4,439 views



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significant influence over covid moderation at Facebook and Instagram. Here's what I found. 2. The CDC had significant input on pandemic-era policies at Meta. The CDC was consulted frequently, at times daily, receiving constant updates about which topics were

How the CDC became the speech police into banning COVID "misinformation." https://reason.com/2023/01/19/how-the-cdc-became-the-speech-police/



Subject: Re: Agenda item for CDC call this week Hi Carol, To help with scoping on your end for Thursday...here are some of the COVID content items that Liz will be flagging for

```
Being around people who were vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine causes side effects
      2.
                   Specifically, we have seen content claiming side effects such as menstrual cycle changes
      (already debunked by CDC) but also miscarriages, blood clotting, bleeding, bruising, general sickness
            COVID-19 vaccines causing magnetism
                   Some of the content we are seeing (simultaneously claiming COVID vaccines contain
      microchips) would already be violating, but we are looking for input on the broader claim
            Face masks contain harmful nano worms or harmful particles
            COVID-19 vaccines cause Alzheimer's
            COVID-19 vaccines cause Prion's disease
      6.
      7.
            COVID-19 vaccines cause a cytokine storm
                   We already got WHO's input on this (inconclusive) so would be good to have CDC input
      a.
      8.
            COVID-19 vaccines cause bell's palsy
                   We already got WHO's input on this (inconclusive) so would be good to have CDC input
      a.
      9.
            COVID-19 has 99.96% survival rate
4. Facebook's moderator notes some of the above claims "would already be violating"—an
implicit admission that the CDC's opinion on the other claims would be a deciding factor in
whether the platform would restrict such content.
5. Facebook was clearly a willing participant in this process; moderators repeatedly thanked
the CDC for its "help in debunking."
```

Facebook that it was "theoretically possible, but extremely unlikely." Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 1:57 PM To: Crawford, Carol Y. (CDC/OD/OADC) @@cdc.gov> @fb.com>;

Hi Carol, Thanks so much again for you and team's help in debunking a few COVID-19 and vaccine misinformation claims for us.

```
is the claim "COVID-19 is man-made" false, unproven, unsupported by evidence, or true?
   a. Inconclusive: It is most likely that this virus started within animals and jumped to humans, however, CDC director in her testimony yesterday said being man made was technically possible because we
    do not know the origin still. It being man made is theoretically possible, but extremely unlikely.
7. By July 2021, the CDC wasn't just evaluating which claims it thought were false, but
whether they could "cause harm."
   Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 12:58 PM
   To: Crawford, Carol Y. (CDC/OD/OADC) < @cdc.gov>
                                  @fb.com>; &
                                                                       Pfb.com>
   Subject: FB Misinformation Claims_Help Debuning
   Hi Carol, I hope you're well!
   Our Misinformation Policy team has identified some claims that we were hoping your team could help us understand if
   they are false and can lead to harm? The three claims include:
```

Spike protein in COVID-19 vaccines is dangerous/cytotoxic Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) is a possible side effect of the COVID vaccine Heart Inflammation is a possible side effect of all COVID-19 vaccines (including non mRNA vaccines)

```
effects including possibly vaccine-related deaths?
  Please let me know if you have any questions about the above, and thank you so much again for the CDC's help!
  Best,
8. Then, in November, the FDA granted emergency authorization for children to receive
Pfizer's COVID vaccine. Meta proudly informed the CDC that it would remove false claims
—"i.e. the COVID vaccine is not safe for kids"—from FB and Insta.
9. Meta also provided the CDC with a list of new claims about vaccines and asked whether
the government thought they could "contribute to vaccine refusals." The CDC determined
that this label applied to all such claims.
  From: Crawford, Carol Y. (CDC/OD/OADC) < @cdc.gov>
  Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 at 11:25 AM
             @fb.com>, Dempsey, Jay H. (CDC/OD/OADC) < @@cdc.gov>, Gordon, Stephanie
```

From: "Crawford, Carol Y. (CDC/OD/OADC)" < carol Y. (CDC/OD/OADC)" < carol Y. Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 5:37 AM @fb.com>, P @fb.com> Subject: RE: Crowd Tangle COVID-19 reports

Attaching the latest CrowdTangle content insights report for the period of January 27-February 10 (attached). Here's the quick summary: Top engaged COVID vaccine-related content overall across Pages and Groups [Slides 3-4] Includes a number of posts

```
from UNICEF, celebrations and condemnations of the successes and failure of the vaccine rollout, and some additional
   criticism/skepticism around the vaccine and its efficacy (primarily in Groups). However, posts falling into the following.
   themes also garnered high engagement:
         Reports of deaths post-vaccination continue to garner high interactions from both Pages (largely news
   organizations) and Groups, where a few personal reports appear mixed in with news articles. [Slides 5-6]
         Double-masking, while not directly related to the vaccine, drew high engagement as new studies and
   recommendations around wearing two masks were shared by both Pages and Groups. Some high-interaction posts from
   Pages mocked the idea and Fauci's changing position on it, while in Groups criticism came in meme form. [Slides 7-8]
12. The CDC was not the only arm of the federal government engaged in this work, of
course: White House staffers castigated Meta for not deplatforming alleged misinformation
fast enough. President Joe Biden himself accused Facebook of "killing people" in July 2021.
13. "What's at stake is the future of free speech in the technological age,"
@JeninYounesEsq, an attorney for @NCLAlegal, tells me. "We've never had a situation
where the federal government at very high levels is coordinating or coercing social media to
do its bidding..."
14. The New Civil Liberties Alliance is helping the state of Missouri sue the government
over its campaign to pressure social media companies to silence dissent.
15. The theory is that the combination of direct influence and pressure from government
```

behaviors from private actors. That word is: jawboning.

16. There is a word for government officials using the threat of punishment to extort desired

officials, in conjunction with explicit threats from politicians, illegal violates free speech

How the CDC became the speech police Secret internal Facebook emails reveal the feds' campaign to pressure social media companies into banning COVID "misinformation." https://reason.com/2023/01/19/how-the-cdc-became-the-speech-police/

> Inside the Facebook Files: Emails reveal the CDC's role in silencing COVID dissent Throughout the pandemic, the CDC was in constant contact with Facebook, vetting what users

> > THE FACEBOOK FILES

(i)

(i)

Jan 13

May 18, 2022

The WaPo article about her resignation

entirely on the so-called "coordinated"

is very curiously framed. It focuses

**Robby Soave** 

of a private House subcommittee

briefing in which CDC Director

reason.com/2022/02/16/cdc...

guidance for schools.

Read 7 tweets

Rochelle Walensky said she has no

plans to revise the agency's masking

Walensky was grilled about keeping

masks in schools given deficiencies of

Feb 17, 2022

EXCLUSIVE: I obtained leaked audio

@robbysoave

Read 4 tweets

https://reason.com/2023/01/19/facebook-files-emails-cdc-covid-vaccines-censorship/

20. I'm grateful to the work done by @mtaibbi, @bariweiss, @lhfang, @ShellenbergerMD,

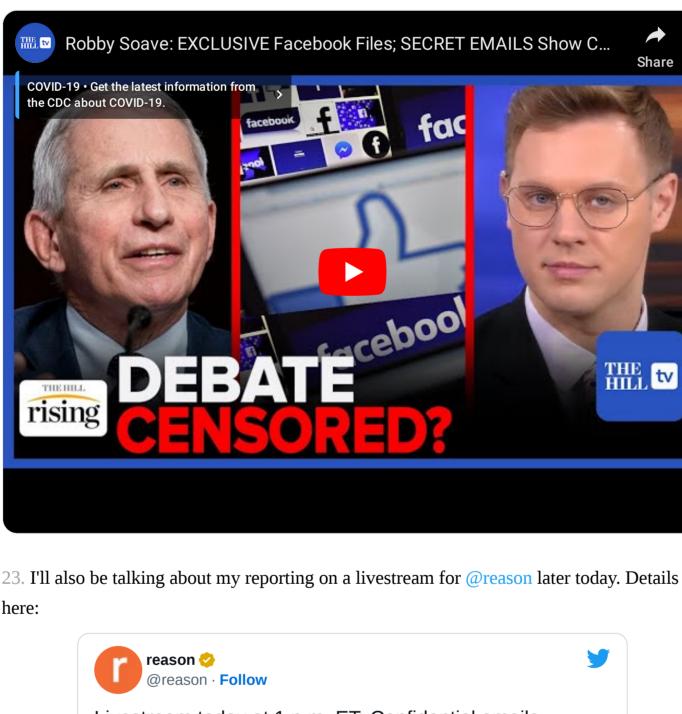
@davidzweig and others (with @elonmusk's cooperation) to uncover censorship at Twitter.

19. For a closer look at the emails themselves, read this article.

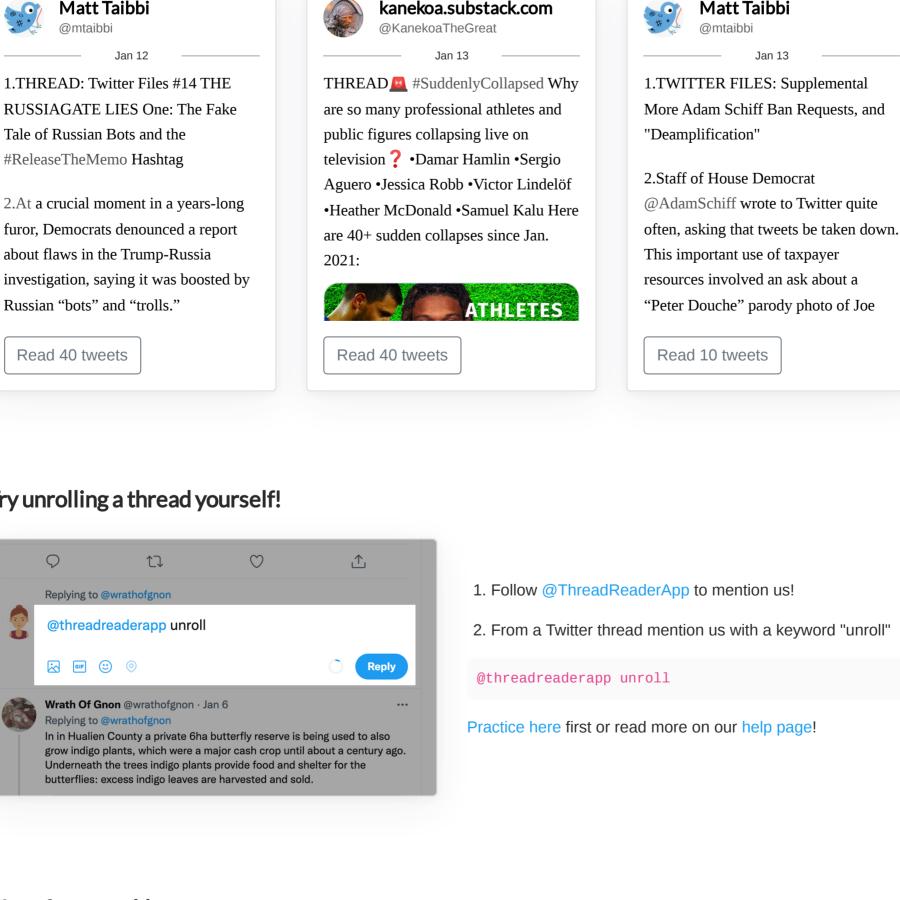
were allowed to say on the social media site.

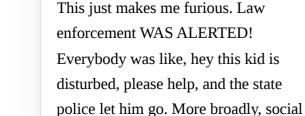
It's clear the same forces were conspiring to silence dissent at Meta as well.

21. You can also watch my monologue on this subject for Rising Unroll available on Thread Reader



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laws and spend money under the

administration's actions here are

**Robby Soave** 

media sites ROUTINELY report

violence and criminal behavior.

I hold them responsible for not monitoring and alerting law

reason.com/2022/05/16/buf...

GOV. KATHY HOCHUL:

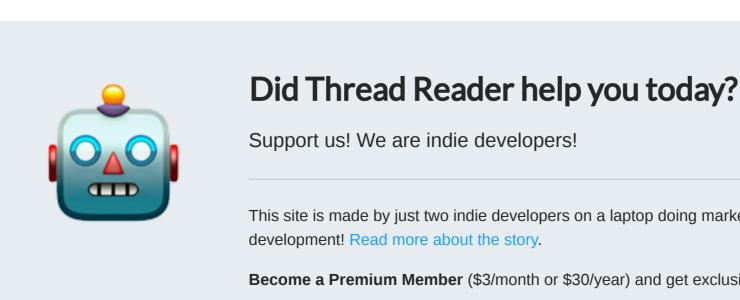
Read 5 tweets

May 16, 2022

@robbysoave

Read 6 tweets

Constitution," PLF tells Reason. "The





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1. THREAD: THE FACEBOOK FILES Twitter is not the only social media site to face pressure to censor content. I obtained emails showing that the CDC had trending, and giving recommendations on what content to flag as false or misleading. Secret internal Facebook emails reveal the feds' campaign to pressure social media companies

It is not safe for women on their period to take the COVID-19 vaccine 6. Claims vetted by the CDC included whether "COVID-19 is man-made." The CDC told

Subject: RE\_It was this list, sorry! FW: Agenda item for CDC call this week As follow up to our meeting, please see the list of claims below with notes from our conversation last Thursday morning. If you could please confirm the conclusions I've noted below based on our discussion, that would be great, and I've also indicated the one your team noted follow up was needed before debunking (#12). Please let me know if you have any questions.

Many thanks!

In addition, I was wondering if your team was aware of any global source of truth/database for vaccine adverse

(CDC/OD/OADC) @cdc.gov> Subject: RE: New Claims & Policy updates following EAU authorization for 5-11 yearlds We are still working on the "All Vaccines" section but here are some responses for COVID. Thanks! It appears that any of these could potentially cause vaccine refusal. 10. Meta gave the CDC de facto power to police COVID misinfo on the platforms; the CDC took the position that essentially any erroneous claim could contribute to vaccine hesitancy

and cause social harm. This was a recipe for vast silencing, at the feds' implicit behest.

11. Meta also kept the CDC apprised of criticism of Anthony Fauci. One email warned the

CDC that Facebook users were mocking Fauci for changing his mind about masking and

double-masking. The CDC replied that this information was "very helpful."

Thank you - very helpfull

rights.

Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 9:00 PM To: Crawford, CarolY. (CDC/OD/QADC) @cdc.gov> @fb.com>; Lauren Balog Wright @@fb.com>; Subject: Re: Crowd Tangle COVID-19 reports Hi Carol,

17. "Multiple arms of the administration delivered the jawboning effort together," says @Will\_Duffield, a policy analyst at the Cato Institute. "Each one component wouldn't rise to something legally actionable, but when taken as a whole administration push, it might." 18. I explore the legal case that the federal government's jawboning of social media companies violates the First Amendment in my cover story for the March 2023 issue of @reason magazine. Read it here

@HillTVLive · Follow Exclusive Facebook Files: secret emails show silenced Covid content, @robbysoave reports in today's radar— **Watch on Twitter** 

10:45 AM · Jan 19, 2023

22. Full thing here

here:

youtu.be/RL4FwgrJ8MA

11:14 AM · Jan 19, 2023

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Matt Taibbi

Jan 12

@mtaibbi

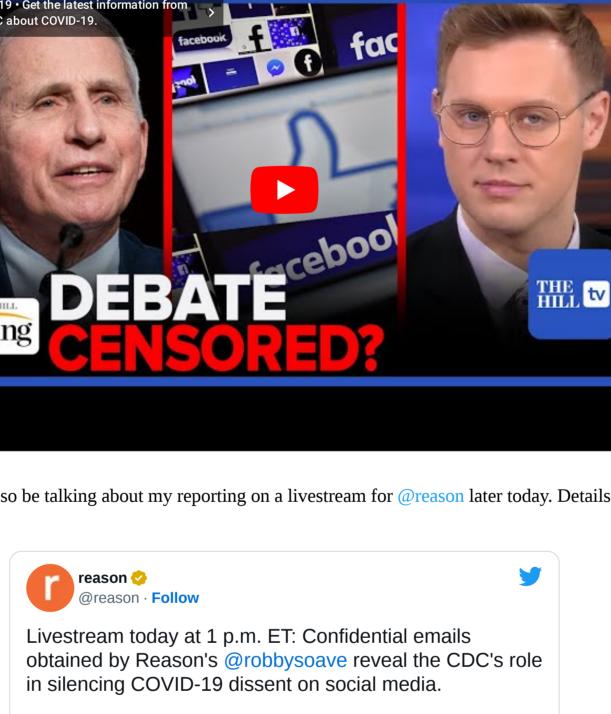
Emails

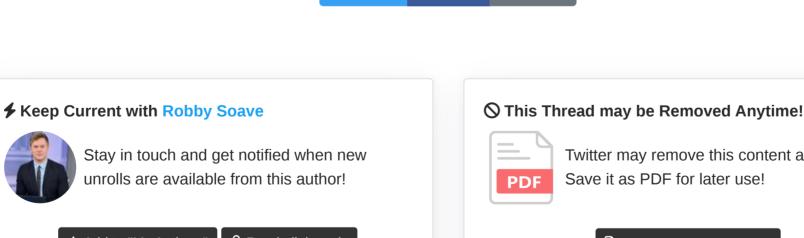
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See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

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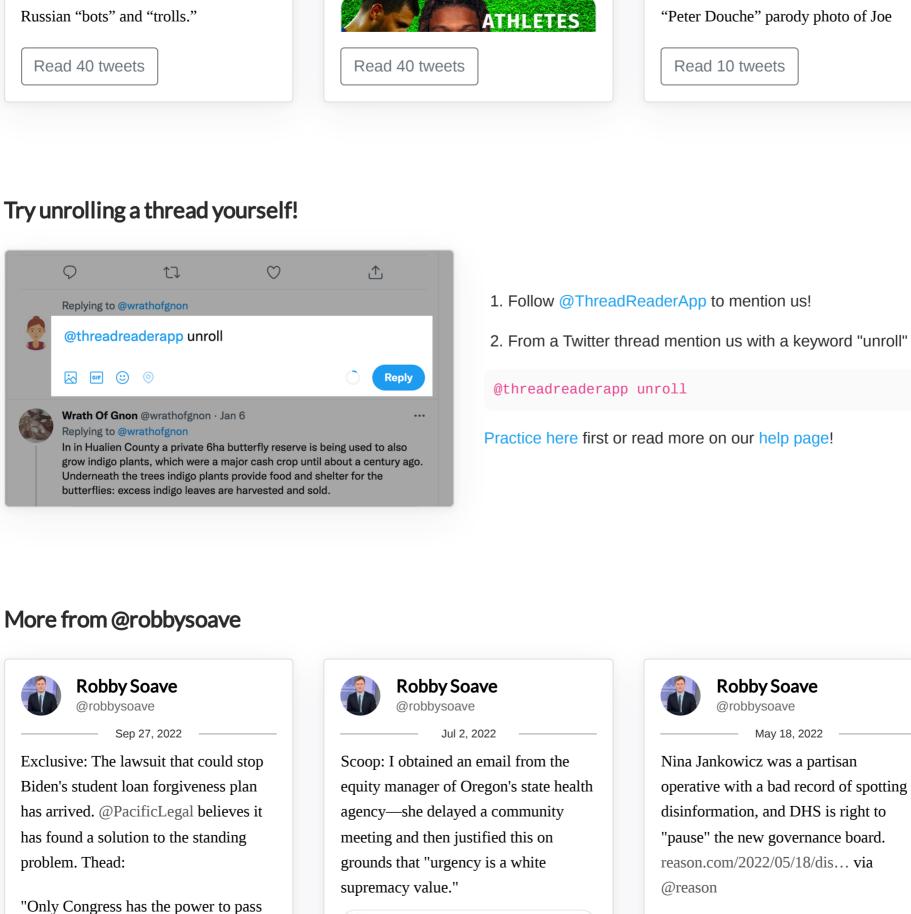


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with @ryangrim and

**Robby Soave** 

Mar 3, 2022

YouTube suspended The Hill—which

produces Rising, the show I co-host

@KimIversenShow—for election

how this policy goes much, much,

actually imperils journalism.

Read 4 tweets

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reason.com/2022/03/03/you...

misinfo. It's a crazy story that shows

much further than anyone knows, and

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