

frontpagemag.com

A conservative website that has published false news and conspiracy theories about Muslims and minorities, owned by a nonprofit that declares “the political left has declared war on America.”



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 22.5/100

Ownership and Financing

FrontPageMag.com is owned and operated by the David Horowitz Freedom Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Sherman Oaks, California. The conservative organization is partially funded by an online store that sells books, pamphlets, and films. The David Horowitz Freedom Center reported roughly \$6.85 million in revenue in 2018, the most recent year for which its tax returns are publicly available. The site does not disclose its individual donors.

The Freedom Center operates other websites, including DiscovertheNetworks.org, which describes itself as an “Online Database of the left and its Agendas;” JihadWatch.org; and StopUniversitySupportForTerrorists.org.

The foundation says in a statement on its site that since it was founded in 1988, “the Center has been warning that the political left has declared war on America and its constitutional system and is willing to collaborate with America’s enemies abroad and criminals at home to bring America down.” The mission statement also says that Islam and leftism are “in an unholy alliance against Israel, America, and the West.”

Horowitz, the founder and president of the Freedom Center, is a conservative writer and critic who began his career as a pro-Marxist intellectual and friend of Black Panther Party founder Huey Newton. Horowitz renounced his liberalism in the 1980s.

The site runs advertisements, and also links to the Freedom Center’s online store, which sells books, films, and pamphlets written by contributors to Freedom Center websites, with titles such as “The Left’s War on

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ 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.](#)

Whiteness;” “Readin', Writin', and Jihadin': The Islamization of American Public Schools;” and “10 Things America Must Do To Defend Itself Against The Global Jihad.”

Content

Front Page’s motto, featured at the top of every page on the site, is a quote from Horowitz: “Inside every progressive is a totalitarian screaming to get out.” The site’s content is heavily weighted toward Islam-related issues. The site is also a frequent critic of Black Lives Matter, writing that the activist group protesting racism is “a terrorist movement, and it should be designated as such by the U.S. government. It started out as the KKK. Now it’s evolving into Al Qaeda ...”

Stories report on current events from a conservative perspective, frequently criticizing liberal figures such as former President Barack Obama and billionaire philanthropist George Soros. Typical headlines on the site have included “John Brennan: the Traitor-in-Chief,” “The Roman Globalist Church,” and “Churches Warn Muslim Minnesota AG Over Reopening Tattoo Parlors, But Not Churches.”

Stories are often based on reporting from other conservative news outlets, including The Daily Caller and The Washington Examiner. Video clips are accessible via a David Horowitz Television page. The site also publishes syndicated columns from prominent conservative writers, including Ann Coulter, Michelle Malkin, and Robert Spencer.

Credibility

FrontPageMag.com has published false and misleading claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a May 2020 article, titled “Corona and the Great UnReason of 2020,” included multiple false claims about COVID-19. The article stated that “The only people for whom The Virus is potentially lethal are one and the same people—the elderly and others who are immunocompromised — for whom all viruses and infections are potentially lethal.”

This is false. Reports from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have shown that COVID-19 has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people under age 65. The article also stated that “Nor are stories of other young people dying from The Virus accurate. On those extraordinarily rare occasions when young people have died with it ... they have had pre-existing conditions like, say, leukemia.” The site does not provide evidence to support the claim that all young people who have died from COVID-19 had pre-existing conditions. NewsGuard could not find such data.

The same article claimed that those who had the disease but no symptoms “developed immunity to The Virus.” There is no evidence to support this claim, as medical experts have not conclusively determined whether those who have had the disease are subsequently immune.

The CDC states on its webpage about antibody tests that reveal a previous infection that “It’s unclear if those antibodies can provide protection (immunity) against getting infected again. This means that we do not know at this time if antibodies make you immune to the virus.”

In another May 2020 story, titled “6 Things Democrats and the Media Want You to Believe About the Coronavirus,” the site made false claims about the coronavirus and efforts to limit its spread. In its list of “six impossible things about the coronavirus Democrats and the media want you to believe, as well as an explanation of why each is absurd” the site included “Social distancing and face masks work.” According to the article, “Proximity of one person to another has little to do with the spread of the disease, nor do the sacred face masks stop transmission. Both are largely symbolic as well as a form of virtue-flashing.”

Numerous peer-reviewed studies have shown that COVID-19 spreads more rapidly and easily when people have close and sustained encounters with others. Health authorities say that for people who have the disease, wearing a mask reduces the risk that they will spread it.

The site has also published false information and distorted facts to advance anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant views. For example, in October 2018, as thousands of Central American immigrants were traveling to the U.S.-Mexico border, the site published multiple stories promoting an unfounded theory that the group included “criminals and aliens from the Middle East and potentially terrorists.”

The site also falsely stated in August 2018 that Eric Garner, whose 2014 death after a New York City police officer put him in a chokehold sparked nationwide protests against police brutality, died of other health problems. The article, headlined “Top 10 Black Racists,” described Garner as “a morbidly obese illegal cigarette seller in Staten Island, N.Y., who died July 17, 2014, when his disease-weakened body gave out as he resisted arrest.” While asthma and cardiovascular disease were cited in Garner’s autopsy as contributing factors to his death, the autopsy found that his primary cause of death was the compression of his neck and chest by the officer. His death was declared a homicide.

The text accompanying a September 2018 video on the site stated without evidence that a group of people filmed kicking a traffic warden in the U.K. city of Birmingham was a “Muslim gang.” Reporting on the video by the BBC and the Guardian, two major British news outlets, as well as a local Birmingham news site, did not identify the suspects as Muslim. The article also said the attack took place in “a Muslim no-go zone,” which was also not backed by any credible news outlets.

Because FrontPageMag.com has frequently published stories containing false or unfounded claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content and does not gather and present information responsibly.

Headlines generally are not deceptive or misleading.

The site clearly discloses its conservative agenda on the Who We Are page and does not purport to publish straight news. Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that the site handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

FrontPageMag.com does not state a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

Jamie Glazov, the site's editor, did not respond to two emails in 2018 requesting comment on the site's publication of false and misleading content and approach to corrections. The David Horowitz Freedom Center also did not respond to an email seeking comment on the site's editorial practices

NewsGuard emailed Glazov in May 2020 seeking comment on the same matters but did not receive a response.

Transparency

The site discloses its ownership, and the Who We Are section links to the Freedom Center's website. However, neither site discloses the Center's major donors or other sources of funding, which does not meet NewsGuard's standard for nonprofits' disclosure of its ownership and financing.

Biographical information for the site's extensive list of contributing writers, as well as its editor, is provided on an Authors page. Stories are attributed to the writer. Other authors' biographies often include social media information. Readers can contact the site through a general phone number listed on its Contact page.

Advertisements are not always distinguished from editorial content. The site includes sponsored links alongside stories labeled "Take a Look" and "Powered by FeedNetwork." This does meet NewsGuard's standard for distinguishing advertising from editorial content.

NewsGuard emailed site editor Glazov in 2020 seeking comment on the Freedom Center's lack of disclosure of major donors and the site's labeling of advertising, but

did not receive a response.

History

The FrontPageMag.com domain was registered in 1998, 10 years after the Freedom Center was founded as the Center for the Study of Popular Culture, by Horowitz and frequent collaborator Peter Collier, according to the site's About page. The center's stated mission was "to establish a conservative presence in Hollywood and show how popular culture had become a political battleground."

Although the nonprofit organization's original application for tax-exempt status asserted its nonpartisanship, Horowitz later changed the center's mission to address what he said was hostility to conservative thought that had become ingrained in American academia and culture. The center's name was changed in 2006.

The Freedom Center often hosts panels and conferences featuring conservatives such as Steve Bannon, formerly of Breitbart News and a former chief strategist for the Trump administration, and Milo Yiannopoulos, a controversial far-right provocateur.

Corrections: An earlier version of this Nutrition Label misstated the year that the David Horowitz Freedom Center was founded. The center launched in 1988 as the Center for the Study of Popular Culture. An earlier version also misstated the amount of revenue that the David Horowitz Freedom Center raised in 2016; the total was closer to \$6 million. Also, the label gave the incorrect title for Jamie Glazov, the site's editor. NewsGuard apologizes for the errors.

Editor's Note: This label was updated on May 22, 2020, to reflect that the site handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly, avoids deceptive headlines, and does not clearly label advertising. The criteria checklist has been adjusted accordingly.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard:[Click Here](#)

Sources

Ownership and
Financing

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