

# A brief review of American censorship mechanisms and laws prohibiting it

*Censorship is the death knell of democracy*



Al Capone's 1929 Philadelphia mug shot  
[Public Domain](#)

By Gregory Brundage

June 25, 2021 This article very briefly outlines 1) the specific mechanisms of American censorship and 2) relevant laws and court decisions prohibiting such actions.

**Government, and government sponsored censorship/manipulation of news in violation of First Amendment Rights, SCOTUS decisions and other laws**

## **1960s Censorship mechanisms**

Council on foreign Relations and later CIA control of American Newspaper Guild (ANG) & Postal, Telephone & Telegraph International (PTTI) though Communication Workers of America (CWA) <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/42a/126.html> also see: [http://www.carlbernstein.com/magazine\\_cia\\_and\\_media.php](http://www.carlbernstein.com/magazine_cia_and_media.php)

## Some of today's censorship mechanisms

### Harvard Kennedy School's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy

<https://www.hks.harvard.edu/faculty-research/policy-topics/science-technology-data/tackling-disinformation>

### US (State Department) Agency for Global Media - Global Engagement Center

<https://www.usagm.gov/>

<https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-public-diplomacy-and-public-affairs/global-engagement-center/>

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/IN10744.pdf>

### Mis-, Dis-, Malinformation (MDM) / Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) formerly known as FBI's "Foreign Influence Task Force" (FTIF)

<https://www.cisa.gov/mdm>

<https://thegrayzone.com/2020/06/05/the-fbi-launches-open-attack-on-foreign-alternative-media-outlets-challenging-u-s-foreign-policy/>

<https://www.laprogressive.com/herald-tribune/>

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/iran-disinformation-irtvu-presstv/>

### Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab (DFRLab)

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/dfrlab-china-reports>

Page on: "Countering Chinese disinformation reports - In-Depth Research & Reports by Digital Forensic Research Lab" Related Experts: Iain Robertson

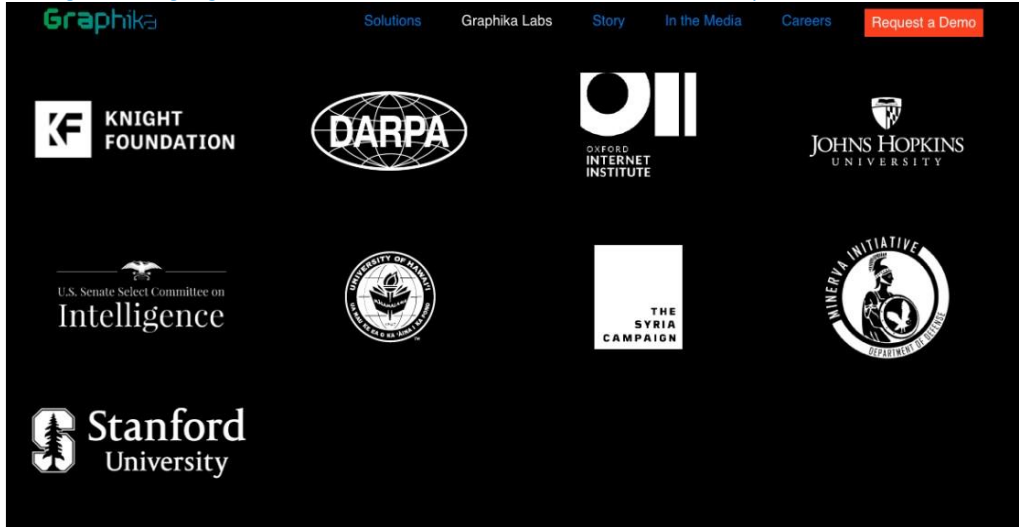
<https://thegrayzone.com/2020/04/20/trump-media-chinese-lab-coronavirus-conspiracy>

The Atlantic Council's DFRLab runs similar kinds of smear campaigns against Russia.

<https://thegrayzone.com/2020/10/01/fbi-peacedata-russia-censorship/>

### Graphika an FBI and a Pentagon-backed private intelligence firm

Graphika terminates sites it finds "suspicious" without proof. ...shadowy tech firm Graphika, which has been a key institutional force driving Russiagate conspiracies in the US and Western Europe.



<https://thegrayzone.com/2019/12/08/us-uk-military-intelligence-apparatus-destroy-jeremy-corbyn/>

Graphika’s director of investigations, [Ben Nimmo](#) is also a senior fellow at NATO’s de facto think tank, the Atlantic Council, which is funded by the governments of the US, Britain, and the United Arab Emirates, along with NATO and the European Union. And he helps lead the Atlantic Council’s Digital Forensic Research Lab.

### USC Center on Public Diplomacy

Acts as a front for a number of shadowy government propaganda organizations defaming China, Russia, Iran, Syria, etc. <https://uscpublicdiplomacy.org/> If an organization wants to publish very negative reviews about any of American DoD’s target countries, this is the place to do it.

<https://uscpublicdiplomacy.org/pdhub/library/search/US%2520Foreign%2520Policy%2520Tools%2520in%2520the%2520Era%2520of%2520Disinformation>

### Coda Story – Anonymous attacks on western journalists who investigate D.C.’s narrative about China

<https://thegrayzone.com/2020/08/18/us-government-funded-coda-story>

### Propaganda Or Not? (Propornot)

Created a public black list for publications and journalists that might make Russia look good.

<http://www.propornot.com/p/the-list.html>

## **Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs:**

Oversees three bureaus at the Department of State: [Educational and Cultural Affairs](#), [Public Affairs](#), and [International Information Programs](#). Also reporting to the Under Secretary are the Office of Policy, Planning and Resources for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs and the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

[https://www.fiaa.fi/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/bp272\\_us-foreign-policy-tools-in-the-era-of-disinformation.pdf](https://www.fiaa.fi/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/bp272_us-foreign-policy-tools-in-the-era-of-disinformation.pdf)

## **Google's Censorship**

Google's biased algorithm is [legendary](#). They accomplish this via [Google News lab](#) which has several well-funded subsidiary organizations.

## **The FEC's murder of News Neutrality**

This is clearly [illegal](#). The [conflicts of interest](#) by FEC Chairman Ajit Pai were solemnly overlooked.

## **Shadow Regulation**

Shadow Regulations are voluntary agreements between companies (sometimes described as codes, principles, standards, or guidelines) to regulate your use of the Internet, often without your knowledge.

Shadow Regulation has become increasingly popular after the monumental failure of restrictive Internet laws such as ACTA, SOPA and PIPA. This is because Shadow Regulation can involve restrictions that are as effective as any law, but without the need for approval by a court or parliament. Indeed, sometimes Shadow Regulation is even initiated by government officials, who offer companies the Hobson's choice of coming up with a "voluntary" solution, or submitting to government regulation.

<https://www.eff.org/issues/shadow-regulation>

Censorship as it carried out by the above organizations is illegal according to a number of legislative and judicial precedents, including numerous Supreme Court Decisions and First Amendment rights however, it appears the USA is now in the midst of what can be called the 3<sup>rd</sup> Red Scare.

<https://thegreatlinking.files.wordpress.com/2021/06/alt-news-during-the-3rd-red-scare.pdf> (This is a series of five articles I wrote relating to alt-news and the latest "Red Scare" in the US.)

## American Laws Prohibiting Censorship

First there is the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment of the Bill of Rights.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

One can presume it was placed as the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, not say, the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> for a reason.

Perhaps today’s US administration believes corporations can choose better leaders than **dumbed down** American voters. And thus democracy has become the anachronism of a bygone age. There is also the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment that needs to be studiously ignored.

“No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

Those “little things” are competing against a multi-trillion dollar so-called “Defense Industry” budget. Forget them. Politicians can be bought. Attorney Generals can be dismissed and replaced. Nothing can stand in the way of the “defense industry” as it pushes the USA ever closer to the real “war to end all wars,” and quite possibly “civilization” as we know it. But what about oaths sworn by public officials to protect the security of the United States? Empty formalisms, nothing more.

The most definitive Supreme Court decisions in this matter were:

***Yates v. United States, 354 U.S. 298 (1957)***

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/354/298/>

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/354/298>

Leaders of the Communist Party in California vs. USA. Decision: The state must prove “imminent threat” to suppress news, which they could not do and so lost this landmark case. The First Amendment right to freedom of the press was upheld. This decision was the primary factor that brought the 2<sup>nd</sup> Red Scare to an end. But! Back then some people had some respect for law, unlike today.

***Brandenburg v. Ohio, 395 U.S. 444 (1969)***

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/395/444/> (Right wing militia)

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/395/444>

***Red Lion Broadcasting Co., Inc. v. FCC, 395 U.S. 367 (1969)***

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/395/367/>

“Safeguarding the public’s right to “an uninhibited marketplace of ideas” requires diversity among those who own and control media outlets, to ensure that Americans remain free to choose among many sources of information, viewpoints, and ideas.”

***New York Times v. United States, 403 U.S. 713 (1971)***

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/403/713/> The United States, which brought these actions to enjoin publication in the New York Times and in the Washington Post of certain classified material, has not met the "heavy burden of showing justification for the enforcement of such a [prior] restraint."

<https://www.lexisnexis.com/community/casebrief/p/casebrief-n-y-times-co-v-united-states> The Court held that the government did not meet its burden of showing justification for the imposition of a prior restraint of expression. Furthermore, it stated that under the First Amendment, the press must be left free to publish news, whatever the source, without censorship, injunctions, or prior restraints, and that the guarding of military and diplomatic secrets at the expense of informed representative government was not justified.

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/media> The Supreme Court found that there is a heavy presumption against prior restraint of the press, and that the respondent's (here, the United States) vague use of the word "security" is not enough to overcome the importance of the freedom of the press guaranteed by the First Amendment.

The following are also relevant cases:

- *Rex v. Zenger* (1735)
- *People v. Croswell* (1804)
- *Near v. Minnesota* (1931) - A state law allowing prior restraint was unconstitutional. This decision also extended protection of press freedom to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment.
- *New York Times v. Sullivan* (1964)
- *Garrison v. Louisiana* (1964)
- *Curtis Publishing Co. v. Butts and AP v. Walker* (1967)
- *Nebraska Press Association v. Stuart* (1976)
- *Hustler v. Falwell* (1988)

There are also a large number of international treaties the US has signed relating to freedom of expression and the press.

## International Treatise & Laws Prohibiting Censorship

- The United Nations 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) – Article 19 Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

For a link library relating to international treatise and foundation international law relating to freedom of expression and press, see:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomOpinion/Pages/Standards.aspx>

RUBBISH! They are all rubbish now. Those treatises mean nothing. Smash Russia, China and Iran! Choke the life out of all them like George Floyd and all **others** who do not worship at the altar of white American supremacy. So say the Lords of Armageddon, and the courts and mainstream news like obedient whipped dogs murmur “Yes master!” How they tremble on their knees before the Great Lords of Unrestrained Capitalism! You have to give Black men credit; they don’t get down on their knees like the spineless courts and press.

Treasonous judges and presstitutes have pieces of silver and gold showered upon them and are praised to the heavens now, but in the histories to come they will be viewed as lower than the lowest of slaves for they sold their own integrity and the freedom of others for that silver and gold, whereas slaves had their freedom stolen from them.

## Absolute Political Corruption

The 2010 Supreme Court Decision in *Citizens United Vs. FEC* was a landmark case leading to today’s anonymous donations of **unlimited amounts of money**, which can be translated into **unlimited corruption**, distilled in a small erroneous comment in the Citizen’s United decision relating to *quid pro quo*.

For a history of this treacherous decline into absolute lawless barbarism by the Supreme Court, see: <https://www.fec.gov/legal-resources/court-cases> They forged the chains that killed off the last vestiges of the dying democracy and enslaved the world. Those same platinum chains now hold them hostage too. What sublime irony.

## Conflict of Interest issues

- <https://readsludge.com/2020/01/13/the-members-of-congress-who-profit-from-war/>
- <https://www.thedailybeast.com/firm-tied-to-biden-contenders-tony-blinken-lloyd-austin-michele-flournoy-looks-to-cash-in-on-covid-response>
- <https://prospect.org/world/how-biden-foreign-policy-team-got-rich/>
- <https://www.rt.com/op-ed/508991-caitlin-johnstone-biden-raytheon>
- <https://www.politico.com/story/2016/03/tom-daschle-officially-lobbyist-221334>



- <https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/A/RES/51/59>

## One can also just blow up the newspapers

Anyone who says that the USA is not censoring news is full of beans.

**On February 22, 1975 the office of Milwaukee's leading alt-newspaper at the time, the Bugle American was blown up.**



**It was widely believed that the Milwaukee Police Department's Red Squad was responsible.**

<https://www.wuwm.com/regional/2018-02-09/whatever-happened-to-milwaukees-alternative-newspaper-the-bugle>

<https://milwaukeeeerecord.com/city-life/remembering-bugle-american-office-totally-got-firebombed/>

<https://archive.jsonline.com/news/obituaries/uwm-professor-sued-won-access-to-police-files-on-activists-b99310015z1-266946661.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red\\_Squad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Squad)

Also see: Armstrong, David. *A Trumpet to Arms: Alternative Media in America* (Houghton Mifflin, 1981), p. 148-149 et seq.

The lawlessness of the US is a contagious disease. America's closest allies also bomb press buildings in an attempt to [silence the truth](#) and spread terror to those who tell the truth.



### Israel decimates building housing foreign media in Gaza

The 13-story al-Jalaa tower, one of Gaza's oldest multi-story buildings, had a total of 60 units, including offices of media companies, legal firms, and doctors, May 15, 2021

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210515-israel-decimates-building-housing-foreign-media-in-gaza/>



<https://i1.wp.com/www.middleeastmonitor.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/cover.jpeg?w=960&quality=85&strip=all&zoom=1&ssl=1>

The USA and its' criminal state allies' politicians can point accusing fingers at other countries for censorship of the news, but when they do, it, it's AOK.



Please recall Supreme Court decisions in effect constitute laws; “case law” is the collection of past legal decisions written by courts and similar tribunals in which the law was analyzed for deciding current cases. These past decisions are called "case law", or precedents.

What does one call people who violate so many laws? Criminals.

When criminals work together in violation of laws, what are they called? Gangsters.

What law is usually used to prosecute gangsters?

The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ([RICO](#)). That those violations of law are profit motivated is demonstrated in the section above titled: Conflict of Interest Issues.

The United States has a proven [habit](#) of discriminating against and killing minorities along with their viewpoints obviously, in unimaginably huge numbers with [malice aforethought](#).

There was the genocide of the Native Americans, African and African American slavery, and all those instances of [attempts to overthrow other people's governments](#). Yet somehow generation after generation they continue to commit atrocities in the name of the USA and the people say nothing. Why? Mostly they don't really know.

### **Censorship is the death knell of democracy**

Censorship helps gangsters. It doesn't help the people in the USA or world. It is the death knell of democracy, escalating at a logarithmic rate now and unambiguously illegal.

**Author's note:** I had two things censored in the past 24 hours in the USA. One was on Facebook, the other I'll not name as it reappeared this morning.