



TikTok bans Greenwald's Show

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Glenn Greenwald: All right. So it's kind of ironic when you report something and then very shortly after that, you have a personal experience that in many ways verifies or vindicates the thing that you reported. So we did a segment last week knowing that we know that many of you have become convinced that TikTok is this weapon of the Chinese Communist Party that they use to get at the minds of American youth, in particular, that they're propagandising them, they're turning them against the country, they're filling their head with all kinds of crazy ideas. And we tried to show you that that is a false narrative. TikTok is run by a Singaporean who was born in Singapore. He's a capitalist. He went to the London School of Economics. He then went to Harvard Business School. He then worked for Goldman Sachs. They have American management, American shareholders. And the United States has become one of their most lucrative markets because of how many millions of Americans choose to use TikTok. And they don't want to be banned from the United States. They're willing to do anything to stay here. And one of the things they've been increasingly doing is saying to the United States government, Look, we don't care about political speech. If you want to tell us what political speech you find damaging or dangerous, just tell us and we'll censor it. Remember, they censored the bin Laden letter once it went viral. Why would they censor the bin Laden letter, which explains to Americans or tries to convince Americans that 9/11 was the fault of the US government for interfering in that region, involving that region, if they were interested in being divisive and dividing the American people against their own government. They would love the bin Laden letter. They would love the bin Laden letter viralised. They wouldn't censor it. And yet they did censor it.

And this first came up for us because we had a video in December of 2022, so a little bit more than a year ago that was highly critical of President Zelensky and the Ukraine war and the narrative from the United States. There you see it on the screen: Erasing Inconvenient

Truths. And this video started to go rather viral. And obviously the Chinese Communist Party wouldn't want us stop this. It was a video critical of US foreign policy. That's supposedly what the Chinese Communist Party wants. They want people hearing content like what we produce that is critical of the US government, the US security state. And yet we got a notice. There you see it on the screen: Video removed. This video violates our community guidelines. It was a segment like the one I just did about the lives around the war in Ukraine. There you see the video details: Ukraine President Zelensky is a corrupt, authoritarian oligarch, despite what Western media is trying to tell you. And the reason cited was "integrity and authenticity". "Trust forms the foundation of our community. We do not allow activities that undermine the integrity of our platform or the authenticity of our users". We got an account warning for that and it said: "Your account is at high risk of being restricted based on your violation history. The next withdrawal could result in being prevented from accessing some features".

Now, we thought it was very strange since this was actually the first time this has ever happened. And we appealed this removal and we actually won. They looked at it, they reinstated it, and they removed this warning from our permanent record. The only other time we've had any issue with TikTok was with this video, in June of 2023. Where we reported on how the CIA had flown to Brazil as part of the 2022 election, basically, according to the US, to warn the Brazilians not to use the sort of election fraud claims that Trump had used and that Bolsonaro was threatening to use if he lost. But it was the CIA flying to Brazil in the middle of the Brazilian election to basically intervene and say, this thing that Bolsonaro is starting to do, we're not going to accept it. And the reporting on this was very reliable. It was from mainstream outlets. And we did a video and actually, you see we put Portuguese subtitles on the screen so that Brazilians could hear it as well. This is probably our most viral video on TikTok ever. Certainly one of them, it really went viral. And we got the same kind of notice: Video removed. The video violates our community guidelines. And you see: The CIA's Benevolent Interference in Brazil. And the same rationale side.

And now let me ask you this question. If the Chinese Communist Party were censoring TikTok and controlling its content, why would the Chinese government be angry that we published a video on CIA involvement in Brazil? Wouldn't that be something they would want? If this narrative is true, that they're using TikTok to turn the government, the people of the United States against their own government, they would love our show. Our show is overwhelmingly a critique of the US government and the US security state and US foreign policy. Why would TikTok be targeting our show if it were run by the Chinese Communist Party? And removing videos critical of US foreign policy. That makes no sense whatsoever. It would only make sense – the only people angry by these kinds of videos from our show would be the US security state. The thing we criticise. The entity that has previously tried to think of ways to prosecute me when I went around the world reporting on all their secret documents as part of the Snowden reporting. When I was at The Intercept, where we often published secret documents about their drone program and their FBI spying programs. My

good friends in the US security state, those are the people who would want our content censored and that is exactly who is commandeering the TikTok content moderation. This time we did appeal. And it did not get reinstated. This video was removed. We had this strike against us, but this is the only strike that we ever knew about. This week, our social media manager went to access TikTok to post and she got this notice: Your account was permanently banned due to multiple violations of our community guidelines. Permanently banned. Our account was permanently banned, our System Update account. The only thing we use this account for is to post clips of this show. When we appealed it or asked for some kind of explanation, they sent this email: "Thank you for contacting TikTok. We understand how important your account is to you. After further review, your account will remain permanently banned due to a violation of our integrity and authenticity policy. Please note that our community guidelines apply to both public and private videos". And that was it. We could not get any kind of an answer on why it is that our account is banned. But we know that it's permanently banned; we can't get an answer why.

I hope this forever debunks this notion, that the people controlling the censorship decisions of TikTok are the Chinese Communist Party. They have turned over, TikTok has, these decisions to the US security state, just like the US security state influences and controls the censorship decisions of Facebook and Google and in the pre Musk era of Twitter. Because they have used this threat to ban TikTok as a way to say the only way we're going to let you stay is if you censor the things we want. This also shows, by the way, imagine if we had this show and there was no Rumble, no platform that said to us we're going to guarantee the right of free speech, and we were dependent on big tech, on Google's YouTube, on Instagram, owned by Facebook, on TikTok. Do you see what a stranglehold there is on free speech in the West? Do you see this?

Say what you want about our show and my views, but our reporting is extremely fact based. I've been doing this for 20 years now. I've won every journalism award that the West has to offer. There's no journalist in the United States that has won as many. Maybe there are some who has won as many, but none who have won more. And our show, if you watch it, you know that we are very careful to adhere to facts, usually facts that are easily demonstrable in the public record. We don't spread disinformation. We don't rely on conspiracy theories. This is purely content based. Now, the last two months of our show have been overwhelmingly dedicated to a critique of the US funding of the war in Israel and the war in Israel itself. I don't know if that's a factor. But I know that our show in general is a critique of the US foreign policy state and of the censorship regime. We also did criticise TikTok as well. So who knows why? But look at how arbitrary and capricious this is. If your livelihood or your ability to be heard rest on big tech, you're just in the palm of their hands. They can squeeze it any time. It's so Kafkaesque. They don't even give you a reason. They give you no explanation at all, let alone an opportunity to appeal or be heard. They just send you a form letter saying, No, you're permanently banned and that's going to rain that way forever. This is why platforms like Rumble are so important. Because if we had to rely on this side, imagine

how nervous we would have to be about what YouTube allows, what Google will say we can say, what we can't say. Every time you get a strike against you on a video, you're petrified that the next one might result in the destruction of your show, your destruction of your ability to be heard. The range of views they allowed was extremely narrow. And that's why I think this fight for free speech is the most important.

Thanks for watching this clip from System Update, our live show that airs every Monday through Friday at 7 p.m. Eastern exclusively on Rumble. You can catch the full nightly shows live or view the backlog of episodes for free on our Rumble page. You can also find full episodes the morning after they air across all major podcasting platforms, including Spotify and Apple. All the information you need is linked below. We hope to see you there.

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