

Addenda #43 – December 2025

Re: Ch. 4, The Fourth Industrial Revolution – Government Abuse of Power
Censorship

Commission fines X €120 million under the Digital Services Act

The Commission has issued a fine of €120 million to X for breaching its transparency obligations under the Digital Services Act (DSA)

European Commission Press Release, December 5, 2025

The Digital Services Act (DSA) was put in force in the European Union in November 2022 and was the culmination of four years of designing legislation to crack down on “illegal content” on online platforms (social networks, marketplaces, search engines, app stores, etc.). Originally proposed by Ursula von der Leyden during her bid to become president of the European Commission in 2019, the DSA was meant to address “illegal content” on digital platforms and the alleged harm it caused on society. “Illegal content” was defined as anything illegal under EU or national law, such as hate speech, the sale of dangerous counterfeits and deceptive advertising. Later changes to the legislation added rules for fighting “disinformation” and “misinformation.” Platforms were responsible for monitoring content posted on their own site and remove anything that violated EU laws. Platforms also had to respond to complaints filed by platform users and remove any content *users* found offensive. If the platform decided against the user, they could force the case to an out-of-court dispute settlement body to review the platform’s decision. The maximum fine for failing to comply with the DSA is 6% of the provider’s total annual worldwide turnover, or revenue, in the preceding financial year. In 2024, Meta (Facebook) annual revenue was \$164.5 billion, so a maximum fine imposed by the EU Commission would equal \$9.87 billion.

If this isn’t a textbook definition of censorship, then I don’t know what is. Hate speech is very often in the eye of the beholder, because it’s a very subjective opinion. In October 2022, the American Medical Association, the Children’s Hospital Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics sent a letter to Biden attorney general Merrick Garland requesting that the Department of Justice “investigate and prosecute” journalists, activists, and citizens critical of “gender-affirming health care” on online platforms. These organizations claimed criticisms of gender-affirming care resulted in threats and harassment of clinics that provide such care but failed to provide concrete evidence of such actions.

Canadian Jordan Peterson received a bachelor’s degree in psychology, a PhD in clinical psychology and was a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto. Peterson has posted numerous online YouTube and podcast videos in which he criticized gender-affirming care and pointed out that it was based on unproven science and can be harmful to those who are treated. The College of Psychologists of Ontario eventually ordered Peterson to complete a remedial program regarding professionalism in public statements, a decision later upheld by the Superior Court of Justice in Ontario.

On December 5th, the EU Commission fined X (formerly Twitter) €120 million Euros, equal to \$141 million US dollars, for the alleged “deceptive design” of its blue checkmark, a symbol used on social media platforms to indicate that an account's identity has been verified and is not a fake profile. The Commission claims anyone can pay X to obtain ‘verified’ status without meaningful verification of who is behind the account. This decision came two years after regulators first opened proceedings against X for failure to combat disinformation and misinformation, based on concerns of illegal content about the “Israel-Hamas conflict.”

The “conflict,” began with multiple attacks by Hamas in Israel throughout 2022, escalating to the October 7 invasion and attack. The October attacks led to the deaths of 1,195 Israelis and foreign nationals, many of whom were tortured, sexually assaulted, executed or burned to death. The EU Commission downplayed the attacks on the citizens of Israel, which were declared “crimes against humanity” by global human rights organization Amnesty International, while condemning the “massive increase in settler (Israeli) violence” against Palestinian civilians and calling for humanitarian aid for Palestinians, aid which in many cases was confiscated by Hamas. Hamas, an Islamic militant group which has governed the Gaza strip since June 2007, has been designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S. and dozens of other nations. Hamas refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist and has called for the obliteration or dissolution of Israel, while declaring the rest of the world should recognize Palestine as a free state. Global organizations like the World Economic Forum and the United Nations have condemned the Hamas invasion and attacks in Israel but refuse to label Hamas a terrorist group, instead calling it a “political movement.” Both organizations are more concerned about a regional war upsetting their environmental, social and governance plans, than they are about the Palestinians or Israeli's. According to the EU Commission, speaking out against Hamas and telling the truth about its corruption and terrorist activities is *disinformation*.

The Commission also claims X failed to provide researchers with access to public data from its platform. The DSA requires large online platforms to allow “independent researchers” access to platform data to identify and address “systemic risks” to society. (Systemic risks are defined as having negative effects on the exercise of fundamental rights, civic discourse, electoral processes, public security and negative effects in relation to “gender-based violence.” The EU Council defines gender-based violence as anything “that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering.” The two examples I gave earlier, qualify as gender-based violence according to the EU Council and would be a violation of the Digital Services Act, requiring Facebook, X or any other online platform to remove posts, podcasts, videos or promotions for books and personal appearances.

The *EU Charter of Fundamental Rights* claims to protect democracy, freedom and equal treatment for everyone in the EU, but the method they've chosen to protect these rights is global censorship of political and social discourse, targeting one political philosophy.

The future is not just happening. The future is built by us, by a powerful community as you here in this room.

Klaus Schwab, World Economic Forum founder, WEF annual Meeting, Davos Switzerland, May 2022