

The Colossus, the Courts and the Cliff

Alt-news during the 3rd Red Scare

Let me get this straight. After reviewing everything I could find on the suppression of alt-news by Google's search engine, it appears a guy with definite [conflict of interest](#) issues, Ajit Pai, an [opponent of net neutrality](#) got himself appointed Chairman of the FCC, and with that awesome power he was able to subvert all Americans' First Amendment Rights to Free Speech and Press as well as several Supreme Court Decisions:

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

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/354/298/> (leaders Communist Party in Cal.)

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

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>

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 including:

- 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 relating to freedom of expression and press, see: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomOpinion/Pages/Standards.aspx>

Is all of the above correct?

And yet somehow, Google feels legally entitled to suppress alt-news sites its friendly armada of government funded and/or affiliated hit squads:

- Harvard Kennedy School’s Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy
- US Department of State Agency for Global Media - Global Engagement Center
- FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force (FTIF)
- Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab (DFRLab)
- FBI and Pentagon backed private intelligence firm - Graphika
- The Judicial Right
- USC Center on Public Diplomacy
- Coda Story – Anonymous attacks on western journalists who investigate narrative about China
- Storyful, Bellingcat, Eyewitness Media Hub, Emergent, Meedan, Reported.ly (now defunct), Verification Junkie and others

...has “identified” as *possibly* being diabolical agents of influence for Russia, China, or Islam?

Is this real?

And thus,

- wsws.org fell by 67 percent
- altnet.org fell by 63 percent
- globalresearch.ca fell by 62 percent
- consortiumnews.com fell by 47 percent
- socialistworker.org fell by 47 percent
- mediamatters.org fell by 42 percent
- comondreams.org fell by 37 percent
- internationalviewpoint.org fell by 36 percent
- democracynow.org fell by 36 percent
- wikileaks.org fell by 30 percent
- truth-out.org fell by 25 percent
- counterpunch.org fell by 21 percent
- theintercept.com fell by 19 percent

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2017/08/02/pers-a02.html>

Is the above correct so far?

During the past few weeks, I have tried to gestalt this series of events (summarizing my findings in a story titled: [Alt-News during the 3rd Red Scare](#)) and would greatly appreciate it if interested writers, and/or editors from the above publications could fill me in on more current events, as the above referenced stories are somewhat out of date.

Furthermore, I'm curious if anyone from the above publications made inquiries about suing Google for loss of income, mental distress, or any other reason as the result of its algorithm's bias, given that Constitutional law is the foundation of American law, not some FCC chairman with provable conflicts of interest.

If the reader of this short story is curious about the "Cliff" in this short story's title, that refers to the fact that most of the world does not want to be a colony of American hegemony in perpetuity, and some of those countries might actually offer rather stiff thermonuclear resistance.

Given that the American economy is on a respirator it cannot afford, it's land-based nuclear weapons are "aged," it's stock market is suffering the largest bubble in the history of this spiral arm of the galaxy, everyone with a brain is de-dollarizing, former President Trump's army of incorrigibles has been waiting since 1864 to rise again, and President Biden was not very polite to either Presidents Putin and Xi, I'm curious if I'm the only one that sees a cliff looming in front of the "richest most powerful country in the world" that also happens to have the largest number of personally owned guns and tanks, the largest number of people in prison, the largest number of former presidents that belong in prison,

and the largest number of people proudly holding Graduate Degrees from one Crime University or another?

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About the author

Gregory Brundage started traveling internationally for more than a year at a time at age six in 1963. By age 12 he had lived in and traveled through some 12 countries. After 15 years of university, he started working for the Black press in the US as a reporter in 1988 and moved to South Asia in 1992 where he worked as a freelance journalist. He's lived in Beijing for the past 12 years and in South Korea for seven years before that working as a teacher and journalist.

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I am not a 501 C(3) though sure wish I was!