



The Conservative's Guide to Finding REAL News

**NOT FAKE  
NEWS**



America's Most Trusted  
Conservative News Sources

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# Fox News

**Fox News**, officially **Fox News Channel**, abbreviated **FNC**, commonly known as **Fox**, and stylized in all caps as **FOX News**, is an American multinational conservative<sup>[3][4][5][6]</sup> cable news television channel based in New York City. It is owned by Fox News Media, which itself is owned by the Fox Corporation.<sup>[7]</sup> The channel broadcasts primarily from studios at 1211 Avenue of the Americas in Midtown Manhattan. Fox News provides service to 86 countries and overseas territories worldwide,<sup>[8]</sup> with international broadcasts featuring Fox Extra segments during ad breaks.<sup>[9]</sup>

The channel was created by Australian-American media mogul Rupert Murdoch to appeal to a conservative audience, hiring former Republican media consultant and CNBC executive Roger Ailes as its founding CEO.<sup>[10][11]</sup> It launched on October 7, 1996, to 17 million cable subscribers.<sup>[12]</sup> Fox News grew during the late 1990s and 2000s to become the dominant subscription news network in the U.S.<sup>[13]</sup> As of September 2018, approximately 87,118,000 U.S. households (90.8% of television subscribers) received Fox News.<sup>[14]</sup> In 2019, Fox News was the top-rated cable network, averaging 2.5 million viewers.<sup>[15][16][17]</sup> Murdoch is the current executive chairman and Suzanne Scott is the CEO.<sup>[18][19]</sup>

Fox News has been described as practicing biased reporting in favor of the Republican Party, its politicians, and conservative causes while portraying the Democratic Party in a negative light.<sup>[20][21][22][23][24]</sup> Critics have cited the channel as detrimental to the integrity of news overall.<sup>[25][26]</sup> Fox News' official position is that its news reporting operates independently of its opinion and commentary programming, and it has denied bias in its news reporting, although former employees have stated that Fox ordered them to "slant the news in favor of conservatives".<sup>[27][28]</sup> During the presidency of Donald Trump, observers said there was a pronounced tendency of the Fox News Channel to serve as a "mouthpiece" for the administration, providing "propaganda" and a "feedback loop" for Trump, with scholars suggesting that the channel came to resemble a form of state TV.<sup>[29][30]</sup>

## Fox News Channel



<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Broadcast area</b>	United States Canada
<b>Slogan</b>	<i>Most Watched. Most Trusted. Standing Up For What's Right</i>
<b>Headquarters</b>	<u>1211 Avenue of the Americas</u> <u>New York City,</u> <u>New York</u> <u>10036</u> <u>U.S.</u>
<b>Programming</b>	
<b>Language(s)</b>	English
<b>Picture format</b>	<u>720p HDTV</u> (downscaled to <u>letterboxed 480i</u> (or <u>16:9</u> for some countries) for the <u>SDTV feed</u> )
<b>Ownership</b>	
<b>Owner</b>	<u>Fox</u> <u>Corporation</u>
<b>Parent</b>	<u>Fox News</u> <u>Media</u>
<b>Sister channels</b>	<u>Fox Business</u> <u>Network</u>

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Japan

Mexico

Netherlands

New Zealand

Pakistan

Philippines

Scandinavia

Singapore

Fox

Broadcasting

Company

## **History**

**Launched** October 7, 1996<sup>[1]</sup>

## **Links**

**Webcast** Fox News Go (<https://www.foxnews.com/go>) (Pay-TV subscribers only)

**Website** www.foxnews.com (<http://www.foxnews.com>)

## **Availability**

### **Cable**

**Available on most U.S. providers** Channel slots vary on each operator

**Izzi** 817<sup>[2]</sup>

**Telecom(Mexico)**

### **Satellite**

**DirecTV** Channel 360 (SD/HD)

**Dish Network** Channel 205 (SD/HD)

**Bell Satellite TV (Canada)** Channel 507

**Shaw Direct (Canada)** Channel 154 Channel 503

### **IPTV**

**Verizon FiOS** Channel 118 (SD) Channel 618 (HD)

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**VMedia (Canada)** Channel 181

**Optik TV (Canada)** Channel 811 (HD; East)

South Africa

United Kingdom and Ireland

### **Notable personalities**

Program hosts

Correspondents and substitute anchors

Regular guests and contributors

Former hosts and contributors

### **See also**

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Channel 9811

(SD; West)

### **Satellite radio**

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Channel 114

**XM**

Channel 115

## **History**

In May 1985, Australian publisher Rupert Murdoch announced that he and American industrialist and philanthropist Marvin Davis intended to develop "a network of independent stations as a fourth marketing force" to compete directly with CBS, NBC, and ABC through the purchase of six television stations owned by Metromedia.<sup>[31]</sup> In July 1985, 20th Century Fox announced Murdoch had completed his purchase of 50% of Fox Filmed Entertainment, the parent company of 20th Century Fox Film Corporation.<sup>[32]</sup> A year later, 20th Century Fox earned \$5.6 million in its fiscal third period ended May 31, 1986, in contrast to a loss of \$55.8 million in the third period of the previous year.<sup>[33]</sup>

Subsequently, and prior to founding FNC, Murdoch had gained experience in the 24-hour news business when News Corporation's BSkyB subsidiary began Europe's first 24-hour news channel (Sky News) in the United Kingdom in 1989.<sup>[34]</sup> With the success of his fourth network efforts in the United States,<sup>[35]</sup> experience gained from Sky News and the turnaround of 20th Century Fox, Murdoch announced on January 31, 1996, that News Corp. would launch a 24-hour news channel on cable and satellite systems in the United States as part of a News Corp. "worldwide platform" for Fox programming: "The appetite for news – particularly news that explains to people how it affects them – is expanding enormously".<sup>[36]</sup>

In February 1996, after former U.S. Republican Party political strategist and NBC executive<sup>[37]</sup> Roger Ailes left cable television channel America's Talking (now MSNBC), Murdoch asked him to start Fox News Channel. Ailes demanded five months of 14-hour workdays and several weeks of rehearsal shows before its launch on October 7, 1996.<sup>[1]</sup>

At its debut 17 million households were able to watch FNC;<sup>[12]</sup> however, it was absent from the largest U.S. media markets of New York City and Los Angeles. Rolling news coverage during the day consisted of 20-minute single-topic shows such as *Fox on Crime* or *Fox on Politics*, surrounded by news headlines. Interviews featured facts at the bottom of the screen about the topic or the guest. The flagship newscast at the time was *The Schneider Report*, with Mike Schneider's fast-paced delivery of the news. During the evening, Fox featured opinion shows: *The O'Reilly Report* (later *The O'Reilly Factor*), *The Crier Report* (hosted by Catherine Crier) and *Hannity & Colmes*.

From the beginning, FNC has placed heavy emphasis on visual presentation. Graphics were designed to be colorful and gain attention; this helped the viewer to grasp the main points of what was being said, even if they could not hear the host (with on-screen text summarizing the position of the interviewer or speaker, and "bullet points" when a host was delivering commentary). Fox News also created the "Fox News Alert", which interrupted its regular programming when a breaking news story occurred.

To accelerate its adoption by cable providers, Fox News paid systems up to \$11 per subscriber to distribute the channel.<sup>[38]</sup> This contrasted with the normal practice, in which cable operators paid stations carriage fees for programming. When Time Warner bought Ted Turner's Turner Broadcasting System, a federal antitrust consent decree required Time Warner to carry a second all-news channel in addition to its own CNN on its cable systems. Time Warner selected MSNBC as the secondary news channel, not Fox News. Fox News claimed this violated an agreement (to carry Fox News). Citing its agreement to keep its U.S. headquarters and a large studio in New York City, News Corporation enlisted the help of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's administration to pressure Time Warner Cable (one of the city's two cable providers) to transmit Fox News on a city-owned channel.<sup>[39]</sup> City officials threatened to take action affecting Time Warner's cable franchises in the city.<sup>[40]</sup>



Fox News Studios in 2009.

During the September 11, 2001, attacks, Fox News was the first news organization to run a news ticker on the bottom of the screen to keep up with the flow of information that day. The ticker has remained, informing viewers about additional news which reporters may not mention on-screen and repeating news mentioned during a broadcast; it has proven popular with viewers.<sup>[41]</sup>

## Political alignment

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Fox News has been described as practicing biased reporting in favor of the Republican Party, the George W. Bush and Donald Trump administrations, and conservative causes while portraying the Democratic Party in a negative light.<sup>[20][21][22][23]</sup> Critics have cited the channel as detrimental to the integrity of news overall.<sup>[25][26]</sup> Fox News employees have said that news reporting operates independently of its opinion and commentary programming, and have denied bias in news reporting, while former employees have said that Fox ordered them to "slant the news in favor of conservatives".<sup>[42]</sup> During Trump's presidency, observers noted a pronounced tendency of the Fox News Channel to serve as a "mouthpiece" for the administration, providing "propaganda" and a "feedback loop" for Trump, with one presidential scholar stating, "It's the closest we've come to having state TV."<sup>[29][30]</sup> According to a March 2021 Pew Research Center poll, 73% of Americans considered Fox News "mainstream media."<sup>[43]</sup>

## Outlets

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FNC maintains an archive of most of its programs. This archive also includes Movietone News series of newsreels from its now Disney-owned namesake movie studio, 20th Century Fox. Licensing for the Fox News archive is handled by ITN Source, the archiving division of ITN.<sup>[44]</sup>

## Television

FNC presents a variety of programming, with up to 15 hours of live broadcasting per day in addition to programming and content for the Fox Broadcasting Company. Most programs are broadcast from Fox News headquarters in New York City (at 1211 Avenue of the Americas), in its streetside studio on Sixth Avenue in the west wing of Rockefeller Center, sharing its headquarters with sister channel Fox Business Network. Fox News Channel has eight studios at its New York City headquarters that are used for its and Fox Business' programming: Studio B (used for Fox Business programming), Studio D (which has an area for



FNC airport newsstand at Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport

studio audiences; no longer in current use), Studio E (used for *Gutfeld!* and *The Journal Editorial Report*), Studio F (used for *The Story with Martha MacCallum*, *The Five*, Fox Democracy 2020, *Fox & Friends*, *Outnumbered*, *The Faulkner Focus*, *Fox News Primetime*, and *Watters' World*) Studio G (which houses Fox Business shows, *The Fox Report*, *Your World with Neil Cavuto*, and *Cavuto Live*), Studio H (Fox News Deck used for breaking news coverage, no longer in current use), Studio J (used for *America's Newsroom*, *Hannity*, *Justice with Judge Jeanine*, *Fox News Live*, *Fox & Friends First*, and *Sunday Morning Futures*) Starting in 2018, *Thursday Night Football* had its pregame show, *Fox NFL Thursday*, originating from Studio F. Another Fox Sports program, *First Things First*, also broadcasts from Studio E.



FNC's newsroom, November 15, 2007.

Other such programs (such as *Special Report with Bret Baier*, *The Ingraham Angle*, *Fox News @ Night*, *Media Buzz*, and editions of *Fox News Live* not broadcast from the New York City studios) are broadcast from Fox News's Washington, D.C. studios, located on Capitol Hill across from Union Station in a secured building shared by a number of other television networks (including NBC News and C-SPAN). *The Next Revolution* is broadcast from Fox News' Los Angeles bureau studio, which is also used for news updates coming from L.A.. *Tucker Carlson Tonight* and *Life, Liberty, & Levin* are done from personal studios, in Maine and Virginia respectively. Audio simulcasts of the channel are aired on SiriusXM Satellite Radio.

In an October 11, 2009, in a *New York Times* article, Fox said its hard-news programming runs from "9 AM to 4 PM and 6 to 8 PM on weekdays". However, it makes no such claims for its other broadcasts, which primarily consist of editorial journalism and commentary.<sup>[45]</sup>

Fox News Channel began broadcasting in the 720p resolution format on May 1, 2008.<sup>[46]</sup> This format is available on all major cable and satellite providers.

The Fox News Group produces *Fox News Sunday*, which airs on Fox Broadcasting and re-airs on FNC. Fox News also produces occasional special event coverage that is broadcast on FBC.

## Radio

With the growth of the FNC, the company introduced a radio division, *Fox News Radio*, in 2003.<sup>[47]</sup> Syndicated throughout the United States, the division provides short newscasts and talk radio programs featuring personalities from the television and radio divisions. In 2006, the company also introduced *Fox News Talk*, a satellite radio station featuring programs syndicated by (and featuring) Fox News personalities.

## Online

Introduced in December 1995,<sup>[48]</sup> the Fox News website features the latest coverage, including columns by FNC television, radio and online personalities. Video clips are also available on Foxnews.com and Foxbusiness.com. Fox News Latino is the version aimed at the Hispanic audience, although presented almost entirely in English, with a Spanish section.<sup>[49]</sup>

In September 2008, FNC joined other channels in introducing a live streaming segment to its website: *The Strategy Room*, designed to appeal to older viewers. It airs weekdays from 9 AM to 5 PM and takes the form of an informal discussion, with running commentary on the news. Regular discussion programs include

*Business Hour*, *News With a View* and *God Talk*.<sup>[50]</sup> In March 2009, The Fox Nation was launched as a website intended to encourage readers to post articles commenting on the news.<sup>[51]</sup> Fox News Mobile is the portion of the FNC website dedicated to streaming news clips formatted for video-enabled mobile phones.<sup>[52]</sup>

## Ratings and reception

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In 2003, Fox News saw a large ratings jump during the early stages of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. At the height of the conflict, according to some reports, Fox News had as much as a 300% increase in viewership (averaging 3.3 million viewers daily).<sup>[53]</sup> In 2004, Fox News' ratings for its broadcast of the Republican National Convention exceeded those of the three major broadcast networks. During President George W. Bush's address, Fox News attracted 7.3 million viewers nationally; NBC, ABC, and CBS had a viewership of 5.9 million, 5.1 million, and 5.0 million respectively.

Between late 2005 and early 2006, Fox News saw a brief decline in ratings. One was in the second quarter of 2006, when it lost viewers for every prime-time program compared with the previous quarter. The audience for the *Special Report with Brit Hume*, for example, dropped 19%. Several weeks later, in the wake of the 2006 North Korean missile test and the 2006 Lebanon War, Fox saw a surge in viewership and remained the top-rated cable news channel.<sup>[54]</sup> Fox produced eight of the top ten most-watched nightly cable news shows, with *The O'Reilly Factor* and *Hannity & Colmes* finishing first and second respectively.<sup>[55]</sup>

FNC ranked No. 8 in viewership among all cable channels in 2006, and No. 7 in 2007.<sup>[56]</sup> The channel ranked number one during the week of Barack Obama's election (November 3–9) in 2008, and reached the top spot again in January 2010 (during the week of the special Senate election in Massachusetts).<sup>[57]</sup> Comparing Fox to its 24-hour-news-channel competitors, in May 2010, the channel drew an average daily prime-time audience of 1.8 million viewers (versus 747,000 for MSNBC and 595,000 for CNN).<sup>[58]</sup>

In September 2009, the Pew Research Center published a report on the public view of national news organizations. In the report, 72 percent of polled Republican Fox viewers rated the channel as "favorable", while 43 percent of polled Democratic viewers and 55 percent of all polled viewers shared that opinion. However, Fox was given the highest "unfavorable" rating of all national outlets studied (25 percent of all polled viewers). The report went on to say, "partisan differences in views of Fox News have increased substantially since 2007".<sup>[59]</sup>

A Public Policy Polling poll concluded in 2013 that positive perceptions of FNC had declined from 2010. 41% of polled voters said they trust it, down from 49% in 2010, while 46% said they distrust it, up from 37% in 2010. It was also called the "most trusted" network by 34% of those polled, more than had said the same of any other network.<sup>[60]</sup>

On the night of October 22, 2012, Fox set a record for its highest-rated telecast, with 11.5 million viewers for the third U.S. presidential debate.<sup>[61]</sup> In prime time the week before, Fox averaged almost 3.7 million viewers with a total day average of 1.66 million viewers.<sup>[62]</sup>

In prime time and total day ratings for the week of April 15 to 21, 2013, Fox News, propelled by its coverage of the Boston Marathon bombing, was the highest-ranked network on U.S. cable television, for the first time since August 2005, when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast of the United States.<sup>[63]</sup> January 2014 marked Fox News's 145th consecutive month as the highest-rated cable news channel. During that month, Fox News beat CNN and MSNBC combined in overall viewers in both prime time hours and the total day.<sup>[64]</sup> In the third quarter of 2014, the network was the



Then-Fox anchor Megyn Kelly covering the 2012 Democratic National Convention



most-watched cable channel during prime time hours.<sup>[65]</sup> During the final week of the campaign for the United States elections, 2014, Fox News had the highest ratings of any cable channel, news or otherwise. On election night itself, Fox News' coverage had higher ratings than that of any of the other five cable or network news sources among viewers between 25 and 54 years of age.<sup>[66]</sup> The network hosted the first prime-time GOP candidates' forum of the 2016 campaign on August 6. The debate reached a record-breaking 24 million viewers, by far the largest audience for any cable news event.<sup>[67]</sup>

In 2018, Fox News was rated by Nielsen as America's most watched cable network, averaging a record 2.4 million viewers in prime time and total day during the period of January 1 to December 30, 2018.<sup>[68]</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic led to increased viewership for all cable news networks. For the first calendar quarter of 2020 (January 1 – March 31), Fox News had their highest-rated quarter in the network's history, with Nielsen showing a prime time average total audience of 3.387 million viewers. Sean Hannity's program, *Hannity*, weeknights at 9 pm ET was the top-rated show in cable news for the quarter averaging 4.2 million viewers, a figure that not only beat out all of its cable news competition but also placed it ahead of network competition in the same time slot. Fox ended the quarter with the top five shows in prime time, with Fox's *Tucker Carlson Tonight* finishing the quarter in second overall with an average audience of 4.2 million viewers, followed by *The Five*, *The Ingraham Angle*, and *Special Report with Bret Baier*. *The Rachel Maddow Show* was the highest non-Fox show on cable, coming in sixth place. Finishing the quarter in 22nd place was *The Lead with Jake Tapper*, CNN's highest rated show.<sup>[69]</sup> According to a Fox News article on the subject, *Fox & Friends* averaged 1.8 million viewers, topping CNN's *New Day* and MSNBC's *Morning Joe* combined. The same Fox News article noted that the Fox Business Network also had its highest-rated quarter in history and that Fox News itself finished March as the highest-rated network in cable for the 45th consecutive month, "...and the digital platforms excelled, too," the article claimed.<sup>[70]</sup>

In July 2020, the Wikipedia community announced that Fox News would no longer be considered "generally reliable" in its reporting of science and politics, and that it "should be used with caution to verify contentious claims" for those topics.<sup>[71][72]</sup> The decision was made due to Fox News downplaying the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as allegations of Fox News spreading misinformation about climate change and reporting on the false concept of "no-go zones" for non-Muslims in British cities.<sup>[71]</sup>

According to the Los Angeles Times on August 19, 2020: "Fox News Channel had six of last week's 11 highest-rated prime-time programs to finish first in the network ratings race for the third time since June" 2020.<sup>[73]</sup>

A Morning Consult survey the week after Election Day 2020 showed 30 percent of Republicans in the United States had an unfavorable opinion of Fox News, while 54 percent of Republicans viewed the network favorably, compared to 67 percent before the election. A McClatchy news story suggested criticism from Donald Trump as a major reason, as well as the network's early calling of Arizona for Joe Biden, and later joining other networks in declaring Biden the winner of the 2020 election.<sup>[74]</sup>

Ratings were also down for Fox News. Although it remained ahead of other networks overall, its morning show fell out of first place for the first time since 2001. Trump recommended OANN, which was gaining viewers. Newsmax was also increasing in popularity.<sup>[74]</sup>

## Demographics

As indicated by a New York Times article, based on Nielsen statistics, Fox appears to have a mostly aged demographic.<sup>[75]</sup> In 2008, in the 25–54 age group, Fox News had an average of 557,000 viewers, but dropped to 379,000 in 2013 while increasing its overall audience from 1.89 million in 2010 to 2.02 million in

2013. The median age of a prime-time viewer was 68 as of 2015.<sup>[76]</sup> A 2019 Pew Research Center survey showed that among those who named Fox News as their main source for political news, 69% are aged 50 or older.<sup>[77]</sup>

According to a 2013 Gallup poll, 94% of Fox viewers "either identify as or lean Republican".<sup>[78]</sup> The 2019 Pew survey showed that among people who named Fox News as their main source for political and election news, 93% identify as Republicans. Among the top eight political news sources named by at least 2% of American adults, the results show Fox News and MSNBC as the two news channels with the most partisan audiences.<sup>[77]</sup>

## Slogan

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Fox News Channel originally used the slogan "Fair and Balanced", which was coined by network co-founder Roger Ailes while the network was being established. *The New York Times* described the slogan as being a "blunt signal that Fox News planned to counteract what Mr. Ailes and many others viewed as a liberal bias ingrained in television coverage by establishment news networks".<sup>[79][80]</sup> In a 2013 interview with Peter Robinson of the Hoover Institution, Rupert Murdoch defended the company's "Fair and Balanced" slogan saying "In fact, you'll find just as many Democrats as Republicans on and so on".<sup>[81]</sup>

In August 2003, Fox News sued comedian Al Franken over his use of the slogan as a subtitle for his book, *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right*, which is critical of Fox News Channel.<sup>[82]</sup> The lawsuit was dropped three days later, after Judge Denny Chin refused its request for an injunction. In his decision, Chin ruled the case was "wholly without merit, both factually and legally". He went on to suggest that Fox News' trademark on the phrase "fair and balanced" could be invalid.<sup>[83]</sup> In December 2003, FNC won a legal battle concerning the slogan, when AlterNet filed a cancellation petition with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to have FNC's trademark rescinded as inaccurate. AlterNet included Robert Greenwald's documentary film *Outfoxed* (2004) as supporting evidence in its case.<sup>[84]</sup> After losing early motions, AlterNet withdrew its petition; the USPTO dismissed the case.<sup>[85]</sup> In 2008, FNC used the slogan "We Report, You Decide", referring to "You Decide 2008" (FNC's original slogan for its coverage of election issues).

In August 2016, Fox News Channel began to quietly phase out the "Fair and Balanced" slogan in favor of "Most Watched, Most Trusted"; when these changes were reported in June 2017 by Gabriel Sherman (a writer who had written a biography on Ailes), a network executive said the change "has nothing to do with programming or editorial decisions". It was speculated by media outlets that Fox News Channel was wishing to distance itself from Ailes' tenure at the network.<sup>[79][80][86]</sup> In March 2018, the network introduced a new ad campaign, *Real News. Real Honest Opinion*. The ad campaign is intended to promote the network's opinion-based programming and counter perceptions surrounding "fake news".<sup>[87][88]</sup>

In mid-November 2020, following the election, Fox News began to use the slogan "Standing Up For What's Right" to promote its primetime lineup.<sup>[89]</sup>

## Content

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### Benghazi attack and aftermath

Fox News provided extensive coverage of the 2012 Benghazi attack, which host Sean Hannity described in December 2012 as "the story that the mainstream media ignores" and "obviously, a cover-up. And we will get to the bottom of it."<sup>[90]</sup> Programming analysis by Media Matters found that during the twenty months following the Benghazi attacks, FNC ran 1,098 segments on the issue, including:<sup>[91]</sup>

- 478 segments involving Susan Rice's September 16, 2012, Sunday news show appearances, during which she was falsely accused of lying
- 382 segments on *Special Report*, the network's flagship news program
- 281 segments alleging a "cover-up" by the Obama administration
- 144 interviews of GOP members of Congress, but just five interviews of Democratic members of Congress and Obama administration officials
- 120 comparisons to Iran-Contra, Watergate, and the actions of the Nixon administration
- 100 segments falsely suggesting the administration issued a "stand-down order" to prevent a rescue operation in Benghazi

Over nearly four years after the Benghazi attack, there were ten official investigations, including six by Republican-controlled House committees. None of the investigations found any evidence of scandal, cover-up or lying by Obama administration officials.

On June 29, 2018, Fox News broadcast a segment by news anchor Bret Baier entitled "Whatever happened to the Benghazi investigation?" which repeated some of the accusations the network had previously made about Susan Rice and Hillary Clinton, but for which the women had been exonerated by the official investigations.<sup>[92]</sup>

## Uranium One

From 2015 into 2018, Fox News broadcast extensive coverage of an alleged scandal surrounding the sale of Uranium One to Russian interests, which host Sean Hannity characterized as "one of the biggest scandals in American history".<sup>[93]</sup> According to Media Matters the Fox News coverage extended throughout the programming day, with particular emphasis by Hannity.<sup>[94]</sup> The network promoted an ultimately unfounded narrative asserting that, as Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton personally approved the Uranium One sale in exchange for \$145 million in bribes paid to the Clinton Foundation. Donald Trump repeated these allegations as a candidate and as president.<sup>[95][96][97]</sup> No evidence of wrongdoing by Clinton had been found after four years of allegations, an FBI investigation, and the 2017 appointment of a Federal attorney to evaluate the investigation. In November 2017, Fox News host Shepard Smith concisely debunked the alleged scandal, infuriating viewers who suggested he should work for CNN or MSNBC.<sup>[96]</sup> Hannity later called Smith "clueless," while Smith stated, "I get it, that some of our opinion programming is there strictly to be entertaining. I get that. I don't work there. I wouldn't work there."<sup>[98][99]</sup>

## Pro-Republican and pro-Trump bias

Fox News Channel has been widely described as providing biased reporting in favor of conservative political positions,<sup>[20][21][100][101][102][103][104]</sup> the Republican Party<sup>[22][105][106]</sup> and President Donald Trump.<sup>[23][107][108][109][110]</sup> Political scientist Jonathan Bernstein described Fox News as an expanded part of the Republican Party.<sup>[22][106]</sup> Political scientists Matt Grossmann and David A. Hopkins wrote that Fox News helped "Republicans communicate with their base and spread their ideas, and they have been effective in mobilizing voters to participate in midterm elections (as in 2010 and 2014)."<sup>[22]</sup> Prior to 2000, Fox News lacked an ideological tilt, and had more Democrats watch the channel than Republicans.<sup>[111]</sup> During the 2004 presidential election, Fox News was markedly more hostile in its coverage of Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, and distinguished itself among cable news outlets for heavy coverage of the Swift Boat smear campaign against Kerry.<sup>[112][113][114]</sup> During President Obama's first term in office, Fox News helped launch and amplify the Tea Party movement, a conservative movement within the Republican party that organized protests against Obama and his policies.<sup>[20][104][115][116][117][118][119]</sup>

During the Republican primaries, Fox News was perceived as trying to prevent Trump from clinching the nomination.<sup>[100]</sup> However, under Trump's presidency, Fox News remade itself into his image, as hardly any criticism of Trump could be heard on Fox News' prime-time shows.<sup>[107][120]</sup> In Fox News' news reporting, the network dedicated far more coverage to Hillary Clinton-related stories, which critics said was intended to deflect attention from the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.<sup>[120]</sup> Trump provided significant access to Fox News during his presidency, giving 19 interviews to the channel while only 6 in total to other news channels by November 2017; *The New York Times* described Trump's Fox News interviews as "softball interviews" and some of the interviewers' interview styles as "fawning";<sup>[121]</sup> similarly, *The Economist* has described the network's coverage of Trump's presidency as "reliably fawning".<sup>[122]</sup> From 2015 to 2017, the Fox News prime-time line-up changed from being skeptical and questioning of Trump to a "Trump safe space, with a dose of Bannonist populism once considered on the fringe".<sup>[123]</sup> The Fox News website has also become more extreme in its rhetoric since Trump's election; according to Columbia University's Tow Center for Digital Journalism, the Fox News website has "gone a little Breitbart" over time.<sup>[124]</sup> At the start of 2018, Fox News mostly ignored high-profile scandals in the Trump administration which received ample coverage in other national media outlets, such as White House Staff Secretary Rob Porter's resignation amid domestic abuse allegations, the downgrading of Jared Kushner's security clearance and the existence of a non-disclosure agreement between Trump and the porn star Stormy Daniels.<sup>[125]</sup>

In March 2019, Jane Mayer reported in *The New Yorker* that Fox News.com reporter Diana Falzone had the story of the Stormy Daniels–Donald Trump scandal before the 2016 election, but that Fox News executive Ken LaCorte told her: "Good reporting, kiddo. But Rupert [Murdoch] wants Donald Trump to win. So just let it go," and the story was killed. LaCorte denied making the statement to Falzone, but conceded, "I was the person who made the call. I didn't run it upstairs to Roger Ailes or others...I didn't do it to protect Donald Trump," adding "[Falzone] had put up a story that just wasn't anywhere close to being something I was comfortable publishing." Nik Richie, who claimed to be one of the sources for the story, called LaCorte's account "complete bullshit", adding "Fox News was culpable. I voted for Trump, and I like Fox, but they did their own 'catch and kill' on the story to protect him."<sup>[29][126]</sup>

A 2008 study found Fox News gave disproportionate attention to polls suggesting low approval for President Bill Clinton.<sup>[127]</sup> A 2009 study found Fox News was less likely to pick up stories that reflected well on Democrats, and more likely to pick up stories that reflected well on Republicans.<sup>[128]</sup> A 2010 study comparing Fox News Channel's *Special Report With Brit Hume* and NBC's *Nightly News* coverage of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan during 2005 concluded "Fox News was much more sympathetic to the administration than NBC", suggesting "if scholars continue to find evidence of a partisan or ideological bias at FNC ... they should consider Fox as alternative, rather than mainstream, media".<sup>[129]</sup>

Research finds that Fox News increases Republican vote shares and makes Republican politicians more partisan.<sup>[102][130][131][132]</sup> A 2007 study, using the introduction of Fox News into local markets (1996–2000) as an instrumental variable, found that in the 2000 presidential election "Republicans gained 0.4 to 0.7 percentage points in the towns that broadcast Fox News", suggesting "Fox News convinced 3 to 28 percent of its viewers to vote Republican, depending on the audience measure".<sup>[102]</sup> These results were confirmed by a 2015 study.<sup>[132]</sup> A 2014 study, using the same instrumental variable, found congressional "representatives become less supportive of President Clinton in districts where Fox News begins broadcasting than similar representatives in similar districts where Fox News was not broadcast."<sup>[131]</sup> A 2017 study, using channel positions as an instrumental variable, found "Fox News increases Republican vote shares by 0.3 points among viewers induced into watching 2.5 additional minutes per week by variation in position."<sup>[130]</sup> Another 2014 paper found Fox News viewing increased Republican vote shares among voters who identified as Republican or independent.<sup>[133]</sup>

Fox News publicly denies it is biased, with Murdoch and Ailes saying have included Murdoch's statement that Fox has "given room to both sides, whereas only one side had it before".<sup>[134]</sup> Fox News host Chris Wallace has said, "I think we are the counter-weight [to NBC News] ... they have a liberal agenda, and we tell the

other side of the story."<sup>[135]</sup> In 2004, Robert Greenwald's documentary film *Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism* argued Fox News had a conservative bias and featured clips from Fox News and internal memos from editorial vice president John Moody directing Fox News staff on how to report certain subjects.<sup>[136][137]</sup>

A leaked memo from Fox News vice president Bill Sammon to news staff at the height of the health care reform in the United States debate has been cited as an example of the pro-Republican Party bias of Fox News. His memo asked the staff to "use the term 'government-run health insurance,' or, when brevity is a concern, 'government option,' whenever possible". The memo was sent shortly after Republican pollster Frank Luntz advised Sean Hannity on his Fox show, "If you call it a public option, the American people are split. If you call it the government option, the public is overwhelmingly against it".<sup>[138]</sup>

Surveys suggest Fox News is widely perceived to be ideological. A 2009 Pew survey found Fox News is viewed as the most ideological channel in America, with 47 percent of those surveyed said Fox News is "mostly conservative", 14 percent said "mostly liberal" and 24 percent said "neither". In comparison, MSNBC had 36 percent identify it as "mostly liberal", 11 percent as "mostly conservative" and 27 percent as "neither". CNN had 37 percent describe it as "mostly liberal", 11 percent as "mostly conservative" and 33 percent as "neither".<sup>[139]</sup> A 2004 Pew Research Center survey found FNC was cited (unprompted) by 69 percent of national journalists as a conservative news organization.<sup>[140]</sup> A Rasmussen poll found 31 percent of Americans felt Fox News had a conservative bias, and 15 percent that it had a liberal bias. It found 36 percent believed Fox News delivers news with neither a conservative or liberal bias, compared with 37 percent who said NPR delivers news with no conservative or liberal bias and 32 percent who said the same of CNN.<sup>[141]</sup>

David Carr, media critic for The New York Times, praised the 2012 presidential election results coverage on Fox News for the network's response to Republican adviser and Fox News contributor Karl Rove challenging its call that Barack Obama would win Ohio and the election. Fox's prediction was correct. Carr wrote:

Over many months, Fox lulled its conservative base with agitprop: that President Obama was a clear failure, that a majority of Americans saw [Mitt] Romney as a good alternative in hard times, and that polls showing otherwise were politically motivated and not to be believed. But on Tuesday night, the people in charge of Fox News were confronted with a stark choice after it became clear that Mr. Romney had fallen short: was Fox, first and foremost, a place for advocacy or a place for news? In this moment, at least, Fox chose news.<sup>[142]</sup>

A May 2017 study conducted by Harvard University's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy examined coverage of Trump's first 100 days in office by several major mainstream media outlets including Fox.<sup>[143]</sup> It found Trump received 80% negative coverage from the overall media, and received the least negative coverage on Fox – 52% negative and 48% positive.<sup>[144]</sup>

On March 14, 2017, Andrew Napolitano, a Fox News commentator, claimed on Fox & Friends that British intelligence agency GCHQ had wiretapped Trump on behalf of Barack Obama during the 2016 United States presidential election.<sup>[145][146]</sup> On March 16, 2017, White House spokesman Sean Spicer repeated the claim.<sup>[145]</sup> When Trump was questioned about the claim at a news conference, he said "All we did was quote a certain very talented legal mind who was the one responsible for saying that on television. I didn't make an opinion on it."<sup>[147]</sup> On March 17, 2017, Shepard Smith, a Fox News anchor, admitted the network had no evidence that Trump was under surveillance. British officials said the White House was backing off the claim.<sup>[147]</sup> Napolitano was later suspended by Fox News for making the claim.<sup>[148]</sup>

In June 2018, Fox News executives instructed producers to head off inappropriate remarks made on the shows aired by the network by hosts and commentators.<sup>[149]</sup> The instructions came after a number of Fox News hosts and guests made incendiary comments about the Trump administration's policy of separating migrant

children from their parents.<sup>[149]</sup> Fox News host Laura Ingraham had likened the child detention centers that the children were in to "summer camps". Guest Corey Lewandowski mocked the story of a 10-year-old child with Down syndrome being separated from her mother; the Fox News host did not address Lewandowski's statement.<sup>[149]</sup> Guest Ann Coulter falsely claimed that the separated children were "child actors"; the Fox News host did not challenge her claim.<sup>[149]</sup> In a segment on Trump's alleged use of racial dog whistles, one Fox News contributor told an African-American whom he was debating, "You're out of your cotton-picking mind."<sup>[149]</sup>

According to the 2016 book *Asymmetric Politics* by political scientists Matt Grossmann and David A. Hopkins, "Fox News tends to raise the profile of scandals and controversies involving Democrats that receive scant attention in other media, such as the relationship between Barack Obama and William Ayers ... Hillary Clinton's role in the fatal 2012 attacks on the American consulate in Benghazi, Libya; the gun-running scandal known as 'Fast and Furious'; the business practices of federal loan guarantee recipient Solyndra; the past activism of Obama White House operative Van Jones; the 2004 attacks on John Kerry by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth; the controversial sermons of Obama's Chicago pastor Jeremiah Wright; the filming of undercover videos of supposed wrongdoing by the liberal activist group ACORN; and the 'war on Christmas' supposedly waged every December by secular, multicultural liberals."<sup>[116]</sup>

In October 2018, Fox News ran laudatory coverage of a meeting between Trump-supporting rapper Kanye West and President Trump in the Oval Office. Fox News had previously run negative coverage of rappers and their involvement with Democratic politicians and causes, such as when Fox News ran headlines describing conscious hip-hop artist Common as "vile" and a "cop-killer rapper", and when Fox News ran negative coverage of Kanye West before he became a Trump supporter.<sup>[150]</sup>

On November 4, 2018, Trump's website, DonaldJTrump.com, announced in a press release that Fox News host Sean Hannity would make a "special guest appearance" with Trump at a midterm campaign rally the following night in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.<sup>[151]</sup> The following morning, Hannity tweeted "To be clear, I will not be on stage campaigning with the President."<sup>[152]</sup> Hannity appeared at the president's lectern on stage at the rally, immediately mocking the "fake news" at the back of the auditorium, Fox News reporters among them. Several Fox News employees expressed outrage at Hannity's actions, with one stating, "a new line was crossed."<sup>[153]</sup> Hannity later asserted that his action was not pre-planned, and Fox News stated it "does not condone any talent participating in campaign events".<sup>[154]</sup> Fox News host Jeanine Pirro also appeared on stage with Trump at the rally. The Trump press release was later removed from Trump's website.<sup>[151][155]</sup>

Fox News released a poll of registered voters, jointly conducted by two polling organizations, on June 16, 2019. The poll found some unfavorable results for Trump, including a record high 50% thought the Trump campaign had coordinated with the Russian government, and 50% thought he should be impeached – 43% saying he should also be removed from office – while 48% said they did not favor impeachment.<sup>[156][157]</sup> The next morning on *Fox & Friends First*, host Heather Childers twice misrepresented the poll results, stating "a new Fox News poll shows most voters don't want impeachment" and "at least half of U.S. voters do not think President Trump should be impeached," while the on-screen display of the actual poll question was also incorrect. Later that morning on *America's Newsroom*, the on-screen display showed the correct poll question and results, but highlighted the 48% of respondents who opposed impeachment rather than the 50% who supported it (the latter being broken-out into two figures). As host Bill Hemmer drew guest Byron York's attention to the 48% opposed figure, they did not discuss the 50% support figure, while the on-screen chyron read, "Fox News Poll: 43% Support Trump's Impeachment and Removal, 48% Oppose."<sup>[158]</sup> Later that day, Trump tweeted "@FoxNews Polls are always bad for me...Something weird going on at Fox."<sup>[159]</sup>

In April 2017, it became known that former Obama administration national security advisor Susan Rice sought the unmasking of Trump associates who were unidentified in intelligence reports, notably Trump's incoming national security advisor Michael Flynn, during the presidential transition.<sup>[160]</sup> In May 2020, acting Director of National Intelligence Richard Grenell, a Trump loyalist, declassified a list of Obama administration officials

who had also requested unmasking of Trump associates, which was subsequently publicly released by Republican senators.<sup>[161]</sup> That month, attorney general Bill Barr appointed federal prosecutor John Bash to examine the unmaskings.<sup>[162]</sup> Fox News primetime hosts declared the unmaskings a "domestic spying operation" for which the Obama administration was "exposed" in the "biggest abuse of power" in American history.<sup>[163]</sup> The Bash inquiry closed months later with no findings of substantive wrongdoing.<sup>[164]</sup>

However, certain Fox personalities have not had as much of a favorable reception from Trump: news anchors Shepard Smith (who retired from Fox in 2019) and Chris Wallace have been criticised by Trump for allegedly being adversarial,<sup>[165][166]</sup> alongside Fox analyst Andrew Napolitano, who said Trump's actions in the Trump–Ukraine scandal were "both criminal and impeachable behavior".<sup>[167]</sup> Trump was also critical of the network hiring former DNC chair Donna Brazile, in 2019.<sup>[168]</sup> The relationship between Trump and Fox News – and other Rupert Murdoch-controlled outlets – soured following the 2020 U.S. presidential election as Trump refused to concede that Joe Biden had been elected President-elect.<sup>[169][170]</sup> This negative tonal shift led to increased viewership of Newsmax and One America News among Trump and his supporters due to their increased antipathy towards Fox;<sup>[171][172][173][174]</sup> and as a result, Fox released promotional videos of their opinion hosts disputing the election results, promoting a Trump-affiliated conspiracy theory about voter fraud.<sup>[175]</sup> By one measure, Newsmax saw a 497% spike in viewership, while Fox News saw a 38% decline.<sup>[176]</sup>

Writing for the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in February 2021, senior media writer Tom Jones argued that the primary distinction between Fox News and MSNBC is not right bias vs. left bias, but rather that much of the content on Fox News, especially during its primetime programs, is not based in truth.<sup>[177]</sup> The Poynter Institute operates the PolitiFact factchecking site.<sup>[178]</sup>

## Coverage of Russia investigation

On October 30, 2017, when special counsel Robert Mueller indicted Paul Manafort and Rick Gates, and revealed George Papadopoulos had plead guilty (all of whom were involved in the Trump 2016 campaign), this was the focus of most media's coverage, except Fox News'.<sup>[179]</sup> Hosts and guests on Fox News called for Mueller to be fired.<sup>[179][180]</sup> Sean Hannity and Tucker Carlson focused their shows on unsubstantiated allegations that Clinton sold uranium to Russia in exchange for donations to the Clinton Foundation and on the Clinton campaign's role in funding the Donald Trump–Russia dossier.<sup>[179][181]</sup> Hannity asserted: "The very thing they are accusing President Trump of doing, they did it themselves."<sup>[179]</sup> During the segment, Hannity mistakenly referred to Clinton as President Clinton.<sup>[179][182]</sup> Fox News dedicated extensive coverage to the uranium story, which Democrats said was an attempt to distract from Mueller's intensifying investigation.<sup>[183][184]</sup> CNN described the coverage as "a tour de force in deflection and dismissal".<sup>[181]</sup> On October 31, CNN reported Fox News employees were dissatisfied with their outlet's coverage of the Russia investigation, with employees calling it an "embarrassment", "laughable" and saying it "does the viewer a huge disservice and further divides the country" and that it is "another blow to journalists at Fox who come in every day wanting to cover the news in a fair and objective way".<sup>[185][186]</sup>

When the investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election intensified in October 2017, the focus of Fox News coverage turned "what they see as the scandal and wrongdoing of President Trump's political opponents. In reports like these, Bill and Hillary Clinton are prominent and recurring characters because they are considered the real conspirators working with the Russians to undermine American democracy."<sup>[187]</sup> Paul Waldman of the Washington Post described the coverage as "No puppet. You're the puppet", saying it was a "careful, coordinated, and comprehensive strategy" to distract from Mueller's investigation.<sup>[188]</sup> German Lopes of Vox said Fox News' coverage has reached "levels of self-parody" as it dedicated coverage to low-key stories, such as a controversial Newsweek op-ed and hamburger emojis, while other networks had wall-to-wall coverage of Mueller's indictments.<sup>[189]</sup>

A *FiveThirtyEight* analysis of Russia-related media coverage in cable news found most mentions of Russia on Fox News were spoken in close proximity to "uranium" and "dossier".<sup>[190]</sup> On November 1, 2017, Vox analyzed the transcripts of Fox News, CNN and MSNBC, and found Fox News "was unable to talk about the Mueller investigation without bringing up Hillary Clinton", "talked significantly less about George Papadopoulos — the Trump campaign adviser whose plea deal with Mueller provides the most explicit evidence thus far that the campaign knew of the Russian government's efforts to help Trump — than its competitors", and "repeatedly called Mueller's credibility into question".<sup>[191]</sup>

In December 2017, Fox News escalated its attacks on the Mueller investigation, with hosts and guest commentators suggesting the investigation amounted to a coup.<sup>[192][193][194][195][196]</sup> Guest co-host Kevin Jackson referred to a right-wing conspiracy theory claiming Strzok's messages are evidence of a plot by FBI agents to assassinate Trump, a claim which the other Fox co-hosts quickly said is not supported by any credible evidence.<sup>[197][198]</sup> Fox News host Jeanine Pirro called the Mueller investigation team a "criminal cabal" and said the team ought to be arrested.<sup>[192]</sup> Other Fox News figures referred to the investigation as "corrupt", "crooked" and "illegitimate", and likened the FBI to the KGB, the Soviet-era spy organization that routinely tortured and summarily executed people.<sup>[193]</sup> Political scientists and scholars of coups described the Fox News rhetoric as scary and dangerous.<sup>[193]</sup> Experts on coups rejected that the Mueller investigation amounted to a coup; rather, the Fox News rhetoric was dangerous to democracy and mirrored the kind of rhetoric that occurs before purges.<sup>[193]</sup> A number of observers argued the Fox News rhetoric was intended to discredit the Mueller investigation and sway President Donald Trump to fire Mueller.<sup>[199]</sup>

In August 2018, Fox News was criticized for giving more prominent coverage of a murder committed by an undocumented immigrant than the convictions of Donald Trump's former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, and his long-term personal attorney, Michael Cohen.<sup>[200]</sup> At the same time, most other national mainstream media gave wall-to-wall coverage of the convictions.<sup>[201]</sup> Fox News hosts Dana Perrino and Jason Chaffetz argued that voters care far more about the murder than the convictions of the President's former top aides, and hosts Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity downplayed the convictions.<sup>[202][200][203]</sup>

## **False claims about other media**

### **CNN's Jake Tapper**

In November 2017, following the 2017 New York City truck attack wherein a terrorist shouted "Allahu Akbar", Fox News distorted a statement by Jake Tapper to make it appear as if he had said "Allahu Akbar" can be used under the most "beautiful circumstances".<sup>[204]</sup> Fox News omitted that Tapper had said the use of "Allahu Akbar" in the terrorist attack was not one of these beautiful circumstances.<sup>[204]</sup> A headline on FoxNews.com was preceded by a tag reading "OUTRAGEOUS".<sup>[204]</sup> The Fox News Twitter account distorted the statement even more, saying "Jake Tapper Says 'Allahu Akbar' Is 'Beautiful' Right After NYC Terror Attack" in a tweet that was later deleted.<sup>[204]</sup> Tapper chastised Fox News for choosing to "deliberately lie" and said "there was a time when one could tell the difference between Fox and the nutjobs at *Infowars*. It's getting tougher and tougher. Lies are lies."<sup>[204]</sup> Tapper had in 2009, while a White House correspondent for ABC News, come to the defense of Fox News when Obama criticized the network for not being a legitimate news organization.<sup>[205]</sup>

Fox News guest host Jason Chaffetz apologized to Tapper for misrepresenting his statement.<sup>[206]</sup> After Fox News had deleted the tweet, Sean Hannity repeated the misrepresentation and called Tapper "liberal fake news CNN's fake Jake Tapper" and mocked his ratings.<sup>[205][206]</sup>

### **The New York Times**



In July 2017, a report by *Fox & Friends* falsely said *The New York Times* had disclosed intelligence in one of its stories and that this intelligence disclosure helped Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State, to evade capture.<sup>[207]</sup> The report cited an inaccurate assertion by Gen. Tony Thomas, the head of the United States Special Operations Command, that a major newspaper had disclosed the intelligence.<sup>[207][208]</sup> Fox News said it was *The New York Times*, repeatedly running the chyron "NYT Foils U.S. Attempt To Take Out Al-Baghdadi".<sup>[208]</sup> Pete Hegseth, one of the show's hosts, criticized the "failing *New York Times*".<sup>[208]</sup> President Donald Trump tweeted about the *Fox & Friends* report shortly after it first aired, saying "The Failing *New York Times* foiled U.S. attempt to kill the single most wanted terrorist, Al-Baghdadi. Their sick agenda over National Security."<sup>[207]</sup> Fox News later updated the story, but without apologizing to the *New York Times* or responding directly to the inaccuracies.<sup>[208]</sup>

In a *Washington Post* column, Erik Wemple said Chris Wallace had covered *The New York Times* story himself on *Fox News Sunday*. "Here's another case of the differing standards between Fox News's opinion operation", which has given "a state-run vibe on all matters related to Trump", compared to Fox News's news operation, which has provided "mostly sane coverage".<sup>[209]</sup>

## Climate change

Fox News has often been described as a major platform for climate change denial.<sup>[210][211][212][213]</sup> According to the fact-checking website Climate Feedback, Fox News is part of "a network of unreliable outlets for climate news."<sup>[211]</sup> A 2011 study by Lauren Feldman and Anthony Leiserowitz found Fox News "takes a more dismissive tone toward climate change than CNN and MSNBC".<sup>[214]</sup> A 2008 study found Fox News emphasized the scientific uncertainty of climate change more than CNN, was less likely to say climate change was real, and more likely to interview climate change skeptics.<sup>[214]</sup> Leaked emails showed that in 2009 Bill Sammon, the Fox News Washington managing editor, instructed Fox News journalists to dispute the scientific consensus on climate change: "refrain from asserting that the planet has warmed (or cooled) in any given period without IMMEDIATELY pointing out that such theories are based upon data that critics have called into question."<sup>[215]</sup>

According to climate scientist Michael E. Mann, Fox News "has constructed an alternative universe where the laws of physics no longer apply, where the greenhouse effect is a myth, and where climate change is a hoax, the product of a massive conspiracy among scientists, who somehow have gotten the polar bears, glaciers, sea levels, superstorms, and megadroughts to play along."<sup>[212]</sup> According to James Lawrence Powell's 2011 study of the climate science denial movement, Fox News provides "the deniers with a platform to say whatever they like without fear of contradiction."<sup>[213]</sup> Fox News employs Steve Milloy, a prominent climate change denier with close financial and organizational ties to oil companies, as a contributor. In his columns about climate change for *FoxNews.com*, Fox News has failed to disclose his substantial funding from oil companies.<sup>[216]</sup>

In 2011, the hosts of *Fox & Friends* described climate change as "unproven science", a "disputed fact", and criticized the Department of Education for working together with the children's network Nickelodeon to teach children about climate change.<sup>[217]</sup> In 2001, Sean Hannity described the scientific consensus on climate change as "phony science from the left".<sup>[218]</sup> In 2004, he falsely alleged, "scientists still can't agree on whether the global warming is scientific fact or fiction".<sup>[218]</sup> In 2010, Hannity said the so-called "Climategate" – the leaking of e-mails by climate scientist that climate change skeptics claimed demonstrated scientific misconduct but which all subsequent enquiries have found no evidence of misconduct or wrongdoing – a "scandal" that "exposed global warming as a myth cooked up by alarmists".<sup>[219]</sup> Hannity frequently invites contrarian fringe scientists and critics of climate change to his shows.<sup>[220]</sup> In 2019, a widely shared Fox News news report falsely claimed that new climate science research showed that the Earth might be heading to a new Ice Age; the author of the study that Fox News cited said that Fox News "utterly misrepresents our research" and the study did not in any way suggest that Earth was heading to an Ice Age. Fox News later corrected the story.<sup>[221]</sup>

Shepard Smith has drawn attention for being one of few voices on Fox News to forcefully state that climate change is real, that human activities are a primary contributor to it and that there is a scientific consensus on the issue.<sup>[222][223]</sup> His acceptance of the scientific consensus on climate change has drawn criticism from Fox News viewers and conservatives.<sup>[224][225]</sup>

## **Murder of Seth Rich conspiracy**

On May 16, 2017, a day when other news organizations were extensively covering Donald Trump's revelation of classified information to Russia,<sup>[226]</sup> Fox News ran a lead story about a private investigator's uncorroborated claims about the murder of Seth Rich, a DNC staffer.<sup>[227][228][229]</sup> The private investigator said he had uncovered evidence that Rich was in contact with Wikileaks and law enforcement were covering it up.<sup>[227]</sup> The killing of Rich has given rise to conspiracy theories in rightwing circles that Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party had Seth Rich killed allegedly because he was the source of the DNC leaks.<sup>[227]</sup> U.S. intelligence agencies determined Russia was the source of the leaks.<sup>[230]</sup> In reporting the investigator's claims, the Fox News report reignited right-wing conspiracy theories about the killing.<sup>[227][229]</sup>

The Fox News story fell apart within hours.<sup>[231]</sup> Other news organizations quickly revealed the investigator was a Donald Trump supporter and had according to NBC News "developed a reputation for making outlandish claims, such as one appearance on Fox News in 2007 in which he warned that underground networks of pink pistol-toting lesbian gangs were raping young women."<sup>[227][232]</sup> The family of Seth Rich, the Washington D.C. police department, the Washington D.C. mayor's office, the FBI, and law enforcement sources familiar with the case rebuked the investigator's claims.<sup>[227][228]</sup> Rich's relatives said: "We are a family who is committed to facts, not fake evidence that surfaces every few months to fill the void and distract law enforcement and the general public from finding Seth's murderers."<sup>[227]</sup> The spokesperson for the family criticized Fox News for its reporting, alleging the outlet was motivated by a desire to deflect attention from the Trump-Russia story: "I think there's a very special place in hell for people that would use the memory of a murder victim in order to pursue a political agenda."<sup>[226]</sup> The family has called for retractions and apologies from Fox News for the inaccurate reporting.<sup>[232][233]</sup> Over the course of the day, Fox News altered the contents of the story and the headline, but did not issue corrections.<sup>[232][234]</sup> When CNN contacted the private investigator later that day, the investigator said he had no evidence that Rich had contacted Wikileaks.<sup>[229]</sup> The investigator claimed he only learned about the possible existence of the evidence from a Fox News reporter.<sup>[229]</sup> Fox News did not respond to inquiries by CNN, and the Washington Post.<sup>[228][229]</sup> Fox News later on May 23, seven days after the story was published, retracted its original report, saying the original report did not meet its standards.<sup>[231][235]</sup>

Nicole Hemmer, then assistant professor at the Miller Center of Public Affairs, wrote that the promotion of the conspiracy theory demonstrated how Fox News was "remaking itself in the image of fringe media in the age of Trump, blurring the lines between real and fake news."<sup>[236]</sup> Max Boot of the Council on Foreign Relations said while intent behind Fox News, as a counterweight to the liberal media was laudable, the culmination of those efforts have been to create an alternative news source that promotes hoaxes and myths, of which the promotion of the Seth Rich conspiracy is an example.<sup>[237]</sup> Fox News was also criticized by conservative outlets, such as the Weekly Standard,<sup>[238]</sup> National Review,<sup>[239][240]</sup> and conservative columnists, such as Jennifer Rubin,<sup>[241]</sup> Michael Gerson,<sup>[242]</sup> and John Podhoretz.<sup>[243]</sup>

Rich's parents, Joel and Mary Rich, sued Fox News for the emotional distress it had caused them by its false reporting. In 2020, Fox News settled with Rich family, making a payment that was not officially disclosed but which was reported to be in the seven figures.<sup>[244]</sup> Although the settlement had been agreed to earlier in the year, Fox News arranged to delay the public announcement until after the 2020 presidential election.<sup>[244][245]</sup>

## **Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville**

Fox News hosts and contributors defended Trump's remarks that "many sides" were to blame for violence at a gathering of hundreds of white nationalists in Charlottesville, Virginia.<sup>[246][247]</sup> Some criticized Trump.<sup>[247][248]</sup> In a press conference on August 15, Trump used the term "alt-left" to describe counterprotesters at the white supremacist rally, a term which had been used in Fox News' coverage of the white supremacist rally.<sup>[246]</sup> Several of Trump's comments at the press conference mirrored those appearing earlier on Fox News.<sup>[249]</sup>

According to Dylan Byers of CNN, Fox News' coverage on the day of the press conference "was heavy with "whataboutism". The average Fox viewer was likely left with the impression that the media's criticism of Trump and leftist protestors' toppling of some Confederate statues were far greater threats to America than white supremacy or the president's apparent defense of bigotry."<sup>[248]</sup> Byers wrote, "it showed that if Fox News has a line when it comes to Trump's presidency, it was not crossed on Tuesday."<sup>[248]</sup>

## Glenn Beck's comments about George Soros

During Glenn Beck's tenure at Fox News, he became one of the most high-profile proponents of conspiracy theories about George Soros, a Jewish Hungarian-American businessman and philanthropist known for his donations to American liberal political causes.<sup>[250]</sup> Beck regularly described Soros as a "puppet-master" and used common anti-Semitic tropes to describe Soros and his activities.<sup>[250]</sup> In a 2010 three-part series, Beck depicted George Soros as a cartoonish villain trying to "form a shadow government, using humanitarian aid as a cover," and that Soros wanted a one-world government.<sup>[251][252]</sup> Beck promoted the false and anti-Semitic conspiracy theory that Soros was a Nazi collaborator as a 14-year-old in Nazi-occupied Hungary.<sup>[253]</sup> Beck also characterized Soros's mother as a "wildly anti-Semitic" Nazi collaborator.<sup>[251]</sup> According to *The Washington Post*: "Beck's series was largely considered obscene and delusional, if not outright anti-Semitic", but Beck's conspiracy theory became common on the rightwing of American politics.<sup>[251]</sup> Amid criticism of Beck's false smears, Fox News defended Beck, stating "information regarding Mr. Soros's experiences growing up were taken directly from his writings and from interviews given by him to the media, and no negative opinion was offered as to his actions as a child."<sup>[252][254]</sup> Roger Ailes, then-head of Fox News, dismissed criticism levied at Beck by hundreds of rabbis, saying that they were "left-wing rabbis who basically don't think that anybody can ever use the word, Holocaust, on the air."<sup>[255]</sup>

## COVID-19 pandemic

During the first few weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, Fox News was considerably more likely than other mainstream news outlets to promote misinformation about coronavirus.<sup>[256]</sup> The network promoted the narrative that the emergency response to the pandemic was politically motivated or otherwise unwarranted,<sup>[257]</sup> with Sean Hannity explicitly calling it a "hoax" (he later denied doing so) and other hosts downplaying it.<sup>[258]</sup> This coverage was consistent with the messaging of Trump at the time.<sup>[259]</sup> Only in mid March did the network change the tone of its coverage,<sup>[260]</sup> after President Trump declared a national emergency.<sup>[259]</sup>

Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham, two of Fox News's commentators, promoted use of the drug hydroxychloroquine for the treatment of COVID-19, an off-label usage which at the time was supported only by anecdotal evidence, after it was touted by Trump as a possible cure.<sup>[261]</sup> As a result of this continued skewed reporting, *Washington Post* media critic Erik Wemple has called Hannity to be fired.<sup>[262]</sup> Fox News promoted a conspiracy theory that coronavirus death toll numbers were inflated with people who would have died anyway from preexisting conditions. This was refuted by White House coronavirus task force members Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, with Fauci describing conspiracy theories as "nothing but distractions" during public health crises.<sup>[263]</sup>

In "Coronavirus: How Fox News and other right-wing media endanger our health", a *USA Today* article, the author cited as an example, a Fox News interview with Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton who raised the "escaped virus conspiracy theory" by saying the coronavirus may have started in a "biosafety level 4 super laboratory" in Wuhan, China. The article said that Cotton had mentioned the "debunked theory" on "at least two other times on Fox."<sup>[264][265]</sup> Several weeks later *Washington Post* columnist Josh Rogin detailed a 2018 trip made to the Wuhan Institute of Virology by scientists from the U.S. Embassy. Rogin cited cables sent back to Washington, warning "about safety and management weaknesses at the WIV lab and that the lab's work on bat coronaviruses and their potential human transmission represented a risk of a new SARS-like pandemic."<sup>[266]</sup> Rogin's article quoted Xiao Qiang, a research scientist at the University of California, Berkeley, "I don't think it's a conspiracy theory. I think it's a legitimate question that needs to be investigated and answered."<sup>[266]</sup> Days later, multiple media outlets confirmed that U.S. intelligence officials were investigating the possibility that the virus started in the same lab Cotton cited during the Fox News interview.<sup>[267][268][269][270]</sup>

At the same time that Fox News commentators downplayed the threat of the virus in public, Fox's management and the Murdoch family took a broad range of internal measures to protect themselves and their employees against it.<sup>[271][272][273][274][275]</sup> According to a study published at *BMJ Global Health*, "people who trust Fox News more than CNN engaged in fewer preventive behaviours and more risky behaviours related to COVID-19."<sup>[276]</sup>

## 2020 election fraud allegations

After Trump's defeat in the 2020 presidential election, Fox News host Jeanine Pirro promoted baseless allegations on her program that voting machine company Smartmatic and its competitor Dominion Voting Systems had conspired to rig the election against Trump. Hosts Lou Dobbs and Maria Bartiromo also promoted the allegations on their programs on sister network Fox Business.

In December 2020, Smartmatic sent a letter<sup>[277]</sup> to Fox News demanding retractions and threatening legal action, specifying that retractions "must be published on multiple occasions" so as to "match the attention and audience targeted with the original defamatory publications." Days later, each of the three programs aired the same three-minute video segment consisting of an interview with an election technology expert who refuted the allegations promoted by the hosts, responding to questions from an unseen and unidentified man. None of the three hosts personally issued retractions. Smartmatic filed a \$2.7 billion defamation suit against the network, the three hosts, Powell and Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani in February 2021.<sup>[278]</sup> In an April 2021 court brief seeking dismissal of the suit, Fox attorney Paul Clement argued that the network was simply "reporting allegations made by a sitting President and his lawyers."<sup>[279]</sup>

In December 2020, Dominion Voting Systems sent a similar letter demanding retractions to Trump attorney Sidney Powell, who had promoted the allegations on Fox programs.<sup>[280]</sup> On March 26, 2021, Dominion filed a \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox News, alleging that Fox and some of its pundits spread conspiracy theories about Dominion, and allowed guests to make false statements about the company.<sup>[281]</sup> On May 18, 2021, Fox News filed a motion to dismiss the Dominion Voting Systems lawsuit, asserting a First Amendment right "to inform the public about newsworthy allegations of paramount public concern."<sup>[282]</sup>

## Compulsory reductions in meat consumption

In April 2021, at least five Fox News and Fox Business personalities amplified a story published by the *Daily Mail*, a British tabloid, that incorrectly linked a university study to President Joe Biden's climate change agenda, to falsely assert that Americans would be compelled to dramatically reduce their meat consumption to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions caused by flatulence. Fox News aired a graphic detailing the supposed compulsory reductions, falsely indicating the information came from the Agriculture Department, which

numerous Republican politicians and commentators tweeted. Fox News anchor John Roberts reported, "say goodbye to your burgers if you want to sign up to the Biden climate agenda." Days later, Roberts acknowledged on air that the story was false.<sup>[283][284][285][286]</sup>

## Report that Biden administration was building Trump wall

According to analysis by Media Matters, on May 12, 2021, Fox News reported on its website, "Border lie — Biden resumes border wall construction after promising to halt it." Correspondent Bill Melugin then appeared on *Special Report with Bret Baier* to report "the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is actually going to be restarting border wall construction down in the Rio Grande Valley" after "a lot of blowback and pressure from local residents and local politicians." After the Corps of Engineers tweeted a clarification, Melugin deleted a tweet about the story and tweeted an "update" clarifying that a levee wall was being constructed to mitigate damage to flood control systems caused by uncompleted wall construction, and the website story headline was changed to "Biden administration to resume border wall levee construction as crisis worsens." Later on *Fox News Primetime*, host Brian Kilmeade briefly noted the levee but commented to former Trump advisor Stephen Miller, "They're going to restart building the wall again, Stephen." Fox News host Sean Hannity later broadcast the original Melugin story without any mention of the levee.<sup>[287][288]</sup>

## Controversies

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### Sexual harassment

The network has been accused of permitting sexual harassment and racial discrimination by on-air hosts, executives, and employees, paying out millions of dollars in legal settlements.<sup>[289]</sup> Prominent Fox News figures such as Roger Ailes, Bill O'Reilly and Eric Bolling were fired after many women accused them of sexual harassment. At least four lawsuits alleged Fox News co-president Bill Shine ignored, enabled or concealed Roger Ailes' alleged sexual harassment.<sup>[290][291][292]</sup> Fox News CEO Rupert Murdoch has dismissed the high-profile sexual misconduct allegations as "largely political" and speculated they were made "because we are conservative".<sup>[293]</sup>

Bill O'Reilly and Fox News settled six agreements, totaling \$45 million, with women who accused O'Reilly of sexual harassment.<sup>[294][295]</sup> In January 2017, shortly after Bill O'Reilly settled a sexual harassment lawsuit for \$32 million ("an extraordinarily large amount for such cases"), Fox News renewed Bill O'Reilly's contract.<sup>[294]</sup> Fox News's parent company, 21st Century Fox, said it was aware of the lawsuit.<sup>[294]</sup> The contract between O'Reilly and Fox News read he could not be fired from the network unless sexual harassment allegations were proven in court.<sup>[296]</sup>

Fox News's extensive coverage of the Harvey Weinstein scandal in October 2017 was seen by some as hypocritical.<sup>[297][298]</sup> Fox News dedicated at least 12 hours of coverage to the Weinstein scandal, yet only dedicated 20 minutes to Bill O'Reilly, who just like Weinstein had been accused of sexual harassment by a multitude of women.<sup>[297][298]</sup> A few weeks later, when a number of women under the age of 18, including a 14-year-old, accused Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore of making sexual advances, Hannity dismissed the sexual misconduct allegations and dedicated coverage on his TV show to casting doubt on the accusers.<sup>[299][300]</sup> Other prime-time Fox News hosts Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham queried *The Washington Post's* reporting or opted to bring up sexual misconduct allegations regarding show business figures such as Harvey Weinstein and Louis C.K.<sup>[123]</sup> Fox News figures Jeanine Pirro and Gregg Jarrett questioned both the validity of *The Washington Post's* reporting and that of the women.<sup>[301]</sup> In December

2017, a few days before the Alabama Senate election, Fox News, along with the conspiracy websites Breitbart and Gateway Pundit, ran an inaccurate headline which claimed one of Roy Moore's accusers admitted to forging an inscription by Roy Moore in her yearbook; Fox News later added a correction to the story.<sup>[302]</sup>

A number of Fox News hosts have welcomed Bill O'Reilly to their shows and paid tributes to Roger Ailes after his death. In May 2017, Hannity called Ailes "a second father" and said to Ailes's "enemies" that he was "preparing to kick your a\*\* in the next life".<sup>[303]</sup> Ailes had the year before been fired from Fox News after women alleged he sexually harassed them.<sup>[303]</sup> In September 2017, several months after Bill O'Reilly was fired from Fox News in the wake of women alleging he sexually harassed them, Hannity hosted O'Reilly on his show.<sup>[304][305][306]</sup> Some Fox News employees criticized the decision.<sup>[305]</sup> According to CNN, during the interview, Hannity found kinship with O'Reilly as he appeared "to feel that he and O'Reilly have both become victims of liberals looking to silence them."<sup>[305]</sup>

## Obama administration conflict

In September 2009, the Obama administration engaged in a verbal conflict with Fox News Channel. On September 20, President Barack Obama appeared on all major news programs except Fox News, a snub partially in response to remarks about him by commentators Glenn Beck and Sean Hannity and Fox coverage of Obama's health-care proposal.<sup>[307][308]</sup>

In late September 2009, Obama's senior advisor David Axelrod and Roger Ailes met in secret to attempt to smooth out tensions between the two camps. Two weeks later, White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel referred to FNC as "not a news network" and communications director Anita Dunn said "Fox News often operates as either the research arm or the communications arm of the Republican Party".<sup>[309][310]</sup> Obama observed, "If media is operating basically as a talk radio format, then that's one thing, and if it's operating as a news outlet, then that's another".<sup>[311]</sup> Emanuel said it was important "to not have the CNNs and the others in the world basically be led in following Fox".<sup>[312]</sup>

Within days, it was reported that Fox had been excluded from an interview with administration official Ken Feinberg, with bureau chiefs from the White House press pool (ABC, CBS, NBC, and CNN) coming to Fox's defense.<sup>[310]</sup> A bureau chief said, "If any member had been excluded it would have been the same thing, it has nothing to do with Fox or the White House or the substance of the issues".<sup>[313]</sup> Shortly after the story broke, the White House admitted to a low-level mistake, saying Fox had not made a specific request to interview Feinberg. Fox White House correspondent Major Garrett said he had not made a specific request, but had a "standing request from me as senior White House correspondent on Fox to interview any newsmaker at the Treasury at any given time news is being made".<sup>[314]</sup>

On November 8, 2009, the *Los Angeles Times* reported an unnamed Democratic consultant was warned by the White House not to appear on Fox News again. According to the article, Dunn claimed in an e-mail to have checked with colleagues who "deal with TV issues" who denied telling anyone to avoid Fox. Patrick Caddell, a Fox News contributor and former pollster for President Jimmy Carter, said he had spoken with other Democratic consultants who had received similar warnings from the White House.<sup>[315]</sup>

On October 2, 2013, Fox News host Anna Kooiman cited on the air a fake story from the *National Report* parody site, which claimed Obama had offered to keep the International Museum of Muslim Cultures open with cash from his own pocket.<sup>[316][317][318]</sup>

## Journalistic ethical standards

Fox News attracted controversy in April 2018 when it was revealed primetime host Sean Hannity had defended Trump's then personal attorney Michael Cohen on air without disclosing Cohen was Hannity's lawyer.<sup>[319]</sup> On April 9, 2018, federal agents from the U.S. Attorney's office served a search warrant on Cohen's office and residence.<sup>[320]</sup> On the air, Hannity defended Cohen and criticized the federal action, calling it "highly questionable" and "an unprecedented abuse of power".<sup>[321]</sup> On April 16, 2018, in a court hearing, Cohen's lawyers told the judge that Cohen had ten clients in 2017–2018 but did "traditional legal tasks" for only three: Trump, Elliott Broidy, and a "prominent person" who did not wish to be named for fear of being "embarrassed".<sup>[322][323][324]</sup> The federal judge ordered the revelation of the third client, whom Cohen's lawyers named as Hannity.<sup>[322]</sup>

Hannity was not sanctioned by Fox News for this breach of journalistic ethics, with Fox News releasing a statement that the channel was unaware of Hannity's relationship to Cohen and that it had "spoken to Sean and he continues to have our full support."<sup>[319][325][326][327]</sup> Media ethics experts said that Hannity's disclosure failure was a major breach of journalistic ethics and that the network should have suspended or fired him for it.<sup>[327]</sup>

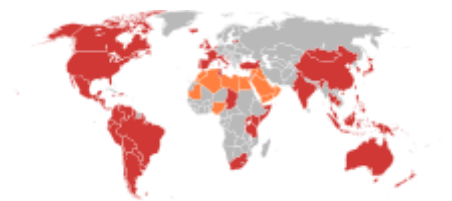
## Human rights violations

In mid-2021, Fox News agreed to pay a \$1 million settlement to New York City after its Commission on Human Rights cited "a pattern of violating the NYC Human Rights Law". A Fox News spokesperson claimed that "FOX News Media has already been in full compliance across the board, but [settled] to continue enacting extensive preventive measures against all forms of discrimination and harassment."<sup>[328]</sup>

## International transmission

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The Fox News Channel feed is has international availability via multiple providers, while *Fox Extra* segments provide alternate programming.<sup>[329]</sup> Fox News is carried in more than 40 countries.



Countries where Fox News is provided

### Australia

In Australia, FNC is broadcast on the dominant pay television provider Foxtel, which is 65% owned by News Corp Australia, the Australian arm of News Corp and the sister company of FNC-owner Fox Corporation. Local cable news channel Sky News Australia is wholly owned by News Corp Australia<sup>[330]</sup> and is therefore FNC's de facto sister channel, although has formal partnerships with FNC competitor CNN as well as both ABC News and CBS News.<sup>[331]</sup>

### Brazil

Since 2002, FNC has been broadcast to Brazil; however, commercials are replaced with *Fox Extra*. It is available in packages of Vivo TV.

### Canada

Fox had initially planned to launch a joint venture with Canwest's Global Television Network, tentatively named Fox News Canada, which would have featured a mixture of U.S. and Canadian news programming. As a result, the CRTC denied a 2003 application requesting permission for Fox News Channel to be carried in

Canada. However, in March 2004, a Fox executive said the venture had been shelved; in November of that year, the CRTC added Fox News to its whitelist of foreign channels that may be carried by television providers.<sup>[332]</sup>

## France

Fox News is available on cable through French Internet provider Free on channel 352. As of Spring 2017, the channel was no longer found on the provider Orange's lineup.

## India

It is available through streaming service Disney+ Hotstar (formerly owned by FNC parent company 21st Century Fox).

## Indonesia

In Indonesia, It is available in Channel 397 in pay TV provider First Media.

## Ireland

*See: United Kingdom & Ireland.*

## Israel

In Israel, FNC is broadcast on Channel 105 of the satellite provider Yes, as well as being carried on Cellcom TV and Partner TV.<sup>[333]</sup> It is also broadcast on channel 200 on cable operator HOT.<sup>[334]</sup>

## Italy

In Italy, FNC is broadcast on SKY Italia. Fox news was launched on Stream TV in 2001, and moved to SKY Italia in 2003.

## Japan

Although service to Japan ceased in summer 2003, it can still be seen on Americable (distributor for American bases),<sup>[335]</sup> Mediatti (Kadena Air Base)<sup>[336]</sup> and Pan Global TV Japan.<sup>[337]</sup>

## Mexico

The channel's international feed is being carried by cable provider Izzi Telecom.

## Netherlands



In the Netherlands, Fox News has been carried by cable providers UPC Nederland and CASEMA, and satellite provider CanalDigitaal; all have dropped the channel in recent years. At this time, only cable provider Caiway (available in a limited number of towns in the central part of the country) is broadcasting the channel. The channel was also carried by IPTV provider KNIPPR (owned by T-Mobile).

## **New Zealand**

In New Zealand, FNC is broadcast on Channel 088 of pay satellite operator SKY Network Television's digital platform. It was formerly broadcast overnight on free-to-air UHF New Zealand TV channel Prime (owned by SKY); this was discontinued in January 2010, reportedly due to an expiring broadcasting license.<sup>[338]</sup> Fox News' former parent company News Corporation had a stake in both SKY and Prime until 2014.

## **Pakistan**

In Pakistan, Fox News Channel is available on PTCL Smart TV and a number of cable and IPTV operators.

## **Philippines**

In the Philippines, Fox News Channel is available on Cignal Channel 131, Sky Cable Channels 138 (Metro Manila) and 510 (Regional), and G Sat Channel 50.

## **Scandinavia**

Between 2003 and 2006, in Sweden and the other Scandinavian countries, FNC was broadcast 16 hours a day on TV8 (with *Fox News Extra* segments replacing U.S. advertising). Fox News was dropped by TV8 and replaced by German news channel Deutsche Welle in September 2006.

## **Singapore**

In Singapore, FNC is broadcast on channel 702 on pay cable operator StarHub TV digital platform. It also broadcasts its sister channel, Sky News.

## **South Africa**

In South Africa, FNC is broadcast on StarSat.<sup>[339]</sup>

The most popular pay television operator, DStv, does not offer FNC in its channel bouquet.<sup>[340]</sup>

## **United Kingdom and Ireland**

FNC was carried in the United Kingdom by Sky, which was 40-percent owned by 21st Century Fox at the time, and operates its own domestic news channel Sky News. On August 29, 2017, Sky dropped Fox News; the broadcaster said its carriage was not "commercially viable" due to average viewership of fewer than 2,000 viewers per day. The company said the decision was unrelated to 21st Century Fox's proposed acquisition of the remainder of Sky plc (which ultimately led to a bidding war that resulted in its acquisition by Comcast instead).<sup>[341]</sup>

The potential co-ownership had prompted concerns from critics of the deal, who felt Sky News could similarly undergo a shift to an opinionated format with a right-wing viewpoint. However, such a move would violate Ofcom broadcast codes, which requires all news programming to show due impartiality. The channel's broadcasts in the country have violated this rule on several occasions, while the channel also violated election silence rules by broadcasting analysis of the 2016 Brexit referendum while polls were still open (the channel was blacked out while polls were open during the 2017 general election to comply with the rule).<sup>[342][343][344][345]</sup>

## Notable personalities

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### Program hosts

- Bret Baier
- Maria Bartiromo
- Jedediah Bila
- Shannon Bream
- Will Cain
- Tucker Carlson
- Neil Cavuto
- Emily Compagno
- Steve Doocy
- Ainsley Earhardt
- Harris Faulkner
- Paul Gigot
- Trey Gowdy
- Greg Gutfeld
- Sean Hannity
- Pete Hegseth
- Bill Hemmer
- Steve Hilton
- Laura Ingraham
- Brian Kilmeade
- Howard Kurtz
- Mark Levin
- Martha MacCallum
- Jillian Mele
- Arthel Neville
- Dana Perino
- Todd Piro
- Jeanine Pirro
- John Roberts
- Jon Scott
- Eric Shawn
- Sandra Smith
- Stuart Varney
- Leland Vittert

- [Chris Wallace](#)
- [Jesse Watters](#)
- [Juan Williams](#)

## **Correspondents and substitute anchors**

- [Manny Alvarez](#)
- [Julie Banderas](#)
- [Christine Clayburg](#)
- [Kevin Corke](#)
- [Claudia Cowan](#)
- [Janice Dean](#)
- [Peter Doocy](#)
- [Mike Emanuel](#)
- [Kristin Fisher](#)
- [Lea Gabrielle](#)
- [Trace Gallagher](#)
- [Anna Gilligan](#)
- [Lauren Green](#)
- [Jennifer Griffin](#)
- [Benjamin Hall](#)
- [Molly Henneberg](#)
- [Brit Hume](#)
- [Phil Keating](#)
- [Kennedy](#)
- [Rick Leventhal](#)
- [Molly Line](#)
- [Bryan Llenas](#)
- [Dagen McDowell](#)
- [Hollie McKay](#)
- [Andrew Napolitano](#)
- [Kate Obenshain](#)
- [Charles Payne](#)
- [Katie Pavlich](#)
- [Geraldo Rivera](#)
- [Carley Shimkus](#)

## **Regular guests and contributors**

- [Keith Ablow](#)
- [Mike Baker](#)
- [Guy Benson](#)
- [Donna Brazile](#)<sup>[346]</sup>
- [Tammy Bruce](#)
- [Rachel Campos-Duffy](#)

- Rep. Jason Chaffetz
- Mo Elleithee<sup>[347]</sup>
- Ezekiel Emanuel<sup>[347]</sup>
- Nigel Farage<sup>[348]</sup>
- Ari Fleischer
- Steve Forbes
- Newt Gingrich
- Bernard Goldberg
- Jonah Goldberg
- Marie Harf<sup>[347]</sup>
- Stephen Hayes
- Mollie Hemingway<sup>[347]</sup>
- Governor Mike Huckabee
- Charles Hurt
- Santita Jackson
- Robert Jeffress
- Dennis Kucinich
- Tomi Lahren
- Larry Elder
- Leo Terrell
- Geraldo Rivera
- John "Bradshaw" Layfield
- Rich Lowry
- Frank Luntz
- Leslie Marshall
- Kayleigh McEnany
- Dennis Miller
- Judith Miller
- Fr. Jonathan Morris
- Lt. Col. Oliver North
- Burgess Owens<sup>[349]</sup>
- Candace Owens
- Katie Pavlich
- Charles Payne
- Karl Rove
- Nicole Saphier
- Mercedes Schlapp
- Douglas Schoen
- Ben Shapiro
- Marc Siegel
- Ben Stein
- Katherine Timpf
- Joe Trippi
- Jonathan Turley
- Tyrus

- [Brett Velicovich](#)
- [Jason Whitlock](#)
- [Lis Wiehl](#)
- [Byron York](#)

## Former hosts and contributors

- [Jim Angle](#)
- [Louis Aguirre](#) (former morning host, now at [WPLG](#) in Miami)
- [Dari Alexander](#) (now at [WNYW](#) in New York City)
- [Jennifer Ashton](#) (now at [ABC News](#))
- [Ellison Barber](#) (now with [NBC News](#))
- [Tiki Barber](#) (now with [CBS Sports Network](#))
- [Fred Barnes](#)
- [Rudi Bakhtiar](#) (now PR Director for the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans)
- [Glenn Beck](#) (former afternoon host; now on [TheBlaze](#))
- [Bob Beckel](#) (terminated amid racist remarks)
- [Lisa Bernhard](#) (entertainment correspondent)
- [Tony Blankley](#) (deceased)
- [Eric Bolling](#) (terminated amid sexual harassment allegations)
- [John R. Bolton](#) (left to become U.S. National Security Advisor)
- [Dave Briggs](#) (now at CNN)
- [Patti Ann Browne](#)
- [Scott Brown](#)
- [Eric Burns](#) (not renewed)
- [Brenda Buttner](#) (deceased)
- [Patrick Caddell](#) (deceased)
- [Joseph A. Cafasso](#) (stepped down over allegations he overrepresented his military record)
- [Herman Cain](#) (deceased)
- [Carl Cameron](#) (retired in August 2017)
- [Alisyn Camerota](#) (now at CNN)
- [Gretchen Carlson](#)
- [Ben Carson](#) (joined Trump cabinet)
- [Steve Centanni](#) (retired in August 2014)
- [Heather Childers](#) (terminated, now at [Newsmax TV](#))
- [Liz Cheney](#) (now in public service)
- [Kiran Chetry](#) (later worked for CNN)
- [Wesley Clark](#) (now at CNN)
- [Alan Colmes](#) (deceased)
- [Rita Cosby](#) (later worked at MSNBC)
- [Catherine Crier](#) (now at [TruTV](#))
- [Monica Crowley](#)
- [S. E. Cupp](#) (now at CNN)
- [Stacey Dash](#) (not renewed)
- [Lou Dobbs](#)

- [Jill Dobson](#)
- [Laurie Dhue](#) (not renewed)
- [Matt Drudge](#)
- [Darby Dunn](#) (now at [CNBC](#))
- [Erick Erickson](#) (now at [WSB Radio](#) in [Atlanta](#))
- [Donna Fiducia](#) (no longer active in cable news industry, went into Georgia real estate)
- [Rick Folbaum](#) (now at [WGCL-TV](#))
- [Harold Ford, Jr.](#) (now at [MSNBC](#))
- [Melissa Francis](#) (not renewed)
- [Courtney Friel](#) (now at [KTLA-TV](#))
- [Neal Gabler](#)
- [Major Garrett](#) (now at [CBS News](#))
- [John Gibson](#)
- [Alexis Glick](#) (left Fox Business in December 2009; now at [CNN](#))
- [Wendell Goler](#) (deceased)
- [Kimberly Guilfoyle](#)
- [Mary Katharine Ham](#) (now at [CNN](#))<sup>[350]</sup>
- [Elisabeth Hasselbeck](#)
- [Ed Henry](#) (terminated amid sexual harassment allegations)
- [Catherine Herridge](#) (now at [CBS News](#))
- [E. D. Hill](#) (now at [CNN](#))
- [Marc Lamont Hill](#) (now at [BET](#) and [CNN](#))
- [Kit Hoover](#) (now at [TLC](#))
- [Margaret Hoover](#) (now at [PBS](#) and [CNN](#))
- [Page Hopkins](#) (left network September 26, 2008; now at [MSNBC](#))
- [Adam Housley](#)
- [Juliet Huddy](#) (now at [WABC Radio](#))
- [Abby Huntsman](#) (now on *The View* on [ABC](#))
- [Carol Iovanna](#) (now runs production company)
- [Marvin Kalb](#) (not renewed)
- [John Kasich](#) (later served two terms as [Governor of Ohio](#) from 2011 to 2019)
- [Terry Keenan](#) (deceased)
- [Greg Kelly](#) (now at [Newsmax TV](#))
- [Megyn Kelly](#) (moved to [NBC News](#); left [NBC](#) in January 2019)
- [Mort Kondracke](#)
- [Anna Kooiman](#) (now at [Network 10](#))
- [Charles Krauthammer](#) (deceased)
- [Bill Kristol](#)
- [Jenna Lee](#)
- [Harvey Levin](#)
- [Andy Levy](#) (now at [HLN](#))
- [Dana Lewis](#) (now at [WSAW-TV](#) in [Wausau](#))
- [G. Gordon Liddy](#)
- [Rachel Marsden](#) (contributor and *Red Eye* panelist; now lives in [France](#))
- [Meghan McCain](#) (now on *The View* on [ABC](#))

- [Bill McCuddy](#)
- [Zell Miller](#)
- [Maria Molina](#)
- [Clayton Morris](#)
- [Dick Morris](#) (contributor, not renewed)
- [Heather Nauert](#) (now Senior Fellow at the [Hudson Institute](#))
- [Scottie Nell Hughes](#) (terminated)
- [Joanne Nosuchinsky](#)
- [Robert Novak](#) (deceased)
- [Bill O'Reilly](#) (terminated amid sexual harassment allegations)
- [Barbara Olson](#) (killed in the [September 11 attacks](#) in 2001)
- [Morgan Ortagus](#) (now U.S. State Department Spokesperson)
- Lt. Col. [Ralph Peters](#)
- [Uma Pemmaraju](#)
- [Julian Phillips](#)
- [Kirsten Powers](#) (now at CNN)
- [Elizabeth Prann](#) (now at [HLN](#))
- [Judith Regan](#)
- [Julie Roginsky](#)
- [Ed Rollins](#) (not renewed)
- [James Rosen](#) (now at the [Sinclair Broadcast Group](#))
- [Sarah Sanders](#) (contributor, terminated)
- [Rick Santorum](#) (now with CNN)
- [Rob Schmitt](#) (now at [Newsmax TV](#))
- [Mike Schneider](#) (left for [Bloomberg Television](#), most recently at [NJTV](#))
- [Laura Schwartz](#)
- [Bob Sellers](#) (was morning co-anchor at [WZTV](#) in Nashville until 2016)
- [Suzanne Sena](#)
- [David Shuster](#) (now at [i24NEWS](#))
- [Jane Skinner](#)
- [Shepard Smith](#) (now at [CNBC](#))
- [Tony Snow](#) (became [White House Press Secretary](#), deceased)
- [John Stossel](#)
- [Andrea Tantaros](#)
- [Cal Thomas](#) (not renewed)
- [Greta Van Susteren](#) (left for [MSNBC](#), now at [Gray Television](#))
- [Linda Vester](#)
- [George Will](#) (now at [NBC News](#) and [MSNBC](#))
- [Brian Wilson](#) (presently morning drive time host on [WMAL-FM](#))
- [Paula Zahn](#) (left for [CNN](#), now at [Investigation Discovery](#))

## See also

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- [The Fox Nation](#)
- [Fox effect](#)

- [Fox Music](#)
- [Sun News Network](#), a short-lived Canadian attempt at creating a similar news channel for conservative Canadian viewers

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## External links

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- [Official website \(https://www.foxnews.com/\)](https://www.foxnews.com/) 
  - ["Fox+News" \(https://core.ac.uk/search?q=%22Fox%2BNews%22\)](https://core.ac.uk/search?q=%22Fox%2BNews%22), *Core.ac.uk*, ["Open access research papers"](#) 
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# One America News Network

**One America News Network (OANN)**, also known as **One America News (OAN)**, is a far-right,<sup>[14]</sup> pro-Donald Trump<sup>[22]</sup> cable channel founded by Robert Herring Sr. and owned by Herring Networks, Inc., that launched on July 4, 2013.<sup>[27]</sup> The network is headquartered in San Diego, California, and operates news bureaus in Washington, D.C., and New York City.

Its prime-time political talk shows have a conservative perspective, and the channel has described itself as one of the "greatest supporters" of Trump.<sup>[28]</sup> Trump himself has promoted both the network and some of its hosts.<sup>[4][29][30][31]</sup>

The channel is known for promoting falsehoods and conspiracy theories.<sup>[41]</sup> On November 24, 2020, YouTube suspended and demonetized OANN's channel for one week as a first strike under its three-strike community guideline violation policy for advertising a false cure for COVID-19.<sup>[39]</sup>

## One America News Network



<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Broadcast area</b>	United States
<b>Slogan</b>	<i>Your nation, your news</i>
<b>Headquarters</b>	<u>San Diego, California</u>
<b>Programming</b>	
<b>Language(s)</b>	English
<b>Picture format</b>	1080i HDTV (downconverted to letterboxed 480i for the SDTV feed)
<b>Ownership</b>	
<b>Owner</b>	<u>Herring Networks</u>
<b>Sister channels</b>	<u>AWE</u>
<b>History</b>	
<b>Launched</b>	July 4, 2013
<b>Links</b>	
<b>Website</b>	<u>www.oann.com</u> (https://www.oann.com)
<b>Availability</b>	
<b>Cable</b>	
<b>Verizon FiOS</b>	Channel 116 (SD) Channel 616 (HD)
<b>Satellite</b>	
<b>DIRECTV</b>	Channel 347 (HD)
<b>IPTV</b>	
<b>CenturyLink</b>	Channel 208 (SD)

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## History

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OANN was announced on March 14, 2013, by Herring Networks, Inc., a family-owned national video programming company that also owns sister channel AWE. The OANN channel originally debuted in partnership with *The Washington Times*,<sup>[42]</sup> which had drawn criticism for racist content, including commentary and conspiracy theories about former U.S. President Barack Obama,<sup>[49]</sup> supporting neo-Confederate historical revisionism,<sup>[50]</sup> and promoting Islamophobia.<sup>[51]</sup> OANN president Charles Herring said in 2013 that, under OANN's agreement with *The Washington Times*, the new network could use any *Times* content, but was not obligated to do so; he also said at the time that between 60 and 65 Herring Broadcasting employees spent "most of their days" on One America.<sup>[52]</sup>

Herring told the 2013 Conservative Political Action Conference that "Fox News has done a great job serving the center-right and independent audiences", but that the audience's alternative news sources lacked variety.<sup>[53][54]</sup>

In July 2014, OANN relocated its news and production studios to 101 Constitution Avenue NW, near the Capitol.<sup>[55]</sup>

In June 2019, OANN said that it reached 35 million homes.<sup>[25]</sup> At the time, OANN had approximately 150 staff.<sup>[25]</sup>

At the beginning of 2020, it was reported that Trump allies were looking into purchasing OANN.<sup>[56]</sup>

As of April 2021, OANN was available in approximately 35 million households, and its YouTube channel had close to 1.5 million subscribers.<sup>[57]</sup> Approximately 150 employees worked at its San Diego headquarters.<sup>[57]</sup>

## Programming

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Shows currently airing on OANN are: Real America with Dan Ball, In Focus with Stephani Hamill, Tipping Point with Kara McKinney, The Real Story with Natalie Harp, After Hours with Alex Salvi, and Weekly Briefing with Christina Bobb.<sup>[58]</sup>

In August 2014, OANN launched the show *On Point with Tomi Lahren*. Many clips from the program went viral, and by 2015 Lahren had gained widespread attention for her commentaries. On August 19, 2015, Lahren aired her final show at OANN.<sup>[59][60]</sup> On the week of August 24, 2015 former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin guest-hosted a program on the network.<sup>[61]</sup>

In 2019, the channel aired the Canadian television film *Claws of the Red Dragon*, which had signed Steve Bannon as its American distributor.<sup>[62]</sup>

# Content

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OANN is known for its pro-Donald Trump content, promotion of conspiracy theories such as election tampering in November 2020, and criticisms of mainstream media.<sup>[25]</sup> OANN has described itself as one of the "greatest supporters" of Trump.<sup>[28]</sup>

## Pro-Trump content

OANN is pro-Trump.<sup>[29][63][64][65][25]</sup> The father of Charles Herring,<sup>[53]</sup> Robert Herring Sr., founder and CEO of the network, has ordered producers to promote pro-Trump stories, anti-Clinton stories, and anti-abortion stories and to minimize stories about Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.<sup>[29]</sup> Herring prohibited the network from running stories about polls that did not show Trump in the lead during the 2016 election.<sup>[29]</sup>

During the 2016 presidential campaign, the channel ran a special titled *Betrayal at Benghazi: The Cost of Hillary Clinton's Dereliction and Greed*. Herring, the owner of the channel, sent his producers a report that falsely claimed that Hillary Clinton had a brain tumor and asking them to check up on it. He also shared a report with producers claiming that Planned Parenthood had promoted abortion and ordered them to minimize coverage of Pope Francis's US visit owing to the Pope's calls for action on global warming. Herring also repeatedly ordered his producers not to cover stories pertaining to Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.<sup>[29]</sup>

According to former and current employees at the channel as well as internal e-mails, by July 2017 the executives of the channel had directed the channel to "scuttle stories about police shootings, encourage antiabortion stories, minimize coverage of Russian aggression, and steer away from the new president's troubles."<sup>[29]</sup>

In October 2017, the channel claimed without evidence that a "report" had been published that showed "U.K. Crime Rises 13% Annually Amid Spread of Radical Islamic Terror".<sup>[66]</sup> Trump later repeated this falsehood, suggesting that he learned of it from OANN.<sup>[33][67]</sup>

In June 2017, OANN was granted a permanent seat in the White House's James Brady briefing room.<sup>[68]</sup> The network's Chief White House Correspondent, Trey Yingst, was one of the top five most called-upon reporters covering the Trump administration.<sup>[69]</sup> Trump has been repeatedly called for questions from OANN during press conferences, including in February 2017 when Yingst asked the president about his campaign's contacts with the Russian government.<sup>[70]</sup> Also in February 2017, OANN was invited to a network lunch with Trump.<sup>[71]</sup> In August 2017, Trump praised OANN, saying: "It's a great network". In response, OANN CEO Robert Herring said that OANN considers itself a tough but fair presence in the White House press corps.<sup>[72]</sup>

OANN supported the Trump administration's revocation of CNN reporter Jim Acosta's press credentials; most major media outlets, including the conservative Fox News, opposed this decision. In a statement, Robert Herring attacked Fox News, saying he "can't believe Fox is on the other side."<sup>[73][74][75]</sup>

Rudy Giuliani has promoted conspiracy theories related to the Trump–Ukraine scandal on OANN.<sup>[76][77][78]</sup>

On January 12, 2020, an OANN broadcast promoted debunked conspiracy theories alleging illegal wiretapping of Trump.<sup>[79]</sup> OANN broadcasts all of Trump's speeches uninterrupted.<sup>[25]</sup>

In August 2020, OANN tweeted a promotion for a television segment entitled "America Under Siege: The Attempt to Overthrow President Trump." The tweet asserted that ongoing demonstrations in the aftermath of the George Floyd killing constituted a "coup attempt" that was "led by a well funded network of anarchists

trying to take down the President." Trump retweeted the message.<sup>[18]</sup>

On February 11, 2021, after Trump had left office, OANN aired a "tribute to his accomplishments" set to a reading of Rudyard Kipling's poem "If—". The video was credited to Harrison Hill Smith, an *InfoWars* contributor.<sup>[80]</sup>

## Murder of Seth Rich conspiracy theories

OANN has promoted conspiracy theories about the murder of Seth Rich.<sup>[33]</sup>

## Roy Moore sexual misconduct report controversy

After *The Washington Post* reported allegations that Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore had made unwanted sexual advances toward teenagers when he was in his thirties in November 2017, OANN "became a source of both positive coverage and stories that could cast doubt on his accusers."<sup>[81]</sup> In November 2017, OANN aired a segment citing a false rumor by an anonymous Twitter account that *The Washington Post* had offered \$1,000 to Roy Moore's accusers.<sup>[82][83][84]</sup> OANN described the tweet as a "report" and described the tweeter as a "former Secret Service agent and Navy veteran".<sup>[82][83]</sup> The Twitter source had a history of tweeting falsehoods and conspiracy theories; the Twitter account had also made repeated and inconsistent lies about its identity, including appropriating the identity of a Navy serviceman who died in 2007.<sup>[83]</sup> After it was revealed that the story was a hoax, OANN did not retract its report.<sup>[82]</sup>

During his Senate campaign, Roy Moore cited OANN when he defended himself against the accusations,<sup>[85]</sup> including an OANN story that alleged his "Accusers Have Ties to Drug Dealers & *Washington Post*".<sup>[85][86][87]</sup>

During the night of the Alabama Senate election, OANN announced that Moore had swept the election "by a large margin" when in actuality Moore had lost the race.<sup>[88]</sup> In its announcement, the network cited "unofficial polling", and the news anchor extended OANN CEO Robert Herring's congratulations to Moore on having run a "fine campaign."<sup>[88]</sup> OANN's website also published an erroneous article claiming Moore had won "despite attacks from Democrats about unverified allegations."<sup>[88]</sup> During election night, OANN also reported "a number of people have been caught trying to sneak into voting booths and vote illegally"; however, Alabama Secretary of State's office said it had no credible reports of voter fraud.<sup>[89]</sup>

## Conspiracy theory about David Hogg

In February 2018, one of the hosts on OANN tweeted a conspiracy theory that David Hogg, a 17-year-old survivor of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, had been coached to speak against Trump by, and was "running cover" for, his retired FBI agent father.<sup>[90][91]</sup> Donald Trump Jr. "liked" the OANN host's tweet.<sup>[91]</sup> The younger Hogg responded, describing the conspiracy theory to *Buzzfeed News* as "immature, rude, and inhuman."<sup>[92]</sup>

## Syria chemical attack

In April 2018, while on an al-Assad regime-led tour of the area of the Douma chemical attack, an OANN correspondent claimed there was no evidence that a chemical attack had occurred.<sup>[93]</sup> The correspondent said, "Not one of the people that I spoke to in that neighborhood said that they had seen anything or heard anything about a chemical attack on that day" and that residents "loved Bashar al-Assad."<sup>[93]</sup>

In May 2019, OANN published a report claiming that the White Helmets had admitted to staging fake chemical weapons attacks intended to put blame on the Assad regime. OANN referred to the humanitarian organization, which is partly funded by the US State Department, as "terrorist-linked". *The Daily Beast* characterized this story as a "smear" that could be traced directly as Russian disinformation.<sup>[64]</sup>

## Conspiracy theorist Jack Posobiec

Far-right conspiracy theorist Jack Posobiec was employed by OANN as a political correspondent from 2018 to 2021.<sup>[94][95]</sup> Posobiec was a prominent proponent of the Pizzagate and murder of Seth Rich conspiracy theories.<sup>[25][65][96]</sup> In 2020, during the George Floyd protests in Buffalo, New York, Posobiec falsely reported and promoted another unsubstantiated conspiracy theory regarding pipe bombs.<sup>[97]</sup>

## False story about Bible ban

In April 2018, OANN ran a segment falsely claiming that a California bill would ban the sale of Bibles. Within 24 hours, the OANN video was viewed 1.4 million times on Facebook. Snopes determined that this claim was a misrepresentation; the bill actually targeted gay conversion therapy.<sup>[98]</sup>

## Unsubstantiated claims about Ammar Campa-Najjar

During the mid-term campaign for the November 2018 U.S. elections, OANN ran a segment claiming that Democratic congressional candidate Ammar Campa-Najjar's "father praised the deaths of the Israelis, saying they deserved to die." *The Washington Post* fact-checker noted that there is no attribution to this statement in the OANN segment. An OANN commentator also claimed that groups connected to the Muslim Brotherhood donated to Campa-Najjar's campaign and that the FEC website showed this. *The Washington Post* fact-checker said it "couldn't find evidence of this after searching Campa-Najjar's filings with the Federal Election Commission." Nevertheless, the OANN segment was used in attack ads by Campa-Najjar's Republican opponent Duncan D. Hunter to support the false suggestion that Campa-Najjar was tied to terrorism, and Hunter would end up winning the election anyway.<sup>[99]</sup>

## Interview subject with a fake name

In July 2019, the network interviewed pro-Trump activist Logan Cook, known online as Carpe Donktum,<sup>[100]</sup> about allegations of anti-conservative bias on Reddit. OANN identified the man as Dennis F. Charles and said he was "a conservative social media analyst."<sup>[65]</sup> OANN did not disclose that Cook was using a pseudonym.<sup>[65]</sup>

## Russia

OANN is known for downplaying threats posed to the United States by Russia. According to a former OANN producer, on his first day at OANN he was told, "Yeah, we like Russia here."<sup>[25][101]</sup> One of OANN's reporters, Kristian Brunovich Rouz, simultaneously works for the Russian propaganda outlet and news agency Sputnik, which is state-owned; when Rouz runs favorable segments on OANN that relate to Russia, OANN does not disclose that he also works for Sputnik.<sup>[30][102][103]</sup> Rouz compiled a wholly fabricated story that OANN ran in 2017, which alleged that Hillary Clinton's political action committee secretly gave \$800,000 to "antifa."<sup>[30][104]</sup> In May 2020, Rouz created a segment for OANN in which he claimed "mounting evidence of a globalist conspiracy" involving the Clintons, Soros, Bill Gates, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and the Chinese government. No evidence exists for any of this.<sup>[104]</sup>

In September 2019, OANN parent Herring Networks sued MSNBC host Rachel Maddow (as well as Comcast, MSNBC and NBCUniversal Media) for \$10 million in federal court, after Maddow said the network "literally [is] paid Russian propaganda" on her July 22, 2019 program (when she referred to a Daily Beast article identifying Rouz as working for Sputnik).<sup>[105]</sup> The court dismissed the suit, finding the claim was not defamation, but that a "reasonable viewer" would recognize it as a reasonable summation of the article published by The Daily Beast.<sup>[106][107]</sup> In February 2021, Herring Networks was ordered to pay Maddow and MSNBC \$250,000 legal fees in an anti-SLAPP ruling. OANN is appealing the ruling.<sup>[108]</sup>

## False claims about George Soros

OANN has run stories falsely claiming that George Soros, a Hungarian-born American philanthropist, collaborated with the Nazis when he was a 14-year-old.<sup>[30]</sup> The network has also accused Soros of funding migrant caravans to the United States.<sup>[30]</sup>

During a report from Ukraine with Rudy Giuliani, in December 2019, OANN correspondent Chanel Rion claimed without evidence that Soros had shown up at the Kyiv airport with "human Dobermans in little black Mercedes" to find them. The claim was ridiculed in Ukrainian and American media.<sup>[109][110][111]</sup> Soros was not known to have visited Ukraine since 2016.<sup>[110]</sup>

## COVID-19 outbreak conspiracy theories

In March 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the OANN chief White House correspondent Chanel Rion promoted a conspiracy theory that the virus originated in a North Carolina lab, citing information from a "citizen investigator and a monitored source amongst a certain set of the DC intelligence community"<sup>[112]</sup> who was actually a Twitter conspiracy theorist.<sup>[113]</sup> As she described this individual during a televised report from the White House grounds, an image was displayed of actor Keir Dullea in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey. She also asserted that Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading expert on infectious diseases, had funded the creation of COVID-19.<sup>[114][115]</sup> Rion later claimed without evidence that other mainstream media outlets were parroting Communist Party of China propaganda.<sup>[116]</sup> During a press conference with Trump, she asked him whether it was "racist" to use the term "Chinese food"; accused "major left-wing news media" of "consistently siding with foreign state propaganda, Islamic radicals and Latin gangs and cartels" as well as "Chinese Communist Party narratives"; and asked the president whether it was "alarming" that media "work right here at the White House with direct access to you and your team?"<sup>[114][117][118]</sup>

Rion previously worked as a political cartoonist, promoted murder of Seth Rich conspiracy theories, and written an anti-feminist children's book; Rion also praised a book by a Holocaust denier.<sup>[114][119]</sup> She claimed without evidence that former FBI lawyer Lisa Page and former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe were involved in an affair.<sup>[120]</sup> OANN later retracted the story.<sup>[120]</sup>

In April 2020, Rion was expelled from the White House Correspondents' Association and her formal seat was removed for flagrantly violating newly implemented social distancing rules in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room.<sup>[4]</sup> Despite this, Rion has boasted she was personally invited to attend by the Trump White House's press secretary, Stephanie Grisham, a day after the ban.<sup>[121]</sup>

In May 2020, OANN host Liz Wheeler claimed without evidence that "mainstream media pretended there was a deadly surge in COVID cases" after the 2020 Wisconsin Spring election. PolitiFact rated the claim "Pants on Fire", having found that there were no references to a "surge" in their review of state and national articles about the election, and that reports had accurately listed the number of COVID-19 cases potentially related to the election.<sup>[122]</sup>



In November 2020, YouTube suspended OANN's channel's ability to upload videos for one week and demonetized its channel for violating YouTube's policy against promoting COVID-19 misinformation, after OANN uploaded a video advertising a fake cure for COVID-19.<sup>[39]</sup> OANN responded that "The video was 'unlisted' on YouTube for review by internal OAN staff only", accused YouTube of a First Amendment violation, and stated that the video was republished on the OANN website.<sup>[123]</sup>

## George Floyd protests

In June 2020, during protests against racism and police brutality in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, OANN reporter Jack Posobiec falsely claimed that there were pipe bombs planted at the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C., and that "federal assets [were] in pursuit". There were no pipe bombs, nor is there any evidence that any "federal assets" pursued it.<sup>[124]</sup>

## Buffalo police shoving incident

In June 2020, OANN claimed, without evidence, that an elderly protester who had been seriously injured by police "was attempting to capture the radio communications signature of Buffalo police officers" and was linked to the antifa movement.<sup>[103][97]</sup> Referencing OANN's unfounded conspiracy theory, Trump later tweeted that the protester "could be an ANTIFA provocateur."<sup>[97][125][126]</sup> OANN's Kristian Rouz provided no evidence for these claims, referring only to *The Conservative Treehouse*, an anonymously written right-wing blog.<sup>[127][128]</sup> That afternoon, Herring Sr. tweeted to Trump, "we won't let you down as your source for credible news!"<sup>[103]</sup> On June 13, protesters in San Diego, California gathered outside OANN headquarters,<sup>[129]</sup> where Herring Sr. challenged the crowd to prove the story was false.<sup>[130]</sup>

## 2020 US presidential election

In the months after the 2020 United States presidential election, OANN extensively amplified false claims of election fraud and promoted conspiracy theories related to the election.<sup>[40][57]</sup> Five days after the Associated Press had called the election for Joe Biden, OANN continued to insist that Donald Trump had won,<sup>[131]</sup> and OANN continued to refer to Trump as "President Trump" (while referring to Biden as simply "Biden" or "Joe Biden") for months after the January 2021 inauguration of Joe Biden as President.<sup>[57]</sup> It has also been revealed that Christina Bobb, an OANN news anchor, worked in private with the legal team of Donald Trump to try to overturn the election results.<sup>[132]</sup>

OANN saw growth in its audience as a result of its election coverage. It was boosted in particular by Donald Trump, who expressed disapproval of Fox News' reporting on the presidential election and encouraged his supporters to instead watch OANN or Newsmax TV, another conservative channel promoting election falsehoods.<sup>[133][134][135]</sup>

## Dominion Voting Systems

OANN was a major promoter of the conspiracy theory that Dominion Voting Systems had manipulated vote totals to ensure the victory of Democratic candidate Joe Biden.<sup>[40][136]</sup> OANN spent months alleging manipulation by Dominion,<sup>[137]</sup> advanced claims that Dominion employees had colluded with Antifa activists,<sup>[138][139]</sup> aired a fictitious map allegedly seized by the US Army from election servers in Germany showing Donald Trump had received 410 electoral votes,<sup>[140]</sup> and hosted interviews with Trump allies claiming that Dominion was part of an international communist conspiracy.<sup>[141]</sup> Some of these claims were later amplified by Donald Trump, including a false assertion made on OANN that millions of votes for Trump were switched to votes for Joe Biden (a claim that originated on TheDonald.win, a pro-Trump

website);<sup>[142][143][144]</sup> Trump also tweeted out an OANN segment in which Ron Watkins, a far-right conspiracy theorist and administrator of 8chan (the website famous for its close connection to the QAnon conspiracy theory), was falsely characterized as an expert on election issues as he promoted conspiracy theories about Dominion.<sup>[145][146]</sup>

OANN later removed all references to Dominion and Smartmatic, another company falsely accused of voter fraud, from its website without issuing public retractions after Dominion filed a \$1.3 billion defamation lawsuit against Sidney Powell.<sup>[147][148]</sup> However, on February 5, 2021, OANN aired *Absolute Proof*, a film produced by My Pillow CEO Mike Lindell that contained false claims and conspiracy theories about voter fraud in the election. Before the program, OANN showed a lengthy disclaimer asserting that the claims were Lindell's alone, but that the 2020 election results "remain disputed and questioned by millions of Americans." The disclaimer was seen as an attempt to avoid litigation from Dominion and Smartmatic.<sup>[149][150]</sup>

## Russian misinformation

On January 25, 2020, OANN aired a film titled *The Ukraine Hoax: Impeachment, Biden Cash, and Mass Murder*. In March 2021, the United States intelligence community released an analysis which found that proxies of Russian intelligence "made contact with established US media figures and helped produce a documentary that aired on a US television network in late January 2020" as part of a broad effort to promote and launder misleading or unsubstantiated narratives about Joe Biden "to US media organizations, US officials, and prominent US individuals, including some close to former President Trump and his administration."<sup>[151][152]</sup>

## Promotion of executions

In June 2021, OANN personality Pearson Sharp falsely stated in an on-air monologue that "the simple facts point to massive and widespread problems with voting integrity" and "there have been numerous indications that foreign governments including China and Pakistan, meddled in our election to install Joe Biden as president," continuing:

What are the consequences for traitors who meddled with our sacred democratic process and tried to steal power by taking away the voices of the American people? What happens to them? Well, in the past, America had a very good solution for dealing with such traitors: Execution...The bottom line is that no one is above the law. And let this be a warning to anyone who thinks they are. The consequences are clear. And those responsible will be brought to justice for their role in undermining America's democracy.



Top: Coverage of Dominion Voting Systems on January 1, 2021.

Bottom: OANN scrubs all references to Dominion Voting Systems after Dominion filed a defamation lawsuit against Sidney Powell



The US intelligence community report with a reference to "... a documentary that aired on a US television network in late January 2020".

Followers of the QAnon conspiracy theory shared video of the monologue, which buttressed their belief that a "storm" was coming in which Satan-worshipping pedophiles who oppose Trump would be rounded up and executed.<sup>[153][154]</sup>

## Doxing and harassment of *The New York Times* journalist

On March 18, 2021, OANN aired a segment which contained the phone number of *The New York Times* reporter Rachel Abrams, who they claimed was "fishing for information" from disgruntled OANN employees for a "hit piece" and called on viewers to "stand up to intimidation by the left" by contacting Abrams. OANN also posted a tweet with the number on its Twitter account, which was deleted after more than 6 hours by Twitter for violating its rules on personal and private information.<sup>[155][156]</sup> On April 18, 2021, Abrams published an article in *The New York Times*, which cited interviews with current and former OANN employees stating that the channel had broadcast reports they considered to be "misleading, inaccurate or untrue", and that some employees were hoping the channel would be sued by Dominion Voting Systems.<sup>[57]</sup> Marty Gologan, one of the employees who was interviewed, was fired by OANN after the article was published.<sup>[157]</sup>

## Reception

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In March 2015, University of Southern California media professor Marty Kaplan praised the network for its focus on what he viewed as impartial news reporting, writing in *The Huffington Post*, "Ten minutes of OAN tells me eight stories; 10 minutes of Fox or MSNBC tells me one story, to make me mad," while commenting that OAN's opinion segments were "as delusional and incendiary as anything on conservative talk radio or Fox."<sup>[158]</sup> He has since expressed a different view of the network, telling *Columbia Journalism Review* that, where once the talk shows were "sand traps" in a "large field of green", the network "fairly quickly" became "more like the Sahara".<sup>[159]</sup> Don Kaplan (no relation to Marty) of the *New York Daily News* echoed similar sentiments to Marty Kaplan's initial view, writing in December 2016 that, "it's by far one of the most fair news outlets around, serving up a daily diet of ad-free, non-ideological, nonstop news—without smirking, snarky anchors or much fanfare" while stating that its opinion segments "skew hard to the right."<sup>[160]</sup>

In July 2017, Marc Fisher wrote in *The Washington Post* that the network was "a reliably sympathetic voice of the [Trump] administration's goals and actions".<sup>[29]</sup> In July 2018, Media Matters for America criticized OANN host Liz Wheeler for advancing conspiracy theories relating to the Planned Parenthood 2015 undercover videos controversy and other abortion topics and tying tangentially related news stories to the "so-called liberal hypocrisy on abortion."<sup>[161]</sup> In 2019, the English Wikipedia deprecated OANN, along with *The Gateway Pundit* and *The Daily Caller*, with the consensus for OANN being that it publishes "falsehoods, conspiracy theories, and intentionally misleading stories".<sup>[162]</sup>

In an April 2020 *Last Week Tonight* segment, John Oliver called the channel "a combination of far-right wing talking points and dirt-stupid reporting," criticizing its hosts, methods, ideology, accuracy, promotion of unfounded conspiracy theories, and closeness to the Trump administration.<sup>[163][164]</sup>

## Ratings

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OANN does not subscribe to Nielsen ratings, citing the rating companies' high price.<sup>[165]</sup> In March 2019, OANN cited Comscore set-top-box viewership data to claim it was the "fourth-rated cable news network" that month.<sup>[165]</sup>

## Litigation

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In February 2021, a federal judge awarded \$250,000 to MSNBC in an anti-SLAPP counter suit to OANN's \$10 million lawsuit claiming that they had been defamed by Rachel Maddow. The judgement ruled that OANN's initial suit was frivolous and required OANN to pay all legal fees incurred by MSNBC.<sup>[166]</sup>

## See also

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- Cyberwarfare by Russia
- List of conspiracy theories

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## External links

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- [Official website \(https://www.oann.com\)](https://www.oann.com) 
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# Blaze Media

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**Blaze Media** is an American conservative<sup>[1][2]</sup> media company. It was founded in 2018 as a result of a merger between TheBlaze and CRTV LLC. The company's leadership consists of CEO Tyler Cardon and president Gaston Mooney.<sup>[1]</sup> It is based in Irving, Texas, where it has studios and offices, as well as in Washington, D.C.

TheBlaze was a pay television network founded by Glenn Beck. CRTV LLC, which operated the Conservative Review and CRTV (Conservative Review Television), was an online subscription network.

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- Website
- Magazine

### References

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## Blaze Media

	
Country	United States
Broadcast area	United States
Headquarters	<u>Irving, Texas</u>
Programming	
Language(s)	English
Picture format	<u>1080i HDTV</u> (downscaled to <u>letterboxed 480i</u> for the <u>SDTV</u> feed)
Ownership	
Owner	Blaze Media LLC
History	
Launched	December 3, 2018
Links	
Webcast	<u>www.blazetv.com</u> ( <u>http://www.blazetv.com/</u> )
Website	<u>theblaze.com</u> ( <u>http://theblaze.com</u> )

## History

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On August 31, 2010, three days after his Restoring Honor rally at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., conservative political commentator Glenn Beck launched the *TheBlaze* website, describing it as an alternative to "mainstream media outlets".<sup>[3]</sup> TheBlaze headquarters is located in Irving, Texas, at the Mercury Studios (formerly the Studios at Las Colinas).<sup>[4][5]</sup>

Beck announced the creation of an online-only network that would replace Insider Extreme as a result of his Fox News departure on June 7, 2011. On September 12, 2011, Beck launched GBTV (Glenn Beck TV) as an exclusive internet streaming network, produced and operated by Mercury Radio Arts. GBTV would air a television adaptation of his radio show, his television show, and other original programming, including *Real*

*News from TheBlaze*, a nightly news program hosted by former CNN personality Amy Holmes.<sup>[6]</sup> On June 18, 2012, Mercury Radio Arts announced the consolidation of all of its outlets under the "TheBlaze" brand, thus renaming the internet television station from GBTV to TheBlaze.<sup>[7]</sup>

In 2012, Dish Network placed TheBlaze on its channel lineup. As a result of the "Get TheBlaze" campaign (a movement led by supporters to have other supporters call their cable or satellite television provider and ask them to carry the channel), several smaller, regional cable operators also have recently picked up TheBlaze—including Cablevision (also known as Optimum TV – Channel 828), a major cable provider in the New York metropolitan area.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

Betsy Morgan was named CEO of *TheBlaze* on December 9, 2014, replacing Chris Balfe, who had been CEO since the beginning. Morgan left the company in June 2015.<sup>[10]</sup> Chief Revenue Officer Kraig Kitchin replaced Morgan until he resigned in January 2016, taking the position of Interim Head of Sales and being replaced by Stewart Padveen, a digital startup entrepreneur, who resigned in February 2017. Beck took over as CEO of the company in May 2017.<sup>[11]</sup>

In November 2015, Beck sent an open letter to the Republican National Committee, requesting permission for TheBlaze to host a Republican presidential debate; this offer was not accepted.<sup>[12][13]</sup>

On August 31, 2017, TheBlaze laid off nearly 60 employees, which cut its personnel by almost 30%.<sup>[14]</sup>

On December 28, 2018, Verizon Fios removed TheBlaze from its lineup.<sup>[15]</sup>

## Merger with CRTV

On December 3, 2018, TheBlaze Inc. television arm merged with CRTV LLC, combining resources, personalities, personnel, subscribers, and programming. The merged entity, named Blaze Media, retained TheBlaze's channel slot and incorporated two of CRTV's programs into the channel's schedule (*Steve Deace Show* and *Wilkow!*).

Gavin McInnes, the co-founder of Vice Media and Vice magazine,<sup>[16][17]</sup> founder of the Proud Boys,<sup>[18]</sup> was expected to host his programs *Get Off My Lawn* and *CRTV Tonight* for the new company, whose co-president, Gaston Mooney, called McInnes "a comedian and provocateur, one of the many varied voices and viewpoints on Blaze Media platforms." Less than a week after the merger, however, it was announced that McInnes was no longer associated with Blaze Media, with no details given as to why.<sup>[19][20]</sup> Former contributor Michelle Malkin likewise followed McInnes out the door after CRTV's merger with *TheBlaze* in December 2018.<sup>[21]</sup>

## Program hosts for television, and radio and podcasts

- Glenn Beck – host of *Glenn TV* and *The Glenn Beck Radio Program*
- Stu Burguiere – *The Glenn Beck Radio Program* (co-host/executive producer), *Stu Does America* (host)
- Elijah Schaffer (<https://get.blazetv.com/slightly-offensive/>) - host of *Slightly Offensive with Elijah Schaffer*
- Rick Burgess and Bubba Busey – host of the *Rick & Bubba Show* and *Rick & Bubba University Podcast*
- Steven Crowder – host of *Louder with Crowder*<sup>[22]</sup>
- Steve Deace – host of the *Steve Deace Show*



TheBlaze Dallas studios at the Studios at Las Colinas looking into the television control room

- Kevin Freeman – host of *Economic War Room*
- Pat Gray – *Pat Gray Unleashed* (host), *The Glenn Radio Program* (recurring regular and frequent fill-in host)
- Mark Levin – host of *LevinTV*
- Chad Prather – host of *The Chad Prather Show*
- Dave Rubin – host of *The Rubin Report*
- Andrew Wilkow – host of *Wilkow!*
- Allie Beth Stuckey – host of *Relatable* with Allie Beth Stuckey
- Matt Kibbe – host of *Kibbe on Liberty*<sup>[23]</sup>
- Phil Robertson – host of *In the Woods with Phil* and *Unashamed with Phil Robertson*<sup>[24]</sup>
- Jason Whitlock – host of *Fearless with Jason Whitlock*

## Frequent guests

- David Barton – evangelical Christian political activist and author
- Ted Cruz – United States senator from Texas
- Mike Lee – United States senator from Utah
- Gavin McInnes – Founder of group the Proud Boys
- Bill O'Reilly – Former television host of *The O'Reilly Factor* on Fox News, and host of *No Spin News*
- Ben Shapiro – editor-in-chief of *The Daily Wire* and host of *The Ben Shapiro Show*
- Dennis Prager – founder of PragerU and political commentator
- Rand Paul – United States senator from Kentucky and 2016 Republican presidential candidate
- Ben Sasse – United States senator from Nebraska
- John W. Whitehead – founder of the Rutherford Institute

## Former hosts and contributors

- S. E. Cupp – *Real News*
- Laurie Dhue – Blaze news anchor
- Tomi Lahren – *Tomi* (2015–2017)
- Dana Loesch – *Dana* (2013–2017)
- Michelle Malkin – host of *Michelle Malkin Investigates* (departed 2018, show moved to Newsmax TV)
- Gavin McInnes – host of *Get Off My Lawn* (departed 2018)
- Jay Severin – *The Jay Severin Show* (2012–2016)
- Andrew W.K. – *America W.K.*

## Controversies

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## TheBlaze Radio Network

	
<b>Broadcast area</b>	Worldwide via <u>Internet streaming</u> and <u>smartphone apps</u>
<b>Frequency</b>	Internet ( <u>iHeartRadio</u> , <u>TheBlaze apps</u> , <u>web</u> )
<b>Programming</b>	
<b>Format</b>	<u>Conservative libertarian talk radio</u>
<b>Ownership</b>	
<b>Owner</b>	<u>Blaze Media LLC</u>
<b>History</b>	
<b>First air date</b>	<u>September 5, 2012</u>
<b>Technical information</b>	
<b>Class</b>	<u>Internet radio station</u>
<b>Links</b>	
<b>Website</b>	<u>www.theblaze.com/st/Radio</u> ( <u>https://www.theblaze.com/st/Radio</u> )

## Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez video

In July 2018, CRTV published a satirical video that featured footage of then-Democratic candidate in New York's 14th congressional district midterm election, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, from a previous interview with PBS.<sup>[25]</sup> The previous interview was edited to appear as if Ocasio-Cortez was giving nonsensical answers to questions read by CRTV commentator Allie Stuckey, a comedy routine more famously done by "Weird Al" Yankovic on his *Al TV* series. The video was accompanied by a caption reading "Allie \*grills\* congressional hopeful and progressive it girl 'Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez' on her socialist agenda and knowledge of government... or lack thereof."<sup>[26]</sup> Following outcry from various media outlets, the outlet updated the caption to indicate that the video was satirical and included a link to the original PBS interview.<sup>[25][27][26]</sup>

## Jon Miller's Bong Joon-ho Oscars tweet

On February 9, 2020, *White House Brief* host Jon Miller posted a tweet in response to South Korean filmmaker Bong Joon-ho, director of *Parasite*, and his acceptance speech at the 92nd Academy Awards for Best Original Screenplay. Miller wrote: "A man named Bong Joon Ho wins #Oscar for best original screenplay over *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* and *1917*. Acceptance speech was: "GREAT HONOR. THANK YOU." Then he proceeds to give the rest of his speech in Korean. These people are the destruction of America."<sup>[28]</sup> The tweet immediately caused controversy, with numerous Twitter users and celebrities accusing Miller of racism and xenophobia. Miller vehemently denied his tweet was directed at Koreans, and claimed it was aimed at Hollywood.<sup>[29][30]</sup>

## Additional outlets

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### Radio



TheBlaze Radio Network was launched on September 5, 2012 and is available for free online via the company's website, iOS and Android apps, and the iHeartRadio app. TheBlaze Radio Network is the exclusive home of conservative talk-show host Pat Gray.

### Website

TheBlaze website launched on August 26, 2010. According to Beck, the site took two months to design.<sup>[3]</sup> At launch, the site's chief editor was Scott Baker, with its associate editor-video producer Pam Key and with Jon Seidl and Meredith Jessup as reporters. Key is known for her blog, *Naked Emperor News: Smoking Gun Video and Images*. Baker is a former Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, broadcast journalist who previously worked at *The Huffington Post* and *Breitbart TV*. Seidl, of the *Manhattan Institute*, previously worked at *The American Spectator*. Jessup previously worked at *Townhall*. Journalists joining *TheBlaze* later included S. E. Cupp and David Harsanyi.

In January 2011, Betsy Morgan became president and Kraig Kitchin director of sales. Morgan had helmed *The Huffington Post* until 2009. Kitchin had formerly been the president of Premier Radio.<sup>[31]</sup>

### TheBlaze.com

	
show screenshot	
	
Homepage screenshot on 14 May 2016	
Type of site	Online newspaper
Available in	English



In March 2011, the site was noted for its critique of James O'Keefe's NPR sting video.<sup>[32]</sup>

<b>Owner</b>	Blaze Media LLC
<b>Editor</b>	Leon Wolf
<b>URL</b>	<u>theblaze.com</u> ( <a href="https://theblaze.com/">https://theblaze.com/</a> )
<b>Commercial</b>	Yes
<b>Launched</b>	August 26, 2010
<b>Current status</b>	Active

## Magazine

*TheBlaze* (entitled *Fusion* prior to September 2012) was a monthly news magazine published by Mercury Radio Arts and TheBlaze in New York City and circulated throughout the United States. Its former title, *Fusion*, was taken from Beck's talk radio program's slogan, "The Fusion of Entertainment and Enlightenment." The editor-in-chief was Scott Baker.<sup>[33]</sup> The magazine was sixteen pages and was published monthly except for February and August. It was available digitally and in print.<sup>[34]</sup> The last edition of *TheBlaze* magazine was published in April 2015.

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## External links

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- [Official website \(http://www.theblaze.com/\)](http://www.theblaze.com/)
    - [TV \(http://www.theblaze.com/tv\)](http://www.theblaze.com/tv)
    - [Radio \(http://www.theblaze.com/radio\)](http://www.theblaze.com/radio)
  - [Mercury Radio Arts \(http://www.mercuryradioarts.com\)](http://www.mercuryradioarts.com)
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Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Blaze\\_Media&oldid=1032839868](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Blaze_Media&oldid=1032839868)"

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# Newsmax

**Newsmax** (or **Newsmax.com**, previously styled **NewsMax**) is a conservative<sup>[8]</sup> American news and opinion website founded by Christopher Ruddy on September 16, 1998, and operated by Newsmax Media. The website is divided into four main sections: Newsmax, Newsmax Health, Newsmax Finance, and Newsmax World, each divided into various subsections. Newsmax Media also operates a print magazine called *Newsmax* as well as the cable news channel Newsmax TV.

Newsmax launched a cable TV channel on June 16, 2014 to 35 million satellite subscribers through DirecTV and Dish Network.<sup>[9]</sup> As of May 2019, the network reaches about 75 million cable homes and has wide digital media player/mobile device availability.<sup>[10]</sup> The channel primarily broadcasts from Newsmax's New York studio on Manhattan's East Side, with two headquarters in West Palm Beach, Florida and Sugar Land, Texas.<sup>[11][12]</sup>

The website has been described by *The New York Times* as influential in American conservative circles.<sup>[13]</sup> CEO Christopher Ruddy has attempted to position the network as a competitor to Fox News, including by hiring former Fox News hosts Rob Schmitt, Greg Kelly, Bob Sellers and Heather Childers.<sup>[14][15]</sup> *The Washington Post* described Newsmax as "a landing spot for cable news personalities in need of a new home," citing the network's airing of Mark Halperin and Bill O'Reilly following their resignations from other networks due to sexual harassment allegations.<sup>[16]</sup> *The Daily Beast* also noted it as a "safe haven for personalities whose scandals have made them unwelcome on other networks or outlets" citing legal analyst Alan Dershowitz.<sup>[17]</sup> After the 2020 United States presidential election, Newsmax published numerous conspiracy theories and false accusations of voter fraud in the 2020 election.<sup>[18][19][20]</sup> When asked about Newsmax's support of former U.S. President Donald Trump, Ruddy stated, "We have an editorial policy of being supportive of the President and his policies".<sup>[21]</sup>

## Newsmax



Newsmax logo used until 2021

<b>Type of site</b>	News and opinion
<b>Available in</b>	English
<b>Owner</b>	Newsmax Media
<b>Created by</b>	Christopher Ruddy
<b>Editor</b>	Christopher Ruddy
<b>Key people</b>	<u>Christopher Ruddy</u> (CEO) David J. Perel (Director) Kenneth Chandler (Editor)
<b>URL</b>	<u>www.newsmax.com</u> ( <u>http://www.newsmax.com</u> )
<b>Commercial</b>	Yes
<b>Registration</b>	Optional, but is required to comment
<b>Launched</b>	September 16, 1998
<b>Current status</b>	Active

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## **History and content**

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Ruddy started Newsmax.com on September 16, 1998, supported by a group of investors, including the family of former Central Intelligence Agency Director William J. Casey. Later, Richard Mellon Scaife, Ruddy's former employer at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, invested in the fledgling company.<sup>[22]</sup> One of the initial board members was author James Dale Davidson who edited a financial newsletter. Davidson's co-editor, Lord Rees-Mogg, former editor of the London Times, later became chairman of Newsmax.<sup>[23]</sup> Ruddy previously promoted conspiracy theories around the suicide of Vince Foster.<sup>[24]</sup>

Other news figures who later joined the Newsmax board included Arnaud de Borchgrave, the longtime Newsweek chief correspondent who also serves as editor-at-large of United Press International (UPI) and Jeff Cunningham, former publisher of Forbes. Admiral Thomas Moorer, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Chief of Naval Operations during the Vietnam War, also served as one of the company's founding board members. Former United States Secretary of State and Nixon and Ford administration Chief of Staff, General Alexander M. Haig, Jr. served as special adviser to NewsMax.<sup>[25]</sup>

In 1998, Newsmax became known for its anti-Clinton content.<sup>[21]</sup> In the fall of 2007, Newsmax CEO Christopher Ruddy published a positive interview with former president Bill Clinton on Newsmax.com, followed by a positive cover story in Newsmax magazine. The New York Times said with reference to the event that politics had made "strange bedfellows."<sup>[26]</sup> Bill Clinton also visited the Newsmax headquarters in West Palm Beach in 2010.<sup>[27]</sup> In 2014, Newsmax donated \$1 million to the Clinton Foundation and CEO Christopher Ruddy has accompanied President Clinton on foundation trips to Africa.<sup>[28][29]</sup>

In a January 2010 profile on the company, the Financial Times reported that the "rise of Newsmax" had defied the media trend and said that the Newsmax website was "one of the strongest conservative voices online". The paper said Newsmax had witnessed 40 percent growth rates per annum over the past decade, closing 2009 with \$35 million revenues, up from \$25 million the year before.<sup>[30]</sup> A 2010 New York Post story reported that the paper's long-time former editor, Kenneth Chandler, was tapped as Newsmax Magazine's editor-in-chief. CEO Ruddy also told the Post the company expected annual 2010 revenues to exceed \$50 million.<sup>[31]</sup>

A profile on Newsmax in The New York Times described the company as a "potent force" in U.S. politics and noted the company's headquarters had become a must stop for Republican candidates seeking the party's 2012 nomination.<sup>[32]</sup>

Starting in April 2013, Newsmax.com and its affiliated sites drew 14.4 million unique visitors, leading comScore's News/Politics category over such sites as The Huffington Post Politics, Fox News Politics, CNN Politics, NBCNews.com Politics, and Politico in monthly viewership for two consecutive months.<sup>[33]</sup>

In March 2014, Newsmax was profiled in Bloomberg Businessweek by correspondent Karl Taro Greenfeld. The story detailed Newsmax's successful business model of targeting higher-incomed Baby boomers. The average age of a Newsmax online reader is 54.7 years of age. The profile detailed Newsmax's plans to launch

a linear and Over-the-top (OTT) content cable channel, and suggested their revenue model which sells "a smorgasbord of political, health, and financial information, self-help books, and even vitamin supplements" could make the company uniquely competitive in this arena.<sup>[5]</sup>

Newsmax contributors include Nancy Brinker, George Will, John Gizzi, Lanny Davis, Alan Dershowitz, Christopher W. Ruddy, David Limbaugh, Ben Stein, Susan Estrich, Dr. Laura Schlessinger, Michael Reagan,<sup>[34]</sup> Dr. Mehmet Oz and Dr. Michael Roizen.<sup>[35]</sup>

In November 2017, *Politico* reported that Fox News, facing new competitors, was giving more favorable coverage to President Donald Trump. In an interview, Newsmax CEO Christopher Ruddy criticized Fox News' hosts unwillingness to criticize President Donald Trump, telling *Politico* that "Newsmax is very supportive of the president, but we also will publish things that are critical of him time to time," Ruddy said. "Fox seems to have decided to become very closely aligned, which seems unnatural, and it doesn't seem consistent."<sup>[36]</sup>

## Coverage of the 2020 United States presidential election

During the 2020 United States presidential election, President Trump began to promote Newsmax over its rival, Fox News.<sup>[37][38][39][40]</sup> Trump's preference for Newsmax over Fox News became clearer after the latter became the first news outlet to call Arizona for Democratic challenger Joe Biden.<sup>[14]</sup> Newsmax has made their more conservative leanings a selling point to disaffected Fox News viewers, as well as employing Fox News alumni to join their lineup on Newsmax TV, such as Rob Schmitt and Greg Kelly.<sup>[14][41][15]</sup> Emily VanDerWerff of Vox reported that the outlet "spent lots of time arguing that other media outlets jumped the gun in calling the election for Biden and that Trump still has a path to win this thing," and that it was one of the only networks that didn't call the election for Biden, citing the Trump campaign's legal challenges. However, she did write that "Newsmax doesn't go full arch-conservative" and "doesn't give airtime to QAnon paranoiacs."<sup>[19]</sup>

CNN's Brian Stelter, in an on-air interview, asked Newsmax CEO Christopher Ruddy why the network chose to air "election denialism" and "bogus voter fraud stuff," to which Ruddy replied that the network featured all points of view and argued that all of the other major news outlets who had reported Biden's election win were "rushing".<sup>[18]</sup>

In an interview with *Variety*, Ruddy stated that, "We are waiting for the states' certification and the electoral college, but we will at some point when that happens" and insisted: "We will be supportive of whoever the next president is."<sup>[42]</sup> He added "Newsmax would never become Trump TV. We have always seen ourselves as an independent news agency" but would be willing to Trump having a weekly show.<sup>[42]</sup> Ruddy says the company is "moderately conservative and we will continue to have a moderately conservative viewpoint on things – including the president."<sup>[42]</sup>

In a later interview with the *New Yorker*, Ruddy stated, "I do think that Donald Trump should concede when the certifications come in," he said, adding that he "would not support going to state legislators to overturn the electors."<sup>[43]</sup>

Following the certification of the electoral college of Joe Biden as the winner on December 14, 2020, the network began using the title, "President-elect" to refer to Biden.<sup>[44]</sup>

## Acquisition reports

On November 15, 2020, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Hicks Equity Partners, a private equity firm with ties to a co-chair of the Republican National Committee, was exploring a buyout of Newsmax. The Hicks group identified a team of executives who would manage the network, and had been talking to former Fox News hosts including Megyn Kelly.<sup>[45]</sup> Media analyst Michael Nathanson reported that if a competing network took 20% of Fox News' audience, it could sap about \$200 million in annual profit from the company. In an interview with *Variety*, Newsmax CEO Christopher Ruddy stated "we are not actively selling" the company though he had expressions of interests from investors. Regarding Hicks Equity Partners, Ruddy stated, "we have no deal with them."<sup>[42]</sup> Ruddy stated that "We would like to overtake Fox News in 12 months, and I think it's doable."<sup>[46]</sup>

## Post-2020 United States presidential election

Newsmax promoted baseless<sup>[47][48][49]</sup> allegations that voting machine company Smartmatic and its competitor Dominion Voting Systems had conspired to rig the election against Trump. In December 2020, Smartmatic sent a letter to Newsmax threatening legal action and demanding "a full and complete retraction of all false and defamatory statements and reports."<sup>[50][51]</sup>

Days later, a Newsmax host stated the company "would like to clarify its news coverage and note it has not reported as true certain claims" made by Newsmax interviewees about Dominion and Smartmatic. Newsmax declared that it had "no evidence" of certain claims made on its programming, including the claim that the two companies have a business relationship, the claim that either company used each other's software, and the claim that either company "manipulated votes" in the 2020 American general election.<sup>[52][53]</sup> Newsmax also stated it had "no evidence" that Smartmatic software was used anywhere except Los Angeles during the 2020 election.<sup>[54]</sup> Newsmax additionally said viewers should be aware of "several facts", including that both companies have no relationship with George Soros, and that "Smartmatic is a U.S. company and not owned by the Venezuelan government" or any other foreign entity.<sup>[55][56]</sup>

Dominion executive Eric Coomer sued Newsmax, other conservative media outlets, the Trump campaign and others for defamation in December 2020, asserting they falsely alleged he had acted to rig voting machines in association with antifa. In April 2021, Newsmax published a retraction and apology on its website, saying it "found no evidence" to support the allegations against Coomer. In exchange, Coomer dropped Newsmax from his suit.<sup>[57]</sup>

Mediaite's Rudy Takala wrote that conservatives disgruntled with Fox News could potentially be disappointed by Newsmax due to CEO Christopher Ruddy's friendship with former Democratic President Bill Clinton and positive remarks about a Hillary Clinton presidential campaign.<sup>[58]</sup> Newsmax has previously donated \$1 million to the Clinton Foundation. When reached for comment, Ruddy said, "Like Donald Trump, Rupert Murdoch and other business people, I have donated to the Clinton Foundation and a few Democrats, but over 90 percent of my political contributions have been to Republicans, including ones to President Trump."<sup>[58]</sup>

Jeffrey McCall, a journalism professor at DePauw University, told Mediaite that "Ruddy is a pragmatist unlikely to allow his operation to be a fully ideological platform. Trump allies who want to bend the arc of media progressivism will need a much more comprehensive national strategy than just trying to take over one particular media outlet."<sup>[58]</sup>

*Adweek* reported that Newsmax's TV ratings grew tenfold in the fourth quarter of 2020 compared to the previous quarter. Its top two shows, Spicer & Co. and Greg Kelly Reports (at 7 p.m.), averaged 816,000 total viewers during the same November 7–18 interval.<sup>[59]</sup> Regarding coverage of the Biden administration, CEO Christopher Ruddy told *Adweek* "I think Newsmax's job is to be loyal opposition, to question the policies, the programs and the people that are coming into the Biden administration. We're going to take a very careful look at that. I think we were pretty fair with Barack Obama. We were tough on him, but we never called for his impeachment", he said.<sup>[60]</sup> Newsmax TV momentarily exceeded Fox News in viewership in December 2020,



but lost viewers after the conclusion of the election cycle.<sup>[61][62]</sup> A Pew Research Center study found that Newsmax's reach (10% of American adults) continued to trail Fox News's reach (43% of American adults) in March 2021.<sup>[63]</sup>

## News integrity issues

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In 2018, the Qatari government sought to acquire a major stake in Newsmax in order to "to win friends and clout in the United States as it struggle[s] to respond to a Trump-endorsed blockade by its Arab neighbors."<sup>[64]</sup> Since Qatar moved to invest in Newsmax, the publication softened its tone on Qatar. While Newsmax had been "among the conservative outlets that led the charge in portraying Qatar as a major state sponsor of terror," when the Emir of Qatar visited the U.S. in April 2018 the outlet "cheered the visit and said it was 'widely praised.'"<sup>[65]</sup> In 2019 and 2020, Newsmax published several op-eds by Raphael Badani, a fake persona who was part of a broader network pushing propaganda for the United Arab Emirates and against Qatar, Turkey and Iran.<sup>[66]</sup> Newsmax listed him as an "Insider", and included a fake bio and photo of the persona.<sup>[66]</sup>

Media Matters reported that during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, Newsmax sent a marketing email to its subscriber list asserting that "the WORST thing you could do is get a vaccine when it becomes available" because "vaccines are one of the biggest health scares of our lifetime—a scam perpetuated among the American people." It instead encouraged subscription to a health newsletter and dietary supplements.<sup>[67]</sup> When contacted by *Newsweek*, Newsmax issued a statement saying "This marketing material was inadvertently published and it does not reflect the views of Newsmax."<sup>[68]</sup>

## Reception

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In 2010, Nielsen Online said Newsmax was the most trafficked conservative website with approximately 4 million unique visitors monthly.<sup>[3]</sup> Alexa Internet statistics for Newsmax.com indicate that the readership consists mainly of Internet users over the age of 45, which aligns itself to the average age of Republican leaning voters, as gathered by The Pew Research Center.<sup>[69][70]</sup>

Former President Bill Clinton, who describes Newsmax's CEO Ruddy as a friend, made headlines when he visited Newsmax's offices during the summer of 2010.<sup>[27]</sup> When Sarah Palin stopped by the office for an interview, US News and World Report suggested the move was the clearest indication yet she was planning to run for President.<sup>[71]</sup> According to the magazine, Newsmax is a major player in GOP politics, as seen during the 2012 primaries.<sup>[71]</sup> Visitors have also included Rep. Michele Bachmann, Gov. Tim Pawlenty, Sen. John Thune, Gov. Haley Barbour, Sen. Mitt Romney, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and former Sen. Rick Santorum, among others.<sup>[71]</sup>

MarketWatch's media critic Jon Friedman stated that "Newsmax has flourished because Ruddy has exhibited a stronger commitment to the bottom line than to presenting himself as an ideologue."<sup>[4]</sup>

*The Washington Post* described the relationship Ruddy, though not a registered Republican, has with President Donald Trump as a significant influence, "...with his dual role as a newsman and a close friend."<sup>[72]</sup>

An April 2010 cover story for *Talkers Magazine* featured Newsmax as a model of future media companies called "Media Stations" that offer their audience audio, video, digital, and even print content.<sup>[3]</sup>

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detailed Newsmax's plans to launch a linear and Over-the-top (OTT) content cable channel, and suggested their revenue model which sells "a smorgasbord of political, health, and financial information, self-help books, and even vitamin supplements" could make the company uniquely competitive in this arena.<sup>[73]</sup>

In 2019, the *Columbia Journalism Review* reported, "There are currently about 15 to 20 conservative websites which attract at least one million unique visitors per month. Some are venerable right-wing reliables like *National Review*, *The Washington Times*, or Newsmax. Others, like *Infowars*, *The Gateway Pundit*, *Big League Politics*, and *Breitbart*, mine the far fringes of the right."<sup>[6]</sup> In a separate article, editor *Michael Massing* of the *Columbia Journalism Review* stated that "Far-right Web sites like *World Net Daily* and *Newsmax.com* floated all kinds of specious stories about *Obama* that quickly careened around the blogosphere and onto talk radio. One particular favorite was the claim that *Bill Ayers* ghost-wrote *Dreams From My Father*."<sup>[74]</sup>

## Additional outlets

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### Newsmax magazine

Newsmax Media publishes *Newsmax* magazine, which the company describes as one of the nation's largest independent monthlies "with a conservative perspective." During 2019 the company reported a monthly readership of 300,000.

### Newsmax TV

In 2014, Newsmax Media announced they would be starting a new television news channel. It was marketed to compete with *Fox News Channel*.<sup>[75][76]</sup> On their website Newsmax said they expected to have up to 21 hours of original programming a day by the end of the summer. Later named as *Newsmax TV* and launched in June 2014, it was originally available on *DirecTV* and for free on the Newsmax website.

### Newsmax Adria

*Newsmax Adria* is a partnership between Newsmax Media and *United Media* that began operating in June 2020. The new partnership operates in most of the former *Yugoslavian* countries. It produces a newly retitled daily news bulletins *Dnevnik Newsmax Adria* on *Nova BH* in *Bosnia and Herzegovina*, and evening magazine program *Pregled dana* on *Nova S* in *Serbia*.

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## External links

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- [Official website](http://newsmax.com) (<http://newsmax.com>) (Mobile (<http://www.newsmax.com/m/>))
  - [Newsmax Knows Its Audience](http://archive.wired.com/culture/lifestyle/news/2000/12/40375) (<http://archive.wired.com/culture/lifestyle/news/2000/12/40375>) (2000-12-08) by [Wired.com](#)
  - [Chris Ruddy: Conservatives' Great Online Ally](https://www.marketwatch.com/story/rush-limbau-gh-matt-drudge-trail-newsmax) (<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/rush-limbau-gh-matt-drudge-trail-newsmax>) March 13, 2009 by [MarketWatch](#)
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# Breitbart News

**Breitbart News Network** (known commonly as **Breitbart News**, **Breitbart** or **Breitbart.com**) is an American far-right<sup>[5]</sup> syndicated news, opinion, and commentary<sup>[6][7]</sup> website founded in mid-2007 by American conservative commentator Andrew Breitbart, who conceived it as "the *Huffington Post* of the right".<sup>[4][8][9]</sup> Its journalists are widely considered to be ideologically driven, and much of its content has been called misogynistic, homophobic, xenophobic, and racist by liberals and traditional conservatives alike.<sup>[10]</sup> The site has published a number of conspiracy theories,<sup>[11][12]</sup> instances of anti-Chinese xenophobia,<sup>[13]</sup> and intentionally misleading stories.<sup>[14][15]</sup>

*Breitbart News* aligned with the alt-right under the management of former executive chairman Steve Bannon,<sup>[16]</sup> who declared the website "the platform for the alt-right" in 2016.<sup>[17]</sup> In 2016, *Breitbart News* became a virtual rallying spot for supporters of Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.<sup>[10]</sup> The company's management, together with former staff member Milo Yiannopoulos, solicited ideas for stories from, and worked to advance and market ideas of neo-Nazi, Falun Gong, and white supremacist groups and individuals.<sup>[18][19]</sup> After the election, more than 2,000 organizations removed *Breitbart News* from ad buys following Internet activism campaigns denouncing the site's controversial positions.<sup>[20][21][22]</sup>

The company is headquartered in Los Angeles, with bureaus in Texas, London, and Jerusalem. Co-founder Larry Solov is the co-owner (along with Andrew Breitbart's widow Susie Breitbart and the Mercer family)<sup>[23]</sup> and CEO, while Alex Marlow is the editor-in-chief, Wynton Hall is managing editor,<sup>[24]</sup> and Joel Pollak<sup>[4]</sup> and Peter Schweizer<sup>[25]</sup> are senior editors-at-large.

## Breitbart News Network



Screenshot



<b>Type of site</b>	Politics News and opinion
<b>Available in</b>	English
<b>Owner</b>	Breitbart News Network, LLC <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Created by</b>	Andrew Breitbart
<b>Editor</b>	<u>Alex Marlow</u> (editor-in-chief) <sup>[2]</sup> <u>Wynton Hall</u> (managing editor) <sup>[3]</sup> <u>Joel Pollak</u> (senior-editor-at-large) <sup>[4]</sup>
<b>CEO</b>	<u>Larry Solov</u>
<b>URL</b>	<u>www.breitbart.com/masthead</u> ( <u>http://www.breitbart.com/masthead</u> )
<b>Commercial</b>	Yes
<b>Registration</b>	Optional (required to comment)
<b>Launched</b>	2007 (as <i>Breitbart.tv</i> )
<b>Current status</b>	Active

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# History

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## 2005–2012: creation and early years



Andrew Breitbart in 2012

Andrew Breitbart launched *Breitbart.com* as a news aggregator in 2005. The website featured direct links to wire stories at the Associated Press, Reuters, Fox News, the New York Post, TMZ as well as a number of other outlets. The website's initial growth was largely fueled by links from the Drudge Report. In 2007, *Breitbart.com* launched a video blog, *Breitbart.tv*.<sup>[26][27]</sup>

According to co-founder Larry Solov, the two men were in agreement that the site should be "unapologetically pro-freedom and pro-Israel" during their visit to Israel in 2007.<sup>[28]</sup> In August 2010, Andrew Breitbart told the Associated Press that he was "committed to the destruction of the old media guard." As part of that commitment, he founded *Breitbart.com*, a website designed to become "the Huffington Post of the right" according to *Breitbart News*'s former executive chairman, Steve Bannon.<sup>[4]</sup> *Breitbart News* exclusively re-posted the Anthony Weiner sexting scandal, the resignation of Shirley

Sherrod, and the ACORN 2009 undercover videos controversy. Following Andrew Breitbart's death in 2012, the site was redesigned, bringing the formerly distinct "Big" websites under one umbrella website at *Breitbart.com*.<sup>[4]</sup>

Billionaire conservative activist Robert Mercer endowed *Breitbart.com* with at least \$11 million in 2011.<sup>[29]</sup>

## 2012–2016: after Andrew Breitbart's death

### Bannon assumes leadership

Andrew Breitbart died in March 2012. The website hosted a number of memorials for him. Editors said they intended to carry on his legacy at the website.<sup>[30]</sup> Following Andrew Breitbart's death, former board member Steve Bannon became executive chairman and Laurence Solov became CEO. The company also hired Joel Pollak as editor-in-chief and Alex Marlow as managing editor.<sup>[31]</sup> An October 2012 article in *BuzzFeed News* suggested there were internal tensions in the organisation in the year after Andrew Breitbart's death as staffers battled for ownership of his legacy.<sup>[32]</sup>

Before his death, Andrew Breitbart had begun a redesign of the *Breitbart News* website to transform it from a links-aggregator into a more tabloid-style website. The redesign was launched shortly after his death in March 2012.<sup>[32]</sup>

In February 2014, Bannon announced the addition of approximately 12 staff members and the opening of Texas and London-based operations. The new offices were the beginning of an expansion plan that included the addition of a new regional site roughly every 90 days, with new locations to include Florida, California, Cairo, and Jerusalem.<sup>[33]</sup> According to a 2014 Pew Research Center study, 3% of respondents got their news from *Breitbart* in a typical week, and 79% of its audience reported having political values that are right-of-center.<sup>[34]</sup>

Under Bannon's management, *Breitbart News* aligned with the American alt-right,<sup>[16]</sup> the European populist right,<sup>[35]</sup> and the white nationalist identitarian movement.<sup>[36]</sup> Bannon declared the website "the platform for the alt-right" in 2016,<sup>[17]</sup> but denied all allegations of racism and later stated that he rejected what he called the "ethno-nationalist" tendencies of the alt-right movement.<sup>[37]</sup> One of Bannon's coworkers said he wasn't referring to Richard Spencer but instead to "the trolls on Reddit or 4Chan."<sup>[38]</sup> The owners of *Breitbart News* deny their website has any connection to the alt-right or has ever supported racist or white supremacist views.<sup>[39]</sup>

*Breitbart News* spokesperson Kurt Bardella stated in 2015 that the site "is a for-profit operation".<sup>[40]</sup> The company's investors include computer scientist and hedge fund CEO Robert Mercer.<sup>[40]</sup> Editors commented in 2015 that the site is a "private company and we don't comment on who our investors or backers are."<sup>[41]</sup> According to the *Los Angeles Times*, web traffic is vital to the company as it supports itself from advertising revenue.<sup>[39]</sup>

### Support for Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign

*Breitbart News* strongly supported Donald Trump in the 2016 United States presidential election. In July 2015, *Politico* reported that Ted Cruz "likely has the Republican presidential field's deepest relationship with the Breitbart machine."<sup>[41]</sup> In August 2015, an article in *BuzzFeed* reported that several anonymous *Breitbart*



Joel Pollak, the senior editor-at-large of *Breitbart News* since 2012

News staffers claimed that Donald Trump had paid for favorable coverage on the site. The site's management strongly denied the charge.<sup>[42]</sup> In March 2016, Lloyd Grove of *The Daily Beast* characterized the website as "Trump-friendly", writing that *Breitbart News* "regularly savages the GOP establishment, the media elite, the Washington consultant class, and the Fox News Channel."<sup>[43]</sup>

On March 11, 2016, *Breitbart News* reporter Michelle Fields filed a battery complaint against Donald Trump's campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, alleging that Lewandowski had grabbed her and bruised her while she was attempting to ask a question at an event.<sup>[44][45]</sup> After claiming that *Breitbart News's* management was not sufficiently supportive of Fields, *Breitbart's* editor-at-large Ben Shapiro and Fields resigned.<sup>[45][46][47]</sup> A *Breitbart News* article published on March 14, 2016 accused Shapiro of betraying *Breitbart News's* readers; the article was subsequently removed from the website. Editor-at-large Joel Pollak apologized for writing the article, saying he had done so in an attempt "to make light of a significant company event."<sup>[48][49]</sup> The website's spokesperson Kurt Bardella also resigned following the incident, objecting to the company's handling of the incident and its favorable coverage of Trump.<sup>[6][48]</sup> By March 14, several top executives and journalists at *Breitbart News* had resigned, with *The New York Times* saying that "Breitbart's unabashed embrace of Mr. Trump, particularly at the seeming expense of its own reporter, struck them as a betrayal of its mission."<sup>[50]</sup> Former employees accused Bannon of having "turned a website founded on anti-authoritarian grounds into a de facto propaganda outlet for Mr. Trump."<sup>[10]</sup>



Alex Marlow, editor-in-chief of *Breitbart News*



Steve Bannon at the 2017 Conservative Political Action Conference

On August 17, Bannon stepped down from his role as executive chairman to join the Trump campaign as its new CEO.<sup>[51][52]</sup> On August 25, Trump's opponent Hillary Clinton criticized him for hiring Bannon as his CEO in her rally in Reno, Nevada. She stated that the site "embraces ideas on the extremist fringe of the conservative right" by reading out the site's headlines and that Trump's decision to hire Bannon "represents a landmark achievement for the alt-right".<sup>[53][54]</sup> In January 2017, editor Julia Hahn resigned from *Breitbart News* to work as special assistant to president Donald Trump.<sup>[55]</sup>

## 2016–present: after the 2016 election

In November 2016, the cereal manufacturer Kellogg's announced they would no longer advertise on *Breitbart News*, saying the site was not "aligned with [their] values". In response, *Breitbart* announced plans to boycott the company.<sup>[56]</sup> *Breitbart* announced they would be willing to go to "war" with Kellogg's over its decision to remove ads from the site.<sup>[57]</sup>

Milo Yiannopoulos, who had served as a senior editor of *Breitbart News* since 2014, resigned from the company on February 21, 2017 after a video of him making controversial statements in relation to hebephilia surfaced.<sup>[58][59][60][61]</sup>

Allies of Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior advisor Jared Kushner complained to Trump in April 2017 after *Breitbart* published several unflattering articles about Kushner.<sup>[62]</sup> Shortly afterwards, the site's senior editors asked staffers to stop writing stories critical of Kushner.<sup>[63][64][65]</sup>

Bannon was appointed White House Chief Strategist in the administration of US President Donald Trump and served in that role for seven months; he was dismissed from the White House on August 17, 2017.<sup>[66][67]</sup> That same day, he was again appointed executive chairman of *Breitbart News*.<sup>[67]</sup> In January 2018, *Breitbart News* announced that Bannon stepped down from his position as executive chairman.<sup>[68]</sup>

In September 2018, the Wikipedia community deprecated *Breitbart News* as a source due to its unreliability; *Breitbart News* can still be cited on Wikipedia as an opinion or commentary source.<sup>[69][70]</sup>

In October 2019, Facebook announced that *Breitbart News* would be included as a "trusted source" in its Facebook News feature alongside sources like The New York Times and The Washington Post. The decision sparked controversy due to *Breitbart's* status as a platform for the alt-right and its reputation for publishing misinformation.<sup>[71][72][73]</sup>

## Decline in advertisers and readership

From November 2016 to June 2017, *Breitbart's* readership fell faster than other news sites.<sup>[74]</sup> In the two months from April to June 2017, the site lost about 90% of its advertisers,<sup>[75]</sup> The decline coincided with boycotts aimed at getting advertisers to stop running ads on the site.<sup>[76]</sup> The boycotts were mainly organized by the anonymous online group Sleeping Giants,<sup>[74]</sup> which said on June 5 that 2,200 organizations had committed to stop advertising on *Breitbart News* (and similar sites) due to its controversial positions.<sup>[77][21][22][76]</sup> Soon thereafter, *Breitbart News* trimmed prominently displayed, overtly racist content and fired contributor Katie McHugh for posting Islamophobic tweets about the 2017 London Bridge attack.<sup>[74][78]</sup>

By 2019 *Breitbart* had lost nearly 75% of its readership, going from 17.3 million at the beginning of 2017 to 4.6 million in May 2019.<sup>[79]</sup>

## Content and coverage

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### Accuracy and ideology

*Breitbart News* is a far-right<sup>[5][6][7]</sup> American news, opinion, and commentary website.<sup>[6][7]</sup> Some sources describe it as a conservative news outlet or as part of the alt-right.<sup>[80][81][82]</sup> One of the site's objectives is to court millennial conservatives.<sup>[39]</sup> Its consistently conservative editorial positions overlap with the ideological positions of far-right European political parties. It supported Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign,<sup>[10]</sup> and political scientist Matthew Goodwin described *Breitbart News* as being "ultra-conservative" in orientation.<sup>[83]</sup>

In August 2017, Joel Pollak, the senior editor-at-large for *Breitbart News*, described the "mission" of *Breitbart News* in this way:

#WAR has been our motto since the days of Andrew Breitbart, and we use it whenever we go to war against our three main targets, which are, in order: Hollywood and the mainstream media, number one; the Democratic Party and the institutional left, number two; and the Republican establishment in Washington, number three."<sup>[84]</sup>

*Breitbart News* has published a number of falsehoods and conspiracy theories,<sup>[11]</sup> as well as intentionally misleading stories,<sup>[14]</sup> including claims that Hillary Clinton and the Obama administration supported ISIS.<sup>[12]</sup> It has sometimes published these misleading stories as part of an intentional strategy to manipulate media narratives via disinformation.<sup>[15][85][14]</sup> In July 2010, Shirley Sherrod was fired from her appointed position as Georgia State Director of Rural Development for the United States Department of Agriculture.<sup>[86][87]</sup> Her firing was largely in response to coverage in *Breitbart News* of video excerpts from her address to an event of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in March 2010.<sup>[88]</sup> Both NAACP and White House officials apologized for their statements after a longer version of her address was reviewed.

In April 2016, Stephen Piggott wrote in a Southern Poverty Law Center blog that the "outlet has undergone a noticeable shift toward embracing ideas on the extremist fringe of the conservative right" and was using "racist", "anti-Muslim" and "anti-immigrant ideas".<sup>[89]</sup> Piggott wrote that the website was openly promoting, and had become associated with, the beliefs of the alt-right.<sup>[89]</sup> Former editor-at-large Ben Shapiro wrote that under Bannon's leadership, "Breitbart has become the alt-right go-to website ... pushing white ethno-nationalism as a legitimate response to political correctness, and the comment section turning into a cesspool for white supremacist mememakers", describing the website as "Trump Pravda".<sup>[90]</sup> *Breitbart News* has published material that has been called misogynist, xenophobic, and racist.<sup>[10]</sup> However, the owners of *Breitbart News* deny their website has any connection to the alt-right.<sup>[39]</sup>

The Anti-Defamation League described *Breitbart News* as "the premier website of the alt-right" representing "white nationalists and unabashed anti-Semites and racists."<sup>[91]</sup> The Zionist Organization of America rejected accusations of anti-semitism, saying that *Breitbart News* instead "bravely fights against anti-Semitism" and called for the ADL to apologize.<sup>[92][93]</sup> An article in The Jewish Daily Forward argued that Bannon and Andrew Breitbart are anti-Semitic.<sup>[94]</sup> An article by Shmuley Boteach in The Hill disputed the allegations, arguing that *Breitbart* defends Israel against antisemitism.<sup>[95]</sup> Alexander Marlow denies that *Breitbart* is a "hate-site", stating "that we're consistently called anti-Semitic despite the fact that we are overwhelmingly staffed with Jews and are pro-Israel and pro-Jewish. That is fake news."<sup>[96]</sup>

*Breitbart News* has had staff members associated with white supremacists. An exposé by BuzzFeed published in October 2017 documented how *Breitbart* solicited story ideas and copy edits from white supremacists and neo-Nazis via the intermediation of Milo Yiannopoulos. Yiannopoulos, together with other *Breitbart News* employees, developed and marketed the values and tactics of these groups and attempted to make them palatable to a broader audience.<sup>[97][98]</sup> According to BuzzFeed, "These new emails and documents ... clearly show that Breitbart does more than tolerate the most hate-filled, racist voices of the alt-right. It thrives on them, fueling and being fueled by some of the most toxic beliefs on the political spectrum—and clearing the way for them to enter the American mainstream."<sup>[97]</sup> In November 2017, British anti-fascism charity Hope Not Hate identified one of the website's writers as an administrator of a far-right Facebook group that serves as a platform for fascists and white supremacists.<sup>[99]</sup>

In 2017, the Mueller investigation examined the role of *Breitbart News* in Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections and its role in both amplifying stories from Russian media and being amplified by Russian bots in social media.<sup>[100][101]</sup> In 2017, a *Breitbart News* reporter left the company to join Sputnik.<sup>[102]</sup>

*Breitbart News* has published several articles accusing Wikipedia of having a left-wing bias,<sup>[103]</sup> and has described it as a "bastion of the liberal elite".<sup>[104]</sup>

## Main sections

## "Big Hollywood"

In 2008, Andrew Breitbart launched the website *Big Hollywood*, a group blog by individuals working in Hollywood. The site was an outgrowth of Breitbart's "Big Hollywood" column in The Washington Times, which included issues faced by conservatives working in Hollywood.<sup>[105]</sup> In 2009, the site used audio from a conference call to accuse the National Endowment of the Arts of encouraging artists to create work in support of President Barack Obama's domestic policy. The Obama Administration and the NEA were accused of potentially violating the Hatch Act. The White House acknowledged regrets, and the story led to the resignation of a White House appointee, and new federal guidelines for how federal agencies should interact with potential grantees.<sup>[106][107]</sup>

## "Big Government"

Andrew Breitbart launched *BigGovernment.com* on September 10, 2009, with a \$25,000 loan from his father.<sup>[108][109]</sup> He hired Mike Flynn, a former government affairs specialist at the Reason Foundation, as Editor-in-Chief of Big Government.<sup>[110]</sup> The site premiered with hidden camera video footage taken by Hannah Giles and James O'Keefe at Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) offices in various cities, attracting nationwide attention resulting in the ACORN 2009 undercover videos controversy. According to law enforcement and media analysts, the videos were heavily edited to create a negative impression of ACORN.<sup>[111][112][113]</sup>

## "Big Journalism"

In January 2010, Andrew Breitbart launched "Big Journalism". he told Mediaite: "Our goal at Big Journalism is to hold the mainstream media's feet to the fire. There are a lot of stories that they simply don't cover, either because it doesn't fit their world view, or because they're literally innocent of any knowledge that the story even exists, or because they are a dying organization, short-staffed, and thus can't cover stuff like they did before."<sup>[108]</sup> "Big Journalism" was edited by Michael A. Walsh, a former journalism professor and Time magazine music critic.<sup>[108]</sup>

## "National Security"

*BigPeace.com*, which later became the "National Security" component of *Breitbart News*, debuted on July 4, 2010. National Security covers foreign policy, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, terrorism, Islamic extremism, espionage, border security, and energy issues.<sup>[114]</sup>

## "Breitbart Tech"

On October 27, 2015, the website launched "Breitbart Tech", a technology journalism subsection of the site that focuses on technology, gaming, esports, and internet culture.<sup>[115][116]</sup> It was initially edited by Milo Yiannopoulos until his resignation on February 21, 2017, following the controversy surrounding questionable comments he made regarding hebephilia and the sexuality of children during two podcasts.<sup>[117]</sup> In July 2016, Yiannopoulos was banned from Twitter after racist abuse was directed towards Ghostbusters actress Leslie Jones following Yiannopoulos's insulting tweets about her.<sup>[118][119]</sup> Although Yiannopoulos's Twitter account was removed, *Breitbart News* has since republished the full tweet exchange and has published articles criticizing Twitter.<sup>[120]</sup>

## Radio

*Breitbart News Daily* began production on Sirius XM Patriot in 2015.<sup>[121][122]</sup>

## Regional sections

### "Breitbart London"

*Breitbart News's* London edition was launched in February 2014. It was headed at the time by executive editor James Delingpole, described as a "high traffic hire" by *The Spectator's* Steerpik column.<sup>[123]</sup> He co-founded it with Raheem Kassam.<sup>[124]</sup>

### "Breitbart Jerusalem"

On November 17, 2015, the website launched "Breitbart Jerusalem", which covers events in Israel and the wider Middle East. It is edited by Israel-based American reporter Aaron Klein.<sup>[125][126]</sup> Rabbi Shmuley Boteach has been an occasional columnist.<sup>[127]</sup>



Logo for "Breitbart Jerusalem"

### "Breitbart Texas"

*Breitbart News's* Texas edition was launched in February 2014 and its editor and managing director at launch was Brandon Darby.<sup>[128][129]</sup> Michael Quinn Sullivan was a founding contributor.<sup>[129]</sup>

## Notable events

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### ACORN undercover videos

*Breitbart News* played a central role in the 2009 ACORN video controversy, which resulted in the reorganization of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), as well as its loss of private and government funding. *Breitbart News* contributor Hannah Giles posed as a prostitute fleeing an abusive pimp and seeking tax and legal advice on how to run an illegal business that included the use of underage girls in the sex trade, while James O'Keefe, another contributor, posed as her boyfriend. They clandestinely videotaped meetings with ACORN staff who "gave advice on house-buying and how to account on tax forms for the woman's income."<sup>[130][131]</sup>

Andrew Breitbart paid Giles and O'Keefe \$32,000 and \$65,000, respectively, to film, edit and blog about the videos.<sup>[132][133]</sup> Giles paid \$100,000 and O'Keefe paid \$50,000<sup>[133]</sup> to settle a lawsuit brought by former ACORN employee Juan Carlos Vera regarding the videos.<sup>[134][135]</sup>

Subsequent investigations by the Brooklyn District Attorney's office and the California Attorney General found the videos were heavily edited in an attempt to make ACORN's responses "appear more sinister",<sup>[131][136][137]</sup> and contributed to the group's demise.<sup>[138][139]</sup> Clark Hoyt, *The New York Times* public editor, wrote, "The videos were heavily edited. The sequence of some conversations was changed. Some workers seemed concerned for Giles, one advising her to get legal help. In two cities, ACORN workers called the police. But the most damning words match the transcripts and the audio, and do not seem out of context." However, a former Massachusetts Attorney General hired to investigate the matter found no pattern of illegal conduct by the ACORN employees and said the news media should have been far more skeptical, demanding the raw video from which the edited versions were produced.<sup>[140]</sup>



## Shirley Sherrod's remarks at NAACP fundraiser

In July 2010, *Breitbart News* released an edited video titled "Proof NAACP Awards Racism" which featured USDA official Shirley Sherrod speaking at a NAACP fundraising dinner in March 2010. In the video, Sherrod admits to a racial reluctance to help a white farmer obtain government aid. As a result of the video, the NAACP condemned Sherrod's remarks, and U.S. government officials called on Sherrod to resign, which she did.<sup>[86][141]</sup>

The NAACP later posted the longer 43-minute video of the speech.<sup>[141][142]</sup> In it, Sherrod said her reluctance to help a white man was wrong, and she had ended up assisting him. The NAACP then reversed their rebuke of Sherrod,<sup>[141]</sup> and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack apologized and offered Sherrod a new government position.<sup>[143]</sup> Andrew Breitbart said that the point of the piece was not to target Sherrod, but said the NAACP audience's reception of some parts of the speech demonstrated the same racism the NAACP's President had accused the Tea Party movement of harboring.<sup>[144]</sup> In 2011, Sherrod sued Andrew Breitbart and his business partner Larry O'Connor for defamation.<sup>[145]</sup> In 2015, Sherrod and Andrew Breitbart's estate settled the case.<sup>[146]</sup>

## Anthony Weiner sexting scandal

On May 28, 2011, Breitbart News's *Big Journalism* website reported on a sexually explicit photo linked on New York Representative Anthony Weiner's Twitter feed.<sup>[147]</sup> Weiner initially denied that he had sent a 21-year-old female college student the link to the photograph, but later admitted to inappropriate online relationships. On June 6, *Breitbart News* reported other photos Weiner had sent, including one that was sexually explicit. Two days later, the sexually graphic photo was leaked after Andrew Breitbart participated in a radio interview with hosts Opie and Anthony. Andrew Breitbart stated that the photo was published without his permission.<sup>[148]</sup> Weiner subsequently resigned from his congressional seat on June 21.

## "Friends of Hamas" story

On February 7, 2013, Ben Shapiro published an article on *Breitbart News* reporting allegations that former Senator and nominee for United States Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel (R-Nebraska) may have been paid to speak at an event sponsored by a group called "Friends of Hamas."<sup>[149]</sup> *Breitbart News* said that the story was based on exclusive information from U.S. Senate sources.

An investigation by *Slate* reporter David Weigel failed to confirm the existence of the purported group.<sup>[150]</sup> On February 19, New York *Daily News* reporter Dan Friedman said that the story had originated from a sarcastic comment he had made to a congressional staffer. "Friends of Hamas" was one of several groups which Friedman considered to be so over-the-top as to be implausible and obviously fictitious. He was investigating rumors that Hagel had been paid for speaking to "controversial organizations", and asked sarcastically whether he had addressed "Friends of Hamas." Friedman followed with an email to the congressional staffer asking if Hagel had received a \$25,000 fee from "Friends of Hamas" for his speaking engagement.<sup>[151]</sup> No reply to the email was received, and the next day, *Breitbart News* ran a story with the headline "Secret Hagel Donor?: White House Spox Ducks Question on 'Friends of Hamas'."<sup>[152][153]</sup>

Shapiro maintained that the report was accurate, claiming that the source was not Friedman.<sup>[154][155]</sup> Writers for *The Washington Post*,<sup>[156]</sup> *New York* magazine<sup>[155]</sup> and *The Daily Beast*<sup>[157]</sup> criticized *Breitbart News* for the "Friends of Hamas" story, calling it "wrong" and "made-up".

## Nancy Pelosi/Miley Cyrus ad campaign

In April 2014, *Breitbart News* created an advertising campaign to launch *Breitbart California*, which included posters bearing an image of House minority leader Nancy Pelosi's head superimposed onto singer Miley Cyrus's body as seen twerking on California governor Jerry Brown, spoofing the 2013 VMA's. DNC Chairwoman and Florida Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz denounced the images as disrespectful to women. In response, House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy requested that his column be removed from the site.<sup>[158][159][160][161][162][163]</sup>

## Misidentification of Loretta Lynch

On November 8, 2014, *Breitbart News* posted an article by Warner Todd Huston, which erroneously reported that Loretta Lynch, President Barack Obama's nominee for attorney general, had been part of Bill Clinton's defense team during the Whitewater scandal about the Whitewater Development Corporation. In fact, the Whitewater lawyer was a different Loretta Lynch. After this mistake was pointed out by Talking Points Memo and Media Matters for America, *Breitbart News* noted that the two Lynches were different people by correcting and appending the original article.<sup>[164]</sup> Andrew Rosenthal of *The New York Times* editorial page editor criticized this, writing: "The appended correction didn't really do justice to the scope of the misidentification."<sup>[165]</sup>

The *American Journalism Review* said "that Breitbart had let the mistaken fact stand in the headline and the article itself," and had published a second story containing the incorrect information on November 9. By November 10, the initial story had been deleted from *Breitbart.com*.<sup>[164][166]</sup> *PolitiFact* rated the claim "Pants on Fire" and noted that the false claim had "already spread to other conspiracy, opinion and conservative news websites", as an example of how fast false information can spread on the Internet.<sup>[167]</sup>

## Conspiracy theories about President Obama

According to *The New York Times*, *Breitbart News* promoted the falsehood that President Obama was a Kenyan-born Muslim ("birtherism").<sup>[168]</sup> In *Devil's Bargain*, however, Joshua Green writes that Breitbart never promoted birtherism.<sup>[169]</sup> *Breitbart* senior editor-at-large Joel Pollak has denied that *Breitbart News* had ever "advocated the narrative of 'Birtherism.'"<sup>[170]</sup>

In June 2016, *Breitbart News* falsely claimed President Obama supported terrorists.<sup>[12]</sup>

In March 2017, *Breitbart News* published a story by conservative talk radio host Mark Levin claiming that Obama had wiretapped Donald Trump during his 2016 presidential campaign.<sup>[171][172]</sup> President Trump repeated the claims on his Twitter feed less than 24 hours after *Breitbart News* ran the story.<sup>[171][173]</sup>

## Conspiracy theories about Hillary Clinton

During the 2016 presidential election, *Breitbart News* were accused by *Rolling Stone* magazine of promoting conspiracy theories including the debunked Pizzagate conspiracy theory, which alleged that high-ranking Democrats were involved a child sex ring.<sup>[174]</sup> The website made unconfirmed claims about Hillary Clinton's health, including asserting she had issues caused by a supposed brain injury.<sup>[175][176]</sup> A June 2016 *Breitbart News* article presented Stone's conspiracy theory that Clinton aide Huma Abedin was involved with terrorism.<sup>[177]</sup>

## False report of Muslim mob in Germany

On January 3, 2017, *Breitbart News's* Virginia Hale wrote that "At New Year's Eve celebrations in Dortmund a mob of more than 1,000 men chanted 'Allahu Akhbar', launched fireworks at police, and set fire to a historic church".<sup>[178][179]</sup> According to Agence France-Presse, the story gave the impression of "chaotic civil war-like conditions in Germany, caused by Islamist aggressors".<sup>[180]</sup> The story was later shown to be false;<sup>[181]</sup> St. Reinold's Church is neither the oldest church in Germany nor was the church set on fire. While 1000 people did gather, which is not unusual on New Year's Eve in a public place, video footage from the scene does not show a "mob", and no policemen were targeted.<sup>[182][183]</sup> The official police report recorded an "average to quiet New Year's Eve" with "no spectacular facts to report",<sup>[184]</sup> while firefighters note an "almost normal weekend night" and state that a "safety net at the Reinoldi church caught fire by a fireworks rocket, but was quickly extinguished".<sup>[185]</sup> Witness said it was not the church roof that was scorched, but a construction scaffolding on the church's far side, away from the crowd.<sup>[186][187]</sup> The group that shouted "Allahu Akbar" consisted of only 50–70 people and was celebrating the ceasefire in Aleppo.<sup>[186]</sup>

The false story was then subsequently picked up by an Austrian far-right website before it made its way back to Germany where politician Thorsten Hoffmann fell for it. In Germany, several newspapers reported on *Breitbart News* publishing the hoax and distorting facts.<sup>[182][188][189][190]</sup> *Breitbart News* initially declined to comment,<sup>[180][191]</sup> but on January 8 published a story in which it stood by its claims, which had been shown to be false, and refused to admit to any exaggeration. The only correction issued was with regard to the church's age.<sup>[192]</sup> The follow-up story used a screen capture of different fireworks at the near side of the church, with no scaffolding. Ruhr Nachrichten, the original outlet and the alleged witness cited by *Breitbart News*, replied to the update, and stated that *Breitbart News* had not contacted them or the firefighters present to verify their story. They also reiterated the accusation against *Breitbart News* of exaggerating minor facts to give a false "impression that a 'mob' of 1000 migrants had shot at Christian churches in Dortmund and set them on fire."<sup>[193]</sup> The newspaper went on to accuse *Breitbart News* of not adhering to journalistic ethics. Ruhr Nachrichten also accused *Breitbart* of "using our online reports for fake news, hate and propaganda" and published video fragments recorded on site that contradicted *Breitbart News's* story.<sup>[183]</sup>

## Climate change denial

In November 2016, *Breitbart News* published an article summarizing a Daily Mail piece that falsely claimed that record-high global temperatures were unrelated to global warming.<sup>[194]</sup> The *Breitbart* article, by James Delingpole, was cited by the United States House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for which the latter itself was criticized.<sup>[195][196][197]</sup> Weather.com condemned the *Breitbart* story in an article titled "Note to Breitbart: Earth Is Not Cooling, Climate Change Is Real and Please Stop Using Our Video to Mislead Americans".<sup>[198]</sup>

In June 2017, *Breitbart News* published an article by Dellingpole that claimed that 58 scientific papers disproved anthropogenic climate change. A number of scientists criticized the article, describing it as cherry-picking, derogatory, inaccurate, misleading, and employing flawed reasoning.<sup>[199]</sup> In April 2019, *Breitbart News* published an article that claimed that a scientific study on past climate proved that man-made climate change was a hoax. Climate scientists sharply criticized the article, variously describing it as ignorant, misleading, and misrepresentative of the study's actual findings.<sup>[200]</sup> In 2020, *Breitbart News* falsely claimed that the sea level has remained stable throughout the 20th century.<sup>[201]</sup>

## Wrongly picturing Lukas Podolski as a refugee

In August 2017, *Breitbart News* featured a picture of professional German soccer player Lukas Podolski in an article entitled "Spanish Police Crack Gang Moving Migrants on Jet-Skis".<sup>[202][203][204]</sup> Podolski is neither a migrant gang member nor a victim of human trafficking.<sup>[202]</sup> The picture was of Podolski riding a jet-ski in the summer of 2014 in Brazil.<sup>[202]</sup> *Breitbart News* apologized to Podolski after the picture drew attention.<sup>[202]</sup>

## False story about Northern California wildfires

In October 2017, *Breitbart News* published a false story claiming that an illegal immigrant was arrested in connection with the October 2017 Northern California wildfires.<sup>[205]</sup> Sonoma County's sheriff department responded to *Breitbart's* reporting, "This is completely false, bad, wrong information that Breitbart started and is being put out into the public."<sup>[205]</sup>

## COVID-19 scandal

*Breitbart News* livestreamed a widely viewed video on July 27, 2020, featuring a group called America's Frontline Doctors, that made dubious claims related to the COVID-19 pandemic and touted hydroxychloroquine as a cure.<sup>[206]</sup> The group was led by Dr. Simone Gold, reportedly a Trump supporter who has advocated the use of hydroxychloroquine on conservative talk radio and podcasts.<sup>[207]</sup> President Donald Trump shared several versions of the video with his 84 million Twitter followers before they were taken down.<sup>[208][207]</sup> The video was removed by Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube for violating policies against COVID-19 misinformation. The president's son Donald Trump Jr. was restricted from Twitter for 12 hours for sharing it. The video event was funded by the right-wing group Tea Party Patriots.<sup>[208]</sup> The video had 14 million views and was shared 600,000 times on Facebook before it was taken down.<sup>[206][209][208]</sup> *Breitbart* did not immediately respond to CNBC when asked about the video being removed by Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.<sup>[207]</sup>

## Voter fraud

In August 2020, a *Breitbart* article cited a press release by Michigan secretary of state Jocelyn Benson about the state rejecting over 800 ballots cast by voters who died before the date of the election. The article was written in a way suggesting that the ballots were not legitimately cast and thus evidence of extensive voter fraud. In fact, the voters in question died after submitting their ballots.<sup>[210]</sup>

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# The Daily Caller

*The Daily Caller* is a right-wing<sup>[5]</sup> news and opinion website based in Washington, D.C. It was founded by now-Fox News host Tucker Carlson and political pundit Neil Patel in 2010. Launched as a "conservative answer to *The Huffington Post*", *The Daily Caller* quadrupled its audience and became profitable by 2012, surpassing several rival websites by 2013. *The Daily Caller* is a member of the White House press pool.<sup>[6]</sup>

*The Daily Caller* has published false stories on multiple occasions.<sup>[14]</sup> The website publishes articles that dispute the scientific consensus on climate change. Until 2018, the website had also published articles by white supremacists such as Jason Kessler and Peter Brimelow.<sup>[15][16]</sup> Scott Greer was deputy editor at *The Daily Caller*. After his departure in June 2018, it was revealed that he published articles espousing white nationalist, racist anti-black and antisemitic views under a pseudonym in white supremacist publications.<sup>[15]</sup>

In June 2020, Carlson left the site. Patel confirmed that he had bought out Carlson's stake<sup>[17]</sup> and brought in a new partner, a Muslim American Democrat.<sup>[18]</sup> *The Daily Caller* became a minority-owned and -run company thereafter.<sup>[19]</sup>

## The Daily Caller



<b>Type of site</b>	News, opinion
<b>Available in</b>	English
<b>Founded</b>	January 11, 2010
<b>Headquarters</b>	1920 L Street NW Floor 2, <u>Washington, D.C.</u> 20036
<b>Owner</b>	The Daily Caller, Inc.
<b>Founder(s)</b>	<u>Tucker Carlson</u> <u>Neil Patel</u>
<b>Key people</b>	<u>Neil Patel</u> (Publisher) Geoff Ingersoll (Editor-in-Chief) Eric Lieberman (Managing Editor) Timothy Nerozzi (Breaking News Editor)
<b>URL</b>	<u>dailycaller.com</u> ( <u>http://dailycaller.com</u> )
<b>Advertising</b>	Native
<b>Registration</b>	Optional, required to comment
<b>Launched</b>	January 11, 2010
<b>Current status</b>	Online

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# History

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## Overview

*The Daily Caller* was founded by Tucker Carlson and Neil Patel. After raising \$3 million in funding from businessman Foster Friess, the website was launched on January 11, 2010. The organization began with a reporting staff of 21 in its Washington office. It was launched as a "conservative answer to *The Huffington Post*", similarly featuring sections in broad range of subjects beyond politics. When *The Daily Caller* launched in 2010, it became the third Washington DC based news site besides Talking Points Memo and Politico.<sup>[20]</sup>

In a 2010 interview with the *Columbia Journalism Review*, Tucker Carlson described *The Daily Caller's* prospective audience as "[p]eople who are distrustful of conventional news organizations." Carlson said "the coverage of the Tea Party blows me away by its stupidity. The assumption of almost everyone I know who covers politics for the networks or daily newspapers is: they're all birthers, they're all crazy, they're upset about fluoride in the water, probably racist. And those assumptions have prevented good journalism from taking place."<sup>[21]</sup>

By late 2012, *The New York Times* reported that the site had quadrupled its page view and total audience and had become profitable without ever buying an advertisement for itself.<sup>[22]</sup> By 2013, the site was receiving over 35 million views a month according to Quantcast, surpassing rival sites such as *The Washington Times*, *Politico*, and *Forbes*.<sup>[23]</sup> The site has an active community, with over 200,000 comments made each month.

According to the 2018 book *Network Propaganda: Manipulation, Disinformation, and Radicalization in American Politics*, written by Harvard University scholars Yochai Benkler, Robert Faris and Hal Roberts, *The Daily Caller* fails to follow journalistic norms in its reporting.<sup>[1]:14</sup>

Vince Coglianese replaced Carlson as editor-in-chief in 2016<sup>[24]</sup> when the *Tucker Carlson Tonight* show started up on Fox. Carlson departed the site in June 2020 to increase his focus on his new show.<sup>[25]</sup> Karl Rove has said that "*The Daily Caller* is necessary reading for anyone who wants to be up to speed with what's going on with politics in America." Larry Kudlow referred to the site as "one of [his] faves."<sup>[23]</sup> Fact-checkers have frequently debunked *Daily Caller* stories.<sup>[26]</sup>

In 2017, *The Daily Caller* launched its fact-checking news site CheckYourFact.com. In 2018, the site was approved by Poynter Institute's International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN)<sup>[27]</sup> and became a fact-checking partner of Facebook in 2019.<sup>[26][28]</sup>



In 2019, *The Daily Caller*, along with One America News Network and The Gateway Pundit, were deprecated by the Wikipedia community, with the consensus for *The Daily Caller* being that it "publishes false or fabricated information".<sup>[29][30]</sup>

## Obama administration

### Misleading video about NPR

In 2011, *The Daily Caller* was the first news outlet to disseminate a video by conservative provocateur James O'Keefe which purportedly showed an NPR fundraiser deriding Republicans. The video was later proven to have been misleadingly edited.<sup>[7]</sup>

### Investigative series about Media Matters

In February 2012, *The Daily Caller* published an "investigative series" of articles co-authored by Carlson, purporting to be an insiders' exposé of Media Matters for America (MMfA), a liberal watchdog group that monitors and scrutinizes conservative media outlets, and its founder David Brock.<sup>[31]</sup> Citing "current and former" MMfA employees, "friends" of Brock's and a "prominent liberal", the article characterized MMfA as having "an atmosphere of tension and paranoia" and portrayed Brock as "erratic, unstable and disturbing," who "struggles with mental illness," in fear of "right-wing assassins," a regular cocaine user and would "close [local bars] and party till six in the morning." Reuters media critic and libertarian Jack Shafer criticized *The Daily Caller* piece as "anonymously sourced crap," adding "*Daily Caller* is attacking Media Matters with bad journalism and lame propaganda". Shafer said that he had "never thought much of Media Matters' style of watchdogging or Brock's journalism".<sup>[32]</sup>

### Heckling of Obama

In 2012, *The Daily Caller* reporter Neil Munro interrupted President Barack Obama during one of his press conferences, while Obama was giving remarks. Obama said, "The next time I prefer you let me finish my statements before you ask a question." Cutting off Munro's reply, Obama said, "I didn't ask for an argument."<sup>[33]</sup> Munro's interruption of remarks by the president was widely considered a startling breach of etiquette. Editor-in-chief Tucker Carlson defended Munro's heckling, saying "As a general matter, reporters are there to ask [questions]" and that he was "proud" of Munro.<sup>[34][35][36][37][38]</sup>

Munro later said in a statement that his intention was to ask questions after the president made his remarks, but he claimed to have misjudged when the president was closing. "I timed the question believing the president was closing his remarks, because naturally I have no intention of interrupting the President of the United States. I know he rarely takes questions before walking away from the podium. When I asked the question as he finished his speech, he turned his back on the many reporters, and walked away while I and at least one other reporter asked questions."<sup>[33][39]</sup>

### False prostitution allegations

In November 2012, *The Daily Caller* posted interviews with two women claiming that New Jersey Democratic Senator Bob Menendez had paid them for sex while he was a guest of a campaign donor.<sup>[40]</sup> The allegation came five days before the 2012 New Jersey senate election. News organizations such as ABC News, which had also interviewed the women, The New York Times, and the New York Post declined to publish the allegations, viewing them as unsubstantiated and lacking credibility.<sup>[41][42][8]</sup> Subsequently, one of

the women who accused Menendez stated that she had been paid to falsely implicate the senator and had never met him.<sup>[41][43]</sup> Menendez's office described the allegations as "manufactured" by a right-wing blog as a politically motivated smear.<sup>[9]</sup>

A few weeks later, police in the Dominican Republic announced that three women had claimed they were paid \$300–425 each to lie about having had sex with Menendez.<sup>[44]</sup> Dominican law enforcement also alleged that the women had been paid to lie about Menendez by an individual claiming to work for *The Daily Caller*. The website denied this allegation, stating: "At no point did any money change hands between *The Daily Caller* and any sources or individuals connected with this investigation".<sup>[45]</sup> Describing what it saw as the unraveling of *The Daily Caller*' "scoop", the Poynter Institute wrote: "*The Daily Caller* stands by its reports, though apparently doesn't feel the need to *prove its allegations right*".<sup>[46]</sup>

## Fox News controversy

In March 2015, *The Daily Caller* columnist Mickey Kaus quit after editor Tucker Carlson refused to run a column critical of Fox News coverage of the immigration policy debate.<sup>[47]</sup> Carlson, who works for Fox News, reportedly did not want *The Daily Caller* publishing criticism of a firm that employed him.<sup>[48]</sup>

## 2016 presidential election

According to a study by Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, *The Daily Caller* was among the most popular sites on the right during the 2016 presidential election. The study also found that *The Daily Caller* provided "amplification and legitimation" for "the most extreme conspiracy sites", such as *Truthfeed*, *InfoWars*, *The Gateway Pundit* and *Conservative Treehouse* during the 2016 presidential election.<sup>[49][50][51]</sup> *The Daily Caller* also "employed anti-immigrant narratives that echoed sentiments from the alt-right and white nationalists but without the explicitly racist and pro-segregation language."<sup>[50]</sup>

In one of its most frequently shared stories, *The Daily Caller* falsely asserted that Morocco's King Mohammed VI flew Bill Clinton on a private jet, and that this had been omitted from the Clinton Foundation's tax disclosures.<sup>[50]</sup> *The Daily Caller* also made the "utterly unsubstantiated and unsourced claim" that Hillary Clinton instructed Environmental Protection Agency "head Lisa Jackson to try to shut down Mosaic Fertilizer, described as America's largest phosphate mining company, in exchange for a \$15 million donation to the Clinton Foundation from King Mohammed VI of Morocco, ostensibly to benefit Morocco's state-owned phosphate company."<sup>[50]</sup>

## Trump administration

### Encouragement of violence against protesters

In January 2017, *The Daily Caller* posted a video which encouraged violence against protesters.<sup>[52][53][54][55]</sup> The footage showed a car plowing through demonstrators, with the headline "Here's A Reel Of Cars Plowing Through Protesters Trying To Block The Road". The video clip was set to a cover of Ludacris' "Move Bitch".<sup>[52]</sup> This *Daily Caller* stub drew attention in August 2017 when a white supremacist plowed his car through a group of counterprotesters at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville.<sup>[52]</sup> After the video attracted attention, *The Daily Caller* deleted it from its website.<sup>[52][55]</sup>

## Stefan Halper

*The Daily Caller* was the first news outlet to report on Stefan Halper, a confidential FBI source, and his interactions with Trump campaign advisors Carter Page and George Papadopoulos. Papadopoulos later pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about campaign matters.<sup>[56]</sup> Page became the subject of surveillance warrants issued by the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court regarding contacts with Russian intelligence officials.<sup>[57]</sup> Other news outlets confirmed Halper's identity but did not report his identity because US intelligence officials warned that it would endanger him and his contacts.<sup>[58][59][60]</sup>



*Daily Caller* journalist Stephanie Hamill interviewing Republican Congressman Andy Biggs in 2020.

## **Alleged Chinese email hacking**

In August 2018, *The Daily Caller* ran a story alleging that a Chinese-owned company hacked then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's private email server and successfully obtained nearly all of her emails. *The Daily Caller* cited "two sources briefed on the matter." After publishing the story, President Trump tweeted the allegations made in *The Daily Caller's* unsubstantiated reporting. The FBI said any evidence was absent.<sup>[61][62]</sup>

## **Imran Awan**

*The Daily Caller* pushed conspiracy theories about Imran Awan, an IT worker for Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives.<sup>[63][64]</sup> *The Daily Caller* sought to tie Awan to many alleged criminal activities, including unauthorized access to government servers.<sup>[65]</sup> The reporter behind the coverage of Awan told Fox News that the affair was "straight out of James Bond."<sup>[65]</sup> An 18-month investigation by federal prosecutors found no evidence of wrongdoing in Awan's work in the House and no support for the conspiracy theories about Awan. In the announcement of the conclusion of the investigation, investigators rebuked a litany of right-wing conspiracy theories about Awan.<sup>[63][64]</sup>

## **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

In January 2019, *The Daily Caller* published a story with the misleading headline "Here's The Photo Some Described As A Nude Selfie Of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez." The photo was not of Ocasio-Cortez. Ocasio-Cortez condemned *The Daily Caller's* action as "completely disgusting behavior."<sup>[13]</sup> *The Daily Caller* apologized for the headline, and changed it.<sup>[66]</sup> *The Daily Caller* said that the content of the story was not unlike stories published by Vice and The Huffington Post.<sup>[67]</sup> Vice had published an article debunking that the photo belonged to Ocasio-Cortez.<sup>[68]</sup>

## **Derek Hunter resignation**

In June 2020, attorneys for the Securities and Exchange Commission alleged that former lobbyist Jack Abramoff and his associates secretly paid writers to promote AML Bitcoin, a cryptocurrency endorsed by Abramoff. The description of one article alleged to be part of the scheme matched a piece by Derek Hunter, a writer and podcast host for *The Daily Caller*. Hunter resigned from *The Daily Caller* while denying that he had been paid illicitly for any articles.<sup>[69]</sup>

## **Threatened lawsuit against Louisville Metro Police Department**

During *The Daily Caller's* coverage of protests in Louisville, Kentucky related to the shooting of Breonna Taylor and subsequent verdict on the police involved, two of their reporters were arrested, prompting co-founder Patel to threaten a lawsuit against the Louisville Metro Police Department.<sup>[70][71]</sup>

## Staff, contributors and organization

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*The Daily Caller* is in the White House rotating press pool and has full-time reporters on Capitol Hill.<sup>[72]</sup>

Contributors to *The Daily Caller* have included economist Larry Kudlow, Congressman Mark Sanford, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, former US Senate Candidate and Judge Jeanine Pirro, sculptor Robert Mihalý, diplomat Alan Keyes, political commentator Ann Coulter, and the NRA-ILA.<sup>[80]</sup>

*The Daily Caller* hosts *The Mirror*, a blog written by former FishbowlDC editor and *The Hill* columnist Betsy Rothstein. *The Mirror* covers media in Washington D.C., news related to journalism organizations, as well as political and media related gossip. The tagline is, "Reflections of a self-obsessed city."<sup>[81][82]</sup>



*Daily Caller* co-founder  
Tucker Carlson

## Allegation of non-profit abuse

According to Callum Borchers of *The Washington Post*, *The Daily Caller* has "a peculiar business structure that enables it to increase revenue while reducing its tax obligation."<sup>[83]</sup> The organization, a for-profit company, does this by relying on its charity arm, *The Daily Caller News Foundation*, to create the majority of its news content.<sup>[84]</sup>

Lisa Graves of the Center for Media and Democracy argues, "It's a huge rip-off for taxpayers if *The Daily Caller News Foundation* is receiving revenue that it doesn't pay taxes on, to produce stories that are used by the for-profit enterprise, which then makes money on the stories through ads." Benjamin M. Leff of American University writes, "But the fact that it also provides its content to other publishers for free is evidence that it is not operated for the private benefit of the for-profit, even if the for-profit is the dominant user of its content."<sup>[85]</sup>

## Political stances

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When it first launched in January 2010, Mercedes Bunz, writing for *The Guardian*, said *The Daily Caller* was "setting itself up to be the conservative answer to *The Huffington Post*". According to Bunz, a year before the website launched, Carlson promoted it as "a new political website leaning more to the right than *Politico* and *TalkingPointsMemo*". However, at launch, he wrote a letter to readers that said it was not going to be a right-wing site.<sup>[86]</sup> "We're not going to suck up to people in power, the way so many have," Carlson declared.<sup>[87]</sup>

During a January 2010 interview with *Politico*, Carlson said *The Daily Caller* was not going to be tied to his personal political ideologies and that he wanted it to be "breaking stories of importance".<sup>[88]</sup> In a *Washington Post* article about *The Daily Caller's* launch, Howard Kurtz wrote, "[Carlson's] partner is Neil Patel, a former Dick Cheney aide. His opinion editor is Moira Bagley, who spent 2008 as the Republican National Committee's press secretary. And his \$3 million in funding comes from Wyoming financier Foster Friess, a big-time GOP donor. But Carlson insists this won't be a right-wing site". Kurtz quoted Carlson as saying, "We're not enforcing any kind of ideological orthodoxy on anyone".<sup>[89]</sup> In an interview with *The New York Times*, Carlson said that the vast majority of traditional reporting comes from a liberal point of view and called *The Daily Caller's* reporting "the balance against the rest of the conventional press".<sup>[22]</sup>

In a 2012 *Washingtonian* article, Tom Bartlett said Carlson and Patel developed *The Daily Caller* as "a conservative news site in the mold of the liberal *Huffington Post* but with more firearms coverage and fewer nipple-slip slide shows".<sup>[90]</sup>

In 2019, the *Columbia Journalism Review* described *The Daily Caller* as "right wing,"<sup>[91]</sup> a description also used by *Business Insider*,<sup>[92]</sup> *Snopes*,<sup>[93]</sup> and Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society.<sup>[94]</sup> According to *The Guardian* in April 2019, *The Daily Caller* is known for its pro-Trump content.<sup>[26]</sup> A 2021 *Politico* article described *The Daily Caller* as being "mainstream right" in its positioning, as opposed to more "conspiratorial fringe" outlets such as *One America News Network*.<sup>[95]</sup>

## Environmental issues

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### Climate change denial

*The Daily Caller* has published articles that dispute the scientific consensus on climate change. According to *Science* magazine, *The Daily Caller's* "climate reporting focuses on doubt and highlights data that suggests climate concerns from the world's leading science agencies and organizations are incorrect."<sup>[96]</sup>

In 2017, *The Daily Caller* published a story falsely claiming that a "peer-reviewed study" by "two scientists and a veteran statistician" found that recent years have not been the warmest ever.<sup>[97][98]</sup> The alleged "study" was a PDF file on a WordPress blog, and was neither peer-reviewed nor published in a scientific journal.<sup>[97]</sup> Also in 2017, *The Daily Caller* uncritically published a bogus *Daily Mail* story which claimed that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) manipulated data to make climate change appear worse; at the same time, legitimate news outlets debunked the *Daily Mail* story,<sup>[99][100]</sup> as did *Media Matters*.<sup>[101]</sup> Also in 2017, *The Daily Caller* published a story claiming that a study found no evidence of accelerating temperatures over a 23-year period, which climate scientists described as a misleading story.<sup>[102]</sup> In 2016, *The Daily Caller* published a story claiming that climate scientist Michael Mann (director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University) had asserted that data are unnecessary to measure climate change; Mann described the story as "egregiously false".<sup>[103]</sup> In 2015, *The Daily Caller* wrote that NOAA "fiddle[d]" with data when the agency published a report concluding that there was no global warming hiatus.<sup>[104][105]</sup>

### False EPA stories

In 2011, the *Daily Caller* published a false story claiming that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was going to spend \$21 billion per year to hire 230,000 staff to regulate greenhouse gas emissions; at the time, the EPA had 17,000 staff and a total budget of \$8.7 billion.<sup>[106][107][108][109]</sup> The story went viral in right-wing media,<sup>[106]</sup> and Republican politicians repeated the story.<sup>[108]</sup> Other news outlets noted that the story was false, but *The Daily Caller* stood by the story.<sup>[106]</sup> *Adweek* reported that the decision of David Martosko, executive editor at *The Daily Caller*, to stand by the story caused dismay among some the website's staff, who believed the decision undermined the credibility of the outlet.<sup>[110]</sup>

In 2018, after a National Climate Assessment report about the impact of climate change in the United States was released by the Trump administration (which had been in the works for several years, stretching into the Obama presidency), Trump's EPA dismissed the report's findings. Trump's EPA falsely claimed that the Obama administration had pushed the authors of the report to focus on the worst-case scenario. In doing so, the EPA cited a *Daily Caller* story. FactCheck.Org wrote about *The Daily Caller* story that there was no evidence for the claims made, the report focused both on lower and higher scenarios, and much of the report looked at climate change impacts that had already occurred. FactCheck.Org noted that the report underwent

multiple reviews, both internally and externally, and that the report was available for public review for a period of three months. *The Daily Caller* cited as evidence for its claims a memo that allegedly showed that the Obama administration pushed the authors of the report to include worst-case scenarios; FactCheck.Org noted the memo "does not show that the Obama administration pushed for certain scenarios."<sup>[111]</sup>

## Ties to white supremacists

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In September 2018, *The Atlantic* reported that Scott Greer, formerly a deputy editor and contributor at *The Daily Caller* between 2014<sup>[16]</sup> and 2018, had written pieces under a pseudonym "Michael McGregor" in the white supremacist publication *Radix Journal* from 2014 to 2015. In articles for *Radix Journal*, Greer expressed white nationalist views, as well as racist anti-black and antisemitic views. While in his emails and messages, he expressed anti-Christian and antisemitic theories, as well his relationship with Richard Spencer.<sup>[15]</sup> After being confronted with his past white supremacist writings, Greer resigned from any affiliation with *The Daily Caller*.<sup>[15]</sup> In 2017 it was revealed that Scott Greer had ties to members of the white nationalist movement, including friendships with Devin Saucier, assistant to Jared Taylor of *American Renaissance*, and anti-immigrant activist Marcus Epstein of VDare, who had pled guilty to assaulting an African American woman two years prior to the beginning of his relationship with Scott Greer.<sup>[112]</sup> Greer had later deleted parts of his Facebook page, but is seen photographed with white nationalists such as Spencer, Tim Dionisopoulos, the Wolves of Vinland, and also appears wearing clothes belonging to the group Youth for Western Civilization.<sup>[113][112]</sup> *The Daily Caller* itself subsequently stated about why he had not been fired in 2017: "We had two choices: Fire a young man because of some photos taken of him at metal shows in college, or take his word. We chose to trust him. Now, if what you allege is accurate, we know that trust was a mistake, we know he lied to us. We won't publish him, anyone in these circles, or anyone who thinks like them. People who associate with these losers have no business writing for our company."<sup>[15]</sup>

Until 2017,<sup>[16]</sup> *The Daily Caller* had posted articles by Jason Kessler,<sup>[112]</sup> a white supremacist who organized a rally of hundreds of white nationalists in Charlottesville.<sup>[114][115]</sup> Before Kessler posted his article, he had spoken at white supremacist gatherings.<sup>[116]</sup> After Kessler received attention for his organizing of the Charlottesville white supremacist rally, *The Daily Caller* removed his articles from its website,<sup>[93]</sup> but *The Daily Caller* executive editor defended Kessler's articles.<sup>[117]</sup>

Until 2017,<sup>[16]</sup> the website had also published pieces by Peter Brimelow, founder of the white supremacist website VDARE.<sup>[112]</sup> and by David Hilton, an anti-Semite who has pushed conspiracy theories that Israel was behind the 9/11 attacks. In his articles for *The Daily Caller*, Hilton promoted anti-Semitic conspiracy theories about George Soros, as well as conspiracy theories about "Cultural Marxism."<sup>[16]</sup>

Also the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) reported in 2017 that *The Daily Caller* had a "white nationalist problem", citing contributions by Kessler, Brimelow, Greer, and Ilana Mercer, whose writing on supposed racially motivated crime in South Africa was also published on the white nationalist website *American Renaissance* the same day it appeared in *The Daily Caller*.<sup>[113]</sup> The SPLC later retracted its claim that Richard Pollock, a devout Jew, was a white nationalist, saying "Pollock was initially included in this story" but "there is no evidence to suggest Mr. Pollock is otherwise a white nationalist."<sup>[113]</sup>

## Awards

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- 2012 Edward R. Murrow Award for "Horse Soldiers of 9-11" by Alex Quade<sup>[118]</sup>
- 2012 American Legion Fourth Estate Award for "The Horse Soldiers of 9-11" by Alex Quade<sup>[119]</sup>
- 2012 Telly Award for "The Horse Soldiers of 9-11" by Alex Quade<sup>[120]</sup>

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- [Official website \(http://www.dailycaller.com\)](http://www.dailycaller.com)

- [Carlson launches rights' answer to Huff Post \(http://washingtonindependent.com/73364/carlson-launches-rights-answer-to-huffpost\)](http://washingtonindependent.com/73364/carlson-launches-rights-answer-to-huffpost)
  - [Letter from Tucker \(https://web.archive.org/web/20100114103139/http://dailycaller.com/letter-from-tucker/\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20100114103139/http://dailycaller.com/letter-from-tucker/)
  - [DC Trawler \(http://dctrawler.dailycaller.com/\)](http://dctrawler.dailycaller.com/)
  - [CheckYourFact \(https://checkyourfact.com/\)](https://checkyourfact.com/)
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# The American Conservative

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*The American Conservative* (*TAC*) is a magazine published by the American Ideas Institute which was founded in 2002. The publication states that it exists to promote a conservatism that opposes unchecked power in government and business alike; promote the flourishing of families and communities through vibrant markets and free people; and embrace realism and restraint in foreign affairs based on America's national interests, otherwise known as paleoconservatism.<sup>[3]</sup> Originally published twice a month, it was reduced to monthly publication in August 2009, and since February 2013, it has been bi-monthly.<sup>[4]</sup>

## The American Conservative



<b>Editor</b>	Emile Doak
<b>Categories</b>	Editorial magazine
<b>Frequency</b>	Bi-monthly
<b>Circulation</b>	5,000 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Publisher</b>	Jon Basil Utley <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Founder</b>	<u>Pat Buchanan</u> <u>Scott McConnell</u> <u>Taki Theodoracopulos</u>
<b>First issue</b>	October 7, 2002
<b>Country</b>	<u>United States</u>
<b>Based in</b>	<u>Washington, D.C., U.S.</u>
<b>Language</b>	<u>English</u>
<b>Website</b>	<u>theamericanconservative.com</u> ( <a href="http://theamericanconservative.com">http://theamericanconservative.com</a> )
<b>ISSN</b>	<u>1540-966X</u> ( <a href="https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:1540-966X">https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:1540-966X</a> )

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## History

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October 2016 issue

*The American Conservative* was founded by Pat Buchanan, Scott McConnell and Taki Theodoracopulos in 2002 in opposition to the Iraq War. Daniel Strauss wrote:

The idea of *The American Conservative* was that there were enough who disagreed with mainstream conservatism—libertarians, paleoconservatives, and civil libertarian conservatives, among other dissenters—to warrant such a publication. While other conservative magazines like *National Review* and *The Weekly Standard* marched more or less in lockstep with the Bush Administration, *The American Conservative* argued for a different course—sometimes with greater ferocity than the major political magazines on the left.<sup>[5]</sup>

McConnell served as the magazine's first editor, followed by managing editor Kara Hopkins.



Before the 2006 midterm elections, *The American Conservative* urged its readers to vote for Democrats: "It should surprise few readers that we think a vote that is seen—in America and the world at large—as a decisive “No” vote on the Bush presidency is the best outcome".<sup>[6]</sup>

As of 2007, Buchanan and Taki ceased to be involved with the editorial operations of *The American Conservative*, although Buchanan continues to contribute columns.<sup>[7]</sup> Ron Unz was named publisher in 2007.<sup>[8][9]</sup> In 2011, Wick Allison became the magazine's publisher, followed in 2013 by Jon Basil Utley, the current publisher.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 2010, Daniel McCarthy succeeded Kara Hopkins as editor. In September 2011, the magazine introduced an editorial redesign of its print publication and in May 2012 a redesign of its website. In October 2014, Benjamin Schwarz, the former national and literary editor of *The Atlantic*, was named national editor of the magazine.<sup>[10]</sup>

In November 2016, Robert W. Merry succeeded McCarthy as editor, with Lewis McCrary and Kelley Beaucar Vlahos as Executive Editors. After Merry's retirement in July 2018, W. James Antle III was named editor.<sup>[11]</sup>

In April 2020, Johnny Burtka, executive director and acting editor of *The American Conservative*, said that the publication's ambition is to "become *The Atlantic* of the right."<sup>[12]</sup> Burtka also noted that the publication's online page views had "grown significantly" under the Trump administration.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Reception

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In 2009, Reihan Salam, *National Review* editor,<sup>[13]</sup> wrote that the publication had "gained a devoted following as a sharp *critic* of the conservative mainstream".<sup>[14]</sup>

In 2012, David Brooks, columnist at *The New York Times*, wrote:

*The American Conservative* has become one of the more dynamic spots on the political Web. Writers like Rod Dreher and Daniel Larison tend to be suspicious of bigness: big corporations, big government, a big military, concentrated power and concentrated wealth. Writers at that Web site, and at the temperamentally aligned *Front Porch Republic*, treasure tight communities and local bonds. They're alert to the ways capitalism can erode community. Dispositionally, they are more Walker Percy than Pat Robertson.<sup>[15]</sup>

## Contributors

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Prominent contributors to *The American Conservative* have included Andrew Bacevich, Doug Bandow, Pat Buchanan, Andrew Cockburn, Rod Dreher, Paul Gottfried, Leon Hadar, Josh Hawley, Peter Hitchens, Samuel P. Huntington, James Kurth, Christopher Layne, Michael Lind, William S. Lind, John Mearsheimer, Rand Paul, Mark Perry, Steve Sailer, Roger Scruton, and Jim Webb.

## See also

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- Classical liberalism
- Communitarianism
- Conservatism in the United States
- Libertarianism

- [List of United States magazines](#)
- [Natural Law](#)
- [Neoconservatism](#)
- [Realism \(international relations\)](#)
- [Religion in the United States](#)
- [Tory](#)
- [Traditionalist conservatism](#)


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  - *The American Conservative* (<http://delong.typepad.com/sdj/2012/05/the-american-conservative.html>) by J. Bradford DeLong, May 15, 2012.
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# The American Spectator

*The American Spectator* is a conservative American online magazine (formerly a monthly print magazine) covering news and politics, edited by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr. and published by the non-profit American Spectator Foundation. It was founded in 1967 by Tyrrell, who remains its editor-in-chief, with Wlady Pleszczynski its managing editor since 1980.

From 1967 until the late 1980s, the magazine featured the writings of authors such as Thomas Sowell, Tom Wolfe, P.J. O'Rourke, George F. Will, Malcolm Gladwell, Patrick J. Buchanan, Tom Bethell, Terry Eastland, Andrew Ferguson, Christopher Caldwell, Fred Barnes, Roger Scruton, Walter Williams, Raymond Aron, Luigi Barzini, Paul Johnson, Irving Kristol, Jean-Francois Revel, and Malcolm Muggeridge. Major conservative writers and editors, such as Bill Kristol and Bill McGurn, began their careers at *The American Spectator*, as did the likes of Greg Gutfeld and John Podhoretz, who started at the magazine as interns. Some of the earliest published articles by prominent conservatives such as Dinesh D'Souza, Laura Ingraham, and David Frum appeared at *The American Spectator*. Among the magazine's longest-serving columnists are Sowell, Ben Stein, Roger Kaplan, and John Coyne. Current frequently contributing writers include David Catron, Dov Fischer, Daniel Flynn, Ross Kaminsky, Paul Kengor, Robert Stacy McCain, Scott McKay, George Neumayr, and George Parry.

During the 1990s, the magazine experienced explosive growth, primarily for its widely read and provocative reports on Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton and its "Arkansas Project," funded by businessman Richard Mellon Scaife and the Bradley Foundation.<sup>[1]</sup> *The American Spectator* has carried articles by Thomas Sowell,<sup>[2]</sup> a regular column by economist and celebrity Ben Stein,<sup>[3]</sup> as well as former Reagan aide Jeffrey Lord,<sup>[4]</sup> conservative health care consultant David Catron,<sup>[5]</sup> and editorial director Wladyslaw Pleszczynski,<sup>[6]</sup> as well as occasional articles by P.J. O'Rourke.<sup>[7]</sup>

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<b>Editor</b>	<u>R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr.</u>
<b>Categories</b>	Politics
<b>Founder</b>	<u>George Nathan</u> and <u>Truman Newberry</u>
<b>First issue</b>	1967
<b>Company</b>	American Spectator Foundation
<b>Country</b>	<u>United States</u>
<b>Based in</b>	<u>Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.</u>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Website</b>	<u>spectator.org</u> ( <a href="https://spectator.org">https://spectator.org</a> )
<b>ISSN</b>	<u>0148-8414</u> ( <a href="https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:0148-8414">https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:0148-8414</a> )

[References](#)

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## Founding and history

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The original name *The American Spectator* derives from a short-lived magazine by that name founded in 1924 by [George Jean Nathan](#) and [Truman Newberry](#). The origins of the current magazine date to its founding in Bloomington, Indiana by Tyrrell in 1967. That year, Tyrrell and his "Saturday Evening Club" took up the name, calling the magazine *The Alternative: An American Spectator*.

After operating under the name *The Alternative: An American Spectator* for several years, in 1977 the magazine changed its name to *The American Spectator* because, in editor Tyrrell's words, "the word 'alternative' had come to be associated almost exclusively with radicals and with their way of life." In fact, Tyrrell had started the magazine on the campus of [Indiana University Bloomington](#) in 1967 as a conservative alternative to the [student radicalism](#) at the nation's universities in the 1960s. *American Spectator* is not affiliated with *The Spectator*, a British magazine of somewhat similar format and conservatism.

During the [Reagan Administration](#), the magazine moved from [Bloomington, Indiana](#) to suburban [Washington, D.C.](#)

## 1990s

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The publication gained prominence in the 1990s by reporting on [political scandals](#). The March 1992 issue contained [David Brock's](#) criticisms of [Clarence Thomas](#) accuser [Anita Hill](#). Brock and his colleague [Daniel Wattenberg](#) soon aimed at a bigger target: [Hillary](#) and [Bill Clinton](#). A January 1994 article about then-President Bill Clinton's sex life contained the first reference in print to Clinton accuser [Paula Jones](#), although the article focused on allegations that Clinton used [Arkansas state troopers](#) to facilitate his extramarital sexual activities (see [Troopergate](#)). It only referred to Jones by her first name and corroborated few if any elements of her story. This article was the basis for the claim of damages in a [sexual harassment](#) lawsuit, which started the chain of events resulting in [President Clinton's impeachment](#).

[David Brock](#) recanted his accusations upon his departure from the conservative movement. He also denounced his Anita Hill article in his 2003 book *Blinded by the Right: the Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*. He implies that [Rush Limbaugh's](#) coverage of his Anita Hill article instigated advertising on Limbaugh's network, which resulted in a large increase in the magazine's circulation. He also implies that this caused the magazine's content to move "away from thoughtful essays and scholarly reviews and humor pieces" to "hit jobs."<sup>[8]</sup>

For his part, Wattenberg eventually incurred the displeasure of many fellow conservatives when he belatedly admitted that he had killed a story about rumors of Clinton fathering a child out of wedlock as a result of his relationship with a young [African American](#) woman. Wattenberg actually tracked down a videotape of the woman being interviewed by an unnamed third party who asked her what Wattenberg described as "softball" questions, but he never was able to interview her himself. Wattenberg's rationales for killing the story were that he had no proof that the story was true and that the woman's testimony was unconvincing. He said that she "seemed like a junkie." The story was revived in 1999 by [Matt Drudge](#).

Internal strife eventually led to the departure of long-time publisher [Ronald Burr](#) after a disagreement with Tyrrell led Burr to call for an independent audit of the magazine's finances. The departure of Burr and several prominent conservative figures from the magazine's board of directors resulted in conservative foundations pulling much of the funding the nonprofit had relied on to pay high salaries to Brock and Tyrrell, as well as to

fund direct-mail campaigns needed to keep up the monthly's circulation. Faced with a budget crisis, the magazine, then led by publisher Terry Eastland, a former spokesman in the Reagan Justice Department, laid off staffers and cut spending significantly. The magazine also struggled to pay legal bills incurred from an investigation launched against it by the Justice Department for alleged witness tampering in the Whitewater investigation. The Justice Department investigation led to revelations about the "Arkansas Project," a campaign by businessman Richard Mellon Scaife to discredit the Clintons by funding investigative reporting at several conservative media outlets.

## 2000s

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As shortfalls continued, George Gilder, a longtime supporter of the magazine, who was newly wealthy from an Internet business, purchased the magazine with the goal of turning it into a profit-making glossy with significant media buzz. Numerous staff members, demoralized by the ever-looming budget crises, were laid off or departed after Joshua Gilder and Richard Vigilante took the reins and vowed to reach a new technology- and business-savvy audience. Circulation and budget losses continued and even increased in the Gilder era, and at one point the entire Washington-based staff, other than Tyrrell and executive editor and web site editor Wladyslaw Pleszczynski, were laid off as operations were moved to Massachusetts, where the rest of George Gilder's businesses were based. In 2003, George Gilder, who had lost most of his fortune with the bursting of the Internet stock bubble, sold the magazine for \$1 back to Tyrrell and the American Alternative Foundation, the magazine's original owner. Later, the name of the owner was changed to the American Spectator Foundation. The magazine then moved operations back to the Washington, D.C. area. Later that year, former book publisher Alfred S. Regnery became the magazine's publisher. By 2004, circulation hovered at around 50,000.

## 2010s

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In 2013, the magazine reverted to a tabloid format, reflecting the roots of the magazine, which was originally published at a large size. For most of the 1990s and all of the 2000s the *Spectator* had been published in a traditional magazine format.

In 2011, Assistant Editor Patrick Howley published a piece detailing his infiltration of a Washington, D.C. protest. In the article, Howley asserts his aim to "mock and undermine" the protest against American Imperialism, and writes in the first person about his experiences protesting at the National Air and Space Museum.<sup>[9]</sup> This article, and the methods detailed within, was condemned by *The Guardian*, *The Atlantic's* "Atlantic Wire" blog, and *The Economist*, because they believed the correspondents who worked on the story had conflated journalism and politics.<sup>[10][11][12]</sup> Matt Steinglass of *The Economist* wrote that Howley "winds up offering a vision of politics as a kind of self-focused performance art, or perhaps (to say the same thing) a version of Jackass."<sup>[13]</sup>

## Online publication

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The magazine's final monthly print publication was released in July/August 2014. While the Spectator did issue a September/October PDF-only version late in mid-November 2014, the masthead still claimed that it was "published monthly, except for combined July/Aug and Jan/Feb issues." A note from Editorial Director Wlady Pleszczynski admitted that "...we have some problems of our own."<sup>[14]</sup> Pleszczynski added that the issue "was ready for release well over a month ago but for reasons affecting many a print publication these days couldn't be published on actual pages and after considerable delay is now being released in digital form only."

# Return to Print

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The magazine returned to print in the fall of 2017 under the direction of Hannah Rowan. It is published in the winter and summer.

## Core editorial staff

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- Editor in Chief: R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.
- Editorial Director: Wladyslaw Pleszczynski
- Publisher: Melissa Mackenzie
- Managing Editor: Hannah Rowan
- Senior Editors: F. H. Buckley, Daniel J. Flynn, Paul Kengor, George Neumayr, Grover C. Norquist, Ben Stein
- Contributing Editors: Jed Babbin, David Catron, Dov Fischer, Shmuel Klatzkin, Jeffrey Lord, Robert Stacy McCain, George Parry, Arnold Steinberg, Larry Thornberry

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# Drudge Report

The **Drudge Report** (stylized as **DRUDGE REPORT**) is a U.S. based news aggregation website founded by Matt Drudge,<sup>[4]</sup> and run with the help of Charles Hurt<sup>[2]</sup> and Daniel Halper.<sup>[5]</sup> The site was generally regarded as a conservative<sup>[6][7][8]</sup> publication, though its ownership and political leanings have recently been placed in question following business model changes in mid-to-late 2019.<sup>[9]</sup> The site consists mainly of links to news stories from other outlets about politics, entertainment, and current events; it also has links to many columnists.

The Drudge Report originated in 1995 as a weekly subscriber-based email dispatch.<sup>[3]</sup> It was the first news source to break the Monica Lewinsky scandal to the public, after Newsweek decided to "kill the story".<sup>[10]</sup>

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- Sidney Blumenthal lawsuit
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- Alleged Bill Clinton illegitimate child
- Alleged heckling of Republican Senators by CNN reporter
- Oprah and Sarah Palin
- Ashley Todd attack hoax

## Drudge Report



Drudge homepage, 2017

<b>Type of site</b>	News site, <u>blogging</u>
<b>Available in</b>	<u>English</u>
<b>Owner</b>	<u>Matt Drudge</u> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Created by</b>	Matt Drudge
<b>Editor</b>	Matt Drudge, <u>Charles Hurt</u> <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>URL</b>	<u>drudgereport.com</u> ( <u>http://drudgereport.com</u> )
<b>Advertising</b>	Yes
<b>Registration</b>	No
<b>Launched</b>	1995 <u>Hollywood, California, United States</u> <sup>[3]</sup>
<b>Current status</b>	Active

[Birther conspiracy theories](#)  
[Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign](#)  
[Conspiracy theories about the 2017 Las Vegas shooting](#)  
[Immigration](#)

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## Origins

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The Drudge Report started in 1995 as a [gossip](#) column focusing on [Hollywood](#) and [Washington, D.C.](#)<sup>[11]</sup> Matt Drudge began the email-based newsletter from an apartment in [Hollywood, California](#), using his connections with industry and media insiders to break stories, sometimes before they hit the mainstream media. In its early days Drudge maintained the website from his home in [Miami Beach, Florida](#), with help from assistants in story selection and headline writing. His first assistant was [Andrew Breitbart](#).<sup>[12]</sup> Breitbart, who described himself as "Matt Drudge's bitch",<sup>[13]</sup> worked the afternoon shift at the Drudge Report,<sup>[14]</sup> at the same time as running his own website, [Breitbart News](#), which provided a [conservative](#) perspective for people in the Los Angeles entertainment industry.<sup>[15]</sup> [John Ziegler](#) has said that Drudge blocked Breitbart from posting content critical of [Barack Obama](#) during the 2008 campaign for the US Presidency.<sup>[16]</sup>

In 2010, Drudge added former [Washington Times](#) columnist Joseph Curl to the Drudge Report staff.<sup>[17]</sup> In 2011, he added to the staff Charles Hurt, most recently the Washington bureau chief of the [New York Post](#) and a columnist for [The Washington Times](#).<sup>[2]</sup> Curl, who served as morning shift editor, left the site in 2014 and, with Drudge's blessing, in January 2015 launched his own aggregator [Right Read](#), for [The Washington Times](#).<sup>[18]</sup> (By 2019, [Right Read](#) was no longer in operation.)

Drudge, who began his website in 1997 as a supplement to his \$10 per year e-mail newsletter,<sup>[19]</sup> received national attention in 1996 when he broke the news that [Jack Kemp](#) would be Republican [Bob Dole](#)'s running mate in the [1996 US presidential election](#). In 1998, Drudge made national waves when he broke the news that [Newsweek](#) magazine had information on an inappropriate relationship between "a White House intern" and President [Bill Clinton](#)—the [Monica Lewinsky scandal](#)—but was withholding publication.<sup>[20][21][22]</sup> After Drudge's report came out, [Newsweek](#) published the story.<sup>[23]</sup>

## Content

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The Drudge Report site consists mainly of selected<sup>[24]</sup> [hyperlinks](#) to news websites all over the world, each link carrying a headline written by Drudge or his editors. The linked stories are generally hosted on the external websites of mainstream media outlets. It occasionally includes stories written by Drudge himself, usually two or three paragraphs in length. They generally concern a story about to be published in a major magazine or newspaper. Drudge occasionally publishes [Nielsen](#), [Arbitron](#), and [BookScan](#) ratings, or early election [exit polls](#) which are otherwise not made available to the public.

In April 2009, the [Associated Press](#) announced that it would be examining the [fair use](#) doctrine, used by sites like [Google](#) and the Drudge Report to justify the use of AP content without payment.<sup>[25]</sup>

On May 4, 2009, the [US Attorney General](#)'s office issued a warning to employees in [Massachusetts](#) not to visit the Drudge Report and other sites because of malicious code contained in some of the advertising on the website.<sup>[26]</sup> In March 2010, antivirus company [Avast!](#) warned that advertising at the Drudge Report, [The New](#)

York Times, Yahoo, Google, MySpace and other sites carried malware that could infect computers. "The most compromised ad delivery platforms were Yield Manager and Fimserve, but a number of smaller ad systems, including Myspace, were also found to be delivering malware on a lesser scale", said Avast Virus Labs.<sup>[27]</sup>

## Design

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The site's design has seen few changes since its debut in 1997. Drudge has experimented with temporary, relatively minor design tweaks, including using all black-and-white pictures for a period in August 2017<sup>[28]</sup> and using colored text for holidays instead of the standard black throughout the site's existence; in all cases, the basic layout remained consistent throughout its existence. It remains entirely written in unscripted HTML, with a mostly monochromatic color scheme of black boldface monospaced font text on a plain white background. The Drudge Report has been described by Cheryl Woodard, co-founder of *PC*, *Macworld*, *PC World* and *Publish* magazines, as "a big, haphazard mishmash of links and photos"<sup>[29]</sup> and by Dan Rahmel as "popular despite a plain appearance".<sup>[30]</sup> The Drudge Report website is simple and, according to Paul Armstrong of *webwithoutwords.com*, retro in feel.<sup>[31]</sup> Jason Fried of Basecamp called it "one of the best designed sites on the web".<sup>[32]</sup> It consists of a banner headline and a number of other selected headlines in three columns in monospaced font. Most link to an outside source, usually the online edition of a newspaper, which hosts the story. When no such source is available, either because the story is "developing",<sup>[33]</sup> with little known details at the time, or is an exclusive scoop, a special page is created on the Drudge Report servers, which contains text and sometimes images.

Stories on the site are ascribed different levels of importance, which Matt Drudge rates at his editorial discretion. The *Report* almost always holds one major story above the masthead logo, usually just one sentence hyperlinked to the most important story of the day. Other stories surrounding the main headline can be found in the upper left-hand side of the page and link to more specific articles dealing with aspects of the headline story. The standard story, either the headline or links below the logo, is written in black. The majority of stories are laid out in three columns beneath the masthead; at the bottom of each column are various links: newspapers and magazines in the left column, columnists in the middle column, and a collection of wire service links and miscellaneous links to archives, e-mail, site stats, and a box to submit anonymous tips at the right. "Weather Action," a static page of links to weather data; and "Quake Sheet," with earthquake monitoring, each have their own hosted page on the *Drudge Report* servers. The newest stories and those Drudge considers most important are in red, all under a single major headline in large bold type. For especially important breaking stories, especially if they are still emerging, Drudge places art of a flashing red light on the screen.<sup>[34]</sup>

Although the site initially featured very few images, it is now usually illustrated with five or six photographs. Generally the images, like the linked headlines, are hotlinked from the servers of other news agencies.

## Political leanings

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Matt Drudge has said that he is a conservative, but "more of a populist".<sup>[35][36]</sup> Some had regarded the Drudge Report as conservative in tone,<sup>[37][38][39][40][41][42]</sup> and it has been referred to in the media as "a conservative news aggregator".<sup>[43]</sup> In 2008, Richard Siklos, an editor of *Fortune* magazine, called the Drudge Report a "conservative bullhorn".<sup>[44]</sup> Peter Wallsten, writing in the *Los Angeles Times*, labelled Drudge a "well-known conservative warrior";<sup>[45]</sup> Saul Hansell, writing in *The New York Times*, referred to him as a "conservative muckraker";<sup>[46]</sup> and Glenn Greenwald was quoted in *New York* magazine in August 2007 as calling him a "right-wing hack".<sup>[47]</sup>

Jesse Swick of *The New Republic* notes that the Drudge Report frequently links to stories that cast doubt upon global warming. "[Drudge] loves a press release from Senator Inhofe almost as much as he loves taking pot shots at Al Gore ... It's like flashing tasty images of popcorn and sodas between frames at movie theaters, only

much less subtle."<sup>[48]</sup> Ben Shapiro wrote, "The American left can't restrict Internet usage or ban talk radio, so it de-legitimizes these news sources. Ripping alternative news sources as illegitimate is the left's only remaining option -- it cannot compete with the right wing in the new media ... They call Matt Drudge a muckraker and a yellow journalist."<sup>[49]</sup>

A study in 2005 placed the Drudge Report "slightly left of center".<sup>[50]</sup> "One thing people should keep in mind is that our data for the Drudge Report was based almost entirely on the articles that the Drudge Report lists on other Web sites", said Timothy Groseclose, the head of the study. "Very little was based on the stories that Matt Drudge himself wrote. The fact that the Drudge Report appears left of center is merely a reflection of the overall bias of the media."<sup>[50]</sup> Professor Mark Liberman critiqued the statistical model used in this study on the basis that model assumed conservative politicians do not care about the ideological position of think tanks they cite, while liberal politicians do.<sup>[51][52]</sup> The study was also criticized by media watchdog Spinwatch for its methodology and its authors' ties to conservative think tanks.<sup>[53]</sup>

In 2015 and 2016, Drudge repeatedly featured pro-Trump headlines during the Republican Party presidential primaries, leading Salon and Politico to describe Drudge as "all in" for Trump.<sup>[54][55]</sup> During the impeachment inquiry against Donald Trump of 2019, the Drudge Report began aggregating what CNN Business called "an overwhelming amount of negative news for the Trump White House". CNN speculated that this meant there had been a falling out.<sup>[56]</sup> In 2019, Rasmussen Reports reported that Matt Drudge had sold the site and was no longer involved in its operations, which would also explain the change in editorial direction; however, that reporting was not confirmed.<sup>[1][57]</sup> By 2020, some prominent conservatives — including President Donald Trump — had concluded that the Drudge Report had abandoned its conservative ideology, with Fox News primetime host Tucker Carlson stating, "Matt Drudge is now firmly a man of the progressive left."<sup>[58]</sup>

## **Business model and viewership decline**

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Matt Drudge's business entity in Florida is a privately owned limited liability company called Digital, LLC.<sup>[59][60][61]</sup> Drudge applied for and was granted a U.S. Trademark registration for the phrase "Drudge Report" on January 15, 2019, filed on May 15, 2018.<sup>[62][63]</sup> The registration excludes the word "Report" from protection outside of the exact two-word phrase use and is for "standard characters without claim to any particular font style, size, or color."

Revenue for the Drudge Report is driven by advertising that was managed for 20 years by Intermarkets, Inc. During the summer of 2019, after many years of being known for "changing nothing" about the website, Drudge advertising shifted to a new company by the name of Granite Cubed. The current ownership, strategy and outlook for the Drudge Report is held close as private information.<sup>[64]</sup>

In October 2019, the Drudge Report began linking to articles which were increasingly critical of Trump, reportedly the result of Drudge himself becoming "exasperated" by the president.<sup>[65]</sup> This coincided with a near 30% decrease in traffic metrics for the Drudge website in the last months of 2019—from a 90 day-ago ranking of #637 in global internet engagement as of July to #844 in December.<sup>[66]</sup> The site's readership briefly rebounded in March 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic escalated, but continued to decline to new record lows as the year went on.<sup>[67]</sup>

After a Comscore data report showing a year over year decline of 38 percent from August 2019 to August 2020, President Trump tweeted, "Such an honor! Drudge is down 40% plus since he became Fake News. Most importantly, he's bleeding profusely, and is no longer "hot". But others are! Lost ALL Trumpers."<sup>[68]</sup>

## **Influence**

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Fourteen years ago, in 2006, according to Mark Halperin, "Drudge's coverage affects the media's political coverage", effectively steering the media's political coverage towards what Halperin calls "the most salacious aspects of American politics".<sup>[69]</sup> In *The Way To Win*, a book written by Halperin and John Harris, Drudge is called "the Walter Cronkite of his era".<sup>[69][70]</sup> Democratic Party strategist Chris Lehane also said in 2006 "phones start ringing" whenever Drudge breaks a story, and Mark McKinnon, a former media advisor to George W. Bush, said that he checked the site 30–40 times per day.<sup>[69]</sup>

Wallsten analyzed the data derived from a detailed content analysis of print, broadcast and blog discussions during the last five weeks of the 2008 campaign. Rather than the broad impact posited by professional political observers, Wallsten found that, even on issues where the site should be expected to have its largest impact, the stories highlighted on the Drudge Report exert a fairly inconsistent influence over what traditional media outlets chose to cover. Specifically, the time series analysis presented by Wallsten shows evidence of a "Drudge effect" on print and broadcast coverage for only five of the 10 political scandals that received the most attention on the Drudge Report between September 30 and November 3, 2008.<sup>[71]</sup>

Matt Drudge has been criticized by other media news personalities: Bill O'Reilly twice called Drudge a "threat to democracy" in response to Drudge disclosing his book sales figures,<sup>[72]</sup> and Keith Olbermann referred to Drudge as "an idiot with a modem".<sup>[73]</sup>

Drudge, along with his website, was labelled one of the "Top 10 anti-Barack Obama conservatives" by the US editor of *The Daily Telegraph* in February 2009.<sup>[74]</sup>

In addition to its media influence, the Drudge Report has influenced design elements on other sites, some with opposing viewpoints<sup>[75]</sup> and some which use the same format for listing news. A left-leaning<sup>[76]</sup> parody site called Drudge Retort was founded in 1998 as "a send-up of Mr. Drudge's breathless style".<sup>[77][78][79]</sup> According to online analytics data for April 2010 from the Newspaper Marketing Agency, the Drudge Report was then -- now over ten years ago -- the number one site referrer for all online UK commercial newspaper websites.<sup>[80]</sup>

## **Notable stories**

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### **Monica Lewinsky scandal**

The Drudge Report originally attained prominence when it was the first to report what came to be known as the Lewinsky scandal. It published the story on January 17, 1998, showing that Newsweek had turned down the story.<sup>[81]</sup>

### **Swift Boat Veterans for Truth**

During the 2004 US presidential campaign, the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth group made claims about John Kerry's war record, which were mentioned by Drudge and investigated by major newspapers and TV networks.<sup>[69]</sup> The book *Unfit for Command: Swiftboat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry* became a best-seller in part due to its promotion in the Drudge Report.

### **Obama photo**

Drudge<sup>[82]</sup> published a photo of Barack Obama in Somali tribal dress on February 25, 2008,<sup>[83]</sup> and reported that the photo had been sent to him by a Clinton campaign staffer.<sup>[84]</sup> The publication of the photograph resulted in a brief war of words between the Clinton and Obama campaign organizations.

## Prince Harry in Afghanistan

On February 28, 2008, Drudge published an article noting that Prince Harry was serving with his regiment in Afghanistan. Prince Harry was ten weeks into a front-line deployment in Afghanistan that was subject to a voluntary news blackout by the UK press.<sup>[85]</sup> The blackout was designed to protect Prince Harry and the men serving with him from being specifically targeted by the Taliban. An Australian weekly women's magazine New Idea had broken the story in January,<sup>[86]</sup> but it was not followed up at the time. The New Idea editors claimed ignorance of any news blackout.<sup>[87]</sup> Then a German newspaper Berliner Kurier published a short piece on February 28, also before Drudge.<sup>[88]</sup>

Drudge subsequently claimed the report as an exclusive. Chief of the General Staff Sir Richard Dannatt, professional head of the British Army, said: "I am very disappointed that foreign websites have decided to run this story without consulting us".<sup>[89]</sup> The Prince's tour of duty was prematurely ended, since his unit might have been targeted by large-scale suicide attacks intended to kill the Prince.<sup>[90]</sup>

## U.S. Senate problems

On March 9, 2010, The Senate Sergeant-at-Arms claimed that the site was "responsible for the many viruses popping up throughout the Senate...Please avoid using [this] site until the Senate resolves this issue...The Senate has been swamped the last couples [sic] days with this issue." The Drudge Report countered stating that "it served more than 29 million pages Monday without an e-mail complaint about 'pop ups,' or the site serving 'viruses'."<sup>[91]</sup>

## Controversial stories, errors and questions about sourcing

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### Exclusives

Research by the media magazine Brill's Content in 1998 cast doubt on the accuracy of the majority of the "exclusives" claimed by the Drudge Report. Of the 51 stories claimed as exclusives from January to September 1998, the magazine found that 31 (61%) were actually exclusive stories. Of those, 32% were untrue, 36% were true and the remaining 32% were of debatable accuracy.<sup>[22]</sup>

### Sidney Blumenthal lawsuit

In 1997, the Drudge Report reported that incoming White House assistant Sidney Blumenthal beat his wife and was covering it up. Drudge retracted the story the next day and apologized, saying that he was given bad information, but Blumenthal filed a \$30 million libel lawsuit against Drudge. After four years Blumenthal dropped his lawsuit, saying that the suit had cost him tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees. He agreed to pay \$2,500 to Drudge's Los Angeles attorney for travel costs, claiming that Drudge was "backed by unlimited funds from political supporters who use a tax-exempt foundation".<sup>[92][93][94]</sup> The Individual Rights Foundation, led by conservative activist David Horowitz, paid Drudge's legal fees in the Blumenthal lawsuit. Judge Paul Friedman, a Bill Clinton appointee, noted in the judgment that Drudge "is not a reporter, a journalist, or a newsgatherer. He is, as he admits himself, simply a purveyor of gossip."<sup>[95]</sup>

### Alleged John Kerry intern scandal

During the 2004 Presidential campaign, Drudge ran a story quoting General Wesley Clark, in which Clark claimed that the John Kerry campaign would implode over an intern affair. Drudge reported that other news outlets were investigating the alleged affair, but removed it from the site shortly afterwards when the other news outlets dropped their investigations.<sup>[96]</sup>

## **Alleged Bill Clinton illegitimate child**

In 1999, the Drudge Report announced that it had viewed a videotape which was the basis of a *Star* magazine and *Hard Copy* story. Under the headline, "Woman Names Bill Clinton Father Of Son In Shocking Video Confession", Drudge reported a videotaped "confession" by a former prostitute who claimed that her son was fathered by Bill Clinton.<sup>[97]</sup> After a paternity test using a sample of Clinton's DNA found on the dress belonging to Monica Lewinsky, a *Star* source told *Time* magazine that "there was no match, not even close."<sup>[98]</sup> Drudge reported these findings in 1999, but during the 2016 presidential election Drudge revived the story that the child, Danney Williams, then a 30 year old man, really was Clinton's illegitimate son by twisting established facts.<sup>[99]</sup>

## **Alleged heckling of Republican Senators by CNN reporter**

On April 1, 2007, Drudge cited an unnamed "official" source saying that CNN reporter Michael Ware had "heckled" Republican Senators McCain and Graham during a live press conference.<sup>[100]</sup> Drudge reported that:

An official at the press conference called Ware's conduct "outrageous," saying, "here you have two United States Senators in Baghdad giving first-hand reports while Ware is laughing and mocking their comments. I've never witnessed such disrespect. This guy is an activist not a reporter."

— Matthew Drudge, Drudge Report

However, a video hosted by Rawstory shows that Ware did not make a sound nor ask any question during the press conference.<sup>[101]</sup>

## **Oprah and Sarah Palin**

On September 5, 2008, the Drudge Report reported that Oprah staffers were "sharply divided on the merits of booking Sarah Palin". Drudge said that he obtained the information from an anonymous source. Winfrey responded in a written statement to news outlets saying, "The item in today's Drudge Report is categorically untrue. There has been absolutely no discussion about having Sarah Palin on my show. At the beginning of this presidential campaign when I decided that I was going to take my first public stance in support of a candidate, I made the decision not to use my show as a platform for any of the candidates." Oprah Winfrey's public statement came after she had already endorsed Barack Obama for president on Larry King Live in 2007.<sup>[102]</sup> Drudge was accused by some commentators of planting a false story for political ends.<sup>[103]</sup>

## **Ashley Todd attack hoax**

On October 23, 2008, Drudge published an unconfirmed exclusive story regarding Ashley Todd, the 20-year-old employee<sup>[104][105]</sup> of the College Republican National Committee (CRNC) and John McCain volunteer who had allegedly been attacked by a black male for having a McCain sticker on her car in Pittsburgh. Drudge

reported the story without a link but as "developing", titling the headline "Shock: McCain Volunteer Attacked and Mutilated in Pittsburgh – "B" carved into 20 yr old Woman's Face".<sup>[106]</sup> The story set off a "storm of media attention",<sup>[104]</sup> being quickly picked up by many conservative bloggers and right-wing talk radio show hosts, all citing the Drudge Report as their source. It was also reported in newspapers and TV both in the US and around the world.<sup>[107]</sup> The story was confirmed to be a hoax perpetrated by Todd and, according to Talking Points Memo, spread to reporters by McCain's Pennsylvania Communications Director.<sup>[108]</sup>

Drudge then printed a retraction of the story, including links to the news stories detailing that the attack had been a hoax, and that Ashley Todd had performed a similar "attack" on herself while volunteering in a local Ron Paul grassroots group. She was later asked to leave the group because of the hoax.

## **Birther conspiracy theories**

Drudge Report promoted birther conspiracy theory that President Barack Obama was not a U.S. citizen.<sup>[109]</sup>

## **Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign**

On August 8, 2016, Drudge Report used a photo of Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton on their website. The photo depicted two men helping Clinton go up the stairs during her campaign in South Carolina on February 27, 2016. Afterwards, several Twitter accounts in support of Republican nominee Donald Trump used the photo on the site, especially with the hashtag #HillaryHealth, which was used prior to the incident.<sup>[110]</sup> The use of the photo was criticized by several commentators for taking a relatively old photograph out of context as well as misleading their readers.<sup>[111][112]</sup>

On October 3, 2016, Drudge Report published an unfounded claim that Bill Clinton had an illegitimate child named Danney Williams, an allegation that Drudge Report itself had reported as debunked in 1999 based on a Time magazine article.<sup>[113]</sup>

On December 30, 2016, Drudge Report accused the United States federal government of attempting to shut down its website with a denial-of-service attack.<sup>[114][115]</sup> Beginning roughly one week earlier, DDoS attacks had repeatedly taken the site offline for extended periods. Cybersecurity analysts speculated that the attack was on the scale of the 2016 Dyn cyberattack and suggested that only a small number of groups would have the ability to take down a highly-trafficked site for extended lengths of time.<sup>[116]</sup>

Drudge Report promoted the debunked Pizzagate conspiracy theory,<sup>[117]</sup> as well as conspiracy theories about the murder of Seth Rich.<sup>[118]</sup>

## **Conspiracy theories about the 2017 Las Vegas shooting**

In October 2017, Drudge Report promoted conspiracy theories about the 2017 Las Vegas shooting.<sup>[119]</sup>

## **Immigration**

In October 2017, the Drudge Report shared a false Breitbart News story claiming that an undocumented immigrant caused the October 2017 Northern California wildfires.<sup>[120]</sup> The story was rebutted by the Sonoma County's sheriff department which stated, "This is completely false, bad, wrong information that Breitbart started and is being put out into the public."<sup>[120]</sup>



In June 2018, the Drudge Report used a misleading headline and photo pairing to suggest that migrant children who had been separated from their parents by the Trump administration were violent criminals. The photo was of a group of Syrian children holding toy guns.<sup>[121][122][123]</sup>

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# Human Events

*Human Events* is a conservative American political news and analysis website. Founded in 1944 as a print newspaper, *Human Events* became a digital-only publication in 2013.

*Human Events* takes its name from the first sentence of the United States Declaration of Independence: "When in the course of human events...".<sup>[1]</sup> The magazine was published in Washington, D.C., most recently by Eagle Publishing, the owner of Regnery Publishing, a subsidiary of Phillips Publishing. Thomas S. Winter was editor-in-chief and Cathy Taylor was editorial director of the print edition.<sup>[2]</sup> As of 2021, the website is co-published by Jeff Webb and Will Chamberlain.

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## History

*Human Events* was founded in 1944 by Felix Morley, who was from 1933 to 1940 the editor of *The Washington Post*; Frank Hanighen; veteran journalist James Wick (<https://www.nytimes.com/1964/11/08/archives/james-wick-dies-publisher-was-67-editor-of-human-events-a.html>); and former New Dealer<sup>[3]</sup> Henry Regnery.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1951, Frank Chodorov, former director of the Henry George School of Social Science<sup>[5]</sup> in New York, replaced Morley as editor, merging his newsletter, *analysis*, into *Human Events*.<sup>[6]</sup>

By the early 1960s, Allan Ryskind (son of Morrie Ryskind) and Winter had acquired the publication.<sup>[7]</sup> Contributors to *Human Events* from the 1960s to the 1980s included Spiro Agnew, James L. Buckley, Peter Gemma, Pat Buchanan, Ralph de Toledano, Russell Kirk, Phyllis Schlafly, Murray Rothbard and Henry Hazlitt.<sup>[8]</sup> Other regular writers included Robert Novak, Ann Coulter, Terence P. Jeffrey, and John Gizzi, its chief political editor. Contributors have included Sean Hannity, Newt Gingrich, Paul Craig Roberts, Cliff Kincaid, and Pat Sajak. *Newsweek* reported that although *Human Events* did not have a large readership outside the Washington D.C. area, "the tough little tabloid enjoys an impact out of all proportion to its circulation".<sup>[9]</sup>

## Human Events



<b>Editor-in-chief</b>	<u>Will Chamberlain</u>
<b>Founder</b>	<u>Felix Morley</u> <u>Frank Hanighen</u> <u>Henry Regnery</u>
<b>Year founded</b>	February 2, 1944
<b>Final issue</b>	February 18, 2013 (print)
<b>Country</b>	<u>United States</u>
<b>Based in</b>	<u>Washington, D.C.</u>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Website</b>	<u>humanevents.com</u> ( <a href="http://humanevents.com">http://humanevents.com</a> )
<b>ISSN</b>	0018-7194 ( <a href="https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:0018-7194">https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:0018-7194</a> )
<b>OCLC</b>	818923121 ( <a href="https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/818923121">https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/818923121</a> )

*Human Events* backed US military intervention in the Vietnam War; after the war ended, the publication blamed American liberals for the collapse of South Vietnam.<sup>[10]</sup>

In July 1985, *Human Events* gave qualified support to Apartheid South Africa, describing the country as "a pro-Western bulwark that provides more in the way of freedom and wealth to its blacks than the vast majority of black African states".<sup>[11][12]</sup> *Human Events* also described Nelson Mandela as the main obstacle to peace in South Africa: "While President Botha is moving at a fast and furious pace to end the apartheid system, Mandela remains as adamant a revolutionary as ever. He's still a Marxist, still a man of violence, still a supporter of the Communist-run ANC". It was not without sympathy for the plight of blacks under the system however, giving black power activist Steve Biko a thoughtful obituary. The perspective offered throughout was that Marxist rule in South Africa was the worst option, however bad others might be.<sup>[13]</sup>

Eagle Publishing placed the magazine up for sale in February 2013, when it announced that it would close the publication if no buyer could be found.<sup>[14]</sup> On February 27, 2013, *Human Events* announced that, after 69 years, it would halt publication of the print edition but would continue to maintain the websites HumanEvents.com and RedState.com with original reporting. Eagle Publishing, which acquired the magazine in 1993, said that it had been subsidizing the publication for several years but could no longer afford to do so: "the realities of the 24-hour news cycle and the brutal economics of a weekly print publication have become insurmountable."<sup>[1]</sup>

*Human Events* printed 40,000 copies per week and had a staff of 15 full-time employees. A "restructuring" plan that involved layoffs had already been attempted but was insufficient to allow continuation of the print edition.<sup>[1]</sup>

In January 2014, Eagle Publishing was acquired by Salem Media Group.<sup>[15]</sup>

In March 2019, political writer Raheem Kassam and lawyer Will Chamberlain purchased *Human Events* from Salem Media Group for \$300,000 with a view of returning *Human Events* to regular online publication.<sup>[16]</sup> On May 1, 2019, *Human Events* was re-launched under the management of Kassam as Global editor-in-chief and Chamberlain as publisher.<sup>[17]</sup> On August 8, 2019, *Human Events* announced that Kassam was leaving the outlet, and the Editor-in-Chief responsibilities would be taken over by Chamberlain.<sup>[18]</sup>

In December 2020, *Human Events* announced that Jeff Webb (founder of Varsity Brands) had been appointed as co-publisher and senior news editor and that Webb and his team would build a daily news platform.<sup>[19]</sup>

In May 2021, *Human Events* announced that conspiracy theorist Jack Posobiec had been hired as senior editor.<sup>[20][21]</sup>

## **Influence on Ronald Reagan**

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*Human Events* was former U.S. President Ronald Reagan's "favorite reading for years," writes biographer Richard Reeves.<sup>[22]</sup> A loyal subscriber since 1961,<sup>[7]</sup> Reagan said it "helped me stop being a liberal Democrat,"<sup>[23]</sup> calling it "must reading for conservatives who want to know what is really going on in Washington, D.C."<sup>[24]</sup> Reagan contributed some articles to *Human Events* in the 1970s.<sup>[8]</sup> During the 1980 presidential campaign, Democrats released a document entitled "Ronald Reagan, Extremist Collaborator — An Exposé," in which, according to biographer Lee Edwards, "[a]mong the proofs of Reagan's extremism was that he read the conservative weekly *Human Events*."<sup>[25]</sup> After being elected President, Reagan would occasionally write or call Winter or Ryskind.<sup>[7]</sup>

"*Human Events*, however, was no favorite of the new men around Reagan," writes Reeves. "Baker and Darman, and Deaver too, did their best each week to keep it out of the reading material they gave the President."<sup>[26]</sup> "When he discovered White House aides were blocking its delivery, President Reagan arranged

for multiple copies to be sent to the White House residence every weekend," writes Edwards, who adds that Reagan took care "marking and clipping articles and passing them along to his assistants."<sup>[27]</sup>

Just before his 1982 tax hike, Reagan met with what he called "some of my old friends from *Human Events*" (he mentioned Ryskind and M. Stanton Evans),<sup>[28]</sup> who warned him about "disloyal" White House staff (in particular James Baker) who favored making a deal on taxes with the Democratic Congress. (Reagan subsequently made such a deal, in which for each \$1 in higher taxes Congress promised \$3 in spending cuts. Ultimately, both taxes and spending increased.)<sup>[29]</sup>

At the 1986 Reykjavík Summit, Reagan told General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev that he could not give up the Strategic Defense Initiative because of "'the people who were the most outspoken critics of the Soviet Union over the years'—he mentioned his favorite paper, *Human Events*," according to Reeves, "'They're kicking my brains out'."<sup>[30]</sup>

## **"Most Harmful Books" list**

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In 2005, *Human Events* published a list of the "Ten Most Harmful Books of the 19th and 20th Centuries":<sup>[31]</sup>

1. *The Communist Manifesto*, by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
2. *Mein Kampf*, by Adolf Hitler
3. *Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong*, by Mao Zedong
4. *Kinsey Reports*, by Alfred Kinsey
5. *Democracy and Education*, by John Dewey
6. *Das Kapital*, by Karl Marx
7. *The Feminine Mystique*, by Betty Friedan
8. *The Course in Positive Philosophy*, by Auguste Comte
9. *Beyond Good and Evil*, by Friedrich Nietzsche
10. *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*, by John Maynard Keynes

Being voted on by two or more of their judges, twenty additional books received "honorable mention", including *The Origin of Species*, by Charles Darwin; *Unsafe at Any Speed*, by Ralph Nader; and *Silent Spring*, by Rachel Carson.

## **"Conservative of the Year" award**

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Year	Choice	Lifetime	Position	Notes
1998	<u>Ken Starr</u>	b. 1946	Independent Counsel	
1999	<u>Ronald Reagan</u>	1911–2004	President of the United States	Also named "Man of the Century"
2000	<u>William Rehnquist</u> <u>Clarence Thomas</u> <u>Antonin Scalia</u>	1924–2005 b. 1948 1936–2016	U.S. Supreme Court Justices	
2001	<u>George W. Bush</u>	b. 1946	President of the United States	
2002	<u>John Ashcroft</u>	b. 1942	Attorney General	
2003	<u>Roy Moore</u>	b. 1947	Alabama Chief Justice	Twice removed from that office by the Alabama Court of the Judiciary for judicial misconduct
2004	<u>John O'Neill</u>	b. 1946	Swift Boat Veteran	
2005	<u>Mike Pence</u>	b. 1959	U.S. Representative	Former Governor of Indiana; former Vice President of the United States
2006	<u>Jim Sensenbrenner</u>	b. 1943	U.S. Representative	
2007	<u>Rush Limbaugh</u>	1951–2021	Radio Host	
2008	<u>Sarah Palin</u>	b. 1964	Alaska Governor	Also the 2008 GOP nominee for Vice President
2009	<u>Dick Cheney</u>	b. 1941	Vice President of the United States	
2010	<u>Jim DeMint</u>	b. 1951	U.S. Senator	Since April 2013, president of The Heritage Foundation
2011	<u>Paul Ryan</u>	b. 1970	U.S. Representative	Elected Speaker of the House in October 2015
2012	<u>Scott Walker</u>	b. 1967	Governor of Wisconsin	
2013	<u>Darrell Issa</u>	b. 1953	U.S. Representative	

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## External links

- [HumanEvents.com](http://humanevents.com) (<http://humanevents.com>)

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# National Review

*National Review* is an American semi-monthly conservative editorial magazine, focusing on news and commentary pieces on political, social, and cultural affairs. The magazine was founded by the author William F. Buckley Jr. in 1955.<sup>[3]</sup> It is currently edited by Rich Lowry.

Since its founding, the magazine has played a significant role in the development of conservatism in the United States, helping to define its boundaries<sup>[3]</sup> and promoting fusionism while establishing itself as a leading voice on the American right.<sup>[3][4][5]</sup>

The online version, *National Review Online*, is edited by Philip Klein<sup>[6][7]</sup> and includes free content and articles separate from the print edition.

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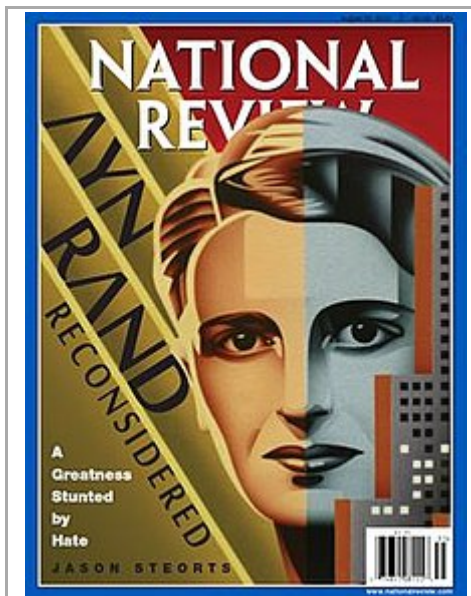
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## National Review



*National Review* cover for August 30, 2010

<b>Editor</b>	<u>Rich Lowry</u>
<b>Categories</b>	<u>Editorial magazine</u> , <u>conservatism</u>
<b>Frequency</b>	Biweekly
<b>Publisher</b>	<u>E. Garrett Bewkes IV</u> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Total circulation (2021)</b>	75,000 <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>First issue</b>	November 19, 1955
<b>Company</b>	National Review, Inc.
<b>Country</b>	USA
<b>Based in</b>	New York City
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Website</b>	<u><a href="http://nationalreview.com">nationalreview.com</a></u> ( <u><a href="http://nationalreview.com">http://nationalreview.com</a></u> )
<b>ISSN</b>	0028-0038 ( <u><a href="https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:0028-0038">https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:0028-0038</a></u> )

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## History

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### Background

Before *National Review's* founding in 1955, the American right was a largely unorganized collection of people who shared intertwining philosophies but had little opportunity for a united public voice. They wanted to marginalize the antiwar, noninterventionistic views of the Old Right.<sup>[8]</sup>

In 1953, moderate Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower was president, and many major magazines such as the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Time*, and *Reader's Digest* were strongly conservative and anticommunist, as were many newspapers including the *Chicago Tribune* and *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. A few small-circulation conservative magazines, such as *Human Events* and *The Freeman*, preceded *National Review* in developing Cold War Conservatism in the 1950s.<sup>[9]</sup>

### Early years

In 1953, Russell Kirk published *The Conservative Mind*, which traced an intellectual bloodline from Edmund Burke<sup>[10]</sup> to the Old Right in the early 1950s. This challenged the notion among intellectuals that no coherent conservative tradition existed in the United States.<sup>[10]</sup>

A young William F. Buckley Jr. was greatly influenced by Kirk's concepts. Buckley had money; his father grew rich from oil fields in Mexico. He first tried to purchase *Human Events*, but was turned down. He then met Willi Schlamm, the experienced editor of *The Freeman*; they would spend the next two years raising the \$300,000 necessary to start their own weekly magazine, originally to be called *National Weekly*.<sup>[11]</sup> (A magazine holding the trademark to the name prompted the change to *National Review*.) The statement of intentions read:<sup>[12]</sup>

Middle-of-the-Road, qua Middle of the Road, is politically, intellectually, and morally repugnant. We shall recommend policies for the simple reason that we consider them right (rather than “non-controversial”); and we consider them right because they are based on principles we deem right (rather than on popularity polls)... The New Deal revolution, for instance, could hardly have happened save for the cumulative impact of *The Nation* and *The New Republic*, and a few other publications, on several American college generations during the twenties and thirties.



William F. Buckley Jr., the founder of *National Review* (pictured in 1985)

### Contributors

On November 19, 1955, Buckley's magazine began to take shape. Buckley assembled an eclectic group of writers: traditionalists, Catholic intellectuals, libertarians and ex-Communists. The group included: Russell Kirk, James Burnham, Frank Meyer, and Willmoore Kendall, Catholics L. Brent Bozell and Garry Wills. The former *Time* editor Whittaker Chambers, who had been a Communist spy in the 1930s and was now intensely anti-Communist, became a senior editor. In the magazine's founding statement Buckley wrote:<sup>[13]</sup>

The launching of a conservative weekly journal of opinion in a country widely assumed to be a bastion of conservatism at first glance looks like a work of supererogation, rather like publishing a royalist weekly within the walls of Buckingham Palace. It is not that of course; if *National Review* is superfluous, it is so for very different reasons: It stands athwart history, yelling Stop, at a time when no other is inclined to do so, or to have much patience with those who so urge it.

As editors and contributors, Buckley especially sought out intellectuals who were ex-Communists or had once worked on the far Left, including Whittaker Chambers, William Schlamm, John Dos Passos, Frank Meyer and James Burnham.<sup>[14]</sup> When James Burnham became one of the original senior editors, he urged the adoption of a more pragmatic editorial position that would extend the influence of the magazine toward the political center. Smart (1991) finds that Burnham overcame sometimes heated opposition from other members of the editorial board (including Meyer, Schlamm, William Rickenbacker, and the magazine's publisher William A. Rusher), and had a significant effect on both the editorial policy of the magazine and on the thinking of Buckley himself.<sup>[15]</sup>

## Mission to conservatives

*National Review* aimed to make conservative ideas respectable,<sup>[3]</sup> in an age when the dominant view of conservative thought was, as expressed by Columbia professor Lionel Trilling:<sup>[16]</sup>

[L]iberalism is not only the dominant but even the sole intellectual tradition. For it is the plain fact that nowadays there are no conservative or reactionary ideas in general circulation... the conservative impulse and the reactionary impulse do not... express themselves in ideas but only... in irritable mental gestures which seek to resemble ideas.

William Buckley Jr. said of the purpose of *National Review*:

[*National Review*] stands athwart history, yelling Stop, at a time when no one is inclined to do so, or to have much patience with those who so urge it... it is out of place because, in its maturity, literate America rejected conservatism in favor of radical social experimentation...since ideas rule the world, the ideologues, having won over the intellectual class, simply walked in and started to...run just about everything. There never was an age of conformity quite like this one, or a camaraderie quite like the Liberals'.<sup>[17]</sup>

*National Review* promoted Barry Goldwater heavily during the early 1960s. Buckley and others involved with the magazine took a major role in the "Draft Goldwater" movement in 1960 and the 1964 presidential campaign. *National Review* spread his vision of conservatism throughout the country.<sup>[18]</sup>

The early *National Review* faced occasional defections from both left and right. Garry Wills broke with *National Review* and became a liberal commentator. Buckley's brother-in-law, L. Brent Bozell Jr. left and started the short-lived traditionalist Catholic magazine, *Triumph* in 1966.

## Defining the boundaries of conservatism

Buckley and Meyer promoted the idea of enlarging the boundaries of conservatism through fusionism, whereby different schools of conservatives, including libertarians, would work together to combat what were seen as their common opponents.<sup>[3]</sup>

Buckley and his editors used his magazine to define the boundaries of conservatism—and to exclude people or ideas or groups they considered unworthy of the conservative title. Therefore, they attacked the John Birch Society, George Wallace, and anti-Semites.<sup>[3][19]</sup>

Buckley's goal was to increase the respectability of the conservative movement; as Rich Lowry noted: "Mr. Buckley's first great achievement was to purge the American right of its kooks. He marginalized the anti-Semites, the John Birchers, the nativists and their sort."<sup>[20]</sup>

In 1957, *National Review* editorialized in favor of white leadership in the South, arguing that "the central question that emerges... is whether the White community in the South is entitled to take such measures as are necessary to prevail, politically and culturally, in areas where it does not predominate numerically? The sobering answer is Yes – the White community is so entitled because, for the time being, it is the advanced race."<sup>[21][22]</sup> By the 1970s *National Review* advocated colorblind policies and the end of affirmative action.<sup>[23]</sup>

In the late 1960s, the magazine denounced segregationist George Wallace, who ran in Democratic primaries in 1964 and 1972 and made an independent run for president in 1968. During the 1950s, Buckley had worked to remove anti-Semitism from the conservative movement and barred holders of those views from working for *National Review*.<sup>[24]</sup> In 1962 Buckley denounced Robert W. Welch Jr. and the John Birch Society as "far removed from common sense" and urged the Republican Party to purge itself of Welch's influence.<sup>[25]</sup>

## After Goldwater

After Goldwater was defeated by Lyndon Johnson in 1964, Buckley and *National Review* continued to champion the idea of a conservative movement, which was increasingly embodied in Ronald Reagan. Reagan, a longtime subscriber to *National Review*, first became politically prominent during Goldwater's campaign. *National Review* supported his challenge to President Gerald Ford in 1976 and his successful 1980 campaign.

During the 1980s *National Review* called for tax cuts, supply-side economics, the Strategic Defense Initiative, and support for President Reagan's foreign policy against the Soviet Union. The magazine criticized the Welfare state and would support the Welfare reform proposals of the 1990s. The magazine also regularly criticized President Bill Clinton. It first embraced, then rejected, Pat Buchanan in his political campaigns. A lengthy 1996 *National Review* editorial called for a "movement toward" drug legalization.<sup>[26]</sup>

In 1985, *National Review* and Buckley were represented by attorney J. Daniel Mahoney during the magazine's \$16 million libel suit against The Spotlight.<sup>[27]</sup>

## Political views and content

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Victor Davis Hanson, a regular contributor since 2001, sees a broad spectrum of conservative and anti-liberal contributors:

In other words, a wide conservative spectrum—paleo-conservatives, neo-conservatives, tea-party enthusiasts, the deeply religious and the agnostic, both libertarians and social conservatives, free-marketeers and the more protectionist—characterizes *National Review*. The common requisite is that they present their views as a critique of prevailing liberal orthodoxy but do so analytically and with decency and respect.<sup>[28]</sup>

The magazine has been described as "the bible of American conservatism".<sup>[29]</sup>

Daniel McAdams of the paleoconservative Ron Paul Institute contends the *National Review* has evolved from a publication in the William Buckley tradition of conservatism to an outlet articulating primarily neoconservative perspectives with its emphasis on using military action abroad.<sup>[30]</sup>

## Donald Trump

In 2015, the magazine published an editorial entitled "Against Trump," calling him a "philosophically unmoored political opportunist" and announcing its opposition to his candidacy for the Republican nomination for president.<sup>[31]</sup> Since Trump's election to the presidency, the *National Review* editorial board has continued to criticize him.<sup>[32][33][34]</sup>

However, contributors to *National Review* and *National Review Online* take a variety of positions on Trump. Lowry and Hanson support him,<sup>[35]</sup> while *National Review* contributors such as Ramesh Ponnuru and Jonah Goldberg have remained critical of Trump.<sup>[36]</sup> In a *Washington Post* feature on conservative magazines, T.A. Frank noted: "From the perspective of a reader, these tensions make National Review as lively as it has been in a long time."<sup>[37]</sup>

The senior editorial staff of the magazine and the website described then-President Trump's conduct between the 2020 elections and the 2021 storming of the United States Capitol as "impeachable," but, unlike frequent contributor Matthew Continetti, opposed an immediate impeachment trial due to procedural hurdles and inopportune timing.<sup>[38][39]</sup>

## National Review Online

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A popular feature of *National Review* is the web version of the magazine, *National Review Online* ("N.R.O."), which includes a digital version of the magazine, with articles updated daily by *National Review* writers, and conservative blogs. The on-line version is called *N.R.O.* to distinguish it from the paper magazine. It also features free articles, though these deviate in content from its print magazine. The site's editor is Philip Klein.

Each day, the site posts new content consisting of conservative, libertarian, and neoconservative opinion articles, including some syndicated columns, and news features.

It also features two blogs:

- **The Corner**<sup>[40]</sup> – postings from a select group of the site's editors and affiliated writers discussing the issues of the day
- **Bench Memos**<sup>[41]</sup> – legal and judicial news and commentary

Markos Moulitsas, who runs the liberal Daily Kos web-site, told reporters in August 2007 that he does not read conservative blogs, with the exception of those on N.R.O.: "I do like the blogs at the *National Review*—I do think their writers are the best in the [conservative] blogosphere," he said.<sup>[42]</sup>

# National Review Institute

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The N.R.I. works in policy development and helping establish new advocates in the conservative movement. National Review Institute was founded by William F. Buckley Jr. in 1991 to engage in policy development, public education, and advocacy that would advance the conservative principles he championed.<sup>[43]</sup>

In 2019, the Whittaker Chambers family had NRI stop an award in Chambers' name following award to people whom the family found objectionable.<sup>[44][45][46]</sup>

## Finances

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As with most political opinion magazines in the United States, *National Review* carries little corporate advertising. The magazine stays afloat from subscription fees, donations, and black-tie fundraisers around the country. The magazine also sponsors cruises featuring *National Review* editors and contributors as lecturers.<sup>[29][47]</sup>

Buckley said in 2005 that the magazine had lost about \$25,000,000 over 50 years.<sup>[48]</sup>

## Presidential primary endorsements

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*National Review* sometimes endorses a candidate during the primary election season. Editors at *National Review* have said, "Our guiding principle has always been to select the most conservative viable candidate."<sup>[49]</sup> This statement echoes what has come to be called "The Buckley Rule". In a 1967 interview, in which he was asked about the choice of presidential candidate, Buckley said, "The wisest choice would be the one who would win... I'd be for the most right, viable candidate who could win."<sup>[50]</sup> The magazine did not endorse either of the two major-party candidates during the 2020 presidential election, and instead published individual articles titled "Trump: Yes," "Trump: No" and "Trump: Maybe" by Andrew McCarthy, Ramesh Ponnuru, and Charles C.W. Cooke, respectively.<sup>[51][52][53]</sup>

The following candidates were officially endorsed by *National Review*:

- 1956: Dwight Eisenhower
- 1960: *No endorsement*<sup>[54]</sup>
- 1964: Barry Goldwater
- 1968: Richard Nixon<sup>[54]</sup>
- 1972: John M. Ashbrook<sup>[54]</sup>
- 1976: Ronald Reagan
- 1980: Ronald Reagan
- 1984: Ronald Reagan
- 1988: George H.W. Bush
- 1992: *No endorsement*
- 1996: *No endorsement*
- 2000: George W. Bush
- 2004: *No endorsement*
- 2008: Mitt Romney (primary),<sup>[55]</sup> John McCain (general)<sup>[56]</sup>
- 2012: *No endorsement*<sup>[54]</sup>
- 2016: Ted Cruz<sup>[57]</sup>

- 2020: *No endorsement*<sup>[58]</sup>

## Editors and contributors

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The magazine's current editor-in-chief is Rich Lowry. Many of the magazine's commentators are affiliated with think-tanks such as The Heritage Foundation and American Enterprise Institute. Prominent guest authors have included Newt Gingrich, Mitt Romney, Peter Thiel, and Ted Cruz in the on-line and paper edition.

### Notable current contributors

Current and past contributors to *National Review* (*N.R.*) magazine, *National Review Online* (*N.R.O.*), or both:

- Elliott Abrams
- Michael D. Aeschliman
- Richard Brookhiser, senior editor
- Mona Charen
- Charles C. W. Cooke, editor of *N.R.O.*.
- Frederick H. Fleitz
- David French
- John Fund, *N.R.O.* national-affairs columnist
- Jim Geraghty
- Jonah Goldberg, *N.R.* senior editor
- Victor Davis Hanson
- David Harsanyi
- Paul Johnson
- Roger Kimball
- Larry Kudlow
- Stanley Kurtz
- Yuval Levin
- James Lileks
- Rob Long, *N.R.* contributing editor
- Kathryn Jean Lopez
- Rich Lowry, *N.R.* editor
- Andrew C. McCarthy
- John McCormack, *N.R.* Washington, D.C. correspondent
- John J. Miller, *N.R.* national political reporter
- Stephen Moore, financial columnist
- Deroy Murdock
- Jay Nordlinger
- Michael Novak
- John O'Sullivan, *N.R.* editor-at-large
- Ramesh Ponnuru
- David Pryce-Jones
- Tom Rogan

- [Reihan Salam](#)
- [Ben Shapiro](#)
- [Katherine Timpf](#)
- [George F. Will](#)
- [Kevin D. Williamson](#), "roving correspondent" at *N.R.*

## Notable past contributors

- [Renata Adler](#)
- [Steve Allen](#)
- [Wick Allison](#)
- [W. H. Auden](#)
- [Edward C. Banfield](#)
- [Jacques Barzun](#)
- [Peter L. Berger](#)
- [Allan Bloom](#)
- [George Borjas](#)
- [Robert Bork](#)
- [L. Brent Bozell Jr.](#)
- [Peter Brimelow](#)
- [Pat Buchanan](#)
- [Jed Babbin](#)
- [Myrna Blyth](#)
- [Christopher Buckley](#)
- [William F. Buckley Jr.](#), founder
- [James Burnham](#)
- [John R. Chamberlain](#)
- [Whittaker Chambers](#)
- [Shannen W. Coffin](#)
- [Robert Conquest](#)
- [Richard Corliss](#)
- [Robert Costa](#)
- [Ann Coulter](#)
- [Arlene Croce](#)
- [Guy Davenport](#)
- [John Derbyshire](#)
- [Joan Didion](#)
- [John Dos Passos](#)
- [Rod Dreher](#)
- [Dinesh D'Souza](#)
- [John Gregory Dunne](#)
- [Max Eastman](#)
- [Eric Ehrmann](#)
- [Thomas Fleming](#)
- [Samuel T. Francis](#)
- [Milton Friedman](#)
- [David Frum](#)
- [Francis Fukuyama](#)
- [Eugene Genovese](#)
- [Paul Gigot](#)
- [Nathan Glazer](#)
- [Stuart Goldman](#)
- [Paul Gottfried](#)
- [Mark M. Goldblatt](#)
- [Michael Graham](#)
- [Ethan Gutmann](#)
- [Ernest van den Haag](#)
- [Jeffrey Hart](#)
- [Henry Hazlitt](#)
- [Will Herberg](#)
- [Christopher Hitchens](#)
- [Harry V. Jaffa](#)
- [Arthur Jensen](#)
- [John Keegan](#)
- [Willmoore Kendall](#)
- [Hugh Kenner](#)
- [Florence King](#)
- [Phil Kerpen](#)
- [Russell Kirk](#)
- [Charles Krauthammer](#)
- [Irving Kristol](#)
- [Dave Kopel](#)
- [Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn](#)
- [Michael Ledeen](#)
- [Fritz Leiber](#)
- [John Leonard](#)
- [Mark Levin](#)
- [John Lukacs](#)
- [Arnold Lunn](#)
- [Richard Lynn](#)
- [Alasdair MacIntyre](#)
- [Harvey C. Mansfield](#)



- [Malachi Martin](#)
- [Frank Meyer](#)
- [Scott McConnell](#)
- [Forrest McDonald](#)
- [Ludwig von Mises](#)
- [Alice-Leone Moats](#)
- [Raymond Moley](#)
- [Thomas Molnar](#)
- [Charles Murray](#)
- [Richard Neuhaus](#)
- [Robert Nisbet](#)
- [Robert Novak](#)
- [Michael Oakeshott](#)
- [Kate O'Beirne](#)
- [Conor Cruise O'Brien](#)
- [Reילו P. Oliver](#)
- [Thomas Pangle](#)
- [Isabel Paterson](#)
- [Ezra Pound](#)
- [Paul Craig Roberts](#)
- [Murray Rothbard](#)
- [William A. Rusher](#), publisher, 1957–88
- [J. Philippe Rushton](#)
- [Steve Sailer](#)
- [Pat Sajak](#)
- [Catherine Seipp](#)
- [Daniel Seligman](#)
- [John Simon](#)
- [Joseph Sobran](#)
- [Thomas Sowell](#)
- [Whit Stillman](#)
- [Theodore Sturgeon](#)
- [Mark Steyn](#)
- [Thomas Szasz](#)
- [Allen Tate](#)
- [Jared Taylor](#)
- [Terry Teachout](#)
- [Taki Theodoracopulos](#)
- [Ralph de Toledano](#)
- [Auberon Waugh](#)
- [Evelyn Waugh](#)
- [Richard M. Weaver](#)
- [Robert Weissberg](#)
- [Frederick Wilhelmsen](#)
- [Garry Wills](#)
- [James Q. Wilson](#)
- [Tom Wolfe](#)
- [Byron York](#)
- [R. V. Young](#)

## Washington editors

- [L. Brent Bozell Jr.](#)
- [Neal B. Freeman](#)
- [George Will](#), 1973–76<sup>[59]</sup>
- [Neal B. Freeman](#), 1978–81
- [John McLaughlin](#), 1981–89
- [William McGurn](#), 1989–1992
- [Kate O'Beirne](#)
- [Robert Costa](#), 2012–13
- [Eliana Johnson](#), 2014–16

## Controversies

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### Barack Obama

In June 2008, six days after [Hillary Clinton](#) conceded to [Barack Obama](#) in the Democratic primary, *National Review* correspondent [Jim Geraghty](#) published an article encouraging the Obama campaign to release the candidate's birth certificate in order "to squash all the conspiracy theories once and for all." Geraghty's column

notes that it was unlikely that Obama was born in Kenya. Attorney Loren Collins, who has tracked the origins of birther movement for years, says that Geraghty may have "unwittingly shined a national spotlight on a fringe internet theory."<sup>[60]</sup> Geraghty's article "became fodder for cable television."<sup>[61]</sup> In a 2009 editorial, the *National Review* editorial board called conspiracies about Obama's citizenship "untrue," writing: "Like Bruce Springsteen, he has a lot of bad political ideas; but he was born in the U.S.A."<sup>[62]</sup>

One *National Review* article said that Obama's parents could be communists because "for a white woman to marry a black man in 1958, or '60, there was almost inevitably a connection to explicit Communist politics".<sup>[63][64]</sup>

## Climate change

According to Philip Bump of *The Washington Post*, *National Review* "has regularly criticized and rejected the scientific consensus on climate change".<sup>[65]</sup> In 2014, climate scientist Michael E. Mann sued the *National Review* after columnist Mark Steyn accused Mann of fraud and referenced a quote from Competitive Enterprise Institute writer Rand Simberg that called Mann "the Jerry Sandusky of climate science, except that instead of molesting children, he has molested and tortured data."<sup>[66][67][68]</sup> Civil liberties organizations such as the ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Foundation and several publications such as *The Washington Post* expressed support for *National Review* in the lawsuit, filing amicus briefs in their defense.<sup>[69]</sup>

In 2015, the magazine published an intentionally deceptive graph that suggested that there was no climate change.<sup>[65][70][71]</sup> The graph set the lower and upper bounds of the chart at -10 and 110 degree Fahrenheit and zoomed out so as to obscure warming trends.<sup>[71]</sup>

In 2017, *National Review* published an article alleging that a top NOAA scientist claimed that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration engaged in data manipulation and rushed a study based on faulty data in order to influence the Paris climate negotiations.<sup>[72]</sup> The article largely repeated allegations made in the *Daily Mail* without independent verification.<sup>[73]</sup> The scientist in question later rebuked the claims made by *National Review*, noting that he did not accuse NOAA of data manipulation but instead raised concerns about "the way data was handled, documented and stored, raising issues of transparency and availability".<sup>[72]</sup>

On March 19, 2021, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia ruled that the *National Review* did not libel Michael E. Mann.<sup>[74][75]</sup>

## Ann Coulter 9/11 column

Two days after the 9/11 attacks, *National Review* published a column by Ann Coulter where she wrote of Muslims, "This is no time to be precious about locating the exact individuals directly involved in this particular terrorist attack. We should invade their countries, kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity. We weren't punctilious about locating and punishing only Hitler and his top officers. We carpet-bombed German cities; we killed civilians. That's war. And this is war."<sup>[76]</sup> *National Review* later called the column a "mistake" and fired Coulter as a contributing editor.<sup>[77]</sup>

## Jeffrey Epstein

In 2019, *The New York Times* reported that *National Review* was one of three news outlets (along with *Forbes* and *HuffPost*) that had published stories written by Jeffrey Epstein's publicists.<sup>[78]</sup> The *National Review* article was written by Christina Galbraith, Epstein's publicist at the time the article was published in 2013. The *National Review* bio for Galbraith described her as a science writer. *National Review* retracted the article in July 2019 with apologies and spoke of new methods being used to better filter freelance content.<sup>[78]</sup>

## Dinesh D'Souza

Political commentator and *National Review* contributor Dinesh D'Souza said that billionaire George Soros was a "collection boy for Hitler and the Nazis," attacked Roy Moore accuser Beverly Young Nelson and said that accusations of sexual misconduct against Roy Moore were "most likely fabricated," and described Rosa Parks as an "overrated Democrat". David French, then-senior writer at the *National Review*, tweeted "What has happened to you?" in response to D'Souza's comment about Nelson.<sup>[79][80]</sup> D'Souza was removed from the magazine's masthead in August 2020.<sup>[81]</sup>

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## External links

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- [Official website](https://www.nationalreview.com/) (<https://www.nationalreview.com/>)
- [NRI](http://nrinstitute.org/) (<http://nrinstitute.org/>), National Review Institute
- "President Honors Buckley at 50th Anniversary of *National Review*" (<https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2005/10/20051006-4.html>). *White House*. George W Bush. October 6, 2005.

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# New York Post

The *New York Post* (*NY Post*) is a conservative<sup>[3]</sup> daily tabloid newspaper in New York City, United States. The *Post* also operates NYPost.com, the celebrity gossip site PageSix.com, and the entertainment site Decider.com.

It was established in 1801 by Federalist and Founding Father Alexander Hamilton and became a respected broadsheet in the 19th century under the name *New York Evening Post*.<sup>[4]</sup> The *Post*'s most famous 19th century editor was William Cullen Bryant. Through the mid-20th century the paper was owned by Dorothy Schiff, who developed its tabloid format. In 1976, Murdoch bought the *Post* for US\$30.5 million.<sup>[5]</sup> Since 1993, the *Post* has been owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Its distribution ranked 4th in the US in 2019.<sup>[6]</sup>

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### New York Post



Front page of February 8, 2019, with the headline story reporting on the Jeff Bezos *National Enquirer* extortion allegations.

<b>Type</b>	Daily newspaper
<b>Format</b>	Tabloid
<b>Owner(s)</b>	NYP Holdings, Inc. (News Corp)
<b>Founder(s)</b>	Alexander Hamilton (as <i>The New-York Evening Post</i> )
<b>Publisher</b>	Sean Giancola <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Editor</b>	Stephen Lynch (Print), Michelle Gottself (Digital)
<b>Sports editor</b>	Christopher Shaw
<b>Founded</b>	November 16, 1801 (as <i>The New-York Evening Post</i> )
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Headquarters</b>	1211 Avenue of the Americas New York City 10036 United States
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Circulation</b>	230,634 daily <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>ISSN</b>	1090-3321 ( <a href="https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q">https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q</a> )

The *New York Post*, established on November 16, 1801, as the *New-York Evening Post*, describes itself as the nation's oldest continuously published *daily* newspaper. However, The New York Post is widely understood to be a false claimant to its self-proclaimed title, as the *The Providence Journal*, which began daily publication on July 21, 1829, is the actual nation's oldest continuously published daily newspaper since the *New York Post* halted publication during strikes in 1958 and 1978.<sup>[7]</sup> *The Hartford Courant*, generally understood to be the oldest continuously published newspaper, was founded in 1764. However, it was founded as a semi-weekly paper and it did not begin publishing daily until 1836, 35 years after the New York Post began doing so, and therefore it cannot be considered a true challenge to the New York Post claim as "the nation's oldest continuously published **daily** newspaper", despite it being an older continuously published paper than the New York Post. *The New Hampshire Gazette*, has trademarked its claim of being *The Nation's Oldest Newspaper*, as it was founded in 1756. However, it was founded as a weekly paper and since the 1890s has only begun publishing only on the weekends. To date, The New Hampshire Gazette has never published daily and therefore cannot be considered a challenger to the New York Post claim as "the nation's oldest continuously published **daily** newspaper".

	<a href="#">=n2:1090-3321)</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://nypost.com">nypost.com (http://nypost.com)</a>
	<a href="#">Media of the United States</a>
	<a href="#">List of newspapers</a>

## 19th century



[Alexander Hamilton](#)  
founded the *Post* in 1801

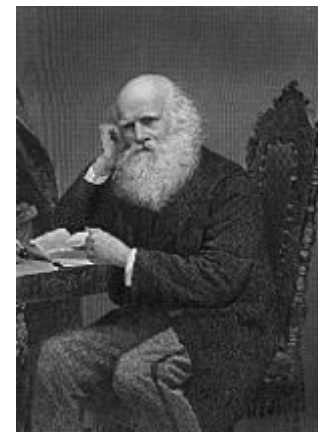
The *Post* was founded by [Alexander Hamilton](#) with about US\$10,000 (equivalent to \$155,540 in 2020) from a group of investors in the autumn of 1801 as the *New-York Evening Post*,<sup>[8]</sup> a [broadsheet](#). Hamilton's co-investors included other New York members of the [Federalist Party](#), such as [Robert Troup](#) and [Oliver Wolcott](#),<sup>[9]</sup> who were dismayed by the election of [Thomas Jefferson](#) as U.S. president and the rise in popularity of the [Democratic-Republican Party](#).<sup>[10]</sup> The meeting at which Hamilton first recruited investors for the new paper took place in [Archibald Gracie's](#) then-country weekend [villa](#) that is now [Gracie Mansion](#).<sup>[11]</sup> Hamilton chose [William Coleman](#) as his first editor.<sup>[10]</sup>

The most famous 19th-century *Evening Post* editor was the poet and [abolitionist](#) [William Cullen Bryant](#).<sup>[12]</sup> So well respected was the *Evening Post* under Bryant's editorship, it received praise from

the English philosopher [John Stuart Mill](#), in 1864.<sup>[13]</sup>

In the summer of 1829, Bryant invited [William Leggett](#), the [Locofoco](#) Democrat, to write for the paper. There, in addition to literary and drama reviews, Leggett began to write political editorials. Leggett's espoused a fierce opposition to [central banking](#) and support for the organization of labor unions. He was a member of the [Equal Rights Party](#). Leggett became a co-owner and editor at the *Post* in 1831, eventually working as sole editor of the newspaper while Bryant traveled in Europe in 1834 through 1835.<sup>[14]</sup>

Another co-owner of the paper was [John Bigelow](#).<sup>[15]</sup> Born in [Malden-on-Hudson](#), New York, John Bigelow, Sr. graduated in 1835 from Union College, where he was a member of the [Sigma Phi Society](#) and the [Philomathean Society](#),<sup>[16]</sup> and was admitted to the bar in 1838.<sup>[15]</sup> From 1849 to 1861, he was one of the editors and co-owners of the *Evening Post*.<sup>[15]</sup>



[William Cullen Bryant](#),  
the *Post's* most famous  
19th-century editor

In 1881 Henry Villard took control of the *Evening Post*, as well as *The Nation*, which became the *Post*'s weekly edition. With this acquisition, the paper was managed by the triumvirate of Carl Schurz, Horace White, and Edwin L. Godkin.<sup>[17]</sup> When Schurz left the paper in 1883, Godkin became editor-in-chief.<sup>[18]</sup> White became editor-in-chief in 1899, and remained in that role until his retirement in 1903.<sup>[19][20]</sup>

In 1897, both publications passed to the management of Villard's son, Oswald Garrison Villard,<sup>[21]</sup> a founding member of both the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People<sup>[22]</sup> and the American Civil Liberties Union.<sup>[23]</sup>

## 1918 to 1976

Villard sold the paper in 1918, after widespread allegations of pro-German sympathies during World War I hurt its circulation. The new owner was Thomas Lamont, a senior partner in the Wall Street firm of J.P. Morgan & Co.. Unable to stem the paper's financial losses, he sold it to a consortium of 34 financial and reform political leaders, headed by Edwin Francis Gay, dean of the Harvard Business School, whose members included Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Conservative Cyrus H. K. Curtis<sup>[24]</sup>—publisher of the *Ladies Home Journal*—purchased the *Evening Post* in 1924<sup>[25]</sup> and briefly turned it into a non-sensational tabloid in 1933.<sup>[25]</sup> In 1928, Wilella Waldorf became drama editor at the *Evening Post*. She was one of the first women to hold an editorial role at the newspaper,<sup>[26]</sup> During her time at the *Evening Post* she was the only female first-string critic on a New York newspaper.<sup>[27]</sup> She was preceded by Clara Savage Littledale, the first woman reporter ever hired by the *Post* and the editor of the woman's page in 1914.<sup>[28]</sup>

In 1934, J. David Stern purchased the paper, changed its name to the *New York Post*,<sup>[25]</sup> and restored its broadsheet size and liberal perspective.<sup>[29]</sup>

In 1939, Dorothy Schiff purchased the paper. Her husband, George Backer, was named editor and publisher.<sup>[30]</sup> Her second editor (and third husband) Ted Thackrey became co-publisher and co-editor with Schiff in 1942.<sup>[31]</sup> Together, they recast the newspaper into its current tabloid format.<sup>[32]</sup> In 1948 *The Bronx Home News* merged with it.<sup>[33]</sup> In 1949, James Wechsler became editor of the paper, running both the news and the editorial pages. In 1961, he turned over the news section to Paul Sann and stayed on as editorial page editor until 1980.

Under Schiff's tenure the *Post* was devoted to liberalism, supporting trade unions and social welfare, and featured some of the most popular columnists of the time, such as Joseph Cookman, Drew Pearson, Eleanor Roosevelt, Max Lerner, Murray Kempton, Pete Hamill, and Eric Sevareid, in addition to theatre critic Richard Watts, Jr. and gossip columnist Earl Wilson.

## 1976 to present

In November 1976, it was announced that Australian Rupert Murdoch had bought the *Post* from Schiff with the intention she would remain as a consultant for five years.<sup>[34]</sup> It later emerged that Murdoch bought the newspaper for US\$30.5 million.<sup>[5]</sup> The *Post* at this point was the only surviving afternoon daily in New York City and its circulation under Schiff had grown by two-thirds, particularly after the failure of the competing *World Journal Tribune*. However, the rising cost of operating an afternoon daily in a city with worsening daytime traffic congestion, combined with mounting competition from expanded local radio and TV news cut into the *Post*'s profitability, though it made money from 1949 until Schiff's final year of ownership, when it lost \$500,000. The paper has lost money ever since.<sup>[10]</sup>

In late October 1995, the *Post* announced plans to change its Monday through Saturday publication schedule and begin issuing a Sunday edition,<sup>[35]</sup> which it last published briefly in 1989.<sup>[36]</sup> On April 14, 1996, the *Post* delivered its new Sunday edition at the cost of 50 cents per paper by keeping its size to 120 pages.<sup>[37]</sup> The amount, significantly less than Sunday editions from *The New York Daily News* and *The New York Times*, was part of *Post*'s efforts "to find a niche in the nation's most competitive newspaper market".<sup>[38][37]</sup>

Because of the institution of federal regulations limiting media cross-ownership after Murdoch's purchase of WNEW-TV (now WNYW) and four other stations from Metromedia to launch the Fox Broadcasting Company, Murdoch was forced to sell the paper for \$37.6 million in 1988 to Peter S. Kalikow, a real-estate magnate with no news experience.<sup>[39]</sup> In 1988, the *Post* hired Jane Amsterdam, founding editor of *Manhattan, inc.*, as its first female editor, and within six months the paper had toned down the sensationalist headlines.<sup>[40]</sup> Within a year, Amsterdam was forced out by Kalikow, who reportedly told her "credible doesn't sell ... Your big scoops are great, but they don't sell more papers."<sup>[41]</sup>

When Kalikow declared bankruptcy in 1993,<sup>[39]</sup> the paper was temporarily managed by Steven Hoffenberg,<sup>[39]</sup> a financier who later pleaded guilty to securities fraud;<sup>[42]</sup> and, for two weeks, by Abe Hirschfeld,<sup>[43]</sup> who made his fortune building parking garages. After a staff revolt against the Hoffenberg-Hirschfeld partnership—which included publication of an issue whose front page featured the iconic masthead picture of founder Alexander Hamilton with a single teardrop running down his cheek<sup>[44][45]</sup>—the *Post* was again purchased in 1993 by Murdoch's News Corporation. This came about after numerous political officials, including Democratic governor of New York Mario Cuomo, persuaded the Federal Communications Commission to grant Murdoch a permanent waiver from the cross-ownership rules that had forced him to sell the paper five years earlier. Without that FCC ruling, the paper would have shut down.<sup>[39]</sup>

In December 2012, Murdoch announced that Jesse Angelo had been appointed publisher.<sup>[46]</sup>

Various branches of Murdoch's media groups, 21st Century Fox's Endemol Shine North America and News Corp' New York Post created a *Page Six TV* nightly gossip show based and named after the *Post*'s gossip section. A test run in July would occur on Fox Television Stations.<sup>[47]</sup> The show garnered the highest ratings of a nationally syndicated entertainment newsmagazine in a decade when it debuted in 2017.<sup>[48]</sup> With *Page Six TV*'s success, the New York Post formed New York Post Entertainment, a scripted and unscripted television entertainment division, in July 2018 with Troy Searer as president.<sup>[49]</sup>

In 2017, the *New York Post* was reported to be the preferred newspaper of U.S. President Donald Trump,<sup>[50][51]</sup> who maintains frequent contact with its owner, Rupert Murdoch.<sup>[51]</sup> The *Post* had promoted Trump's celebrity since at least the 1980s.<sup>[52]</sup> In October 2020, the *Post* endorsed Trump for re-election, citing his "promises made, promises kept" policy.<sup>[53]</sup> Weeks after Trump was defeated and he sought to overturn the election results, the *Post* published a front-page editorial asking the president to "stop the insanity," asserting he was "cheering for an undemocratic coup." The editorial continued, "If you insist on spending your final days in office threatening to burn it all down, that will be how you are remembered. Not as a revolutionary, but as the anarchist holding the match." The *Post* characterized Trump attorney Sidney Powell as a "crazy person" and his former national security advisor Michael Flynn's suggestion to declare martial law as "tantamount to treason."<sup>[54][55]</sup>

Around March 2021, Keith Poole, a top editor at *The Sun*, another Murdoch-owned tabloid, was appointed as an editor at the *New York Post*.<sup>[56][57]</sup> Around the same time, at least eight journalists had left the paper.<sup>[57]</sup>

## **Content, coverage, and controversies**

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The *Post* has been criticized since the beginning of Murdoch's ownership for sensationalism, blatant advocacy, and conservative bias. In 1980, the *Columbia Journalism Review* stated "*New York Post* is no longer merely a journalistic problem. It is a social problem—a force for evil."<sup>[58]</sup>

The *Post* has been accused of contorting its news coverage to suit Murdoch's business needs, in particular avoiding subjects which could be unflattering to the government of the People's Republic of China, where Murdoch has invested heavily in satellite television.<sup>[59]</sup>

In a 2019 article in *The New Yorker*, Ken Auletta wrote that Murdoch "doesn't hesitate to use the *Post* to belittle his business opponents". He went on to say that Murdoch's support for Edward I. Koch while he was running for mayor of New York "spilled over onto the news pages of the *Post*, with the paper regularly publishing glowing stories about Koch and sometimes savage accounts of his four primary opponents."<sup>[60]</sup>

According to *The New York Times*, Ronald Reagan's campaign team credited Murdoch and the *Post* for his victory in New York in the 1980 United States presidential election.<sup>[61]</sup> Reagan later "waived a prohibition against owning a television station and a newspaper in the same market," allowing Murdoch to continue to control *The New York Post* and *The Boston Herald* while expanding into television.

In 1997, *Post* executive editor Steven D. Cuozzo responded to criticism by saying the *Post* "broke the elitist media stranglehold on the national agenda."<sup>[62]</sup>

In a 2004 survey conducted by Pace University, the *Post* was rated the least-credible major news outlet in New York, and the only news outlet to receive more responses calling it "not credible" than credible (44% not credible to 39% credible).<sup>[63]</sup>

The *Post* commonly publishes news reports based entirely on reporting from other sources without independent corroboration. In January 2021, the paper forbade the use of CNN, MSNBC, *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* as sole sources for such stories.<sup>[64]</sup>

## Style

Murdoch imported the tabloid journalism style of many of his Australian and British newspapers, such as *The Sun*, which remains one of the highest selling daily newspapers in the UK. This style was typified<sup>[65]</sup> by the *Post's* famous headlines such as "Headless body in topless bar" (shown on the right, written by Vincent Musetto). In its 35th-anniversary edition, *New York* magazine listed this as one of the greatest headlines. It also has five other *Post* headlines in its "Greatest Tabloid Headlines" list.<sup>[66]</sup>

The *Post* has also been criticized for incendiary front-page headlines such as one referring to the co-chairmen of the Iraq Study Group—James Baker and Lee Hamilton—as "surrender monkeys",<sup>[67]</sup> and another on the murder of Hasidic landlord Menachem Stark reading "Slumlord found burned in dumpster. Who didn't want him dead?"<sup>[68]</sup>



One of the paper's most famous headlines, from the edition of April 15, 1983

## Page Six

The gossip section "**Page Six**" was created by James Brady<sup>[69]</sup> and is currently edited by Emily Smith<sup>[70]</sup> (although it no longer actually appears on page six of the tabloid). Columnist Richard Johnson edited Page Six for 25 years.<sup>[71]</sup> February 2006 saw the debut of *Page Six Magazine*, distributed free inside the paper. In

September 2007, it started to be distributed weekly in the Sunday edition of the paper. In January 2009, publication of *Page Six Magazine* was cut to four times a year.<sup>[72]</sup>

Beginning with the 2017–18 television season, a daily syndicated series known as ***Page Six TV*** came to air, produced by 20th Television, which was part of the 21st Century Fox side of Rupert Murdoch's holdings, and Endemol Shine North America. The show was originally hosted by comedian John Fugelsang, with contributions from *Page Six* and *Post* writers (including Carlos Greer), along with regular panelists Elizabeth Wagmeister from *Variety* and Bevy Smith. In March 2018, Fugelsang left the show, with the expectation that a new host would be named, though by the end of the season, it was announced that Wagmeister, Greer and Smith would be retained as equal co-hosts.<sup>[73]</sup>

In April 2019, it was confirmed that the series would end after May 2019; by then, it was last in average viewership out of all U.S. syndicated newsmagazine programs, behind the similar tabloid-inspired program *Daily Mail TV*.<sup>[74]</sup>

## **Erroneous reporting and defamation cases arising from bombings**

Richard Jewell, a security guard wrongly suspected of being the Centennial Olympic Park bomber, sued the *Post* in 1998, alleging that the newspaper had libeled him in several articles, headlines, photographs, and editorial cartoons. U.S. District Judge Loretta Preska largely denied the *Post's* motion to dismiss, allowing the suit to proceed.<sup>[75]</sup> The *Post* subsequently settled the case for an undisclosed sum.<sup>[76]</sup>

In several stories on the day of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, the *Post* inaccurately reported that twelve people had died, and that a Saudi national had been taken into custody as a suspect, which was denied by Boston Police.<sup>[77][78]</sup> Three days later, on April 18, the *Post* featured a full-page cover photo of two young men at the Boston marathon with the headline "Bag Men" (a term that implies criminality) and erroneously claimed they were being sought by police.<sup>[78][79][80]</sup> The men, Salaheddin Barhoum and Yassine Zaimi, were not considered suspects, and the *Post* was heavily criticized for the apparent accusation.<sup>[79][81]</sup> Then-editor Col Allan defended the story, saying they had not referred to the men as "suspects".<sup>[79][82]</sup> The two men later sued the *Post* for libel,<sup>[83][84][85]</sup> and the suit was settled in 2014 on undisclosed terms.<sup>[86][87][88]</sup>

## **Accusations of racism**

In 2006, several Asian-American advocacy groups protested the use of the headline "Wok This Way" for a *Post* article about President George W. Bush's meeting with Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China.<sup>[89]</sup>

In 2009, the *Post* ran a cartoon by Sean Delonas of a white police officer saying to another white police officer who has just shot a chimpanzee on the street: "They'll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill." The cartoon dually referred to President Obama and to the recent rampage of Travis, a former chimpanzee actor. It was criticized as racist,<sup>[90]</sup> with civil rights activist Al Sharpton calling the cartoon "troubling at best given the historic racist attacks of African-Americans as being synonymous with monkeys."<sup>[91]</sup> The *Post* defended itself by stating that the cartoon was deliberately misinterpreted by its critics.<sup>[92]</sup>

The Public Enemy song "A Letter to the New York Post" from their album *Apocalypse '91...The Enemy Strikes Black* is a complaint about what they believed to be negative and inaccurate coverage blacks received from the paper.

In 2019, the *Post* displayed an image of the World Trade Center in flames targeting Rep. Ilhan Omar, one of the first two Muslim women to serve in Congress. A quote by Representative Omar was included.<sup>[93]</sup> The Yemeni American Merchant Association announced a formal boycott of the paper and ten of the most prominent Yemeni bodega owners in New York agreed to stop selling the paper. As of June 2019, the boycott had extended to over 900 individual stores.<sup>[94]</sup> Yemeni-Americans own about half of the 10,000 bodegas in New York City.<sup>[95]</sup>

In 2020, the *Post* published an article with the headline "Suspected teen gunman Kyle Rittenhouse spotted cleaning Kenosha graffiti before shooting". In response, actress Viola Davis posted a photo on Instagram comparing the headline with the *Post*'s 2012 headline about Trayvon Martin, which read: "Trayvon Martin had traces of marijuana in system at time of death, autopsy reveals", with the caption stating: "We need to boycott publications that continue to criminalize innocent [people of color] after they have been murdered by the law!!!"<sup>[96]</sup>

## Hunter Biden laptop story

During the closing days of the 2020 presidential campaign, on October 14, 2020, the *Post* published a front-page story purporting to reveal "smoking gun" emails recovered from a laptop abandoned by Hunter Biden at a computer repair store in Wilmington, Delaware.<sup>[97]</sup> The only sources named in the story were Republican operatives Steve Bannon and Rudy Giuliani.<sup>[97]</sup> The story came under heavy criticism from other news sources and anonymous reporters at the *Post* itself for "flimsy" reporting, including questions about the reliability of its sourcing and the lack of outreach to either Hunter Biden or the Biden campaign for comment.<sup>[98][99]</sup> More than fifty former U.S. intelligence officials signed an open letter stating that they were "deeply suspicious that the Russian government played a significant role" in the story, but emphasized that "we do not know if the emails ... are genuine or not and that we do not have evidence of Russian involvement".<sup>[100][101]</sup> The Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe attempted to dispel these rumors, emphasizing that "the intelligence community doesn't believe that [the emails originated from Russian disinformation] because there is no intelligence that supports that."<sup>[102]</sup> The FBI has had possession of the laptop since late 2019 and reported that they had "nothing to add" to Ratcliffe's remarks concerning Russian disinformation.<sup>[103]</sup> A later publication by The New York Times emphasized that "no concrete evidence has emerged that the laptop contains Russian disinformation," and that, after mounting pressure, the FBI wrote to Senator Ron Johnson (WI) and suggested that they have not found any Russian disinformation on the laptop. It is unclear what, if anything, the Justice Department officials knew at the time.<sup>[103]</sup> Fox News reported that the laptop was seized as part of an investigation into money laundering, but did not make clear if the investigation involved Hunter Biden.<sup>[104]</sup> The New York Times reported in December 2020 that investigators had initially examined possible money laundering by Hunter Biden but did not find evidence to justify further investigation.<sup>[105]</sup>

Social media networks Twitter and Facebook initially limited the spread of the *Post* story on their platforms, citing policies restricting the sharing of hacked material and personal information; this decision proved controversial, with many critics, including Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and a Harvard Law School lecturer, deriding it as censorship.<sup>[106][107]</sup> NPR reported that Twitter initially declined to comment how it reached this decision or what evidence it had supporting this.<sup>[107]</sup> The New York Times initially reported that the story had been pitched to other outlets, including Fox News, which declined to publish it due to concerns over its reliability.<sup>[108]</sup> The *Times* also reported that two writers at the *Post*, Bruce Golding and one other, declined to have their names attached to the story, and ultimately the story only listed two bylines: Gabrielle Fonrouge, who "had little to do with the reporting or writing of the article" and was unaware of the byline prior to the story's publication; and Emma-Jo Morris, a former producer for Fox News's Hannity who had no prior bylines with the *Post*. In response to the concerns about the veracity of the article, former *Post* editor-in-chief and current advisor Colin Allan responded in an email to the *Times* that "the senior editors at The Post made the decision to publish the Biden files after several days' hard work established its merit."<sup>[108]</sup>

With concern to emails found on the laptop, according to a November 1, 2020, NBC News article, "no evidence has emerged that the documents are the product of Russian disinformation, as some experts initially suggested, but many questions remain about how the materials got into the hands of Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, who has met with Russian agents in his effort to dig up dirt on Biden."<sup>[109]</sup> CNN reported that Giuliani and other Trump allies met with Kremlin-linked figures such as Andrii Derkach.<sup>[110]</sup> Earlier in September 2020, the *New York Post* itself reported that Derkach was a "pro-Russian member of Kiev's parliament" and stated "Derkach also met with former New York Mayor Giuliani in Kiev in December last year to dig up dirt on Biden."<sup>[111]</sup>

In a March 2021 DNI report, U.S. intelligence concluded that "Russian state media, trolls, and online proxies, including those directed by Russian intelligence, published disparaging content about President Biden, his family, and the Democratic Party, and heavily amplified related content circulating in US media, including stories centered on his son." This revived some interest in the Russian interference in the 2020 election and laptop story in the media, although the intelligence report did not specifically address the laptop story.<sup>[112]</sup>

## Other controversies

In 1997, a national news story concerning Rebecca Sealton's victory in the Scripps National Spelling Bee circulated. Sealton was sponsored by the Daily News, a direct in-market competitor. The *Post* published a picture of her but altered the photograph to remove the name of the Daily News as printed on a placard she was wearing.<sup>[113]</sup>

In 2004, the *Post* ran a full-page cover photo of 19-year-old New York University student Diana Chien jumping to her death from the twenty-fourth story of a building.<sup>[114][115]</sup>

In 2012, the *Post* was criticized for running a photograph of a man struggling to climb back up onto a subway platform as a train approached, along with the headline "DOOMED".<sup>[116][117][118]</sup> Facing questions over why he didn't help the man, the photographer claimed he was not strong enough and had been attempting to use the flash on his camera to alert the driver of the oncoming train.<sup>[119]</sup>

In December 2020,<sup>[120]</sup> the *Post* published a story outing an emergency medical technician who made additional income from posting explicit photographs of herself to the subscription website OnlyFans.<sup>[121][122]</sup> The publication was widely criticized on social media as "doxxing someone simply for trying to earn a living".<sup>[121]</sup>

In April 2021, Facebook blocked users from sharing a *Post* story about Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors using millions of dollars to buy several homes, saying that it violated its privacy and personal information policy.<sup>[123][124]</sup> In response, the *Post* argued that it was an arbitrary decision since other newspapers, magazines and websites highlight the real estate purchases of high status individuals.<sup>[125]</sup> News Media Alliance CEO David Chavern also voiced criticism of the decision, saying in a prepared statement: "There is no balance of power between 'media' and 'Big Tech'."<sup>[126]</sup>

In April 2021, the *Post* published a false front-page story asserting that copies of a book by vice president Kamala Harris were being distributed to migrant children at an intake facility in Long Beach, California.<sup>[127]</sup> Fox News then published a story about the matter, followed by numerous Republican politicians and pundits commenting on it, in some cases speculating that taxpayers were funding the supposed book handouts for Harris's personal profit.<sup>[127][128]</sup> Responding to questions from Fox News correspondent Peter Doocy, White House press secretary Jen Psaki expressed no knowledge of the matter; the *Post* then published a new story headlined "Psaki has no answers when asked about Harris' book being given to child migrants."<sup>[129]</sup> Four days after the original publication, the *Post* replaced the story with a new version clarifying that just one Harris



book had been donated by a community member, but maintained it was an "open-arms gesture by the Biden administration," though there was no evidence of the administration's involvement.<sup>[129]</sup> Laura Italiano, the author of the story, resigned that day, asserting she had been "ordered" to write it.<sup>[57][129]</sup>

## Operations

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The 1906 Old New York Evening Post Building is a designated landmark. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.<sup>[130]</sup> It occupied the building until 1926 when a new main office for the *Post* was established at 75 West Street in the New York Evening Post Building. The building remained in use by the *Post* until 1970, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.<sup>[130]</sup> In 1967, Schiff bought 210 South Street, the former headquarters of the New York Journal American, which closed a year earlier. The building became an instantly recognizable symbol for the *Post*. In 1995, owner Rupert Murdoch relocated *Post*'s news and business offices to the News Corporation headquarters tower at 1211 Avenue of the Americas (Sixth Avenue) in midtown Manhattan. The *Post* shares this building with Fox News Channel and The Wall Street Journal, both of which are also owned by Murdoch. Both the *Post* and the New York City edition of the *Journal* are printed at a state-of-the-art printing plant in the borough of The Bronx.

The Newspaper and Mail Deliverers Union has been delivering the newspaper "since the early 1900s."<sup>[131]</sup>

## Website

In 1996, the *New York Post* launched an Internet version of the paper.<sup>[132][133]</sup> In 2014, it launched the website *Decider*, which provides recommendations for streaming services.<sup>[134]</sup>



Printing plant

## Sales

The daily circulation of *Post* decreased in the final years of the Schiff era from 700,000 around 1967–68, to approximately 517,000 by the time she sold the paper to Murdoch in 1976.<sup>[135]</sup> Under Murdoch, the *Post* launched a morning edition to compete directly with the rival tabloid Daily News in 1978—prompting the *Daily News* to retaliate with a PM edition called *Daily News Tonight*. But the PM edition suffered the same problems with worsening daytime traffic that the afternoon *Post* experienced and the *Daily News* ultimately folded *Tonight* in 1981. By that time, circulation of the all-day *Post* soared to a peak of 962,000, the bulk of the increase attributed to its morning edition (It set a single-day record of 1.1 million on August 11, 1977 with the news of the arrest the night before of David Berkowitz, the infamous "Son of Sam" serial killer who terrorized New York for much of that summer). However, the *Post* lost so much money that Murdoch decided to shut down the *Post*'s PM edition in 1982, turning the *Post* into a morning-only daily.

The *Post* and the *Daily News* have been locked in a bitter circulation war ever since. A resurgence during the first decade of the 21st century saw *Post* circulation rise to 724,748 by April 2007,<sup>[2]</sup> achieved partly by lowering the price from 50 cents to 25 cents. In October 2006, the *Post* surpassed the *Daily News* in circulation for the first time, only to see the *Daily News* overtake its rival a few months later.<sup>[136]</sup> In 2010, the *Post*'s daily circulation was 525,004, just 10,000 behind the *Daily News*.<sup>[137]</sup> As of 2017, the *Post* was the fourth-largest newspaper in the United States by circulation, while the *Daily News* was ranked eighth.<sup>[138]</sup>

The *Post* has remained unprofitable since Murdoch first purchased it from Dorothy Schiff in 1976—and was on the brink of folding when Murdoch bought it back in 1993, with at least one media report in 2012 indicating that *Post* loses up to \$70 million a year.<sup>[139]</sup> One commentator has suggested that the *Post* cannot

become profitable as long as the competing *Daily News* survives, and that Murdoch may be trying to force the *Daily News* to fold or sell out, leaving the two papers in an intractable war of attrition.<sup>[140]</sup>

## See also

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- Media in New York City

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## External links

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- Official website (<https://nypost.com>) 
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# RedState

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**RedState** is an American conservative political blog.

Prior to 2017, it organized "RedState gatherings", a summer convention for conservative activists and grassroots political activism which featured many prominent public figures in conservative politics.<sup>[1]</sup> RedState is owned by the Salem Media Group, a conservative media company.<sup>[2]</sup>

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## RedState



<b>Type of site</b>	<u>Political blog</u>
<b>Available in</b>	English
<b>Owner</b>	<u>Salem Media Group</u>
<b>Created by</b>	<u>Joshua Treviño</u> , <u>Ben Domenech</u> , and <u>Mike Krempasky</u>
<b>URL</b>	<u>redstate.com</u> ( <u>http://redstate.com/</u> )
<b>Registration</b>	Optional, required to comment
<b>Launched</b>	2004
<b>Current status</b>	Online

## History

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RedState was founded in 2004 as a 527 group by conservative bloggers Joshua Treviño,<sup>[3]</sup> Ben Domenech,<sup>[4]</sup> and Mike Krempasky.

In March 2006, co-founder Domenech was hired as a blogger by the *Washington Post Online*, but was criticised for alleged plagiarism in some of his prior writings during college. At the end of his first week, Domenech resigned, eventually admitting to plagiarism.<sup>[5]</sup> He took a leave of absence from RedState at the time, to which he returned in July 2006. Erick Erickson, who had joined RedState in 2006, became the editor-in-chief and CEO.

On November 16, 2006, former congressman Tom DeLay posted a diary.<sup>[6]</sup> Several other members of the House of Representatives and the Senate are regular diarists at RedState.

On December 20, 2006, RedState announced its sale to Eagle Publishing, Inc.,<sup>[7]</sup> effective January 2, 2007. Erickson remained Editor-in-Chief.

On July 12, 2008, RedState launched a new version of its site, called RS3, introducing new features such as the ability to organize contributor and user diaries by state; action centers allowing users to take action related to emerging political issues; links to share posts via other networking sites such as Facebook, Digg, and MySpace; and easier searching between related content on the Internet.

On August 13, 2011, Texas Governor Rick Perry announced his candidacy for President of the United States at RedState's 2011 RedState Gathering.<sup>[8]</sup> The Austin American-Statesman reported that this was due to the growing influence of the site and Erickson.<sup>[9]</sup>

RedState has also created numerous offshoot blogs on specific political topics, including a site opposed to then Senate Judiciary Committee ranking member Arlen Specter and a site supporting the judicial nominees of President George W. Bush.

## Salem Media Group

In January 2014, Eagle Publishing was acquired by Salem Media Group.<sup>[10]</sup> In October 2015, Erickson announced he would be leaving the site by the end of the year to focus on his radio show.<sup>[11]</sup> Erickson and Leon Wolf were succeeded by former RedState contributors Caleb Howe and Jay Caruso as Managing Editor and Assistant Managing Editor respectively.

During the 2016 presidential election, some writers on the blog endorsed Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton for President over Donald Trump.<sup>[12]</sup> This generated substantial criticism from some conservative organizations. Some commentators such as Ann Coulter, Sean Hannity, and Laura Ingraham argued that the site had abandoned conservatism.<sup>[13][14][15]</sup> The website has also been criticized by Donald Trump while he was a candidate.<sup>[16]</sup>

## Notable incidents

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In 2007, RedState banned new contributors who were posting in support of libertarian Ron Paul. The announcement on the blog read, "Effective immediately, new users may \*not\* shill for Ron Paul in any way shape, form or fashion."<sup>[17]</sup>

In June 2011, Politico reported that an account executive from Eagle Publishing sent an email advertising a "RedState Endorsement Program Featuring Erick Erickson", including "Erick's Video Endorsement (subject to final approval by Erick)".<sup>[18]</sup> Erickson said that neither he "nor his boss at Eagle" had seen the email before it went out and that "[his] endorsements are not for sale".<sup>[19]</sup>

In August 2015, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was disinvited from the annual RedState gathering following controversial statements he made about American journalist Megyn Kelly; Kelly was invited to the gathering instead.<sup>[1]</sup> RedState was then one of the main centers of conservative opposition to Trump's campaign for the Presidency, with most of its writers and editors vocally opposing Trump.<sup>[20][21]</sup>

In March 2018, a RedState contributor posted a story questioning whether David Hogg, a 17-year-old survivor in the Parkland school shooting, was actually in the school during the time of the shooting.<sup>[22]</sup> RedState backtracked later and the writer of the story apologized.<sup>[22]</sup> RedState added an "update" to the story, but did not provide a "correction".<sup>[22]</sup> RedState's update also blamed the story on confusing reports by other news organizations.<sup>[22]</sup> The false RedState story was shared widely by prominent conservatives, including Erick Erickson.<sup>[22]</sup>

That same month, a RedState contributor wrote an article criticizing Tammy Duckworth's defense of an undocumented immigrant Army veteran who was deported.<sup>[23]</sup> The RedState article said that Tammy Duckworth "really doesn't have a leg to stand on"; Duckworth is a veteran who lost both her legs in Iraq in 2004.<sup>[23]</sup> RedState's Assistant Editor, Andrea Ruth, who is also a double amputee, revised the statement.

In April 2018, there were mass firings of staff at RedState, including the managing editor, Caleb Howe.<sup>[2]</sup> CNN reported that multiple sources claimed that those who were fired were targeted for removal because they were insufficiently supportive of President Trump.<sup>[2]</sup> One of those writers fired was Patrick Frey, who alleged that all of those fired were "Trump critics". Former RedState founder Erick Erickson also stated that it "seems the dividing line was loyalty to the President".<sup>[24]</sup>

In January 2019, three senior contributors for RedState resigned, after they noticed that articles for RedState critical about President Trump were not promoted via social media. In an article for TheBulwark.com, Kimberly Ross and Andrea Ruth stated that "it's hard not to note the irony that Salem Media, a company that targets "audiences interested in Christian and family-themed content and conservative values," threw its full support behind Donald Trump, a thrice-married lying philanderer who utilized bankruptcy laws and debt to con tenants and contractors out of their money. Salem now promotes anyone who is pro-Trump, even if those people gleefully flout Christian principles."<sup>[25]</sup>

In June 2019, RedState published an article that promoted murder of Seth Rich conspiracy theories. RedState deleted it on the same day.<sup>[26]</sup>

In October 2019, RedState published nude photographs of California politician Katie Hill and alleged that she engaged in two extramarital affairs (with a member of her campaign staff and a member of her US House staff).<sup>[27][28]</sup> Hill admitted an affair with the campaign staffer, but denied involvement with the House staffer,<sup>[29]</sup> and the latter allegation became the subject of a House Ethics Committee inquiry.<sup>[30]</sup> Hill announced her resignation from Congress,<sup>[31]</sup> describing herself as a victim of revenge porn and calling for the person who distributed nude photographs of her to be punished.<sup>[28]</sup> Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, said Hill had made "some errors in judgment that made her continued service as a Member untenable."<sup>[32]</sup> Hill sued Red State and its editor in December 2020 and Hill was sentenced by a judge to pay \$84,000 to Red State's editor in 2021.<sup>[33]</sup>

In September 2020, it was revealed that a pseudonymous RedState writer, "streiff", worked as a public affairs specialist for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, but wrote RedState pieces attacking White House coronavirus task force member Dr. Anthony Fauci. Bill Crews, "streiff", called Fauci a "mask nazi", and described him as "attention-grubbing and media-whoring." He also suggested that government officials involved in the coronavirus response deserved to be executed.<sup>[34]</sup>

After the storming of the U.S. Capitol in January 2021, RedState published an article claiming that no "riot", "storming" or "insurrection" took place. RedState later retracted the article.<sup>[35]</sup>

On February 3, 2021 RedState published an article stating that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was not inside the United States Capitol but the Cannon House Office Building during the 2021 storming of the United States Capitol. This story came out one day after Cortez released an Instagram video recounting her experience of hiding in her office bathroom during the attacks on the U.S. Capitol. The RedState article caused wide-ranging accusations against AOC on social media. Snopes found these to be mostly unfounded, noting that Cortez never claimed to have been in the main capitol building during the attack, and the office building Cortez actually found herself in during the attack is in fact part of the Capitol complex and as such was evacuated during the storming of the Capitol.<sup>[36]</sup>

## See also

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- Power Line
- Alternative media (U.S. political right)

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## External links

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  - [Eagle Publishing, Inc. \(http://www.eaglepub.com/\)](http://www.eaglepub.com/)
- 

Retrieved from "<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=RedState&oldid=1027022403>"

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# Townhall

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**Townhall** is an American politically conservative website, print magazine and radio news service. Previously published by the Heritage Foundation, it is now owned and operated by Salem Communications. The website features more than 80 columns (both syndicated and exclusive) by a variety of writers and commentators. The website also publishes news articles from the Associated Press.

Townhall also provides five minute radio newscasts around the clock, detailing national and world news items.<sup>[2]</sup> These newscasts air at the beginning of each hour on many Salem-owned radio stations and on Salem Radio Network affiliates, as well as on Sirius XM Patriot Channel 125.

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## History

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Townhall was founded on March 2, 1995 as one of the first conservative internet communities. In 2005, Townhall.com split off from The Heritage Foundation.

In May 2006, Salem Communications acquired Townhall.com and relaunched the site with the addition of podcasts of Salem's network and local talk shows, blogs run by Salem talk show hosts and the ability for any user to set up a blog on the Townhall.com network.<sup>[3][4]</sup> The website provides an extensive selection of opinion columns and news items presented from a conservative viewpoint.<sup>[5]</sup>

In January 2008, Townhall.com launched *Townhall Magazine*, a monthly conservative news magazine. In addition to exclusive content for the magazine, *Townhall Magazine* carries contributions from Townhall.com readers.<sup>[6]</sup>

In February 2011, Townhall.com re-launched *TownhallFinance.com*, a daily financial and investment site dedicated to conservative financial commentary, under the editorship of John Ransom. In 2018, Jerry Bowyer became editor of the site. It carries commentary from Ransom and Fox Business Network analyst Charles Payne, and carried CNBC's Larry Kudlow before Kudlow went on leave to become head of the former President's Council of Economic Advisors and then went on to host his own show on Fox Business Network in February 2021.

### Townhall

## Townhall

<b>Type of site</b>	News and opinion website, magazine, radio news service
<b>Available in</b>	English
<b>Owners</b>	<u>The Heritage Foundation</u> (1995–2005) <u>Independent</u> (2005–2006) <u>Salem Media Group</u> (2006–present)
<b>Editor</b>	Jonathan Garthwaite
<b>URL</b>	<u>townhall.com</u> ( <u>http://Townhall.com</u> )
<b>Commercial</b>	Yes
<b>Registration</b>	Optional, required to comment
<b>Launched</b>	March 2, 1995 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Current status</b>	Online

## Columnists

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Townhall.com features commentary by various conservative columnists and guest commentary by politicians.<sup>[7]</sup> Guest contributors have included Eric Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and Lara Trump.

## References

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## External links

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- Official website (<http://www.townhall.com>)
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# The Wall Street Journal

*The Wall Street Journal* (also known as *The Journal*) is an American business-focused, English-language international daily newspaper based in New York City, with international editions also available in Chinese and Japanese.<sup>[2]</sup> *The Journal*, along with its Asian editions, is published six days a week by Dow Jones & Company, a division of News Corp. The newspaper is published in the broadsheet format and online. The *Journal* has been printed continuously since its inception on July 8, 1889, by Charles Dow, Edward Jones, and Charles Bergstresser.<sup>[3]</sup>

*The Wall Street Journal* is one of the largest newspapers in the United States by circulation, with a circulation of about 2.834 million copies (including nearly 1,829,000 digital sales) as of August 2019,<sup>[1]</sup> compared with *USA Today's* 1.7 million. *The Journal* publishes the luxury news and lifestyle magazine *WSJ*, which was originally launched as a quarterly but expanded to 12 issues in 2014. An online version was launched in 1996, which has been accessible only to subscribers since it began.<sup>[4]</sup>

It is regarded as a "newspaper of record", particularly in terms of business and financial news.<sup>[5][6][7]</sup> The newspaper has won 37 Pulitzer Prizes (as of 2019).<sup>[8][9]</sup> The editorial pages of *The Journal* are typically conservative in their position.<sup>[10][11][12]</sup> The *Journal's* editorial board has promoted views that are at odds with the scientific consensus on climate change, acid rain, and ozone depletion, as well as on the health dangers of second-hand smoke, pesticides and asbestos.<sup>[13]</sup>

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## The Wall Street Journal

*Read Ambitiously*

### THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

<b>Type</b>	<u>Daily newspaper</u>
<b>Format</b>	<u>Broadsheet</u>
<b>Owner(s)</b>	<u>News Corp (via Dow Jones &amp; Company)</u>
<b>Founder(s)</b>	<u>Charles Dow</u> <u>Edward Jones</u> <u>Charles Bergstresser</u>
<b>Publisher</b>	<u>Almar Latour</u>
<b>Editor-in-chief</b>	<u>Matt Murray</u>
<b>Managing editor</b>	<u>Karen Miller Pensiero</u>
<b>Opinion editor</b>	<u>Paul A. Gigot</u>
<b>Founded</b>	<u>July 8, 1889</u>
<b>Language</b>	<u>English</u>
<b>Headquarters</b>	<u>1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York City, U.S.</u>
<b>Country</b>	<u>United States of America</u>
<b>Circulation</b>	<u>2,834,000 daily<sup>[1]</sup> (as of August 2019)</u>
<b>ISSN</b>	<u>0099-9660 (https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:0099-9660)</u>
<b>OCLC number</b>	<u>781541372 (https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/781541372)</u>
<b>Website</b>	<u>wsj.com (https://www.wsj.com/)</u>
	<u>Media of the United States of America</u>

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## **History**

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### **Beginnings**

The first products of [Dow Jones & Company](#), the publisher of *The Journal*, were brief news bulletins, nicknamed "[flimsies](#)", hand-delivered throughout the day to traders at the [stock exchange](#) in the early 1880s. They were later aggregated in a printed daily summary called the *Customers' Afternoon Letter*. Reporters [Charles Dow](#), [Edward Jones](#), and [Charles Bergstresser](#) converted this into *The Wall Street Journal*, which was published for the first time on July 8, 1889, and began delivery of the Dow Jones & Company News Service via telegraph.<sup>[14]</sup>

In 1896, The "[Dow Jones Industrial Average](#)" was officially launched. It was the first of several indices of stock and bond prices on the [New York Stock Exchange](#). In 1899, *The Journal's* Review & Outlook column, which still runs today, appeared for the first time, initially written by Charles Dow.

Journalist [Clarence Barron](#) purchased control of the company for US\$130,000 in 1902; circulation was then around 7,000 but climbed to 50,000 by the end of the 1920s. Barron and his predecessors were credited with creating an atmosphere of fearless, independent financial reporting—a novelty in the early days of [business](#)



Front page of the first issue of *The Wall Street Journal*, July 8, 1889

journalism. In 1921, Barron's, the United States's premier financial weekly, was founded.<sup>[15]</sup> Barron died in 1928, a year before Black Tuesday, the stock market crash that greatly affected the Great Depression in the United States. Barron's descendants, the Bancroft family, would continue to control the company until 2007.<sup>[15]</sup>

*The Journal* took its modern shape and prominence in the 1940s, a time of industrial expansion for the United States and its financial institutions in New York. Bernard Kilgore was named managing editor of the paper in 1941, and company CEO in 1945, eventually compiling a 25-year career as the head of the *Journal*. Kilgore was the architect of the paper's iconic front-page design, with its "What's News" digest, and its national distribution strategy, which brought the paper's circulation from 33,000 in 1941 to 1.1 million when Kilgore died in 1967. Under Kilgore, in 1947, the paper won its first Pulitzer Prize for William Henry Grimes's editorials.<sup>[15]</sup>

In 1967, Dow Jones Newswires began a major expansion outside of the United States ultimately placing its journalists in every major financial center in Europe, Asia, Latin America, Australia, and Africa.

In 1970, Dow Jones bought the Ottaway newspaper chain, which at the time comprised nine dailies and three Sunday newspapers. Later, the name was changed to Dow Jones Local Media Group.<sup>[16]</sup>

The period from 1971 to 1997 brought about a series of launches, acquisitions, and joint ventures, including "Factiva", The Wall Street Journal Asia, The Wall Street Journal Europe, the WSJ.com website, Dow Jones Indexes, MarketWatch, and "WSJ Weekend Edition". In 2007, News Corp. acquired Dow Jones. WSJ., a luxury lifestyle magazine, was launched in 2008.<sup>[17]</sup>

## Internet expansion

A complement to the print newspaper, The Wall Street Journal Online, was launched in 1996 and has allowed access only by subscription from the beginning.<sup>[18]</sup> In 2003, Dow Jones began to integrate reporting of *The Journal's* print and online subscribers together in Audit Bureau of Circulations statements.<sup>[19]</sup> In 2007, it was commonly believed to be the largest paid-subscription news site on the Web, with 980,000 paid subscribers.<sup>[15]</sup> Since then, digital subscription has risen to 1.3 million as of September 2018, falling to number two behind The New York Times with 3 million digital subscriptions.<sup>[20]</sup> In May 2008, an annual subscription to the online edition of *The Wall Street Journal* cost \$119 for those who do not have subscriptions to the print edition. By June 2013, the monthly cost for a subscription to the online edition was \$22.99, or \$275.88 annually, excluding introductory offers.<sup>[21]</sup> Digital subscription rates increased dramatically as its popularity increased over print to \$443.88 per year, with first time subscribers paying \$187.20 per year.<sup>[22]</sup>

On November 30, 2004, Oasys Mobile and *The Wall Street Journal* released an app that would allow users to access content from The Wall Street Journal Online via their mobile phones.<sup>[23]</sup> Pulitzer Prize-winning stories from 1995 are available free on the Pulitzer<sup>[24]</sup> web site.

In September 2005, *The Journal* launched a weekend edition, delivered to all subscribers, which marked a return to Saturday publication after a lapse of some 50 years. The move was designed in part to attract more consumer advertising.<sup>[15]</sup>

In 2005, *The Journal* reported a readership profile of about 60 percent top management, an average income of \$191,000, an average household net worth of \$2.1 million, and an average age of 55.<sup>[25]</sup>

In 2007, *The Journal* launched a worldwide expansion of its website to include major foreign-language editions. The paper had also shown an interest in buying the rival *Financial Times*.<sup>[26]</sup>

## Design changes

The nameplate is unique in having a period at the end.<sup>[27]</sup>

Front-page advertising in the *Journal* was re-introduced on September 5, 2006. This followed similar introductions in the European and Asian editions in late 2005.<sup>[28]</sup>

After presenting nearly identical front-page layouts for half a century —always six columns, with the day's top stories in the first and sixth columns, "What's News" digest in the second and third, the "A-hed" feature story in the fourth (with 'hed' being jargon for headline) and themed weekly reports in the fifth column<sup>[29]</sup> – the paper in 2007 decreased its broadsheet width from 15 to 12 inches while keeping the length at 22<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches, to save newsprint costs. News design consultant Mario Garcia collaborated on the changes. Dow Jones said it would save US\$18 million a year in newsprint costs across all *The Wall Street Journal* papers.<sup>[30]</sup> This move eliminated one column of print, pushing the "A-hed" out of its traditional location (though the paper now usually includes a quirky feature story on the right side of the front page, sandwiched among the lead stories).

The paper uses ink dot drawings called hedcuts, introduced in 1979 and originally created by Kevin Sprouls,<sup>[31]</sup> in addition to photographs, a method of illustration considered a consistent visual signature of the paper. *The Journal* still heavily employs the use of caricatures, including those by illustrator Ken Fallin, such as when Peggy Noonan memorialized then-recently deceased newsman Tim Russert.<sup>[32][33]</sup> The use of color photographs and graphics has become increasingly common in recent years with the addition of more "lifestyle" sections.

The daily was awarded by the Society for News Design World's Best Designed Newspaper award for 1994 and 1997.<sup>[34]</sup>

## News Corporation and News Corp

On May 2, 2007, News Corporation made an unsolicited takeover bid for Dow Jones, offering US\$60 a share for stock that had been selling for US\$33 a share. The Bancroft family, which controlled more than 60% of the voting stock, at first rejected the offer, but later reconsidered its position.<sup>[35]</sup>

Three months later, on August 1, 2007, News Corporation and Dow Jones entered into a definitive merger agreement.<sup>[36]</sup> The US\$5 billion sale added *The Wall Street Journal* to Rupert Murdoch's news empire, which already included Fox News Channel, financial network unit and London's *The Times*, and locally within New York, the *New York Post*, along with Fox flagship station WNYW (Channel 5) and MyNetworkTV flagship WWOR (Channel 9).<sup>[37]</sup>

On December 13, 2007, shareholders representing more than 60 percent of Dow Jones's voting stock approved the company's acquisition by News Corporation.<sup>[38]</sup>

In an editorial page column, publisher L. Gordon Crovitz said the Bancrofts and News Corporation had agreed that *The Journal's* news and opinion sections would preserve their editorial independence from their new corporate parent.<sup>[39]</sup>



Vladimir Putin with *Journal* correspondent Karen Elliott House in 2002



A special committee was established to oversee the paper's editorial integrity. When the managing editor Marcus Brauchli resigned on April 22, 2008, the committee said that News Corporation had violated its agreement by not notifying the committee earlier. However, Brauchli said he believed that new owners should appoint their own editor.<sup>[40]</sup>

A 2007 *Journal* article quoted charges that Murdoch had made and broken similar promises in the past. One large shareholder commented that Murdoch has long "expressed his personal, political and business biases through his newspapers and television stations". Former *Times* assistant editor Fred Emery remembers an incident when "Mr. Murdoch called him into his office in March 1982 and said he was considering firing *Times* editor Harold Evans. Mr. Emery says he reminded Mr. Murdoch of his promise that editors couldn't be fired without the independent directors' approval. 'God, you don't take all that seriously, do you?' Mr. Murdoch answered, according to Mr. Emery." Murdoch eventually forced out Evans.<sup>[41]</sup>

In 2011, *The Guardian* found evidence that the *Journal* had artificially inflated its European sales numbers, by paying Executive Learning Partnership for purchasing 16% of European sales. These inflated sales numbers then enabled the *Journal* to charge similarly inflated advertising rates, as the advertisers would think that they reached more readers than they actually did. In addition, *The Journal* agreed to run "articles" featuring Executive Learning Partnership, presented as news, but effectively advertising.<sup>[42]</sup> The case came to light after a Belgian *Wall Street Journal* employee, Gert Van Mol, informed Dow Jones CEO Les Hinton about the questionable practice.<sup>[43]</sup> As a result, the then *Wall Street Journal Europe* CEO and Publisher Andrew Langhoff was fired after it was found out he personally pressured journalists into covering one of the newspaper's business partners involved in the issue.<sup>[44][45]</sup> Since September 2011, all the online articles that resulted from the ethical wrongdoing carry a *Wall Street Journal* disclaimer informing the readers about the circumstances in which they were created.

*The Journal*, along with its parent Dow Jones & Company, was among the businesses News Corporation spun off in 2013 as the new News Corp.

In November 2016, in an effort to cut costs, *The Journal's* editor-in-chief, Gerard Baker, announced layoffs of staff and consolidation of its print sections. The new "Business & Finance" section combined the former "Business & Tech" and "Money & Investing" sections. The new "Life & Arts" section took the place of "Personal Journal" and "Arena". In addition, *The Journal's* "Greater New York" coverage was reduced and moved to the main section of paper.<sup>[46]</sup>

The "Personal Journal" section branding was brought back in July 2020.<sup>[47]</sup>

## Recent milestones

- *WSJ Noted.*, a monthly digital magazine, launches on June 30, 2020 in a bid to attract younger readers.<sup>[48]</sup>
- Reaches 3 million subscribers in May 2020<sup>[49]</sup>
- WSJ Live became available on mobile devices in September 2011.<sup>[50]</sup>
- *WSJ Weekend*, the weekend newspaper, expanded September 2010, with two new sections: "Off Duty" and "Review".<sup>[51][52]</sup>
- "Greater New York", a stand-alone, full color section dedicated to the New York metro area, launched April 2010.<sup>[53][54]</sup>
- *The Wall Street Journal's* San Francisco Bay Area Edition, which focuses on local news and events, launched on November 5, 2009, appearing locally each Thursday in the print Journal and every day on online at WSJ.com/SF.<sup>[55]</sup>
- *WSJ Weekend*, formerly called *Saturday's Weekend Edition*: September 2005.<sup>[56]</sup>

- Launch of *Today's Journal*, which included both the addition of *Personal Journal* and color capacity to the *Journal*: April 2002.<sup>[57]</sup>
- Launch of *The Wall Street Journal Sunday*: September 12, 1999. A four-page print supplement of original investing news, market reports and personal-finance advice that ran in the business sections of other U.S. newspapers. WSJ Sunday circulation peaked in 2005 with 84 newspapers reaching nearly 11 million homes. The publication ceased on February 7, 2015.<sup>[58]</sup>
- *Friday Journal*, formerly called *First Weekend Journal*: March 20, 1998.<sup>[59]</sup>
- WSJ.com launched in April 1996.<sup>[60]</sup>
- First three-section *Journal*: October 1988.<sup>[59]</sup>
- First two-section *Journal*: June 1980.<sup>[59]</sup>

## Features and operations

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Since 1980, *The Journal* has been published in multiple sections. At one time, *The Journal's* page count averaged as much as 96 pages an issue, but with the industry-wide decline in advertising, *The Journal* in 2009–10 more typically published about 50 to 60 pages per issue.

As of 2012, *The Wall Street Journal* had a global news staff of around 2,000 journalists in 85 news bureaus across 51 countries.<sup>[61][62]</sup> As of 2012, it had 26 printing plants.<sup>[61]</sup>

Regularly scheduled sections are:

- Section One – every day; corporate news, as well as political and economic reporting and the opinion pages
- Marketplace – Monday through Friday; coverage of health, technology, media, and marketing industries (the second section was launched June 23, 1980)
- Money and Investing – every day; covers and analyzes international financial markets (the third section was launched October 3, 1988)
- Personal Journal – published Tuesday through Thursday; covers personal investments, careers and cultural pursuits (the section was introduced April 9, 2002)
- Off Duty – published Saturdays in WSJ Weekend; focuses on fashion, food, design, travel and gear/tech. The section was launched September 25, 2010.
- Review – published Saturdays in WSJ Weekend; focuses on essays, commentary, reviews and ideas. The section was launched September 25, 2010.
- Mansion – published Fridays; focuses on high-end real estate. The section was launched October 5, 2012.
- WSJ Magazine – Launched in 2008 as a quarterly, this luxury magazine supplement distributed within the U.S., European and Asian editions of *The Wall Street Journal* grew to 12 issues per year in 2014.

In addition, several columnists contribute regular features to *The Journal* opinion page and OpinionJournal.com:

- Weekdays – Best of the Web Today<sup>[63]</sup> by James Freeman
- Monday – Americas by Mary O'Grady
- Wednesday – Business World by Holman W. Jenkins Jr.
- Thursday – Wonder Land by Daniel Henninger
- Friday – Potomac Watch by Kimberley Strassel

- Weekend Edition – Rule of Law, The Weekend Interview (variety of authors), Declarations by Peggy Noonan

In addition to these regular opinion pieces, on Fridays *The Journal* publishes a religion-themed op-ed, titled "Houses of Worship", written by a different author each week. Authors range from the Dalai Lama to cardinals.

## WSJ.

WSJ. is *The Wall Street Journal's* luxury lifestyle magazine. Its coverage spans art, fashion, entertainment, design, food, architecture, travel and more. Kristina O'Neill is Editor in Chief and Anthony Cennamo is Publisher.

Launched as a quarterly in 2008, the magazine grew to 12 issues a year for 2014.<sup>[64]</sup> The magazine is distributed within the U.S. Weekend Edition of *The Wall Street Journal* newspaper (average paid print circulation is +2.2 million\*), the European and Asian editions, and is available on WSJ.com. Each issue is also available throughout the month in *The Wall Street Journal's* iPad app.

Penélope Cruz, Carmelo Anthony, Woody Allen, Scarlett Johansson, Emilia Clarke, Daft Punk, and Gisele Bündchen have all been featured on the cover.

In 2012, the magazine launched its signature platform, The Innovator Awards. An extension of the November Innovators issue, the awards ceremony, held in New York City at Museum of Modern Art, honors visionaries across the fields of design, fashion, architecture, humanitarianism, art and technology. The 2013 winners were: Alice Waters (Humanitarianism); Daft Punk (Entertainment); David Adjaye (Architecture); Do-Ho Suh (Art); Nick D'Aloisio (Technology); Pat McGrath (Fashion); Thomas Woltz (Design).

In 2013, *Adweek* awarded WSJ.<sup>[65]</sup> "Hottest Lifestyle Magazine of the Year" for its annual Hot List.

- U.S. circulation: Each issue of WSJ. is inserted into the weekend edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, whose average paid circulation for the three months ending September 30, 2013, was 2,261,772 as reported to the Alliance for Audited Media (AAM).

## OpinionJournal.com

**OpinionJournal.com** is a website featuring content from the editorial pages of *The Wall Street Journal*. It existed separately from the news content at **wsj.com** until January 2008, when it was merged into the main website.<sup>[66]</sup>

In addition to editorials and columns from the printed newspaper, wsj.com carries two daily web-only columns:

- *Best of the Web Today* by James Taranto, the editor of OpinionJournal.com (no subscription required).
- *Political Diary* edited by Holman W. Jenkins Jr and featuring John Fund (separate subscription required).

### OpinionJournal.com

<b>Type of site</b>	News and opinion
<b>Available in</b>	English
<b>Owner</b>	<i>The Wall Street Journal</i>
<b>Created by</b>	<i>The Wall Street Journal</i>
<b>Revenue</b>	N/A
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.opinionjournal.com">http://www.opinionjournal.com</a>
<b>Commercial</b>	Yes
<b>Registration</b>	N/A
<b>Current status</b>	Redirects to <a href="https://www.wsj.com/news/opinion">https://www.wsj.com/news/opinion</a>

The editorials (titled "Review & Outlook") reflect *The Journal's* conservative political editorial line, as do its regular columnists, who include Peggy Noonan, John Fund, and Daniel Henninger.

## **WSJ Noted.**

On June 30, 2020, *The Journal* launched *WSJ Noted.*, a monthly digital "news and culture" magazine for subscribers aged 18–34 years old in a bid to attract a younger audience to *The Journal*. The magazine has a group of some 7,000 young adults who are invited to preview content, provide feedback, and join Q&As with Noted staff.<sup>[48]</sup>

## **Editorial board**

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The Wall Street Journal editorial board members oversee the Journal's editorial page, dictating the tone and direction of the newspaper's opinion section. *The Wall Street Journal* does not provide details on the exact duties of board members.

Every Saturday and Sunday, three editorial page writers and host Paul Gigot, editor of the Editorial Page, appear on Fox News Channel's *Journal Editorial Report* to discuss current issues with a variety of guests. As editors of the editorial page, Vermont C. Royster (served 1958–1971) and Robert L. Bartley (served 1972–2000) were especially influential in providing a conservative interpretation of the news on a daily basis.<sup>[67]</sup>

## **Editorial page and political stance**

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*The Journal* won its first two Pulitzer Prizes for editorial writing in 1947 and 1953. Subsequent Pulitzer Prizes have been awarded for editorial writing to Robert L. Bartley in 1980 and Joseph Rago in 2011; for criticism to Manuela Hoelterhoff in 1983 and Joe Morgenstern in 2005; and for commentary to Vermont Royster in 1984, Paul Gigot in 2000, Dorothy Rabinowitz in 2001, Bret Stephens in 2013, and Peggy Noonan in 2017.

*The Journal* describes the history of its editorials:

We speak for free markets and free people, the principles, if you will, marked in the watershed year of 1776 by Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence and Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations." So over the past century and into the next, the Journal stands for free trade and sound money; against confiscatory taxation and the ukases of kings and other collectivists; and for individual autonomy against dictators, bullies and even the tempers of momentary majorities. If these principles sound unexceptionable in theory, applying them to current issues is often unfashionable and controversial.<sup>[68]</sup>

— WSJ Editorial Board

Its historical position was much the same. As former editor William H. Grimes wrote in 1951:

On our editorial page we make no pretense of walking down the middle of the road. Our comments and interpretations are made from a definite point of view. We believe in the individual, in his wisdom and his decency. We oppose all infringements on individual rights, whether they stem from attempts at private monopoly, labor union monopoly or from an overgrowing government. People will say we are conservative or even reactionary. We are not much interested in labels but if we were to choose one, we would say we are radical. Just as radical as the Christian doctrine.<sup>[69]</sup>

Each Thanksgiving the editorial page prints two articles that have appeared there since 1961. The first is titled *The Desolate Wilderness*, and describes what the Pilgrims saw when they arrived at the Plymouth Colony. The second is titled *And the Fair Land*, and describes the bounty of America. It was written by a former editor, Vermont C. Royster, whose Christmas article *In Hoc Anno Domini* has appeared every December 25 since 1949.

Two summaries published in 1995 by the progressive blog Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, and in 1996 by the Columbia Journalism Review<sup>[70]</sup> criticized the *Journal's* editorial page for inaccuracy during the 1980s and 1990s.

In July 2020, more than 280 *Journal* journalists and Dow Jones staff members wrote a letter to new publisher Almar Latour to criticize the opinion pages' "lack of fact-checking and transparency, and its apparent disregard for evidence", adding that "opinion articles often make assertions that are contradicted by *WSJ* reporting."<sup>[71][72]</sup> The editorial board responded that its opinion pages "won't wilt under cancel-culture pressure" and that the objective of the editorial content is to be independent of the *Journal's* news content and offer alternative views to "the uniform progressive views that dominate nearly all of today's media."<sup>[73]</sup> The board's response did not address issues regarding fact-checking that had been raised in the letter.<sup>[74]</sup>

## Economic views

During the Reagan administration, the newspaper's editorial page was particularly influential as the leading voice for supply-side economics. Under the editorship of Robert Bartley, it expounded at length on economic concepts such as the Laffer curve, and how a decrease in certain marginal tax rates and the capital gains tax could allegedly increase overall tax revenue by generating more economic activity.<sup>[75]</sup>

In the economic argument of exchange rate regimes (one of the most divisive issues among economists), *The Journal* has a tendency to support fixed exchange rates over floating exchange rates.<sup>[76]</sup>

On September 12, 2018, the Census Bureau released data showing improvement in household income and the poverty rate during 2017, Trump's first year in office.<sup>[77]</sup> *The Journal* published an editorial that day attributing the improvement to Trump's purportedly superior economic policies, compared to Obama's.<sup>[78]</sup> However, *The Journal's* news division reported that both figures also showed improvement in 2015 and 2016,<sup>[79]</sup> and they improved to a greater degree in both those years than they did in 2017.<sup>[80][81]</sup>

## Political stance

*The Journal's* editorial pages and columns, run separately from the news pages, have a conservative bent and are highly influential in conservative circles.<sup>[82]</sup> Despite this, the *Journal* refrains from endorsing candidates and has not endorsed a candidate since 1928.<sup>[83]</sup> As editors of the editorial page, Vermont C. Royster (served 1958–1971) and Robert L. Bartley (served 1972–2000) were especially influential in providing a conservative interpretation of the news on a daily basis.<sup>[67]</sup> Some of the *Journal's* former reporters claim that the paper has adopted a more conservative tone since Rupert Murdoch's purchase.<sup>[84]</sup>



Mark Rutte, prime minister of the Netherlands, being interviewed by the *Journal*

The editorial board has long argued for a pro-business immigration policy. In a July 3, 1984, editorial, the board wrote: "If Washington still wants to 'do something' about immigration, we propose a five-word constitutional amendment: There shall be open borders." This stand on immigration reform places the *Journal* in contrast to most conservative activists, politicians, and media publications, such as National Review and The Washington Times, who favor heightened restrictions on immigration.<sup>[85]</sup>

*The Journal's* editorial page has been seen as critical of many aspects of Barack Obama's presidency. In particular, it has been a prominent critic of the Affordable Care Act legislation passed in 2010, and has featured many opinion columns attacking various aspects of the bill.<sup>[86]</sup> The *Journal's* editorial page has also criticized the Obama administration's energy policies and foreign policy.<sup>[87][88][89]</sup>

On October 25, 2017, the editorial board called for Special Counsel Robert Mueller to resign from the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections and accused Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign of colluding with Russia.<sup>[90]</sup> In December 2017, the editorial board repeated its calls for Mueller's resignation.<sup>[91][92]</sup> The editorials by the editorial board caused fractures within the *Wall Street Journal*, as reporters say that the editorials undermine the paper's credibility.<sup>[91][92][93]</sup>

## Science

*The Journal's* editorial board has promoted fringe views on scientific matters, including climate change, acid rain, and ozone depletion, as well as on the health harms of second-hand smoke, pesticides and asbestos. Scholars have drawn similarities between *The Journal's* fringe coverage of climate change and how it used to reject the settled science on acid rain and ozone depletion.<sup>[13]</sup>

### Climate change denial

The editorial board of *The Wall Street Journal* rejects the scientific consensus on climate change. *The Journal* disputes that it poses a major threat to human existence and can be prevented through public policy and has published articles disputing that global warming is occurring at all. *The Journal* is regarded as a forum for climate change deniers,<sup>[94][95]</sup> publishing articles by individuals that reject the consensus position on climate change in its op-ed section.<sup>[96][97][98]</sup> These columns frequently attack climate scientists and accuse them of engaging in fraud. A 2015 study found *The Wall Street Journal* was the newspaper that was least likely to present negative effects of global warming among several newspapers. It was also the most likely to present negative economic framing when discussing climate change mitigation policies, tending to take the stance that the cost of such policies generally outweighs their benefit.<sup>[99]</sup> *The Washington Post* has characterized *The Wall Street Journal's* editorial pages as "the beating heart of climate-change skepticism".<sup>[100]</sup>

Climate Feedback, a fact-checking website on media coverage of climate science, has assessed that multiple opinion articles range between "low" and "very low" in terms of scientific credibility.<sup>[101][102]</sup> *The Journal* has been accused of refusing to publish opinions of scientists which present the mainstream view on climate change.<sup>[103]</sup> According to a 2016 analysis, 14% of the guest editorials presented the results of "mainstream climate science", while the majority did not. Also, none of 201 editorials published in the *Wall Street Journal* since 1997 have conceded that the burning of fossil fuels is causing climate change.<sup>[104]</sup>

### Other science coverage

In the 1980s and 1990s, *The Journal* published numerous columns disputing and misrepresenting the science behind acid rain and the scientific consensus behind the causes of ozone depletion and the health harms of second-hand smoke, and opposed public policy efforts to curb acid rain, ozone depletion and second-hand

smoke.<sup>[13][105][106]</sup> The *Journal* has also published columns attacking efforts to control pesticides and asbestos.<sup>[13]</sup> By the 2000s, the *Journal* editorial board recognized that efforts to curb acid rain through cap-and-trade had been successful.<sup>[105]</sup>

## Bias in news pages

### Pre-Murdoch ownership

The *Journal's* editors stress the independence and impartiality of their reporters.<sup>[39]</sup> According to CNN in 2007, the *Journal's* "newsroom staff has a reputation for non-partisan reporting."<sup>[107]</sup> Ben Smith of the *New York Times* described the *Journal's* news reporting as "small-c [conservative]," and noted that its readership leans further to the right than other major newspapers.<sup>[108]</sup>

In a 2004 study, Tim Groseclose and Jeff Milyo argue *The Journal's* news pages have a pro-liberal bias because they more often quote liberal think tanks. They calculated the ideological attitude of news reports in 20 media outlets by counting the frequency they cited particular think tanks and comparing that to the frequency that legislators cited the same think tanks. They found that the news reporting of *The Journal* was the most liberal (more liberal than NPR or The New York Times). The study did not factor in editorials.<sup>[109]</sup> Mark Liberman criticized the model used to calculate bias in the study and argued that the model unequally affected liberals and conservatives and that "...the model starts with a very peculiar assumption about the relationship between political opinion and the choice of authorities to cite." [The authors assume that] "think tank ideology [...] only matters to liberals."<sup>[110]</sup>

The company's planned and eventual acquisition by News Corp in 2007 led to significant media criticism and discussion<sup>[111]</sup> about whether the news pages would exhibit a rightward slant under Rupert Murdoch. An August 1, 2007 editorial responded to the questions by asserting that Murdoch intended to "maintain the values and integrity of the *Journal*."<sup>[112]</sup>

### During Trump presidency

In 2016 and 2017, the *Journal* leadership under Baker came under fire from critics, both from the outside and from within the newsroom, who viewed the paper's coverage of President Donald Trump as too timid.<sup>[113]</sup> Particularly controversial was the *Journal's* November 2016 front-page headline that repeated Trump's false claim that "millions of people" had voted illegally in the election, only noting that the statement was "without corroboration".<sup>[113]</sup>

Also controversial was a January 2017 note from Baker to *Journal* editors, directing them to avoid using the phrase "seven majority-Muslim countries" when writing about Trump's executive order on travel and immigration; Baker later sent a follow-up note "clarifying that there was 'no ban'" on the phrase, "but that the publication should 'always be careful that this term is not offered as the only description of the countries covered under the ban.'"<sup>[113]</sup>

At a town-hall-style meeting with *Journal* staff in February 2017, Baker defended the paper's coverage, saying that it was objective and protected the paper from being "dragged into the political process" through a dispute with the Trump administration.<sup>[113]</sup>

On February 19, 2020, China announced the revoking of the press credentials of three *Wall Street Journal* reporters based in Beijing. China accused the paper of failing to apologize for publishing articles that criticized China's efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, and failing to investigate and punish those responsible.<sup>[114]</sup>

In June 2020, following the murder of George Floyd and subsequent protests, journalists at *The Journal* sent a letter to editor in chief Matt Murray demanding changes to the way the paper covers race, policing and finance. The reporters stated that they "frequently meet resistance when trying to reflect the accounts and voices of workers, residents or customers, with some editors voicing heightened skepticism of those sources' credibility compared with executives, government officials or other entities".<sup>[115]</sup>

## Notable stories and Pulitzer Prizes

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*The Journal* has won 37 Pulitzer Prizes in its history. Staff journalists who led some of the newspaper's best-known coverage teams have later published books that summarized and extended their reporting.

### 1987: RJR Nabisco buyout

In 1987, a bidding war ensued between several financial firms for tobacco and food giant RJR Nabisco. Bryan Burrough and John Helyar documented the events in more than two dozen *Journal* articles. Burrough and Helyar later used these articles as the basis of a bestselling book, *Barbarians at the Gate: The Fall of RJR Nabisco*, which was turned into a film for HBO.<sup>[116]</sup>

### 1988: Insider trading

In the 1980s, then-*Journal* reporter James B. Stewart brought national attention to the illegal practice of insider trading. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in explanatory journalism in 1988, which he shared with Daniel Hertzberg,<sup>[117]</sup> who went on to serve as the paper's senior deputy managing editor before resigning in 2009. Stewart expanded on this theme in his book, *Den of Thieves*.

### 1997: AIDS treatment

David Sanford, a Page One features editor who was infected with HIV in 1982 in a bathhouse, wrote a front-page personal account of how, with the assistance of improved treatments for HIV, he went from planning his death to planning his retirement.<sup>[118]</sup> He and six other reporters wrote about the new treatments, political and economic issues, and won the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting about AIDS.<sup>[119]</sup>

### 2000: Enron

Jonathan Weil, a reporter at the Dallas bureau of *The Wall Street Journal*, is credited with first breaking the story of financial abuses at Enron in September 2000.<sup>[120]</sup> Rebecca Smith and John R. Emshwiller reported on the story regularly,<sup>[121]</sup> and wrote a book, *24 Days*.

### 2001: 9/11

*The Journal* claims to have sent the first news report, on the Dow Jones wire, of a plane crashing into the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.<sup>[122]</sup> Its headquarters, at One World Financial Center, was severely damaged by the collapse of the World Trade Center just across the street.<sup>[123]</sup> Top editors worried that they might miss publishing the first issue for the first time in the paper's 112-year history. They relocated to a makeshift office at an editor's home, while sending most of the staff to Dow Jones's South Brunswick Township, New Jersey, corporate campus, where the paper had established emergency editorial facilities soon after the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. The paper was on the stands the next day, albeit in scaled-down



form. Perhaps the most compelling story in that day's edition was a first-hand account of the Twin Towers' collapse written by then-Foreign Editor John Bussey,<sup>[123]</sup> who holed up in a ninth-floor Journal office, literally in the shadow of the towers, from where he phoned in live reports to CNBC as the towers burned. He narrowly escaped serious injury when the first tower collapsed, shattering all the windows in *The Journal's* offices and filling them with dust and debris. The *Journal* won a 2002 Pulitzer Prize in Breaking News Reporting for that day's stories.<sup>[124]</sup>

*The Journal* subsequently conducted a worldwide investigation of the causes and significance of 9/11, using contacts it had developed while covering business in the Arab world. In Kabul, Afghanistan, a reporter from *The Wall Street Journal* bought a pair of looted computers that Al Qaeda leaders had used to plan assassinations, chemical and biological attacks, and mundane daily activities. The encrypted files were decrypted and translated.<sup>[125]</sup> It was during this coverage that terrorists kidnapped and killed *Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl.

## **2007: Stock option scandal**

In 2007, the paper won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, with its iconic gold medal,<sup>[126]</sup> for exposing companies that illegally backdate stock options they awarded executives to increase their value.

## **2008: Bear Stearns fall**

Kate Kelly wrote a three-part series that detailed events that led to the collapse of Bear Stearns.<sup>[127][128][129]</sup>

## **2010: McDonald's health care**

A report<sup>[130]</sup> published on September 30, 2010, detailing allegations McDonald's had plans to drop health coverage for hourly employees drew criticism from McDonald's as well as the Obama administration. *The Wall Street Journal* reported the plan to drop coverage stemmed from new health care requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. McDonald's called the report "speculative and misleading", stating they had no plans to drop coverage.<sup>[131]</sup> *The Wall Street Journal* report and subsequent rebuttal received coverage from several other media outlets.<sup>[132][133][134]</sup>

## **2015: Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak and 1MDB**

In 2015, a report<sup>[135]</sup> published by *The Journal* alleged that up to US\$700 million was wired from 1MDB, a Malaysian state investment company, to the personal accounts of Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak at AmBank, the fifth largest lender in Malaysia. Razak responded by threatening to sue the New York-based newspaper.

The report prompted some governmental agencies in Malaysia to conduct an investigation into the allegation. On July 28, 2020, Najib Razak was found guilty on seven charges in the 1MDB scandal. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison.<sup>[136]</sup>

## **2015–present: Theranos investigation**

In 2015, a report written by *The Journal's* John Carreyrou alleged that blood testing company Theranos' technology was faulty and founder Elizabeth Holmes was misleading investors.<sup>[137][138][139]</sup> According to Vanity Fair, "a damning report published in *The Wall Street Journal* had alleged that the company was, in

effect, a sham—that its vaunted core technology was actually faulty and that Theranos administered almost all of its blood tests using competitors' equipment."<sup>[138]</sup> *The Journal* has subsequently published several more reports questioning Theranos' and Holmes' credibility.<sup>[140][141]</sup> On June 15, 2018, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California announced the indictment of Holmes on wire fraud and conspiracy charges in relation to her role as CEO of Theranos.<sup>[142]</sup>

Rupert Murdoch—at the time a major investor in Theranos and owner of *The Journal*—lost approximately \$100 million in his investments in Theranos.<sup>[143]</sup>

## 2018–present: Investigation into Stormy Daniels payment

On January 12, 2018, Michael Rothfeld and Joe Palazzolo reported in *The Wall Street Journal* that during the 2016 presidential campaign, then-candidate Donald Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen coordinated a \$130,000 payment to Stormy Daniels for her silence regarding an alleged affair. In subsequent reports, the method of payment and many other details were extensively covered. In April of that year, FBI agents stormed Cohen's home, seizing records related to the transaction.<sup>[144]</sup> On August 21, 2018, Cohen pleaded guilty to eight counts including campaign finance violations in connection with the Daniels payment.<sup>[145]</sup> The coverage earned them the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting.<sup>[146]</sup>

## See also

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- *The Economic Times*
- *Far Eastern Economic Review*
- *Index of Economic Freedom* – an annual report published by the *Journal* together with The Heritage Foundation
- Lucky duckies
- Media in New York City
- *On the Money (2013 TV series)* – the current title of a CNBC-produced program known as *The Wall Street Journal Report* from 1970 until the CNBC/Dow Jones split in January 2013.
- *The Wall Street Journal Special Editions*
- Wall Street Journal Radio Network
- Worth Bingham Prize

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## External links

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- *The Pioneer of Wall Street: John J. Kiernan* (<http://irishamerica.com/2010/08/the-pioneer-of-wall-street-john-j-kiernan/>) at Irish America
  - Official website (<https://www.wsj.com/>) (Mobile (<http://m.wsj.com/>))
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  - OpinionJournal (<http://www.opinionjournal.com/>) website (redirector)
    - Opinion & Commentary section (<https://online.wsj.com/public/page/news-opinion-commentary.html>) of the WSJ website
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    - *Political Diary* (<http://www.opinionjournal.com/politicaldiary/>) (paid subscription required)
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# The Washington Free Beacon

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*The Washington Free Beacon* is an American conservative political journalism website launched in 2012.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

The website is financially backed by Paul Singer, an American billionaire hedge fund manager and conservative activist.<sup>[3]</sup>

## The Washington Free Beacon

	
<b>Type</b>	Online news site
<b>Format</b>	Website
<b>Editor-in-chief</b>	<u>Eliana Johnson</u>
<b>Managing editor</b>	Sonny Bunch, Victorino Matus, Stephanie Wang
<b>Founded</b>	2012
<b>Political alignment</b>	<u>conservative</u>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Headquarters</b>	<u>Washington, D.C.</u>
<b>Website</b>	<u>freebeacon.com</u> ( <a href="http://freebeacon.com">http://freebeacon.com</a> )

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## History

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The *Free Beacon* was founded by Michael Goldfarb, Aaron Harrison, and Matthew Continetti. It launched on February 7, 2012, as a project of the Center for American Freedom, a conservative advocacy group modeled on the liberal Center for American Progress.<sup>[4]</sup>

The site is known for its conservative reporting, with the intention of publicizing stories and influence the coverage of the mainstream media, and modeled after liberal counterparts in the media such as *Think Progress* and *Talking Points Memo*.<sup>[4][5][6]</sup> The site has roots in the neoconservative wing of the Republican Party.<sup>[7]</sup>

Jack Hunter, a staff member of Senator Rand Paul's office, resigned in 2013 after a *Free Beacon* report detailing his past as a radio shock jock known as the "Southern Avenger" who wore a luchador mask of the Confederate flag.

The publication also broke several stories about Hillary Clinton's successful 1975 legal defense of an accused child rapist that attracted national media attention.<sup>[5][8]</sup>

From October 2015 to May 2016, the *Washington Free Beacon* hired Fusion GPS to conduct opposition research on "multiple candidates" during the 2016 presidential election, including Donald Trump. The *Free Beacon* stopped funding this research when Donald Trump had clinched the Republican nomination.<sup>[9]</sup> Fusion GPS would later hire former British intelligence officer Christopher Steele and produce a dossier alleging links between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin. Paul Singer, a billionaire and hedge fund manager, who is a major donor to the *Free Beacon*, said he was unaware of this dossier until it was published by BuzzFeed News in January 2017.<sup>[10]</sup> On October 27, 2017, the *Free Beacon* publicly disclosed that it had hired Fusion GPS,

and stated that it "had no knowledge of or connection to the Steele dossier, did not pay for the dossier, and never had contact with, knowledge of, or provided payment for any work performed by Christopher Steele."<sup>[11]</sup>

The *Free Beacon* came under criticism for its reporting on Fusion GPS. Three days before it was revealed that it was the *Free Beacon* that had funded the work by Fusion GPS, the *Free Beacon* wrote that the firm's work "was funded by an unknown GOP client while the primary was still going on."<sup>[12]</sup> The *Free Beacon* has published pieces that have sought to portray the work by Fusion GPS as unreliable "without noting that it considered Fusion GPS reliable enough to pay for its services."<sup>[12]</sup> In an editor's note, Continetti said "the reason for this omission is that the authors of these articles, and the particular editors who reviewed them, were unaware of this relationship," and that the outlet was reviewing its editorial process to avoid similar issues in the future.<sup>[13]</sup>

## Reception

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Jim Rutenberg of *The New York Times* described the reporting style of the *Free Beacon* as "gleeful evisceration."<sup>[14]</sup> *The Atlantic's* Conor Friedersdorf called the *Free Beacon's* mission "decadent and unethical".<sup>[15]</sup>

Ben Howe wrote in *The Daily Beast* that *The Washington Free Beacon* established "itself as a credible source of conservative journalism with deep investigative dives and exposes on money in politics," but after Trump's election it was "producing less actual reporting" and moved "more towards the path of least resistance: spending their time criticizing the left and the media, along with healthy doses of opinion writing."<sup>[16]</sup> McKay Coppins in the *Columbia Journalism Review* wrote in September 2018 that while the website contains "a fair amount of trolling... it has also earned a reputation for real-deal journalism ... If a partisan press really is the future, we could do worse than the *Free Beacon*."<sup>[17]</sup>

Jeet Heer wrote in *The New Republic*: "Much of the conservative press is terrible but the *Free Beacon* is far superior to propagandist fare like *The Daily Caller*. Unlike other comparable conservative websites, the *Free Beacon* makes an effort to do original reporting. Its commitment to journalism should be welcomed by liberals."<sup>[18]</sup> In 2015, Mother Jones wrote positively of the *Free Beacon*, commenting that it is far better than contemporary conservative outlets such as *The Daily Caller*.<sup>[19]</sup> *Mother Jones* however said that "the *Beacon* hasn't always steered clear of stories that please the base but don't really stand up," and that it pieces inflammatory pieces that "push conservatives' buttons".<sup>[19]</sup> That same year, the *Washingtonian* wrote that "*The Beacon's* emphasis on newsgathering sets it apart among right-facing publications."<sup>[20]</sup>

In 2019, Eliana Johnson left *Politico* to become Editor-in-Chief of the *Free Beacon*. Ben Smith wrote in *BuzzFeed News* that the *Free Beacon* was "[a]lternately parodic and wire-service serious," and had "broken major political news, mostly negative" (although its focus was mainly directed against Democrats). Smith continued that the *Free Beacon's* hard news reporting differentiated it from other conservative outlets which were either opinion focused or did not produce journalism which met mainstream standards.<sup>[21]</sup>

## See also

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- Alternative media (U.S. political right)

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## External links

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- [Official website \(http://freebeacon.com\)](http://freebeacon.com)
- 

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The\\_Washington\\_Free\\_Beacon&oldid=1030163377](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Washington_Free_Beacon&oldid=1030163377)"

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# The Washington Times

*The Washington Times* is an American conservative<sup>[3]</sup> daily newspaper published in Washington, D.C., that covers general interest topics with a particular emphasis on national politics. Its broadsheet daily edition is distributed throughout the District of Columbia and in parts of Maryland and Virginia. A weekly tabloid edition aimed at a national audience is also published.<sup>[4]</sup>

*The Washington Times* was founded on May 17, 1982, by Unification movement leader Sun Myung Moon and owned until 2010 by News World Communications, an international media conglomerate founded by Moon. It is currently owned by Operations Holdings, which is a part of the Unification movement.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

Throughout its history, *The Washington Times* has been known for its conservative political stance,<sup>[7][3][8][9]</sup> supporting the policies of Republican presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush, and Donald Trump.<sup>[10][11]</sup> It has published many widely-shared columns which reject the scientific consensus on climate change,<sup>[12][13][14]</sup> on ozone depletion,<sup>[15]</sup> and on the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.<sup>[16][17]</sup> It has drawn controversy by publishing racist content including conspiracy theories about U.S. President Barack Obama<sup>[18][19]</sup> and by supporting neo-Confederate historical revisionism.<sup>[20][21]</sup>

## The Washington Times

"Reliable Reporting. The Right Opinion."

## The Washington Times



Front page for August 22, 2016

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Misreporting on the COVID-19 pandemic

<b>Type</b>	<u>Daily newspaper</u>
<b>Format</b>	<u>Broadsheet</u>
<b>Owner(s)</b>	<u>Operations Holdings</u> (via <u>The Washington Times, LLC</u> )
<b>Founder(s)</b>	<u>Sun Myung Moon</u>
<b>Publisher</b>	<u>Larry Beasley</u>
<b>Editor-in-chief</b>	<u>Christopher Dolan</u>
<b>General manager</b>	<u>David Dadisman</u> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>News editor</b>	<u>Victor Morton</u>
<b>Managing editor, design</b>	<u>Cathy Gainor</u>


White nationalism, neo-Confederatism, and racism  
Samuel T. Francis controversy  
Southern Poverty Law Center report  
Coverage of Barack Obama  
Ted Nugent controversy  
Islamophobia

**Staff**

**See also**

**References**

**External links**

<b>Opinion editor</b>	Charles Hurt
<b>Sports editor</b>	David Eldridge
<b>Founded</b>	May 17, 1982
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Headquarters</b>	3600 <u>New York Avenue NE</u> Washington, D.C., U.S.
<b>City</b>	Washington, D.C.
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Circulation</b>	52,059 daily (as of 2019) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>ISSN</b>	0732-8494 ( <a href="https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:0732-8494">https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:0732-8494</a> )
<b>OCLC number</b>	8472624 ( <a href="https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/8472624">https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/8472624</a> )
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.washingtontimes.com">www.washingtontimes.com</a> ( <a href="http://www.washingtontimes.com/">http://www.washingtontimes.com/</a> ) 
<u>Media of the United States</u> List of newspapers	

## History

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### Beginnings

*The Washington Times* was founded in 1982 by News World Communications, an international media conglomerate associated with the Unification movement which also owns newspapers in South Korea, Japan, and South America, as well as the news agency United Press International (UPI).<sup>[22]</sup> Bo Hi Pak, the chief aide of Unification movement founder and leader Sun Myung Moon, was the founding president and the founding chairman of the board.<sup>[23]</sup> Moon asked Richard L. Rubenstein, a rabbi and college professor who had written on the Holocaust, to serve on the board of directors.<sup>[24]</sup> *The Washington Times*' first editor and publisher was James R. Whelan.<sup>[25]</sup>

At the time of founding of *The Washington Times*, Washington had only one major newspaper, *The Washington Post*. Massimo Introvigne, in his 2000 book *The Unification Church*, said that the *Post* had been "the most anti-Unificationist paper in the United States."<sup>[26]</sup> In 2002, at an event held to celebrate the *Times*' 20th anniversary, Moon said: "*The Washington Times* is responsible to let the American people know about God" and "*The Washington Times* will become the instrument in spreading the truth about God to the world."<sup>[27]</sup>

*The Washington Times* was founded the year after *The Washington Star*, the previous "second paper" of D.C., went out of business. A large percentage of the staff came from the *Star*. When it launched, it was unusual among American broadsheets in publishing a full color front page, along with full color front pages in all its sections and color elements throughout. It also used ink that it advertised as being less likely to come off on the reader's hands than the type used by the *Post*.<sup>[28]</sup> At its start, it had 125 reporters, 25 percent of whom were members of the Unification Church of the United States.<sup>[29]</sup>

*The Washington Times* reporters visited imprisoned South African civil rights activist Nelson Mandela during the 1980s. Mandela wrote of them in his autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom*: "They seemed less intent on finding out my views than on proving that I was a Communist and a terrorist. All of their questions were slanted in that direction, and when I reiterated that I was neither a Communist nor a terrorist, they attempted to show that I was not a Christian either by asserting that the Reverend Martin Luther King never resorted to violence."<sup>[30][31]</sup>

After a brief editorship under Smith Hempstone, Arnaud de Borchgrave (formerly of UPI and *Newsweek*) was executive editor from 1985 to 1991.<sup>[32]</sup> Borchgrave was credited for encouraging energetic reporting by staff but was known to make unorthodox journalistic decisions. During his tenure, *The Washington Times* mounted a fundraising drive for Contra rebels in Nicaragua and offered rewards for information leading to the arrest of Nazi war criminals.<sup>[33][34]</sup>

In 1985 News World started publishing a weekly news magazine called *Insight on the News* (also called just *Insight*) as a companion to *The Washington Times*. *Insight's* reporting sometimes resulted in journalistic controversy.<sup>[35][36][37][38]</sup>

U.S. President Ronald Reagan is said to have read *The Washington Times* every day during his presidency.<sup>[39]</sup> In 1997, he said: "The American people know the truth. You, my friends at *The Washington Times*, have told it to them. It wasn't always the popular thing to do. But you were a loud and powerful voice. Like me, you arrived in Washington at the beginning of the most momentous decade of the century. Together, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. And—oh, yes—we won the Cold War."<sup>[40]</sup>

## Wesley Pruden editorship 1992–2008

Wesley "Wes" Pruden, previously a correspondent and then a managing editor, was named executive editor in 1991.<sup>[41]</sup> During his editorship, the paper took a strongly conservative and nativist stance.<sup>[19]</sup>

In 1992, North Korean leader Kim Il Sung gave his first and only interview with the Western news media to *The Washington Times* reporter Josette Sheeran, who later became Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme.<sup>[42]</sup> At the time, *The Washington Times* had one-eighth the circulation of the *Post* (100,000 compared to 800,000) and two-thirds of its subscribers subscribed to both papers.<sup>[43]</sup> In 1994, it introduced a weekly "national edition" which was published in a tabloid format and distributed nationwide.<sup>[44]</sup>



*The Washington Times* newsroom

U.S. President George H. W. Bush encouraged the political influence of *The Washington Times* and other Unification movement activism in support of American foreign policy.<sup>[10]</sup> In 1997, the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, which is critical of U.S. and Israeli policies, praised *The Washington Times* and its sister publication, *The Middle East Times*, for what it called their objective and informative coverage of Islam and the Middle East, while criticizing their generally pro-Israel editorial policy. The *Report* suggested that these newspapers, being owned by religious institutions, were less influenced by pro-Israel pressure groups in the U.S.<sup>[45]</sup>

In 2004, *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius reported that Chung Hwan Kwak, an important leader in the Unification movement, wanted *The Washington Times* to "support international organizations such as the United Nations and to campaign for world peace and interfaith understanding." This, Ignatius wrote, created difficulties for Pruden and some of the *Times'* columnists. Ignatius also mentioned the Unification movement's reconciliatory attitude towards North Korea, which at the time included joint business ventures, and Kwak's advocacy for greater understanding between the U.S. and the Islamic world as issues of contention. Ignatius predicted that conservatives in Congress and the George W. Bush administration would support Pruden's position over Kwak's.<sup>[46]</sup>

In 2006, Moon's son Hyun Jin Moon, president and CEO of News World Communications, dismissed managing editor Francis "Fran" Coombs because of accusations of racist editorializing. Coombs had made some racist and sexist comments, for which he was sued by other employees of *The Washington Times*.<sup>[20]</sup>

## John Solomon editorship 2008–2015

In January 2008, Pruden retired, and John F. Solomon began as executive editor. Solomon had previously worked for the Associated Press and had most recently been head of investigative reporting and mixed media development at the Post.<sup>[47][48][49]</sup> Within a month, The Washington Times changed some of its style guide to conform more to what was becoming mainstream media usage. It announced that it would no longer use words like "illegal aliens" and "homosexual" and in most cases opt for "more neutral terminology" like "illegal immigrants" and "gay," respectively. It also decided to stop using "Hillary" when referring to Senator Hillary Clinton, and the word "marriage" in the expression "gay marriage" would no longer appear in quotes in the newspaper. These changes in policy drew criticism from some conservatives.<sup>[50]</sup> Prospect magazine attributed the Times' apparent political moderation to differences of opinion over the UN and North Korea, and said: "The Republican right may be losing its most devoted media ally."<sup>[51]</sup>



The printing and distribution center of The Washington Times

In July 2010, the Unification Church issued a letter protesting the direction The Washington Times was taking and urging closer ties with it.<sup>[52]</sup> In August 2010, a deal was made to sell it to a group more closely related to the movement. Editor-in-chief Sam Dealey said that this was a welcome development among the Times' staff.<sup>[53]</sup> In November 2010, Moon and a group of former editors purchased The Washington Times from News World Communications for \$1. This ended a conflict within the Moon family that had been threatening to shut down the paper completely.<sup>[54]</sup> In June 2011, Ed Kelley, formerly of The Oklahoman, was hired as editor overseeing both news and opinion content.<sup>[55][56]</sup>



Times dispenser

In 2012, Douglas D. M. Joo stepped down as senior executive, president, and chairman.<sup>[57]</sup> Times president Tom McDevitt took his place as chairman, and Larry Beasley was hired as the company's new president and chief executive officer.<sup>[58]</sup>

In 2013, The Washington Times partnered with Herring Networks to create a new conservative cable news channel, One America News (OAN), which began broadcasting in mid-2013.<sup>[59]</sup>

In 2013, The Washington Times hired David Keene, the former president of the National Rifle Association and American Conservative Union chairman, to serve as its opinion editor.<sup>[60]</sup> Around the same time, Solomon returned as editor and also served as vice president of content and business development.<sup>[61][62]</sup> Solomon's tenure was marked by a focus on profitability. He left for Circa News in December 2015.<sup>[63]</sup>

## Donald Trump campaign and presidency

Opinion editor Charles Hurt was one of Donald Trump's earliest supporters in Washington.<sup>[64]</sup> In 2018, he included Trump with Ronald Reagan, Martin Luther King Jr., Margaret Thatcher, and Pope John Paul II as "great champions of freedom."<sup>[11]</sup> In 2016 The Washington Times did not endorse a presidential candidate, but endorsed Trump for reelection in 2020.<sup>[65]</sup>

On January 6, 2021, after violent pro-Trump rioters stormed the United States Capitol, *The Washington Times* published a false story quoting an unidentified retired military officer claiming that the facial recognition system company XRVision had used its technology and identified two members of Antifa amid the mob.<sup>[66]</sup> XRVision quickly denied this, sending a cease and desist to *The Washington Times*, and issued a statement saying that its technology had actually identified two Neo-Nazis and a believer in the QAnon conspiracy theory and that it had not done any detection work for a retired military officer authorized to share that information. On January 7, the article was removed from the website and replaced with a corrected version.<sup>[67]</sup> Before the correction, Representative Matt Gaetz cited the original story as proof that Antifa were partially responsible for the attack in the floor debate of the 2021 United States Electoral College vote count, and it was widely shared on social media.<sup>[67]</sup>

## Finances

In 1991, Moon said he had spent between \$900 million and \$1 billion on *The Washington Times*.<sup>[68]</sup> By 2002, Moon had spent between \$1.7 billion and \$2 billion according to different estimates.<sup>[27][69]</sup> In November 2009, *The New York Times* reported that *The Washington Times* would no longer be receiving funds from the Unification movement and might have to cease publication or become an online publication only.<sup>[70]</sup> Later that year, it fired 40 percent of its 370 employees and stopped its subscription service, instead distributing the paper free in some areas of Washington, including branches of the government. A subscription website owned by the paper, theconservatives.com, continued, as did the *Times*' three-hour radio program, *America's Morning News*.<sup>[71]</sup> The paper announced that it would cease publication of its Sunday edition, along with other changes, partly in order to end its reliance on subsidies from the Unification movement.<sup>[72]</sup> On December 31, 2009, *The Washington Times* announced that it would no longer be a full-service newspaper, eliminating its metropolitan-news and sports sections.<sup>[73][74]</sup> In March 2011, it announced that some former staffers would be rehired and that the paper would bring back its sports, metro, and life sections.<sup>[75]</sup> It had its first profitable month in September 2015, ending the streak of losses in the paper's first 33 years.<sup>[5][76]</sup> During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, *The Washington Times* received between \$1 million and \$2 million in federally backed small business loans from Citibank as part of the Paycheck Protection Program, which it said would help to retain 91 employees.<sup>[77][78]</sup>

## Political stance

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*The Washington Times* holds a conservative political stance.<sup>[7][3][8][9]</sup> In 1995, the *Columbia Journalism Review* wrote that it "is like no major city daily in America in the way that it wears its political heart on its sleeve. No major paper in America would dare be so partisan."<sup>[41]</sup> In 2002, *The Washington Post* reported that it "was established by Moon to combat communism and be a conservative alternative to what he perceived as the liberal leanings of *The Washington Post*. Since then, the paper has fought to prove its editorial independence, trying to demonstrate that it is neither a "Moonie paper" nor a booster of the political right but rather a fair and balanced reporter of the news."<sup>[27]</sup> In 2007, *Mother Jones* reported that *The Washington Times* had become "essential reading for political news junkies" soon after its founding, and described it as a "conservative newspaper with close ties to every Republican administration since Reagan."<sup>[79]</sup>

In a *Harper's Magazine* essay in 2008, American historian<sup>[80]</sup> Thomas Frank linked *The Washington Times* to the modern American conservative movement, saying: "There is even a daily newspaper—*The Washington Times*—published strictly for the movement's benefit, a propaganda sheet whose distortions are so obvious and so alien that it puts one in mind of those official party organs one encounters when traveling in authoritarian countries."<sup>[81]</sup> *The New York Times* noted in 2009 that it had been "a crucial training ground for many rising conservative journalists and a must-read for those in the movement. A veritable who's who of conservatives—



Tony Blankley, Frank J. Gaffney Jr., Larry Kudlow, John Podhoretz and Tony Snow—has churned out copy for its pages."<sup>[70]</sup> The *Columbia Journalism Review* noted that reporters for *The Washington Times* had used it as a springboard to other mainstream news outlets.<sup>[69]</sup>

In 2002, *Post* veteran Ben Bradlee said: "I see them get some local stories that I think the *Post* doesn't have and should have had."<sup>[82]</sup> In January 2011, conservative commentator Paul Weyrich said: "*The Washington Post* became very arrogant and they just decided that they would determine what was news and what wasn't news and they wouldn't cover a lot of things that went on. And *The Washington Times* has forced the *Post* to cover a lot of things that they wouldn't cover if the *Times* wasn't in existence."<sup>[83]</sup>

## Awards

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Alexander Hunter, designer and editorial illustrator for *The Washington Times*, has won the 2019 Sigma Delta Chi Award for excellence in journalism from the Society of Professional Journalists.<sup>[84]</sup>

Thom Loverro, lead sports columnist for *The Washington Times*, won a Sigma Delta Chi Award for Sports Column Writing in 2014.

In 2013, *The Washington Times* won two Sigma Delta Chi Awards for excellence in journalism from the Society of Professional Journalists for Deadline Reporting (Daily Circulation of 1–50,000) and Investigative Reporting (Daily Circulation 1–50,000).

Guy Taylor and Dan Boylan, reporters for *The Washington Times*, won an Honorable Mention for the 31st annual Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency.<sup>[85][86]</sup>

*The Washington Times* Advertising department won first and third place in the 2019 VPA News and Advertising contest (<https://www.vpa.net/2019-vpa-news-advertising-contest-winners-gallery/>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20201019183808/https://www.vpa.net/2019-vpa-news-advertising-contest-winners-gallery/>) October 19, 2020, at the [Wayback Machine](http://www.waybackmachine.org/) in the Special Sections (standalone section non-slick cover) category ([http://vpagallery.com/2019/2019Winners/Special\\_Sections\\_standalone\\_section\\_nonslick\\_cover\\_A16\\_Special\\_Sections\\_standalone\\_section\\_nonslick\\_cover\\_D3.html#heading59](http://vpagallery.com/2019/2019Winners/Special_Sections_standalone_section_nonslick_cover_A16_Special_Sections_standalone_section_nonslick_cover_D3.html#heading59)). Outstanding design and creative artwork for the Qatar and Rolling Thunder Special Section covers landed the department the award.<sup>[87]</sup>

## Controversies

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### General controversies

Some former employees, including Whelan, have insisted that *The Washington Times* was always under Moon's control. Whelan, whose contract guaranteed editorial autonomy, left the paper in 1984 when the owners refused to renew his contract.<sup>[88]</sup> Three years later, editorial page editor William P. Cheshire and four of his staff resigned, charging that, at the explicit direction of Sang Kook Han, a top official of the Unification movement, then-executive editor Arnaud de Borchgrave had stifled editorial criticism of political repression in South Korea under President Chun Doo-hwan.<sup>[89]</sup> In 1982, *The Washington Times* refused to publish film critic Scott Sublett's negative review of the movie *Inchon*, which was also sponsored by the Unification movement.<sup>[90]</sup>

In 1988, *The Washington Times* published a misleading story suggesting that Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis had sought psychiatric help, and included a quote from Dukakis' sister-in-law saying "it is possible" he visited a psychiatrist. However, *The Washington Times* misleadingly clipped the full

quote by the sister-in-law, which was: "It's possible, but I doubt it."<sup>[41][91]</sup> Reporter Peggy Weyrich quit in 1991 after one of her articles about Anita Hill's testimony in the Clarence Thomas Supreme Court nominee hearings was rewritten to depict Hill as a "fantasizer."<sup>[30]</sup>

During the presidency of Bill Clinton *The Washington Times* reporting on his alleged sex scandals was often picked up other, more respected, news media which contributed to enhanced public awareness of the topic, and eventually to Clinton's impeachment. In 1999 the Senate voted to acquit Clinton, allowing him to complete his second term as president.<sup>[92][93]</sup>

In a 1997 column in *The Washington Times*, Frank Gaffney falsely alleged that a seismic incident in Russia was a nuclear detonation at that nation's Novaya Zemlya test site, which would have meant that Russia had violated the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTB).<sup>[94]</sup> Subsequent scientific analysis of the Novaya Zemlya event showed that it was a routine earthquake.<sup>[95]</sup> Reporting on the allegation, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* observed that following its publication: "fax machines around Washington, D.C. and across the country poured out pages detailing Russian duplicity. They came from Frank Gaffney." The *Bulletin* also noted that during the first four months of 1997, Gaffney had "issued more than 25 screeds" against the CTB.<sup>[94]</sup>

In 2002, *The Washington Times* published a story accusing the National Educational Association (NEA), the largest teachers' union in the United States, of teaching students that the policies of the U.S. government were partly responsible for the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.<sup>[96]</sup> The NEA responded to the story by denying all of its accusations.<sup>[97][98]</sup> Brendan Nyhan, later a political science professor at the University of Michigan, wrote that *The Washington Times* story was a "lie" and a "myth".<sup>[96]</sup>

In 2018, *The Washington Times* published a commentary piece by retired U.S. Navy admiral James A. Lyons which promoted conspiracy theories about the murder of Seth Rich. Lyon wrote that it was "well known in intelligence circles that Seth Rich and his brother, Aaron Rich, downloaded the DNC emails and was paid by WikiLeaks for that information."<sup>[8][99]</sup> The piece cited no evidence for the assertion.<sup>[8][100]</sup> Aaron Rich filed a lawsuit against *The Washington Times*, saying that it acted with "reckless disregard for the truth" and that it did not retract or remove the piece after "receiving notice of the falsity of the statements about Aaron after the publication".<sup>[8][100][101][102]</sup> Rich and *The Washington Times* settled their lawsuit, and the paper issued an "unusually robust" retraction.<sup>[99][103]</sup>

*The Washington Times* has at least twice published articles, both written by people connected to the government of Turkey, that deny the Armenian genocide.<sup>[104]</sup>

## Science coverage

### Climate change denial

*The Washington Times* is known for promoting climate change denial.<sup>[105][106][107][12][13][14]</sup> Michael E. Mann, director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University, characterizes the *Times* as a prominent outlet that propagates "climate change disinformation."<sup>[106]</sup> Naomi Oreskes, Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University, and Erik M. Conway, historian of science at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, wrote in their 2010 book *Merchants of Doubt* that the *Times* has given the public a false sense that the science of anthropogenic climate change was in dispute by giving disproportionate coverage of fringe viewpoints and by preventing scientists from rebutting coverage in the *Times*.<sup>[107]</sup> *The Washington Times* reprinted a column by Steve Milloy criticizing research of climate change in the Arctic without disclosing Milloy's financial ties to the fossil fuel industry.<sup>[108]</sup>

During the Climatic Research Unit email controversy (also known as "Climategate") in 2009 in the lead-up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, the *Times* wrote in an editorial: "these revelations of fudged science should have a cooling effect on global-warming hysteria and the panicked policies that are being pushed forward to address the unproven theory."<sup>[109]</sup> Eight committees investigated the controversy and found no evidence of fraud or scientific misconduct. In 2010, the *Times* published an article claiming that February 2010 snow storms "Undermin[e] The Case For Global Warming One Flake At A Time".<sup>[110]</sup> A 2014 *Times* editorial mocked the "global warming scam" and asserted: "The planetary thermometer hasn't budged in 15 years. Wildfires, tornadoes, hurricanes and other 'extreme' weather events are at normal or below-normal levels. Pacific islands aren't submerged. There's so much ice the polar bears are celebrating."<sup>[111]</sup> The *Times* cited a blog post in support of these claims; PolitiFact fact-checked the claims in the blog post and concluded it was "pants-on-fire" false.<sup>[111][112]</sup> The *Times* later said that a NASA scientist claimed that global warming was on a "hiatus" and that NASA had found evidence of global cooling; Rebecca Leber of *The New Republic* said that the NASA scientist in question said the opposite of what the *Times* claimed.<sup>[113]</sup> In 2015, it published a column by Congressman Lamar Smith in which he argued that the work of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was "not good science, [but] science fiction."<sup>[114]</sup>

In 1993, *The Washington Times* published articles purporting to debunk climate change.<sup>[114]</sup> It headlined its story about the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate change: "Under the deal, the use of coal, oil and other fossil fuel in the United States would be cut by more than one-third by 2002, resulting in lower standards of living for consumers and a long-term reduction in economic growth."<sup>[30]</sup>

## **Ozone depletion denial**

In the 1990s, *The Washington Times* published columns which cast doubt on the scientific consensus on the causes of ozone depletion (which had led to an "ozone hole"). It published columns disputing the science as late as 2000.<sup>[15]</sup> In 1991, NASA scientists warned of the potential of a major Arctic ozone hole developing in the spring of 1992 due to elevated levels of chlorine monoxide in the Arctic stratosphere. However, as the Arctic winter was unusually warm, the chemical reactions needed for ozone depletion did not occur. Even though the science was not incorrect, the *Times*, along with other conservative media, subsequently created a "crying wolf" narrative, where scientists were portrayed as political activists who were following an environmental agenda rather than the science. In 1992, it published an editorial saying: "This is not the disinterested, objective, just-the-facts tone one ordinarily expects from scientists... This is the cry of the apocalyptic, laying the groundwork for a decidedly non-scientific end: public policy... it would be nice if the next time NASA cries 'wolf,' fewer journalists, politicians and citizens heed the warning like sheep."<sup>[115]</sup>

## **Second-hand smoke denial**

In 1995, *The Washington Times* published a column by Fred Singer, who is known for promoting views contrary to mainstream science on a number of issues, where Singer referred to the science on the adverse health impact of second-hand smoke as the "second-hand smoke scare" and accused the Environmental Protection Agency of distorting data when it classified second-hand smoke as harmful.<sup>[16][17]</sup> In 1995, it published an editorial titled "How not to spend science dollars" condemning a grant to the National Cancer Institute to study how political contributions from tobacco companies shape policy-making and the voting behavior of politicians.<sup>[116][117]</sup>

## **Misreporting on the COVID-19 pandemic**

In January 2020, *The Washington Times* published two widely-shared articles about the COVID-19 pandemic that suggested that the virus was created by the government of the People's Republic of China as a biological weapon. One article quoted a former Israeli intelligence officer as a source.<sup>[118]</sup>

## White nationalism, neo-Confederatism, and racism

Under Pruden's editorship (1992–2008), *The Washington Times* regularly printed excerpts from racist hard-right publications including VDARE and *American Renaissance*, and from Bill White, leader of the American National Socialist Workers' Party, in its Culture Briefs section.<sup>[19]</sup> Robert Stacy McCain, a member of the neo-Confederate white-supremacist group League of the South, was hired and promoted to edit the Culture Briefs section, which became, according to Max Blumenthal, "a bulletin board for the racist far right." Blumenthal also wrote that *The Washington Times* was: "characterized by extreme racial animus and connections to nativist and neo-Confederate organizations... from its earliest days the *Times* has been a hothouse for hard-line racials and neo-Confederates."<sup>[20][119]</sup>

In 2013, the *Columbia Journalism Review* reported that under Pruden's editorship *The Washington Times* was: "a forum for the racist hard right, including white nationalists, neo-Confederates, and anti-immigrant scare mongers."<sup>[19]</sup> Between 1998 and 2004, the *Times* covered every biennial American Renaissance conference, hosted by the white supremacist New Century Foundation. According to the *Columbia Journalism Review*, "the paper's coverage of these events—which are hotbeds for holocaust deniers, neo-Nazis, and eugenicists—was stunningly one sided", and favorably depicted the conference and attendees.<sup>[19]</sup> In 2009, journalist David Neiwert wrote that it championed, "various white-nationalist causes emanating from the neo-Confederate movement (with which, until a recent housecleaning, two senior editors had long associations.)"<sup>[120]</sup>

A page in *The Washington Times*' Sunday edition was devoted to the American Civil War, on which the Confederacy was several times described with admiration.<sup>[19][20][121]</sup> In 1993, Pruden gave an interview to the neo-Confederate magazine *Southern Partisan*, which has been called "arguably the most important neo-Confederate periodical" by the Southern Poverty Law Center,<sup>[122]</sup> where he said: "Every year I make sure that we have a story in the paper about any observance of Robert E. Lee's birthday."<sup>[20]</sup> Pruden said, "And the fact that it falls around Martin Luther King's birthday," to which a *Southern Partisan* interviewer interjected, "Makes it all the better," with Pruden finishing, "I make sure we have a story. Oh, yes."<sup>[20]</sup>

## Samuel T. Francis controversy

*The Washington Times* employed Samuel T. Francis, a white nationalist, as a columnist and editor, beginning in 1991 after he was chosen by Pat Buchanan to take over his column.<sup>[123][124][125][126][127]</sup> In 1995, Francis resigned or was forced out after Dinesh D'Souza reported on racist comments that Francis made at a conference hosted by *American Renaissance* the previous year.<sup>[128][123][124][129][130]</sup> At the conference, Francis called on whites to: "reassert our identity and our solidarity, and we must do so in explicitly racial terms through the articulation of a racial consciousness as whites... The civilization that we as whites created in Europe and America could not have developed apart from the genetic endowments of the creating people."<sup>[129]</sup>

Francis was an aide to Republican Senator John East of North Carolina before joining the editorial staff of *The Washington Times* in 1986.<sup>[129]</sup> Five years later, he became a columnist for the newspaper, and his column became syndicated.<sup>[129]</sup>

In addition to his journalistic career, Francis was an adjunct scholar at the Ludwig von Mises Institute of Auburn, Alabama.<sup>[131]</sup>

In June 1995, editor-in-chief Wesley Pruden "had cut back on Francis' column" after *The Washington Times* ran his essay criticizing the Southern Baptist Convention for its approval of a resolution which apologized for slavery.<sup>[132]</sup> In the piece, Francis asserted that "The contrition of the Southern Baptists for slavery and racism is a bit more than a politically fashionable gesture intended to massage race relations"<sup>[133]</sup> and that "Neither slavery' nor racism' as an institution is a sin."<sup>[129]</sup>

In September 1995, Pruden fired Francis from *The Washington Times* after conservative journalist Dinesh D'Souza, in a column in *The Washington Post* described Francis's appearance at the 1994 American Renaissance conference:

A lively controversialist, Francis began with some largely valid complaints about how the Southern heritage is demonized in mainstream culture. He went on, however, to attack the liberal principles of humanism and universalism for facilitating "the war against the white race." At one point he described country music megastar Garth Brooks as "repulsive" because "he has that stupid universalist song (*We Shall Be Free*), in which we all intermarry." His fellow whites, he insisted, must "reassert our identity and our solidarity, and we must do so in explicitly racial terms through the articulation of a racial consciousness as whites ... The civilization that we as whites created in Europe and America could not have developed apart from the genetic endowments of the creating people, nor is there any reason to believe that the civilization can be successfully transmitted to a different people."<sup>[134]</sup>

After D'Souza's column was published, Pruden "decided he did not want the Times associated with such views after looking into other Francis writings, in which he advocated the possible deportation of legal immigrants and forced birth control for welfare mothers."<sup>[129]</sup>

Francis said soon after the firing that

I believe there are racial differences, there are natural differences between the races. I don't believe that one race is better than another. There's reasonably solid evidence for IQ differences, personality and behavior differences. I understand those things have been taken to justify segregation and white supremacy. That is not my intent.<sup>[129]</sup>

When Francis died in 2005, *The Washington Times* wrote a "glowing" obituary that omitted his racist beliefs, as well as his firing from the paper, and described him as a "scholarly, challenging and sometimes pungent writer"; in response, editor David Mastio of the conservative Washington Examiner wrote in an obituary: "Sam Francis was merely a racist and doesn't deserve to be remembered as anything less."<sup>[135][136]</sup> Mastio added that Francis: "led a double life – by day he served up conservative, red meat that was strong but never quite out of bounds by mainstream standards; by night, unbeknownst to the *Times* or his syndicate, he pushed white supremacist ideas."<sup>[135][136]</sup>

## **Southern Poverty Law Center report**

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) noted that *The Washington Times* had, by 2005, published at least 35 articles by Marian Kester Coombs, who was married to managing editor Francis Coombs. She had a record of racially incendiary rhetoric and had written for the white nationalist magazine The Occidental Quarterly,<sup>[137]</sup> which has been described as a "stalwart" of the alt-right movement in the United States<sup>[138]</sup> and as a "far-right, racially obsessed US magazine."<sup>[139][140]</sup> The SPLC highlighted columns written by Marian Kester Coombs in *The Washington Times*, in which she asserted that the whole of human history was

"the struggle of ... races"; that non-white immigration is the "importing [of] poverty and revolution" that will end in "the eventual loss of sovereign American territory"; and that Muslims in England "are turning life in this once pleasant land into a misery for its native inhabitants."<sup>[137]</sup>

## Coverage of Barack Obama

In 2007 *The Washington Times'* companion news magazine *Insight on the News* (also called just *Insight*) published a story which claimed that someone on the campaign staff of American presidential candidate Senator Hillary Clinton had leaked a report to one of *Insight's* reporters which said that Obama had "spent at least four years in a so-called madrassa, or Muslim seminary, in Indonesia"<sup>[141]</sup> *Insight's* editor, Jeffrey T. Kuhner, also claimed that the source said that the Clinton campaign was "preparing an accusation that her rival Senator Barack Obama had covered up a brief period he had spent in an Islamic religious school in Indonesia when he was six." Clinton denied the allegations. When interviewed by the *New York Times*, Kuhner refused to name the person said to be the reporter's source.<sup>[142]</sup>

*Insight's* story was reported on first by conservative talk radio and *Fox News Channel*, and then by *The New York Times* and other major newspapers.<sup>[142]</sup> CNN reporter John Vause visited State Elementary School Menteng 01, a secular public school which Obama had attended for one year after attending a Roman Catholic school for three, and found that each student received two hours of religious instruction per week in his or her own faith. He was told by Hardi Priyono, deputy headmaster of the school, "This is a public school. We don't focus on religion. In our daily lives, we try to respect religion, but we don't give preferential treatment."<sup>[143]</sup> Students at Besuki wore Western clothing, and the *Chicago Tribune* described the school as "so progressive that teachers wore miniskirts and all students were encouraged to celebrate Christmas".<sup>[144][145][146]</sup> Interviews by Nedra Pickler of the Associated Press found that students of all faiths have been welcome there since before Obama's attendance. Akmad Solichin, the vice principal of the school, told Pickler: "The allegations are completely baseless. Yes, most of our students are Muslim, but there are Christians as well. Everyone's welcome here ... it's a public school."<sup>[147]</sup>

In 2008, *The Washington Times* published a column by Frank Gaffney that promoted the false conspiracy theories which asserted that President Barack Obama was born in Kenya and was courting the "jihadist vote." Gaffney also published pieces in 2009 and 2010 promoting the false assertion that Obama is a Muslim.<sup>[18]</sup> In a 2009 column entitled "'Inner Muslim' at work in Cairo", Pruden wrote that President Obama was the: "first president without an instinctive appreciation of the culture, history, tradition, common law and literature whence America sprang. The genetic imprint writ large in his 43 predecessors is missing from the Obama DNA."<sup>[19]</sup> In another 2009 column, Pruden wrote that Obama had "no natural instinct or blood impulse" for what America was about because he was "sired by a Kenyan father" and "born to a mother attracted to men of the Third World."<sup>[19]</sup> These columns stirred controversy, leading *The Washington Times* to assign David Mastio, its deputy editor, to edit Pruden's work.<sup>[19]</sup>

In 2016, *The Washington Times* claimed that \$3.6 million in federal funds were spent on a 2013 golf outing for President Obama and pro-golfer Tiger Woods which was widely reported on by the American news media in 2013.<sup>[148][149][150][151]</sup> Snopes rated the article "mostly false", because the estimated cost included both official presidential travel and a brief vacation in Florida. The online article contained hyperlinks to other, unrelated, stories from *The Washington Times*. These links' appearance were not readily distinguishable from the citation links sometimes used to support or substantiate reporting.<sup>[148]</sup> Not included in the article were any links to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report of expenditure for the 2013 trip, which included a detailed overview of President Obama's activities of 15 February to 18 February 2013.<sup>[152]</sup>

## Ted Nugent controversy

Rock musician Ted Nugent wrote weekly columns for *The Washington Times* between 2010 and 2012.<sup>[153][154][155]</sup> Prior to joining the *Times*, Nugent stirred controversy by referring to President Obama as a "piece of shit" and calling on him "to suck on my machine gun",<sup>[155][156]</sup> and had also pledged fealty to the Confederate flag.<sup>[155]</sup> In 2012, Nugent was visited by the Secret Service after he alluded to beheading President Obama.<sup>[157][158]</sup> He said that if Obama would win re-election: "I will either be dead or in jail by this time next year."<sup>[159]</sup> At the time, Mitt Romney's presidential campaign condemned Nugent's remarks; *Post* media critic Erik Wemple noted that there was no response by *The Washington Times*.<sup>[155]</sup> In 2014, Nugent (who had by then departed from the *Times*) called Obama a "communist-educated, communist-nurtured subhuman mongrel."<sup>[153]</sup> That February, Nugent had endorsed Greg Abbott in the Republican primary election for Texas Governor. Abbott distanced himself from Nugent saying, "This is not the kind of language I would use or endorse in any way."<sup>[160]</sup> After being further chastised about it by Senator Rand Paul, Nugent apologized for the comment.<sup>[161]</sup> Pruden condemned Nugent's remarks, describing Nugent as an "aging rock musician with a loose mouth who was semifamous 40 years ago."<sup>[153]</sup> David Weigel remarked in *Slate*: "That long ago? Only a year ago, he filed a special column for the *Washington Times*. Before that, for a few years, he published a weekly column."<sup>[153]</sup>

## Islamophobia

Gaffney, known for his "long history of pushing extreme anti-Muslim views", wrote weekly columns for *The Washington Times* from the late 1990s to 2016.<sup>[162][163]</sup> According to John Esposito, a Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies at Georgetown University, Gaffney's "editorial track record in the *Washington Times* is long on accusation and short on supportive evidence."<sup>[164]</sup> In columns for the *Times*, Gaffney helped to popularize conspiracy theories that Islamic terrorists were infiltrating the Bush administration, the conservative movement and the Obama administration.<sup>[165][166][167]</sup> In 2015, the *Times* published a column describing refugees fleeing the Syrian Civil War as an "Islamic Trojan Horse" conducting a "'jihad' by another name."<sup>[168][169]</sup>

The Muslim advocacy group Council on American–Islamic Relations listed *The Washington Times* among media outlets it said "regularly demonstrates or supports Islamophobic themes."<sup>[170]</sup> In 1998, the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram wrote that its editorial policy was "rabidly anti-Arab, anti-Muslim and pro-Israel."<sup>[171]</sup>

## Staff

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### Editors-in-chief

- James R. Whelan (1982–1984)
- Smith Hempstone (1984–1986)
- Arnaud de Borchgrave (1986–1992)
- Wesley Pruden (1992–2008)
- John F. Solomon (2008–2009) (2013–2015)
- Sam Dealey (2010)
- Ed Kelley (2011–2012)
- David S. Jackson (2012–2013)

### Managing editors

- Josette Sheeran Shiner (1992–1997)
- Francis Coombs (?–2008)<sup>[172]</sup>

## Opinion editors

- [Ann Crutcher](#) (1984–1985)
- [William P. Cheshire](#) (1985–1987)
- [Tony Snow](#) (1987–1990)
- [Tod Lindberg](#) (1991–1998)
- [Tony Blankley](#) (2002–2007)
- [Richard Minitzer](#)<sup>[173]</sup> (2009)
- [Brett Decker](#) (2009–2013)
- [Wesley Pruden](#) (2013)
- [David Keene](#) (2014–2016)
- [Charles Hurt](#) (2016–present)<sup>[174]</sup>

## Current contributors

- [Bill Gertz](#) ("Inside the Ring" columnist)
- [Rowan Scarborough](#) (national security writer)
- [Donald Lambro](#) (chief political correspondent)
- [Jennifer Harper](#) ("Inside the Beltway" columnist)
- [Joseph Curl](#) (writer and columnist)
- [Victor Davis Hanson](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Thom Loverro](#) (sports columnist)
- [Mark Kellner](#) (religion columnist)
- [Rita Cook](#) (automobile columnist)
- [Newt Gingrich](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Jenny Beth Martin](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Richard W. Rahn](#) (opinion columnist)
- [R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Clifford D. May](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Cal Thomas](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Robert H. Knight](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Peter Morici](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Lisa Boothe](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Tammy Bruce](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Charles Hurt](#) (opinion editor and columnist)
- [Jeffrey Birnbaum](#) (columnist)
- [Stephen Moore](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Ed Feulner](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Foster Friess](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Allen West](#) (opinion columnist)
- [Everett Piper](#) (opinion columnist)

## Former contributors


- [George Archibald](#) (congressional, political, United Nations, and education reporter)
- [Bruce Bartlett](#) (opinion columnist)
- [David Brooks](#) (editorial writer, film reviewer)



- Amanda Carpenter (columnist)
- Ben Carson (opinion columnist)
- Monica Crowley (online opinion editor and columnist)
- Dave Fay (editor and journalists, deceased)
- Bruce Fein (opinion columnist)
- Samuel T. Francis (editor and columnist, deceased)
- Frank Gaffney (columnist)
- Madison Gesiotto (opinion columnist)
- Michael Hayden (opinion columnist)
- Nat Hentoff (opinion columnist)
- Shirley A. Husar (opinion columnist)
- Ernest Istook (opinion columnist)
- Drew Johnson (columnist)
- Tom Knott (sports columnist)
- Lawrence Kudlow (economics columnist)
- Jeffrey Kuhner (opinion columnist)
- Willie Lawson (opinion columnist)
- Tod Lindberg (opinion columnist)
- Herbert London (opinion columnist) (deceased)
- Michelle Malkin (columnist)
- John McCaslin ("Inside the Beltway" columnist)
- Oliver North (opinion columnist)
- Ted Nugent (opinion columnist)
- Rand Paul<sup>[175]</sup><sup>[176]</sup> (opinion columnist)
- Jeremiah O'Leary (deceased)
- John Podhoretz (columnist)
- Wesley Pruden (editor emeritus and opinion columnist)
- Fred Reed (journalist)
- Rob Redding (journalist and talk host)
- Kelly Riddell ("Water Cooler" columnist)
- James S. Robbins (opinion columnist)
- Bill Sammon (White House correspondent)
- Mercedes Schlapp (opinion columnist)
- Thomas Sowell (columnist)
- Mark Steyn (opinion columnist)<sup>[177]</sup>
- Janine Turner (opinion columnist)
- Harlan Ullman (opinion columnist)
- Diana West (opinion columnist)

## Others

- Daniel Wattenberg: Arts and Entertainment editor
- Julia Duin: Religion editor

 *This literature-related list is incomplete; you can help by expanding it ([https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The\\_Washington\\_Times&action=edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Washington_Times&action=edit)).*

## See also

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- [Media in Washington, D.C., List of newspapers in Washington, D.C.](#)
- [The Washington Star \(1852–1981\)](#)
- [The Washington Post \(1877–present\)](#)
- [Washington Times-Herald](#), a former D.C. daily newspaper founded by [William Randolph Hearst](#) as [The Evening Times](#)<sup>[178]</sup>
- [Washington Times-Herald](#), a [Washington, Indiana](#) newspaper
- [Unification Church political activities](#)

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# The Weekly Standard

*The Weekly Standard* was an American political magazine of news, analysis and commentary, published 48 times per year. Originally edited by founders [Bill Kristol](#) and [Fred Barnes](#), the *Standard* had been described as a "redoubt of [neoconservatism](#)" and as "the neocon bible."<sup>[2][3]</sup> Its founding publisher, [News Corporation](#), debuted the title on September 18, 1995.<sup>[4]</sup> In 2009, News Corporation sold the magazine to a subsidiary of [the Anschutz Corporation](#).<sup>[5]</sup> On December 14, 2018, its owners announced that the magazine was ceasing publication, with the last issue published on December 17.<sup>[6]</sup> Sources attribute its demise to an increasing divergence between Kristol and other editors' shift towards anti-Trump positions, and the magazine's audience's shift towards [Trumpism](#).<sup>[7]</sup>

Many of the magazine's articles were written by members of conservative think tanks located in Washington, including the [American Enterprise Institute](#), the [Ethics and Public Policy Center](#), the [Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#), the [Hudson Institute](#), and the [Foreign Policy Initiative](#). Individuals who wrote for the magazine included [Elliott Abrams](#), [Peter Berkowitz](#), [John Bolton](#), [Ellen Bork](#), [David Brooks](#), [Gertrude Himmelfarb](#), [Christopher Hitchens](#), [Harvey Mansfield](#), [Cynthia Ozick](#), [Joe Queenan](#), and [John Yoo](#). The magazine's website also produced regular online-only commentaries and news articles. The site's editorial stance was described as neoconservative.<sup>[8][9][10][11][12]</sup>

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## History

The *Standard* was viewed as heavily influential during the administration of president [George W. Bush](#) (2001-2009), being called the [in-flight magazine](#) of [Air Force One](#).<sup>[13]</sup> In 2003, although the magazine's circulation was only 55,000, Kristol said that "We

## The Weekly Standard



December 24, 2018 issue of *The Weekly Standard*

<b>Editor</b>	<a href="#">Stephen F. Hayes</a>
<b>Frequency</b>	Weekly
<b>Publisher</b>	<a href="#">Terry Eastland</a>
<b>Total circulation (December 2018)</b>	~50,000 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>First issue</b>	September 1995
<b>Final issue</b>	December 2018
<b>Company</b>	<a href="#">Clarity Media Group</a>
<b>Country</b>	<a href="#">United States</a>
<b>Based in</b>	<a href="#">Washington, D.C.</a>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.weeklystandard.com">www.weeklystandard.com</a> ( <a href="https://www.weeklystandard.com">https://www.weeklystandard.com</a> )
<b>ISSN</b>	1083-3013 ( <a href="https://www.issn.org">https://www.issn.org</a> )

have a funny relationship with the top tier of the administration. They very much keep us at arm's length, but [Vice President] Dick Cheney does send over someone to pick up 30 copies of the magazine every Monday."<sup>[14]</sup>

[w.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&q=n2:1083-3013](http://w.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&q=n2:1083-3013)

In 2006, though the publication had never been profitable and reputedly lost more than a million dollars a year, News Corporation head Rupert Murdoch initially dismissed the idea of selling it.<sup>[15]</sup> Subsequently, in June 2009, a report circulated that a sale of the publication to Philip Anschutz was imminent, with Murdoch's position being that, having since purchased The Wall Street Journal in 2007, his interest in the smaller publication had diminished.<sup>[16][17]</sup> The Washington Examiner reported that month that the *Examiner's* parent company, the Anschutz-owned Clarity Media Group, had purchased the *Standard*;<sup>[18][19]</sup> the price was about \$1 million.<sup>[20]</sup>

The *Standard* increased its paid circulation by 39 percent between its June 2009 and June 2010 BPA statements.<sup>[21]</sup> Its print circulation of about 100,000 in 2013 had decreased to 72,000 by 2017, according to the BPA, with circulation dropping about 10 percent between 2016 and 2017.<sup>[13]</sup>

In late 2016, Kristol ended his time as editor-in-chief.<sup>[22]</sup> He was replaced by Stephen Hayes, the magazine's senior writer.<sup>[23]</sup> Under Hayes' leadership, the *Standard* continued to be as critical of Donald Trump as it had been under Kristol; Trump's supporters in turn criticized the *Standard*, and the magazine's influence in Republican circles dwindled.<sup>[24]</sup>

In December 2017, *The Weekly Standard* became an official fact-checking partner for Facebook.<sup>[25]</sup>

On December 14, 2018, Clarity Media Group announced that it would cease publication of the magazine after 23 years. While some speculated that the closure of *The Weekly Standard* was so Clarity Media's other magazine, the Washington Examiner, could absorb the *Standard's* subscribers, a statement from Clarity Media Group chairman Ryan McKibben said that such speculation was incorrect.<sup>[26][27]</sup> Kristol attributed the magazine's demise to the hostility of supporters of the Donald Trump administration.<sup>[28]</sup>

## Support of the invasion of Iraq

The *Standard* promoted and supported the invasion of Iraq to remove Saddam Hussein. In November 1997 Bill Kristol and Robert Kagan wrote an editorial titled "Saddam Must Go", in which they stated "We know it seems unthinkable to propose another ground attack to take Baghdad. But it's time to start thinking the unthinkable."<sup>[29]</sup>

In the first issue the magazine published after 9/11, according to Scott McConnell of The American Conservative, "Gary Schmitt and Tom Donnelly, two employees of Kristol's PNAC, clarified what ought to be the country's war aims. Their rhetoric was to link Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden in virtually every paragraph, to join them at the hip in the minds of readers, and then to lay out a strategy that actually gave attacking Saddam priority over eliminating al-Qaeda."<sup>[30]</sup>

On December 16, 2018, co-founder and contributing editor John Podhoretz defended the coverage answering the question by Lulu Garcia-Navarro on NPR: "Do you regret the coverage of Iraq War?" saying "I think, basically, what—all a magazine—editors, writers—can promise is that they will be honest and say what they mean and think and argue the best way that they can. And with the facts available at the time, that is what *The Standard* did."<sup>[31]</sup>

## Libel case

In 1997, nearly a year after a cover story that included allegations of hiring a prostitute and plagiarism against best-selling author Deepak Chopra, the editors of *The Weekly Standard* accepted full responsibility for the errors in the story, and apologized."<sup>[32][33]</sup> Chopra claimed that the magazine settled for \$1.6 million.<sup>[34]</sup>

## Notable personnel

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### Editorial staff

- Stephen F. Hayes, Editor-in-Chief
- Bill Kristol, Editor at large
- Fred Barnes, Executive Editor
- Christopher Caldwell, Andrew Ferguson, Lee Smith, Philip Terzian, Senior Editors
- Jonathan V. Last, Digital Editor
- Matt Labash, Senior Writer

### Contributing editors

- Max Boot
- Joseph Bottum
- Tucker Carlson
- Matthew Continetti
- Joseph Epstein
- David Frum
- David Gelernter
- Reuel Marc Gerech
- Michael Goldfarb
- Mary Katharine Ham
- Brit Hume
- Frederick Kagan
- Robert Kagan
- Charles Krauthammer
- Tod Lindberg
- Rob Messenger
- P. J. O'Rourke
- John Podhoretz
- Irwin Stelzer

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## External links

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-  Media related to [The Weekly Standard](#) at Wikimedia Commons
  - [Official website \(<http://www.weeklystandard.com/>\)](http://www.weeklystandard.com/) 
- 

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The\\_Weekly\\_Standard&oldid=1032660838](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Weekly_Standard&oldid=1032660838)"

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# WorldNetDaily

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*WorldNetDaily* (*WND*) is an American news and opinion website and online news aggregator which has been described as "fringe" and far-right<sup>[5]</sup> as well as politically conservative.<sup>[6]</sup> The website is known for promoting falsehoods and conspiracy theories.<sup>[15]</sup>

The site was founded in May 1997 by Joseph Farah, who is its current editor-in-chief and CEO.<sup>[16]</sup> The website publishes news, editorials, and opinion columns, while also aggregating content from other publications.

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## WorldNetDaily



<b>Type of site</b>	Online news site
<b>Available in</b>	English
<b>Founded</b>	1997
<b>Owners</b>	WorldNetDaily.com, Inc.
<b>Founder(s)</b>	<u>Joseph Farah</u>
<b>Editor</b>	Joseph Farah
<b>URL</b>	<u>WND.com</u> ( <a href="https://www.wnd.com/">https://www.wnd.com/</a> )

## History

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In 1997 Joseph Farah created the news website *WorldNetDaily*<sup>[16]</sup> as a division of the Western Journalism Center. It was subsequently spun off in 1999 as a for-profit organization<sup>[17]</sup> with the backing of \$4.5 million from investors, Farah owning a majority of the stock. The site describes itself as "an independent news company dedicated to uncompromising journalism".<sup>[16]</sup> In 1999, WorldNetDaily.com, Inc. was incorporated in Delaware<sup>[17]</sup> with offices in Cave Junction, Oregon.<sup>[18]</sup>

The website gained notoriety for stoking false "birther" conspiracy theories about President Barack Obama.<sup>[19]</sup>



In 2018, Farah wrote about *WorldNetDaily's* financial problems, saying it faced an "existential threat." Farah ceased contributing to the site after his March 12, 2019, column; the site announced a few weeks later that he had suffered a major stroke. In April 2019, *The Washington Post* reported that *WorldNetDaily* suffered from declining revenue and diminishing readership. Farah blamed the website's financial woes on what he claimed was suppression by powerful technology companies.<sup>[19]</sup>

## Content

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The *WND* website provides news, editorials, letters to the editor, forums, videos and conducts a daily poll. Its CEO Joseph Farah has said that *WND* provides "the broadest spectrum of opinion anywhere in the news business", but acknowledges "some misinformation by columnists".<sup>[20]</sup> *WND's* content is predominantly conservative.<sup>[6][21]</sup> Besides providing articles written by its own staff, the site links to news from other publications.

Notable staff includes Jerusalem Bureau Chief Aaron Klein, former White House correspondent Lester Kinsolving, and staff writer Jerome Corsi. Its commentary pages feature editorials by the site's founder Joseph Farah, as well as by commentators including 2016 Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson, Pat Buchanan, Ann Coulter, David Limbaugh, Chuck Norris, Walter E. Williams, Ilana Mercer, Bill Press, and Nat Hentoff.<sup>[22]</sup>

## Controversies

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*The Washington Post* describes *WND's* political lean as alt-right or far-right.<sup>[23][7][11][24]</sup> This view is shared by Michael Massing of the *Columbia Journalism Review*.<sup>[9]</sup> The Southern Poverty Law Center labels *WorldNetDaily* as an anti-government extremist group.<sup>[25]</sup>

### Clark Jones libel lawsuit (2000–2008)

On September 20, 2000, *WND* published an article<sup>[26]</sup> saying that Clark Jones, a Savannah, Tennessee car dealer, a fund-raiser for then-Vice President Al Gore in his presidential campaign, had interfered with a criminal investigation, had been a "subject" of a criminal investigation, and was listed on law enforcement computers as a "dope dealer." It implied that he had ties to others involved in alleged criminal activity. The authors later put forward the theory that the publication of this article, as well as other *WND* articles that were critical of Gore, contributed significantly to Gore losing his home state of Tennessee that November.<sup>[27]</sup>

In 2001, Clark Jones filed a lawsuit against *WND*; the reporters, Charles C. Thompson II and Tony Hays; the Center for Public Integrity, which had underwritten Thompson and Hays' reporting on the article and related ones; and various Tennessee publications and broadcasters whom he accused of repeating the claim, arguing these entities had committed libel and defamation.<sup>[28][29]</sup> The lawsuit was scheduled to go to trial in March 2008;<sup>[30]</sup> but, on February 13, 2008, *WND* announced that a confidential out-of-court settlement had been reached with Jones.<sup>[31]</sup> A settlement statement jointly drafted by all parties in the lawsuit stated that a Freedom of Information Act request showed that the allegations had been false, and that *WND* had misquoted sources.<sup>[31]</sup>

### Anthony C. LoBaido commentary on September 11 attacks (2001)

On September 13, 2001, *WND* published an opinion article by Anthony C. LoBaido regarding the September 11 attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., that had occurred two days earlier. In his column, LoBaido described what he said was the moral depravity of America in general and New York in particular,

asking whether "God (has) raised up Shiite Islam as a sword against America".<sup>[32]</sup> Commentators Virginia Postrel of *Reason* magazine and James Taranto of the *Wall Street Journal* criticized LoBaido and Joseph Farah for the piece and called for columnists Hugh Hewitt and Bill O'Reilly to sever their ties with *WND*. Founder Farah responded with his own column, saying that LoBaido's opinion piece did not reflect the viewpoint of *WND*, and that it, like most other commentary pieces, had not been reviewed before publication.<sup>[33]</sup>

## Application for congressional press credentials (2002)

Seeking credentials to cover the U.S. Congress in 2002, *WND* was opposed by the Standing Committee of Correspondents. This panel of journalists is charged by Congress with administering press credentials. Until 1996, Internet-only publications had been deemed unacceptable.<sup>[34]</sup> *WND* turned to the United States Senate Committee on Rules and Administration for help, arguing that the panel's decision had violated the site's constitutional rights to due process, equal protection, and freedom of the press. Faced "with legal threats and negative publicity, the panel reversed itself, voting 3–2 to award *WND* its credentials".<sup>[35]</sup> Shortly after, the rules were formally adjusted to clarify the participation of online publications.<sup>[36]</sup>

## Barack Obama citizenship conspiracy theories

*WND* has published hundreds of articles promoting "birther" conspiracy theories about President Barack Obama's U.S. citizenship, for which it has gained notoriety.<sup>[14]</sup> It says that Obama is not a natural-born US citizen and thus is not eligible to serve as president.<sup>[39][40][41]</sup> After the 2008 presidential campaign, *WND* began an online petition to have Obama's Hawaiian birth certificate released to the public. The website also unsuccessfully urged Supreme Court justices to hear several lawsuits aiming to release Obama's birth certificate.<sup>[42]</sup> The White House released copies of the president's original long-form birth certificate on April 27, 2011.<sup>[43]</sup> After the long-form birth certificate was released, *WND* continued to promote its conspiracy theory, publishing an article questioning the certificate's authenticity.<sup>[44]</sup>



A 2010 billboard displayed in South Gate, California, questioning the validity of Barack Obama's birth certificate and by extension his citizenship and eligibility to serve as President of the U.S.<sup>[37]</sup> The billboard was part of an advertising campaign by *WorldNetDaily*, whose URL appears on the billboard's bottom right corner.<sup>[38]</sup>

## Ann Coulter speech at Homocon (2010)

In 2010, when Ann Coulter accepted an invitation to attend and speak at GOProud's Homocon 2010 convention, Farah announced the withdrawal of Coulter's name from the list of speakers at the company's 'Taking America Back' conference.<sup>[45]</sup> Coulter responded by saying that speaking engagements do not imply endorsement of the hosting organization.

## Southern Poverty Law Center accusation of *WND* "peddling white nationalism" (2012)

The Southern Poverty Law Center has accused *WND* of "peddling white nationalism," due to its publication of a series of articles on "black mob violence" by writer Colin Flaherty. It accused the website of being a source of "anti-government conspiracy theories, gay-bashing, anti-Muslim propaganda, and End Times prophecy".<sup>[46]</sup>

In a related *Huffington Post* article, Terry Krepel of ConWebWatch.com states *WND* tried to "cash in on Paula Deen's racism".<sup>[47]</sup>

## Advertisement featuring Neil Patrick Harris (2013)

In January 2013, a *WorldNetDaily* article criticized a Super Bowl XLVII advertisement in which Neil Patrick Harris had an eye black with "Feb 3 2013" written on it. The website accused Harris of "mocking Christianity." Quarterback Tim Tebow was known for inscribing Bible verses with eye black to wear during NFL games.<sup>[48]</sup> But, a similar advertisement by Beyoncé for the Super Bowl had not been criticized.<sup>[49]</sup> In a later Twitter post by Harris about the Super Bowl, he used the hashtag "#noagenda".<sup>[50]</sup>

## Russian interference in US politics

On August 7, 2017, WorldNetDaily published "The 8 Dirtiest Scandals of Robert Mueller No One Is Talking About" which was pushed out by Elena Khusyaynova's operation, targeting the Mueller investigation.<sup>[51]</sup>

## Products

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*WND* publishes books under the imprint *WND Books*. The imprint was launched in 2002. *WND's* imprint publishing partner was Christian publishing house Thomas Nelson Publishers (2002–2004).<sup>[52]</sup> Cumberland House Publishing (2004–2007),<sup>[53]</sup> and conservative publisher World Ahead Publishing (2007);<sup>[54]</sup> In 2008, *WND* acquired World Ahead Media.<sup>[55]</sup>

*WND Books* has published books written by politicians and pundits such as Katherine Harris, former secretary of state of Florida; commentator Michael Savage; Jerome Corsi; Tom Tancredo; and Ken Blackwell. In October 2009, *WND Books* published *Muslim Mafia: Inside the Secret Underworld That's Conspiring to Islamize America* by Paul David Gaubatz and Paul Sperry.<sup>[56]</sup> In April 2011, Paul Harris, writing for *The Guardian*, described *WND Books* as "a niche producer of rightwing conspiracy theories, religious books and 'family values' tracts."<sup>[57]</sup>

*WND* also publishes a printed magazine, *Whistleblower*. It operates other companies such as the *G2 Bulletin*, a subscription-only website described as an "intelligence resource" for "insights into geo-political and geo-strategic developments".

The *WND* website also sells survivalist gear.<sup>[14]</sup>

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