



Brad DeLong 🙌

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Jun 5th 2020, 18 tweets, 15 min read

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The very wise, very insightful, and usually highly reliable Michelle Goldberg makes, I think, a significant mistake here. She defends Bennet and Sulzburger's decision to publish Senator Cotton's call for massive violence against demonstrating American citizens by the security 1/

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services—even William F. Buckley would not go quite so far half a century ago, when all he was willing to say was that white supremacists in the south had the right to defend white supremacy against protesters "by any means necessary"—on the grounds that New York Times 2/

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readers are ignorant of what people like Cotton think, "readers should grasp what people like Cotton are arguing... because it is being taken seriously" and "the very qualities that make Cotton's Op-Ed revolting...make him an important figure in Trump's Republican Party".

But 3/

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to the extent that New York Times readers are ignorant of Cotton, the right response is to report on him: If his oped were printed surrounded by a black border, with a watermark reading "DANGER—FASCISM" behind it, and were accompanied by a thorough fact check, there could be 4/

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no objection. But to publish the thing without surrounding context—that's just to give Cotton a megaphone. Yes, you can argue that the cure for speech is more speech. But the "more speech" has to appear in the appropriate time, place, and manner.

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Michelle Goldberg knows this. Near the end of her piece is one sentence: "The paper could convey his views by reporting on them, but for the Opinion section, letting him express them himself is more direct." Not "more effective" or "more informative" or "more useful". Just— 6/

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more direct. Why did she choose "direct"? I think because she knew she could not use any of those other words:

****Michelle Goldberg****: [_Tom Cotton's Fascist Op-Ed_](#) <

MICHELLE GOLDBERG GIVES HER EMPLOYERS TOO MUCH CREDIT

The New York Times generally disapproves of criticism from within, but it's making an exception for that opinion piece by Tom Cotton : ...

<https://nomoremister.blogspot.com/2020/06/michelle-goldberg-gives-her...>

> (no, I am not giving [@nytimes](#) any more links, & thus chances to show ads): 'I figured 7/

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he'd helpfully revealed himself as a dangerous authoritarian.... I can sort of appreciate my bosses' decision... to run Senator Tom Cotton's screed.... The Times Opinion section wants to include the views of people who support Trump, and the very qualities that make Cotton's 8/


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Op-Ed revolting—his strongman pretensions, his sneering apocalypticism—make him an important figure in Trump's Republican Party. (He might someday come to lead it.)

Readers should grasp what people like Cotton are arguing, not because it's worth taking seriously but because 9/

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it is being taken seriously, particularly by our mad and decomposing president.... The paper could convey his views by reporting on them, but for the Opinion section, letting him express them himself is more direct..." 10/

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I strongly urge Michelle Goldberg to take a look back at her column, rethink the issues, and write another one. I especially urge her to do so in light of this: <

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 **Patrick Coffee**
@PatrickCoffee

From New York Times town hall: op-ed team pitched the piece TO Tom Cotton. Not the other way around.

49.3K · 9:46 AM · Jun 5, 2020

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>. If true, it is absolutely devastating: quarantine toddler task force [@PatrickCoffee](#): 11/

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"From New York Times town hall: op-ed team pitched the piece TO Tom Cotton. Not the other way around. To clarify: my source, who was listening to the town hall, said James Bennet told employees this." America, you're in danger girl... [@OverUnderClover](#): This is literally 12/


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manufacturing news.

That's what the Bari Weiss & Olivia Nuzzi crowd want, that's what they did by cultivating friendships with Spencer & Milo types, they were manufacturing a controversy to make money as the person with access to it. And the NYTimes turned down an op ed 13/

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by the reporter blinded in one eye by police in Minneapolis, and multiple opeds by Schatz, to SOLICIT this instead? [@nytimes](#) - you destroy yourself". Plus:

 **Max Kennerly**
@MaxKennerly

A whole bunch of pseudointellectual propagandists spent hours defending the op-ed by bleating about the virtues of the NYTimes thoughtfully expanding our minds and civic discourse just so NYTimes could admit "uhhh so like we didn't read it, we just clicked the publish button." 😊 [twitter.com/marcatracy/sta...](#)

marc tracy @marcatracy
NEW: Times spokeswoman sends mea culpa

We've examined the piece and the process leading up to its publication. This review made clear that a rushed editorial process led to the publication of an Op-Ed that did not meet our standards. As a result, we're planning to examine both short term and long term changes, to include expanding our fact checking operation and reducing the number of Op-Eds we publish.

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Max Kennerly @MaxKennerly: "A whole bunch of pseudointellectual propagandists spent hours /14

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defending the op-ed by bleating about the virtues of the NYTimes thoughtfully expanding our minds and civic discourse just so NYTimes could admit 'uhhh so like we didn't read it, we just clicked the publish button.'" 15/

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marc tracy @marcatracy: "NEW: Times spokeswoman sends mea culpa

After backlash, New York Times admits it should not have run To...
 The New York Times undefined admitted Thursday it erred in publishing an op-ed column by Sen. Tom Cotton calling for the military to quell protests. The...

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/after-backlash-new-york-times-admit...>

(no, no links to _New York Times_): "'We've examined the piece and the process leading up to its publication. This review made clear that a rushed editorial process led to the publication /16

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of an Op-Ed that did not meet our standards. As a result, we're planning to examine both short term and long term changes, to include expanding our fact checking operation and reducing the number of Op-Eds we publish.' A separate report by the Times late Thursday said opinion 17/


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-page editor James Bennet had not read the column before publication." 18/END

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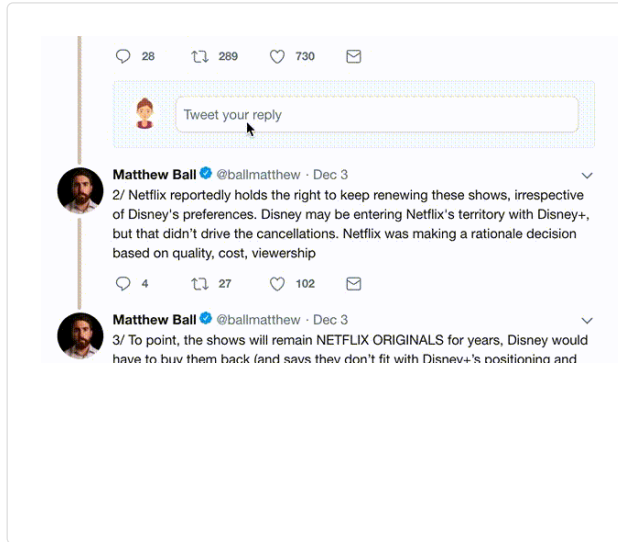
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Brad DeLong 🙌

@delona

May 19th

2020

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Keynes is, I think, better than Hobsbawm on this: "Whilst... the enlargement of the functions of government, involved in the task of adjusting to one another the propensity to consume and the inducement to invest, would seem to a nineteenth-century publicist or to a 1/

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@delona

May 19th

2020

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I realize that this is a hell of a hill to die on, but I have never understood classifying Hayek as any kind of "liberal". I have always thought that Sam Brittan had his number back in 1980: "Hayek's... ethical philosophy is highly conservative. He faces the question of how /

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May 7th 2020

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In utilitarian order of desirability: Plan A: stomp the virus immediately via trace-&-test-&-

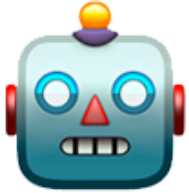
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established, lockdown until R is low enough & maintain lockdown long enough that you can then stomp the virus via trace-&-test-&-quarantine 1/

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