

# revolver.news

An anonymously run right-leaning news site that calls itself “the new Drudge Report,” which has published conspiracy theories and false information about the COVID-19 pandemic.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 39.5/100

## Ownership and Financing

Revolver.news does not disclose its ownership, and NewsGuard could not determine who owns or runs it.

The website does not operate its own social media channels, but its content is regularly promoted by conservative Twitter accounts with large followings, including the account of conservative commentator Michelle Malkin, which has 2.2 million followers; The Columbia Bugle, which has 162,000 followers; and the account of former Trump administration speechwriter Darren Beattie, which has 33,000 followers.

Beattie has heavily promoted articles from the site, and in a September 2020 tweet, wrote,

“That’s <http://revolver.news> ---the new Drudge Report. Bookmark it and share with all of your friends. From Color Revolution to Covid, Revolver News will give you the cutting edge research and analysis combined with top of the line news aggregation.” In a September 2020 interview with Beattie, Fox News host Tucker Carlson introduced Beattie by stating he “works now with Revolver News.”

Beattie was fired in 2018 as a speechwriter and policy development aide from the White House, the BBC reported, after CNN revealed that he had spoken at the 2016 H.L. Mencken Club Conference, a conference frequented by white nationalists including Richard Spencer.

The site runs advertising.

- ✓ 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.](#)

## Content

Revolver.news mixes republished tweets and articles from conservative news sites with its own political news articles, which are labeled as “Exclusive.” Content is

posted in one scrolling feed on the homepage, with the most recent content at the top.

The site explicitly pitches itself as a successor and competitor to the influential news aggregation site the Drudge Report, which was criticized by conservatives in 2019 for a perceived shift to the left. Articles on the site begin with a note stating, “ATTENTION NEWS JUNKIES: We are the new Drudge,” and end with a note beginning, “Revolver News is dedicated to news aggregation and analysis. While we greatly respect and admire Matt Drudge, the Drudge Report no longer has its finger on the pulse of America. We aim to fill that void, and much more.”

Revolver’s news stories strongly favor U.S. President Donald Trump and frequently criticize Democrats and liberal politicians. Posts in 2020, for example, praised Amy Coney Barrett, President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee; blamed California wildfires on poor land management by the Democratic state government; and claimed, following a Washington Free Beacon report that Minnesota would accept ballots for the eight days following the 2020 election, that the state was attempting to steal the election for Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

Typical headlines on the site include “Ohio Dems dominating absentee ballot requests...virtually guaranteeing post-election chaos...”; “Outraged Dems demand Facebook execs censor more...”; and “Trump calls out commie donors...”

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#### Credibility

The site republishes content, with attribution, from a wide range of sources including news organizations such as the Wall Street Journal and CNBC; entertainment and technology publications such as Variety and WIRED; tweets from politicians and public figures; and stories from websites that NewsGuard has found to repeatedly publish false content, such as ZeroHedge and InfoWars. The website’s original articles frequently cite unnamed U.S. government sources.

The site has repeatedly published unsubstantiated and inaccurate claims. For example, in August 2020, the website published several articles that claimed that the United States orchestrated color revolutions — political movements that sprang up in various former Communist countries in the early 21st century — in the U.S. and other countries.

One article titled “EXCLUSIVE — The Curious Case of George Kent: State Department’s Belarus ‘Color Revolution’ Expert And ‘Never Trump’ Impeachment Witness,” claimed without citing a source that the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs “is generally known as the State Department hub for so-called ‘Color Revolutions,’ through which the State Department, together with covert agencies and a constellation of allied NGOs influence, and at times overturn, elections in foreign countries.”

The article also claimed, citing unnamed State Department officials, that George Kent, a deputy assistant secretary with the bureau, “is a ‘color revolution expert’ — a designation that has been corroborated to Revolver by two current senior State Department sources.” Noting that Kent worked as deputy Political Counselor in Kiev during Ukraine’s Orange Revolution, a period of political unrest which followed the country’s contested 2004 election, the article said, “The State Department’s preferred candidate did not win, and the State Department, with the help of its constellation of friendly NGOs, helped to facilitate the overthrow of [former Ukraine president Viktor] Yanukovich by contesting the legitimacy of the election, organizing mass protests and acts of civil disobedience, and leveraging media contacts to ensure favorable coverage to their agenda in the Western press — all tactics eerily similar to those used against President Trump beginning the day after he was elected.”

The article did not provide evidence for the claim that the U.S. government orchestrated the Orange Revolution, and NewsGuard could find no such evidence. In 2004, Michael McFaul, then-a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution think tank and later U.S.

Ambassador to Russia between 2012 and 2014, said in a Washington Post column that although the U.S. had sponsored organizations promoting free and fair elections in Ukraine, it did not cause the revolution.

“Westerners did not create or control the Ukrainian democratic movement but rather supported its cause on the margins,” McFaul wrote. “Moreover, democracy promotion groups do not have a recipe for revolution. If the domestic conditions aren’t ripe, there will be no democratic breakthrough, no matter how crafted the technical assistance or how strategically invested the small grants. In fact, Western democracy promoters work in most developing democracies in the world, yet democratic transitions are rare.”

The same article compared the color revolutions to U.S. protests by members of antifa, which stands for antifascist, or Black Lives Matter groups. The article said, “The similarity between the Atlanticist-backed Belarus riots and the way the organized ANTIFA and BLM protests operate in the United States is impossible to ignore,” adding, “The very same people running cover revolution operations in Ukraine and Eastern Europe have been using the very same playbook to overturn 2016 and destroy the legitimacy of President Trump’s election.”

Revolver did not explain how Kent, or any other U.S. officials working in Eastern Europe, might have been involved in organizing antifa or Black Lives Matter protests.

Another August 2020 article, “Transition Integrity Project: Is this Soros Linked Group Plotting a ‘Color Revolution’ Against President Trump?” (September 2020), made similar unsubstantiated claims. The article began by defining a color revolution as “a specific type of coordinated attack that the United States government has been known to deploy against foreign regimes, particularly in Eastern Europe deemed to be ‘authoritarian’ and hostile to American interests. Rather than using a direct military intervention to effect regime change as in Iraq, Color Revolutions attack a foreign regime by contesting its electoral legitimacy, organizing

mass protests and acts of civil disobedience, and leveraging media contacts to ensure favorable coverage to their agenda in the Western press.”

Revolver.news also asserted without explanation that liberal billionaire philanthropist George Soros “and his Open Society Foundation have played key roles in the Color Revolutions in Eastern Europe,” and that “a curiously high percentage of key Trump opposition figures, especially those involved with the impeachment of the President, have or have had some kind of professional role overseeing Color Revolutions in Eastern Europe.”

Another August 2020 article, headlined “Meet Norm Eisen: Legal Hatchet Man and Central Operative in the ‘Color Revolution’ Against President Trump” (September 2020), claimed, “The very same regime change professionals who run Color Revolutions on behalf of the US Government in order to undermine or overthrow alleged ‘authoritarian’ governments overseas, are running the very same playbook to overturn Trump’s 2016 victory and to pre-empt a repeat in 2020.”

None of the articles substantiated the claim that the U.S. government orchestrated color revolutions, or that figures within the government are attempting to create a revolution inside the U.S. The claim that color revolutions are manufactured by the U.S., or western democracies in general, has previously been alleged by Russian government figures and Chinese state media, but again no evidence was provided to support the assertions.

Revolver has also published false claims about the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in September 2020, Revolver republished an InfoWars article titled, “Sky News Host Leads Resistance Against Covid-19 Scam,” which said that an Australian commentator with Sky News “points out that only 9% of deaths attributed to Covid-19 in Australia were due to Covid-19 alone.”

The article also featured an embedded video in which InfoWars founder Alex Jones claimed that the COVID-19 pandemic was planned by Bill Gates as a means to

depopulate the globe. Jones claimed in the video, “They’re having trials of Bill Gates’ COVID-19 vaccine, and many others, there’s several hundred being tested. They’re having deaths, 80 percent of people get sick. 20 percent go to the hospital. That’s Bill Gates’ weak vaccine. That’s even on CBS News.”

Regarding Revolver.news’ claim about Australia’s COVID-19 death toll, medical experts have said that deaths attributed to COVID-19, in which there are other underlying conditions involved, does not mean that those patients did not die of COVID-19. According to Dr. Robert Anderson, who oversees the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s death statistics work, it is common for people to have more than one medical issue at the time of their death, and death certificates routinely list all potential contributing causes to the death.

“The underlying cause of death is the condition that began the chain of events that ultimately led to the person’s death,” Anderson said in an August 2020 statement to The Associated Press. “In 92% of all deaths that mention COVID-19 [in the U.S.’ case], COVID-19 is listed as the underlying cause of death.”

There is no evidence for the claim in the InfoWars video of a “Bill Gates’ COVID-19 vaccine” that is in development. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has provided \$150 million to the Serum Institute of India, with the goal of providing doses to low income countries for less than \$3 each, but does not own a vaccine project.

NewsGuard also found no evidence that, in any COVID-19 vaccine trial, 80 percent of patients had gotten ill, or that any had died, as the Revolver.news article claimed. In a widely reported September 2020 incident, a vaccine trial undertaken jointly by the University of Oxford and pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca was briefly paused after two patients fell ill. The trial was resumed after an independent board declared it safe.

A July 2020 Revolver article, “Former Senator Wanders onto Set of ‘Morning Joe’ to Ask if Putin Has a Stake in Hydroxychloroquine,” claimed that “The facts and science appear to be on the side of hydroxychloroquine’s effectiveness, as even CNN deigned to admit earlier this month.” The article quoted a CNN article that reported that “A team at Henry Ford Health System in Southeast Michigan said Thursday its study of 2,541 hospitalized patients found that those given hydroxychloroquine were much less likely to die.”

The article did not provide any details about how the study was conducted, nor did it mention that, although President Trump has praised the use of hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has cautioned against using it. In June 2020, after more medical research about the drug’s potential side effects and efficacy emerged, the FDA revoked its emergency use authorization that allowed hospitals to use the drug to treat COVID-19 patients.

The Henry Ford Health System study was criticized by medical experts because it was not randomized — a feature of study design in which patients are randomly assigned to receive a treatment. Larger, randomized clinical trials have found that hydroxychloroquine did not provide beneficial effects to COVID-19 patients. In June 2020, United Kingdom researchers ended the use of hydroxychloroquine in a large trial, called the RECOVERY trial, that had involved 4,600 patients. “We have concluded that there is no beneficial effect of hydroxychloroquine in patients hospitalised with COVID-19,” according to a statement by researchers Martin Landray and Peter Horby of the RECOVERY trial.

While the CNN report noted that the study was observational, not randomized, and that, according to CNN, “several other studies have found no benefit from hydroxychloroquine,” Revolver.news’ article did not include this information.

Because Revolver has promoted raise claims and published unsubstantiated conspiracy theories, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not

gather and present information responsibly.

However, because the website did not typically repeat false claims in headlines of the articles cited above, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not fail to meet its standard for avoiding deceptive headlines.

The site does not outline a corrections policy. NewsGuard found one correction published in July 2020, which made a minor correction. Because NewsGuard could find no other corrections, and because the website has left significant inaccurate claims uncorrected, such as the stories about COVID-19, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet its standard for regularly correcting errors.

Revolver.news only describes its mission in notes to articles that describe it as a “new Drudge” that publishes aggregation and analysis. It does not disclose an overall political point of view and does not separately label news or opinion articles. However, the sites’ headlines and original articles regularly contain opinionated language favouring President Donald Trump and conservatives.

For example, an August 2020 Exclusive article was titled “Kyle Rittenhouse Did Nothing Wrong: All Available Evidence So Far Points to Clear-Cut Case of Self-Defense,” and argued that a teenager accused of killing two protestors was innocent of first-degree murder. The article said, “As Revolver has stated repeatedly, the only way to stop this once and for all is for Attorney General Barr to get serious, get tough, and start throwing real charges against the most egregious participants in these riots and their organizers.”

A September 2020 article, headlined “What they didn’t tell you about Ukrainegate and the terminally corrupt Joe Biden,” which was republished from the website WinterWatch.net, said, “On Jan. 31, 2020, we penned the following post below concerning Dementia Joe Biden and his terminally corrupt behavior dealing with Ukrainian oligarchs.”

A September 2020 Exclusive article, “Meet The Republican Senator Sabotaging Trump’s Plans to End Forever Wars and Bring Our Troops Home,” opened by stating that “Perhaps the most heroic moment of President Trump’s historic 2016 campaign was the when he stood on the South Carolina debate stage and dared to call out the Iraq War for the disaster it was. Trump achieved victory in 2016 in large part because of his sacred pledge to end our nation’s forever wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere and—finally—to bring our brave warriors back home.”

Because Revolver.news publishes unlabeled opinion in news stories that advance an undisclosed conservative perspective, NewsGuard has determined that Revolver does not responsibly handle the separation of news and opinion.

NewsGuard sent two emails to a general contact email address on the site’s Contact page, seeking comment on the site’s publication of unsubstantiated conspiracy theories and debunked claims about COVID-19, its lack of corrections, and its approach to separating news from opinion, but did not receive a reply.

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#### Transparency

Revolver.news does not disclose its ownership or identify its editors or content creators. Articles do not feature bylines. The site features a Contact page, which hosts a submissions form, a tipline, and a general contact email address, but no phone number.

Advertisements are distinguishable from editorial content.

NewsGuard sent two emails to a general contact email address on the site’s Contact page, seeking comment on the site’s failure to identify its ownership, leadership, and authorship, but did not receive a reply.

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#### History

The Revolver.news web address was registered on May 26, 2020. The oldest posts on the site date to June 20, 2020.

Revolver seems to have first been mentioned on Twitter on June 30, 2020, by the account cubanaparatrump. In the following hours, a story the site published concerning the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education was separately linked to by multiple large conservative accounts, including journalist Michelle Malkin and The Columbia Bugle, and retweeted by others, including ex-Trump speechwriter Beattie.

In July 2020, Fox News host Tucker Carlson, while discussing the Drudge Report's perceived move to the left, stated that "Many of Drudge's readers have fled to Revolver News which has begun to fill the void he has left."

In September 2020, President Trump himself endorsed Revolver, stating in a tweet that "Our people have all left Drudge. He is a confused MESS, has no clue what happened. Down 51%. @DRUDGE They like REVOLVER and others!"

Written by: [Bron Maher](#)

Edited by: [Amy Westfeldt](#)

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

## Sources

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Ownership and  
Financing

[https://twitter.com/news\\_revolver](https://twitter.com/news_revolver)(NOT the site's Twitter — it's an imposter)

Columbia Bugle boosting

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Malkin

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Credibility

Labelled “Commentary”

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Hydroxychloroquine

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