

Is Silicon Valley Silencing Conservatives on Social Media? | Newsweek

By Alexander Nazaryan

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Conservatives have long been certain that Silicon Valley despised them, that its cadres of Stanford-trained engineers regarded the right with derision and disgust. In the spring of 2016, they found something that seemed to be proof of that suspicion. Six months before the presidential election, technology news website Gizmodo published a scoop: News curators at Facebook, one former such curator alleged, suppressed stories from right-leaning outlets, in what amounted to a “chilling effect” on conservative media.

In response to the outcry, [Facebook dumped its human editors](#), who had the power to either extend or curtail the reach of any news item. Within days, [the network was overwhelmed](#) by a surge of fake news, precisely the kind that human editors were supposed to filter out. An algorithm might have a difficult time figuring out whether Hillary Clinton had once worked to free Black Panthers charged with murder. But a human editor would have needed perhaps 30 seconds to confirm [that she had not](#)—and that allowing the story to trend would be a public disservice.

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