An anonymously run conservative news site that republishes videos from other outlets. The site has published conspiracy theories, does not disclose its political orientation or publish corrections.

Ownership and Financing

The Liberty Eagle does not disclose its ownership, noting only that it is “privately owned.” The site runs a Facebook page with the same name.

The site runs advertisements and features an online store.

Content

TheLibertyEagle.com’s About page states that it aims to provide readers “with news the liberal mainstream media won’t report.” It adds: “We will always provide you with articles/videos from reputable sources as we value your trust to be your everyday news source. We promise not to misinform or waste your time ever.”

The site does not publish original reporting, instead largely publishing articles that consist only of a headline and a video taken from another source. During NewsGuard’s November 2018 review of the site, its content mostly consisted of text articles reposted from other websites, sometimes with added commentary. This change appears to have occurred shortly before NewsGuard’s review, as the site had published text articles as late as April 2020.

Stories center on politics, culture, and the media, covered from a conservative perspective. On a typical day, articles run under headlines such as “PRESS SEC PUTS REPORTER IN HIS PLACE AFTER DUMB QUESTION;” “ABRAMS: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAN NO LONGER ELECT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES;” and “ALABAMA SEC. OF STATE FACT CHECKS CNN ON VOTER FRAUD.”

All articles appear to be filed under the Politics category, regardless of subject matter.

Score: 44.5/100

- 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 Liberty Eagle generally draws videos from conservative accounts on YouTube and Twitter, including GOP War Room and BlazeTV. The site also relies on content from sources known to publish false and misleading information, including InfoWars.com and Gateway Pundit. Although the site does not itself credit the sources for its content, the videos’ creators are typically identified within the republished videos.

The site has republished content containing false or misleading information concerning the COVID-19 pandemic and potential treatments.

For example, in April 2020, TheLibertyEagle.com published an article titled “NOBEL PRIZE SCIENTIST: VIRUS WAS LEAKED FROM CHINA LAB,” which consisted of a video in which French scientist Luc Montagnier stated in an interview that the coronavirus had been altered with material that resembled the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Montagnier, who won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2008 for discovering the human immunodeficiency virus, has made controversial statements in recent years about the dangers of vaccines.

Montagnier claimed in the video that the novel coronavirus may have been engineered by someone seeking to create an HIV vaccine, adding that a group of Indian researchers who had published evidence supporting his position were forced to retract their work.

The research that Montagnier cited was published in January 2020 on the website BioRxiv.org, where users can submit scientific studies before they have been peer-reviewed and published. According to a February 2020 article on the fact-checking website HealthFeedback.org, the study’s claim of a link to HIV “was detected using extremely short protein sequences, a practice that often gives rise to false positive results.” The authors also neglected to note that the same sequences are found in many other organisms, medical experts said.
There is no evidence that the researchers withdrew the study because of political pressures, as suggested by Montagnier. “This paper has been withdrawn by its authors. They intend to revise it in response to comments received from the research community on their technical approach and their interpretation of the results,” the BioRxiv.org page said after the study was withdrawn.

Multiple studies have concluded that the virus was not created in a lab. Researchers who published a study in the journal Nature in February 2020 said that the new virus’s genome is “96 percent identical” to a bat coronavirus. A March 2020 study published in the journal Nature Medicine concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.”

In April 2020, The Liberty Eagle published three articles — since deleted without corrections or retraction notices — that promoted the unproven use of the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for COVID-19. Two of these articles, headlined “DISEASE SPECIALIST SAYS CHLOROQUINE COMBO AN ABSOLUTE GAME CHANGER” and “DEMOCRAT SAYS HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE SAVED HER LIFE,” reported favorably on the drug and cases in which its use as treatment were allegedly successful, without disclosing that its efficacy was unproven and that were some danger signs at that point.

The third article, titled “DOCTOR: HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE MAKES PATIENTS SYMPTOM FREE IN HOURS,” included a tweet mentioning that the drug “hasn’t been clinically tested against to treat Covid-19.” The story itself was less equivocal, stating that “Every day we are hearing success stories from doctors and patients who recovered from Coronavirus after taking the anti-malaria drugs, however the media continues to attack the use of hydroxychloroquine.”
International health authorities have not concluded that hydroxychloroquine is an effective treatment for the COVID-19 virus. A March 2020 study by French researchers, which tested the drug on 20 people, suggested the drug could be useful. However, another March 2020 study conducted in China found that the drug was no more effective for 15 COVID-19 patients than a regimen of bed rest, supplemental oxygen, and antiviral drugs for another group of patients.

In April 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said in a statement on its website, “Hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine have not been shown to be safe and effective for treatment or preventing COVID-19.”

Because TheLibertyEagle.com has published misleading and inaccurate information, including about the COVID-19 pandemic, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not gather and present information responsibly.

TheLibertyEagle.com is up-front about its perspective — stating that it provides “news the liberal mainstream media won’t report” — and does not purport to separate news and opinion, publishing all content in a Politics section. Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that the site handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

TheLibertyEagle.com does not have a stated corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

NewsGuard sent questions about the site’s editorial practices to the general email address listed on the site in November 2018 and received responses, although the person who responded declined to identify themselves. Asked about the site’s approach to corrections, the staff member said that “the website does run corrections,” but could not provide any examples because “the edits/corrections are published immediately.” The respondent acknowledged that the site does not post notices informing readers that a story has been corrected.
NewsGuard emailed the site in May 2020, seeking comment on the site’s publication of misleading COVID-19 information, but did not receive a response.

Transparency

The site does not disclose information about its owners, leadership, or editorial staff.

Articles do not include the name of the writer and are credited to “The Liberty Eagle,” although the articles and videos are largely produced by other sites.

Although some of the site’s advertisements are labelled “Sponsored Links,” many are not, despite mimicking the appearance of editorial content. For example, one advertisement, which appeared to be an article titled “Make £7219 On Your Mobile In Just 15 Minutes Daily,” led to an article marketing “Bitcoin Bank,” a cryptocurrency trading service requiring a £250 deposit.

The Liberty Eagle staff member stated in a November 2018 email that some authors on the site are named, but no examples of that were provided. The respondent confirmed that the site does not provide ownership information, but declined to explain why.

NewsGuard emailed the site in May 2020, seeking comment on the site’s advertising labeling, but did not receive a response.

History

The site states on its About page that it was founded on July 4, 2009. The oldest articles on the site are dated February 2017, although NewsGuard found archived editions of the site, using the same logo, dating to May 2014.

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on May 28, 2020, to reflect that the site no longer repeatedly publishes false information and that it does not meet the standard for distinguishing advertising from editorial content. The criteria checklist has been adjusted accordingly.

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Edited by:  Anna-Sophie Harling, Eric Effron
Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Previously Revolt Report/Hatton Report on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/pg/TheLibertyEagle/ads/?ref=page_internal

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Wrote Liberty Eagle-associated book

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https://twitter.com/search?q=%22blair%20hatton%22&src=typd
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Self-review of own book on Amazon

Reviewing Liberty Eagle podcast
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Hatton is sole named admin/moderator of Liberty Eagle Facebook page
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Lori Hatton
https://thelibertyeagle.com.cutestat.com/


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Typical headlines (May 2020)

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Clinton assassinations