

The background features a vibrant gradient from purple to pink to orange. It is decorated with various abstract geometric elements: two small 3D pyramids in the top left, a large 3D pyramid with a yellow orbital ring on the right, and several smaller circles and lines scattered throughout. The main title is centered in large, bold, white capital letters.

EC ENGR 88S: THE INTERNET AND FREE SPEECH

Week 1

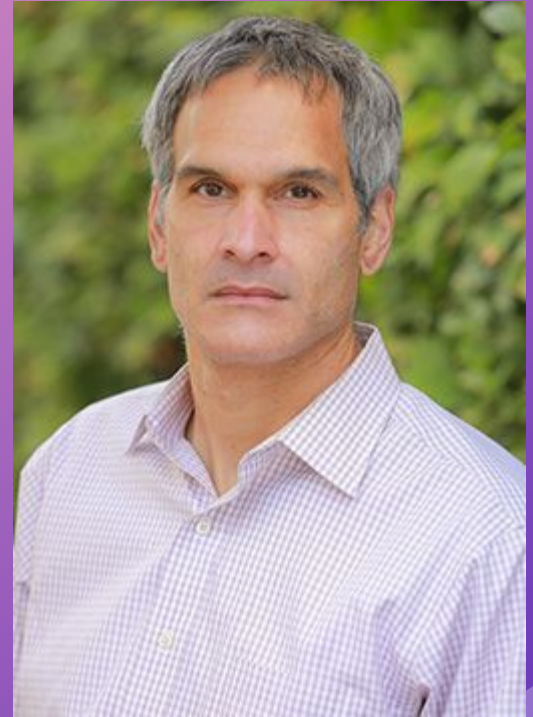
About Me

I am a fourth year bioengineering undergrad at UCLA.



Dr. Villaseñor

- Director for the UCLA Institute of Technology, Law, and Policy
- Professor of Electrical Engineering, Law, Public Policy, and Management
- Previously with NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- B.S. University of Virginia, 1985
- M.S. Stanford University, 1986
- Ph.D. Stanford University, 1989



So is this course political?

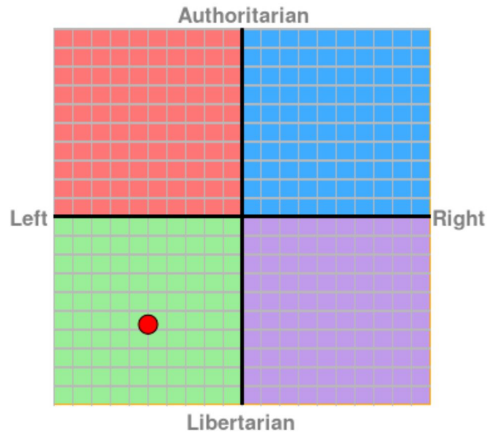


So is this course political?

Your Political Compass

Economic Left/Right: -5.0

Social Libertarian/Authoritarian: -5.74



Yes. And you will not be excluded, no matter your social group or political opinion.

As an instructor, I will very clearly distinguish my opinion from fact/course content.

It is everyone's job to ensure others have a right to speak.

A Few Housekeeping Notes

- Join the course Slack for communications and assignments (link in announcements on BruinLearn)
 - Enable notifications
- Notes about masking + Zoom
- Attendance policies

The Ground Rules for Discussions in ECE 88S

The Ground Rules for Discussions in our course

**Listen respectfully,
without interrupting**

**Allow everyone a
chance to speak.**

Listen actively

Keep both ears open to
understanding others' views

**Criticize ideas, not
individuals**

**Commit to learning,
not debating.**

Comment in order to share
information, not to persuade.

**Avoid assumptions
about any member
of the class**

Avoid generalizations about
social groups, and do not ask
individuals to speak for their
(perceived) social group.

As well as some communication tips

Make sure you're on the same page about certain key terms and definitions

"I" statements

Be curious about where the conversation is going.

Check your own tendency to dominate or criticize.

Restate in your own words what another person said to verify you understood what they intended

Avoid escalating in emotional intensity as much as possible



OUTLINE FOR TODAY



01

INTRODUCTIONS

Introduce yourselves!

03

PEW RESEARCH STUDY

Gauging Americans' views

02

GROUP POLLING ACTIVITY

We will assess our views on censorship as a group.

04

DEFINING FREE SPEECH

Understanding the Law





01

INTRODUCTIONS





02

POLLING ACTIVITY

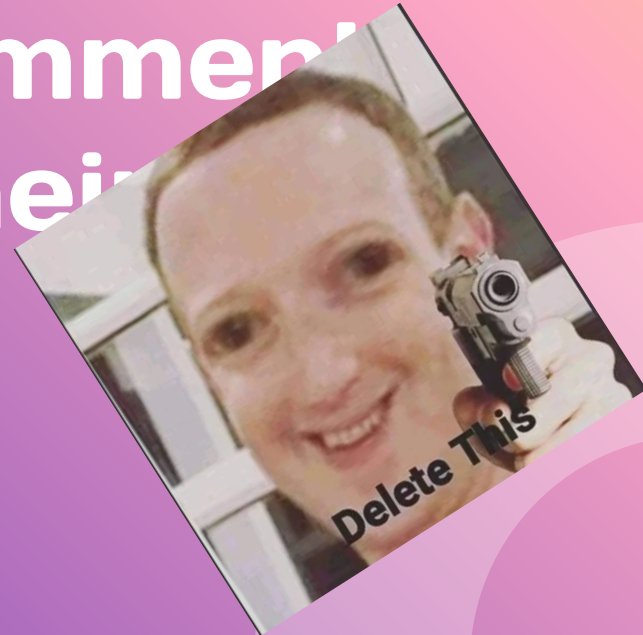


**Youtube has
taken down a
video for
encouraging
violence.**

**A trans picture book
has been removed
from school libraries
after a parent's
complaint (because
they didn't want their
child to read it)**

**A panel of teachers
decided not to teach
the same book as last
year because it is
offensive or outdated.**

**A Facebook page has
deleted your comment
criticizing their
company.**



**A publisher decided
not to publish a
celebrity's book after
they made certain
political comments
online.**

**Books about race and
civil rights are
disproportionately
banned from prisons
in the United States.**

**A librarian weeded
(got rid of) a book
that uses outdated
terminology for a
racial group.**

**Twitter removed
Trump from the
platform.**

**Facebook removes all
content depicting
sexual imagery from
the platform.**

Some posts on social media sites have a warning label on them for misleading content.

**Republicans
disproportionately
have had their posts
removed on social
media in recent years.**

**Certain activists'
Facebook event pages
organizing protests
were removed from
the website.**



03

PEW RESEARCH STUDY



REPORT | AUGUST 19, 2020



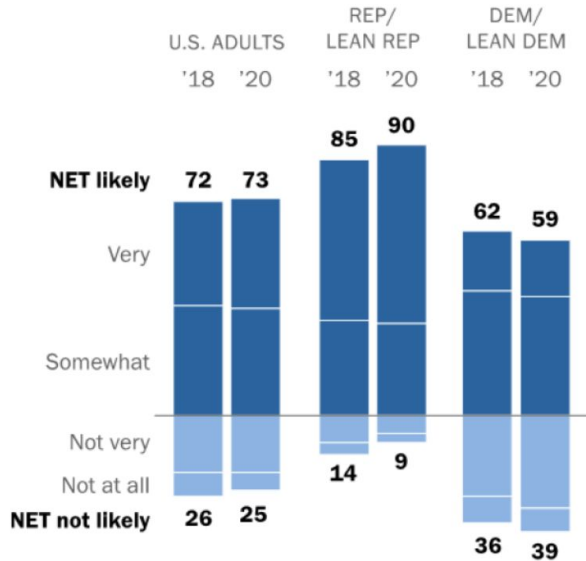
Most Americans Think Social Media Sites Censor Political Viewpoints

Republicans are far more likely than Democrats to say major tech companies favor the views of liberals over conservatives. At the same time, partisans differ on whether social media companies should flag inaccurate information on their platforms.

BY **EMILY A. VOGELS, ANDREW PERRIN AND MONICA ANDERSON**

90% of Republicans say it is likely that social media sites censor political viewpoints – a slight uptick since 2018

% of U.S. adults who say it is ___ likely that social media sites intentionally censor political viewpoints they find objectionable

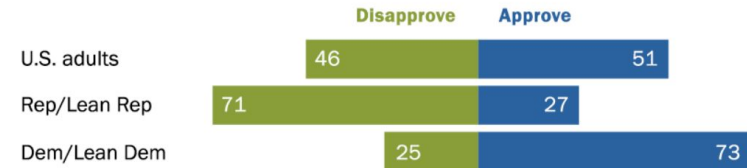


Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.
"Most Americans Think Social Media Sites Censor Political Viewpoints"

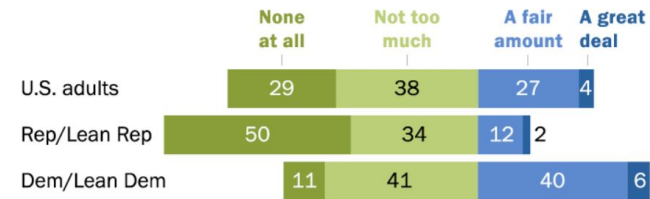
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Wide partisan differences in views about social media companies labeling posts from elected officials as misleading or inaccurate

% of U.S. adults who say they ___ of social media companies labeling posts on their platforms from elected officials as inaccurate or misleading



% of U.S. adults who say they have ___ (of) confidence in social media companies to determine which posts on their platforms should be labeled as inaccurate or misleading



Note: Strongly/somewhat approve or disapprove responses are combined. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

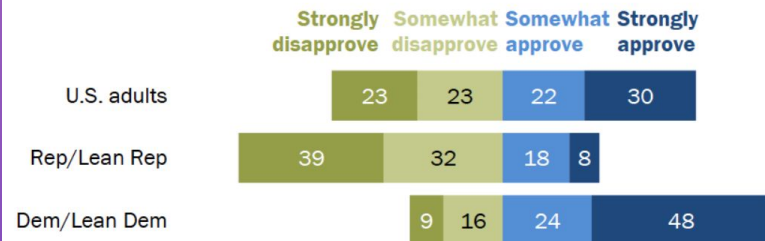
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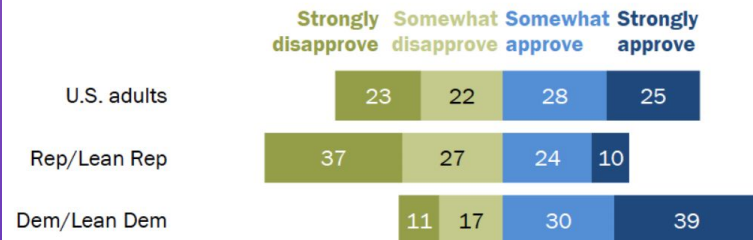
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Democrats more likely than Republicans to approve of social media companies labeling posts from elected officials or ordinary users as inaccurate, misleading

% of U.S. adults who say they ___ of social media companies labeling posts on their platforms from **elected officials** as inaccurate or misleading



% of U.S. adults who say they ___ of social media companies labeling posts on their platforms from **ordinary users** as inaccurate or misleading



Note: Respondents were randomly assigned questions about whether social media companies should label posts from elected officials or ordinary users. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

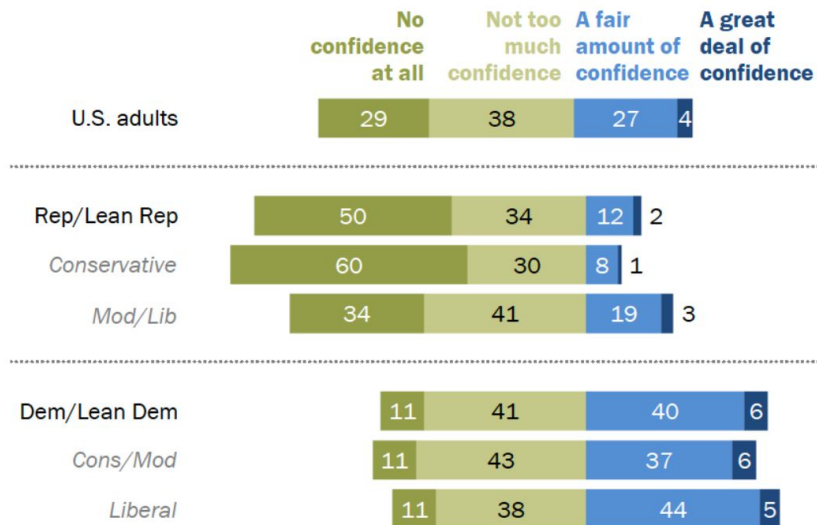
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

"Most Americans Think Social Media Sites Censor Political Viewpoints"

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A majority of conservative Republicans have no confidence in social media companies to determine which posts should be labeled as inaccurate

% of U.S. adults who say they have ___ in social media companies to determine which posts on their platforms should be labeled as inaccurate or misleading



Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

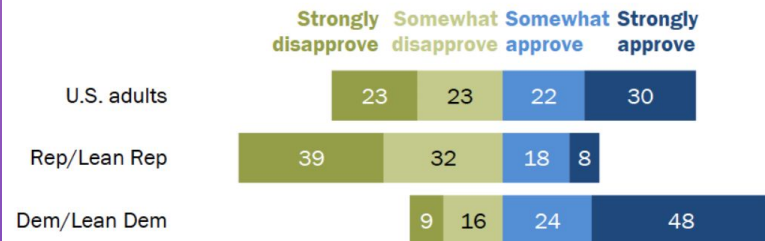
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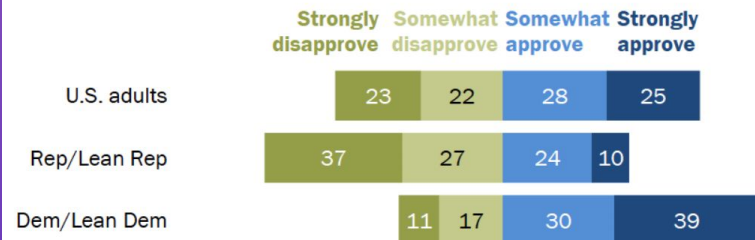
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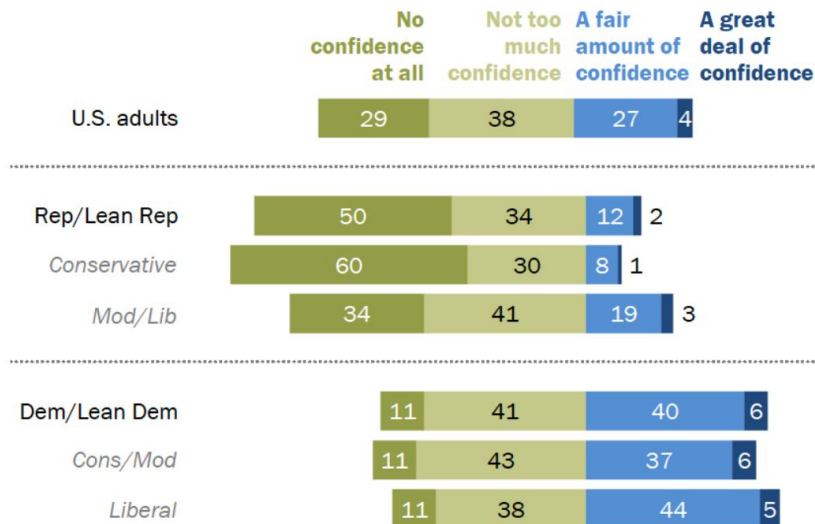
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**There's one problem:
This isn't
censorship.**

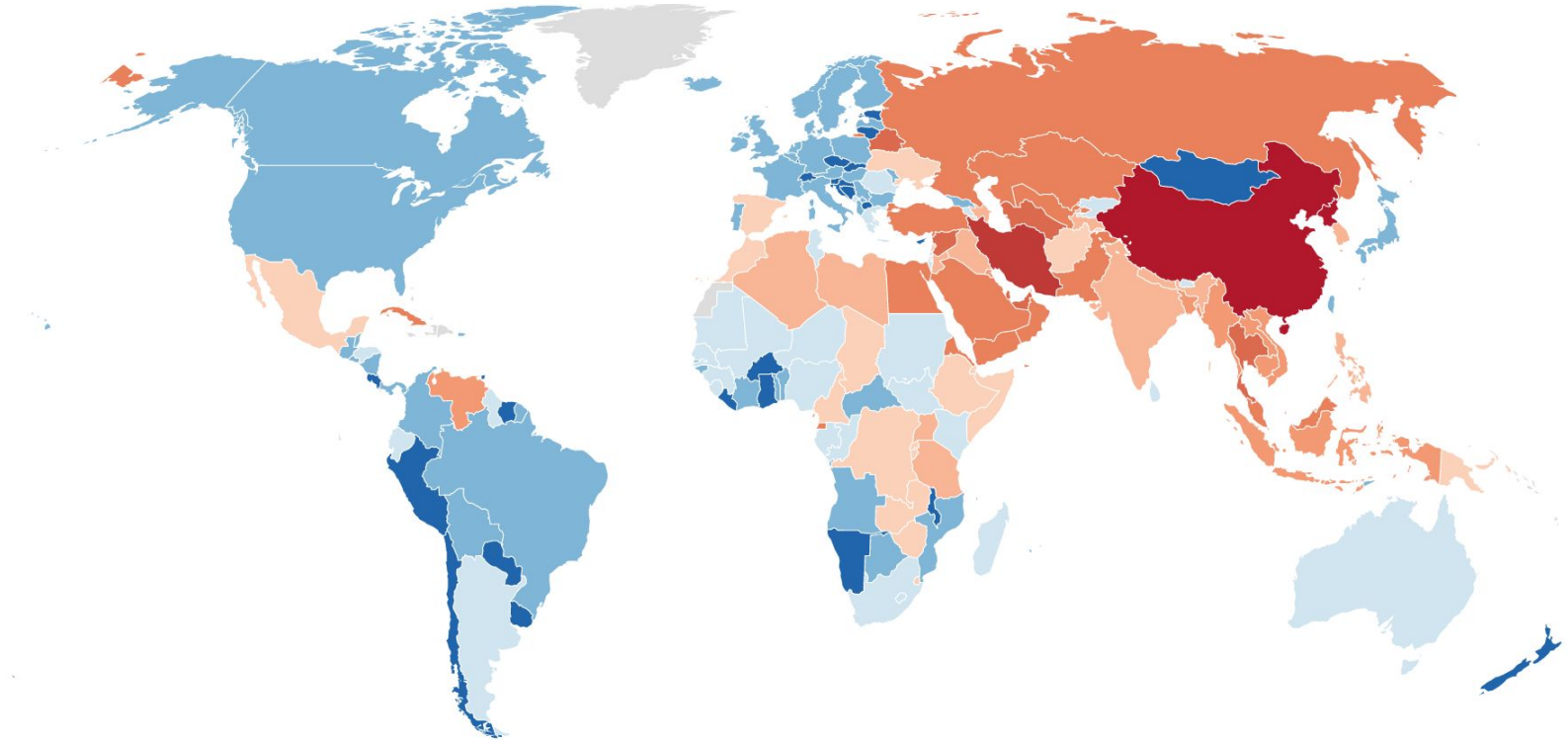


04

DEFINING CENSORSHIP



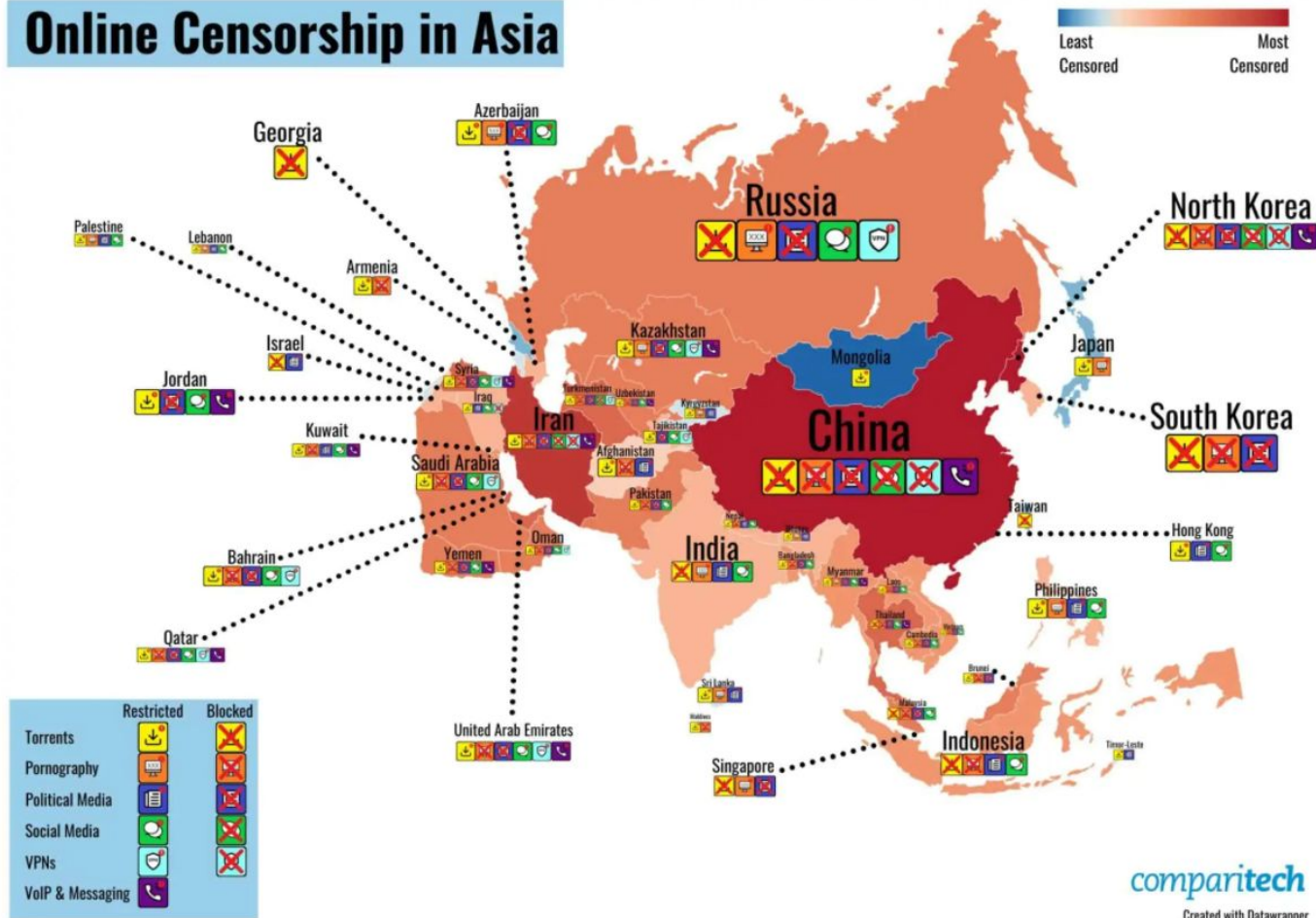
Which countries are the most censored in the world?



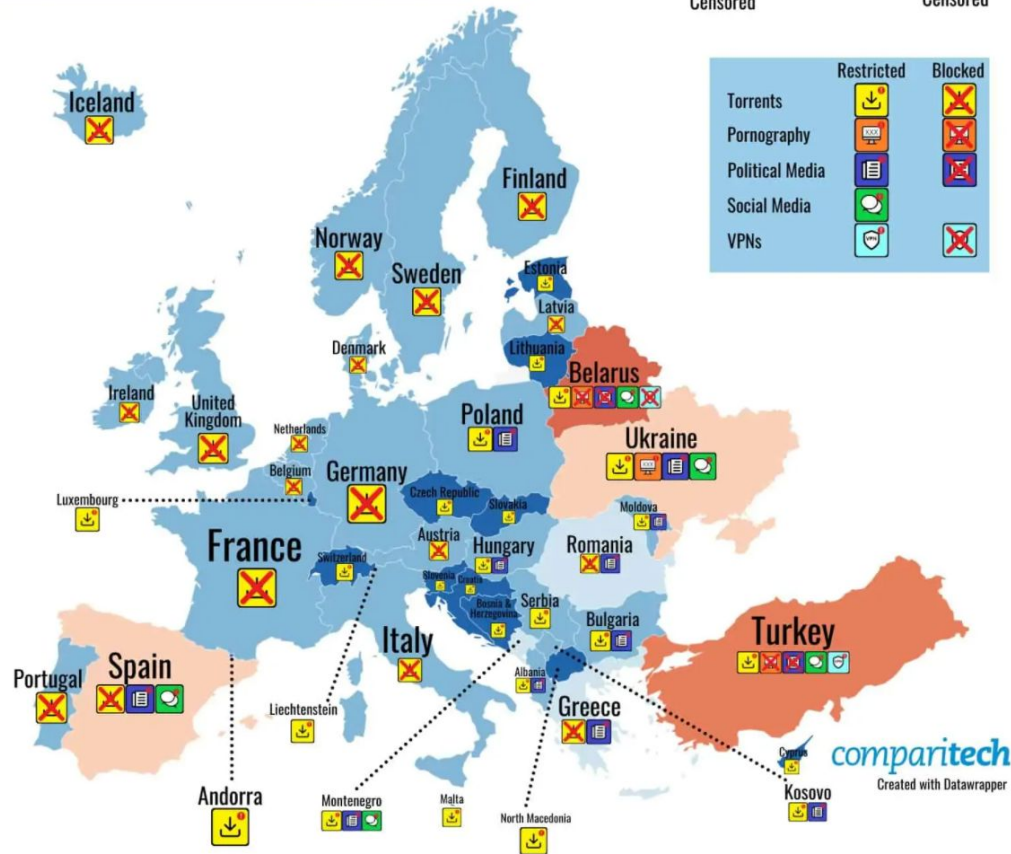
Online Censorship in North America



Online Censorship in Asia



Online Censorship in Europe



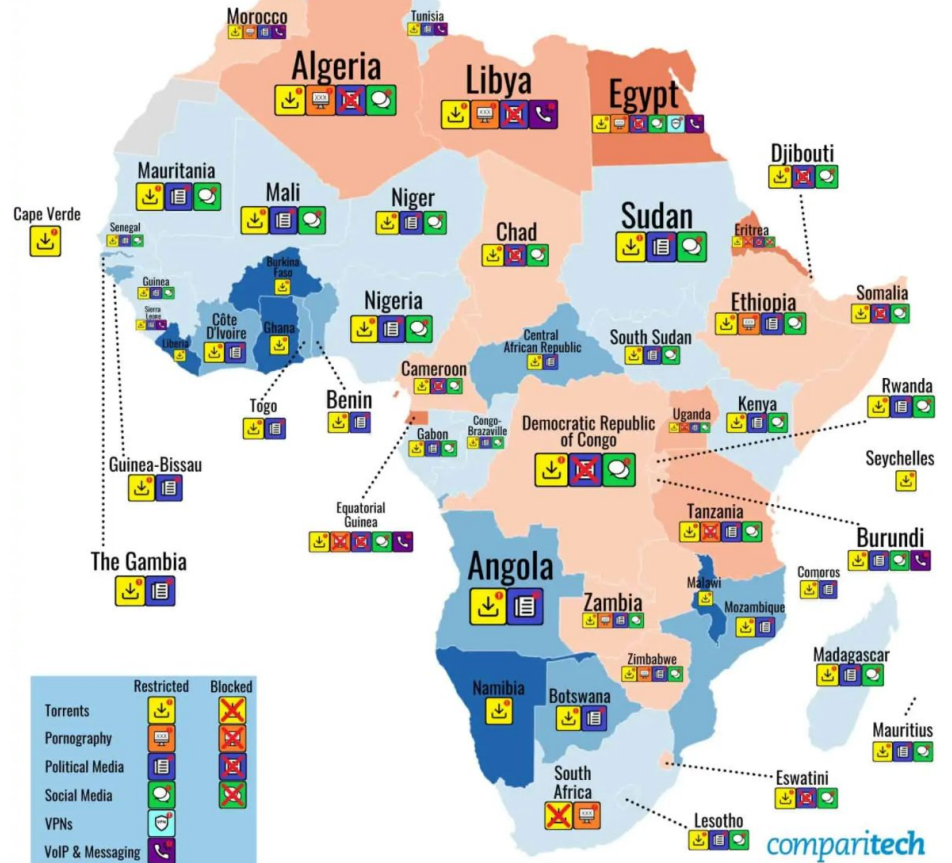
Online Censorship in South America

Least Censored Most Censored



Online Censorship in Africa

Least Censored Most Censored



**Discussion for next
time: Who is hurt
most by censorship,
and who does
censorship protect?**