

**David Frum**

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Antisemitism is at bottom a conspiracy theory. It offers a story about a tiny, malign group who mastermind all world events, from the killing of Jesus to the creation of both capitalism and communism. People who start down the path of any kind of conspiracy-seeking ...

... very often arrive at antisemitism. It's not literally inevitable, but the pull is hard to resist. The idea of the Jews as ultimate wire-pullers is such a powerful cultural resource.

So if a charismatic host builds America's most popular podcast on conspiracy-seeking

... it was probably only a matter of time before he arrived at today's claims of Jews as uniquely money-loving. It may not even be malicious, it's just such a rich lode of ore in the vein the host is working that he was almost doomed to reveal it.

Thus, the conspiracy seeker starts with the idea that Big Pharma is lying about vaccines. That's not a specifically antisemitic form of paranoia. But as the conspiracy seeker delves deeper, the world begins to look like a series of secrets within secrets. Behind them all ...

... the ultimate boss. John Buchan's novel, *The 39 Steps*, gives the following words to one of its characters:

"The Jew is everywhere, but you have to go far down the backstairs to find him."

That's the conspiracy-seeker's experience. S/he's going down the backstairs.

The conspiracy-seeker begins by rejecting evidence-based explanations of how the world works.

"The government is promoting vaccines because they save lives."

Oh, SURE, says the conspiracy seeker. There's got to be a deeper reason than that!

So downward dives the conspiracy-seeker, into ever more obscure and angry fantasies, sooner or later reaching that foundational myth of western culture: the guilt of the Jews for murdering God. Dig deep enough into the muck, and the shovel can't miss it.

END

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Feb 5

Looking backward on the week: I very much enjoyed joining this Head & Heart podcast covering an unusual range of topics [podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/epi...](#)

On February 3, I published this in [@TheAtlantic](#) warning against over-hyping the Chinese balloon [theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/...](#)

Talked with [@Sean_Speer](#) at [@TheHubCanada](#) about the surge of violent crime in Toronto and what to do about it

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Feb 5

If the Chinese use spy balloons a lot, and the US does not, isn't the logical inference that China's surveillance space satellites ... must be very inferior to US satellites?

US uses blimps to monitor southern border [stripes.com/theaters/us/20...](#)

US deployed balloons to assist combat operations in Afghanistan [nytimes.com/2012/05/13/wor...](#)

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Feb 3

Paradox. When Russia invades a neighbor-smashes cities, kills tens of thousands- your social media and mine fill with voices from far left and far right warning against over-reaction and escalation. Russia is a nuclear power, they remind us, and so nobody should resist. BUT ...

... when a Chinese spy balloon floats into US airspace - and Republican hawks go hysterical - those same voices that caution against resisting Russian mass killing fall silent.

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Feb 1

Some thoughts on Brexit at 3 ... THREAD

A year or two before the Brexit vote, a pro-Brexit friend led me on a walk through the English countryside. We topped a hill, and he directed my attention to irregular fields in the valley below. The fields' boundaries dated back hundreds of years. He said ...

He said, about Britain and the European Union: "We have

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Feb 1

Here's the piece I discussed this morning on @Morning_Joe, latest in @TheAtlantic theatlantic.com/magazine/archi...

@Morning_Joe @TheAtlantic Question I posed on the show. Conjure in your mind a mental image of Ronald Reagan. Chuckling, right? Bill Clinton? Charm and charisma. George W. Bush? Smiling and friendly. Now think of the current group. Have you ever once seen Gov DeSantis in what seems like a good mood?

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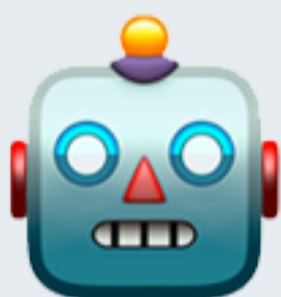
Jan 25

Twitter's new model is to make it easier for Nazis, anti-vaxxers, and other weird extremists to barge into my feed uninvited - while making it harder for me to see the work of reporters and human-rights activists around the world I signed up to read.

Meanwhile theintercept.com/2023/01/24/twi...

Here's a link to the documentary about Modi the Indian

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