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Inside Track

Facebook Admits John Birch Society Post Was Not “Hate Speech”



In July, Facebook removed a post by The John Birch Society, this magazine’s parent organization, claiming that the “post goes against our Community Standards on hate.” Facebook also banned the JBS from monetizing its videos on Facebook for 30 days. But there was nothing hateful about the post in question: It showed our July 8 print magazine cover, which carried the title “Immigrant Invasion” and included a real photograph of illegal aliens illegally crossing a border fence. The New American responded to Facebook’s actions with a print article accurately accusing the social-media giant of censorship and hypocrisy. As a result of the backlash following the publication of that article, Facebook has backed down.

On August 21, members of Facebook’s U.S. Politics & Government Outreach and Advertising departments reached out to JBS/TNA and scheduled a conference call with JBS Chief Strategy Officer Bill Hahn. During that call, Facebook “concluded that [the post] was not a violation and apologized for their original action and restored the post, as well as reinstated our video monetization,” according to Hahn.

Those Facebook representatives told Hahn that the post was tagged because “an automated system ‘learns’ hate speech and is employed to alert [Facebook employees] of it.” While pointing to the text of the article as the “red flag” — since it mentioned both immigrants and diseases — Facebook’s representatives declined to provide JBS/TNA with a list of terms to avoid, claiming that no such list exists.

While it is difficult for this writer to believe that an automated computer system can be taught to flag a list of terms even though no such list of terms exists, the positive takeaway is that — in a classic David vs. Goliath moment — Facebook not only apologized and admitted it was wrong, but also restored the post and reinstated the ability of The John Birch Society to monetize videos on its Facebook page.

By C. Mitchell Shaw



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Chinese-style “Social Credit Rating” in America?



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Among China’s totalitarian policies, perhaps one of the most egregious is the invasive “Social Credit System.” If you are unfamiliar with this, yes, it’s as bad as it sounds. Since 2014, citizens have been given a rating on how well they behave. Their “Social Credit Rating” covers things such as whether a citizen jaywalks, buys products made in China, or smokes in a non-smoking area, and what they post and share online.

Those who play by the rules are given a high score and put on a Red list. Those who don’t are given a low score and placed on a Black list.

Those who are “blacklisted” pay higher rates for electricity, may not be able to purchase high-speed Internet service, may not be able to get their kids into better schools, or in some cases are banned from leaving the country on either business or pleasure. Blacklisted citizens are also routinely shamed by having their pictures and addresses published on government-owned television and social-media platforms.

Tech companies are looking to create a similar program for America. In fact, some components of it are already up and running. Earlier this year, the New York State Department of Financial Services cleared life-insurance companies to base premiums on what they see in your social-media posts.

Imagine getting kicked out of a restaurant for complaining too loudly about the lousy service, only to find that you are now on a nationwide list banning you from scores of restaurants and bars. That is exactly what PatronScan does. Uber announced in May that it will now allow drivers to rate passengers, and reserves the right to ban passengers whose rating is “significantly below average.” And WhatsApp will ban you if too many other users block you.

It is not difficult to imagine the emerging “Social Credit Rating” system in America turning into a method by which minor crimes or social infractions are punished by “offenders” being deprived of basic means of communication, transportation, dining, and entertainment. Such people could quickly find themselves on the outside of society looking in.

By C. Mitchell Shaw



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National Poll Shows Shift in Values Between Older and Younger Americans



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The last 21 years have seen major changes in how Americans of different generations prioritize personal values. Members of younger generations rate patriotism, religion, and having children as less important to them than did young people between the ages of 18 and 38 two decades ago, a new *Wall Street Journal/NBC News* survey conducted August 10-14 finds.

When a similar *Journal/NBC News* survey conducted 21 years ago asked Americans to state which values were most important to them, large majorities selected hard work, patriotism, commitment to religion, and having children.

The only one of those values that remains high on the list in the latest survey is hard work. The percentage of Americans listing the other three values has fallen substantially, with most of the changes attributable to people under the age of 50.

Sixty-one percent of those surveyed in the recent poll cited patriotism as very important to them, down nine percentage points from 1998. Fifty percent cited religion, down 12 points since 1998, and 43 percent named having children as an important priority, down 16 points from 1998.

However, the results varied widely according to the age of those polled. Nearly 80 percent of those aged 55 or older said patriotism was very important, while only 42 percent of those ages 18-38 (“Generation Z” and “Millennials”) selected patriotism as an important value. Two-thirds of the older group cited religion as very important, compared with less than one-third of the younger group, reported those conducting the *Wall Street Journal/NBC News* poll.

The change is likely due to the influence of institutions to which parents have surrendered the formation of their children such as schools, the entertainment industry, and the media. If parents had taken a more proactive role in developing their children’s values, one would expect the differences from one generation to the next to have been less.

By Warren Mass



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Libs Dance on Koch's Grave but Ignore How He Helped Their Cause



David Koch

GageSkidmore

It's said one shouldn't speak ill of the dead, but this is meaningless to the morally dead. This has again been proven with leftists' reaction to the passing of billionaire libertarian David Koch, whose death of prostate cancer at age 79 was announced August 23.

Bill Maher perhaps was the cream of the slop on his HBO talk show, *Real Time With Bill Maher*: "David and his brother have done more than anybody to fund climate science [realists] for decades, so f**k him. The Amazon is burning up. I'm glad he's dead. And I hope the end was painful."

Actress Bette Midler also chimed in, tweeting, among other things: "I tweeted the #CharlesKoch had died, instead of #DavidKochIsDEAD. I'm sorry to give others false hope. Guess it was just wistful thinking. As we watch the Amazon Rainforest burning, all the #GlobalWarming culprits are foremost in one's mind."

The website Common Dreams wrote, "After Life of Incalculable Harm, Billionaire Climate Denialist and Right-Wing Villain David Koch Dead at 79. Death is an escape hatch for David Koch while the rest of us are left scrambling for the emergency brake before we go over the cliff."

Then *Esquire* displayed this: "The Koch Money Was a Primary Vector for the Prion Disease That's Infected the Republican Party."

Esquire is correct about the Kochs' efforts having infected the GOP — but the infection is not what they think. David Koch was a devoted anti-Trump, open-borders libertarian. The Kochs did work through the GOP — *in order to transform it*. Their goals didn't totally align with the Democrats', but some of them did. Most significantly, their open-borders aims facilitated the entire Democrat (socialist) platform.

After all, this immigrationist agenda ensures that 85 to 90 percent of our newcomers will continue hailing from the Third World. And with 70 to 90 percent of this group voting Democrat upon naturalization, its continued growth would portend leftist hegemony — giving the Democrats the power to impose whatever they wish. But David Koch has passed on now, and may he rest in peace. As for



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those dancing on his grave, they should “never send to know for whom the bell tolls,” as British cleric and poet John Donne wrote — “it tolls for thee.”

By Selwyn Duke

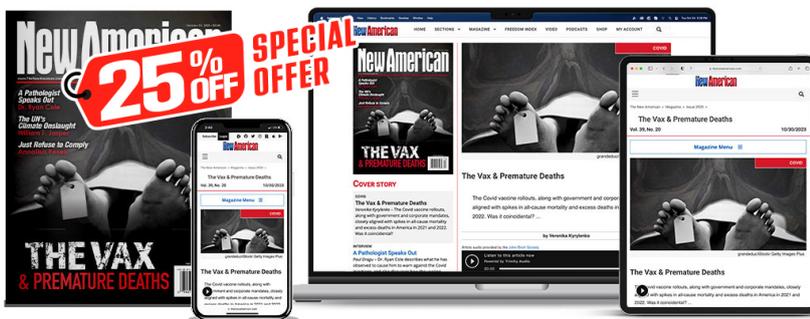


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