Twitter Thread by Glenn Greenwald



Glenn Greenwald
@ggreenwald

Key detail in this @NYMag story on the pro-censorship movement inside NYT by its own employees: NYT tech reporters were angry that the anti-censorship posture of NYT editors would impede their campaign to pressure Silicon Valley to censor more robustly:

https://t.co/EGbfEVuTSZ



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pile of crap it's just dumped. Should JB be replaced?"); and, eventually, at the *Times* itself. Employees of color felt unheard — "We love this institution, even though sometimes it feels like it doesn't love us back" — while tech reporters worried the *Times*' defense of the column, in the name of an open consideration of a wide range of opinion, was making the paper look like the companies its reporting was taking to task: "It is frustrating to hear some of the same excuses (we're just a platform for ideas!) that our journalists and columnists have criticized tech CEOs for making."

The role that mainstream **journalists** have played, of all people, in taking the lead to demand that Silicon Valley oligarchs more aggressively control and censor the internet -- the greatest threat to a free and open internet after mass surveillance -- cannot be overstated.

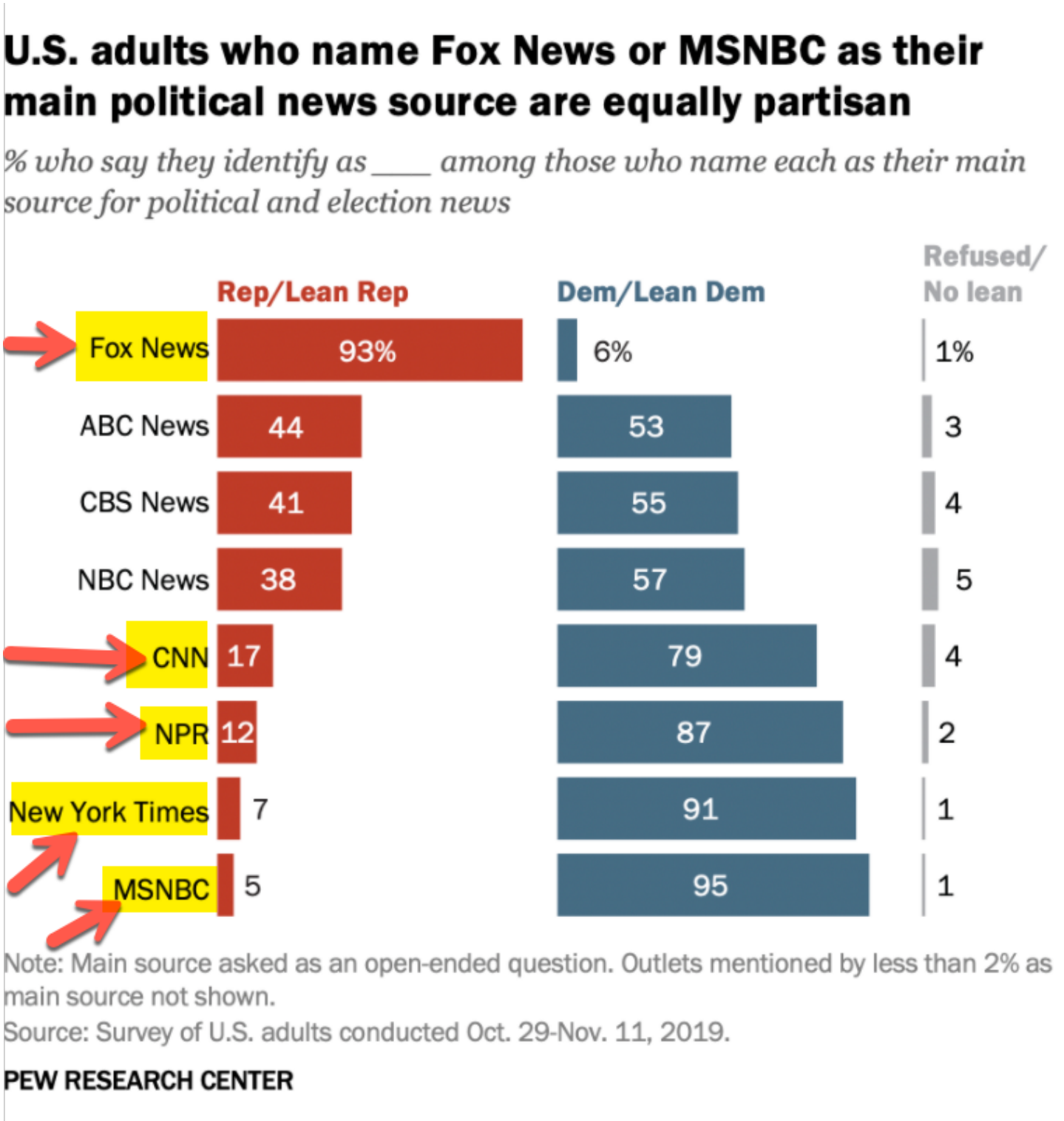
Just ponder the warped mentality of someone who chooses journalism as a career, then devotes themselves to trying to silence the ability of others to be heard by converting themselves into petulant tattletales who demand that Facebook, Twitter & Google censor dissenting voices.

This is absolutely the key fact to understand about media trends over the last 4 years: most corporate & "independent" outlets explicitly aligned themselves with one political faction -- out of both conviction and profit -- and it contaminated everything, principally the "news."

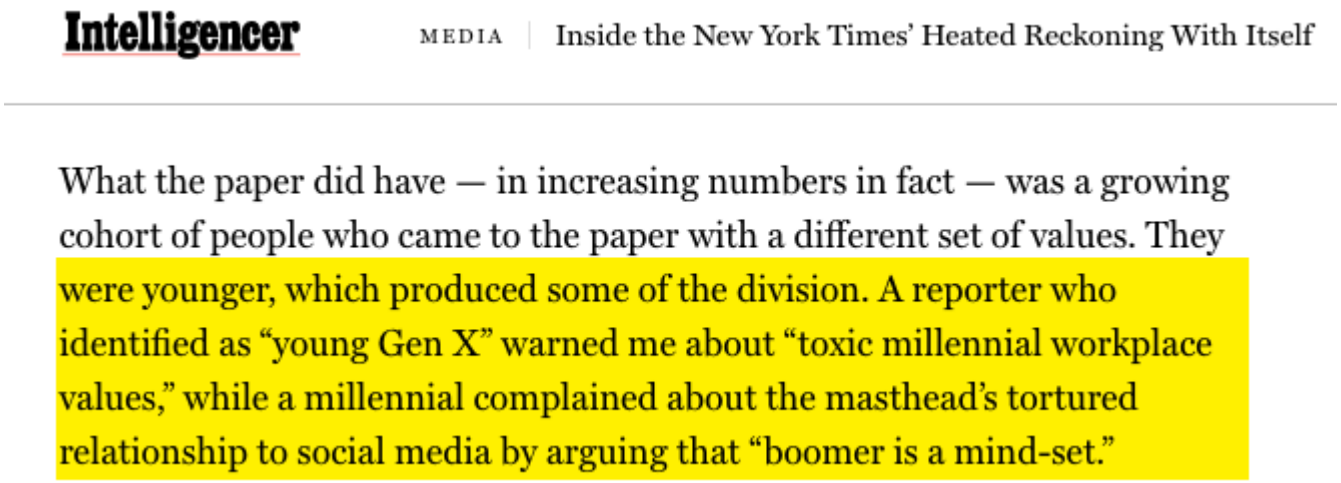
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The dustup laid bare a divide that had become increasingly tricky for the *Times*: a large portion of the paper's audience, a number of its employees, and the president himself saw it as aligned with the #resistance. This demarcation horrified the Old Guard, but it seemed to make for good business. "The truth can change how we see the world," the *Times* declared in an advertisement broadcast at last year's Academy Awards, positioning itself as a bulwark in an era of misinformation.

The stat that tells it all: NYT is now every bit as partisan and ideologically insular as Fox and MSNBC, talking only to hard-core Democrats, with CNN and NPR very close behind, leaving these institutions financially dependent on never reporting things that anger their audience:



Isn't this the exact generational divide over censorship and related issues at the NYT and other papers that @BariWeiss infamously noted, for which she was roundly accused of lying by her former colleagues? Now, they're the ones anonymously telling the NY Mag that this is true:



Note how these post-2016 efforts to diversify the NYT newsroom when they realized they were completely out of touch have no mention of class. Were these new reporters also from wealthy & professional backgrounds with Ivy League or similar pedigrees? Is NYT now more in touch??



A key fact about the national media, which efforts at maximizing diversity -- at least the ones with which I'm familiar -- are not geared toward rectifying. Until it is, the "out-of-touch" problem will never be improved:

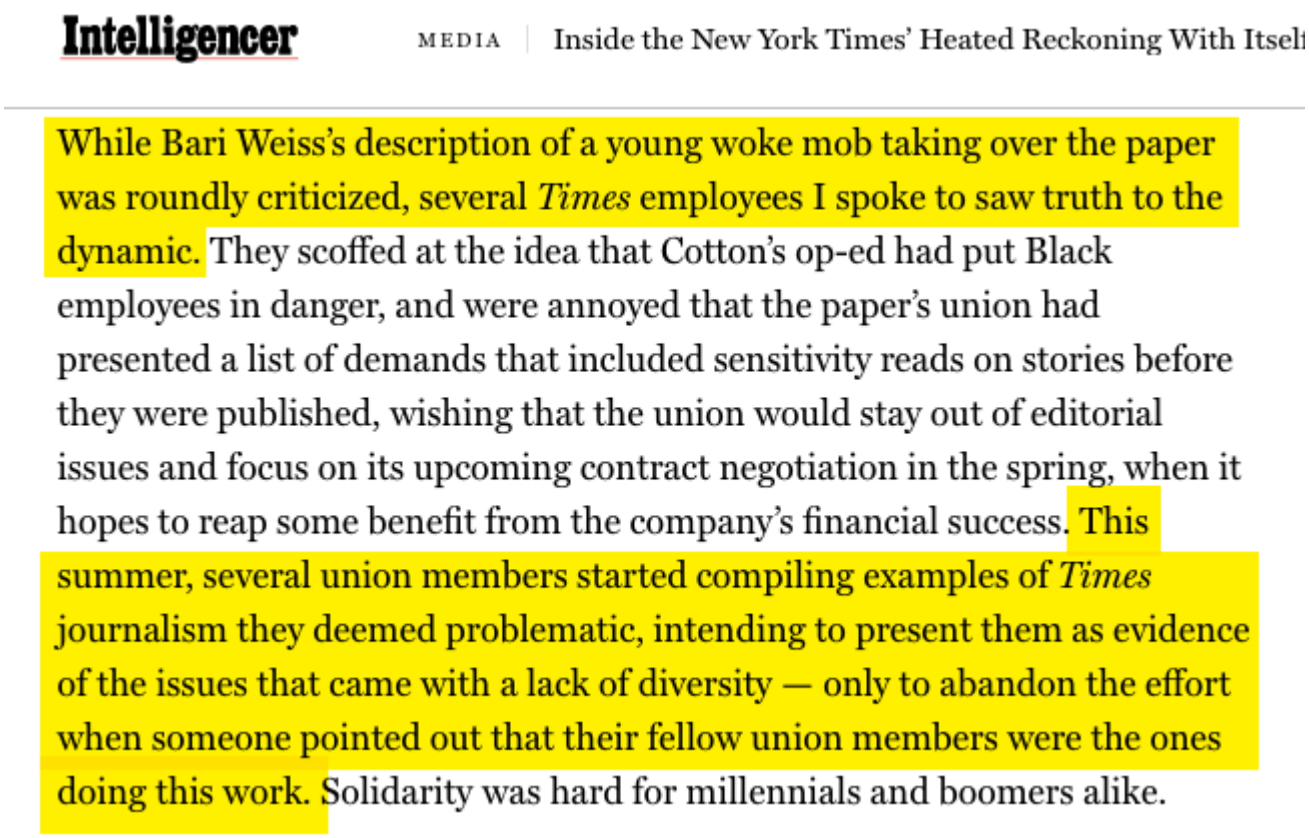
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> The class divide has never been so apparent in media. Many journalists grew up rich, went to $20k a year prep schools, are obsessed with fights over vocabulary, symbols, fringe boogeymen -- ignore crumbling public schools, unsafe streets, rampant poverty as secondary concerns.
>
> — Lee Fang (@lhfang) October 12, 2020

"It is difficult to think of many businesses that have benefited more from Donald Trump's presidency — aside from the Trump-family empire — than the Times."

True - only competitors are MSNBC and @ProjectLincoln.

Huh - you don't say? Too bad none of them were brave enough to speak up when she was being hung out to dry for saying what everyone knows is true: huge number of newsroom employees abuse HR and union processes to try to censor & control journalism. They say it explicitly:



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While Bari Weiss's description of a young woke mob taking over the paper was roundly criticized, several *Times* employees I spoke to saw truth to the dynamic. They scoffed at the idea that Cotton's op-ed had put Black employees in danger, and were annoyed that the paper's union had presented a list of demands that included sensitivity reads on stories before they were published, wishing that the union would stay out of editorial issues and focus on its upcoming contract negotiation in the spring, when it hopes to reap some benefit from the company's financial success. This summer, several union members started compiling examples of *Times* journalism they deemed problematic, intending to present them as evidence of the issues that came with a lack of diversity — only to abandon the effort when someone pointed out that their fellow union members were the ones doing this work. Solidarity was hard for millennials and boomers alike.

Anyway, definitely read the NY Mag article. Wittingly or otherwise, it reveals the internal fights plaguing not just most newsrooms like the NYT but political groups all over the country about what can and cannot be said, for what reasons and by whom:

https://t.co/EGbfEVuTSZ