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Matt Taibbi
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1. THREAD: The Twitter Files
THE REMOVAL OF DONALD TRUMP
Part One: October 2020-January 6th

2. The world knows much of the story of what happened between riots at the Capitol on January 6th, and the removal of President Donald Trump from Twitter on January 8th...

3. We'll show you what hasn't been revealed: the erosion of standards within the company in months before J6, decisions by high-ranking executives to violate their own policies, and more, against the backdrop of ongoing, documented interaction with federal agencies.

4. This first installment covers the period before the election through January 6th. Tomorrow, @ShellenbergerMD will detail the chaos inside Twitter on January 7th. On Sunday, @bariweiss will reveal the secret internal communications from the key date of January 8th.

@mentions

5. Whatever your opinion on the decision to remove Trump that day, the internal communications at Twitter between January 6th-January 8th have clear historical import. Even Twitter's employees understood in the moment it was a landmark moment in the annals of speech.

[redacted] 16:26:48
Is this the first sitting head of state to ever be suspended?

@mentions

6. As soon as they finished banning Trump, Twitter execs started processing new power. They prepared to ban future presidents and White Houses – perhaps even Joe Biden. The "new administration," says one exec, "will not be suspended by Twitter unless absolutely necessary."

[redacted] 18:13:10
As stated in our {https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/ban-evasion|ban evasion policy} , if it is clear that another account is being used for the purposes of evading a ban, it is also subject to suspension. For government accounts, such as @POTUS and @WhiteHouse, we will not suspend those accounts but will take action to limit their use. However, these accounts will be transitioned over to the new administration in due course and will not be suspended by Twitter unless absolutely necessary to alleviate real-world harm.

@mentions

7. Twitter executives removed Trump in part over what one executive called the "context surrounding": actions by Trump and supporters "over the course of the election and frankly last 4+ years." In the end, they looked at a broad picture. But that approach can cut both ways.

[redacted] 11:04:11
Hi Vijaya - i'm working with [redacted] on my team to put together a doc to share with you with a POV from research (ours, academics with whom we have been working, etc.) on DJT's language as coded incitement to further violence

[redacted] 11:05:57
In the mean time, here is our quick take: the decision on whether to pull that particular tweet or use that as a last straw for trump depends on many factors including: (1) the overall context and narrative in which that tweet lives - we currently analyze tweets and consider them at a tweet-by-tweet basis which does not appropriately take into account the context surrounding - you can use the yelling fire into a crowded theater example - context matters and the narrative that trump and his friends have pursued over the course of this election and frankly last 4+ years must be taken into account when interpreting and analyzing that tweet (2) the larger question is around our moral imperative and decision as a company, which user sentiment should not drive based on #1, [redacted] and I believe that his tweet does violate our rules when taking that historical context + current climate into account

@mentions

8. The bulk of the internal debate leading to Trump's ban took place in those three January days. However, the intellectual framework was laid in the months preceding the Capitol riots.

@mentions

9. Before J6, Twitter was a unique mix of automated, rules-based enforcement, and more subjective moderation by senior executives. As reported, the firm had a vast array of tools for manipulating visibility, most all of which were thrown at Trump (and others) pre-J6.

@mentions

10. As the election approached, senior executives – perhaps under pressure from federal agencies, with whom they met more as time progressed – increasingly struggled with rules, and began to speak of "vios" as pretexts to do what they'd likely have done anyway.

@mentions

11. After J6, internal Slacks show Twitter executives getting a kick out of intensified relationships with federal agencies. Here's Trust and Safety head Yoel Roth, lamenting a lack of "generic enough" calendar descriptions to concealing his "very interesting" meeting partners.

Yoel Roth 11:36:51
Ehh, it happens. I'm a big believer in calendar transparency. But I reached a certain point where my meetings became... very interesting... to people and there weren't meeting names generic enough to cover. _Anyway_, let me know.

[redacted] 2:14:21
Very Boring Business Meeting That Is Definitely Not About Trump ;)

Yoel Roth 12:14:33
Preeeeeeeetty much

Yoel Roth 12:14:40
"DEFINITELY NOT meeting with the FBI I SWEAR"

[redacted] 2:14:52
lmao

@mentions

12. These initial reports are based on searches for docs linked to prominent executives, whose names are already public. They include Roth, former trust and policy chief Vijaya Gadde, and recently plank-walked Deputy General Counsel (and former top FBI lawyer) Jim Baker.

@mentions

13. One particular slack channel offers an unique window into the evolving thinking of top officials in late 2020 and early 2021.

@mentions

14. On October 8th, 2020, executives opened a channel called "us2020_xfn_enforcement." Through J6, this would be home for discussions about election-related removals, especially ones that involved "high-profile" accounts (often called "VITs" or "Very Important Tweeters").

[redacted] 03:47:47
Hey Everyone (<!here>), Starting t*omorrow (October 9th)* until November 15th this channel will be used for the following reasons related to the US 2020 Elections. • Trends Identified that require scaled investigations • High Profile Accounts Escalations that potentially require PII/Soft Interventions • Scalable Solutions required. • Edge cases for XFN consultation • _Highlight tech issues (bugs, tools outage, Jira tickets)_ This is an enforcement channel between T&S and TwS to help speed up our response related to election issues over the coming few weeks. GET will start providing a hand over starting APAC shift tomorrow *Friday, October 9th* using the following template *Handover* • *Next shift: EMEA/APAC/NA - Thursday, Oct 8, 2020* • (GET) • (SP) • (SI) • *Open escalations:* • None • *Notes from the shift:* *Ask:* Can you please make sure everyone on your team is within the channel? The teams that we included are as follows: • Site Integrity • Safety Policy • Product Trust • Safety Operations • Media Ops • Global Escalation Team If you have any questions or concerns let me know.[redacted]

@mentions

15. There was at least some tension between Safety Operations – a larger department whose staffers used a more rules-based process for addressing issues like porn, scams, and threats – and a smaller, more powerful cadre of senior policy execs like Roth and Gadde.

@mentions

16. The latter group were a high-speed Supreme Court of moderation, issuing content rulings on the fly, often in minutes and based on guesses, gut calls, even Google searches, even in cases involving the President.

[redacted] 12:12:03
hi everyone: received this escalation just now: {https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1314637928883159040?s=19}

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump
Breaking News: 50,000 OHIO VOTERS getting WRONG ABSENTEE BALLOTS. Out of control. A Rigged Election!!!
11:44 AM · Oct 9, 2020
43.9K Retweets 6,374 Quote Tweets 196.2K Likes

Friday, October 9th 2020 12.12.50 by [redacted]
"a rigged election" would be enough to be in violation right?

Friday, October 9th 2020 12.12.59 by Yoel Roth
If the claim of fact were inaccurate, yes.

Friday, October 9th 2020 12.13.02 by Yoel Roth
But it looks like that's true - {https://www.npr.org/2020/10/09/922305790/50-000-ohio-voters-to-receive-new-absentee-ballots-after-error-found}

50,000 Ohio Voters To Receive New Absentee Ballots After Error Found

@mentions

17. During this time, executives were also clearly liaising with federal enforcement and intelligence agencies about moderation of election-related content. While we're still at the start of reviewing the #TwitterFiles, we're finding out more about these interactions every day.

@mentions

18. Policy Director Nick Pickles is asked if they should say Twitter detects "misinfo" through "ML, human review, and **partnerships with outside experts?*" The employee asks, "I know that's been a slippery process… not sure if you want our public explanation to hang on that."

@mentions

19. Pickles quickly asks if they could "just say "partnerships." After a pause, he says, "e.g. not sure we'd describe the FBI/DHS as experts."

Nick Pickles 14:33:08
can we just say "partnerships"

Nick Pickles 14:33:34
eg not sure we'd describe the FBI/DHS as experts, or some NGOs that aren't academic

@mentions

20. This post about the Hunter Biden laptop situation shows that Roth not only met weekly with the FBI and DHS, but with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI):

Bot Application B01AXN4KL0M 16:19:26
yoelr has checked in! Here's what they said. *What's new for you since our last check-in?* - Hacked Materials exploded. We blocked the NYP story, then we unblocked it (but said the opposite), then said we unblocked it... and now we're in a messy situation where our policy is in shambles, comms is angry, reporters think we're idiots, and we're refactoring an exceedingly complex policy 18 days out from the election. In short, FML. - Weekly sync with FBI/DHS/DNI re: election security. The meeting happened about 15 minutes after the aforementioned Hacked Materials implosion; the government declined to share anything useful when asked. - Monthly meeting with FBI FITF. Briefed on several ongoing investigations

@mentions

21. Roth's report to FBI/DHS/DNI is almost farcical in its self-flagellating tone: "We blocked the NYP story, then unblocked it (but said the opposite)… comms is angry, reporters think we're idiots… in short, FML" (fuck my life).

Bot Application B01AXN4KL0M 16:19:26
yoelr has checked in! Here's what they said. *What's new for you since our last check-in?* - Hacked Materials exploded. We blocked the NYP story, then we unblocked it (but said the opposite), then said we unblocked it... and now we're in a messy situation where our policy is in shambles, comms is angry, reporters think we're idiots, and we're refactoring an exceedingly complex policy 18 days out from the election. In short, FML. - Weekly sync with FBI/DHS/DNI re: election security. The meeting happened about 15 minutes after the aforementioned Hacked Materials implosion; the government declined to share anything useful when asked. - Monthly meeting with FBI FITF. Briefed on several ongoing investigations

@mentions

23. Some of Roth's later Slacks indicate his weekly confabs with federal law enforcement involved separate meetings. Here, he ghosts the FBI and DHS, respectively, to go first to an "Aspen Institute thing," then take a call with Apple.

Yoel Roth 08:03:33
Hey there - I have to miss the FBI and DHS meetings today, unfortunately. I saw you're on the invites for both (as are Site Policy). Can you give me a quick readout if there's anything interesting that comes up?

Patrick Conlon [redacted] 08:04:00
Sure thing! I hope that everything's OK.

Yoel Roth 08:04:27
Yeah - just have conflicts at both times. An Aspen Institute thing this morning on vaccines that I have to present at, and then a call with Apple to avoid us getting kicked out of the App Store during the DHS one.

Patrick Conlon [redacted] 08:04:58
Ah. Those both seem very important.

Yoel Roth 08:06:13
Indeed.

@mentions

24. Here, the FBI sends reports about a pair of tweets, the second of which involves a former Tippecanoe County, Indiana Councilor and Republican named claiming "Between 2% and 25% of Ballots by Mail are Being Rejected for Errors."

[redacted] 07:04:23
<!here> we just got a report from the FBI concerning 2 tweets, 1. 1314479095401521154 related to the "shredding" of mail in ballot's, this is proven to be false via this: {https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/oct/08/blog-posting/social-posters-spread-election-misinformation-abou/} do we have a moment ready for this one?

2. 1314328227423420416, I believe was deemed no vio on numerous occasions

@mentions

The FBI's second report concerned this tweet by :

John Basham @JohnBasham
EDITORIAL: @TheDemocrats Are In Complete Panic As Their Massive Push For #VoteByMail Is Backfiring On Them!
Two Things Are Unfolding:
1) An Unexpected Number Of Registered #Republicans Are Returning Ballots.
2) Between 2% & 25% Of Ballots By Mail Are Being REJECTED For Errors!

@mentions

25. The FBI-flagged tweet then got circulated in the enforcement Slack. Twitter cited Politifact to say the first story was "proven to be false," then noted the second was already deemed "no vio on numerous occasions."

[redacted] 07:04:23
<!here> we just got a report from the FBI concerning 2 tweets, 1. 1314479095401521154 related to the "shredding" of mail in ballot's, this is proven to be false via this: {https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/oct/08/blog-posting/social-posters-spread-election-misinformation-abou/} do we have a moment ready for this one?

2. 1314328227423420416, I believe was deemed no vio on numerous occasions

@mentions

26. The group then decides to apply a "Learn how voting is safe and secure" label because one commenter says, "it's totally normal to have a 2% error rate." Roth then gives the final go-ahead to the process initiated by the FBI:

Monday, October 19th 2020 07.06.58 by Yoel Roth
I think we can use the mail in voting label for this one as is

@mentions

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

@mentions

31. In one case, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee joke-tweets about mailing in ballots for his "deceased parents and grandparents."

Gov. Mike Huckabee @GovMikeHuckabee
Stood in rain for hour to early vote today. When I got home I filled in my stack of mail-in ballots and then voted the ballots of my deceased parents and grandparents. They vote just like me! #Trump2020
1:45 PM · Oct 24, 2020
2,009 Retweets 11.5K Quote Tweets 14.6K Likes

32. This inspires a long Slack that reads like an parody. "I agree it's a joke," concedes a Twitter employee, "but he's also literally admitting in a tweet a crime."

@mentions

The group declares Huck's an "edge case," and though one notes, "we don't make exceptions for jokes or satire," they ultimately decide to leave him be, because "we've poked enough bears."

@mentions

33. "Could still mislead people... could still mislead people," the humor-averse group declares, before moving on from Huckabee

@mentions

33. Roth suggests moderation even in this absurd case could depend on whether or not the joke results in "confusion." This seemingly silly case actually foreshadows serious later issues:

Sunday, October 25th 2020 08.18.56 by Yoel Roth
Yeah. I could see us taking action under "misleading claims that cause confusion about the established laws, regulations, procedures, and methods of a civic process" — but it's not one that we could really label in a useful way, so it's removal (of a stupid and ill-advised joke) or nothing. I'm maybe inclined not to remove without a report from voting authorities given it's been a while since he tweeted it and virtually all of the replies I'm seeing are critical/counterspeech. pconlon arodericks rsommers what do you think?

@mentions

34. In the docs, execs often expand criteria to subjective issues like intent (yes, a video is authentic, but why was it shown?), orientation (was a banned tweet shown to condemn, or support?), or reception (did a joke cause "confusion"?). This reflex will become key in J6.

@mentions

35. In another example, Twitter employees prepare to slap a "mail-in voting is safe" warning label on a Trump tweet about a postal screwup in Ohio, before realizing "the events took place," which meant the tweet was "factually accurate":

@mentions

36. "VERY WELL DONE ON SPEED" Trump was being "visibility filtered" as late as a week before the election. Here, senior execs didn't appear to have a particular violation, but still worked fast to make sure a fairly anodyne Trump tweet couldn't be "replied to, shared, or liked":

@mentions

"VERY WELL DONE ON SPEED": the group is pleased the Trump tweet is dealt with quickly

Monday, October 26th 2020 17.00.54 by Yoel Roth
Let's inform stakeholders and move forward

Monday, October 26th 2020 17.01.15 by [redacted]
did you still wanna do a call?

Monday, October 26th 2020 17.01.21 by Yoel Roth
N, can skip pagerduty too

Monday, October 26th 2020 17.01.27 by Yoel Roth
Happened to already be talking to everyone involved.

Monday, October 26th 2020 17.03.03 by Yoel Roth
Going to apply the EDI now

Monday, October 26th 2020 17.03.12 by Yoel Roth
Is there a thread already w comms etc?

Monday, October 26th 2020 17.03.45 by [redacted]
drafting it up now

Monday, October 26th 2020 17.11.38 by [redacted]
email sent

Monday, October 26th 2020 17.15.51 by [redacted]
Very well done on speed folks, what this is all designed for and a huge positive for the platform

@mentions

37. A seemingly innocuous follow-up involved a tweet from actor , whose ubiquitous presence in argued-over Twitter data sets is already a #TwitterFiles in-joke.

James Woods @RealJamesWoods
Twitter is suppressing this tweet by the President. Here's a screen grab.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump
Some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and might be misleading about how to participate in an election or another civic process. Learn more
Big problems and discrepancies with Mail In Ballots all over the USA. Must have final total on November 3rd.
Learn how voting by mail is safe and secure
4:43 PM · Oct 26, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

22:00 · 26 Oct 2020

@mentions

38. After Woods angrily quote-tweeted about Trump's warning label, Twitter staff – in a preview of what ended up happening after J6 – despaired of a reason for action, but resolved to "hit him hard on future vio."

Tuesday, October 27th 2020 01.28.00 by [redacted]
Considering the pv2 bug outs this weekend re: James Woods being so over the strike limit that our tools won't work on him, I'd suggest we action him for something worth the fiasco rather this screenshot, since we don't have a firm policy basis for action on his account.

Tuesday, October 27th 2020 01.44.12 by [redacted]
yep. are you fine letting this one lie [redacted] can hit him hard on future vio with firmer basis

@mentions

39. Here a label is applied to Georgia Republican congresswoman Jody Hice for saying, "Say NO to big tech censorship!" and, "Mailed ballots are more prone to fraud than in-person balloting… It's just common sense."

Rep. Jody Hice @CongressmanHice
.@Twitter doesn't want you to see this tweet by @TomFitton, the head of @JudicialWatch.

Read & share it!

Say NO to Big Tech censorship!

Mailed ballots are more prone to fraud than in-person voting. That shouldn't be controversial. It's just common sense.

Stay informed
Learn how voting by mail is safe and secure Find out more

@mentions

40. Twitter teams went easy on Hice, only applying "soft intervention," with Roth worrying about a "wah wah censorship" optics backlash:

Monday, October 26th 2020 12.32.14 by [redacted]
devils advocate: The quoted tweet still shows up with the EDI and the actual content Rep Hice says is lower level ("more fraud with mail in ballots then in person" is much more of a legitimate statement even if scale is still minuscule"). I think I'd lean towards just putting a MIB soft intervention on this rather then the full EDI

Monday, October 26th 2020 12.32.29 by Yoel Roth
Agree.

Monday, October 26th 2020 12.32.38 by Patrick Conlon [redacted]
Yep, I was just typing that haha

Monday, October 26th 2020 12.32.42 by Yoel Roth
I think going too far down the rabbit hole of labeling critical speech (i.e. critical of our handling of this case) is dangerous

Monday, October 26th 2020 12.32.49 by Yoel Roth
It becomes a self-reinforcing "wah wah censorship" cycle

Monday, October 26th 2020 12.33.34 by Patrick Conlon [redacted]
I'm currently responding to Judicial Watch's whining to Public Policy. I regret nothing, but am happy to iterate what rules they violated.

@mentions

41. Meanwhile, there are multiple instances of involving pro-Biden tweets warning Trump "may try to steal the election" that got surfaced, only to be approved by senior executives. This one, they decide, just "expresses concern that mailed ballots might not make it on time."

@mentions

42. "THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE": Even the hashtag #StealOurVotes – referencing a theory that a combo of Amy Coney Barrett and Trump will steal the election – is approved by Twitter brass, because it's "understandable" and a "reference to… a US Supreme Court decision."

@mentions

43. In this exchange, again unintentionally humorous, former Attorney General Eric Holder claimed the U.S. Postal Service was "deliberately crippled,"ostensibly by the Trump administration. He was initially hit with a generic warning label, but it was quickly taken off by Roth:

@mentions

44. Later in November 2020, Roth asked if staff had a "debunk moment" on the "SCYTL/Smartmatic vote-counting" stories, which his DHS contacts told him were a combination of "about 47" conspiracy theories:

@mentions

45. On December 10th, as Trump was in the middle of firing off 25 tweets saying things like, "A coup is taking place in front of our eyes," Twitter executives announced a new "L3 deamplification" tool. This step meant a warning label now could also come with deamplification:

@mentions

46. Some executives wanted to use the new deamplification tool to silently limit Trump's reach more right away, beginning with the following tweet:

@mentions

47. However, in the end, the team had to use older, less aggressive labeling tools at least for that day, until the "L3 entities" went live the following morning.

@mentions

48. The significance is that it shows that Twitter, in 2020 at least, was deploying a vast range of visible and invisible tools to rein in Trump's engagement, long before J6. The ban will come after other avenues are exhausted

@mentions

49. In Twitter docs execs frequently refer to "bots," e.g. "let's put a bot on that." A bot is just any automated heuristic moderation rule. It can be anything: every time a person in Brazil uses "green" and "blob" in the same sentence, action might be taken.

@mentions

50. In this instance, it appears moderators added a bot for a Trump claim made on Breitbart. The bot ends up becoming an automated tool invisibly watching both Trump and, apparently, Breitbart ("will add media ID to bot"). Trump by J6 was quickly covered in bots.

@mentions

51. There is no way to follow the frenzied exchanges among Twitter personnel from between January 6thand 8th without knowing the basics of the company's vast lexicon of acronyms and Orwellian unwords.

@mentions

52. To "bounce" an account is to put it in timeout, usually for a 12-hour review/cool-off:

@mentions

53. "Interstitial," one of many nouns used as a verb in Twitterspeak ("denylist" is another), means placing a physical label atop a tweet, so it can't be seen.

@mentions

54. PII has multiple meanings, one being "Public Interest Interstitial," i.e. a covering label applied for "public interest" reasons. The post below also references "proactive V," i.e. proactive visibility filtering.

@mentions

55. This is all necessary background to J6. Before the riots, the company was engaged in an inherently insane/impossible project, trying to create an ever-expanding, ostensibly rational set of rules to regulate every conceivable speech situation that might arise between humans.

@mentions

This project was preposterous yet its leaders were unable to see this, having become infected with groupthing, coming to believe – sincerely – that it was Twitter's responsibility to control, as much as possible, what people could talk about, how often, and with whom.

@mentions

56. When panic first breaks out on J6 there's a fair share of WTF-type posts, mixed in with frantic calls for Twitter to start deploying its full arsenal of moderation tools. "What is the right remediation? Do we interstitial the video?" asks one employee, in despair:

@mentions

57. This "Freedom or Death" tweet from #StopTheSteal gadfly Mike Coudrey elicits heated reactions:

@mentions

58. Roth groans about Coudrey: "THIS asshole," but still seems determined to stick at least superficially to rules, itching to act "if" this "constitutes incitement."

@mentions

59. At 2:39 p.m. PST, a comms official asked Roth to confirm or deny a story that they'd restricted Trump's ability to tweet. Roth says, "We have not."

@mentions

60. Minutes later, Roth executed the historic act of "bouncing" Trump, i.e. putting him in timeout. "I hope you… are appropriately CorpSec'd," says a colleague.

@mentions

This theme of Policy perhaps being stressed by queries from Communications executives – who themselves have to answer the public's questions – occasionally appears. Two days later, you see chatter about pulling Comms out of the loop:

@mentions

61. The first company-wide email from Gadde on January 6th announced that 3 Trump tweets had been bounced, but more importantly signaled a determination to use legit "violations" as a guide for any possible permanent suspension:

@mentions

62. "WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK?" Safe to say Trump's "Go home with love & in peace" tweet mid-riot didn't go over well at Twitter HQ:

@mentions

63. A few last notes about January 6th. Roth at one point looked and found Trump had a slew of duplicate bot applications:

@mentions

64. By the end of the first day, the top execs are still trying to apply rules. By the next day, they will contemplate a major change in approach. Watch this weekend for the play-by-play of how all that went down.

@mentions

65. By January 8th, which will describe Sunday, Twitter will be receiving plaudits from "our partners" in Washington, and the sitting U.S. president will no longer be heard on the platform.

@mentions

66. Lastly, people on the left, right, and in between want to know what else is in the #TwitterFiles, from suppression/shadow-banning of leftists to lab-leak theorists, or amplification of military propaganda or conservative accounts. We know everyone has questions.

@mentions

67. And while we've stumbled on tidbits here and there about topics ranging from COVID to foreign policy, the reality is the data sets are enormous and we're still working through them.

More is coming. Good night, all.

• • •

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Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi Dec 16
1. THREAD: The Twitter Files, Part Six TWITTER, THE FBI SUBSIDIARY
2. The #TwitterFiles are revealing more every day about how the government collects, analyzes, and flags your social media content.
3. Twitter's contact with the FBI was
Read 45 tweets

Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi Dec 18
1.THREAD: Twitter Files Supplemental
2.In July of 2020, San Francisco FBI agent Elvis Chan tells Twitter executive Yoel Roth to expect written questions from the Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF), the inter-agency group that deals with cyber threats.
Read 14 tweets

Name Redacted @NameRedacted247 Dec 19
1. After learning that Twitter employs at least 15 former FBI agents, I searched Facebook. What I found is alarming Facebook currently employs at least 115 people, in high-ranking positions, that formerly worked at FBI/CIA/NSA/DHS: 17 CIA 37 FBI 23 NSA 38 DHS Thread
2. All, but a few, of the former
Read 60 tweets

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Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi Dec 18
1.THREAD: Twitter Files Supplemental
2.In July of 2020, San Francisco FBI agent Elvis Chan tells Twitter executive Yoel Roth to expect written questions from the Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF), the inter-agency group that deals with cyber threats.
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Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi Dec 16
1. THREAD: The Twitter Files, Part Six TWITTER, THE FBI SUBSIDIARY
2. The #TwitterFiles are revealing more every day about how the government collects, analyzes, and flags your social media content.
3. Twitter's contact with the FBI was
Read 45 tweets

Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi Dec 6
THREAD: Twitter Files Supplemental
On Friday, the first installment of the Twitter files was published here. We expected to publish more over the weekend. Many wondered why there was a delay.
We can now tell you part of the reason why. On Tuesday, Twitter Deputy
Read 10 tweets

Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi Dec 2
1. Thread: THE TWITTER FILES
2. What you're about to read is the first installment in a series, based upon thousands of internal documents obtained by sources at Twitter.
3. The "Twitter Files" tell an incredible story from inside one of the world's largest and most influential social
Read 40 tweets

Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi Jun 7
Thread. 1) Thirty or forty years ago, supporting free speech was understood to be a non-negotiable core value of the liberal left.
taibbi.substack.com/p/democrats-an…
2) Pop culture endlessly celebrated liberalism's uncompromising support of speech rights — from The People Vs. Larry Flynt to Field of Dreams to The
Read 15 tweets

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