

No, Facebook Does Not Reflect Reality | The New York Times

By Shira Ovide

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Mark Zuckerberg is the world's most powerful unelected person, and it drives me bonkers when he misrepresents what's happening on Facebook.

In an [interview that aired on Tuesday](#), Zuckerberg was asked big and thorny questions about his company: Why are people sometimes cruel to one another on Facebook, and why do [inflammatory, partisan posts get so much attention](#)?

Zuckerberg told "Axios on HBO" that Americans are angry and divided right now, and that's why they act that way on Facebook, too.

Zuckerberg and other Facebook executives consistently say that Facebook [is a mirror on society](#). An online gathering that gives a personal printing press to billions of people will inevitably have all the good and the bad of those people. (My colleague Mike Isaac has [talked about this view before](#).)

It's true but also comically incomplete to say that Facebook reflects reality.

Instead, Facebook presents reality filtered through its own prism, and this affects what people think and do.

[...]

Source: [No, Facebook Does Not Reflect Reality - The New York Times](#)