

New Tucker Carlson Jan. 6 project for Fox embraces conspiracy theories | NPR

By David Folkenflik and Tom Dreisbach

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Where Tucker Carlson goes, Fox News and its viewers follow.

The network's top host is now leading them to an examination of the violent Jan. 6 siege of the U.S. Capitol in a three-part series called "Patriot Purge," which was released this week on the network's right-wing streaming service Fox Nation.

In the series, Carlson strongly suggests that the insurrection was not orchestrated by Trump's fans but by his foes, including violent leftist antifa groups and even the FBI and other national security divisions. He plants the idea that the siege was a "false flag" operation to discredit Trump supporters.

Carlson is promoting the series on his own prime-time show on Fox News — which is the top-rated program in all of cable news — and on the popular *Fox & Friends* morning show.

"These kinds of conspiracy theories about Jan. 6 used to be relegated to weird blogs and known conspiracy theorists like Alex Jones," says Jared Holt, who monitors extremism on social media for the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab.

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