

Twitter Thread by [opdroid1234](#)



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An interesting development since Twitter censored Trump and his supporters in the US election is the response from governments across the world. Twitter's own actions have made the case that Twitter believes that there is a strong case to be made for censoring tweets in the

public interest. This is a notable departure from the past libertarian stance of free speech that came out of Silicon Valley. Now that the case for censoring in the public interest has been made, I expect an acceleration in calls from governments across the world asking Twitter

to censor tweets and people that help them achieve their governance goals. Now that this Pandora's box is open, it will be interesting to see the domino of actions that come out of it.

Example that illustrates this is Indian lawmakers in a bipartisan manner voicing their concerns about censorship of Trump and asking two lines of questions

- a. If you can censor to uphold law and order in US, why can't you do the same in India
- b. Explain why you aren't a publisher

Panel chairman [Shashi Tharoor](#) is also learnt to have quizzed Twitter over its recent unilateral and permanent ban on former US President [Donald Trump](#) from the social media platform. The panel observed that though social media owed the responsibility to ensure people's safety, [it](#) should explain why it indulged in censorship especially when it often called itself a mere data intermediary. Social media has often used this description to avoid being held to being a publisher which comes with certain legal liabilities.

Article that the above screenshot is taken from

<https://t.co/6v2YXSECfA>

One riposte that I cannot help making here is that Silicon Valley will eventually regret evading paying taxes in foreign countries. Eventually you want to have enough lobbying power and influence in every market that you operate in. Running an operation where you only take from

an economy leaves you with very few legs to stand on when you find yourself in front of foreign politicians. I believe that we are entering a phase where politicians will hold their local markets hostage to extract concessions from tech companies.