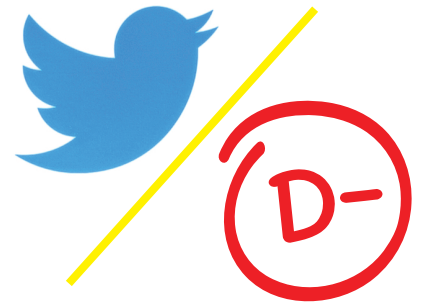# SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT CARDS

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CCP'S INFLUENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

D-

CASE #1: TWITTER

While the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) blocks its citizens from using Twitter, its officials and propaganda outlets use the platform to spread disinformation. Some of their most egregious and concerning posts are:

Example #1:
Chinese Embassy in France, "Once Upon a Virus"

Ambassade de Chine en France
@AmbassadeChine

Once Upon a Virus...

0:51 · 2.3M views

Example #2: Tweet by Lijian Zhao, Spokesperson Chinese MFA

Lijian Zhao 赵立坚 ✔
@zlj517

US CDC admitted some #COVID19 patients were misdiagnosed as flu during 2019 flu season. 34 million infected & 20000 died. If #COVID19 began last September, & US has been lack of testing ability, how many would have been infected? US should find out when patient zero appeared.

Example #3: Tweet by Lijian Zhao, Spokesperson Chinese MFA

Lijian Zhao 赵立坚 ✔
@zlj517

2/2 CDC was caught on the spot. When did patient zero begin in US? How many people are infected? What are the names of the hospitals? It might be US army who brought the epidemic to Wuhan. Be transparent! Make public your data! US owe us an explanation!

ASSESSMENT OF TWITTER PROCEDURES:

X **Labels for Propaganda/State-Funded Outlets**

X **Block CCP Officials/State-Funded Propaganda Outlets from Having Verified Accounts**

√ **Factchecking Policies for Truthfulness**

X **Comprehensive Removal of CCP Propaganda and Disinformation**

RESPONSE BY TWITTER:

Despite a willingness to discuss HFAC Minority staff concerns, Twitter does not appear to have removed any CCP disinformation from its platform nor made any meaningful policy changes in response to our concerns to prevent the CCP from spreading propaganda on its platform. Moreover, Twitter does not label or provide transparency about the nature and operations of CCP propaganda outlets. Rather, it legitimizes them by allowing them to operate as verified users.

In addition, allowing CCP officials and their state-funded propaganda outlets to have verified accounts potentially **violates Twitter's own policy** because the CCP is an organization that is known to commit violence against religious and ethnic minorities, among others groups.

SUMMARY:

Of all the companies we engaged with, Twitter is the platform most heavily abused by the CCP. Twitter has allowed tweets that promote inaccurate information about COVID-19, including that the virus originated with the U.S. military and was not transmissible human-to-human. Twitter only applied a factcheck label to the Tweet about the virus originating with the U.S. military after it had been on the platform for more than a month. They are the most unwilling to do anything to stop the CCP from spreading harmful misinformation or provide transparency through labels that inform users they are viewing content from a state-funded or state-directed media outlet. For that reason, and others, they received our lowest grade – a **D-**.

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