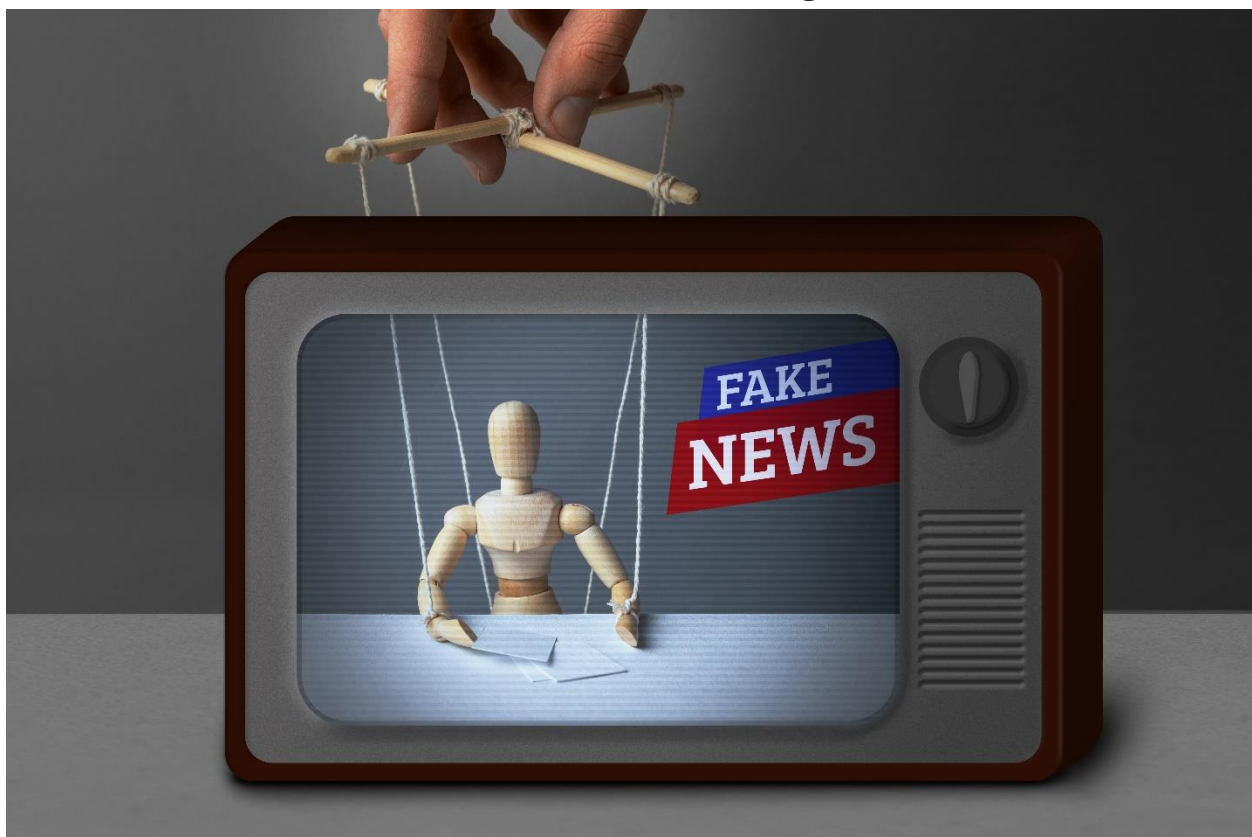


## February 2025 Rant



# Media Fact Manipulation



The mainstream media has a tremendous influence on the public's perception of important issues. Unfortunately, the media often has an agenda that taints their objectivity resulting in coverage that is rife with misinformation or disinformation. This month's *Rant* will feature some of the more egregious examples.

## The Birthright Controversy

We'll tackle this one first, as it has been dominating the news cycle.

Birthright citizenship is the automatic granting of citizenship to any child born in that country. It is granted irrespective of where the mother or father of the child come from. This type of citizenship is based on the notion of *jus soli*; right of the soil is the meaning of this Latin term. This contrasts with to *jus sanguinis*, right of blood, which confers nationality on you according to the citizenship of your parents.

*Jus soli* is prevalent in the Americas whereas *jus sanguinis* dominates in Europe.

Of the 193 countries recognized by the United Nations, only 34 countries offer birthright citizenship, and the majority of those 34 countries are from the Americas.

Thus, birthright citizenship is the exception, rather than the rule in most of the world.

But, as the media would have you believe, isn't birthright citizenship enshrined in our Constitution?

The Fourteenth Amendment was ratified on July 9, 1868 and states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, **and subject to the jurisdiction thereof**, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

This amendment was enacted just after the civil war, the primary purpose being to provide citizenship to the children of slaves.

Note the highlighted text in the amendment. This is the part that those in favor of birthright citizenship choose to ignore.

So, are illegal immigrants "subject to the jurisdiction thereof?"

It can reasonably be argued that they are citizens of their country of origin and subject to the jurisdiction of that country.

Certainly, the framers of the Fourteenth Amendment did not envision giving citizenship to the offspring of pregnant Russian or Chinese women who come here in the ninth month of their pregnancy to give birth.

So, despite what you may read, the Fourteenth Amendment is subject to judicial interpretation.

It's time the Supreme Court weighs in on this.

## **Pedestrian Fatalities**

Every day, we get disturbing reporting from the media concerning the increasing number of pedestrian fatalities along our roadways caused by motorists. Along with these stories comes the cry to make roads more pedestrian friendly, i.e., less automobile friendly.

While any pedestrian fatality is a tragedy, the media fails to reveal the causes for this increasing carnage. A closer look at causation will reveal that unsafe pedestrian behavior is the leading cause of these fatalities. This behavior primarily takes the form of:

- Distracted walking, primarily due to cell phone use
- Jaywalking
- Failure to obey traffic signals, i.e., walk lights

I regularly drive the urban streets of New Britain, Connecticut where my lab is located, and during my commute and when I venture out to get lunch, it is not unusual to witness multiple instances of this dangerous behavior. There is a legal term for this behavior: “Reckless use of the highway,” and it is considered a traffic violation. When was the last time you’ve heard of someone being arrested for the violation?

So, instead of cracking down on this dangerous behavior by means of education and enforcement, the woke politicians in New York came up with another solution: Decriminalize reckless use of the highway because enforcement would primarily affect minority residents.

## **Donald Trump’s Hush Money Case**

You’ve all heard about it, but it’s not true! Donald Trump was tried and convicted of falsifying business records for illegally recording personal expenses as deductible business expenses.

It is not illegal to pay hush money to anyone, so why did the media settle on such a salacious title for the trial coverage?

Would anyone be interested if Trump was accused of charging personal auto miles to his business? Of course not. That wouldn’t further the agenda!

## **Electric Vehicles**

It’s common knowledge that the woke media wants to promote electric cars, and the fact that they’re not selling so well, despite generous state and federal subsidies, runs contrary to the narrative that they are trying to establish.

So, what to do?

Why not just change the definition of an electric vehicle to include hybrids and plug-in hybrids, the sales of which are significantly increasing.

And, that's exactly what they've done without mentioning it. Thus, the headlines are "Electric Vehicle Sales are Increasing."

I recently read that a number of automotive "authorities" are touting electric vehicles as a technology that will substantially reduce roadside noise. However, it is a scientific fact that the majority of vehicle roadside noise is not caused by the internal combustion engine, but by the tires!

Electric vehicles are also touted by the media as saving the consumer money. Well, in Connecticut, where electricity costs in excess of 30 cents per kilowatt hour, it actually costs more to drive an electric car than an equivalent gas car.

Think about this: In France, if you own an electric car, you are not allowed to charge it with reasonably priced nuclear generated electricity. You are only allowed to use renewably sourced electricity at a much higher price.

### **Congestion Pricing**

Another media darling issue is the beginning of congestion pricing in New York City. It is touted as a means of reducing congestion in lower Manhattan. In fact, the primary attraction of congestion pricing is the billions of dollars it will generate to subsidize mass transit.

So, in the first week, the media reported reduced traffic in lower Manhattan. What is missing from the reporting is increased traffic in upper Manhattan and the other boroughs of New York along with increased traffic in New Jersey (which is trying to have congestion pricing overturned) as drivers modify their driving patterns to avoid the \$9.00 toll each time they cross the congestion boundary.

### **Wind Energy Promotion**

In the Northeast, we are daily bombarded with "exciting" news of the latest wind energy developments. Here in the Northeast, topography does not favor land-based wind turbines, so offshore wind is the preferred technology.

Unfortunately, offshore wind, as you might imagine, is extremely expensive. Typically, the cost of offshore wind generated electricity is more than three times the cost of fossil fuel generated power. The states mandate the local utilities purchase that high-cost power, and the ratepayers' rates are raised due to "blending" the cost with that of lower priced fossil fuel power, effectively disguising the wind power cost.

When was the last time you read about that disparity?

## **The Far Right**

Have you noticed that in both national and international media (I regularly listen to the BBC World Service during my commute), any conservative party, person or proposal is now deemed “far right,” a term often associated with fascism or Nazism. I guess that’s me, too!

## **Parting Words**

“The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth” is something we should be able to expect from the media. Unfortunately, that is far from the case today. That is truly dangerous for a country in which the majority of voters take information from the media, Facebook and Tic Tock at face value.

*Roger*