

The problem with social media isn't just what users post — it's what the platforms decide to do with that content. Far from being neutral, social media companies are constantly making decisions about which content to amplify, elevate, and suggest to other users. Given their business model, which promotes scale above all, they've often actively amplified extreme, divisive content — including dangerous conspiracy theories and misinformation. It's time for regulators to step in.

A good place to start would be clarifying who should benefit from Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, which has been vastly over-interpreted to provide **blanket immunity** to all internet companies — or "internet intermediaries" — for any third-party content they host.

Facebook have not only allowed Trump to lie and **sow** division for years, their business models have exploited our biases and weaknesses and **abetted** the growth of conspiracy-**touting** hate groups and outrage machines. They have done this without bearing any responsibility for how their products and business decisions effect our democracy; in this case, including allowing an **insurrection** to be planned and promoted on their platforms.

In the absence of any U.S. laws to address social media's responsibility to protect our democracy, we have **ceded** the decision-making about which

rules to write, what to enforce, and how to steer our public square to CEOs of for-profit internet companies. Facebook intentionally and relentlessly scaled to dominate the global public square, yet it does not bear any of the responsibilities of traditional stewards of public goods, including the traditional media

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