



## Stefan Molyneux

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## Introduction

- ▶ Are human beings perfectible?
- ▶ Can equality ever be achieved? Think of a running race – of ideas.
- ▶ Christian/Evolutionary understanding of corruption.
- ▶ Socialist version: everything is solvable if you just change the environment.
  - ▶ Give workers control over the means of production, they will be capitalists!
- ▶ “I will use my power for good!”
- ▶ Can it be done?
- ▶ Key question for censorship.

# 2018

(from Breitbart)

- ▶ Tommy Robinson banned by Twitter and PayPal
- ▶ Laura Loomer banned by Twitter
- ▶ Republican consultant R.C. Maxwell banned by Twitter
- ▶ Carl Benjamin ("Sargon of Akkad") banned by Patreon
- ▶ Robert Spencer banned by Patreon following pressure by credit card companies.
- ▶ Candace Owens suspended by Twitter
- ▶ James Woods suspended for 30 days by Twitter
- ▶ I, Hypocrite, focused on far-left hate speech banned by Facebook
- ▶ Avi Yemini, a Jewish-Australian IDF veteran and conservative activist was banned by Facebook
- ▶ Mohammed Tawhidi, an anti-extremist imam: banned by Facebook
- ▶ The Babylon Bee, a conservative humor site: threatened with suspension by Facebook
- ▶ Terrence K. Williams: suspended by Facebook
- ▶ Gavin McInnes: banned by Twitter and Facebook
- ▶ Alex Jones/Infowars: banned by Facebook, Twitter, Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, Pinterest, and YouTube
- ▶ Over 800 alternative news accounts were banned by Facebook shortly before the US midterms

## Challenge 1: Conflict of Interest

- ▶ Tech companies have invested hundreds of millions in “news” media.
- ▶ Facebook and Apple, YouTube have all announced that they will directly fund handpicked “authoritative news sources.”
- ▶ These sources will then be promoted to their users *without ads*.
- ▶ Google, YouTube's parent company, has committed a budget of \$300 million to pay for “quality journalism.”
- ▶ YouTube has committed \$25 million to paying for “news.”
- ▶ YouTube has also reported that it will “prominently surface authoritative sources” for users. (again, promotion with no ads)
- ▶ Jan 2018, Facebook code changes pushed “establishment” news sources to the top of engagement – CNN at the top.
- ▶ Mark Zuckerberg's stated goal was to promote “high-quality news” that “helps build a sense of common ground.” – PICK 1!
- ▶ The “trusted sources” ranking – any conservative outlets?
- ▶ Zuckerberg's example of “good trustworthy journalism”: The New York Times – WEAPONIZED SOPHISTRY.

## Challenge 2: Bias

- ▶ Facebook announced it would partner with 80 unnamed publications to create “exclusive news content” ahead of the 2018 US midterm elections.
- ▶ Facebook said it planned to directly fund news programming, such as shows from CNN’s Anderson Cooper and Mic.com.
- ▶ These outlets often parrot the “Russia Collusion” conspiracy.
- ▶ Fact: Google CEO Sundar Pichai told Congress that his company could only find \$4,700 in ad spending from Russia-linked accounts in 2016, the Trump election year.
- ▶ National Review: “Private interests that closed deals with Vladimir Putin and his agents — thanks to then–secretary of state Hillary Clinton’s public favors — gave the Clinton Foundation between \$152 million and \$173 million.”
- ▶ **36,809 times** the spending.
- ▶ Tech workers overwhelmingly support Democrats. In 2018, just over 1% of the \$15 million sent to candidates went to Republicans. Where is the diversity?
- ▶ 23% went to Democrats – are tech people above bias?

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/03/clinton-russia-collusion-evidence/>

<https://www.wired.com/story/tech-workers-overwhelmingly-support-democrats/>

## Ad Purchases

- ▶ In 2018, after intense pressure from CNN, the Daily Beast, and other left-wing “journalists,” Facebook refused ad purchases from President Trump’s re-election campaign, which aimed to encourage voters to support Republicans in tight races before the midterm elections.
- ▶ Facebook said that the immigration ad “cannot receive paid distribution” since it violates rules against “sensational content.”
- ▶ Facebook has lost roughly a third of its market cap, because policing the world is impossible.
- ▶ Facebook: 2.27 billion monthly active users worldwide.
- ▶ Every 60 seconds:
  - ▶ 510,000 comments
  - ▶ 293,000 statuses updated
  - ▶ 136,000 photos uploaded
- ▶ Facebook “moderators” are sweatshop workers who are burning out watching up to 25,000 images/videos per day.

## Challenge 3: Impossibility

- ▶ From ZeroHedge:
- ▶ *For as long as ten hours a day, viewing as many as 25,000 images or videos per day, these low-paid workers are buried in the world's horrors—hate speech, child pornography, rape, murder, torture, beheadings, and on and on. They are not experts in the subject matter or region they police. They rely on "guidelines" provided by Facebook—"dozens of unorganised PowerPoint presentations and Excel spreadsheets with bureaucratic titles like 'Western Balkans Hate Orgs and Figures' and 'Credible Violence: Implementation standards'," as The New York Times reported last fall. The rules are not even written in the languages the moderators speak, so many rely on Google Translate. As a recent op-ed by John Naughton in The Guardian declares bluntly in its headline, "Facebook's burnt-out moderators are proof that it is broken."*
- ▶ The Verge: "Facebook has been collecting call history and SMS data from Android devices"

<https://www.theverge.com/2018/3/25/17160944/facebook-call-history-sms-data-collection-android>

## Facebook

- ▶ *The platform's content ecosystem is too poisoned for human or machine moderators to cleanse. Users are fleeing in droves, especially in the company's most valuable markets. Ad buyers are already shifting dollars to competitors' platforms. Governments are stepping up to dramatically hinder Facebook's data-collection capabilities, with Germany just this week banning third-party data sharing. The company is under investigation by the FTC, the Justice Department, the SEC, the FBI, and several government agencies in Europe. It has been accused by the U.N. of playing a "determining role" in Myanmar's genocide. An executive exodus is underway at the company. And we believe, sooner or later, Facebook's board will see no option but to remove Sheryl Sandberg and Mark Zuckerberg.*
- ▶ *Facebook's global social media market share dropped from 75.5% in December 2017 to 66.3% in December 2018. The biggest drop was in the U.S., from 76% to 52%.*
- ▶ *Oct. 17: The Verge reports that Facebook knew about inaccuracies in the video viewership metrics that it provided to advertisers and brands for more than a year. "The inflated video views led both advertisers and media companies to bet too much on Facebook video."*

<https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2019-01-27/fall-facebook-has-only-just-begun>

<http://www.businessofapps.com/data/youtube-statistics/#3>



## Challenge 4: Saudi Money

qz.com

- ▶ “Saudi money is already behind many of the biggest tech startups in the US, including Lyft, Uber and Magic Leap. Saudi Arabia’s massive \$45 billion check to SoftBank’s Vision Fund, the largest venture fund of all time, means Saudi money will likely be part of the biggest pool of venture money for years to come. The Vision Fund has made at least 26 investments including into Slack, WeWork, GM Cruise, and other brand names.
- ▶ “Over the last five years, Quid estimates Saudi investors have directly participated in investment rounds totaling at least \$6.2 billion.
- ▶ “Saudi Arabia’s money is in multiple funds with global ambitions. One of the biggest is the Saudi Public Investment Fund, which said it plans to grow from around \$100 billion today to \$2 trillion by 2030.” *Muslims overwhelmingly vote left.*
- ▶ Allows companies to delay going public.
- ▶ Over 20 Silicon Valley venture companies have ties to Chinese government funding – raising concerns about tech “transfer.”
- ▶ Kremlin money is behind a prominent Russian venture capitalist in Silicon Valley who has investments in Twitter and Facebook.

In Denmark, Socialist Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt won the parliamentary election in September 2011 by a [margin of just 8,500 votes](#). According to an [opinion survey](#), 89.1% of Muslims said they would vote for Socialist or leftwing parties. There are an estimated 200,000 Muslims in Denmark, 100,000 of whom are eligible to vote.

In Britain, a new research report entitled, "[Degrees of Separation: Ethnic minority voters and the Conservative Party](#)," shows that 47% of Muslims say they have affinity for the Labour Party, while on 5% say they identify with the Conservatives. During the 2010 elections, Muslim voters were the deciding factor in 82 constituencies.

<https://qz.com/1426370/silicon-valley-is-awash-with-saudi-arabian-money-heres-what-theyre-investing-in/>

<https://www.voanews.com/a/us-tech-companies-reconsider-saudi-investment/4626218.html>

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/3064/muslim-voters-europe>

## Challenge 5: Ungovernable?

- ▶ CNN, Sep 20 2018: "Google is defending its policy to allow third-party apps to access and share data from Gmail accounts, according to a letter made public Thursday."
- ▶ In 2017, Google stopped scanning Gmail account emails for advertising purposes.
- ▶ Susan Molinari, VP of public policy and government affairs for the Americas at Google, wrote in a letter to Senators that that no human employees read users' Gmail except in "very specific cases where they ask us to and give consent" or for security purposes, like abuse investigations.
- ▶ "The company noted in the letter that it has a process in place for identifying apps that misrepresent themselves or aren't transparent about how personal data is used. Google says it is able to suspend these apps in the 'majority of cases' before they're allowed to access data. However, it's unclear how many malicious apps have been removed."
- ▶ Who has your emails? Search history? Contact information? Call history? Shared drive documents and data? GPS/map history?

## Takeaways

- ▶ The problem is not tech censorship, but government power.
- ▶ When trillions of dollars are at stake in an election, power will inevitably corrupt.
- ▶ There will be little to no state intervention – tech companies are too powerful, know too much and can swing elections.
- ▶ Rational universe: Promoting investments/competitors without clear indication is fraud. (see also: rewriting government press releases and calling it 'journalism.')
- ▶ The Trudeau government recently announced a \$600M media bailout – what decent journalist would stay?
- ▶ "Conflict of interest" should mean *no promotion against competing media, and transparency regarding promotion.*
- ▶ NBC has 624,581 subscribers, USA Today: 832,103, NBC/CBC ~1m
- ▶ I have over **900,000**. Can the media write objectively about me?
- ▶ Solution: hardship makes us stronger – the MSM gets weaker through subsidies and protection... Weaker = more dangerous.
- ▶ Hard censorship leads to self-censorship, must be resisted.
- ▶ If we fail, let us not have failed our conscience.