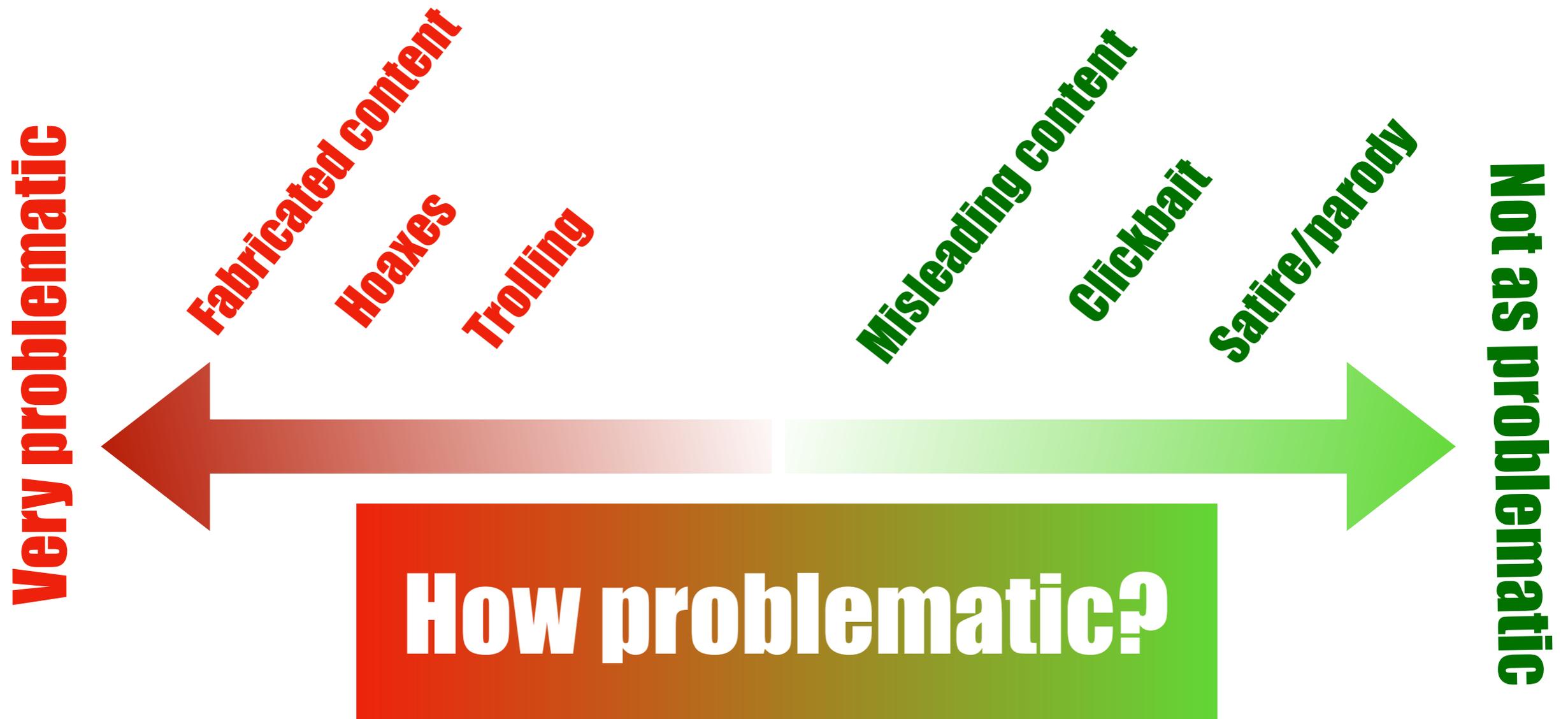
noted at the top.

The content on Mad World News expresses a personal opinion, advocates a point of view (e.g., on a social or political issue), or is self-promotional. For the purpose of fact-checking, it should be treated as such.

Stay informed by liking us on [Facebook](#) and following us on [Twitter](#).

Bette Midler is joining a “sex strike” to protest the new “heartbeat” law passed in the state of Georgia. Yes, that’s right, the 73-year-old Trump hater called on all the women in Georgia to join her and “stop having sex with men,” hoping this would upset the lawmakers. Many Hollywood

2 problematic content; as different from "real news"



2

problematic content; as different from "real news"



ICS SPORTS LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ONION GAMERS NETWORK OPINION VIDEO



Liberal Relieved He Never Has To Introspect Again After Assembling All The Correct Opinions

Chris Jeffreys
10 hrs · 🌐

This is really REALLY BIG.
HUGE...
From the CDC...
70.6% of those testing positive wore masks ALWAYS.
3.9% of those testing positive wore masks NEVER
This means that people who wear masks, are actually "collecting" the virus in their masks.
The airborne particles are being absorbed into the Masks and staying on our faces rather than dissipating.
A clear indication there is a correlation to more infected people wearing masks than those who do not.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

TABLE 1. (Continued) Characteristics of symptomatic adults ≥18 years who were outpatients in 11 academic health care facilities and who received positive and negative SARS-CoV-2 test results (N = 314)* — United States, July 1–29, 2020

Characteristic	No. (%)		P-value
	Case-patients (n = 154)	Control participants (n = 160)	
Previous close contact with a person with known COVID-19 (n = 11)			
No	89 (57.8)	136 (85.5)	<.001
Yes	65 (42.2)	23 (14.5)	
Relationship to close contact with known COVID-19 (n = 88)			
Family	33 (38.8)	9 (12.7)	<.001
Friend	9 (10.3)	4 (5.7)	
Work/colleague	11 (13.0)	6 (8.6)	
Other**	6 (7.1)	3 (4.3)	
Multiple	6 (7.1)	0 (0.0)	
Reported use of cloth face covering or mask 14 days before illness onset (n = 2)			
None	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0.86
Rarely	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	
Sometimes	1 (5.0)	7 (34.0)	
Often	22 (114.4)	23 (114.5)	
Always	106 (534.0)	118 (594.2)	

352 69 comments 814 shares

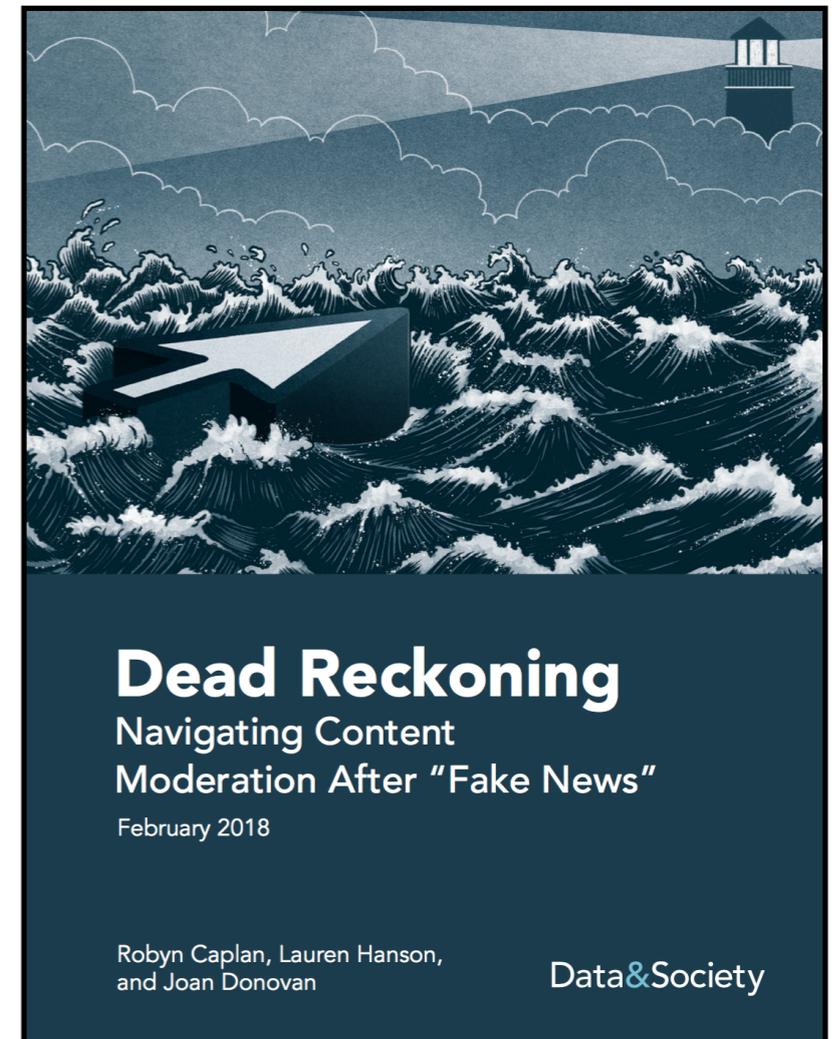
Very problematic

Not as problematic

How problematic?

fake news is

“...more than a widening of partisanship and the misleading use of social media to spread disinformation; it’s about the social sharing of trust, credibility, and evidence in the making of an informed citizenry.”



How do we address it?

1 Make structural changes

2 Empower users



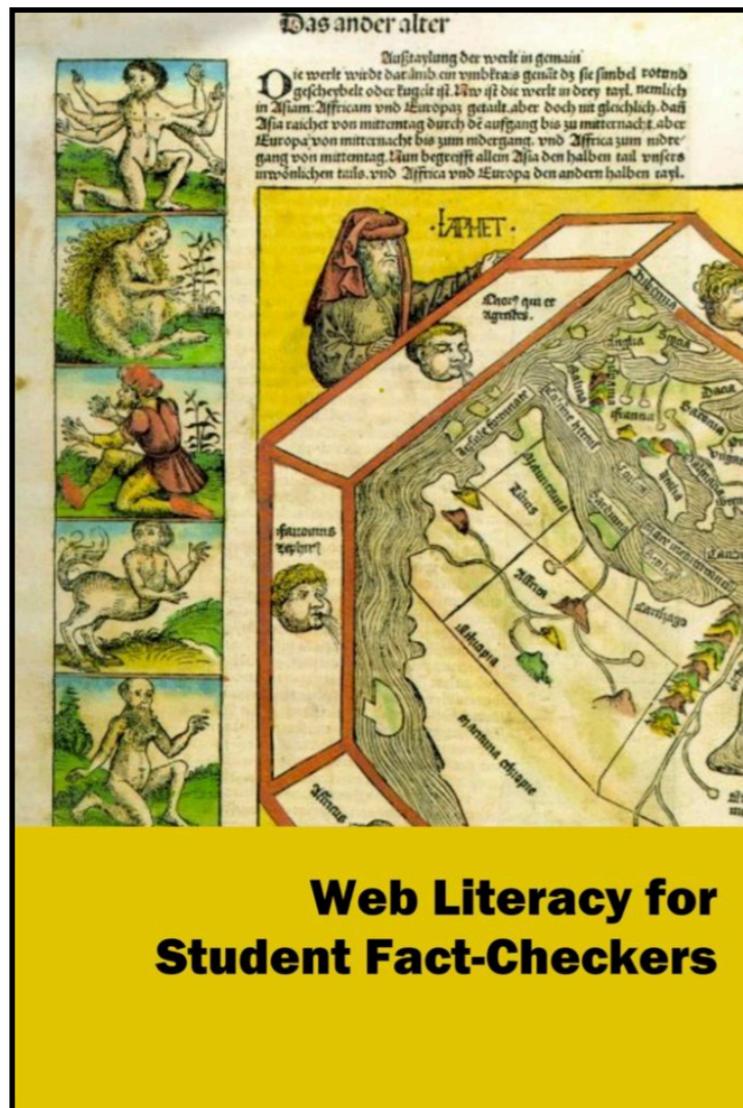
Empower users

(with **WEB** literacy)

1. Look for previous work

2. Go upstream

3. Read laterally



<https://webliteracy.pressbooks.com/>

By Mike Caulfield
Aka @holden

Facts

<simplest definition>

Claims about which there is

- **general agreement (consensus) by**
- **people in the know.**

Facts

- **Not all claims are statements of fact. Facts require consensus.**
- **Fact-checking begins by asking if a source of information is in a position to know (different from assessing “bias” — though that matters too).**
- **Facts are not the same thing as truth. However, facts help us assess truth and thus give important shape to our realities.**

1. Look for previous work

“When fact-checking a particular claim, quote, or article, the simplest thing you can do is to see if someone has already done the work for you.”



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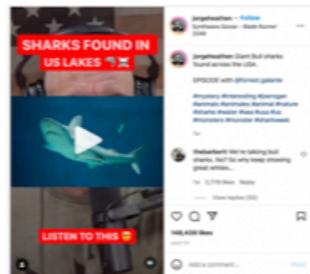


A Project of The Annenberg Public Policy Center

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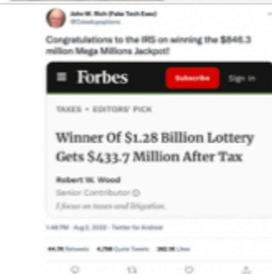
1



False
Source: Politifact
<https://bit.ly/3QueJ40>

“Experts told The Associated Press **there’s no documentation of bull sharks in the Great Lakes**. The myth also has been debunked by organizations such as the Shedd Aquarium (on Lake Michigan) and the Great Lakes Echo, produced by Michigan State University’s Knight Center for Environmental Journalism.”

2



False
Source: Politifact
<https://bit.ly/3QIFCao>

“The user appears to have based this assumption on a **mistaken calculation based on the headline and not on the content of the article itself**, which details how the lottery winnings get paid out and what taxes are owed.”

3



Half true
Source: Politifact
<https://bit.ly/3bKqHrj>

“While Oz has said that he supports restrictions, he’s been silent on the question of what criminal penalties, if any, should be applied to patients or doctors.”

4



Mostly true
Source: Politifact
<https://bit.ly/3dkdFBy>

“The CDC publishes data on the leading causes of death among different demographic groups, providing the most reliable data. In 2020, the leading cause of death among children ages one through 18 involved a firearm.”

“If infants are included, rankings of the leading causes of death for children up to age 18 change.”

2. Go upstream

“Most web content is not original. Get to the original source to understand the trustworthiness of the information.”



John W. Rich (Fake Tech Exec)
@Cokedupoptions

Congratulations to the IRS on winning the \$846.3 million Mega Millions Jackpot!

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TAXES • EDITORS' PICK

Winner Of \$1.28 Billion Lottery Gets \$433.7 Million After Tax

Robert W. Wood
Senior Contributor ⓘ
I focus on taxes and litigation.



Forbes

TAXES • EDITORS' PICK

Winner Of \$1.28 Billion Lottery Gets \$433.7 Million After Tax

Robert W. Wood Senior Contributor ⓘ
I focus on taxes and litigation. [Follow](#)

Jul 30, 2022, 04:37pm EDT

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1:48 PM · Aug 2, 2022 · Twitter for Android

44.8K Retweets 4,808 Quote Tweets 362.3K Likes

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“Most web content is not original. Get to the original source to understand the trustworthiness of the information.”

LIVE

U.S. SENATE

MASS SCHOOL SHOOTING IN UVALDE, TEXAS

SEN. CHUCK SCHUMER
D-New York, Majority Leader

C-SPAN2

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3. Read laterally

“Once you get to the source of a claim, read what other people say about the source (publication, author, etc.). The truth is in the network.”



TRENDING: HUNTER BIDEN AMY CONEY BARRETT CHINA VIRUS DEMOCRAT CITY UNREST CHEAT-BY-MAIL BATTLE WOKE SPORTS

CARLSON: ‘WE HAVE MANDATORY CONSENSUS — MASKS ARE GOOD, ANYONE WHO QUESTIONS THE UTTER GOODNESS OF MASKS IS BAD’

200 EMAIL SHARE TWEET



by JEFF POOR | 14 Oct 2020

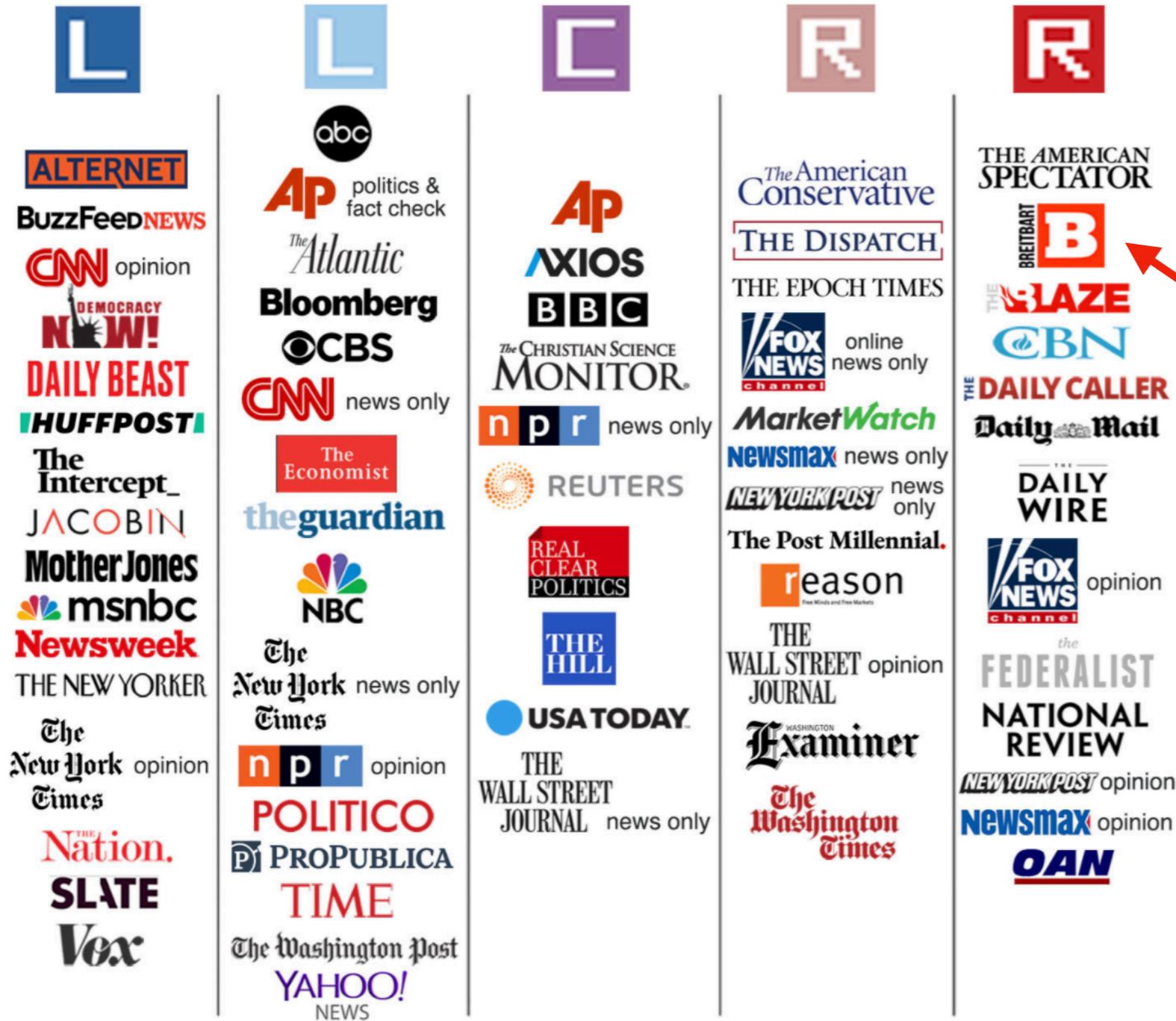
B SOCIAL [BREITBART STORE >>](#)

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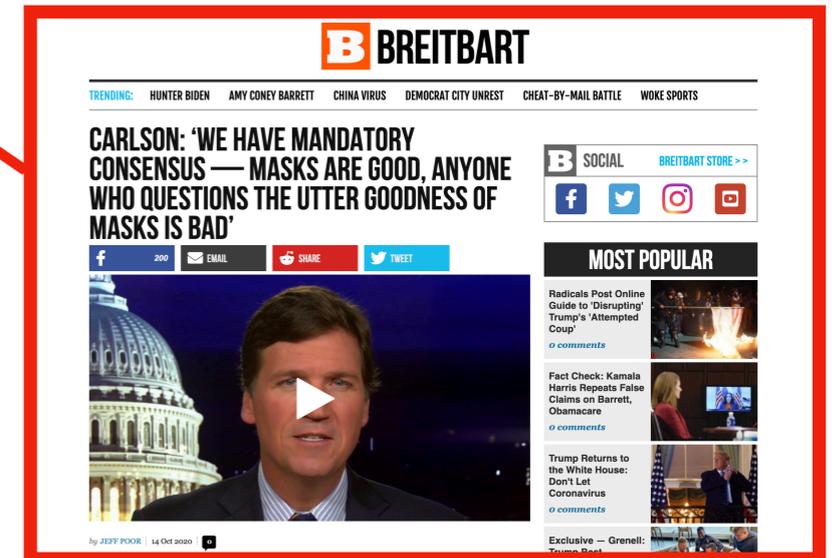
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far-right^[6]

misogynistic, xenophobic, and racist

Breitbart News

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"Breitbart" redirects here. For other uses, see *Breitbart (surname)*.

Breitbart News Network (known commonly as **Breitbart News**, **Breitbart** or **Breitbart.com**) is an American far-right^[6] syndicated news, opinion and commentary^{[7][8]} website founded in mid-2007 by *American conservative* commentator **Andrew Breitbart**, who conceived it as "the *Huffington Post* of the right".^{[4][9][10]} Its journalists are widely considered to be ideologically driven, and some of its content has been called misogynistic, xenophobic, and racist by liberals and many traditional conservatives alike.^[11] The site has published a number of conspiracy theories^{[12][13]} and intentionally misleading stories.^{[14][15]}

Breitbart News aligned with the alt-right under the management of former executive chairman **Steve Bannon**,^[16] who declared the website "the platform for the alt-right" in 2016.^[17] In 2016, Breitbart News became a virtual rallying spot for supporters of **Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign**.^[11] The company's management, together with former staff member **Milo Yiannopoulos**, solicited ideas for stories from, and worked to advance and market ideas of, neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups and individuals.^{[18][19]} After the election, more than 2,000 organizations removed Breitbart News from ad buys following Internet activism campaigns denouncing the site's controversial positions.^{[20][21][22][23]}

Breitbart News is headquartered in **Los Angeles**, with bureaus in **Texas**, **London**, and **Jerusalem**. Co-founder **Larry Solov** is the co-owner (along with Andrew Breitbart's widow **Susie Breitbart** and the **Mercer family**)^[24] and CEO, while **Alex Marlow** is the editor-in-chief, **Wynton Hall** is managing editor,^[25] and **Joel Pollak**^[4] and **Peter Schweizer**^[26] are senior editors-at-large.

ideologically driven,

has published a number of conspiracy theories^{[12][13]} and intentionally misleading stories.^{[14][15]}

Breitbart News Network



Screenshot [\[show\]](#)

Type of site	Politics News and opinion
Available in	English
Owner	Breitbart News Network, LLC ^[1]

**However, different users
have different levels of
digital readiness.**

Opinion

Personality Type, as well as Politics, Predicts Who Shares Fake News



November 12, 2021

INTERNET

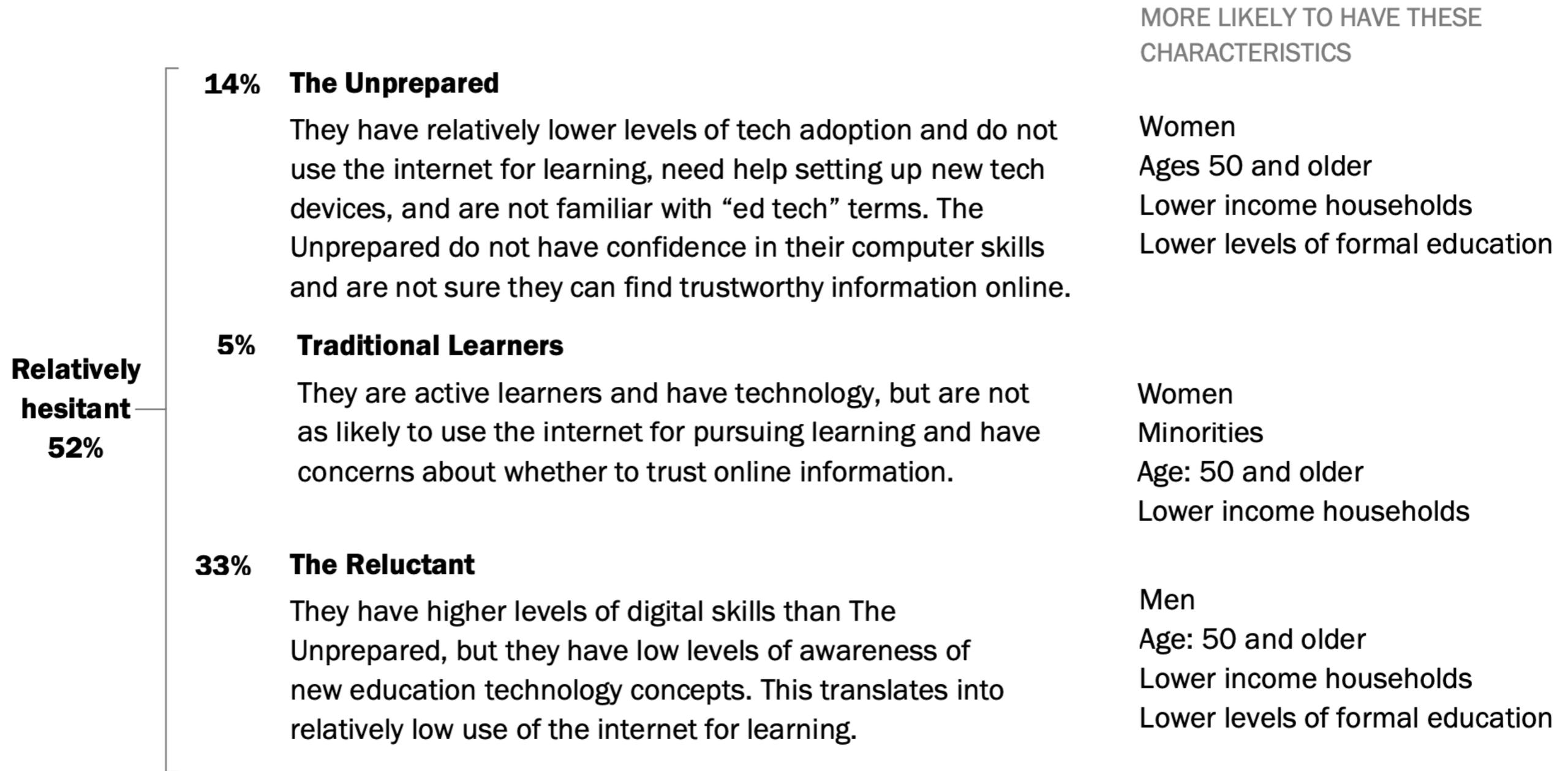
COMMUNICATIONS

Highly impulsive people who lean conservative are more likely to share false news stories. They have

In short, we did not find that third-party fact-checker warnings were effective in reducing the spread of misinformation that is especially pronounced among LCCs. This result is worrying given that our research suggests that LCCs appear to be the primary drivers of the proliferation of fake news. Social media networks therefore need to find a different solution than just tagging stories with warning labels. Interventions based on the assumption that truth matters may be inadequate. Another option might involve social media companies monitoring fake news that has the potential to hurt others, such as misinformation related to vaccines and elections, and actively removing such content from their platform.

Digital readiness: The five groups along a spectrum from least ready to most ready

% of U.S. adults in each group



Source: Survey conducted Oct. 13-Nov. 15, 2015.
“Digital Readiness Gaps”

**Relatively
more
prepared
48%**

31%

Cautious Clickers

They have high levels of tech ownership as well as confidence in their online skills and abilities to find trustworthy information. But they are less familiar with online learning terms and less apt than the Digitally Ready to use online tools for learning.

Higher income households
Some college experience
Age: In their 30s and 40s

17%

Digitally Ready

They are ardent learners for personal enrichment. They have technology and are confident about their digital skills and abilities to find trustworthy online information. They also know the most about online learning resources.

Higher income households
Higher education level
Age: In their 30s and 40s

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 13-Nov. 15, 2015.
“Digital Readiness Gaps”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

BEHAVIOR | OPINION

Digital Literacy Doesn't Stop the Spread of Misinformation

Just because you can spot falsehoods doesn't mean you won't share them

By David Rand, Nathaniel Sirlin on July 15, 2022 [أعرض هذا باللغة العربية](#)

When we looked at the connection between digital literacy and the willingness to *share* false information with others through social media, however, the results were different. People who were more digitally literate were just as likely to say they'd share false articles as people who lacked digital literacy. Like the first finding, the (lack of) connection between digital literacy and sharing false news was not affected by political party affiliation or whether the topic was politics or the pandemic.

BEHAVIOR | OPINION

Digital Literacy Doesn't Stop the Spread of Misinformation

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wouldn't you be less likely to share falsehoods? A potential answer comes from [prior work of ours on why people share misinformation](#). We found that although most people don't *want* to spread misinformation, social media is distracting: people are scrolling quickly, and their attention is drawn to social validation and other feedback, such as how many likes their posts will get. This means we often forget to even ask ourselves if a story is true or false when considering, however quickly, whether to share it.

Make structural changes

1. Professional fact-checking

2. Demonetizing bad content

3. Better content moderation

4. Regulation



Make structural changes

1. Professional fact-checking

Institutions: universities, news agencies, advocacy groups

FIRST DRAFT



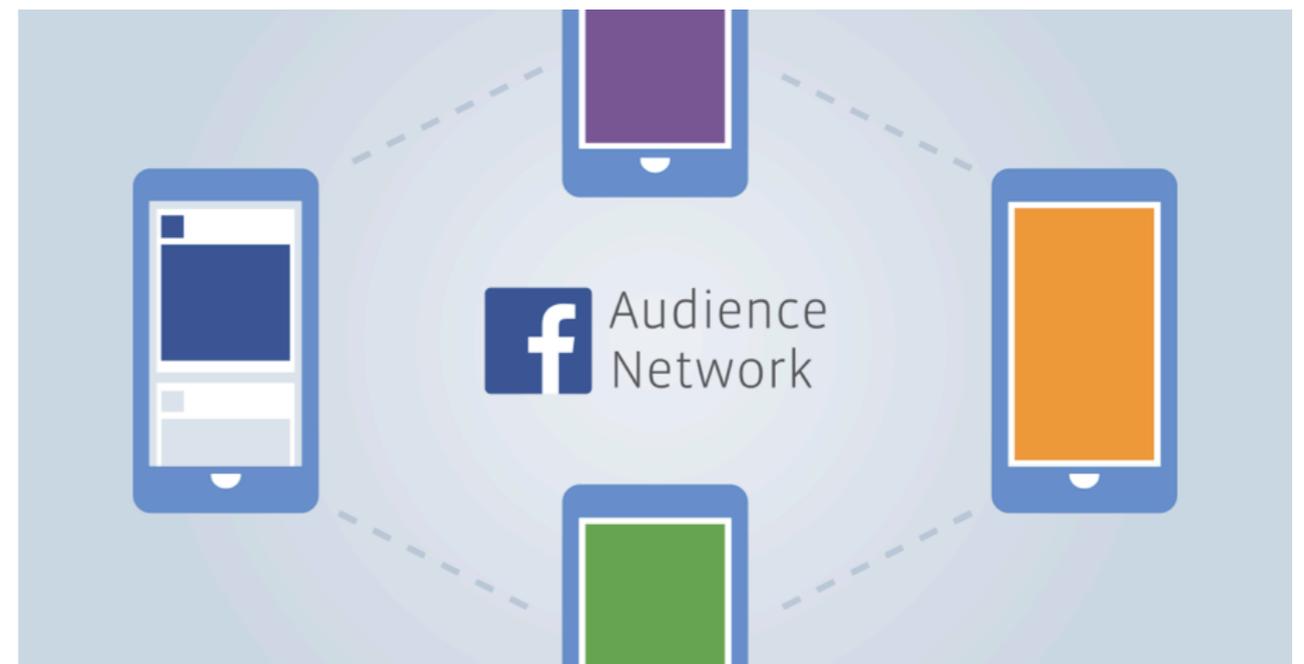
Don't be fooled by media bias and fake news.



Make structural changes

2. De-monetizing bad content

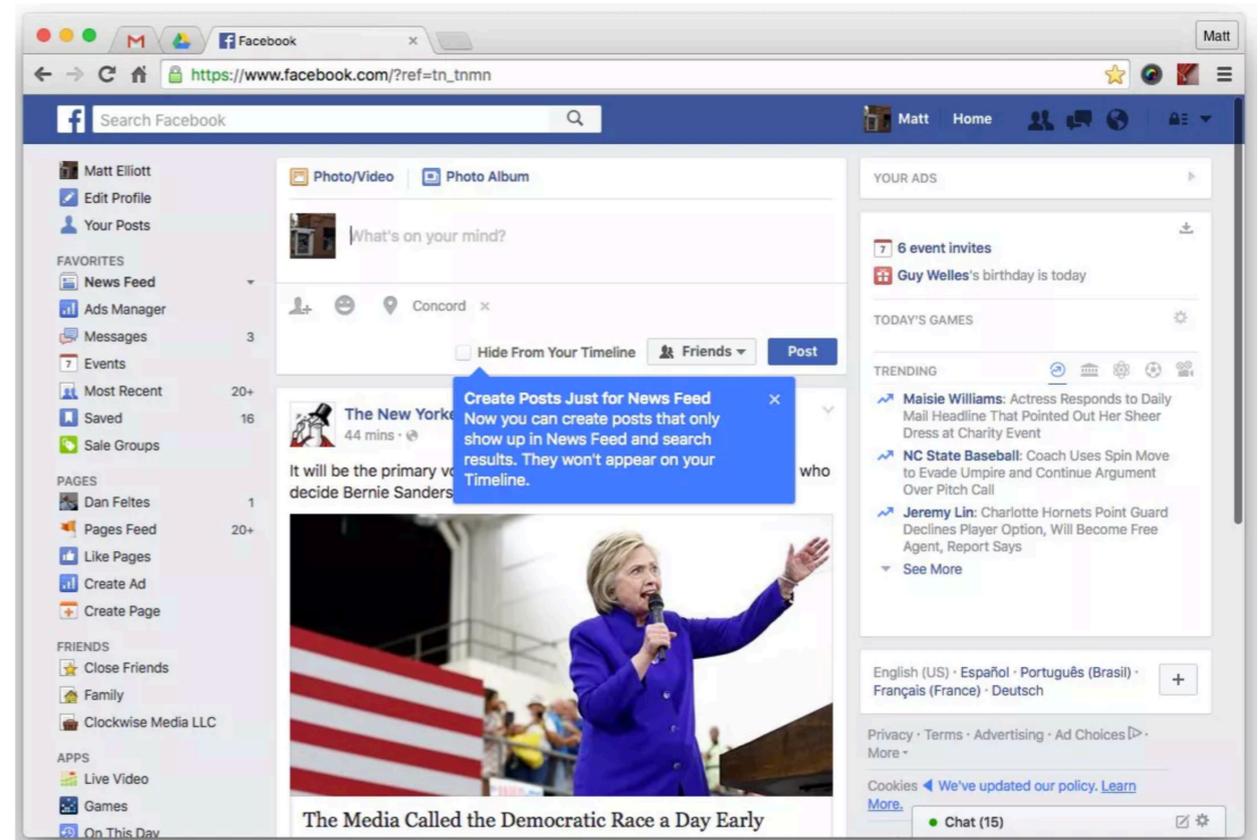
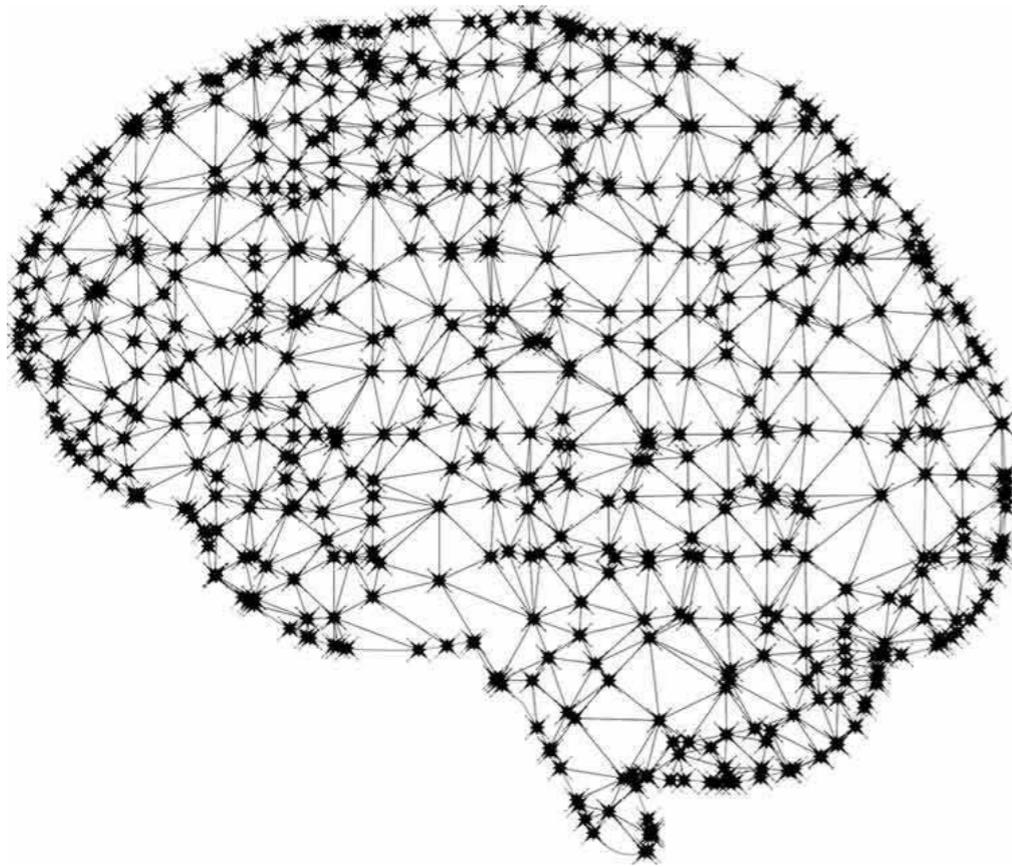
Institutions: platforms (Google, Facebook, Twitter, Amazon), government, advocacy groups



Make structural changes

3. Better content moderation

Institutions: platforms (Google, Facebook, Twitter, Amazon), tech companies



Make structural changes

4. Regulation

Institutions: government



What is the future of

fake news?

Deep fakes



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Resources for combating fake news

jasonluther.net/fakenews



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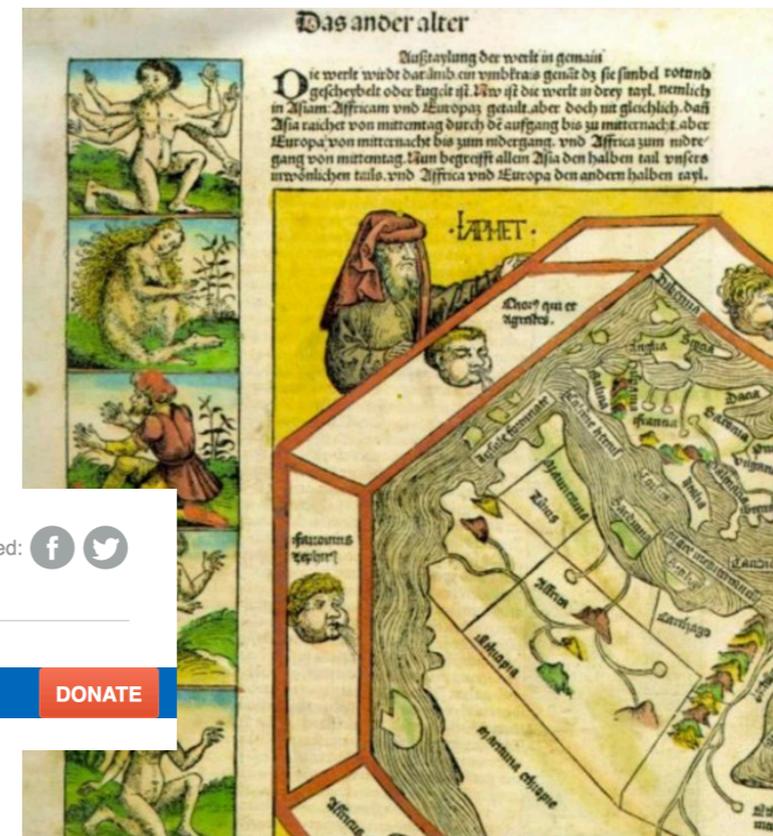
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