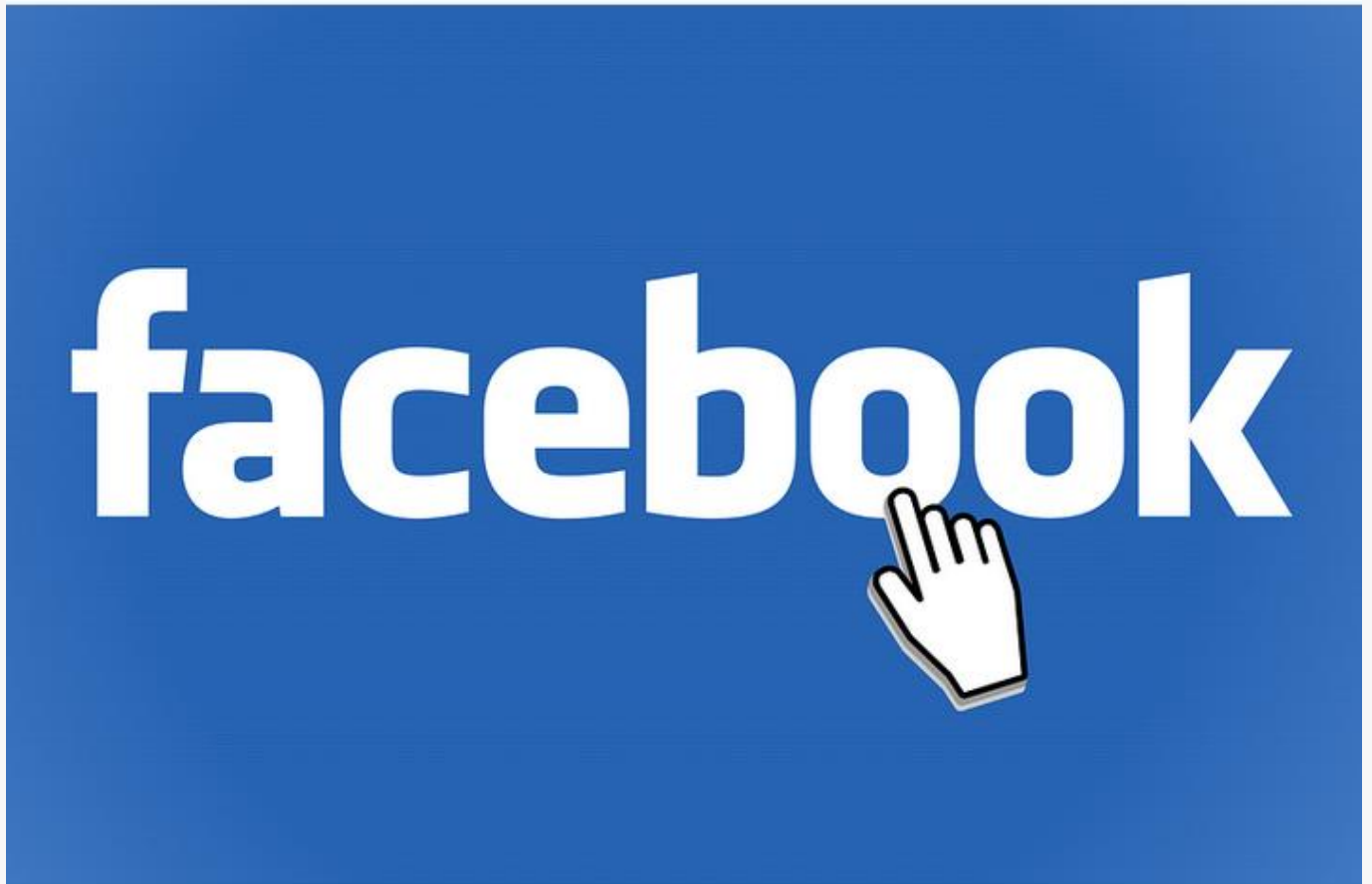


# Facebook Purges More than 800 Political Pages, Some with Millions of Followers, Just Ahead of the Midterm Elections

written by GEG | October 12, 2018



Facebook is again being called out for purging political accounts on the left and the right that challenge mainstream media and establishment political content, just in time for the 2018 midterm elections. The pro-NATO think tank Atlantic Council, which counts warmongers Henry Kissinger and Michael Chertoff as board members, announced it was joining Facebook as a *"fact-checking"* partner, serving as its *"eyes and ears"*.

Facebook is again being called out for purging political accounts too far left and right of center, after it removed more than 800 pages just in time for the 2018 midterm elections. Some had millions of followers.

Many of the affected pages were supposedly sharing links between groups using fake accounts, which then clicked *"Like"* on the posts, artificially upping their engagement numbers. This *"inauthentic behavior"* violates Facebook's anti-spam policies and goes against *"what people expect"* from Facebook, the company **said**.

While some of the deleted pages have been known to run content of questionable credibility at times, Facebook did not expressly accuse them of spreading *"fake news"* –

or actually provide a list of names or examples of postings at all. However, under the platform's new policies, simply spreading "news" is frowned upon: it has **recently** tweaked its algorithm to prevent users' feeds from being dominated by news stories.

Twitter was in an uproar as many voices on the left and right alike saw their pages removed without cause.

On the Left, AntiMedia, with its 2.1 million followers, and the Free Thought Project with 3.1, were among the victims. AntiMedia's Twitter account was suspended shortly after they posted about their removal from Facebook.

Right Wing News (more than 3.1 million followers) and Nation In Distress (also over 3mn followers) were some of the conservative pages that got the axe.

Among those dragged under in the 'inauthentic behavior' purge is RT America correspondent Rachel Blevins, who says she took years to build up a following by posting her reports and articles – though RT content is probably not very popular with Facebook staff these days.

In August, the aggressively pro-NATO think tank Atlantic Council announced it was joining Facebook as a "*fact-checking*" partner. A press statement from the social media platform gushed that the think tank, which boasts such esteemed warmongers as Henry Kissinger and Michael Chertoff on its board, would serve as the "*eyes and ears*" of Facebook, so the platform could play a "*positive role*" in ensuring democracy was practiced correctly in the future.

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