

Taibbi: How An Obama Executive Order Led To The Censorship Industrial Complex

[Authored by Ian Schwartz via RealClearPolitics,](#)

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So it wasn't just conservatives, it was also Bernie Sanders. The date on that email was February 24th, 2020. Three days after the Washington Post ran a devastating feature titled Bernie Sanders briefed by US officials that Russia is trying to help his presidential campaign.

This was an extremely impactful story that opened the floodgates on a conspiracy theory that Sanders was the recipient of Russian help. It claimed bots helping Bernie online were part of, quote, Russia's broader interest in sowing division in the United States and uncertainty about the validity of American elections. In response to this odd sequel of claims about Russian bots aiding Donald Trump, the company's head of trust and safety, Yul Roth, gave an unflattering description of GEC's methods.

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It was a way to accuse someone who hasn't done anything wrong of guilt by ideological association. And I'll just wrap up, I've gone over my time, but they weren't looking for misinformation and disinformation, they were looking for orthodoxy and unorthodoxy, obedience and disobedience. The idea behind GEC in particular was finding a way to propagandize American citizens and encourage acceptance of official policy the way we've always done to foreign populations.

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