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## How Technology is Helping Holocaust Deniers Rewrite History

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# How Technology is Helping Holocaust Deniers Rewrite History

By: Michael Raffelson

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## HOW IT STARTED

- The Liberty Lobby was founded in 1955 by William Carto.
- *The Six Million Swindle: Blackmailing the German People for Hard Marks with Fabricated Corpses* was published in 1973.
- Arthur R Butz publishes *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century: The Case Against the Presumed Extermination of European Jewry* in 1976.
- The Institute for Historical Review was founded in 1978 By David McCalden and William Carto.
- The mission statement for the Institute for Historical Review refers to themselves as an independent educational center and publisher that works to promote peace, understanding and justice through greater public awareness of the past, and especially socially-politically relevant aspects of modern history.

## A BRAND NEW CHALLENGE

- A study by the UN found that on moderated or regulated platforms, nearly 10% of posts on Facebook and 15% of posts on Twitter, which discussed the Holocaust, contained denial or distorted content.
- On Telegram, nearly half (49%) of all relevant material featured denial or distorted content.
- The Institute for Strategic Dialogue also found that the Facebook pages and groups have a combined number of followers of 366,068.
- The majority of denial groups on Facebook have Arab or Muslim authors.
- They identified 2,300 pieces of content mentioning holohoax on Reddit, 19,000 pieces of content on Twitter, and 9,500 pieces of content on YouTube, all created between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020.

## WHY NOTHING IS CHANGING

- The snowball effect has allowed people to collaborate and find like-minded people much quicker.
- It seems that no one wants to change.
- A study by the Center to Counter Digital Hate found that five major social media companies, including Facebook and Twitter, took no action to remove 84% of antisemitic posts and Facebook was the worst offender, failing to act on 89% of antisemitic posts.
- The question of free speech and privacy can be drastically different depending on the country.
- Mark Zuckerberg has said, "I've struggled with the tension between standing for free expression and the harm caused by minimizing or denying the horror of the Holocaust".
- The Institute for Strategic Dialogue found that when Youtube changed its policy in 2019 it drastically changed the spread of holocaust denial.

PLATFORM	EXPLICIT HOLOCAUST DENIAL POLICY?	GENERAL HATE POLICY?	EFFECTIVE PRODUCT LEVEL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HOLOCAUST DENIAL?	RESPONSE WITHIN 24 HOURS?	NOTIFICATION OF POLICY REASON FOR ENFORCEMENT?	ACTION TAKEN AGAINST HOLOCAUST DENIAL?	GRADE
Twitch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	B
Twitter	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	C
YouTube	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	C
TikTok	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	C
Roblox	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	C
Facebook (including Instagram)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	D
Discord	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	D
Reddit	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	D
Steam	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	D

Note: In creating this framework for evaluating the efforts of digital social platforms, we weighted enforcement more heavily than policy and explicit policies more heavily than general policies. Additionally, because no platform had affirmative results in every category, we did not award any platform an "A."

## CAPTION

- 2021 Online Antisemitism report card on how effective different social media companies are at combating Holocaust Denial.

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