The website of a media network created by Chinese-Americans that opposes the Communist Chinese government. The site has published some COVID-19 misinformation.

**Ownership and Financing**

NTD (short for New Tang Dynasty) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit run by Epoch Media Group, a New York-based media network that also runs The Epoch Times. Epoch Media Group was founded by adherents of Falun Gong, a Chinese spiritual philosophy that became popular in the early 1990s before being harshly suppressed by the Chinese government.

NTD.com runs advertisements and features a Support Us page soliciting donations.

**Content**

NTD states on its About Us page that it aims to provide “accurate news to people living under repressive regimes.” Content sections include News, CCP Virus, Entertainment, World, and China. Typical articles have run under headlines such as “White House Accuses ‘Voice of America’ of Spreading Chinese Communist Party Propaganda” and “Malaysian PM Warns of China’s South China Sea Activities in Meeting With New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern.”

The site frequently reports about Falun Gong, with articles such as “Faith in Spiritual Practice Helps Business Owner Through Crisis Caused by Pandemic,” which reported on how a woman coped with pressure using Falun Gong meditation; and “Shen Yun Is Light in the Darkness, Says Foundation Head,” which concerned audience reaction to a show by Shen Yun, a Falun Gong-run performing arts company.

**Credibility**

Many articles on NTD.com are republished, with credit, from reputable news providers, including Reuters and The Associated Press. Headlines accurately reflect the content.

**Score: 67.5/100**

- **✔** Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
- **✔** Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- **✔** Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- **✗** Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- **✔** Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- **✗** Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- **✗** Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- **✔** Reveals who’s in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- **✗** The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information](#)
The site also publishes content from its sister publication, The Epoch Times. Like The Epoch Times, NTD has promoted conspiracy theories concerning the new coronavirus.

For example, in February 2020, the site published an article titled “Video: Woman Says Coronavirus Patients Cremated Alive,” which reported a claim that doctors in Wuhan, China, were sending coronavirus patients for cremation before they had died. The article centered on a YouTube video — which NTD stated “could not be independently verified” — in which a woman talks about having seen fellow patients zipped up and sent for cremation despite still being alive. The YouTube video and the NTD article offered no evidence for this claim.

Neither NewsGuard nor fact-checking organization PolitiFact could find any evidence that China was cremating living coronavirus patients.

Another February 2020 article, “Chinese Netizens and Expert Suspect Wuhan Bioresearch Lab Is the Source of the Coronavirus,” was republished from The Epoch Times. The article reported on a post on Chinese social media network WeChat by a user described only as having “a Ph.D. in biological related fields.” NTD stated that the post asked “key questions about the suspicious gene mutations found in the new virus. [The poster] pointed out there is no way that these mutations are the outcome of natural recombination.”

In fact, a March 2020 study in the journal Nature Medicine concluded that the COVID-19 virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” According to an article published by three epidemiologists in the New England Journal of Medicine, “RNA sequences closely resemble those of viruses that silently circulate in bats, and epidemiologic information implicates a bat-origin virus infecting unidentified animal species sold in China’s live-animal markets.”
The Financial Times reported in February 2020 that “The most likely scenario, based on genetic analysis, was that the virus was transmitted by a bat to another mammal between 20-70 years ago. This intermediary animal — not yet identified — passed it on to its first human host in the city of Wuhan in late November or early December.”

Although these two articles are inaccurate and misleading, because NewsGuard did not find other similar articles on the site, NewsGuard has determined that NTDNews.com does not fail the standard for gathering and presenting information responsibly.

NTD does not disclose a political or ideological orientation. Previously, the Support Us page stated that NTD’s founders “experienced the realities of … the ongoing persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China,” but this statement has since been removed from the site.

Nevertheless, NTD’s news coverage tends to support conservative causes while disparaging the left. For example, the site’s front page features a seven-part “Special Series” titled “How The Specter of Communism Is Ruling Our World.” One of the articles, “How the Devil Destroys the Family (Part II),” suggested that communism “destroys families in the west” by “promoting feminism and spurning the traditional family” and by “perverting the family structure through homosexuality.”

The site also routinely publishes content critical of the Chinese Communist Party without disclosing its anti-CCP perspective.

For example, typical headlines featured in March 2020 in the Trending News section included: “Giving the Right Name to the Virus Causing a Worldwide Pandemic,” which explained the site’s use of the term “CCP Virus” when referencing the coronavirus; “China in Focus Special: CCP Virus Follows Communist China Ties;” and “Coronavirus Outbreak Highlights Beijing’s Global Economic Coercion, Expert Says.”
The site also spotlights stories in which the CCP is seen to be victimizing Falun Gong practitioners, as in the March 2020 article headlined “Chinese Regime Spreads Coronavirus-Related Misinformation About Shen Yun in Bid to Cancel Performances.”

Because NTD does not disclose its conservative, anti-CCP orientation, and yet often cherry-picks stories and facts to advance its point of view, NewsGuard has determined the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

The site publishes corrections for both its original content and stories re-published from Epoch Times. Corrections typically appear as a note explaining the error at the bottom of the article.

NTD Vice President of Digital Programming, Matt Gnaizda, did not respond to two November 2018 NewsGuard emails inquiring about the site’s mixing of news and opinion.

An April 2020 email from NewsGuard to the site’s press office, seeking comment on the COVID-19 articles cited above, received an initial reply stating that the email had been “forwarded to our team,” but the site did not respond further.

NTD News discloses little information about its ownership or financing. The site’s About Us page does not state that the organization is a nonprofit, or that it is owned by Epoch Media Group. Users looking for this information must navigate to the website’s Support Us page, which describes NTD as a nonprofit, or to the Advertise With Us page, which states that “NTD.tv is a news and entertainment website owned by Epoch Media Group.”

Because this information is not disclosed in a place a reader would be likely to look for it, NewsGuard has determined that NTD.com does not clearly disclose its ownership.
The Contact Us page identifies the site's leaders and provides their email addresses.

Articles on NTDNews.com typically name their authors, but the site does not provide biographical or contact information for them.

Although most advertising is distinguishable from editorial content, a group of articles appear under the title “From Our Partners.” These articles are credited to the ad- and content-sharing service Mixi.Media, but are not labeled as commercial content.

NTDNews.com did not respond to two November 2018 NewsGuard emails inquiring about the site’s disclosures regarding its ownership and content creators. An April 2020 email, inquiring about those issues and the site’s labeling of advertising, also did not draw a reply.

History

John Tang, the company’s CEO, founded Epoch Times in 2000, shortly after the Chinese government enacted a crackdown on Falun Gong. Tang was a student at Georgia Tech at the time. NTD was founded the next year.

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on April 21, 2020, to reflect that the site now meets NewsGuard’s standard for publishing corrections and that it does not meet the standard for labeling advertising. The criteria checklist has been adjusted accordingly.

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Edited by: Anna-Sophie Harling, Eric Effron

Send feedback to NewsGuard: Click Here

Sources

Ownership and Financing

https://www.ntdnews.com/about.html
https://www.ntdnews.com/support-us.html
https://www.linkedin.com/company/ntd-television
Content

https://www.ntdnews.com/about.html
Typical headlines
https://www.ntdnews.com/us-may-lose-ground-to-china-in-5g-race-experts-warn_259877.html

Original

https://www.wfla.com/national/texas-house-member-wins-re-election-from-jail-cell/1578847598

Wire agencies

Aggregated

From Epoch Times
https://www.ntdnews.com/us-may-lose-ground-to-china-in-5g-race-experts-warn_259877.html

Credibility
Correction policy https://mb.ntdnews.com/contact-
us.html
Corrections
Image attribution
https://www.ntdnews.com/uk-pm-theresa-may-faces-day-of-reckoning-over-brexit_259921.html
https://www.ntdnews.com/us-may-lose-ground-to-china-in-5g-race-experts-warn_259877.html
Undisclosed agenda
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgFP46yVT-GG4o1TgXn-04Q
Conservative

http://archive.is/vGQmc
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Ownership named

Labeled sponsored content
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