

prevent anything they believe is hateful, while others believe the stuff we remove should be considered a protected form of expression. This is one of the most difficult areas to master.

The American heritage of free speech recognizes that some speech can have the consequence of restricting the freedom of others to speak. While there is no such thing as "hate speech" in American law, it does ban racial and sexual harassment. Even though our laws forbid discrimination, we nevertheless have a strong culture of free expression, according to Zuckerberg.

As most academics and social media outlets have recently advised, free expression should not be controlled. Authoritarian governments might use the restrictions to target its critics and undermine technology companies, say free-speech defenders. Most countries have lately enacted legislation to restrict social media expression. Countries believed that because social media users were given free speech, they would use it to promote lies and fake news. Authorities in Thailand have arrested at least 13 people for allegedly circulating false information about the outbreak, and the new Anti-Fake News Center is helping to regulate the Internet. At least six coronavirus hoaxes have been apprehended in Indonesia. Nigerian legislators are contemplating a bill modelled after Singapore's.

The senator who introduced it went so far as to compare fake news to a virus that must be contained. Donald Trump was elected president of the United States, Mark Zuckerberg was asked the question on many people's minds: Did the explosion of fake news and caustic political rhetoric on Facebook help Trump win?