

News Item

VKontakte vs. Facebook: From Open White Supremacy To Stealth | bellingcat

By Eliza Hutchinson February 14, 2020

In <u>March of 2019</u>, Facebook banned white nationalist and white separatist statements from its platform. White supremacism <u>had been forbidden</u> for some time, but last year's Christchurch massacre seems to have convinced the social network that a more aggresively anti-racist approach was necessary. This ban is not comprehensive, and there are numerous holes in enforcement. This article is about one such hole: the vibrant community of American racists who "<u>hide their power level</u>" just enough to avoid being banned, while subtly pushing their views on friends and family.

These white supremacists are not particularly coy about their tactics. They plot out in the open, on VKontakte (commonly abbreviated as VK), a Facebook-like popular Russian social medial platform that has much looser moderation. Here's Kevin Beair, Exalted Cyclops for the Keystone States chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, explaining how "public outreach" for the racist cause can be done on Facebook:

[...]

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