



Biden Warns of Tech "Oligarchs" — Now That Tech ISN'T Censoring for Dems Anymore

As I had on many other occasions, in 2020 I warned of a "dystopia-delivering tech oligarchy." I cited Dr. Robert Epstein, a liberal who's the senior research psychologist at the American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology, and his studies on Big Tech influence. His findings were alarming, too. Big Tech, he warned, could shift 15 million votes toward a given presidential candidate at election time. That's more than sufficient to swing a White House race, do note, especially given how close our elections now are.

Oddly enough, though, neither Joe Biden nor any other Democratic office holder complained about this tech "oligarchy" back then. Yet lo and behold, Biden has changed his tune. In fact, in his farewell speech Wednesday evening, he warned that a "tech" oligarchy was seizing control of America.



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What explains this epiphany?

Well, an inveterate cynic might suppose he's just upset that much of Big Tech has stopped censoring for Democrats.

The Big Government-Big Tech Axis

Making this point Thursday at the *New York Post*, commentator Robby Soave calls Biden's remarks "arrogant and hypocritical." He then <u>writes</u> that they

should be met with scorn by all those who languished under the program of social media censorship for the previous four years — a program largely forced on tech companies by the Biden White House, as an example of the very kind of merging of government and corporate power Biden now claims to oppose.

Soave is not exaggerating. The average person *may* not be aware of the censorship; therein lies its effectiveness. (Though as the speech suppression became increasingly common, it touched more and more Americans.) The average search-engine user seeking political material, for example, will only see the search results presented to him. He won't see what *should* have been presented to him but was relegated to "internet Siberia." He likely won't know about the conservative sites whose work he *might* have seen, had Big Tech not smothered them. (Read, for example, the 2018 article, "How Conservatives Are Being Destroyed by Facebook, Twitter and Google Without Even Realizing It.")



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But Big Tech has a multitude of censorship techniques, ranging from deplatforming to shadow-banning to limiting reach. I have covered this phenomenon <u>here</u>, <u>here</u>, <u>here</u>, <u>here</u>, <u>here</u>, <u>here</u>, <u>here</u>, and <u>here</u>, among other times.

Note, too, that as the <u>Twitter files</u> and Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg's <u>recent revelations</u> evidence, this was done with government complicity. The FBI and other Biden officials actually pressured Big Tech figures to suppress speech contrary to their agenda. In fact, Zuckerberg <u>confessed</u>, the censorship at Facebook got so bad that it was like "something out of 1984."

Biden's Brazen Gaslighting

As for "Biden's" claims, here's what he said (obviously written by others) Wednesday evening:

Today, an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedoms and a fair shot for everyone to get ahead.

It would've been somewhat accurate if he'd said it threatens "a fair shot for every woke left-winger to get ahead." But though Biden didn't name names, as Soave points out, it's not hard figuring out who he's fingering. His targets are, among others, X owner Elon Musk, Facebook founder Zuckerberg, and *Washington Post* owner Jeff Bezos. Their "sin"? To some extent, they all left the Democratic Party phalanx of illusion.

Alienated by the Left, Musk became a staunch Donald Trump supporter. Zuckerberg vowed to nix Facebook's third-party "fact-checkers" (i.e., fact-chuckers) and adopt X-like informational democracy. That is, a "community notes" system. Bezos' trespass was milder: He merely refused to let the *Post* endorse Kamala Harris for president.

But be not deceived, emphasizes Soave, the Democratic pseudo-elites happily enabled this tech oligarchy until the moment it rejected leftist control. The commentator then mentions the censorship by proxy on the Hunter Biden laptop and Covid-19 issues, among other things.

Moreover, at Twitter and Facebook, the censorship decisions weren't always freely determined. In fact, writes Soave, even

many liberal-minded social media moderators at first balked at government employees' demands that they remove jokes, satire, and controversial but clearly protected speech.

(Others, however, were definitely on board, make no mistake.)

Nonetheless, Soave also states that

incessant pestering on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and even the White House itself, produced the censorship by proxy.

Big Brother's Iron Fist

What's more, some leftists even pointed out that Congress could take action and strip these companies



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of their liability protection. The message was clear, "Submit to censorship, or face oblivion," Soave writes.

Ironically, the commentator sums up,

this makes Biden's Democratic Party the ultimate oligarchy: one in which the politically powerful sought the ability to suppress dissent.

In reality, people often get things backwards. Some may complain, for example, about Musk's political editorializing and activity on X. The rest of us can't afford our own social-media platform to use as a Godzilla-size soap box, is the thinking. But this is nothing new. Rich people have always owned newspapers, for example. And who has a bigger bully pulpit than the president? Not only that, the government has the guns to back it up. (Thus must the Uncle Sam beast be kept in its cage.)

In reality, though, it's not the billionaire activity you see that you have to worry about. It's the billionaire activity you *don't* see. Musk wears his banners openly; he tells you what he believes. Truly troubling are people such as billionaire investor George Soros, who manipulate our government and culture from behind the scenes. For people can't make judgments about what's invisible to them.

Returning to psychologist Epstein's research, Big Tech likely couldn't shift 15 million votes toward *one* candidate in 2024 because it wasn't all still tilting *one* way. This factor alone *might* have put Trump over the top in the election. And it almost assuredly explains his narrow popular-vote victory.

For sure, too, the Democratic pseudo-elites, now conveniently complaining about a "tech oligarchy," know this better than anyone.





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