The New Liberal Media Battleground: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube Are Killing Conservative Speech Online

When the Media Research Center started in 1987, only 25% of Americans thought the media were liberal. Today, 90% of Americans know the press is biased.

That shift in awareness is a tremendous victory for conservatives, and explains why the phrase “fake news” resonates with so many people (and infuriates so many lefty journalists). It also explains the popularity of new media such as Fox News, the Drudge Report, and Rush Limbaugh, and why leftists try through the Fairness Doctrine, advertising boycotts, and “hate speech” complaints to stifle our voices.

They want conservative speech suppressed — destroyed — because it breaks their monopoly on information — and disinformation. They can’t stand the competition, especially when all they have to offer is repackaged socialism. If they can silence conservatives, they can win.

Unfortunately, social media giants Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google, which are the primary source of communications for billions of people worldwide, are using their powerful platforms to help the liberal press reach that goal. They are increasingly censoring conservative speech online by removing conservative content or burying it so no one sees it. It is the greatest threat to free speech Americans have ever encountered.

A new, 50-page MRC special report, CENSORED! How Online Media Companies Are Suppressing Conservative Speech, documents what’s happening and how conservatives can fight back.

This is a colossal undertaking for the MRC and this report is a vital first step. Keep in mind that just Facebook and Twitter combined reach 1.8 billion people and that more than two-thirds of Americans (68%) use Facebook. YouTube is the most popular site to watch video and Google is the No. 1 search engine. These four companies combined are worth more than $1.2 trillion and they employ tens of thousands of people.

They are also ruled by leftists. Testifying before the Senate in April, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said that his company “and the tech industry are located in Silicon Valley, which is an extremely left-leaning place.”

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, also in April, tweeted his recommendation of an article that says America is in a new civil war and there is no compromise: The left must destroy the right, permanently.

How that war is being waged is documented in CENSORED!, which was written by MRC Vice President Dan Gainor and MRC analyst Ashley Rae Goldenberg.

Twitter, for instance, leads in censorship. A hidden-camera investigation by Project Veritas exposed Twitter employees talking about how they censor conservative news content through “shadow banning” — users think their content is being viewed widely but it isn’t.

Twitter employees also divulged how they crafted algorithms to weed out conservative content by identifying
certain words, such as “guns” and “Trump.” Twitter also tried to manipulate tweets in the 2016 presidential campaign that used the hashtags “#PodestaEmails” and “DNCLeak.” In addition, the report shows how Twitter has censored pro-life ads but allowed Planned Parenthood ads. Twelve of the 25 U.S. members of Twitter’s Trust and Safety Council – which helps guide its policies – are liberal, while only one is conservative.

Facebook, which has 1.4 billion daily users, is the third most popular website in the world. It touts itself as the preeminent platform to share ideas and communicate “openly with friends and family.”

However, Facebook has censored videos by the NRA, banned pro-life and gun advertisements, and prevented conservative news from reaching audiences through algorithms and content-censors. This often occurs in the “trending” news section of Facebook.

Former Facebook employees have disclosed that the company deliberately suppressed news about the Conservative Political Action Committee, Mitt Romney, and Ted Cruz, and dialed down the presence of conservative news outlets Breitbart and the Washington Examiner.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg is a left-winger who supports DACA, Black Lives Matter, and gay marriage. The company employs more than 20,000 people just to monitor content. Zuckerberg claims that they focus on removing “hate speech” or threats of violence or terrorism. However, when asked during Senate testimony how Facebook defined “hate speech,” Zuckerberg dodged and said it was a “really hard question” and that “we struggle with it.”

When asked by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) if Facebook had ever censored content from Planned Parenthood or MoveOn.org, Zuckerberg said he didn’t know.

The fact is there is no transparency with these companies and no clearly defined rules for content. They promote and censor what they please, and they are quickly tossing conservatives into the digital ashbin.

YouTube has censored videos of conservative Michelle Malkin and libertarian Pamela Geller. It has also demonetized the videos (curtailed the ads) of the Trump-supporting duo Diamond and Silk, among other conservatives, killing their ability to make money from the videos.

The Google search engine was deployed in 2016 to favor Hillary Clinton and the Democrats. It can be manipulated to minimize (digitally bury) conservative content. If you can’t find the right information, the conservative movement is crippled.

Also, all four of these sites partner with the anti-conservative Southern Poverty Law Center to censor content. The SPLC, for instance, has smeared the Family Research Council as a “hate” group because it opposes homosexual marriage.

In addition, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Google selectively misrepresent conservative content by using the left-wing “fact checkers,” such as Snopes.com and PolitiFact.

All of these tactics, and more, are used by these sites to suppress conservative content. In time, they will effectively shut conservative news down, censor it completely in the social media world.

We must fight back on all fronts against this threat. The new MRC report is our first volley. You can aid us in this crucial battle by making a donation to the MRC.

Please use the reply card and postage-paid envelope enclosed with this newsletter to send your most generous gift today. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President

In April, MRC Action:

• Promoted the MRC’s groundbreaking new report — “CENSORED! How Online Media Companies Are Suppressing Conservative Speech” — and encouraged our powerful and enthusiastic Grassroots Army to support the MRC as we take this research to the next level.

• Enabled nearly 1,500 people (so far) to download this critical report from www.stopcensoringconservatives.com and spread the word about the dangerous world of digital censorship.

Join our next campaign by emailing: grassroots@mrc.org
Not only are the liberal media biased but so are the so-called “fact-check” groups they use. Under the guise of “neutral” analysis, “fact-check” outlets such as PolitiFact.com and Snopes.com regularly spin their critiques and cherry-picked facts to push a leftist agenda. They act as echo chambers for the liberal media.

To set the record straight, the MRC launched its new “Fact-Checking the Fact-Checkers” project in March. This new campaign will give the public the truth about these alleged “fact-checkers.”

Commenting on the new project, MRC President Brent Bozell said, “In an era of ‘fake news’ and inaccurate reporting, it is important now more than ever that the fact-checkers themselves are exposed for their biases.”

“The MRC routinely finds instances when fact-checkers bend the truth or disproportionately target conservatives,” he said. “We are assigning our own rating to their judgments and will expose the worst offenders.”

“Americans deserve the truth,” said Bozell. “There must be accountability across the board, and that includes these alleged arbiters of fact and fiction.”

Some of the fact-checkers the MRC will monitor include PolitiFact.com, FactCheck.org, Snopes.com, Washington Post Fact Checker, AP Fact Check and CNN Fact Check. Analyses of the claims of these fact-checkers will be posted on the MRC’s popular NewsBusters website. Each claim will receive a rating, such as “The Real Deal,” “Deeply Distorted,” or “Fully Fake.”

Here’s an example. The MRC looked at PolitiFact’s claims about Hillary Clinton’s post-campaign book, *What Happened*. PolitiFact, not surprisingly, agreed with the *New York Times*’s assessment that Clinton was “fundamentally honest,” and then showed how at least 51% of her claims in the book were “basically accurate.”

However, PolitiFact admitted that it doesn’t “check every statement a politician makes, so any comparison is problematic.”

“As usual, PolitiFact was very selective and helpful in picking out claims from the book,” noted NewsBusters Executive Editor Tim Graham. “They skipped over Hillary suggesting the media favored Trump, for example.”

PolitiFact stayed away from troubling assertions in the book and instead “fact-checked” such banal Clinton statements as, “Fewer Americans are moving than ever before. True”; “I did better with white women than Obama in 2012. True, but less than Obama in 2008 and her husband in 1996”; and, “Hot sauce boosts the immune system.”

PolitiFact conveniently ignored Clinton’s absurd claim, among many others, that, following the Kathy Griffin controversy people sold Trump-holding-Hillary’s-severed-head souvenirs at the GOP convention. It never happened.

NewsBusters gave the PolitiFact review a rating of “Fully Fake.” To learn more about “Fact-Checking the Fact-Checkers,” visit www.newsbusters.org/fctfc.

The NewsBusters team in the MRC’s News Analysis Division works nearly around the clock documenting, exposing, and neutralizing liberal media bias. With more than 30 years of research available in its digital library, NewsBusters analysts can easily access facts, quotes, and other data to confirm or refute claims made by the news media and their so-called “fact checkers.” If you want the real facts, NewsBusters is the source. (From L to R) Rich Noyes, Ken Oliver, Mike Candella, Tim Graham, Kristine Marsh, Brent Baker, Geoffrey Dickens, Kyle Drennen, Nicholas Fondacaro, Scott Whitlock, and Curtis Houck.
Although the unemployment rate remained very low, 4.1%, in March, and the economy added 103,000 jobs, the ABC, CBS, and NBC evening news shows didn’t report that positive news, not one mention. They had more important things to cover, apparently. NBC’s *Nightly News*, for instance, reported on the “very first space hotel,” which charges $10 million for a 12-night stay and is taking reservations for 2022.

NBC also let Americans know about the “rare birth” of a reindeer in Maine and the popularity of axe-throwing facilities. ABC’s *World News Tonight* ran a story on the tearful prison reunion between the Menendez brothers, who murdered their parents 20 years ago in their Beverly Hills home. The *CBS Evening News* chose to report on GPS programs, such as Waze, which sends drivers on a “dangerous detour” through one of the steepest roads in Los Angeles.”

**Yes, It’s Fake**

A recent poll from Monmouth University showed that Americans are very skeptical of “fake news” in the Old Media. When asked if traditional news sources such as TV and newspapers ever report fake news, 77% of Americans said “yes.” That number is up from 63% last year. Only 21% said the traditional media don’t run fake news.

Also, when asked if the Old Media were pushing fake news by accident/mistakes or for political reasons, 42% said it was for a political agenda while only 26% said it was because of “poor fact checking.” The poll further found that 65% of Americans believe that the traditional media deliberately push fake news through their story selection and the facts that they choose to emphasize.

It seems that when President Trump mentions fake news, a lot of Americans know exactly what he’s talking about.

**Sheriffs Censored**

A letter sent to Congress demanding that it pass legislation to tighten “border security” and upgrade existing border barriers was signed by 380 members of the National Sheriffs Association and the liberal media completely censored it. The signers represent about 12% of the counties in 41 states, including all of Pennsylvania and the border counties of Cochise, Pima, and Yuma in Arizona.

In the letter, the sheriffs state: “We have been warning the Federal government about detrimental increases in transnational drug trafficking, gang violence, sex trafficking, murder, and other escalating incidents of crime by illegal aliens entering our country.... Further delay and inaction on immigration reform will cost more innocent lives, more financial hardships, and an even greater decline in the public trust that is essential to the preservation of our Republic.”

ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, MSNBC, AP, the *New York Times*, and Google News, among countless other liberal outlets didn’t report the story. The only exceptions were *Newsweek* and Fox News.

**Trump = Death**

Longtime Washington insider and CNN contributor David Gergen pulled no punches when he declared President Trump was killing democracy and compared him to Turkey’s totalitarian leader Recep Erdogan. On *Anderson Cooper 360*, April 5, Gergen railed that Trump is “as dismissive of truth as he is of ethics. We go on and on and on with this.”

As for Erdogan, Gergen continued, he gives speeches “like this every day. Two or three on national television, he pays no attention to facts, he tells a total number of lies, he’s charismatic, and he maintains about a 40% steady approval rating. Guess who else has about 40% these days? Donald Trump. So, it [lying] is a device that works up to a point. And I’m sad to say it also can lead to the diminishment of democracy, if not its death.”
Although there is a mountain of evidence documenting political corruption at the FBI and potential crimes, CNN’s Jeffrey Toobin dismisses it all as lunacy. There’s no need for a second special prosecutor, Toobin declared on The Situation Room, because “most of the accusations against the FBI are lunatic conspiracy theories, just not grounded in anything.” Well, FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe was fired because he lied 4 times to federal investigators. When McCabe was “investigating” Hillary Clinton’s email case, his wife received nearly $700,000 from Democratic PACs.

In addition to the “unaccompanied minor” gangsters, ICE and other law agencies arrested 475 individuals since last May in a national anti-MS-13 operation. At least 80 of those caught had prior criminal histories, including assault and weapons charges. Two gang-bangers admitted to killing people in their home countries, one of whom murdered a rival at age 12; another admitted to killing three rivals when he was 13.

ICE is doing heroic work, but the liberal media don’t want you to know about it.
Don’t Politicize Sports and Entertainment

One thing that defines liberals is their incessant desire to push political messages into every time and space. Their “compassion” and “inclusion” is perpetually shoved in our faces. That problem has metastasized under President Trump. The urgency of their “resistance” is knocking down all the barriers.

Don’t they know that most Americans don’t want politics invading every sphere? Can’t they see that audiences for sporting events and awards shows are suffering? They would plead that TV ratings for everything are down, because fewer people are buying cable or satellite TV. But now we have evidence that this endless politicization is causing a backlash.

In a national poll of 1,000 likely voters by McLaughlin & Associates, 75 percent of the respondents said they agreed with this statement: “When I watch live sports or entertainment shows on television, I am trying to get away from politics and do not want to be bombarded with partisan political messages.” Only 17 percent disagreed. All the intensity was on the Just Say No side: 52 percent “strongly agreed” with the frustration with politics, and only six percent “strongly disagreed.”

The poll, commissioned by the Media Research Center, also found that they vote with their remotes: 44 percent of participants said they’re less likely to watch live sports and entertainment shows these days because the shows have become too political.

About half (47 percent) of the respondents who did not watch the Oscars this year said their reason for not watching the show was political. They chose “I’m tired of these shows being full of political statements” or “I would have watched but knew some of the presenters and winners would use the time to share their political agenda.”

Oscars host Jimmy Kimmel proved that suspicion right in spades. He noted most of the Best Picture nominees didn’t have a big box-office number, and joked: “We don’t make films for money. We make them to upset Mike Pence.”

He introduced actress Lupita Nyongo like this: “She was born in Mexico and raised in Kenya. Let the tweet storm from the president’s toilet begin!”

The “socially conscious” rapper Common came on stage and blathered about “immigrants get the benefits, we put up monuments for the feminists, tell the NRA they [are] in God’s way!” Standing on stage with the rapper as honorees were leftist activists, including Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors and Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards.

It is no coincidence that the audience of the Oscars hit an all-time low, and the audience of the Olympics hit an all-time low. The NFL saw it ratings fall off nearly 10 percent when a fraction of players refused to stand for the National Anthem. No one could imagine the fallout would be this dramatic.

Sports leagues like the NFL and liberal sports networks like ESPN have been completely at odds with what their viewers want, and their ratings reflect it. Perhaps they can stare at these poll results and heed this warning before they lose a large chunk of Americans for good.
Media Research Center experts are frequently interviewed on stories of national importance, often reaching millions of Americans daily. They provide analysis and commentary on radio, TV, the Internet, social media, and in print. Some of the MRC’s latest media appearances include the following:

**Television**

**ABC**
- NBC News Baltimore, Apr. 11
- NBC News 10, Apr. 11

**C-SPAN**
- Washington Journal, Apr. 5

**FBN**
- Cavuto Coast-to-Coast, Mar. 26, Apr. 12

**FNC**
- Fox & Friends, Mar. 29, 31, Apr. 7
- Hannity, Mar. 23, 24, 26, 30, Apr. 17
- The Ingraham Angle, Mar. 19, Apr. 16

**NRA TV**
- Dana, Apr. 2, 9, 10

**OANN**
- Daily Ledger, Apr. 2, 9
- PARTIAL LISTING

**Radio**

- Alan Nathan Show, Apr. 2, 6, 13
- Mark Levin Show, Mar. 26, Apr. 11
- Sean Hannity Show, Apr. 2, 12
- Lars Larson Show, Apr. 5, 12
- American Family Radio, Apr. 2, 4, 9
- Washington Watch, Apr. 11
- Mike Gallagher Show, Apr. 9
- Breitbart Radio, Apr. 4, 9
- Todd Starnes Show, Apr. 19
- John Gibson Show, Apr. 4
- Nightside with Dan Rea, Apr. 3
- Red Eye Radio, Apr. 6
- Washington Watch, Apr. 2
- Larry Elder Show, Mar. 28
- NPR, Apr. 5
- KFMB, San Diego, CA, Mar. 28, Apr. 4, 11
- WTKF, Morehead City, NC, Apr. 3, 6, 13
- KWEL, Midland, TX, Apr. 2, 9
- WROK, Aurora, IL, Apr. 2, 9
- WENY, Almira, NY, Apr. 4, 11
- KNTV, Houston, TX, Apr. 4, 12
- KVOR, Colorado Springs, CO, Apr. 2, 4, 6, 9, 10
- WIBA, Madison, WI, Apr. 12
- KTLK, Minneapolis, MN, Apr. 13
- KTSO, San Antonio, TX, Apr. 6, 13
- WIOD, Miami, FL, Apr. 2
- KZEM, Cape Girardeau, MO, Apr. 9
- KFTK, St. Louis, MO, Apr. 7
- WGTV, Greenville, NC, Apr. 1
- WCBM, Baltimore, MD, Apr. 4
- WPHT, Philadelphia, PA, Apr. 4, 5
- WCHV, Charlottesville, VA, Apr. 3
- KIDO, Boise, ID, Apr. 10
- KFAB, Omaha, NE, Mar. 28
- PARTIAL LISTING

**Print**

- Boston Herald, Apr. 10
- Washington Post, Apr. 5, 12
- Associated Press, Apr. 12
- Washington Times, Apr. 1, 10, 12
- The Guardian, Apr. 2
- Investor’s Business Daily, Apr. 2
- National Review, Mar. 24
- PARTIAL LISTING

**Internet**

- Drudge Report, Mar. 23, 29, 30, 31, Apr. 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 16, 17
- Yahoo! News, Mar. 24, 29, 31, Apr. 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12
- Biz Pac Review, Apr. 7
- Washington Monthly, Apr. 7
- Capital Research, Apr. 9
- Daily Caller, Apr. 9
- Western Journal, Apr. 9
- Slate.com, Apr. 10
- FoxNews.com, Apr. 9, 11, 13
- Townhall, Apr. 11, 12
- Family Research Council, Apr. 11
- American Conservative, Apr. 11
- Conservative Daily Post, Apr. 11, 12, 13
- Women of Grace, Apr. 11, 13
- MSNBC, Apr. 7
- Politico, Apr. 8
- Life Site News, Apr. 9, 10, 13
- Life News, Apr. 4, 10, 12
- Space Coast Tusk, Apr. 19
- Daily Mail, Apr. 12
- Patriot Post, Apr. 5, 12
- Washington Free Beacon, Mar. 27, Apr. 12
- Legal Insurrection, Apr. 13
- Twitchy, Apr. 13
- Washington Examiner, Mar. 26, Apr. 2, 9

**On April 16, MRC’s Brent Bozell detailed the MRC’s latest Censored! report: “It’s 50 pages documenting what conservatives have been suggesting has been happening. It sounds hyperbolic, but Laura, this is true. This is emerging, the greatest censorship of free speech worldwide in the history of man. Now let me explain this. The left is on a jihad against conservative thought.”**

**Internet**

- CNN’s New Low
- On April 17, Sean Hannity reported the MRC’s latest findings and video compilation, “Yellow Journalism: CNN Spouts Off About ‘Pee Tapes’ 77 Times In Five Days.”

**Internet**

- POPE DECLARES NO HELL? DRUDGE REPORT
- A CNSNews.com report about the Pope claiming there is no Hell sparked a media firestorm, including a two-and-a-half day headline posting on the Drudge Report, which helped drive more than 1.4 million pageviews to CNSNews.com and nearly 14,000 reader comments.
The liberal media will stop at nothing to try to destroy the conservative movement and take down a sitting president.

The Media Research Center is the conservative movement’s most effective weapon against the liberal media.

And the **Patriot Fund** is the army of thousands of MRC supporters who keep the MRC strong and help defend the truth. The MRC’s **Patriot Fund** may be our best-kept secret, but there’s no reason it should be.

This fund provides the leverage the MRC needs to take on the multi-billion-dollar liberal media industry. It provides a steady, constant source of funds the MRC can rely on, and helps keep the MRC more efficient by saving money on fundraising.

Join the **Patriot Fund** today. It’s simple. By becoming a member, you will, in essence, be sending us a “paperless” check each month — an automatic, tax-deductible debit that is deposited directly into the MRC’s operating fund.

**You’re in charge.** Your donation of $25 or $50 (or whatever amount you choose) will be noted on your bank or credit card statement every month, just like any other transaction. And anytime you want to leave the program, all you have to do is let us know.

**There are perks based on your giving level.** To find out more and sign up, visit, www.mrc.org/donate and choose the Monthly Giving option, or contact Kirk Henderson, **Patriot Fund** support specialist, at (571) 267-3500 or khenderson@mrc.org.

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**MINIBITS**

- On Easter Day, the NYT’s Amy Sullivan predicted, “Most white evangelicals would vote against Jesus himself if he ran as a Democrat.”
- NPR’s Vanessa Romo describes Easter as “the day celebrating the idea that Jesus did not die and go to hell or purgatory or anywhere at all, but rather arose into heaven.”
- MSNBC’s Joe Scarborough rails that when Trump gives a speech “he whips people up, it’s like a Mussolini rally — and yes, that’s what I said.”
- NBC’s Chuck Todd, apparently sober, proclaims, “We’ve never tried to be part of the political debate. We’re simply a voice of truth. There’s no balance, just fairness and truth.”
- MSNBC’s Donny Deutsch declares that Trump lacks “the basic empathies that we feel as human beings” and “that’s what makes him a sociopath.”
- CNN’s Van Jones bemoans that with President Trump it’s like the universe “threw us in the toilet and closed the lid and now we’re just stuck in this crazy situation, swirling.”
- CNN’s Brian Stelter explains his job: “Even if President Trump prefers to live in a fantasyland, journalists have to at least try to help him see the reality.”
- MSNBC’s Mika Brzezinski warns that Trump “breaks promise after promise on guns and DACA and you see racism and bigotry and misogyny seeping through this presidency.”
- MSNBC’s Joy Reid wonders, “At some point, does the conservative media run out of viewers because it is appealing to sort of an old kind of crusty, creepy, weird world view?”
- SiriusXM host Karen Hunter describes the GOP: “This is not the party of Lincoln, the party of Nixon, or even the party of Reagan. This is the party of the KKK, and the party of Trump.”

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**“The very important, indispensable Media Research Center. I don’t know what we’d do without the MRC, frankly.”**

**LAURA INGRAHAM**