

Facebook Bans Content Denying the Holocaust on Its Platforms – Wall Street Journal,
October 12, 2020

1. What did you think of the article?
2. How easy was it to understand?
3. What do you think of Holocaust deniers?
4. What are their ideas based on?
5. Have you heard of QAnon?
6. Why do you think it took Facebook so long to start restricting certain posts?
7. Zuckerberg is quoted as saying in 2018 that Holocaust deniers, weren't "...intentionally getting it wrong." What do you think of this?
8. Is the move by Facebook censorship by another name?
9. How will it be enforced?
10. Are Facebook the only social media platform removing posts from certain people / organisations?
11. What content, if any, do you think should be restricted on social media platforms?
12. What do you think about freedom of speech in general terms? Should there be any limitations?
13. What is the extent of 'freedom of speech' in Chile? How is it framed here?
14. Vocabulary: Let's review the vocabulary highlighted below.
15. Final thoughts.

How Facebook dealt with content disputing the Holocaust has been a longstanding subject of controversy.

Facebook Inc. said it would begin removing Holocaust denials or distortions from its social-media platforms, a move that follows years of complaints from civil-rights groups that the company tolerated hate speech and enabled the spread of misinformation.

The move—announced Monday in a company blog post and on Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg's personal Facebook page—is the latest step by Facebook in **broadening** its approach to content removals. Typically, the company sought removals in instances where the material posed **imminent** harm to an individual or group of people, reflecting Mr. Zuckerberg's **reluctance** to police discourse on its platforms. In recent months, Facebook has banned groups and pages devoted to spreading the wide-ranging conspiracy theory known as QAnon as well as militia groups.

How Facebook deals with content disputing the Holocaust, the Nazi killing of six million Jews before and during World War II, has been a longstanding subject of controversy. In 2018, Mr. Zuckerberg drew **widespread** condemnation from civil-rights and Holocaust remembrance organizations when he defended the right of Holocaust deniers to express their views on Facebook. In an interview with tech publication Recode he said he didn't believe they were "intentionally getting it wrong."

Mr. Zuckerberg, who is Jewish, said his thinking has since changed.

“I’ve struggled with the tension between standing for free expression and the harm caused by minimizing or denying the horror of the Holocaust,” Mr. Zuckerberg wrote, **citing** data showing an increase in anti-Semitic violence as helping **sway** his decision. “Drawing the right lines between what is and isn’t acceptable speech isn’t straightforward, but with the current state of the world, I believe this is the right balance.”

The Facebook co-founder said the company has long removed posts praising hate crimes and mass murder. With the new rule, if people search for the Holocaust on Facebook, they will soon be directed to authoritative sources to get accurate information, Mr. Zuckerberg said.

Earlier this year, Facebook also banned claims that Jewish people run the world or its major institutions, though critics have faulted the reliability of the company’s enforcement measures.

In a statement Monday morning, Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt praised the policy change but called it long **overdue**.

“While we are relieved to learn this news, we also would note that platform decisions of this nature are only as good as the companies’ enforcement,” he said.

In the company blog post Monday, Content Policy Chief Monika Bickert warned that it wouldn’t be able to fully enforce its **ban** on Holocaust denial immediately. “There is a range of content that can violate these policies, and it will take some time to train our reviewers and systems on enforcement,” the post said.