GEORGE SOROS







Leftist billionaire spends \$131 million to spread massive media influence around the globe

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

eftist billionaire George Soros wields a level of influence in American politics that makes him unrivaled among the left's most powerful activist donors. He has spent decades and more than \$32 billion building an unparalleled network of allies in almost every field of endeavor. That power doesn't just impact American opinion. Soros, his Open Society Foundations and the charities they fund exercise significant influence around the world — because of his numerous connections with the news media.

Soros' millions give him access to major media figures and top news outlets, in addition to prominent executives at every level of government around the globe. The journalism groups that Soros supports have the ability to mold public opinion on practically every continent and in many languages. They also insulate him from inquiry because reporters see him as an ally, not a target for investigation.

The 92-year-old liberal philanthropist's multimillion-dollar efforts promote his personal agenda encompassing some of the most radical leftist ideas on abortion, Marxist economics, anti-Americanism, defunding the police, environmental extremism and LGBT fanaticism. Soros reached the pinnacle of his status with top TV news network stars and major news outlet executives involved in the groups he funds. MRC Business examined the breadth of Soros' influence through global media. Here are the results:

• 253 Journalism/Media Groups Tied to Soros: At least 253 organizations across the world that focus on news and activist media were funded by Soros' organizations. A number of these groups wield massive power over the flow of information in international politics. The Soros-funded, liberal outlet Project Syndicate claimed its commentaries were published 20,393 times in 156 countries in 2021. Project Syndicate boasted its articles also have appeared in 66 different languages. Soros gave \$1,532,105 to Project Syndicate between 2016 and 2020. Another leftist U.K.-based outlet funded by Soros, openDemocracy, claimed it "attracts more than 11 million visits per year" and has projects published "in Russian, Spanish and Portuguese as well as English." Soros gave openDemocracy \$1,633,457 between 2016 and 2020. The Poynter Institute's Soros-funded International Fact-Checking Network controls global fact-checking for 100 organizations and influences much of Big Tech content and social media with that power. Soros gave the IFCN \$492,000 between 2016 and 2020. (The total income for IFCN in 2021 was a mere \$2.4 million.)

- Views Pushed by Soros-Funded Outlets Are Radical, Dystopian: openDemocracy published an op-ed from a "queer communism" activist who said the COVID-19 crisis "shows it's time to abolish the [nuclear] family." The outlet also justified Palestinian terrorist rockets being fired into Israel as "a necessary counter-discourse" to what it dubbed a "colonial power." Project Syndicate pushed a piece by a Soros-funded economist who argued the need for a global "climate lockdown" if the world didn't undergo a radical green economic transformation. It also published propaganda by former Iranian president and anti-American extremist Hassan Rouhani, who threatened further conflict with the U.S. in his 2014 column for Project Syndicate if an agreement on his country's nuclear program wasn't reached. The Soros-backed Free Press pressured the Federal Communications Commission to label former President Donald Trump's coronavirus briefings "hoaxes" and censure broadcasters that aired them.
- Foundations (OSF) gave \$131,111,250 to journalism and media organizations around the globe between 2016 and 2020 to push his radical global agenda on issues like climate change, opposition to the traditional family, anti-Americanism, abortion and race. But that's not all. The Soros Economic Development Fund, the impact investment arm of the Open Society Foundations, spends hundreds of millions of dollars around the world in "private-sector investments to advance" OSF's left-wing agendas such as "racial equity" and "climate justice." The organization states it has doled out \$400 million to 54 countries as of April 2022, \$9.3 million of which went toward "independent media."
- 54 Soros-Tied Figures Linked to Major Media: MRC found at least 54 media figures (e.g. anchors, columnists, editors, news executives and journalists) who are prominent individuals in news and activist media, in addition to some of the most powerful media conglomerates in the United States and abroad. These included figures like NBC Nightly News anchor Lester Holt, CNN Chief International Anchor Christiane Amanpour, The Washington Post executive editor Sally Buzbee, PolitiFact Editor-In-Chief Angie Drobnic Holan and Bloomberg News co-founder Matthew Winkler.

RECOMMENDATIONS

MRC Business has several recommendations for the media to address their clear conflicts of interest regarding Soros:

Reject Soros Cash

No purportedly "objective" journalist should serve on a board or advise any outlet financed by Soros, such as National Public Radio. If academics do so, they should be open about their affiliations and journalists should cover those.

Question Motivations of Sources Funded by Liberal Billionaires

Reporters and editors should be aware when a network of linked organizations deliberately promotes a story. Reporters should not only question the motives of such instances, but also the facts of the case — whether it's on the right or the left.

Spend Time Investigating Soros

Journalists have no trouble finding incentive to do detailed analysis of top conservative organizations and donors, but spend little time questioning the motives or funding of liberal organizations. Reporters should do a more detailed investigation into Soros' Open Society Foundations and its global influence.

Investigate Soros

Many journalists, anchors, reporters and editors sit on the boards of Soros-funded organizations while simultaneously enjoying prominent roles in news media. Journalists should look into possible conflicts involving their counterparts, whose objectivity could be compromised by their connections to radical liberal billionaires like Soros.

Disclose Potential Conflicts of Interest

The Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics <u>states</u> that journalists should "[a]void conflicts of interest, real or perceived" and that they should "[d]isclose unavoidable conflicts." Journalists involved in Soros-funded operations should hew to those guidelines and avoid connection to Soros and his allies.

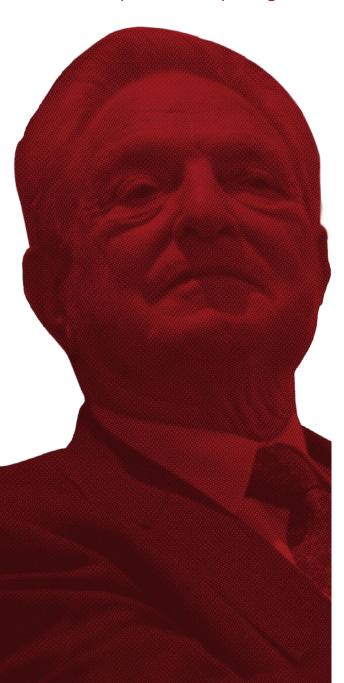


George Soros: Propaganda Powerhouse

JOSEPH VAZQUEZ AND DANIEL SCHNEIDER

INTRODUCTION

At 92 years old, leftist billionaire George Soros has cemented himself as one of the most powerful influencers in global politics. One of the biggest reasons for that power is his prestige within media circles around the world.



In the United States, Soros is known for his massive involvement backing liberal policies and politicians. Since the 2016 election, he has spent at least \$200 million backing political candidates, which includes \$29 million for local prosecutors and district attorneys. In 2022 alone, he committed \$128 million to the midterm elections, according to Open Secrets. *The New York Times* even conceded that Soros was the "largest donor" for the 2022 midterms.

Even that number was too low. According to CNBC, Soros' Open Society Policy Center "quietly" funneled another \$140 million into political causes in 2021. CNBC analyzed that the quiet funding brought Soros' overall political spending on campaigns and causes since January, 2020, to roughly \$500 million "at the least." That's still just a drop in the bucket compared to the over \$32 billion he pumped into his Open Society Foundations (OSF) since 1984 to shape politics to his liking on a global scale. His global media clout is massive as a result. It is easy to criticize Soros' politics. But he is a savvy investor — whether he's trying to make money or use it to push his agenda.

The amount Soros initially committed to the 2022 midterms — \$128 million — is significant because it is roughly equivalent to the \$131 million he spent globally in the last five years influencing the media. An MRC Business analysis of the Open Society Foundations's contributions showed that Soros' charities gave 253 news and activist media groups worldwide at least \$131,111,250 between 2016 and 2020.

These contributions went to important left-wing outlets like Project Syndicate, openDemocracy, Poynter Institute's



International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) and Free Press — all organizations that wield enormous influence on politics on either a global or national scale.

Few in America are familiar with Project Syndicate or openDemocracy. They should be. Project Syndicate shares the Soros agenda with 156 countries in 66 languages. It gives him a global platform for his radical open society ideas and his own writing. The outlet has published Soros at least 115 times. Fellow global outlet openDemocracy doesn't have quite the same reach, but still shares its content across multiple languages.

Then there are the fact-checkers. No phony aspect of journalism has more daily impact than the fact-checking regimen utilized to control content on social media and search engines. IFCN approves official fact-checkers scattered all around the world, comprising roughly 100 organizations.

Want to post on Facebook? Fact-checkers can flag your post and place checks on the content even if the alleged check doesn't relate at all to what you wrote. Facebook and Instagram often blindly accept these fact checks and determine to remove your post or hide it from the public. They also serve to limit how many people see it. Those fact-checkers are approved by Poynter's operation, funded by Soros.

Fact-checkers squelched the Hunter Biden laptop story. That is real power. Just ask Hunter's father — President Joe Biden.

As former Harvard Business School professor <u>David Korten</u> stated in <u>a review</u> on the Soros book *Open Society: Reforming Global Capitalism,* "Soros plans to buy civil society."

Civil society might not be for sale, but influence certainly is. Soros's donations tie him to at least 54 individuals who serve as board members or in corporate leadership for Soros-funded groups that also happen to have prominent positions at day jobs — as anchors, news executives, journalists, columnists, editors, correspondents, etc. — in some of the world's most powerful liberal media organizations.

Readers will recognize some names. All have access to the levers of journalistic power in substantial ways. Those include big names like NBC News anchor Lester Holt, CNN Chief International Anchor Christiane Amanpour and *Washington Post* executive editor Sally Buzbee. The others feature reporters, anchors, columnists, editors, news executives and journalists linked to organizations including ABC, CBS, NPR, Bloomberg News, Reuters, *The New York Times* and several additional outlets.

While many of those news figures are international, the ones Americans would most recognize appear on their TV or run news outlets that dominate the national debate. Holt and Amanpour are two of the most well-known, and both went out of their way to defend Soros from criticism.

Soros certainly put a downpayment on journalism. For example, the media organization that received the most Soros cash between 2016 and 2020 was the Media Development Investment Fund (MDIF), which the billionaire pumped with at least \$16,814,790 between 2016 and 2020. The MDIF, co-founded by late *Washington Post* reporter <u>Stuart Auerbach</u>, <u>bills itself</u> as an "investment fund" for supposedly "independent media" in various countries.

The organization <u>invested</u> hundreds of millions of dollars in media across the world. Specifically, the Soros-tied MDIF has "invested in 143 clients across <u>46 countries</u>" from 1996 to June 30, 2022, including Poland, Ukraine and South Africa. The Soros Economic Development Fund <u>celebrated</u> specifically how "[a]n estimated 130 million people receive news from MDIF clients."

Soros was credited as the core reason for the MDIF's launch in the first place. MDIF co-founder <u>Sasa Vucinic praised</u> Soros for helping create the organization in 1995, when it was originally dubbed the Media Development Loan Fund: "Buried in the depth of every organization's institutional memory, a founding legend — a treasured story explaining the organization's 'big bang' – can always be unearthed."

Soros committed \$2 million to the massively popular leftist encyclopedia website Wikipedia through the Wikimedia Foundation in 2018. Wikipedia bills itself as the "the world's largest reference website, attracting over a billion visitors monthly." According to the site, Wikipedia "has more than sixty million articles in more than 300 languages, including 6,584,950 articles in English with 122,205 active contributors in the past month." Wikipedia co-founder Larry Sanger noted during a 2021 interview how the site has shifted into promoting leftist propaganda and placing restrictions on certain sources like Fox News from being cited by Wikipedia editors for its pages:

"You can't cite the Daily Mail at all. You can't cite Fox News on socio-political issues either. It's banned. So what does that mean? It means that if a controversy does not appear in the mainstream center-Left media, then it's not going to appear on Wikipedia."

During the week when the Bureau of Economic Analysis was set to announce a second quarter GDP drop in 2022 on July 28 — which fit the "<u>technical definition</u>" of a recession — MRC Business counted that Wikipedia allowed at least 116 edits to be made to its page redefining what a "recession" is.

In another example of the leftist bent of the enormous global website, Wikipedia once <u>contemplated</u> in November 2021, deleting one of its articles that documented "Mass Killings Under Communist Regimes," which included China, Cambodia and the Soviet Union. Two warnings initially appeared on the article, one asking for comments on the possible deletion of the article and one noting that the article may be biased or unverifiable.

The article <u>ultimately remained</u> on the platform, but is plastered with a bizarre notice that "[t]he neutrality of this article is disputed."

The irony is that Soros said at the time of his endowment to Wikipedia that his gift "represents a commitment to the ideals of open knowledge—and to the long-term importance of free knowledge sources that benefit people around the world." Apparently the "ideals" Soros' Wikipedia funding supports are only those that cater to his mission to "bend" the arc of history toward his left-wing perception of "the right direction."

The kind of left-wing utopianism that undergirds the propaganda that media organizations fueled with Soros cash has been spreading for decades. For Soros, the <u>hallmarks</u> of an "open society" include global governance, <u>open borders</u>, <u>fomenting political unrest</u>, <u>undermining</u> national currencies and donating millions to groups dedicated to crushing American exceptionalism and capitalism.

Yes, a man who made tens of billions of dollars from capitalism considers it a threat.

Soros' connections to powerful media and the anti-American content his cash endorses are case in point. For example, <u>The Marshall Project (MP)</u> — a leftist journalism outlet that's primarily focused on demonizing the American criminal justice system — received at least \$1,250,000 from Soros' OSF between 2016 and 2020. CBS News' 60 Minutes legal analyst <u>Andrew Cohen</u> serves as one of MP's <u>senior editors</u>.

To give insight into just how radical the outlet is, its founder <u>Neil Barsky</u> claimed on Marshall's "<u>About Us</u>" webpage that the Marxist "Black Lives Matter movement became a formidable force in the fight for racial justice." In addition, the publication exploited the Capitol Hill riot of Jan. 6 to push a crazy propaganda story headlined, "<u>White Terrorism Often Leads to Harsher Punishment for People of Color.</u>" MP is so powerful that it lists prominent U.S. media corporations like NBC, *The New York Times*, TIME magazine, The Associated Press and *New York Magazine* as its "publishing partners" in its 2021-2022 annual report.

Soros' involvement in the media isn't limited to charitable giving. A Soros-led investment group called <u>Lakestar Finance provided debt financing to support</u> the \$60 million all-cash acquisition of 18 Univision radio stations by a media group led by former Obama and Clinton operatives called The Latino Media Network.

As MRC Latino Director <u>Jorge Bonilla</u> pointed out, the Soros-led deal recreated <u>the failed Univision America</u> <u>talk radio network</u>, with affiliates in at least nine U.S. cities. Most important was Univision's decision to throw in the iconic anti-communist *Radio Mambi* on WAQI 710 in Miami as part of the package, which means a conservative radio outlet now answers to a left-wing organization.

In 2019, leftist Vice Media got "a \$250 million cash infusion from an investment consortium" that included Soros, according to <u>Variety</u>. Vice News, which is one of Vice Media's subsidiaries, is the same outlet whose staff writer, <u>Marie Solis</u>, bragged in 2019 that she "learned how to do an abortion on a papaya" in a gross publicity stunt aimed at destigmatizing the slaughter of the unborn.

But the content Vice News pushes gets even more egregious. The outlet released a <u>grotesque video</u> in 2018 promoting how "Trans Kids And Their Parents Are Deciding When To Start Medical Transition." The description propagandized: "As the debate continues over which bathroom transgender people should use, a more complex question is emerging about how early the medical transition begins for trans kids."

Open Society Foundations issued a propagandized publication in 2015 headlined, "<u>License to Be Yourself: Trans Children and Youth</u>," which argued for the imposition of gender-recognition laws that recognize the chosen gender of "trans children." The fact that Soros was propping up a media conglomerate like Vice Media that promotes the sexualization of children is par for the course.

In an exclusive interview with MRC Business, Bongino Report Managing Editor Matt Palumbo noted that "one of the biggest consequences" of billionaires like Soros wielding broad control of the media is that publications then become "horse blinders in front of us" and that is "creating a filter on what we can see." In effect, said Palumbo, "You really can create any impression you want." And that apparently includes creating the false impression that anyone who criticizes Soros at all is anti-Semitic.



Matt Palumbo- Bongino Report Content Manager

Palumbo — who authored the 2022 book *The Man Behind the Curtain: Inside the Secret Network of George* <u>Soros</u> — told MRC Business that Soros' media reach "appears in different ways," such as when journalists who work at major publications like The Times, The Washington Post, CBS, CNN and ABC simultaneously appear on Soros' "payroll" at other organizations. "That's going to influence your coverage," in Palumbo's assessment. "Just type in Soros' name in any of the" major liberal publications he's linked to "and see how they cover him."

Usually, according to Palumbo, "if they're ever covering him in a negative way, it's framed as if his critics are the bad guys for noticing." But, as Palumbo noted, "No one would ever say that about" critics of late Jewish conservative billionaire Sheldon Adelson or of other "Jewish donors on the right, but because it's convenient for them on the left, they can do that and the media goes along with it."

It helps that Soros' media ties have made him and the liberal press allies.



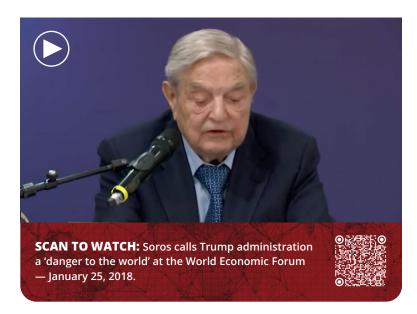
Soros' 'Open Society' at War with National Sovereignty

The crux of Soros' extreme "open society" worldview could be summed up in his hatred for national sovereignty and support for wild leftist positions on race, climate change, defunding the police and the nuclear family.

Soros directs a ton of energy to destroy American sovereignty.

Soros advocated in Open Society: Reforming Global Capitalism (2000) for an "Open Society Alliance" led by "developed democracies." He said the United States "must subordinate our sovereignty" and lambasted America as the "greatest obstacle to establishing the rule of law in international affairs." At the time, the president of the United States was Democrat Bill Clinton.

Soros' anti-American sentiment only grew more strident during the eras of Republican presidents George W. Bush and Donald Trump. On Oct. 24, 2004, Soros issued a pre-election screed in Project Syndicate claiming "Bush is endangering the United States and the world's safety while undermining American values." During a speech at the World Economic Forum in January 2018, Soros smeared the Trump administration as a "danger to the world."



The ideas promoted by Soros-funded media provide the blueprints for his envisioned "open society." openDemocracy published an op-ed from a "queer communism" activist who said the COVID-19 crisis "shows it's time to abolish the [nuclear] family." Specifically, the pandemic, according to the

article, provided an opportunity to "evacuate and generally empower survivors of — and refugees from — the nuclear household." Project Syndicate <u>pushed</u> eco-dystopian fear mongering that the world may need a "climate lockdown" to preempt climate change unless the world undergoes a "green economic transformation."

The Poynter Institute for Media Studies, the journalism giant that houses the Soros-funded International Fact-Checking Network, repudiated a news anchor's usage of the word "moms" to describe mothers giving birth to children. It pushed for the normalization of "gender-neutral language" in reporting in order to "influence legislation and national discourse about LGBTQ+ families and parents in the workforce."

During the Middle East <u>refugee crisis</u> in Hungary, Soros <u>emphasized</u> his disdain for Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's <u>policy</u> to protect his country's borders. "[Orban's] plan treats the protection of national borders as the objective and the refugees as an obstacle. Our plan treats the protection of refugees as the objective and national borders as the obstacle," Soros said. The media organizations funded by and linked to Soros have also denigrated countries that have defended national sovereignty, including the United States, Israel and Hungary. For example, the Soros-funded openDemocracy <u>justified</u> the launch of terrorist rockets into Israel as "a necessary counter-discourse" to what it dubbed a "colonial power."

The Godfather of the Left makes no bones about what the outlandish "open society" world he envisions entails when taken to its logical conclusion: "[I]n a perfectly open society none of the existing ties are final, and people's relation to nation, family, and their fellows depends entirely on their own decisions." What his absurd vision means, however, is that "the permanence of social relationships has disappeared; the organic structure of society has disintegrated to the point where its atoms, the individuals, float around without any roots," Soros wrote in *Underwriting Democracy*. The *Investor's Business Daily* Editorial Board didn't mince words in 2015 about what Soros' worldview means in light of his ardent support for international governing bodies like the European Union: "One World Government."

The editorial board wrote:

"The EU with all its political correctness, overbearing bureaucracy, intolerance of diversity and lack of respect for the unique histories and cultural identities of its nation-states is Soros' own vision. No wonder his Open Society Foundations focus on gun control, open borders, repression of religion, open jails, ending patriotism and curtailing freedom."

Soros' media empire has done everything to sell this dark view to the world. Those who oppose his agenda have been his consistent targets — <u>including</u> George W. Bush and Trump.

Soros specifically <u>devoted</u> hundreds of millions in donations and commitments to so-called social justice and racial justice groups, including those that promote the radical idea of "reparations." Soros pursued those aims with everything from exploiting the death of George Floyd in 2020 to advance a leftist racial justice agenda, pledging \$100 million to support <u>radical feminism</u> across the globe, pouring <u>millions</u> into left-wing journalism and financing groups promoting global climate-change radicalism and <u>anti-police hatred</u>.

Stifling free speech on social media is also apparently part of Soros' "open society" brand.

MRC Business <u>discovered</u> a litary of left-wing activist groups financed to the tune of at least \$80,233,084 from Soros between 2016 and 2020 that put enormous pressure on Big Tech CEOs to censor free speech on their platforms before the 2022 midterm elections. The targeted executives included CEOs like Meta's

Mark Zuckerberg, Google's Sundar Pichai, YouTube's Susan Wojcicki, and TikTok's Shou Zi Chew.

Anti-Americanism is also a signature of Soros' funding apparatus. The Soros Economic Development Fund (SEDF), the <u>impact investment arm</u> of the Open Society Foundations, has spent hundreds of millions of dollars around the world in "private-sector investments to advance" OSF's left-wing agendas such as "<u>racial equity</u>" and "<u>climate justice</u>." The organization states that it has doled out \$400 million to 54 countries as of April 2022, \$9.3 million of which went toward "<u>independent media</u>." The SEDF's "Racial Equity" focus in particular is dedicated to "combatting" America's so-called "entrenched white supremacy" and "anti-Black racism."

Soros has a record for not being shy in describing how important he sees himself and how he sees his role in the world, which explains his aggressive efforts to influence the information that people see, hear and watch. Soros admitted in his magnum opus, *The Alchemy of Finance*, that he "always harbored" an "exaggerated view" of his "self-importance."

He continued: "[T]o put it bluntly, I fancied myself as some kind of god or economic reformer like [John Maynard] Keynes (each with his General Theory) or, even better, a scientist like Einstein." That "exaggerated view" of Soros' importance is reflected in how he uses his money to transform countries into his own distorted perception of "open society," even if it means knee-capping national sovereignty.

As he said in *Soros on Soros: Staying Ahead of the Curve (1995)*: "Of course, what I do could be called meddling, because I want to promote an open society. An open society transcends national sovereignty." Late *City Journal* contributing editor <u>Stefan Kanfer</u>, who referred to Soros as a "Connoisseur of Chaos," <u>perfectly</u> summarized OSF's global agenda: "Underneath its lofty rhetoric, the organization was clearly devoted to the eradication of national sovereignty." Harvard Business School Isidor Straus Professor of Business History <u>Geoffrey G. Jones</u> even <u>co-authored</u> a study on Soros, describing his persona as a "stateless statesman."

Soros has a knack for saying <u>outrageous things</u> when it comes to exploiting tragedy if it serves his own political ends. His comments on the opportunities he saw with the coronavirus pandemic were no exception. The pandemic was "a revolutionary moment when the range of possibilities is much greater than in normal times," Soros <u>told</u> Italian newspaper <u>La Repubblica</u> in a 2020 interview. "What is inconceivable in normal times becomes not only possible but actually happens. People are disoriented and scared." *The Washington Times* summarized that Soros sees "the COVID-19 crisis has opened up politics in a radical direction."

Soros certainly used his billions over the years to encourage the "radical" political shift to great effect. Progressive donor hub Blue Tent <u>described his</u> OSF as perhaps "the single most influential nonprofit organization in the world." Former Carnegie Endowment for International Peace President <u>Morton Abramowitz</u> once said of Soros that he was "the only man in the United States who has his own foreign policy and can implement it," according to late *New York Times* reporter <u>Michael T. Kaufman's</u> 2002 book *Soros: The Life and Times of a Messianic Billionaire*. In addition, then-Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Chief Strategist <u>Byron Wien</u> claimed that Soros wielded "more influence in the world than anyone who has ever held high elective or appointive office."

Characteristic of this dominant influence in world affairs is reflected in Soros' major investments to buy access and influence in major media. A quote from Soros chronicled in Kaufman's book summarizes how he seeks to encourage the global society to adopt his leftist ideology:

"Yes, I do have a foreign policy, and now I have it more consciously. My goal is to become the conscience of the world."

The Fifty-Four: Soros-Linked Media Figures Connected to Major Media

The overwhelming reality of the Soros global empire is one of influence — media and top figures in politics, business and more.

MRC Business uncovered at least 54 major figures in news media who are connected to Soros-funded organizations.

Those include big names like:

NBC News anchor Lester Holt, CNN Chief International Anchor Christiane Amanpour and Washington Post executive editor Sally Buzbee. The others encompass reporters, anchors, columnists, editors, news executives and journalists linked to organizations like ABC, CBS, NPR, Bloomberg News, Reuters, The Times and a host of additional outlets.

Soros' foundation dollars fanned out to a web of nonprofits, many of which are connected to figures with high profile roles in major media organizations.

Holt and Amanpour are two of the most well-known in American media and both went out of their way to defend Soros from criticism.

Amanpour, a prominent liberal anchor who focuses on international news, is listed as a senior advisor at the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), which received \$2,750,000 from Soros between 2018 and 2020 alone. She brazenly criticized Soros' critics as anti-Semites.

In an Oct. 4, 2018 segment on PBS' Amanpour & Company, which Amanpour also hosts, she harassed Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó and accused his boss, Hungarian Prime Minister <u>Viktor Orbán</u>, of being anti-Semitic for enacting policies looking to check Soros' political influence in that country: "As you know, your prime minister has been accused of stoking anti-Semitism through the way he's dealing with George Soros and his praise of the World War II leader, Miklos Horthy. He was a Hitler ally."

She tried backing Szijjártó into a corner by teeing a up an opportunity for him to issue a mea culpa to the world for daring to stand against Soros' agenda: "Do you regret them, the government's attacks and surge against George Soros, which looked very much like they were using traditional,

what's it called, dog whistle anti- Semitic terminology?" Szijjártó retorted: "I reject that." He proceeded to emphasize that Hungary was opposed to the radical agenda that Soros is seeking for the world, which has nothing to do with his identity:

"[Soros] would like to see Europe in a post-national, post-Christian phase — you know, their borders don't count, their national identity is pushed backed, their migrants are being allowed at least 1 million a year. Our vision is totally different. He called my prime minister a maniac. He called our country a mafiastate. So my question is that, if he attacks us like that, with money, with media, with funding opposition, or at least NGOs, in the country, why shouldn't we have the right to react and say that, 'No, no, we have a totally different concept. And we want our concept to win and not yours, Mr. Soros?"

Not everyone shares Amanpour's prejudiced view of Soros' Hungarian critics.

Former Israeli Prime Minister <u>Benjamin Netanyahu</u>, for example, <u>referred</u> to Orban in July 2018, just months before Amanpour's criticism, as a "true friend of Israel." Jewish News Syndicate writer <u>Sean Savage noted</u> less than a year later on Sept. 23, 2019, "The track record for the Hungarian government on fighting anti-Semitism paints a different picture."

He wrote: "Orbán has been involved in establishing a national Holocaust Memorial Day and recently pledged \$3.4 million to fight anti-Semitism in Europe, and is staunchly defended by some Hungarian Jewish leaders as not harboring anti-Semitism."

NBC's Holt tried a more subtle strategy for protecting Soros' reputation.

When a dangerous <u>individual planted a pipe bomb</u> at Soros' home, <u>Holt</u>, another board member on the Soros-funded CPJ, exploited the story to tie Soros' critics to the attack during an Oct. 23, 2018, <u>segment</u>:

"Tonight authorities in New York are investigating who put a bomb in the mailbox of a billionaire philanthropist — George Soros, who frequently donates to Democratic candidates and causes, and often the target of conspiracy theories, including in recent days about that migrant caravan."

Soros' massive contribution to liberal and Democratic causes, then, isn't a news story. It is an excuse for attacks by his critics.

NBCUniversal News Group Chairman <u>Cesar Conde</u>, who oversees NBC News, MSNBC and CNBC, is a <u>Trustee</u> at the <u>Soros-funded</u> Aspen Institute, which got <u>\$1,165,000</u> from Soros between 2016 and 2020. Conde is also an Aspen Institute "<u>Henry Crown Fellow</u>."

Soros also has connections in non-English speaking media. NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises Chairman Beau Ferrari leads NBC's push in "Spanish-language content." Ferrari is also a "Henry Crown Fellow" at the Aspen Institute.

CBS has at least two major media influencers connected to Soros. For example, 60 Minutes legal analyst Andrew Cohen holds a plum position at The Marshall Project, which was heavily funded by Soros to the tune of at least \$1,250,000 between 2016 and 2020. ABC Senior Vice President for Editorial Quality Kerry Smith also sits on liberal ProPublica's Journalism Advisory Board. ProPublica received \$1,450,008 from Soros between 2016 and 2020.

At other media giants like The New York Times and The Washington Post, Soros' money can be traced to people at or near the top. The executive editor of The Post, Sally Buzbee, also sits on the Soros-funded CPJ board. The New York Times Co.'s Executive Vice President and General Counsel Diane Brayton and Times Vice President of Philanthropic Partnerships Marcia Parker hold prestigious positions at two powerful Soros-funded groups: the CPJ and the Institute for Nonprofit News (INN), respectively. INN received at least \$1,533,334 from Soros between 2016 and 2020.

Soros also has ties to major business media. Bloomberg News co-founder and Editor-in-Chief Emeritus Matthew Winkler is a board member for the Soros-funded CPJ. Bloomberg News in particular boasts that it "produces roughly 5,000 stories a day" and is "read by more than 325,000 Terminal subscribers, who are among the most influential people in business and finance in the world."

Soros funds National Public Radio directly, meaning that a Soros-funded organization also happens to simultaneously be a prominent news outlet. His direct funding into NPR gives him influence with NPR's entire legion of at least 1,800 journalists and 400 reporters and editors in over 200 member stations across the country.

"No other news organization has the same on-the-ground reach as public radio," NPR boasts on its website. "More than 95 percent of Americans live within range of a public radio signal. So we are positioned to deliver." MRC Business counted 16 individuals within the NPR board of directors and corporate leadership collectively that either oversee NPR's overall news operations or manage NPR's individual member stations, such as Iowa Public Radio (Iowa), WSHU (Connecticut), St. Louis Public Radio (Missouri) and WYPR (Maryland). Because NPR is financed by Soros, all 16 of those individuals are thereby connected to his cash.

NPR President and CEO John F. Lansing also served 10 years as a visiting faculty member at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, a powerful Soros-funded nonprofit considered the "gold standard" in the liberal media universe. NPR Public Editor Kelly McBride also works as Poynter's senior vice president and chair of the Craig Newmark Center for Ethics and Leadership.

PolitiFact Editor-In-Chief Angie Drobnic Holan serves on the advisory board of Poynter's Soros-funded International Fact-Checking Network, which works as a de facto Ministry of Truth on social media engineered to make sure opinions that oppose the left's narrative on a variety of issues like abortion, "transgenderism," COVID-19 and economics are silenced before they gain traction.

Documenting every major media connection to Soros would be overwhelming. For this report, MRC Business exposed some of the most powerful media entities that Soros funds to push his radical leftist agenda.



Anchor, NBC Nightly News

Member of the Committee to Protect Journalists Board of Directors



Christiane Amanpour
Chief International Anchor,
CNN's Amanpour
Sopior Advisor to

Senior Adviser to Committee to Protect Journalists



Margaret Brennan Moderator, CBS Face the Nation

Council on Foreign Relations Board Member



Fareed Zakaria Host, CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS

Council on Foreign Relations Board Member



Top TenSoros-Tied
Media Figures



Sally Buzbee Executive Editor, The Washington Post

Member of the Committee to Protect Journalists Board of Directors



Cesar Conde Chairman, NBCUniversal News Group

Council on Foreign Relations Board Member



John Lansing *President and CEO, NPR*

President and CEO of NPR



Angie Drobnic Holan *Editor-in-Chief, PolitiFact*

Serves on the Advisory Board of the International Fact-Checking Network



Julie Pace Executive Editor, Associated Press

Member of the Committee to Protect Journalists Board of Directors



Alessandra Galloni Editor-in-Chief, Reuters

Member of the Committee to Protect Journalists Board of Directors

Project Syndicate

Project Syndicate: A Global Soros-Funded Behemoth

There is arguably no publication that exemplifies Soros' hold on the global media more than Project Syndicate, self-dubbed "The World's Opinion Page."

The liberal <u>publication boasts</u> it reaches a "global audience" through contributors that include "prominent politicians, policymakers, scholars, business leaders, and civic activists from six continents." Project Syndicate isn't kidding. The publication also brags that "over 140 heads of state" are Project Syndicate contributors. And Soros, himself — published in the outlet at least 115 times.

Project Syndicate <u>claimed</u> its commentaries appeared an amazing 20,393 times in 156 countries in 2021 alone. Project Syndicate also works with 508 media outlets around the world and its articles have reportedly appeared in 66 languages. The structure of Project Syndicate is a massive interconnected hub of liberal elites spreading extremist ideas globally.

Soros' OSF funneled at least \$1,532,105 to Project Syndicate between 2016 and 2020.

The outlet has promoted everything from abortion to global climate lockdowns to hatred against Israel, ironically.

Project Syndicate contributors include former high-level government officials from countries like the U.K., Australia, Sweden, Mexico and Venezuela, and top-ranked left-wing leaders from powerful international organizations like the World Bank and the Orwellian World Economic Forum (WEF), which recently promoted an insane idea of microchipping children. One notable contributor included individuals such as anti-American and anti-Israel former Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. Project Syndicate allowed Rouhani to push propaganda in 2014 threatening conflict with the U.S. if an agreement on his country's notorious nuclear program wasn't reached. "By diminishing the prospects for a permanent negotiated agreement on our nuclear program, such behavior increases the likelihood that the Iran-US standoff will continue," Rouhani wrote.

Rouhani reportedly denounced Israel in 2021 as "the enemy" of the Middle East in comments leading up to World Al Quds Day, which Iran inaugurated after the 1979 Islamic Revolution to protest the existence of the Jewish state," according to i24News. Rouhani proclaimed: "The Zionists are the enemies of the region and of the security of the Palestinian people."

Other Project Syndicate contributors included WEF Executive Chairman <u>Klaus Schwab</u>, former Democrat <u>President Jimmy Carter</u>, former British Prime Ministers <u>David Cameron</u> and <u>John Major</u>, French President <u>Emmanuel Macron</u>, former German Chancellor <u>Angela Merkel</u> and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

Macron, in particular, <u>wrote</u> in 2019 how "all" of the liberal European Union's institutions "need to have the climate as their mandate." Former U.S. Vice President and eternal <u>green activist Al Gore</u> is also listed as a Project Syndicate contributor, though the publication has listed no obvious pieces by Gore.

Important names in the Big Tech industry wrote for Project Syndicate, too. Liberal billionaire Microsoft co-founder <u>Bill Gates</u> has placed nine columns and an interview to Project Syndicate between 2012 and 2021. Project Syndicate's enormous contributor list also includes Google CEO <u>Sundar Pichai</u>.

Soros' collaboration with Project Syndicate indicates how valuable the billionaire considers the outlet to be for driving his message.

Soros himself has written extensively for Project Syndicate. To date, he has contributed at least <u>115 columns</u> to Project Syndicate since 1997, which is eye-opening in light of the publication's enormous reach.

Soros' first Project Syndicate column, "The Capitalist Threat," made this stark claim about what he considered the true threat to his bizarre vision of the post-Soviet Union era: "The main enemy of the open society is no longer the communist but the capitalist threat." Fast-forward 25 years, and a Soros column teed up the Fourth of July celebrations by decrying the so-called "far-right" United States Supreme Court as a "greater" threat than both Communist China and authoritarian Russia. The reason? The Supreme Court overturned the 1973 pro-abortion *Roe v. Wade* ruling in a victory for the pro-life movement.

Soros went further, fomenting a conspiracy theory that the court's logic in overturning Roe "could even allow states to ban inter-racial marriage." He continued: "It is also clear that this Court intends to mount a frontal attack on the executive branch. One of the most consequential rulings of the Court's just-completed term denied the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to issue regulations needed to combat climate change."

The Soros column for Project Syndicate created a boogeyman out of the supposedly "extremist majority" on SCOTUS and used it as a pivot point to attack congressional Republicans. Soros, of course, suggested gutting the Senate filibuster so Congress could codify abortion into law:

"There is only one way to rein in the Supreme Court: throw the Republican Party out of office in a landslide. That would allow Congress to protect through legislation the rights that had been entrusted to the protection of the Supreme Court. It is now clear that doing so was a big mistake. Congress must act, starting with protecting a woman's right to choose. If the filibuster must be amended to achieve that, so be it."

But the extremism that Project Syndicate pushes isn't limited to Soros.

In 2020, Project Syndicate <u>pushed</u> an eco-dystopian idea from economist <u>Marianna Mazzucato</u> who exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to fear-monger that the world may need a "climate lockdown" to preempt climate change unless the world undergoes a "green economic transformation."

"The world is approaching a tipping point on climate change, when protecting the future of civilization will require dramatic interventions," Mazzucato claimed. "In the near future, the world may need to resort to lockdowns again – this time to tackle a climate emergency" — and COVID-19 set the precedent.

Soros — who made end-of-the-world climate change propaganda a centerpiece of his multibillion-dollar political agenda — made a point-of-telling Italian newspaper La Repubblica in 2020 that the pandemic was a "revolutionary moment when the range of possibilities is much greater than in normal times." He continued: "What is inconceivable in normal times becomes not only possible but actually happens. People are disoriented and scared."

"Disoriented and scared" enough to entertain the idea of needing a global climate lockdown like Mazzucato is suggesting? Soros himself <u>funded</u> Mazzucato's research.

Project Syndicate certainly pushed the climate armageddon idea. It hosted a Sept. 14, 2022, climate alarmist event called "Forsaken Futures" well-stocked with former heads of state and famous green activists, all clamoring for the "green transition" and warning of imminent disaster resulting from climate change.

BBC journalist Jo Coburn led off the <u>video conference</u> with these ominous words: "Some, although not all economists, are warning that the global economy is teetering on the brink. Inflation, an energy crisis, rising interest rates" and "flaccid stock markets" all present a major threat, Coburn said. "Where does it all leave the green transition?" Coburn asked.

<u>Bill McKibben</u>, <u>co-founder</u> of radical environmentalist group 350.org, did not seem concerned about any risk that a so-called "green transition" might pose to a world suffering through an energy crisis. McKibben instead resorted to fear-mongering, arguing that there is a "grave need for the rapid transition off fossil fuel and onto renewable energy" because otherwise the world will experience climate destruction "everyday, everywhere." McKibben's group is also funded by Soros.

Soros gave McKibben's group 350.org \$700,000 between 2016 and 2020. McKibben is the same eco-doomsayer whose past climate predictions were so extreme, even Scientific American called him out in 2011 for throwing up "overheated rhetoric" and "fear-mongering." The Soros-tied McKibben also heads "The Climate Crisis," The New Yorker's newsletter on the environment.

McKibben wasn't the only talking head proclaiming climate disaster. "It is no longer a question of if or when climate change will affect us. Climate change is already here. The question is how bad things will get. So while this summer was remarkable, it may unfortunately also be the new normal," Denmark climate minister Dan Jørgensen said. Jørgensen, Soros and his son Alexander are all listed as "Council members" at the Soros-funded European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). Soros gave \$11,683,720 to the ECFR between 2016 and 2020.

Project Syndicate even allowed the promotion of anti-Semitic content on its website. London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) International Relations Professor Fawaz A. Gerges published an April 30, 2021, column for Project Syndicate that was very much on point with the site's anti-Israel bent: "Apartheid in the Holy Land." To prove his incendiary thesis, Gerges relied on research from the anti-Semitic, Soros-funded Human Rights Watch (HRW), which released a report in 2021 casting Israel as an apartheid state.

HRW received a massive sum of at least \$32,106,746 from Soros' groups between 2000 and 2014. In 2010, Soros and his OSF announced it would give \$100 million to the anti-Israel HRW over 10 years. Gerges proceeded to pretend Israel was obsessed with Jewish dominance:

"(HRW) asserts that the Israeli government is enforcing a systemic policy to maintain the 'domination by Jewish Israelis over Palestinians.' The nearly seven million Palestinians in the occupied territories and within Israel itself face collective persecution under an apartheid system."

Soros also funds Gerges' school. Soros gave LSE at least \$2,228,284 between 2016 and 2020. JewishPress.com reported in 2016 that leaked documents revealed a "very long" list of Soros-funded groups "hostile to Zionism and to the Jewish State" accounting for at least \$9,591,801 in Soros cash between 2001 and 2015 alone.

Poynter.

Poynter Institute: A Global Soros-Backed Ministry of Truth

The Poynter Institute has devolved from a premier outlet for journalistic training to another leftist media outlet. Its prestigious reputation made it an ideal home for the international headquarters of so-called "fact-checking." Soros has supported media efforts to either stomp out opinions contradicting his views or to target conservatives. The liberal Poynter Institute for Media Studies represents the essence of Soros' "fact-checking" efforts.

Poynter sells itself as a "global leader in journalism" and as the "gold standard" to emphasize its influence as a liberal media superpower.

Soros gave \$492,000 to finance Poynter's liberal International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) between 2016 and 2020.

The Soros-funded IFCN works with 100 so-called fact-checking organizations worldwide, powerfully distinguishing itself as a de facto Ministry of Truth. Poynter's IFCN hosts the international Global Fact event, the "world's largest annual fact-checking summit" for individuals including "fact-checkers, journalists, technologists, policy makers, leaders, educators and the public from more than 55 countries."

Poynter's fact-checking operation is engineered to make sure opinions that oppose the left's narrative on a variety of issues like abortion, "transgenderism," COVID-19 and economics are silenced before they gain traction on social media.

Big Tech companies like Facebook and Its sister company Instagram actively partner with Poynter's IFCN and Poynter's own liberal fact-checker PolitiFact. Other fact-checking organizations like Agence-France Press and Lead Stories must be approved by the IFCN to operate as official fact-checkers. Facebook itself doled out \$1 million in 2020 to finance Poynter's IFCN. Google and its subsidiary YouTube recently announced a \$13.2 million grant to the IFCN to create a "Global Fact Check Fund." Google bragged in a <u>blog post</u> that the grant was its "single largest grant in fact-checking." The Communist Chinese Party-tied TikTok app — which is notorious for censoring content that contradicts leftist narratives — partners with at least 11 IFCN signatories, including PolitiFact. The Big Tech platform fights so-called "dangerous misinformation" across "55 markets."

IFCN published an <u>open letter</u> criticizing YouTube for "allowing its platform to be weaponized by unscrupulous actors to manipulate and exploit others, and to organize and fundraise themselves." In the IFCN's draconian view, "Current measures are proving insufficient." IFCN exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to decry how "destructive disinformation and misinformation can be for social harmony, democracy, and public health; too many lives and livelihoods have been ruined, and far too many people have lost loved ones to disinformation."

The network called on YouTube to "make sure it does not actively promote disinformation to its users or recommend content coming from unreliable channels." In effect, a liberal organization financed by a left-wing billionaire like Soros tried to push YouTube to accept its own biased perspective about what sources are reliable and which ones aren't.

IFCN actively pressured YouTube to juice its <u>operations</u> to destroy free speech on its platform. For example, IFCN stipulated that YouTube should be "acting against repeat offenders that produce content that is constantly flagged as disinformation and misinformation."

Soros' OSF made it clear where it stood on the leftist practice of "fact-checking" during the same month that Poynter announced the launch of the IFCN in July 2015. In a July 2015 blog headlined, "True or False? Fact-Checking Journalism Is Booming," Sameer Padania, former program officer for the Open Society Program on Independent Journalism, fawned at how "[t]he role of fact-checking journalists in this environment is crucial." Padania continued: "Their credibility depends in large part on transparency around their methods. Most fact-checking sites—like [Poynter's] PolitiFact, UYcheck, and Polish site Demagog—involve a team of journalists using a public methodology."

Padania even promoted the views of PolitiFact founder <u>Bill Adair</u>, who pushed that his "dream" was "to get the fact-check information in front of citizens at the point of the political message," such as placing fact checks on political advertising. But, Adair mourned, "as we develop new techniques, they find new ways to get around them. It's an arms race." In essence, per Adair's characterization, fact-checking is a war between liberal internet traffic cops acting like they have a monopoly on truth and their targets who aren't content with their voices being silenced.

Facebook and Instagram wield Poynter's publication, PolitiFact, like a sledgehammer to crush free speech on their platforms. Poynter <u>heralds</u> its PolitiFact as "the largest political fact-checking news organization in the United States" and touts that it "published more than 16,000 fact-checks of politicians and pundits."

But PolitiFact's infamous "Truth-o-Meter" is <u>frequently</u> used against <u>conservatives</u> who dare question liberal narratives and have the audacity to criticize left-wing political leaders. The ratio disparity is not even close. An MRC analysis of PolitiFact between Jan. 20, 2021, and Jan. 19, 2022, found that Biden critics were flagged <u>almost six times as often</u> as the president. In fact, during Biden's first 100 days in office, "Biden was fact-checked 40 times, while Biden critics were checked on 230 occasions."

Poynter, which is responsible for training writers and reporters, came under heavy fire in 2019 when MRC Free Speech America exposed how the group attempted to <u>blacklist</u> 29 conservative outlets as "UnNews." Those that Poynter branded "unreliable news websites" included Breitbart, CNSNews.com, Daily Signal, The Daily Wire, Judicial Watch, the MRC, PJ Media, *The Washington Free Beacon* and *Washington Examiner*. Poynter <u>retracted</u> its "UnNews" list after major backlash ensued, but the Soros-backed organization's war against free speech online and conservative opinion hasn't wavered.

That's why Poynter's power over global fact-checking is so dangerous. And PolitiFact is a key weapon for Poynter.

MRC Business researched 961 fact-checks that PolitiFact levied on Donald Trump as of Dec. 1, 2022, 75 percent of them were negative ("Mostly False," "False," and "Pants on Fire"). On the other hand, PolitiFact only had <u>244 fact-checks</u> on Joe Biden as of the same date, with 57 percent being positive in nature ("True," "Mostly True," and "Half True").

Members within Poynter's IFCN — including Poynter's Politi-Fact — pulled out all the stops when a major Biden scandal arose that could have swung the 2020 election to Trump. Multiple fact-checkers falsely cast the scandal as some kind of disinformation operation.

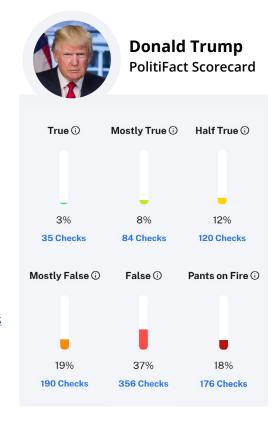
The New York Times, The Washington Post and CBS News verified the emails obtained by the New York Post from Biden's son Hunter's laptop involving shady business dealings between Joe Biden and Ukraine. Poynter's PolitiFact, along with Lead Stories and FactCheck.org — each a signatory in the Soros-funded IFCN — <u>failed</u> to update old stories that smeared the entire 2020 bombshell as possible fake news.

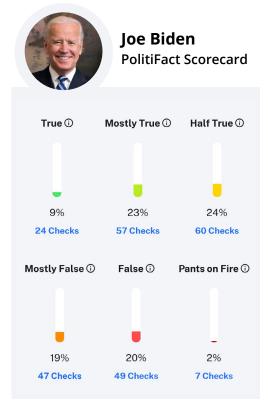
PolitiFact <u>dismissed</u> the emails, claiming it wasn't able to "verify" them in an Oct. 15, 2020, story. The outlet also tried to gaslight readers on the now-verified "smoking gun" email between Hunter and an advisor on Ukrainian energy company Burisma by accusing the New York Post of shoddy work.

In May 2022, PolitiFact slammed Tesla CEO Elon Musk for correctly accusing NBC News of having "covered up" the Hunter Biden laptop scandal in 2020. Here was PolitiFact's Tokyo-based contributing writer Monique Curet's reasoning for why the factchecker awarded Musk a "False" rating: "NBC News said its lack of in-depth reporting in 2020 on the laptop was due to people in Trump's circle trying to limit access to the information. That's not the same as covering up the story."

In effect, PolitiFact blamed Trump for NBC appearing to cover up the bombshell. In fact, a NewsBusters <u>analysis</u> found that NBC only spent 9 minutes and 6 seconds of coverage on the Hunter Biden laptop scandal and spent 7 minutes and 3 seconds of that time dismissing the story between Oct. 14, 2020, through the morning of April 18, 2022.







In terms of scope of its other activities, Poynter's influence is enormous. Its "MediaWise" operation, which purports to train people to spot so-called "misinformation and disinformation," reportedly reached "over 53 million people in the U.S."

The program has since expanded to "Brazil, France, Spain and Turkey" with "aims to slow the spread of misinformation online and help people make informed decisions about the content they engage with," which means slowing the spread of any information that doesn't align with Poynter's liberal political bent. "With more than 10 million unique visitors in 2021, Poynter.org is an influential and far-reaching source of news for an industry and a public that needs journalism," Poynter claimed. Its "Teen Fact-Checking Network" operation also incorporates children into its fact-checking scheme. The TFCN is reportedly "a virtual newsroom made up of middle and high schoolers who use social media to debunk viral misinformation and share media literacy tips."

TFCN, which is listed as a "verified signatory" of IFCN's "code of principles," works through a partnership with <u>PBS Newshour</u> launched in 2022 that allows "millions of teachers throughout the U.S." to access "lesson plans based on the work of MediaWise's Teen Fact-Checking Network." The TFCN also lists liberal Big Tech behemoths like Google and the communist Chinese government-tied TikTok as supporters.

But the "journalism" that Poynter promotes is blatantly biased. Poynter's senior media writer <u>Tom Jones lambasted</u> CNN leadership for the supposed offense of trying to <u>shift</u> the ardently left-wing network toward the political center. Jones made it clear that he endorsed one-sided journalism: "Sometimes, the other side shouldn't be given a voice, particularly if that side's argument is based on lies or pushes harmful agendas."

It's not just that one side that should be doing most of the talking, apparently, according to Poynter. Journalism, per Poynter, should be programmed to use pre-approved language that caters to the radical ideas of the far left.

For example, Poynter published guidance for journalists in January 2022, that sought to obliterate the standard of using gendered language in reporting. In an <u>article</u> tagged under "Ethics & Trust" with the headline, "Why using gender-nonspecific language in reporting extends beyond the page," author <u>Liana DeMasi</u> railed at how "not dismant[ling] the norm of gendered language in reporting on topics like paid family leave is to work to perpetuate and safeguard discrimination." Poynter dubbed DeMasi a "queer, Brooklyn-based writer" with "they/she" pronouns.

DeMasi took aim at NBC's *Today* show for daring to <u>publish</u> a November 2021, article on MSNBC anchor <u>Katy Tur</u>. The article used gendered language to talk about paid parental leave. "Tur, a straight cis-woman, calls herself a 'mother,' 'mom,' and 'parent,' referencing her husband several times," DeMasi complained. "[Tur's] usage of 'moms' implies that a birth-giver must always be a mother. After this distinction, Tur uses the term 'partner,' a gender-neutral and inclusive term, one that she could have substituted throughout her dialogue."

DeMasi pushed in her rebuke of Tur that normalizing leftist "gender-neutral" language in reporting could eventually lead to directly influencing the lawmaking process:

"The normalization of gender-neutral language has the potential to create safer, more welcoming, and less discriminatory medical practices for birthing

persons and their families. It also has the potential to influence legislation and national discourse about LGBTQ+ families and parents in the workforce. At a base level, it allows a news organization's readership to feel welcome in the digital or print space they've entered."

Poynter Director of Teaching and Diversity Strategies **Doris Truong even used** the controversial term "Latinx" in a June 30, 2020, blog to promote how a nonprofit called "Honor 41 reclaims a slur to elevate LGBTQ+ Latinx stories." According to the propaganda, "Honor 41 profiles 41 Latinx LGBTQ+ role models each year." Poynter pushed how National Association of Hispanic Journalists Executive Director Alberto Mendoza "decided to reclaim the number 41 because there is no national LGBTQ+ organization or singular voice for Latinx people." The term "Latinx" is panned among Latino Americans.

Pew Research Center released a December 2019, survey asking Hispanic adults about "Latinx" just a few months after Poynter promoted the term. The survey found that "only 23% of U.S. adults who self-identify as Hispanic or Latino have heard of the term Latinx, and just 3% say they use it to describe themselves."

In 2021, however, Poynter published an article by the Soros-funded NPR trying to spin that words like "Latinx" were simply part of the journalistic struggle to supposedly "find the language to tell stories about racial justice and social equity — issues that pervade American life." The article first appeared in the NPR Public Editor Newsletter. NPR Public Editor Kelly McBride, as the article disclosed, also chairs Poynter's Craig Newmark Center for Ethics and Leadership.



openDemocracy:

Soros' Leftist Global Journalism Operation in the U.K.

Through the leftist U.K.-based openDemocracy, Soros works to control the slant of journalism worldwide.

Soros has an easy starting point. Former openDemocracy Editor-in-Chief Mary Fitzgerald, who oversaw operations from 2014 to 2021, was named director of "Information Democracy" for OSF in June 2021. She is currently listed as "director of Expression, leading our global work to advance open society values at the intersection of journalism, technology, and culture and art" for OSF. Her openDemocracy profile says her new role at OSF involves fighting so-called "disinformation," which is revealing given her documented disdain for Trump.

Before the 2020 election, Fitzgerald <u>claimed</u> that someone worse than Trump could potentially arise who would be more savvy at deceiving people into believing "myths" about "American 'freedom'" to "oppress and exploit others" if the former president lost his reelection bid. "The danger now seems less that Biden loses, and more that a far-Right leader who's much more competent than Trump emerges within the next four to eight years," Fitzgerald said.

Her previous site, openDemocracy, was a good platform to learn what Soros wants. openDemocracy flaunts that it "attracts more than 11 million visits per year" and has projects "publishing in Russian, Spanish and Portuguese as well as English." The outlet showcased how far its reach spans across the globe in its 2021-22 annual report. According to the report, openDemocracy accumulated 15.3 million page visits and 8.92 million new users.

Soros' OSF gave at least \$1,633,457 to openDemocracy between 2016 and 2020. The outlet pushes some of the most extreme leftist content masquerading as journalism. It promotes transgender ideology in children, anti-Christian propaganda, the abolishment of the nuclear family, climate radicalism and anti-Semitism. Foundation Directory Online data suggest that Soros' foundations have been funding openDemocracy as far back as 2011.

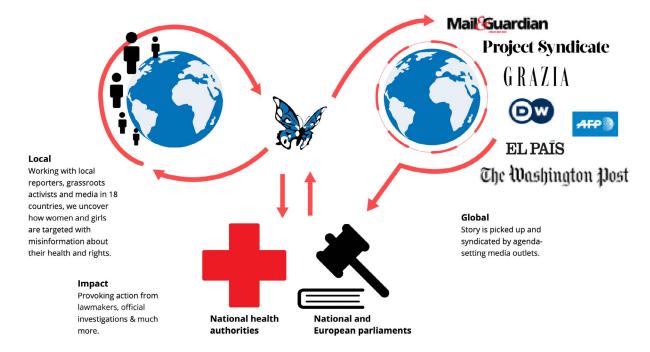
The leftist site further emphasized the scope of its influence in global media in its 2020-2022 strategic plan: "As a global organisation with strong ties to local news networks, openDemocracy is uniquely positioned to act as a bridge between global policy and media debates, and local contexts and perspectives."

A graphic showed that it works with "activists" around the world in addition to powerful media like the Soros-funded Project Syndicate and *The Washington Post*. Further emphasizing the interconnection between Soros and openDemocracy is the fact that it <u>lists The Global Investigative Journalism Network</u> and <u>Eurozine</u> as part of its "network." Soros funds both.

The Global Investigative Journalism Network and Eurozine received \$1,350,000 and \$210,000 between 2016 and 2020, respectively, from Soros.

How? Bridging global and local (case study 1)

As a global organisation with strong links to local networks, openDemocracy is uniquely positioned to act as a bridge between global policy and media debates, and local contexts and perspectives. This diagram shows how a 'Tracking the Backlash' investigation into anti-abortion misinformation has impacted lawmakers, health authorities and media.



A diagram in the strategy plan showed a "how a 'Tracking the Backlash' investigation into anti-abortion misinformation has impacted lawmakers, health authorities and media." The so-called "anti-abortion misinformation" "Tracking the Backlash" project, announced in February 2020, was engineered to map and target Christian pro-life crisis pregnancy centers. "There are thousands of these centres in the US where some have been previously criticised for presenting themselves as neutral health facilities while hiding their anti-abortion and religious agendas from women who are looking for help," openDemocracy claimed.

The group's website revealed that Soros' OSF specifically <u>pledged</u> \$600,000 in 2021 to fund the outlet's "Tracking the Backlash" project.

An openDemocracy "exclusive" revealed a scheme that sent undercover reporters "posing as vulnerable women with unwanted pregnancies to centers affiliated with the Ohio-based Heartbeat International in eighteen countries." The result was a dossier against a so-called "global network of 'crisis pregnancy

centres', backed by US anti-abortion groups linked to the Trump White House." openDemocracy boasted in a follow-up <u>article</u> that "we began following the money of two US religious right groups. Then, we deployed our own global network — of feminist investigative journalists."

openDemocracy hailed that its vendetta against pro-lifers had global impact, leading "politicians, doctors and rights campaigners" to call for "urgent government action and new regulations." The countries that openDemocracy listed as being spurred into government action against crisis pregnancy centers following its pressure campaign — such as Argentina, Italy, South Africa — were proof of Soros' influence on global politics through media.

openDemocracy justified Palestinian terrorists launching rockets at Israel as a proper response to what it dubiously deemed a "colonial" power in a 2014 piece that dripped with anti-Semitism headlined "Rejecting victimhood: the case for Palestinian resistance." "Resistance rockets fired from the Gaza Strip provide a necessary counter-discourse," the outlet exclaimed. "The Israeli Jewish public must understand that there shall be no security so long as they do not turn their anger and frustration at their very supremacist privilege and ideological system which is embodied in the Israeli government, left-wing, centrist, or right-wing." The article continued: "To be clear, Palestinians fire rockets into what belongs to them in the first place."

The outlet even claimed that terrorist "rocket fire" was comparable to "civil disobedience." openDemocracy as a publication repeatedly used the word "apartheid" to smear the state of Israel between 2014 and 2021.

It also published an op-ed by a "queer communism" enthusiast in 2020 claiming the COVID-19 crisis "shows it's time to abolish the [nuclear] family." The Marxist article took a page out of the logic of The Communist Manifesto and attempted to make the nuclear family seem like nothing more than a capitalist symbol of oppression: "In short, the pandemic is no time to forget about family abolition."

The op-ed continued: "Far from a time to acquiesce to 'family values' ideology, then, the pandemic is an acutely important time to provision, evacuate and generally empower survivors of — and refugees from — the nuclear household."

openDemocracy made a habit of promoting Soviet-style extremism. The organization promoted an <u>op-ed</u> by its special correspondent <u>Adam Ramsay</u> using climate change as a pretext to argue for obliterating private property.

His Aug. 16, 2022, proposal was headlined: "Droughts and wildfires prove we need to end private land ownership." He argued that "we can't accept an annual lurch from droughts to floods — we must take our land back from the aristocracy."



Free Press:

Soros-Funded 'Socialism' Outfit Trying to Silence Conservative Speech Soros-funded Free Press is an activist organization disguised as a journalism operation. It uses its sizable resources to push the federal government and Big Tech to silence conservative speech.

Leftist Free Press co-founder Robert W. McChesney once made a Marxist <u>call</u> to action in 2000 to "overhaul" the American press: "Our job is to make media reform part of our broader struggle for democracy, social justice, and, dare we say it, socialism." He published his comments in the Monthly Review, a self-dubbed "independent socialist magazine."

McChesney's "socialism" mindset is downloaded into Free Press's operating structure, and is exemplified by its push for Big Tech to censor speech in addition to trying to wield the government to silence conservative viewpoints it hates. Free Press has used its enormous web of influence in the media to push leftist messaging fomenting racial division, lobbying Big Tech and government agencies to censor Trump and more. Soros funneled at least \$1,625,000 to Free Press between 2016 and 2020 alone.

Free Press boasts significant impact. It prides itself in how it received "3,200 press hits in places including the Associated Press, Bloomberg, CNN, Democracy Now!, The Guardian, The Los Angeles Times, MSNBC, NPR, Poynter and Wired" in 2021 alone. The Associated Press (AP) alone <u>claimed</u> that "Four billion people see news from The Associated Press every day," meaning that Free Press content cited by AP alone could have millions of readers.

Free Press's 2021 annual report claimed that its efforts were largely responsible for convincing liberal Big Tech platform Twitter to permanently ban Trump after the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot:

"Our efforts have yielded numerous concrete changes. After years of pressure from Free Press and our allies, Twitter finally banned Trump, who fueled the insurrection and had long used his account to target people of color, immigrants, religious minorities and other communities."

In addition, Free Press emphasized how it applied the same pressure on Facebook, and sneered how its efforts moved the Big Tech giant to deplatform Trump in the first place:

"Facebook initially suspended Trump 'indefinitely' and later changed his suspension to a two-year ban in response to our organizing with Change the Terms and other coalitions. We're urging the company to permanently ban Trump and to close a loophole that's allowing a Trump PAC to fundraise and organize on his behalf."

Free Press reported that it coordinated this activist effort with Common Cause, another Soros-funded organization that received \$100,000 from the billionaire between 2016 and 2020, and "delivered 140,000 petition signatures to CEO Mark Zuckerberg and COO Sheryl Sandberg." Free Press also touted how it circled Facebook's D.C. headquarters with a mobile billboard.

Free Press promoted how it was "involved in direct talks that pressured Google and Amazon to boot the dangerous" <u>free-speech platform</u> Parler from their app stores because of so-called "election lies." "We also helped push Discord, Instagram, Reddit, Shopify, Snapchat, Spotify, TikTok and Twitch to either suspend Trump or restrict his access," Free Press bragged.

The organization doesn't just bully Big Tech into complying with its demands. It even tried to pressure the government to accomplish its anti-Trump ends. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Free Press <u>issued a petition</u> to the Federal Communications Commission to malign Trump's regular coronavirus briefings as "hoaxes."

The Free Press <u>petition</u> slammed the so-called "deadly disinformation broadcast on television stations across the country in the form of context-less coverage of President Donald Trump's press conferences and other statements." The organization even tried to sic the FCC on broadcasters that aired Trump's briefings.

The group's strong-arm tactics with the executive branch were not without precedent. The organization's 2015 report celebrated how it was responsible for influencing the Obama-era FCC into adopting draconian "Net Neutrality" rules that arbitrarily sanctioned massive government regulation on the Internet. Free Press praised how the FCC reportedly cited the Soros-funded organization "close to 70 times" in its final order on the matter.

The adopted FCC rules empowered government officials to review, approve or reject Internet service provider rates. What they actually did, according to the Cato Institute, was <u>guarantee</u> "ISPs government enforced market protection and profitability, in exchange for regulators ensuring that ISPs won't be too profitable."

In essence, the FCC rules proposed by former President Barack Obama and Free Press in 2015 sought to regulate the internet as a public utility. Then-FCC commissioner <u>Ajit Pai</u> stated that the move gave the agency "broad and unprecedented discretion to micromanage the Internet," in a 2015 <u>press release</u> on the proposed rules.

Free Press's gambit to impose government control fits right in line with Soros' vision for a micromanaged Internet. A 2015 MRC Business <u>study</u> released around the time that the FCC <u>adopted</u> its new rules found

that Soros' OSF gave a whopping \$82,784,698 to groups pushing net neutrality regulations between 2003 and 2013 alone, which included Free Press.

Free Press is adamant about installing Soros-tied ideologues at the FCC. The outlet promoted in its 2021 annual report that it actively pushed the Senate to confirm Biden's leftist nominee <u>Gigi Sohn</u> for a leadership role at the FCC. Sohn, <u>who happened to once work</u> for Soros as an OSF fellow, has a <u>documented history</u> of left-wing bias against conservative media and is <u>co-founder</u> and former <u>president</u> of the leftist group <u>Public Knowledge</u>. Public Knowledge "has long sought more government control of the internet and media," <u>according</u> to *The Wall Street Journal* Editorial Board.

Soros <u>funded</u> Sohn's Public Knowledge with at least <u>\$1,148,984</u> between 2016 and 2020 alone.

The Journal warned that Sohn has "hinted at deploying the agency's regulatory power to censor conservative media and revive a version of its mooted fairness doctrine." Sohn's "strident partisanship should disqualify her from serving as an officer of an independent agency with so much power to control the public airwaves," The Journal declared.

Sohn's Twitter account tweeted multiple attacks against Fox News. "For all my concerns about #Facebook, I believe that Fox News has had the most negative impact on our democracy," she posted in an Oct. 28, 2020, tweet. In another tweet Nov. 6, 2020, Sohn questioned whether Fox News was more dangerous to democracy than social media: "So do you still want me to believe that social media is more dangerous to our democracy than Fox News?" In another tweet, she demanded that Congress drag in Fox News to be grilled over what she deemed "misinformation": "So the next time Congress brings in Mark Zuckerberg 4 a hearing on misinformation, Murdoch or Suzanne Scott should join him at the witness table."

Free Press has even carelessly promoted violent rhetoric. In September 2021, the organization sent yet another petition to the FCC demanding it "investigate its own history of racism and examine how its policy choices and actions have harmed black people and other communities of color." The initial petition included a comment that promoted violence against Republicans:

"How come we have racist horseshit like FOX and the other ultraconservative outlets and Christians owning most of our media. What happened to separation of church and state? Are we going to have to shoot Republican[s] to reclaim our democracy."

FCC Commissioner <u>Brendan Carr</u> reportedly told <u>The Washington Free Beacon</u> that "The only action the FCC should take on a request like this—one based on a comment asking whether Republicans should be shot—is to dismiss it with prejudice." Free Press issued a statement following the backlash <u>acknowledging</u> "that some violent and inappropriate language was included in the comments" of its petition. The group <u>reportedly</u> "withdrew the petition" after Carr denounced it.

Free Press repeatedly used the race card in an attempt to pressure the FCC into capitulating to its demands. Free Press hosted a radical event that blamed the FCC as a racist organization that systematically excluded "Black people and other communities of color" in a Sept. 8, 2021, video headlined: "Calling on the FCC to Examine its History of Racism."

Free Press Senior Director of Strategy and Engagement <u>Joseph Torres</u> unleashed a series of accusations on the FCC during the video. He listed his pronouns as "he" and "him." Torres claimed that the FCC's policies "are harming communities of color" and that it's "intentional." He added that the FCC must "conduct an equity audit" and examine "its history of racism," in support of a radical <u>congressional proposal</u> on the same topic.

"[The FCC] gave out radio stations to white supremacists," Torres also alleged.

The organization's wild behavior when it comes to the issue of race doesn't stop here. Free Press co-CEO <u>Jessica Gonzalez</u> compared Fox News to the Nazi Third Reich in a 2017 <u>tweet</u> lambasting a poll run by the network that showed that 40 percent say the media writ large posed a greater threat to the U.S. than white supremacists. "There is some Third Reich-level brainwashing going on," she whined.

Gonzalez also complained in <u>another 2017 tweet</u> on the net neutrality issue that "History demonstrates that when companies control our narratives we are not free. Media companies have pushed narratives to legitimize Native American genocide (#FuckThanksgiving), slavery, rape, etc."



Media Democracy Fund:

A Soros-Funded Gargantuan Dedicated to Woke 'Social Justice' The Soros-funded Media Democracy Fund (MDF) is a dark money funding operation. It is essentially an interconnected media funding organization that prides <u>itself</u> on being at "the crossroads of digital technology and social justice." Dark money organizations are groups that "do not need to report their donors" <u>according</u> to *The Washington Post*.

MDF received \$3,520,000 from Soros' OSF between 2016 and 2020. MDF is a project of the "New Venture Fund (itself managed as part of a network of 'dark money' organizations under the supervision of for-profit philanthropic consultancy Arabella Advisors) and was founded by a seed grant from the Proteus Fund," according to Capital Research Center's Influence Watch. The Proteus Fund got \$10,927,309 from Soros' OSF during the same time frame as Soros' MDF funding. Arabella Advisors, which manages a "massive dark money network" that includes the New Venture Fund, also oversees three other liberal dark money organizations — the Sixteen Thirty Fund, the Hopewell Fund, and the Windward Fund — all of which are funded by Soros.

The New Venture Fund received \$50,321,490 — which included MDF funding — from Soros also between 2016 and 2020.

In the face of this alliance, the fact that the MDF happens to be another activist organization looking to shape U.S. law in a manner that meshes with Soros' "open society" worldview is par for the course. The organization's influence is noteworthy: "MDF has made more than \$34 million in grants to over 200 organizations since our founding in 2006."

Some of the Soros grants to MDF were earmarked to fund the radical organization's war against so-called "disinformation." Disinformation has become a media term widely deployed to silence facts and narratives with which the left disagrees.

MDF made the specter of "disinformation" a springboard to lobby the U.S. government to adopt tyrannical policies affecting journalism in the U.S.

MDF's racially charged <u>Disinfo Defense League</u> (DDL) is "a distributed national network of organizers, researchers

and disinformation experts disrupting online racialized disinformation infrastructure and campaigns that deliberately target" communities "of color." Part of the DDL's extremist "disinformation" manifesto pushed for the government to tax digital advertising to create a federally funded local media cartel.

"To fully combat the problems of disinformation, hate and other malign practices online, we must fund high-quality local journalism and urge Congress to create a small percentage tax on the online advertising revenues of the largest online platforms," DDL claimed.

DDL pushed the FCC to set up an entire "disinformation" apparatus that polices news media with approved narratives on COVID-19. "The FCC's broadcast-hoax rule prohibits broadcasters from knowingly airing false information about a catastrophe if it's foreseeable that doing so would cause substantial harm," DDL said on its website. "The FCC should use this authority to stop the spread of deadly health disinformation. Before renewing broadcasters' licenses, the agency should evaluate whether licensees are adhering to their public-interest mandates."

Free Press celebrated the DDL's policy platform in a December 2021, video. The guests spouted a laundry list of woke talking points in a not-so-intellectually diverse panel. Mediajustice Executive Director Steven Renderos absurdly stated that his problem with Big Tech algorithms was that they were "most likely designed by a white man or a white person or a man of some relative privilege."

In the video, then-Free Press Senior Policy Counsel Carmen Scurato claimed that "disinformation" allows "lies about the pandemic and vaccines to flourish" and has "real-world consequences" like "voter suppression." Scurato, who is tied to the Soros-funded Free Press, left the outlet to join the Federal Communications Commission as FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel's legal adviser for consumer and public safety issues. In the video, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Gender Studies associate professor Safiya Noble included her pronouns, "she" and "her" for her byline and described herself as a "person who's



brought black feminism and critical race theory" into the public consciousness. New Georgia Project CEO Nse. <u>Ufot</u> also included pronouns in her bio, and called election-denier and two-time failed Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams "a friend."

Free Press promoted how its advocacy arm, Free Press Action, was one of a number of liberal co-signatories that signed the DDL calls to action. Demos, Common Cause and Mijente are just a few of the litany of Sorosfunded groups that signed onto Media Democracy Fund's DDL call to action.



National Public Radio:

Soros and State Media Soros' media empire wouldn't be complete without an established connection to state media.

The taxpayer-funded National Public Radio has proved to be nothing but a propaganda mill for Soros' anti-American agenda. NPR received a grant of \$600,000 from Soros' foundations in 2016. He picked an obedient target.

NPR tried to <u>cast</u> the famous Revolutionary War-era "Don't Tread On Me" Gadsden flag as a symbol of "dangerous far-right extremist ideology." NPR used a Feb. 5, 2021, episode of its On The Media show to attack Fox News. The episode aired on 400 public radio stations across the country and was headlined, "Slaying the Fox Monster."

In January 2021, NPR argued that Biden's presidency could potentially change the Catholic Church's pro-life stance, a foundational Catholic teaching: "[F]or those who would like to see the church take a more permissive stance on issues including abortion, Biden's election is an opportunity." NPR pushed a story in June 2020 on how pre-born baby slaughter mill Planned Parenthood was backing then-candidate Biden in a "life and death election."

NPR currently exploits a weekly audience of 48 million across its platforms, according to NPR network exclusive sponsorship representative National Public Media (NPM).

Democrats' emergency Coronavirus stimulus bill in 2020 directed \$75 million in extra taxpayer money into the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) to maintain NPR and PBS radio stations, on top of the \$465 million already granted to the CPB (itself an increase of \$20 million in annual funding).

The mixture of liberal donor support and government funding has delivered the expected results. During the Aug. 1, 2022, edition of All Things Considered, Austin, Texas-based NPR reporter Sergio Martinez-Beltran compared "hardline Republicans" pushing Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) to be stricter on immigration to the mass shooter at the El Paso Walmart in 2019. "Still, some hardline Republicans have criticized Abbott for stopping short of invoking a, quote, 'invasion under the U.S. Constitution,"

Martinez-Beltran said. "That's the same language used by a white man in 2019 before killing 23 people, most of them Hispanic, in El Paso."

Turning Republicans into pariahs over immigration aligns with Soros' political agenda to <u>promote open borders</u>. That radical ideology is written into the very name of Soros' grantmaking group, OSF. But open borders isn't the only Soros-cherished issue NPR embraces. The outlet supports the "trangender" narrative. It once <u>scolded</u> people who use dinosaur emojis to communicate on the internet because they supposedly belonged to "trans" people. A "transgender" NPR guest named Riley Black during a June 10, 2022, segment mourned how dino emojis were being hijacked from the LGTBQ-plus community. "No matter who you are, if you see something beloved taken over by someone else, that can be hard. Suddenly gender queer fans of dinos everywhere felt under attack as TERFs [Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminists] kept dropping the emoji into their feeds," said WBUR podcast host Amory Sivertson.

TERF is a slur word for liberal women who don't embrace "transgender" people taking over traditional spaces for women — like sports.

In another incident, NPR-affiliate WNYC Radio Host Melissa Harris-Perry, a former MSNBC host, attacked the U.S. Supreme Court. During a June 30 segment of her show, she compared the <u>Dobbs decision</u> that overturned the <u>Roe v. Wade</u> ruling to the notorious <u>Dred Scott v. Sandford</u> (1857) case. <u>Dred Scott denied citizenship rights</u> to any "negro, whose ancestors were imported into [the U.S.], and sold as slaves,' whether enslaved or free," as Oyez.org summarized.

The headline for the segment read as follows: "Reproductive Coercion is an American Cornerstone." Harris-Perry railed that since *Roe's* overturning, "many progressives have revived this Dred Scott conversation, but this time arguing that future generations will look back on Dobbs with the same disgust that is now reserved for Taney's 1857 opinion." This parallels the argument Soros would make just a couple of days later in a Project Syndicate column wildly claiming *Dobbs* would set a legal precedent to ban "inter-racial marriage."

Naturally, NPR took the next step and moved to create its own "<u>Disinformation Reporting team</u>." Ironic, given how NPR legal reporter <u>Nina Totenberg pushed fake news</u> in a story claiming that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor was upset with Justice Neil Gorsuch for not wearing a mask at oral arguments. Both Sotomayor and Chief Justice John Roberts denied the incident ever occurred.

CONCLUSION

Global power and influence. That's what \$131 million in media spending bought leftist billionaire George Soros. That's why his Open Society foundations prioritized media outlets with international scope.

It's cheap, really. Soros understands that media outlets are essential to influencing people.

A megadonor like Soros doesn't have to buy them. He donates a tiny fraction of the \$32 billion he's devoted to his global agenda. And media outlets multiply that investment time and again.

Look at Project Syndicate. It bills itself as the "World's Opinion Page" and spreads liberal content to 156 countries in 66 languages. Soros' OSF gave more than \$1.5 million to the outlet in recent years. But, in return, it gives him a global platform for his agenda and his own writing. He's been published there at least 115 times.

Soros understands that kind of impact.

The media influence that Soros bought was enough to insulate him from being seriously investigated by most journalists. Whenever a conservative critic dared raise any objections to Soros' spending and major political footprint, the liberal media worked overtime to characterize those critics as anti-Semites, as Palumbo argued.

But mostly what Soros buys is silence.

His foundations have rained cash on the world in terms of billions, not millions. He has endowed his foundations with enough money that conservatives will be fighting his radical agenda long after he is gone from politics.

And the press either ignores that influence or provides cover for it. Crime was one of the major issues of the 2022 midterm campaign. Soros-funded prosecutors were criticized for soft sentences across the U.S. But the story largely stayed local, only bubbling up on right-leaning outlets as a point of concern. When finally pressed on it, he stuck to his guns.

Forced into the light, he had to address the issue in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed. "I have supported the election (and more recently the re-election) of prosecutors who support reform," Soros wrote in July, 2022. "I have done it transparently, and I have no intention of stopping."

But the issue of Soros backing prosecutors who are soft on crime receded because there was little journalistic follow-up. Instead of being branded the reason for the soft-on-crime strategies, he soon disappeared from the news.

Silence is the media's clandestine alternative to coverage. Bias by omission, as the

MRC sometimes calls it. And, yet, there is so much to cover about Soros and the mountains of cash he throws at issues that matter to him. MRC Business revealed in January 2022, that Soros committed a combined sum of more than \$2.3 billion to create a global university network to push his extreme ideology called The Open Society University Network.

Several colleges, universities, research and educational institutions have <u>already</u> <u>partnered</u> with the network in the U.S. and abroad. The list includes <u>Arizona State</u> <u>University</u>, <u>University of California</u>, <u>Berkeley Human Rights Center</u>, <u>London School of Economics</u> and <u>Columbia University's Picker Center for Executive Education</u>. Soros <u>said</u> about his Open Society University Network: "[It is] the most important and enduring project of my life."

But it's not important to the media who ignore him. He doesn't have to fund their particular outlet for journalists to understand they're on the same team.

MRC Business Researcher Jeffrey Clark contributed to this report.

METHODOLOGY: MRC Business utilized data provided by the Open Society Foundations to tally all grants to journalism, media and organizations with journalism programs between 2016 and 2020. In addition to the OSF records, MRC Business used the Foundation Directory Online and Open Secrets databases to track other donations cited in this report. For our research into the OSF database, we tallied donations to all media groups listed under OSF's "journalism" theme with a few exceptions where certain media outlets were categorized differently. MRC Business also researched the boards of directors, trustees and others for our tally showing individuals connected to Soros-funded groups who also hold prominent positions in legacy media outlets (The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, NBC News, Bloomberg News, etc).

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