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tuckercarlson.com

The website for conservative commentator Tucker Carlson, which publishes clips from Carlson's Fox News shows that advance false claims, including about COVID-19.



Proceed with Maximum Caution: This website is unreliable because it severely violates basic journalistic standards.

- Does not repeatedly publish false or egregiously misleading content 22 points
- Gathers and presents information responsibly 18
- Has effective practices for correcting errors 12.5
- 💢 Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly 12.5
- Avoids deceptive headlines 10
- Website discloses ownership and financing 7.5
- N/A 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

Ownership and Financing

The ownership of TuckerCarlson.com is unclear. The site's Terms of Use page states, "The Site is controlled and operated by ASGPC, LLC," and lists an address in Sheridan, Wyoming. However, NewsGuard could find no company with that name registered in Wyoming or any other state.

The site generates revenue through selling Carlson-branded products, such as shirts, hats, and coffee mugs. It does not run advertisements for anything besides its own products.

Content

Tucker Carlson.com publishes clips from three separate shows that had been hosted by Carlson: "Tucker Carlson Tonight," a weeknight show that aired on Fox News Channel, "Tucker Carlson Today," a weekday interview show on the Fox Nation streaming service; and "Tucker Carlson Originals," a documentary series that is available on Fox Nation. On April 24, 2023, Fox News announced that Carlson and the network "agreed to part ways." "Tucker Carlson Tonight" was replaced by a nightly news show with rotating hosts.

The Videos section contains all of the site's content from these shows, typically labeled as either "Monologue" or "Interview." Monologues contain Carlson's own conservative commentary, and his interviews are generally with conservative figures. Typical interviewees have included Republican U.S. Rep. Majorie Taylor Greene of Georgia; U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri; and conservative commentator Candace Owens.

The site does not publish all of the content from Carlson's programs. For example, in an August 2022 review of the site, NewsGuard found that the site

published videos from most episodes of "Tucker Carlson Tonight" dating back to Feb. 15, 2022, and then sporadic segments dating as far back as Sept. 13, 2018. The Videos section also links to Carlson's November 2021 "Patriot Purge" documentary series, which advanced false claims about the Jan. 6, 2021, attack. However, the documentary itself is not available on TuckerCarlson.com and can only be viewed on the Fox Nation website.

Credibility

Videos posted on TuckerCarlson.com have repeatedly advanced false claims, including about COVID-19 vaccines.

For example, in a July 21, 2022, video headlined "Tucker: Biden's positive COVID test steps on vaccination message," Carlson advanced the false claim that COVID-19 vaccines could weaken a person's immune system. Carlson said, "In fact, it's looking likely that the vaccine might suppress the immune system." He quoted from an April 2022 article published in the journal Food and Chemical Toxicology to back this claim, saying, "This fact, the authors concluded, will 'have a wide range of consequences, not the least of which include the reactivation of latent viral infections and the reduced ability to effectively combat future infections."

COVID-19 vaccines do not suppress a person's immune system. In fact, they do the opposite, providing recipients with increased protection against severe disease and death from COVID-19. "COVID-19 vaccines do not cause immunosuppression," Pablo Penaloza-MacMaster, an assistant professor of microbiology-immunology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, told Agence France-Presse in a December 2021 fact-checking article.

Carlson accurately quoted from the article, but he failed to mention that its authors have frequently promoted false health claims. For example, lead author Stephanie Seneff is a senior research scientist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, does not

have a background in medicine, and has falsely claimed that vaccines can cause autism. Another co-author was Dr. Peter McCullough, a Texas-based cardiologist who has falsely claimed that ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine are effective COVID-19 treatments.

Moreover, medical experts who reviewed the Food and Chemical Toxicology article told FactCheck.org in July 2022 said the authors do not provide evidence to support the claim that COVID-19 vaccines are suppressing the immune system. Dr. Ivan Zanoni, a Boston Children's Hospital immunologist, said the article's conclusion "doesn't make any sense with what we know about the vaccine and how it works, and neither [does] it makes sense to what we know about how the immune system works."

TuckerCarlson.com has also published false claims about the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. For example, in a June 10, 2022, video headlined "Ashli Babbitt's widower speaks out to Tucker," Carlson said, "Just to be clear on terms, an insurrection is when people with guns try to overthrow the government. Not a single person in the crowd on January 6 was found to be carrying a firearm. Not one."

In fact, NBC News reported one week after the attack that police had seized 12 guns, including an assault rifle, and thousands of rounds of ammunition from seven protesters attending the Jan. 6, 2021, rally. In one such arrest, the District of Columbia's Metropolitan Police Department arrested a man who was alleged to be carrying a fully loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun on Capitol grounds on Jan. 6. According to a database maintained by National Public Radio (NPR), as of Oct. 25, 2021, three of the people facing federal charges for their involvement in the Jan. 6 attack had been charged with possessing a gun on Capitol grounds.

In a May 19, 2022, video titled "Tucker: There is no graver violation of medical ethics than this," a clip from that day's episode of "Tucker Carlson Tonight," Carlson advanced a false claim about a January 2022 U.S. government proposal

to amend the WHO's International Health Regulations. The WHO describes the regulations on its website as "an overarching legal framework that defines countries' rights and obligations in handling public health events and emergencies that have the potential to cross borders."

Carlson said of the proposed amendments, "The Biden administration is very close to handing the World Health Organization power over every aspect, the intimate aspects, of your life. So, imagine the civil liberties abuses that you lived through the COVID lockdowns, but permanent, and administered from a foreign country."

In fact, nothing in the proposal would give the WHO "power over every aspect, the intimate aspects, of your life," as Carlson claimed, nor give any foreign entity the power to enforce a lockdown in the U.S. According to a May 2022 fact-checking article from The Associated Press, the U.S. government proposal would set deadlines on how quickly WHO and member countries are supposed to report information about potential public health emergencies of international concern.

Lawrence Gostin, director of Georgetown University's WHO Collaborating Center on National and Global Health Law, told FactCheck.org in May 2022 that the WHO can only make recommendations on public health emergencies and cannot force members to accept them, which would not change under the amendments proposed by the U.S.

"WHO has no authority to dictate US health policy whatsoever," Gostin said. "The Regulations have no control whatsoever over national health care policy or programs. That is entirely a matter for the sovereign nation to decide. The WHO can make recommendations after the declaration of a global emergency, but they are just recommendations and are non-binding. States are legally bound to report dangerous outbreaks, but there is no enforcement mechanism and countries often do not comply."

In a March 9, 2022, video headlined "Tucker: The Pentagon is lying about bio labs in Ukraine," Carlson suggested that the U.S. government had covered up its involvement with Ukrainian biological research facilities. Carlson began the segment by saying, "If you had told us just four days ago that the Biden administration was funding secret biolabs, and in Ukraine of all places, we would not have believed you. I don't think we would put that on TV, no thanks."

He then played a clip from a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, in which U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio asked U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland if Ukraine had chemical or biological weapons. Nuland replied, "Ukraine has biological research facilities, which, in fact, we are now quite concerned Russian forces may be seeking to gain control of. So we are working with the Ukrainians on how they can prevent any of those research materials from falling into the hands of Russian forces, should they approach."

Carlson said after playing Nuland's comments, "You mean secret biolabs? Like the secret biolabs Ukraine definitely doesn't have? Ukraine has those? Yes it does." Carlson went on to say that Nuland "just confirmed that the Russian disinformation they have been telling us for days is a lie and a conspiracy theory, crazy and immoral to believe, it is in fact totally and completely true." Carlson suggested later in the segment that the biological research facilities Nuland spoke about could be developing biological weapons, stating, "From your answer, Victoria Nuland, we would assume, because you all but said it, that there's a military application to this research, that they were working on bioweapons. Again, your answer suggests that."

In fact, the biological research facilities mentioned by Nuland were not secret, nor did she suggest that they were working on the development of bioweapons, as Carlson claimed. The U.S. has been providing aid to Ukrainian laboratories since 2005, when the Ukrainian Ministry of Health and U.S. Department of Defense signed an agreement intended to limit the threat of bioterrorism by implementing safeguards on deadly pathogens from Soviet-era biological

weapons programs. The aid is part of the U.S. Department of Defense's Biological Threat Reduction Program, which collaborates with partner countries to reduce the threat of outbreaks of dangerous infectious diseases by helping partners to secure dangerous pathogens and to quickly detect outbreaks, according to the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine's website.

The Biological Threat Reduction Program has since helped to construct and modernize Ukrainian laboratories. The labs themselves are run and primarily financed by the Ukrainian government. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) noted in response to claims about the presence of U.S. military biological laboratories in a May 2020 statement that "no foreign biological laboratories operate in Ukraine."

Because the video content on TuckerCarlson.com has repeatedly advanced false claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content and does not gather and present information responsibly. Headlines on the site generally do not include false claims, which is why NewsGuard has determined that the site does not fail the standard for avoiding deceptive headlines.

The site does not articulate its approach to correcting errors and NewsGuard did not find any corrections, including to the false claims cited above.

Despite the fact that Carlson is well-known as a conservative commentator, TuckerCarlson.com does not disclose a political perspective. The majority of the site's content advances conservative opinion, criticizes Democratic politicians and liberals, and includes interviews that generally only provide conservative perspectives on significant issues. Typical headlines in the Videos section as of August 2022 include "Los Angeles schools 'training' children to experiment with gender identities," "Climate change mandate shows how dependent US is on China," and "Woke indoctrination at West Point."

Because TuckerCarlson.com's content generally promotes conservative viewpoints without disclosing an overall perspective, NewsGuard has determined that the website does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

NewsGuard did not receive a response to three August 2022 emails sent to a general email address listed on the site's Privacy Policy page, seeking comment on the videos cited above, the site's approach to corrections, and the lack of disclosure of its political perspective.

Transparency

TuckerCarlson.com does not clearly identify its ownership, editors, or content creators. While Carlson is the site's namesake, he is never named as the site's owner or the one in charge of its content. No other content creators are mentioned on the site.

NewsGuard did not receive a response to three August 2021 emails sent to a general email address listed on the site's Privacy Policy page, seeking comment on the site's lack of information on ownership, content creators, and editors.

The site does not run advertisements, other than promotions of Carlson-branded products.

History

The site's domain was registered in 2003. However, archived versions of the site show that

TuckerCarlson.com did not begin publishing content until 2018.

On April 24, 2023, Fox announced that the network and Carlson "agreed to part ways" and took "Tucker Carlson Tonight" off the air. The show, the most-watched

on the network, was to be replaced by a nightly news hour with rotating hosts, Fox said. Carlson did not immediately comment on his departure.

Carlson left the network less than a week after Fox settled a lawsuit with voting technology company Dominion Voting Systems, which alleged that Carlson, Sean Hannity, and several other Fox personalities spread baseless claims about the companies' role in alleged voting irregularities in the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Fox agreed to pay Dominion \$787.5 million and issued a statement saying, "We acknowledge the Court's rulings finding certain claims about Dominion to be false." A similar lawsuit against the network, filed by voting technology company Smartmatic, was still pending in April 2023.

Before the Dominion settlement was announced, documents released as part of the Dominion suit in February 2023 indicated that Carlson and other hosts, including prime-time host Laura Ingraham, had privately expressed doubts about the voter fraud allegations that the network repeatedly advanced on air and online.

In a series of Nov. 18, 2020, text messages between Carlson and Ingraham, which were detailed in a February 2023 motion filed by Dominion, Carlson told Ingraham, "Sidney Powell is lying by the way. I caught her. It's insane." Ingraham responded, "Sidney is a complete nut. No one will work with her. Ditto with Rudy."

On Nov. 22, 2020, Carlson texted Ingraham, according to the legal documents, "Powell's a nut, as you said at the outset. It totally wrecked my weekend. Wow I had to try to make the WH [White House] disavow her, which they obviously should have done long before." Ingraham responded: "No serious lawyer could believe what they were saying."

Editor's Note: This label was updated on April 24, 2023, with Carlson's departure from Fox News, and information about the settlement of a lawsuit against Fox by

voting technology company Dominion over the network's claims of election fraud in the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Written by: John Gregory Edited by: Amy Westfeldt

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