

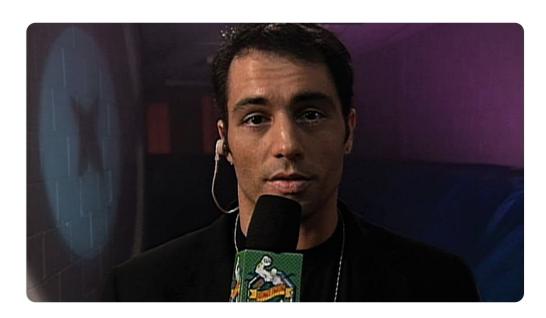
In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll introduce a podcaster and conspiracy theorist, Joe Rogan (@joerogan). He's best-known for launching the biggest podcast in the world, promoting various conspiracy theories, his support for Donald Trump and his anti-Ukraine rhetoric.

1/22



Joe Rogan started as a stand-up comedian in the 1980s, found fame on NewsRadio, and became a household name with Fear Factor. But his biggest impact came in 2009 when he launched The Joe Rogan Experience (JRE), one of the first major podcasts.







JRE started as casual but deep conversations, often covering countercultural topics like psychedelics, MMA & hunting. Joe's podcasting style is largely non-confrontational, often allowing his guests to share their views without significant pushback or critical questioning.

Psychedelic Explorers

#2247 – Duncan Trussell
#2157 – Duncan Trussell
#2134 – Paul Stamets
#2078 – Duncan Trussell
#2051 – Graham Hancock
#2047 – Brian Muraresku
#2009 – Duncan Trussell
#2002 – Amanda Feilding
#2000 – Duncan Trussell
#1965 – David Choe
#1964 – Rick Doblin
#1953 – Duncan Trussell
#1897 – Graham Hancock & Randall Carlson
#1891 – Duncan Trussell
#1839 – Duncan Trussell

#1806 - Duncan Trussell



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Mixed Martial Artists

JRE Fight Companion – UFC Fight Night 255

JRE Fight Companion - UFC 312

JRE MMA Show #165 - Jiri Prochazka

JRE MMA Show #164 - Israel Adesanya

JRE MMA Show #163 - Protect Ya Neck

JRE MMA Show #162 - Belal Muhammad

JRE MMA Show #161 - Khalil Rountree Jr.

JRE MMA Show #160 - Francis Ngannou

JRE MMA Show #159 - Quinton "Rampage" Jackson

JRE MMA Show #158 - Tank Abbott

JRE MMA Show #156 - Royce Gracie

JRE MMA Show #155 - Max Holloway

JRE MMA Show #154 - Matt Serra, Din Thomas & John Rallo

JRE MMA Show #153 - Joe Pyfer

Hunters

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#2258 - Steven Rinella
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#2248 - Michael Waddell

#2242 - Bert Sorin

#2216 - Luke Bryan

#2154 – Remi Warren

#2100 - Cameron Hanes & Steven Rinella

#2068 - Cameron Hanes

#2059 - Adam Greentree

#2052 - Shane Dorian

#2020 - Python Cowboy

#1997 - Cameron Hanes

#1955 - Cliff Gray

#1950 - Derek Wolfe

#1943 - Joel Turner



Many of the show's guests also flirted with various conspiracy theories, and at some point Rogan also became friends with one of the most prominent conspiracy theorists, Alex Jones. Ozempic-Alex has been a guest of Joe's several times.





And that's not all! Many other prominent vatniks have also been guests of Joe, including Russell Brand (four times), Elon Musk (five times), Tulsi Gabbard (five times) and Tim Pool (two times). Some of them are now supporters or part of the Trump administration.

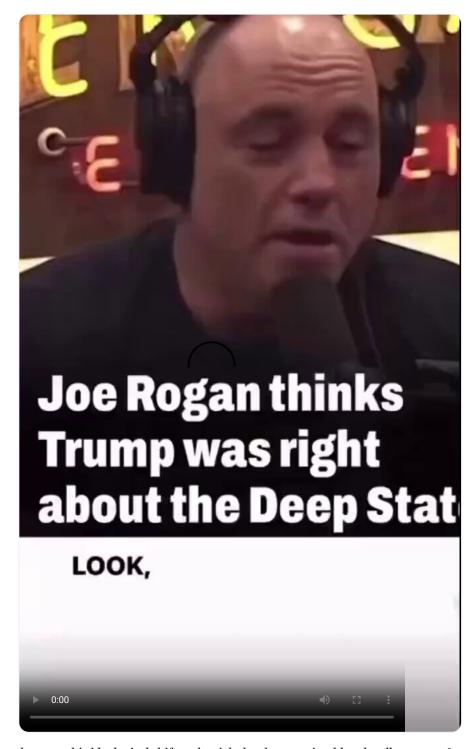








For years, Rogan claimed to be a "counter-cultural" figure, often criticizing both "mainstream media" and the "deep state". Today, Joe Rogan has become so influential that he essentially is the mainstream media, his reach surpassing most traditional outlets like CNN.



Over the years, his ideological shift to the right has been noticeable – hardly a secret & undeniably lucrative. The trend is similar to figures like Russell Brand, who began by promoting inner peace & spirituality but have since gravitated toward illiberal narratives.



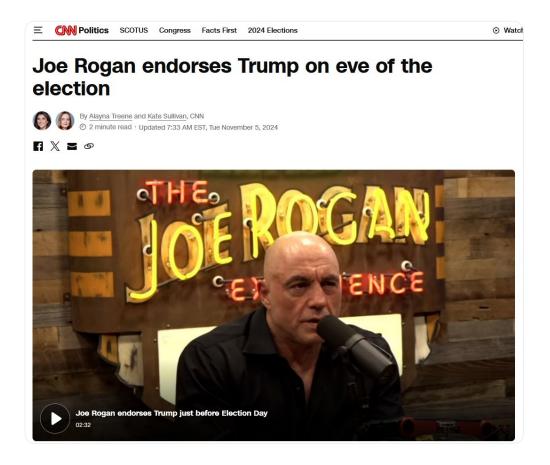
In his earlier years, Joe leaned libertarian and progressive on several issues, advocating for policies like universal healthcare, decriminalization of drugs, and marriage equality. During the 2020 primaries, Joe said he'll "probably vote for Bernie [Sanders]."

8/22



Before 2022, Rogan also called Donald Trump "so fucking dangerous" and a "man baby," even claiming that "not all Trump supporters are racist, but all racists are Trump supporters." In 2024, his tone had changed - he had Trump as a guest and later fully endorsed him.





His stance against Big Pharma grew stronger during COVID-19, featuring conspiracy theorists like RFK Jr. & Robert Malone who fueled skepticism. Recently, one of his guests, Suzanne Humphries, claimed that "vaccines do not account for the decline of infectious diseases".



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RFK Jr wasn't campaigning as an antivaxxer - until Rogan controversy

22 June 2023

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Mike Wendling BBC News



Robert F Kennedy Jr has downplayed his anti-vaccine views in his run for the US presidency, but a podcast appearance has put them front and centre once again.

Mr Kennedy, who's seeking the Democratic party nomination for president, is facing controversy after raising his anti-vaccine views on the Joe Rogan podcast.

He appeared on the massively popular series - known for its wide-ranging conversations and a range of guests, including a number with controversial or pseudoscientific views - last Thursday.

The Washington Post

This article was published more than 3 years ago

oronavirus New CDC guidance U.S. cases and deaths by state World map When am I still contagious? The people who never g

A vaccine scientist's discredited claims have bolstered a movement of misinformation

January 24, 2022



Robert Malone speaks during a rally after a D.C. march opposing coronavirus mandates on Jan. 23. (Tom Brenner/Reuters)



As Robert Malone stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial before thousands of <u>anti-vaccine</u> and <u>anti-mandate demonstrators</u> Sunday, the medical doctor and infectious-disease researcher repeated the falsehoods that have garnered him legions of followers.



JABBED

EVEN ELON MUSK IS TRYING TO CORRECT JOE ROGAN'S ANTI-VAX NONSENSE

The conspiracy-curious podcaster interviewed a doctor who claims that that polio was eradicated through sanitation rather than inoculation

> By MILES KLEE MARCH 27, 2025



TERENCE LEWIS/ICON SPORTSWIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Rogan's conversion into an anti-Ukraine figure (allegedly) happened fast. But many of his guests, including Robert F. Kennedy Jr, Dave Smith (who's appeared on JRE 14 times!) and Mike Benz have spread disinformation about the origins of the Russo-Ukrainian War.







RFK Jr. falsely claimed that Ukraine declined the settlement in the Minsk accords, also blaming NATO for the war. Smith and Benz shared these sentiments, blaming Victoria Nuland's cookies and the Biden administration (and Hunter Biden) for the escalation of the conflict.



Fact Checker About Archive Fact check tips

RFK Jr.'s 'history lesson' on Russia's invasion of Ukraine flunks the fact test

A line-by-line dissection shows he's often echoing Russian talking points.

May 8, 2024

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(Kena Betancur/AFP/Getty Images)

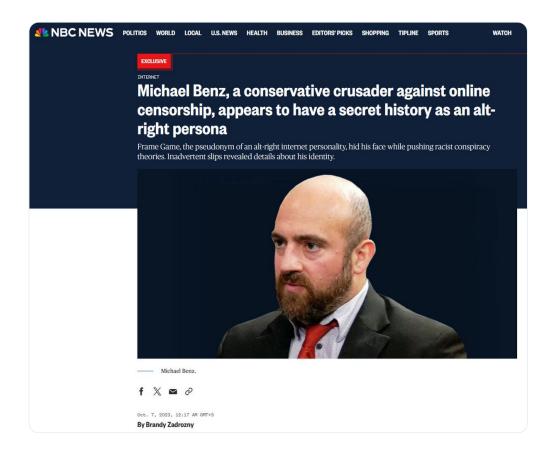


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In Nov 2024, Joe finally shared his thoughts on Ukraine and Zelenskyy, while doing a podcast with Scott Storch. It didn't take long before the discussion turned to Ukraine, where his uninformed ramblings quickly started resembling the stories you hear from the Kremlin.

Forbes

FORBES > MONEY

BREAKING

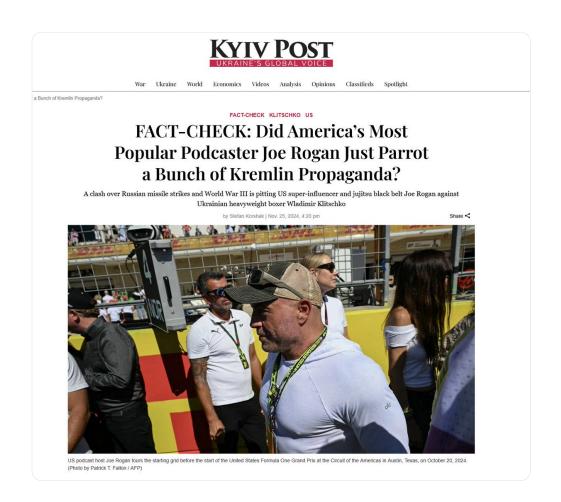
Ukrainian Boxing Icon Wladimir Klitschko Blasts Joe Rogan Over Suggesting Attacks On Russia Could Start 'World War III'

Stephen Pastis Forbes Staff

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Nov 25, 2024, 12:21pm EST

TOPLINE Ukrainian boxer Wladimir Klitschko, one of the most famous boxers globally, posted a video Sunday challenging popular podcaster Joe Rogan after Rogan argued the Russian-Ukraine war is a "proxy" battle and that President Joe Biden has moved to incite "World War III" by recently allowing Ukraine to strike inside Russia with long-range U.S.-provided missiles, suggesting the podcaster is buying into "propaganda."



First, he criticized Biden for allowing Ukraine to use US-supplied weapons to strike inside Russian territory, claiming that it was an escalation towards World War III. Then he shifted his focus on the Ukrainian president, which you can see in the video below.





Joe quickly got massive backlash for his comments, and after these ridiculous & uninformed hot takes, both Zelenskyy and Mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko offered to come on JRE as guests – but Rogan declined. To this day, he hasn't featured one real pro-Ukraine guest.

15/22



It seems that Rogan is willing to entertain flat earthers and conspiracy theorists for hours on end, yet he declined an opportunity to host Zelenskyy, another comedian who sought to discuss his country's struggle for survival and rally support for a war-torn nation.





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ABOUT



Parents Of Children Who Were Killed In Sandy Hook Are Suing Alex Jones Over His **Conspiracy Theories**

The Infowars host's conspiracy theories led to death threats and "intense emotional anguish," the parents allege in two separate lawsuits that seek more than \$1 million in damages each.



Posted on April 17, 2018 at 9:57 pm







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Additionally, Joe has no problem inviting literal Hitler apologists like Darryl Cooper on the show. Cooper's main shtick is to promote dictatorships, authoritarianism, and of course rewriting history to make Hitler seem like the good guy:





Hitler tried again, going on the radio to broadcast a call for peace directly to the British people. He would give back the parts of Poland that were not majority German, and would work with the other powers to reach an acceptable solution to the Jewish problem. He was ignored. /21

Readers added context

Grossly misleading.

The tweet refers to the "appeal to reason" by Hitler in July 1940. By this time Hitler had invaded two direct Allies of Britain, Poland and France, broken multiple treaties and Einsatzstaffeln were killing Jews, Poles and others.

en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War...





This may be putting it too crudely for some, but the picture on the left was infinitely preferable in virtually every way than the one on the right.

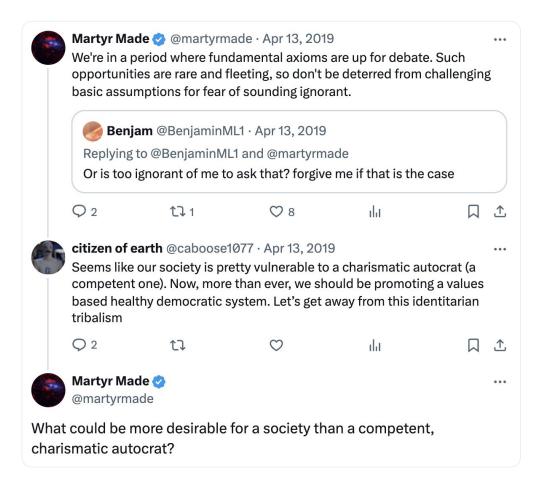






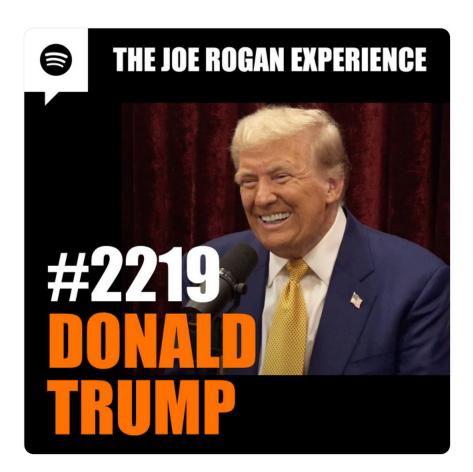
Cernovich ② @Cernovich ⋅ 13h

After the Paris opening ceremony, which I put on for my daughters, I don't care what happens to France. Can't get any worse than the few minutes we saw. Insulting to Christians and secular people alike. Go to Hell, Paris.



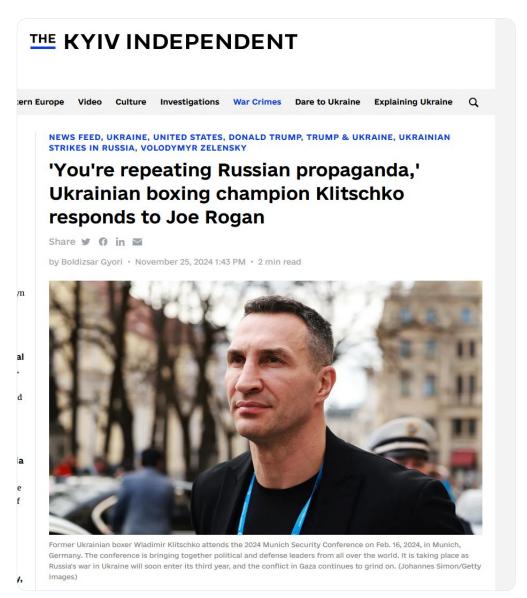


Interestingly, Joe only addressed the war in Ukraine after endorsing Donald Trump & following Trump's victory in Nov 2024. But to be fair, Rogan's mind has been marinated by conspiratorial & anti-Ukraine ideas by many of his vatnik guests long before any of this happened.

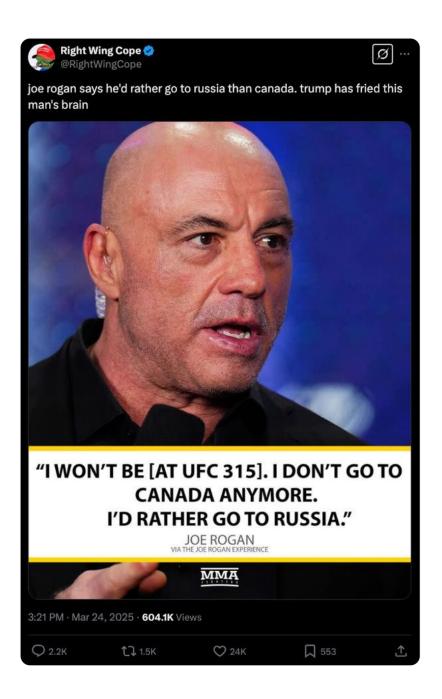




It is extremely sad that Joe Rogan has decided to provide a very one-sided view of the brutal war on Ukraine, without even offering Ukrainians a chance to counter these claims. Instead, he'll just invite Dave Smith for the 15th time to spread his bullshit narratives.



Recently, Rogan has started echoing the Trump administration's views on Canada. On the "JRE Fight Companion" podcast, he stated that "I don't go to Canada anymore," and "I'd rather go to Russia." Of course, he then criticized the Canadian government but not the Russian one.



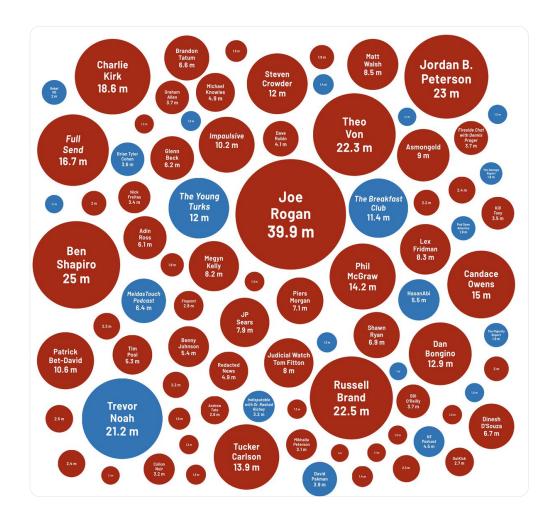


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A search of the podcast episode's captions located additional comments Rogan made about Canada earlier in the same episode. He said, "I think it's stupid that we hate France. I don't get it. I think it's stupid that we hate Canada, too. I don't get that either." He added, "They have a terrible government but Canadian people are awesome."

Why does Rogan's opinion matter? Rogan's podcast is still the most popular in the world, and like Musk, his reach is massive. He has around 15 million followers on Spotify and over 19 million on YouTube, and he has garnered nearly 6 billion video views on YouTube.





Got a Tip? Newsletters U.S. Edition ∨



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Dec 4, 2024 5:00am PT

Joe Rogan Again Had the No. 1 Podcast on Spotify for 2024

Streamer says more than one-third of top 50 podcasts in U.S. are now available as video episodes

By Todd Spangler v







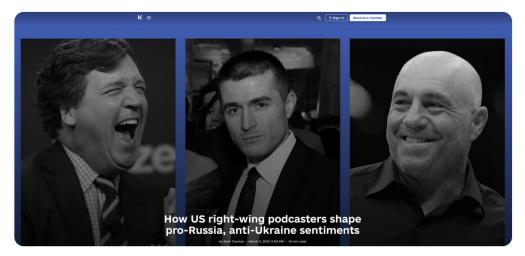






The Joe Rogan Experience/Spotify

Conclusion: Joe Rogan has gone from being a countercultural icon and podcast pioneer to an illiberal political shill, toeing the line and too afraid to criticize his new masters. That's why he won't invite anyone who could challenge his or his buddies' views on Ukraine.



The 2nd edition of "Vatnik Soup — The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation" is officially out!

You can order your copy here:



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