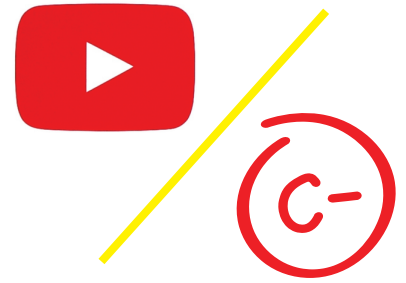


SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT CARDS

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



CASE #3: YOUTUBE

Although the CCP blocks YouTube from its citizens, its propaganda outlets are using YouTube to disseminate propaganda and disinformation to a global audience in multiple languages. HFAC Minority staff found that CCP propaganda outlets, such as China Daily, Xinhua, and CGTN, are using YouTube to post information that distorts facts about the origins of COVID-19 and the CCP response.

Example #1: CGTN Ms. V on US role in COVID-19 in Arabic



Example #2: CGTN: Facts Tell: "When Trump lies, people die"



Example #3: CGTN: "COVID-19 happening in China doesn't mean it originated in China"



ASSESSMENT OF YOUTUBE PROCEDURES:

- ✓ Labels for Propaganda/State-Funded Outlets
- ✗ Blocks CCP Officials/State-Funded Propaganda Outlets from Having Verified Accounts
- ✓ Factchecking Policies for Truthfulness
- ✗ Comprehensive Removal of CCP Propaganda and Disinformation

RESPONSE BY YOUTUBE:

YouTube does label videos by CCP propaganda outlets, but the labeling is inconsistent – HFAC Minority staff found instances in which a video displayed a label when viewed on a laptop or desktop, but lacked a label when viewed on a mobile device. In addition, only one label can be added to a video at a time – and many of the current problematic videos by these propaganda outlets are about COVID-19, which has its own label on YouTube. As a result, propaganda videos from the CCP are only given the COVID-19 label, with no acknowledgment that the account is 'state-funded.'

In addition, the label for the CCP's propaganda outlets refers to them as state-funded, and we believe that is an incomplete description of these outlets to explain how they operate. They are not independent outlets that simply receive money from the state. Rather, the CCP directs all content for their propaganda outlets.

And finally, while YouTube has a factchecking system, the information panels that provide a factcheck only appear in the search box when users are searching for videos and not on the videos themselves. Moreover, it doesn't appear YouTube is labeling misleading CCP propaganda as false.

SUMMARY:

While YouTube's policy to label videos by CCP propaganda outlets as state-funded is positive, its inconsistency and limitations make it insufficient. And despite discussions with HFAC Minority staff, YouTube does not immediately plan to comprehensively take down propaganda content or make policy changes to prevent the CCP from continuing to abuse their platform.

In addition, YouTube's new policy that it will not allow content that differs from WHO guidance is troubling because of clear evidence that the WHO has promoted inaccurate information to the public on COVID-19, including that the virus was not transmissible human-to-human. For those reasons, we give YouTube a **C-**.