

@realDonaldTrump

by Bart Domburg

Lecturis

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'The Trump tweets' from 2020 October 1 10:14 AM
until 2021 January 8 10:44 AM

Lecturis

@realDonaldTrump

Donald Trump ruled America, and the world, through Twitter. This is almost obvious from our current perspective, but fifteen years ago it would have sounded like a line from an absurd science fiction movie. Donald Trump the showy TV star, the semi-corrupt businessman, the narcissist who rules America? Then this “Twitter” must have a special power!

It does, of course.

When artist Bart Domburg decided in October 2020 that Donald Trump’s tweets would become the subject of his new “writing”, he only knew partially what he was getting into. Of course, it was clear that a public medium had rarely been more important in gaining presidential power than Twitter has been to Trump. Trump manipulated the world via Twitter like an old-fashioned, capricious king; through dozens of tweets a day, he spread directives, opinions and judgments which were read by more than eighty million followers. From his main slogan ‘MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!’ (tweeted 588 times) to self-fabricated conspiracy theories (‘OBAMAGATE MAKES WATERGATE LOOK LIKE SMALL POTATOES!’ - May 27, 2020), personal insults, often times with bullying nicknames like ‘Sleepy Joe Biden’, ‘Crooked Hillary Clinton’ and ‘Crazy Nancy Pelosi’. And let’s not forget: a lot of tirades against the “Fake News Media”. These tweets unmistakably had the goal of “defusing” external world views that were not in line with the ideas he himself propagated: “The Radical Left Democrats, working with their partner, the Fake News Media, are trying to STEAL this Election. We won’t let them! - November 16, 2020). In short, Trump creates his own world view via Twitter, a highly personal universe. And that highly personal universe is the foundation of his presidency.

Trump’s tweets also fit perfectly into Domburg’s writing series. Domburg started this series in 2013, and it consisted of large sheets of paper on which he uses a fineliner to write texts with great historical significance. Sometimes this was just one single meaningful sentence, for example by Louis Couperus, or Joseph Goebbels, about a specific historical subject, which Domburg repeated until one sheet was full from edge to edge. Later, he began writing out long historical texts or lists from start to finish, starting with the names of all 102,000 Dutch Jews, Sinti and Roma who were deported and murdered in World War II. Then followed, amongst other subjects, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all yearly State of the Union ‘Troonredes’ speeches made by Dutch kings and queens from 1814 until 2021. Then, on October 5, 2020, he realised that Donald Trump was -quite literally- writing history on Twitter in that very moment. He decides to start his Trump Twitter work a few days earlier: on October first, a few days before, Trump was diagnosed with Covid-19. After that he is soon admitted to the Walter Reid Medical Center and is almost completely isolated from the outside world. For any other past president, this would have meant that there was a huge barrier to the outside world, to his voters, to his fans, but not for Trump: he keeps tweeting. He takes it easy for a few days (corona is real), but on October 5, at 6:30 am, he blasts out a classic Trump Twitter rant from his hospital

bed. It begins, in Trump's signature capitals, writing: "IF YOU WANT A MASSIVE TAX INCREASE, THE BIGGEST IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY (AND ONE THAT WILL SHUT OUR ECONOMY AND JOBS DOWN), VOTE DEMOCRAT !!!" After that, another sixteen tweets follow in the same hour. It shows how important Twitter is to Trump, and above all, how important Twitter is to shape the way he views the world and share this with the outside world.

It is quite apparent that it is likely that Donald J. Trump, from January 2017 to January 2021, the 45th president of the United States, would never have obtained that position, and performed very differently in his presidency if it weren't for four Californian guys founding Twitter in March 2006. The concept is simple: any person, from a homeless man to president, can publish short messages on this website and app, initially of only 140 characters, later expanding to 280. These messages can be read by anyone, and anyone can reply to any message. You can also "follow" people so that you can see all of their messages. Trump was relatively quick to join: on May 4th, 2009, he tweeted for the first time on Twitter account @realdonaldtrump announcing an upcoming appearance on David Letterman's talk show. At that point, and for the first few months after, Trump doesn't seem to be managing his Twitter account himself: almost all of his posts are either announcements of media appearances or uplifting quotes made by himself, stated in the third person, like this May 12 tweet in 2009: "My persona will never be that of a wallflower - I'd rather build walls than cling to them" - Donald J. Trump'. Sometimes he starts a tweet with "From Donald Trump", implying that the others that don't have this mentioned, aren't posted by him. It takes almost a year for Trump to tweet in the first person singular form, but when he does remains remarkably well-behaved ('Melania and I saw American Idiot on Broadway last night and it was great. An amazing theatrical experience!' - April 21, 2010). In his first year, he posts less than a hundred tweets - a number that he later, in his most manic twitter period, sometimes is close to reaching in just one day.

In the spring of 2011, however, Trump begins to portray himself more politically via Twitter - it has often been speculated that this was partly because President Obama mocked him in a speech during that year's Correspondents Dinner. That may or may not have been a reason, his tweets are becoming more political and critical, although at first they are mainly about tax and budgetary issues. For example, on July 20, 2011, "Obama is addicted to spending America into insolvency. His record proves it." And on August 3: "Wake Up America - China is eating our lunch." Trump soon notices that his most outspoken tweets get the most likes and retweets - and he is starting to realise that there might be something to gain here. From July 2011, his amount of tweets will sharply increase, they become more opinionated, get more and more responses and so on - Trump the populist is born. But more importantly, during this period he realises that he can create his own world via Twitter. While other traditional politicians still depend on traditional media such as newspapers and TV to propagate their vision, Twitter gives Trump independence to do this on his own. This has three major advantages: he can emphasize this independence and make it part of his image, he can be in direct contact with his voters and his many followers, act without the journalists intervening and, perhaps most importantly, it enables him to ignore the traditional checks and balances of the media. By communicating via Twitter, Trump is no longer bound by a traditional value; "truth": he shouts what he wants and when the traditional media points this out, he dismisses it as "fake news". Trump's Twitter account is the perfect reflection of Trump's completely personal and unique worldview.

At first, that world view seems fairly non-committal and not too important, but that will change when Trump decides to run for the US presidency in 2015 and is actually elected in 2017. Now his Twitter account is no longer a non-committal outlet, but

Donald J. Trump@realDonaldTrump 2020

Oct 1, 10:14 AM

I won the debate big, based on compilation etc. Thank you!

Oct 1, 01:15 PM

Why would I allow the Debate Commission to change the rules for the second and third Debates when I easily won last time?

Oct 1, 02:09 PM

THANK YOU! #MAGA

Oct 1, 04:51 PM

Will be interviewed tonight by @seanhannity at 9:00 @ Fox-news

Oct 1, 09:44 PM

Hope Hicks, who has been working so hard without even taking a small break, has just tested positive for Covid 19. Terrible! The First Lady and I are waiting for our test results. In the meantime, we will begin our quarantine process!

Oct 1, 11:54 PM

Tonight, @Flotus and I tested positive for COVID 19. We will begin our quarantine and recovery process immediately. We will get through this TOGETHER!

Oct 2, 10:31 PM

Going well, I think! Thank you to all. LOVE!!!!

Oct 3, 12:19 PM

Doctors, Nurses and ALL at the GREAT Walter Reed Medical Center, and others from likewise incredible institutions who have joined them, are AMAZING!!! Tremendous progress has been made over the last 6 months in fighting this PLAGUE. With their help, I am feeling well!

Oct 3, 12:46 PM

OUR GREAT USA WANTS & NEEDS STIMULUS. WORK TOGETHER AND

GET IT DONE. Thank you!

Oct 4, 02:51 PM

I really appreciate all of the fans and supporters outside of the hospital. The fact is, they really love our country and are seeing how we are MAKING IT GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE!

Oct 5, 05:19 AM

"I'm voting for Donald Trump. My father is a Union Worker and his 401K has tripled under President Trump." USA voter. @fox-and-friends Thank you and remember that the Stock Market is getting ready to break its all time high. NEXT YEAR WILL BE THE BEST EVER. VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!!!!

Oct 5, 05:30 AM

IF YOU WANT A MASSIVE TAX INCREASE, THE BIGGEST IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY (AND ONE THAT WILL SHUT OUR ECONOMY AND JOBS DOWN) VOTE DEMOCRAT!!!!

Oct 5, 05:45 AM

Virginia Voters! Your Governor wants to obliterate your Second Amendment. I have stopped him. I am the only thing between you and your Second Amendment. Working hard in Virginia. It's IN PLAY. Better Vote for your favorite President, or wave goodbye to low taxes and gun rights!

Oct 5, 05:47 AM

STOCK MARKET HIGHS. VOTE!

Oct 5, 05:49 AM

STRONGEST EVER MILITARY. VOTE!

Oct 5, 05:50 AM

RAW BORDER. VOTE!

Oct 5, 05:51 AM

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY. VOTE!

Oct 5, 05:54 AM

BIGGEST TAX CUT EVER, AND ANOTHER ONE COMING. VOTE!

Oct 5, 05:57 AM

401(K). VOTE!

Oct 5, 06:00 AM

BEST V.A. EVER. 91% APPROVAL RATING. VOTE!

Oct 5, 06:02 AM

SPACE FORCE. VOTE!

Oct 5, 06:04 AM

MASSIVE REGULATION CUTS. VOTE!

Oct 5, 06:05 AM

PRO LIFE! VOTE!

Oct 5, 06:07 AM

BETTER AND CHEAPER HEALTHCARE. VOTE!

Oct 5, 06:08 AM

PROTECT PREEXISTING CONDITIONS, VOTE!

Oct 5, 06:10 AM

FIGHT THE CORRUPT FAKE NEWS MEDIA. VOTE!

Oct 5, 06:12 AM

SAVE OUR SECOND AMENDMENT. VOTE!

Oct 5, 06:14 AM

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH (BRING OUR SOLDIERS HOME). VOTE!

Oct 5, 07:08 AM

TODAY is the LAST day to register to VOTE in ARIZONA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, OHIO AND TEXAS! Click below for more information, and let's #MAGA!

Oct 5, 10:17 AM

Volunteer to be a Trump Election Poll Watcher. Sign up today! :
#MakeAmericaGreatAgain

Oct 5, 01:37 PM

It is reported that the media is upset because I got into a secure vehicle to say thank you to the many fans and supporters who were standing outside of the hospital for many hours, and even days, to pay their respect to their President. If I didn't do it, media would say RUDE!!!

Oct 5, 01:37 PM

I will be leaving the great Walter Reed Medical Center today at 6:30 P.M. Feeling really good! Don't be afraid of Covid. Don't let it dominate your life. We have developed, under the Trump Administration, some really great drugs & knowledge. I feel better than I did 20 years ago!

Oct 5, 03:53 PM

STOCK MARKET UP BIG, 466 points! 28.149. Great News for America. Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!

Oct 5, 04:54 PM

... invincible hero, who not only survived every dirty trick the Democrats threw at him, but the Chinese virus as well. He will show America we no longer have to be afraid." mdevine@ny post.com. Thank you Miranda. Was over until the Plague came in from China. Will win anyway!

Oct 5, 04:54 PM

"You see it in enthusiasm for the President outside Walter Reed Hospital. You see it in Registrations, from Florida to Pennsylvania & West Virginia, where Republicans are outstripping Democrats by 2 to 1. If the President bounces back onto the campaign trail, he will be an...

Oct 5, 05:23 PM

Will be back on the Campaign Trail soon!!! The Fake News only shows the Fake Polls.

Oct 5, 06:56 PM

"You see it in enthusiasm for the President outside Walter Reed Hospital. You see it in Registrations, from Florida to Pennsylvania & West Virginia, where Republicans are outstripping Democrats by 2 to 1. If the President bounces back onto the campaign trail, he will be an...

Oct 5, 06:56 PM

... invincible hero, who not only survived every dirty trick the Democrats threw at him, but the Chinese virus as well. He will show America we no longer have to be afraid." @MirandaDevine@NYPost Thank you Miranda. Was over until the Plague came in from China. Will win anyway!

Oct 6, 06:39 AM

Wow. Joe Biden just took a more liberal position on Roe v. Wa

de than Elisabeth Warren at her highest. He also wants to PACK our great United States Supreme Court. This is what the DEMS will do. Remer as they try changing positions before elections end. GET OUT AND VOTE!

Oct 6, 06:45 AM

Biden and Democrats just clarified the fact that they are fully in favor of (very) LATE TERM ABORTION, right up until the time of birth, and beyond - which would be execution. Biden even endorsed the Governor of Virginia, who stated this clearly for all to hear. GET OUT & VOTE!!!!

Oct 6, 07:03 AM

Flu season is coming up! Many people every year, sometimes over 100,000, and despite the Vaccine, die from the flu. Are we going to close down our Country? No, we have learned to live with it, just like we are learning to live with Covid, in most populations far less lethal!!!!

Oct 6, 09:41 AM

FEELING GREAT!

Oct 6, 09:42 AM

I am looking forward to the debate on the evening of Thursday, October 15th in Miami. It will be great!

Oct 6, 10:00 AM

NEW MEXICO! Today is the last day you can register to vote online or via mail. Make sure your vote counts!

Oct 6, 10:36 AM

Mini Mike Bloomberg, who made a fool of himself on the DEMS debate stage when Elisabeth Warren & others simply took him apart, is going "crazy" trying to buy his way back into the liberal Democrat's hearts. His Florida ads are lies. I am much better for SENIORS than Sleepy!

Oct 6, 11:03 AM

The Fake News Media refuses to discuss how good the Economy and Stock Market, including JOBS under the Trump Administration, are doing. We will soon be in RECORD TERRITORY. All they want to discuss is COVID 19, where they won't say it, but we beat the Dems all day long, also!!!

Oct 6, 11:08 AM

Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution, giving States a chance to certify a corrected set of facts, not the fraudulent or inaccurate ones which they were asked to previously certify. USA demands the truth!

Jan 6, 02:38 PM

Please support our Capitol Police and Law Enforcement. They are truly on the side of our Country. Stay peaceful!

Jan 6, 03:13 PM

I am asking for everyone at the U.S. Capital to remain peaceful. No violence! Remember, WE are the Party of Law & Order - respect the Law and our great men and women in Blue. Thank you!

Jan 6, 04:17 PM

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<https://t.co/Pm2PKVOFp3>

Jan 6, 06:01 PM

Deleted

These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously & viciously stripped away from great patriots who have been badly & unfairly treated for so long. Go home with love & in peace. Remember this day forever!

Twitter Safety @TwitterSafety

Jan 7, 01:02 AM

As a result of the unprecedented and ongoing violent situation in Washington, D.C., we have required the removal of three @realDonaldTrump Tweets that were posted earlier today for repeated and severe violations of our civic Integrity policy

Civic Integrity policy

You may not use Twitter's services for the purpose of manipulating or interfering in elections or other civic processes.

🔗 help.twitter.com

Twitter Safety @TwitterSafety

Jan 7, 01:02 AM

This means that the account of @realDonaldTrump will be locked for 12 hours following the removal of these Tweets. If the Tweets are not removed, the account will remain locked.

Twitter Safety @TwitterSafety

Jan 7, 01:02 AM

Future violations of the Twitter Rules, including our Civic Integrity or Violent Threats policies, will result in permanent suspension of the @realDonaldTrump account.

Twitter Safety @TwitterSafety

Jan 7, 01:02 AM

Our public interest policy - which has guided our enforcement action in this area for years - ends where we believe the risk of harm is higher and/or more severe.

Twitter Safety @TwitterSafety

Jan 7, 01:02 AM

We'll continue to evaluate the situation in real time, including examining activity on the ground and statements made off Twitter. We will keep the public informed, including if further escalation in our enforcement approach is necessary.

Jan 8, 09:46 AM

The 75,000,000 great American Patriots who voted for me, AMERICA FIRST, and MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, will have a GIANT VOICE into the future. They will not be disrespected or treated unfairly in any way, shape or form!!!!

Jan 8, 10:44 AM

To all of those who have asked, I will not be going to the Inauguration on January 20th.

Twitter Inc. @Twitter

Permanent suspension of @realDonaldTrump
By Twitter Inc

Friday, 8 January 2021

after close review of recent Tweets from the @realDonaldTrump account and the context around them - specifically how they are being received and interpreted on and off Twitter - we have permanently suspended the account due to the risk of further incitement of violence.

In the context of horrific events this week, we made it clear on Wednesday that additional violations of the Twitter Rules would potentially result in this very course of action. Our public interest framework exists to enable the public to hear from elected officials and world leaders directly. It is built on a principle that the people have a right to hold power to account in the open.

However, we made it clear going back years that these accounts are not above our rules entirely and cannot use Twitter to incite violence, among other things. We will continue to be transparent around our policies and their enforcement.

The below is a comprehensive analysis of our policy

enforcement approach in this case.

Overview

On January 8, 2021, President Donald J. Trump Tweeted:

"The 75,000,000 great American Patriots who voted for me, AMERICA FIRST, and MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, will have a GIANT VOICE long into the future. They will not be disrespected or treated unfairly in any way, shape or form!!!!"

Shortly thereafter, the President Tweeted:

"To all of those who have asked, I will not be going to the Inauguration on January 20th."

Due to the ongoing tensions in the United States, and an uptick in the global conversation in regards to the people who violently stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021, these two Tweets must be read in the context of broader events in the country and the ways in which the President's statements can be mobilised by different audiences, including to incite violence, as well as in the context of the pattern of behavior from this account in recent weeks. After assessing the language in these Tweets against our Glorification of Violence policy, we have determined that these Tweets are in violation of the Glorification of Violence Policy and the user @realDonaldTrump should be immediately permanently suspended from the service.

Assessment

We assessed the two Tweets referenced above under our Glorification of Violence policy, which aims to prevent the glorification of violence that could inspire others to replicate violent acts and determined that they were highly likely to encourage and inspire people to replicate the criminal acts that took place at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

This determination is based on a number of factors, including:

- President Trump's statement that he will not be attending the Inauguration is being received by a number of his supporters as further confirmation that the election was not legitimate and is seen as him disavowing his previous claim made via two Tweets (1,2) by his Deputy Chief of Staff, Dan Scavino, that there would be an "orderly transition" on January 20th.
- The second Tweet may also serve as encouragement to those potentially considering violent acts that the Inauguration would be a "safe" target, as he will not be attending.
- The use of the words "American Patriots" to describe some of his supporters is also being interpreted as support for those committing violent acts at the US Capitol.
- The mention of his supporters having a "GIANT VOICE long into the future" and that "They will not be disrespected or treated unfairly in any way, shape or form!!!!" is being interpreted as further indication that President Trump does not plan to facilitate an "orderly transition" and instead that he plans to continue to support, empower, and shield those who believe he won the election.
- Plans for future armed protests have already begun proliferating on and off-Twitter, including a proposed secondary attack on the US Capitol and state capitol buildings on January 17, 2021.

As such, our determination is that the two Tweets above are likely to inspire others to replicate the violent acts that took place on January 6, 2021, and that there are multiple indicators that they are being received and understood as encouragement to do so.

