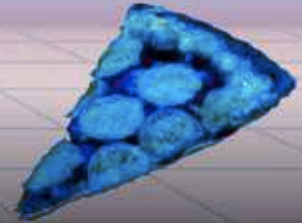


# QANON Radicalization & conspiracy 2017 to 2020



The Women Making Conspiracy Theories Beautiful



**Mia Bloom**  
Evidence Based  
Cyber Security  
GSU

QAnon is a wide-ranging baseless conspiracy theory that claims an elite group of child-trafficking pedophiles have been ruling the world;

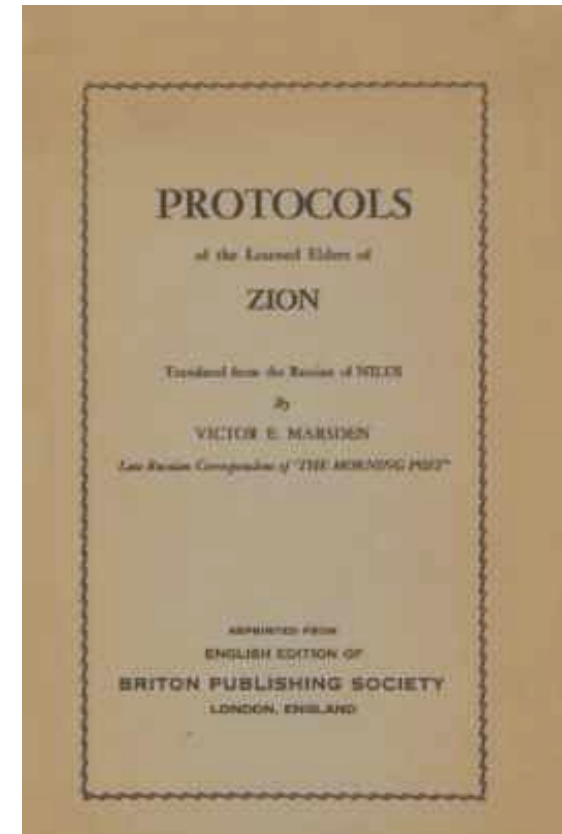
Central beliefs: Democrats and celebrities are trafficking children & drinking their blood; President Trump has a secret plan to bring this group to justice;

Spikes in QAnon activity in March 2020 suggest an increase in the conspiracy theory and its spread to new audiences within the US and Globally are connected to pandemic lockdowns.

On October 28, 2017, a user calling himself Q claimed to have high-level security clearance posted a series of cryptic messages on the “politically incorrect” section of 4chan.



Qanon has gone from being a fringe conspiracy to one embraced by political leaders and congressional candidates. It is a rehashed version of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion with AntiSemitic roots - driven by nonsensical conspiracies on social media.



# Down the rabbit hole: how QAnon conspiracies thrive on Facebook

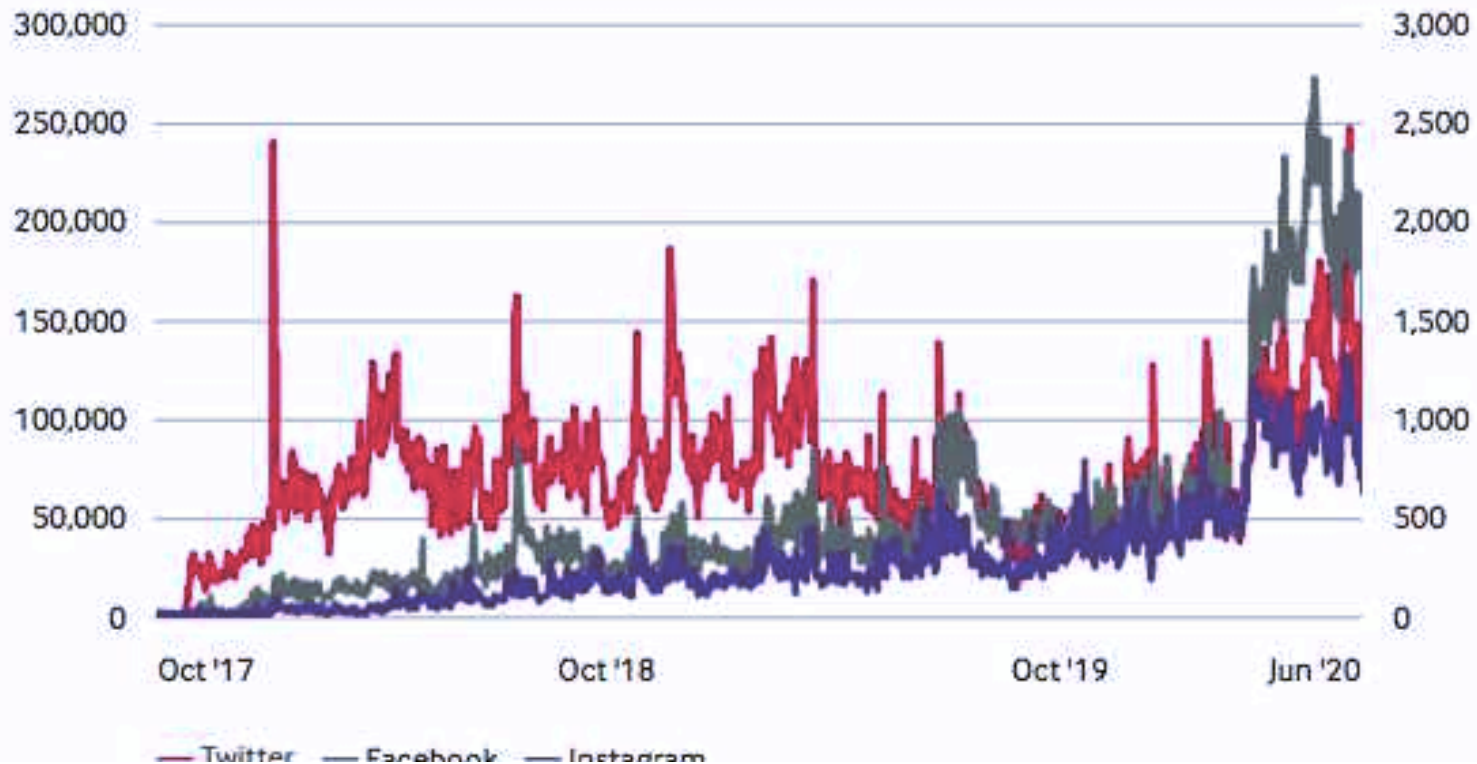


▲ QAnon is a movement of people who interpret as a kind of gospel the online messages of the anonymous figure, 'Q'. Illustration: Eric Pratt/The Guardian

# Pandemic has seen a 174% increase in QAnon Posts & Links

right-hand side y-axis is the volume of facebook and instagram posts.

Volume of QAnon discussion over time



The lockdowns caused increases in Facebook & Twitter and corresponded with a sudden and drastic increase in Qanon posts.

Use of Hashtags

#QAnon

#wwg1wga

and connections to/mention of President Trump (Q+).

Tom Hanks and his SARS-Cov diagnosis on March 12 signified a connection between Hollywood pedophilia and the pandemic.

Adrenochrome (from Children's blood) was linked to conspiracy theories that it was manufactured through ritualistic torture of children before being consumed by celebrities, and this was quickly linked to COVID-19 as a cure.



October  
2017

2018

2019

March 2020

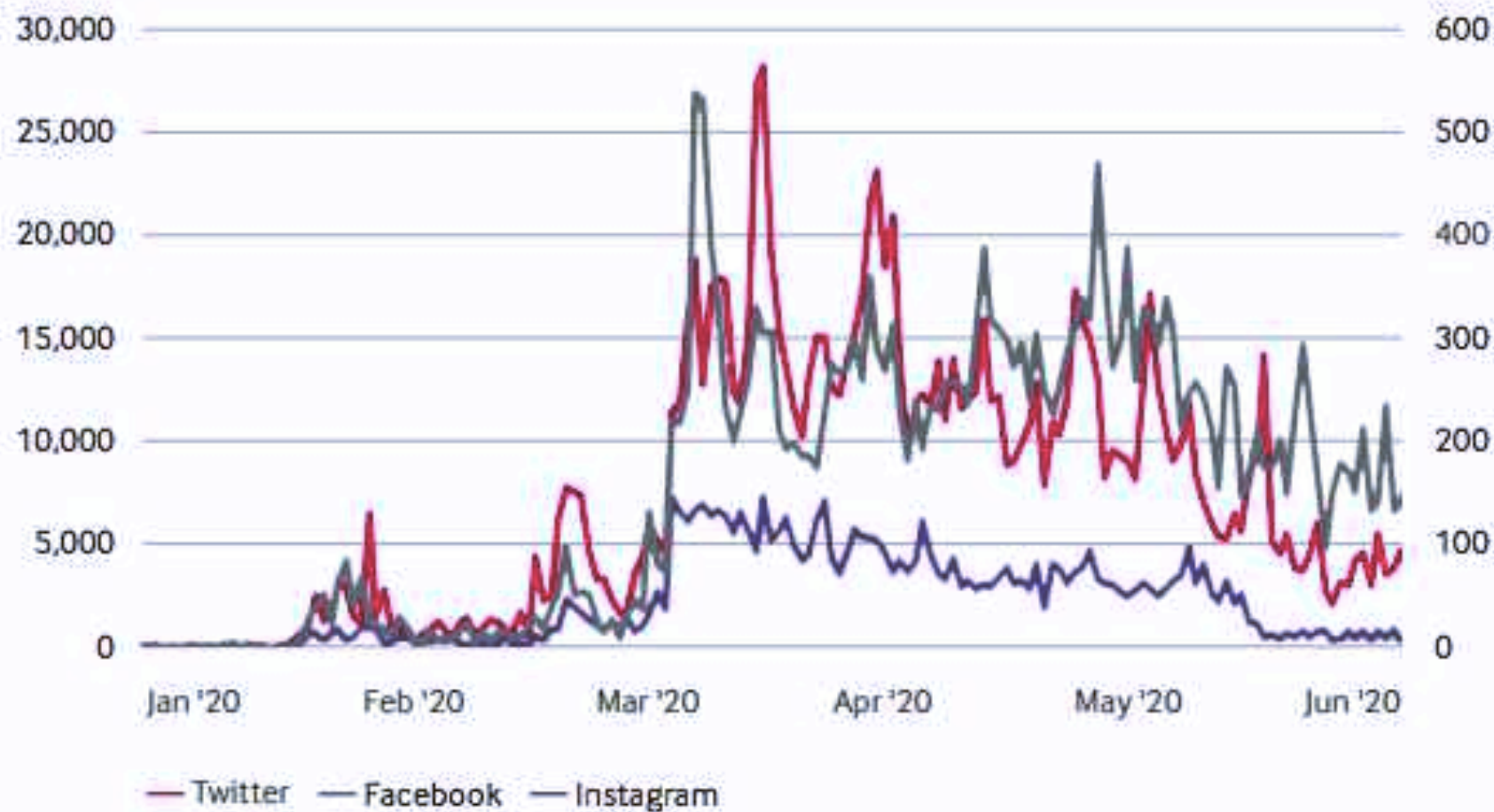
#savethechildren



**According to Marc-André Argentino, there were 22,232,285 tweets using #Qanon and related hashtags such as #Q, #Qpatriot, and #TheGreatAwakening in 2019**

**= an average of 60,910 per day. The total exceeded other popular hashtags such e.g., #MeToo (5,231,928 tweets) or #climatechange (7,510,311 tweets).**

Volume of QAnon discussions linked to Covid-19 over time



The US has been the largest QAnon content-producing country, followed by the UK, Canada & Australia.

The fifth-largest Q-Anon content-producer shifted from Russia then Indonesia and most recently Germany



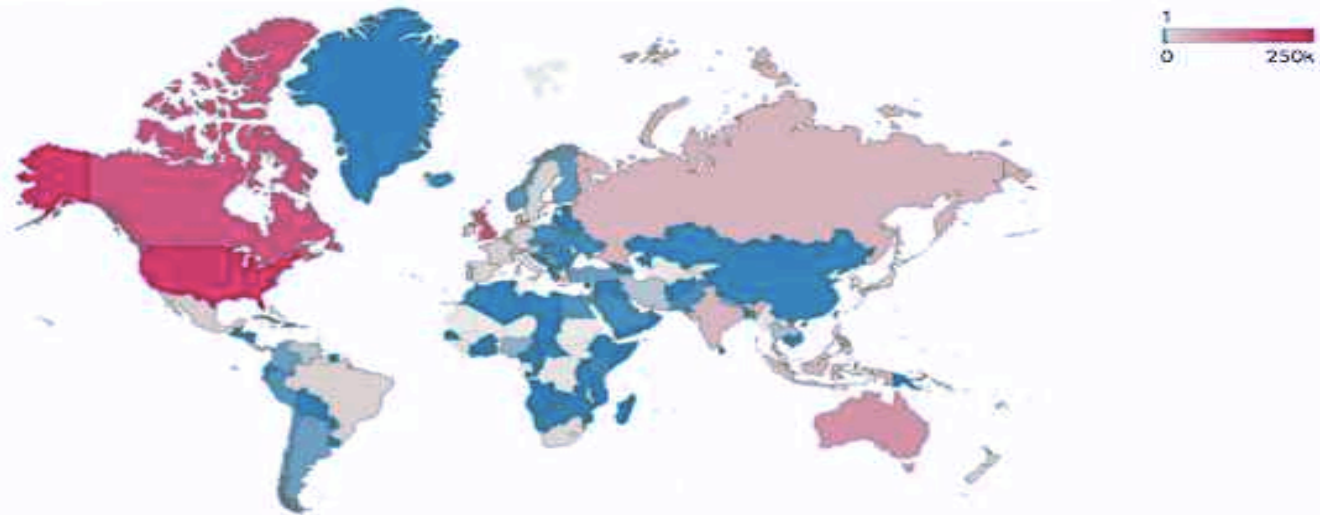
Some protesters in UK "Save Our Children" rallies believe in Pizzagate and QAnon conspiracies

London march was just one of 10 rallies held across the UK, including events in Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester

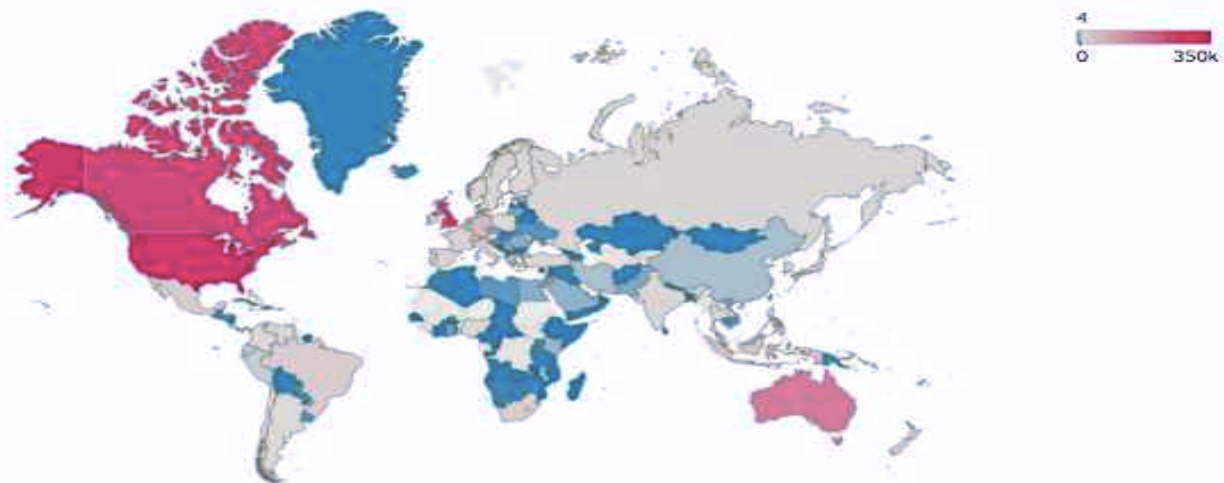
	Oct 2017- Jun 2018	Jul 2018-Feb 2019	Mar 2019- Oct 2019	Nov 2019- Jun 2020
#1 most-active QAnon country	US 7,641,488 tweets (88.9%)	US 10,178,468 tweets (89.8%)	US 8,159,892 tweets (90.0%)	US 9,443,791 tweets (87.0%)
#2 most-active QAnon country	Canada 194,972 tweets (2.2%)	UK 283,170 tweets (2.4%)	Canada 198,426 tweets (2.1%)	UK 309,652 tweets (2.8%)
#3 most-active QAnon country	UK 191,748 tweets (2.2%)	Canada 233,275 tweets (2.0%)	UK 193,552 tweets (2.1%)	Canada 296,488 tweets (2.7%)
#4 most-active QAnon country	Australia 105,545 tweets (1.2%)	Australia 113,222 tweets (0.9%)	Australia 124,198 tweets (1.3%)	Australia 191,210 tweets (1.7%)
#5 most-active QAnon country	Russia 56,534 tweets (0.6%)	Indonesia 53,156 tweets (0.4%)	Indonesia 40,759 tweets (0.4%)	Germany 64,438 tweets (0.5%)

**Table 2** Top five countries producing Tweets mentioning QAnon (2017 – 2020).

Oct '17–Jun '18



Nov '19–Jun '20





FREEDOM FOR THE



CHILDREN UK



**Facebook.**  
**Freedomfor**



**www.fftuk.**

Group by Freedom For The Children UK

FACEBOOK

FFTUK = WWG1WGA

In 2019, the FBI labeled QAnon a domestic terror threat, saying: conspiracy theories have the potential to encourage “both groups and individual extremists to carry out criminal or violent acts.”



# > QAnon

## > FBI VIEWS AS POTENTIAL DOMESTIC TERROR THREAT

NEW THIS MORNING

7:36 73°

CONSPIRACY THEORY GOING MAINSTREAM?

CANDIDATES SUPPORTING QANON ON VERGE OF WINNING SEATS IN CONGRESS

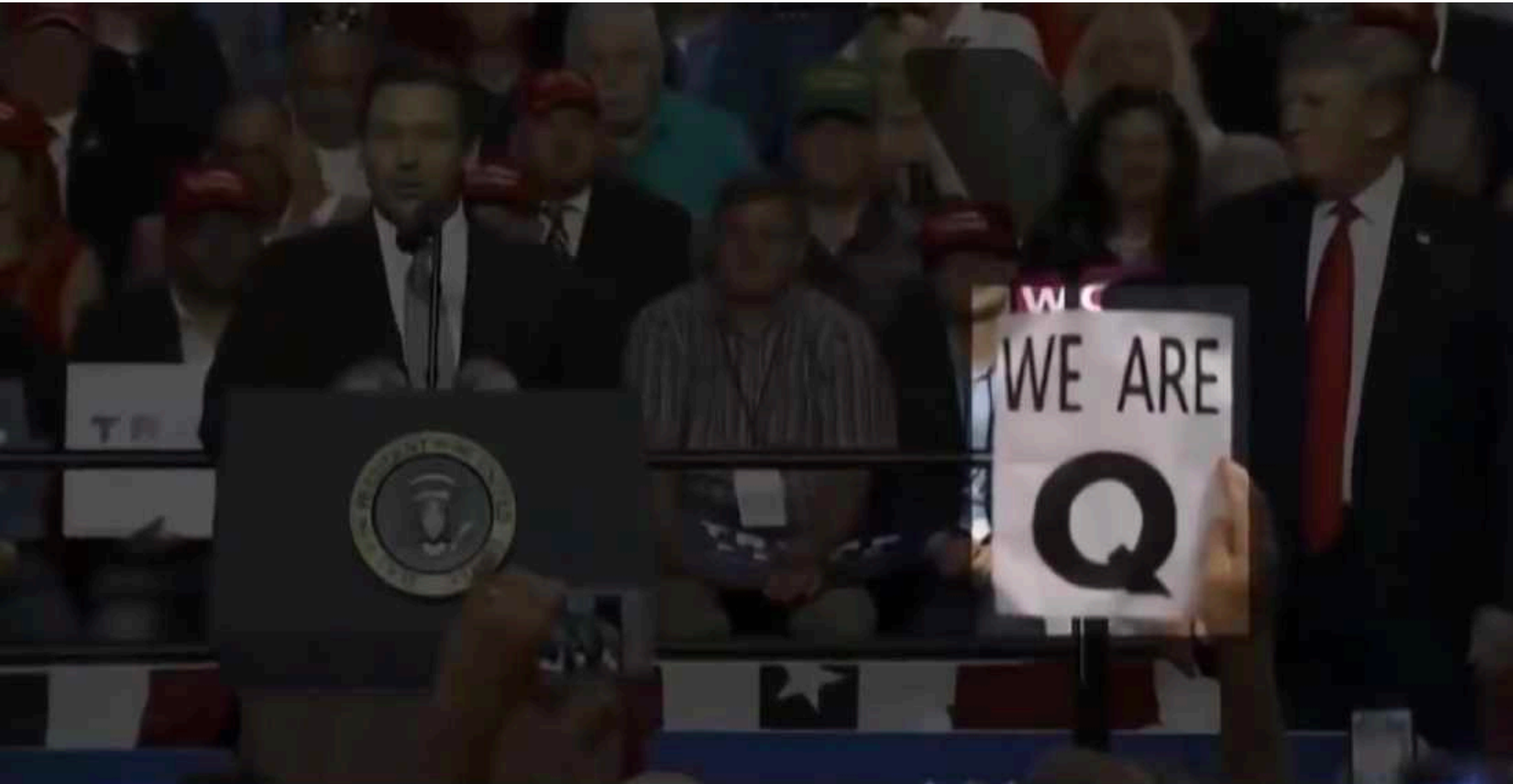


Linked to several crimes

<https://www.insider.com/qanon-violence-crime-conspiracy-theory-us-allegation-arrest-killing-gun-2020-8>

July 2018 Tampa rally, something different popped up that confused most journalists: Scores of people were wearing shirts emblazoned with the letter “Q.”

Signs said things like WWG1WGA—short for “Where We Go One, We Go All” & “The Storm Is Upon Us” stock phrases beloved by the conspiracy’s adherents.



**ONLINE CONSPIRACY THEORY GROUP TARGETS STARS & DEMOCRATS**

President Trump re-tweeted Qanon-linked accounts at least 72 times, including 20 times in one day in December 2019.

Other influential Trump allies also promoted Qanon-linked accounts. For example, on December 23, Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani re-tweeted @QAnonWomen4Rudy

# Infiltrating the US Military

CNN

politics

2020 Election

Facts First

Election 101

L

## Michael Flynn posts video featuring QAnon slogans



By Marshall Cohen, CNN

Updated 8:37 PM ET, Tue July 7, 2020





**Greene claims there is no evidence that a plane crashed into the Pentagon on 9/11**

**In the 2020 election there are 24 Congressional candidates on the ballot who support the Q conspiracy (22Rs 2Is)**



**Sen. Kelly Loeffler, R-Ga., left, and congressional candidate Marjorie Taylor Greene, right, arrive at a news conference on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020, in Dallas, Ga. AP Photo/Brynn Anderson**

Marc-Andre Argentino, has identified at least 114 Facebook groups which spread QAnon content under the guise of campaigning against child trafficking under #savethechildren.

Membership of such groups has risen by more than 3,000 percent despite Facebook and social media crackdowns

# Twitter Cracks Down on QAnon Conspiracy Theory, Bans Thousands of Accounts

The social media company will also stop QAnon content from appearing on Twitter's trending, recommendation, and search functions.



By [Michael Kan](#) July 22, 2020





Twitter Safety  @TwitterSafety · Jul 21, 2020 

Replying to @TwitterSafety


We will permanently suspend accounts Tweeting about these topics that we know are engaged in violations of our multi-account policy, coordinating abuse around individual victims, or are attempting to evade a previous suspension — something we've seen more of in recent weeks.

Twitter Safety  @TwitterSafety

In addition, we will:

- 1 No longer serve content and accounts associated with QAnon in Trends and recommendations
- 2 Work to ensure we're not highlighting this activity in search and conversations
- 3 Block URLs associated with QAnon from being shared on Twitter

8:00 PM · Jul 21, 2020

 3 **QAnon: YouTube moves to purge 'harmful conspiracy theories'**

15 October



YouTube has become the latest social media giant to announce a sweeping crack down on content linked to the QAnon conspiracy theory.

The company said it would ban material targeting a person or group with conspiracy theories that have been used to justify violence, such as QAnon.

Twitter and Facebook have already taken similar steps to root out QAnon.

## Facebook Removes 790 QAnon Groups to Fight Conspiracy Theory

The social network also said it was restricting another 1,950 groups, 440 pages on Facebook and more than 10,000 accounts on Instagram related to the conspiracy group.



 **Etsy will remove all QAnon-related merchandise from the platform as tech companies fight the conspiracy theory's growth**

Rachal E. Graesspan Oct 7, 2020 9:45 AM



A man wearing a QAnon vest held a flag during a No Mandatory Flu Shot Massachusetts rally held outside of the State House in Boston on Aug. 30, 2020. *Jessica Rinaldi/The Boston Globe via Getty Images*

**KAY**  
TIMELINE

START YOUR SOMEDAY, TODAY

#LOVELLUNGTOPPABLE

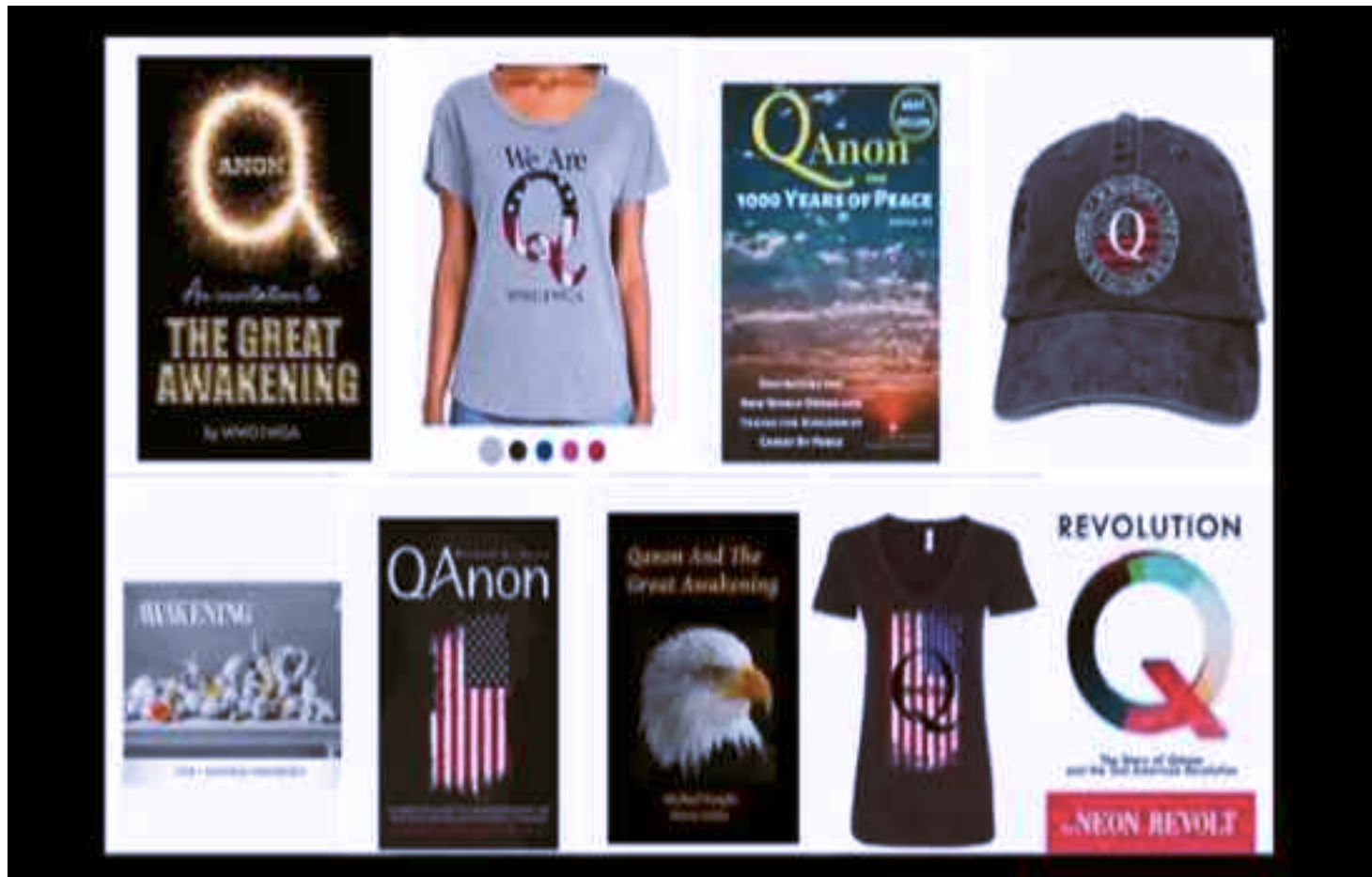
SHOP NOW

# **In the aftermath of the de-platforming Qanon supporters told to change their names & stop referring to Qanon in their posts**

“Deploy camouflage. Drop all references re: 'Q' 'Qanon' etc. to avoid ban/termination,” the Q account wrote. “\_censorship install. Algos [sniffers] bypass.”

“I’m still active on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, but the information I provide there will change. It must be camouflaged,” said one prominent QAnon influencer in a post to his followers. “Despite these changes, I want you to know my source has not changed.”

**Much of QAnon is sustained by marketing  
There is a hidden profit motive from logo  
t-shirts, books, household items & posters**



After the November 2020 Election Q went silent for 18 days

## *Shocked by Trump's Loss, QAnon Struggles to Keep the Faith*

For years, followers of the pro-Trump conspiracy theory had been assured that the president would win re-election in a landslide.



Election Day was not a total loss for QAnon. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Lauren Boebert, two Republicans who have praised the conspiracy theory, won their House elections



There is a significant overlap between Qanon, anti Maskers, anti Vaxxers, Open Protesters, Stop the Steal & general far right extremists groups emerging. Qanon beliefs are often held at same time with other conspiracy beliefs about government overreach.

Technology

# From helicopter repairman to leader of the Internet's 'darkest reaches': The life and times of 8chan owner Jim Watkins



Many analysts suggest James Watkins (fmr owner of 8 Chan) or his son Ron (formerly an 8Kun moderator) were Q; They have shifted their narrative to the Dominion Voting Machines Conspiracy



**Fredrick Brennan**  
@fr\_brennan



My new position on Ron Watkins allegedly having left 8kun is that we should not believe him.

The reason I think this is because he is still obviously politically active. In fact, to a higher degree than before in public!

There's no proof that he is not still administering 8kun.



**Ron**  
@CodeMonkeyZ

There is a possible election machine scenario that I just discovered which is absolutely mindbogglingly nefarious. Its the biggest and easiest potential method for operators of Dominion software to throw a vote. Going to tell @ChanelRion all about it today in a video interview.

5:18 pm · 12 Nov 20 · Twitter Web App

14.8K Retweets 1,421 Quote Tweets



**Chanel Rion OAN**

@ChanelRion

@OANN Chief White House Correspondent |  
ChanelRion.com | WordedBys.com | Chanel's OAN  
Reports here: [shorturl.at/djsuK](https://shorturl.at/djsuK)

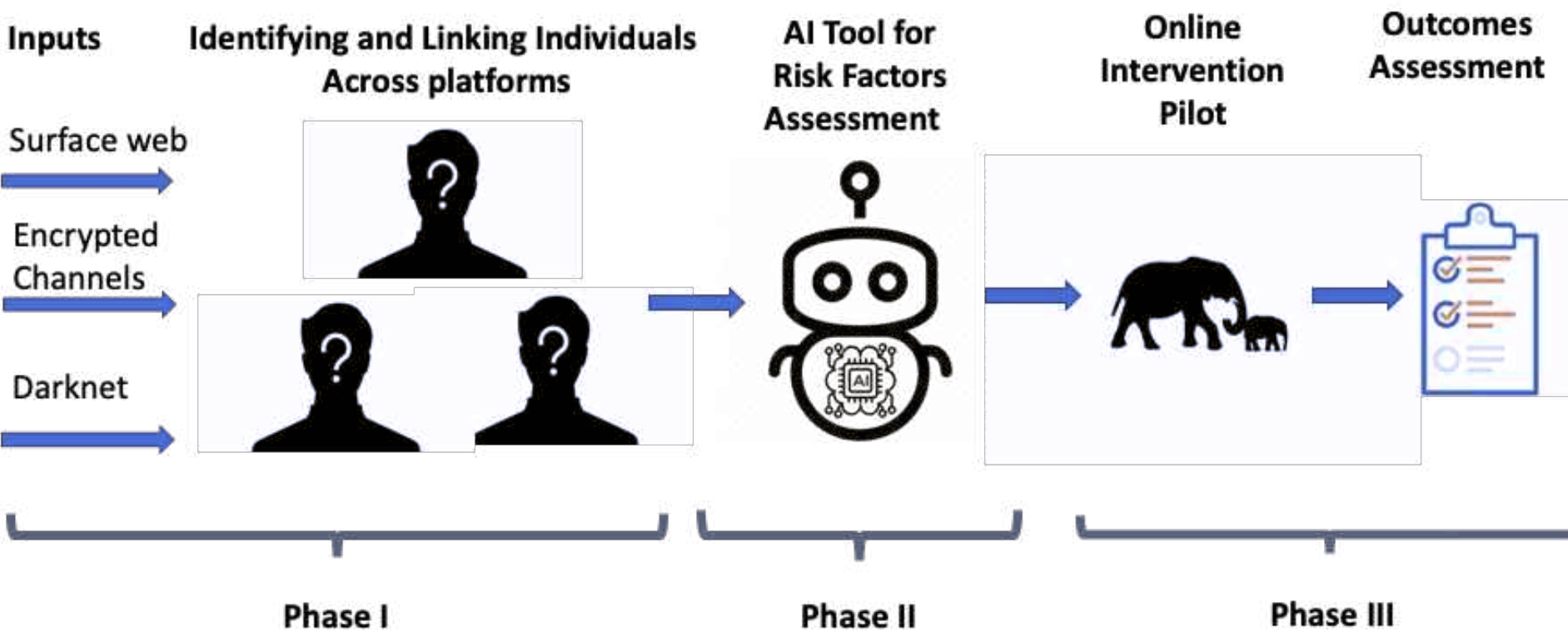
Follow



@CodeMonkeyZ

I've reached out to @RudyGiuliani offering to give him a 15 minute phone briefing on where I think he might be able to uncover end-user fraud within the Dominion voting system.

# Proposed GSU Research & Interruption Model





# Questions

silence, i  
kill you

