

Elon Musk's Twitter Files Dump

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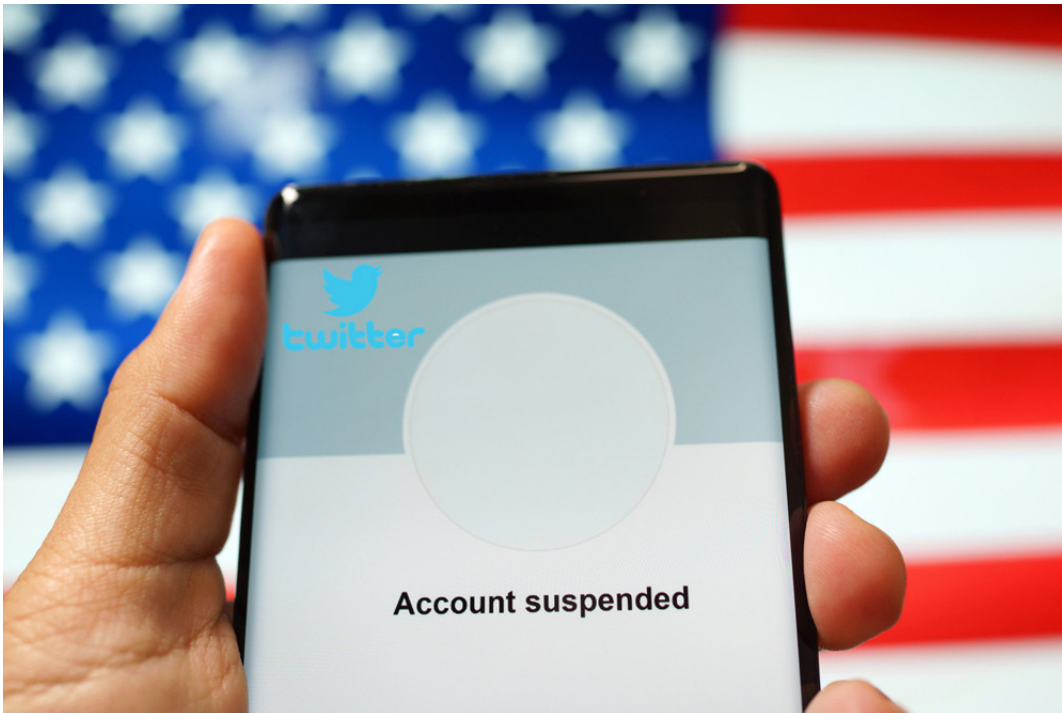
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by [Peter Schweizer](#)



- It was not "Russian disinformation." Nor was it "unsafe." The executives running Twitter in the 20 days before the 2020 presidential election clearly knew that, and tried to find other justifications for what amounted to raw censorship.
- Twitter's bias in censoring or banning conservative accounts for "hate speech" while happily servicing accounts for Iran's "Supreme Leader" and the Taliban is a running joke. In a series of secretly recorded interviews with Twitter employees, Project Veritas had already confirmed that "shadow-banning," manipulating the number of followers shown by certain accounts, and selectively "de-boosting" certain tweets in its algorithms was a well-established, standard manipulation of the platform's stated purpose: "We serve the public conversation. That's why it matters to us that people have a free and safe space to talk."
- Kudos to Khanna for his lonely but principled stand for free speech. Taibbi also noted in his thread that Khanna was the *only* Democratic official to do so.
- China's enticements to the Biden family are but one example of this campaign. We learned through this research how insidious *and effective* the Chinese government has been at co-opting not just the families of senior elected officials, but captains of industry, financial behemoths, and the wealthiest American philanthropists and educational institutions.
- The Biden story also showed the ingenuity of corrupt politicians who essentially "outsource" their corruption to family members rather than risk a possible paper trail leading back to themselves. The Bidens, even more than Bill and Hillary Clinton before them, were a family influence business.
- We have all learned about other stories of political interference and foot-dragging within the FBI. The public is right to wonder whether federal prosecutors are as serious about pursuing this case as Twitter's Democratic partisans were in squelching it.
- Further, President Biden's Attorney General, Merrick Garland, continues to task the FBI with investigating the January 6, 2021 riots as a deep conspiracy, while simultaneously ignoring what certainly appear to have been well-organized efforts by Antifa to foment violence during the 2020 George Floyd riots, and violence done by pro-abortion organizations after someone on Twitter publicized the home addresses of Supreme Court justices.
- For more than two critical weeks, under secret pressure from the Biden campaign and Democrats who were desperate to bury a devastating story that implicated their presidential candidate in his son's corruption by Chinese intelligence-connected businessmen. The *Post's* story was factually accurate, legitimately reported, and was (belatedly) authenticated by other news outlets. In short, there was no reason to do what Twitter, Roth, and Gadde did, other than pleasing a political party with whom they agreed.



The *New York Post* story on Hunter Biden's laptop was no "hack." It was not "Russian disinformation." Nor was it "unsafe." The executives running Twitter in the 20 days before the 2020 presidential election clearly knew that, and tried to find other justifications for what amounted to raw censorship.

Elon Musk's release of internal Twitter correspondence around the censoring of the *New York Post*'s blockbuster "Hunter Biden laptop" [story](#) merely confirms what most knew already -- that Twitter under Jack Dorsey and Parag Agrawal was staffed with Democratic Party partisans who censored information they thought would damage their cause.

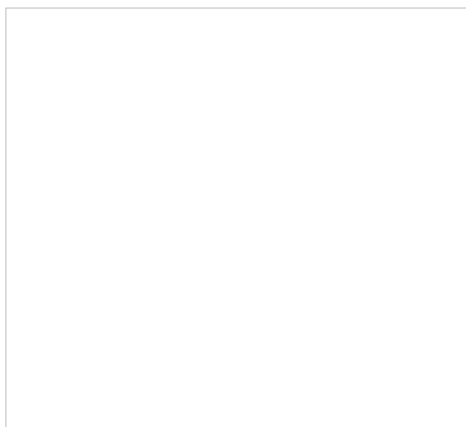
In a [Tweet thread](#) on Dec. 2, journalist Matt Taibbi exposes the smoking gun -- the frantic attempts to claim without evidence that any reference to the *NY Post*'s story had to be banned from the platform because it might have come from "hacked materials." This, we can see now, was never seriously believed, even inside Twitter, as the email exchanges make clear.

The *Post* story was no "hack." It was not "Russian disinformation." Nor was it "unsafe." The executives running Twitter in the 20 days before the 2020 presidential election clearly knew that, and tried to find other justifications for what amounted to raw censorship.

With perhaps one hopeful exception, though, there is nothing new about any of this. Twitter's bias in censoring or banning conservative accounts for "hate speech" while happily servicing accounts for Iran's "Supreme Leader" and the Taliban is a running joke. In a series of secretly recorded interviews with Twitter employees, Project Veritas had already [confirmed](#) that "shadow-banning," manipulating the number of followers shown by certain accounts, and selectively "de-boosting" certain tweets in its algorithms was a well-established, standard manipulation of the platform's stated [purpose](#): "We serve the public conversation. That's why it matters to us that people have a free and safe space to talk."

Still, Taibbi's disclosures are the paper trail proving these policies were discussed and enforced at the highest levels of the company prior to Musk's purchase. Indeed, the unfairness of these policies was apparently the very reason Musk moved to buy Twitter for \$44 billion. Musk has been promising to make these disclosures public since taking over the company, and smartly gave them to Taibbi to vet before doing so.

The "one small exception" was the quiet effort documented in the release by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA), a very progressive Democrat whose district includes most of Silicon Valley, to appeal to Twitter's then head of legal, policy, and trust, Vijaya Gadde, to respect the principle of the First Amendment. In an email exchange, Khanna gave Gadde a robust defense of free speech (and some sound political advice), all of which fell on her deaf ears. Kudos to Khanna for his lonely but principled stand for free speech. Taibbi also [noted](#) in his thread that Khanna was the *only* Democratic official to do so.



The *Post*'s story, while clearly intended as an "October surprise," still mattered because it substantiated and corroborated earlier reporting done on Hunter Biden's business deals during the time his father served as vice president under President Barack Obama. I provided some of that earlier reporting in two books, *Secret Empires* in 2018 and more details in *Profiles in Corruption* in 2020. Both books documented through public records Hunter Biden's dealings with foreign interests connected to Chinese intelligence through his company, Rosemont Seneca BHT, and his time serving without any qualifications on the board of a shady Ukrainian oil-and-gas firm called Burisma.

The researchers at the Government Accountability Institute (GAI) found the paperwork on these deals. We did not, until later, have emails from or sent to Hunter Biden that discussed these facts. We commend the reporting and research team at the *New York Post* for obtaining this information, performing the forensic examinations necessary to determine its authenticity, and publish the truth.

Of all the corruption stories I have investigated through the years, the web of the Biden family's corruption has been the widest and most complex. Following the money on this story has led me to Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Costa Rica, Russia, and most significantly, to Communist China. The Biden family has traded on Joe's influence, with "the Big Guy's" knowledge, in these places and others.

China's enticements to the Biden family, however, are but one example of this campaign. We learned through this research how insidious *and effective* the Chinese government has been at co-opting not just the families of senior elected officials, but captains of industry, financial behemoths, and the wealthiest American philanthropists and educational institutions. It raised

my awareness of how strategic China has been with these kinds of temptations. GAI is continuing to look at how China has corrupted and undermined America in ways both obvious and subtle. Readers can expect to hear more from GAI on this subject in the future.

The Biden story also showed the ingenuity of corrupt politicians who essentially "outsource" their corruption to family members rather than risk a possible paper trail leading back to themselves. The Bidens, even more than Bill and Hillary Clinton before them, were a family influence business. The *Post's* reporting on those schemes -- in the participants' own words -- was gratifying to those of us who have covered this story since 2017.

But there are still more threads here. When the *Post's* story first broke, I recall being relieved that the FBI had secured the original computer and its external hard drive belonging to Hunter Biden. The bureau obtained them through a subpoena in January 2020, months before Rudy Giuliani gave a copy of a copy made by the computer shop owner just before he handed both to the FBI.

However, the FBI's Hunter Biden investigation, which is based on information obtained from the laptop and from other sources, still drags on nearly *three years later*. In the intervening time, we have all learned about other stories of political interference and foot-dragging within the FBI. The public is right to wonder whether federal prosecutors are as serious about pursuing this case as Twitter's Democratic partisans were in squelching it.

Further, President Biden's Attorney General, Merrick Garland, continues to task the FBI with investigating the January 6, 2021 riots as a deep conspiracy, while simultaneously ignoring what certainly appear to have been well-organized efforts by Antifa to foment violence during the 2020 George Floyd riots, and violence done by pro-abortion organizations after someone on Twitter publicized the home addresses of Supreme Court justices, leading to one attempt on Justice Kavanaugh's life and the fire-bombing or vandalism of several pro-life pregnancy centers.

As an investigative journalist focused on government corruption, I try to stay in my lane. Yet, the impulses we see documented in Taibbi's thread by Twitter's most senior executives have a familiar ring. These are people, slightly removed from the dirty details, who are worried *not* about "serving the public conversation," as their corporate motto would have it, but ingratiating themselves with a political party and shielding its candidates from criticism. Principle or devotion to free speech abandoned them long ago, to be replaced by the arrogance of dictating what is good for the rest of us to read or not to read.

Yoel Roth resigned as Twitter's head of trust and safety a few weeks after Musk took control of the company. Back in 2020, Roth was instrumental in enforcing Twitter's ban on the *Post's* original story. In a recent podcast, Roth [described](#) the mood at that time this way: "We didn't know what to believe, we didn't know what was true, there was smoke." He explained that the story "set off every single one of my finely tuned APT28 'hack and leak campaign' alarm bells." APT28 is another name for the Russian cybercrime group also called "Fancy Bear," which has engaged in disinformation efforts in the past.

Even now, Roth still tries to have it both ways. In the same answer I just quoted from, he also claimed, "ultimately for me, [the story] didn't reach a place where I was comfortable removing this content from Twitter."

But remove it he did, and for more than two critical weeks, under secret pressure from the Biden campaign and Democrats who were desperate to bury a devastating story that implicated their presidential candidate in his son's corruption by Chinese intelligence-connected businessmen. The *Post's* story was factually accurate, legitimately reported, and was (belatedly) authenticated by other news outlets. In short, there was no reason to do what Twitter, Roth, and Gadde did, other than pleasing a political party with whom they agreed.

Peter Schweizer, President of the Governmental Accountability Institute, is a Gatestone Institute Distinguished Senior Fellow and author of the newbook, [Red Handed: How American Elites are Helping China Win](#).

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- [Julie Kelly: Now What?...](#)
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- [WaPo Dusts Off Old Trick to Smear Matt Taibbi, Bari Weiss...](#)
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- [Twitter Employees Painted Trump As 'Terrorist' Leader, 'American Patriots' As Rioters To Justify Ban...](#)
- [UPenn Deletes Twitter Exec Yoel Roth's PhD Dissertation Arguing Minors Should Have Access To Sex Apps...](#)
- [Disgraced Twitter Exec Yoel Roth Had 'Secret Dirty Account'...](#)

Ex-Twitter censor Yoel Roth and his boyfriend are forced to FLEE their \$1.1m home after his thesis - which supports letting children use gay hook-up app Grindr - is shared by Elon Musk

- Twitter's former head of trust and safety received a torrent of threats
- Elon Musk implied in tweets that Roth had advocated for child sexualization
- He shared a snip from Roth's PhD thesis, which mentioned under-18s accessing gay hook-up app Grindr
- Roth wrote that, as underage youngsters use the app anyway, an age-appropriate version should be created to offer help to LGBT youth

By [James Gordon](#)

Twitter's former censor has been forced to flee the \$1.1m Bay Area mansion he shares with his boyfriend after [Elon Musk](#) shared part of his thesis which suggested letting children access gay hook-up app Grindr.

Yoel Roth, 34, and his partner Nicholas Madsen, 44, moved out of their two-bed, two-bath property in El Cerrito over fears for their safety, after receiving a torrent of threats, the Washington Post reported.

Musk tweeted: 'Looks like Yoel is in favor of letting children being able to access adult internet services in his PhD thesis.'

He also shared a screenshot of part of the document.



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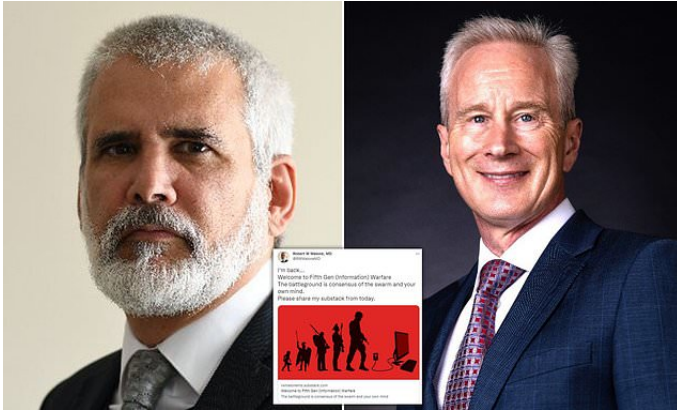
Twitter's former head of trust and safety, Yoel Roth, and his boyfriend have been forced from their home following a torrent of threats and harassment

Roth's thesis, written in 2016 while he was at the University of Pennsylvania, included the claim that many under-18s access gay hook-up app Grindr, despite being too young to do so.

He then suggested that an age-appropriate version of the app be created, to offer support to LGBT youth.

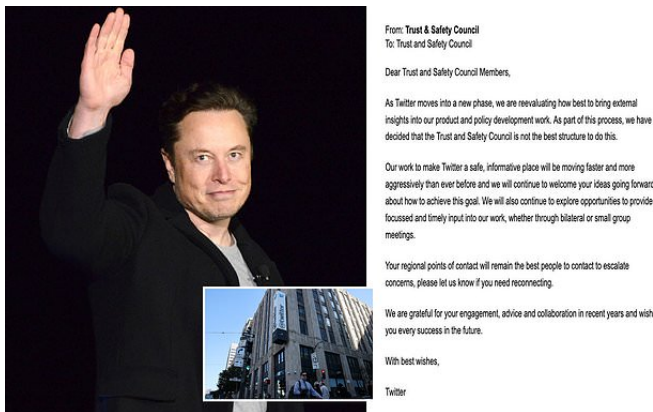
During his time at Twitter, [Roth had huge sway in deciding which posts needed to be removed](#) and accounts suspended.

TRENDING



Twitter reinstates Dr Robert Malone and Dr Peter McCullough accounts

8.6k viewing now



Twitter dissolves Trust and Safety Council

3.5k viewing now



Elon Musk loses world's richest person title to LVMH's Bernard Arnault

32k viewing now

He also gleefully joked about upcoming meetings with FBI officials in the recently-released Twitter files.

The former trust and safety manager has become emblematic of what free-speech fans say were the problems with Twitter censoring posts that went against a liberal viewpoint.

News of his apparent dealings with the FBI sparked claims the social media network was in bed with the federal government, with the initial tranche of files including requests from the Democrat party to remove unflattering tweets about Hunter Biden.



Elon Musk implied in tweets that Yoel Roth, who is gay, had advocated for child sexualization



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Musk implied in more than one tweet that Roth had a permissive view of pedophilia



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Musk's claims against Roth come just a few weeks after Musk publicly defended Roth from accusations of left-wing bias based on some of his older tweets

Snippets of his communications have been posted in recent days by conservative journalists Matt Taibbi and Bari Weiss as part of what Musk has termed the 'Twitter Files'.

Following Musk's tweets, his followers also directed their anger at the professors who reviewed the dissertation, reports [The Washington Post](#).

Roth was a longtime member of Twitter's policy team and was one of the few top executives to remain with the platform in the [highly chaotic first weeks](#) after Musk's \$44 billion takeover was approved, which saw around 75 per cent of Twitter staffers fired.

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Do YOU support Elon Musk's changes at Twitter? Join the debate in the comments

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Musk's turning on Roth appears to have been sudden. Roth appeared in a call alongside Musk to reassure advertisers shortly after the billionaire's takeover. As recently as late October, Musk tweeted: 'I want to be clear that I support Yoel. My sense is that he has high integrity, and we are all entitled to out political beliefs.'

Yoel, similarly, was respectful towards his former boss, and even defended him after his departure from Twitter.

'I think one of things that is tricky about Elon, in particular, is that people really want him to be the villain of the story, and they want him to be unequivocally wrong and bad, and everything he says is duplicitous. I have to say that wasn't my experience with him.'



Yoel Roth, 34, seen left in both photos, together with his 44-year-old boyfriend Nicholas Madsen have been forced to leave their family home

On Monday night, Twitter also dissolved its Trust and Safety Council, a group of volunteers including civil rights leaders, advocates, and academics from around the world who had been advising the company on ways to reduce hate speech, child exploitation, and other problems on the social media platform.

The council had been scheduled to meet with Twitter representatives this evening but Twitter [informed the group via email that it was disbanding](#) it shortly before the meeting was to take place, according to multiple members.

The council members spoke on condition of anonymity due to fears of retaliation. The email said Twitter was 'reevaluating how best to bring external insights' and the council is 'not the best structure to do this.'

'Our work to make Twitter a safe, informative place will be moving faster and more aggressively than ever before and we will continue to welcome your ideas going forward about how to achieve this goal,' said the email, which was signed 'Twitter.'