

News and Views 25

Issue #17 - 5/10/2025

“Voice of America”

Topic - Trump’s attack on free broadcasting to the world.

Project 2025 outlined hundreds of changes planned to transform our country into a dramatically different model. One objective is to control the information that is allowed to not only Americans, but also others around the world.

The following quote is from wikipedia, providing background about the source and objectives of the Voice of America.

Wikipedia

“VOA was established in 1942, during [World War II](#). Building on American use of [shortwave radio](#) during the war, it initially served as an anti-[propaganda](#) tool against [Axis](#) misinformation but expanded to include other forms of content like American music programs for [cultural diplomacy](#). During the [Cold War](#), its operations expanded in an effort to fight communism and played a role in the decline of communism in several countries.

Throughout its operations, it has aimed to broadcast uncensored information to residents under restrictive regimes, even airing behind the [Iron Curtain](#). In response, some countries began investing in technology to [jam](#) VOA broadcasts. In post-Soviet Russia under [Vladimir Putin](#), VOA was designated as a “foreign agent” and blocked alongside other western international broadcasters, but its programming still reaches Russian listeners through other means. Its journalists often take substantial risks reporting inside repressive regimes.”

This quote from Project 2025’s describes the plan for suppressing freedom of expression, one of the apparent goals of the current administration.

Charles Kettering Foundation - from Project 2025

“Muting the Voice of America”

Chapter 8 of the Mandate is titled “Media Agencies” and specifically targets free, reliable, public news sources. The advisors who drafted Project 2025 want to reign in [Voice of America](#) (VOA), which, since the Cold War, has provided people around the world with accurate and timely news and information.

While VOA is funded by Congress, it operates independently, which means it often reports critically on US policies. Consistent with an overall policy of [reducing support for international](#)

[democracy](#), chapter 8 of the Mandate proposes that VOA and other Congressionally funded US media be consolidated, reduced, and brought more formally under control of the State Department (243–244). [Read more](#)

In the News

On Friday, March 28, Trump attempted to destroy Voice of America, following the plan outlined in Project 2025. His plan was halted, as described below.

NEW YORK (AP) 4/28/25 - The Voice of America can't be silenced just yet.

"A federal judge on Friday halted the Trump administration's efforts to dismantle the eight-decade-old U.S. government-funded international news service, calling the move a "classic case of arbitrary and capricious decision making." [Read more](#)

A few days later the "return to work" order was yet in question.

Politico 5/3/25

"The future of Voice of America remains in flux after a federal appellate court Saturday paused a ruling reversing the dismantling of the embattled news outlet — a day after journalists were told they would soon return to work.

A Justice Department email sent to attorneys representing VOA employees on Friday said the agency would begin a "phased return" to office and resume programming next week. But by Saturday afternoon, a divided D.C. Circuit Court panel [issued a stay](#) of a lower court order that would have restored the outlet". [Read more](#)

Since Trump's initial plan to terminate Voice of America was not successful, a new plan was created. Trump assigned Kari Lake, a hard-line MAGA, to run the program. The first move was to change the programming from objective and democratic content, and to select OAN, a conservative news outlet, to provide programming control.

Ari Melber MSNBC Video - 5/7/25

"Trump tells Federal Government to air conservative outlets."

"Voice of America will start airing content from the right wing-outlet One America News. It marks a dire shift for the broadcaster, which was founded during the Cold War to counter Communist propaganda." [Watch video](#)

OAN Breaking news - 5/8/25

Voice of America Will Now Carry Trump-Favorite OAN

"The government's official news network Voice of America (VOA) will partner with and receive new feed services from right-wing news media outlet One America News (OAN) Network."

"OAN is a pro-Trump network that [frequently broadcast claims about voter fraud](#) in the 2020 election, leading Dominion Voting Systems to sue OAN, it's owner Robert Herring Sr., his son Charles Herring, and journalists Chanel Rion and Christina Bobb for promoting the conspiracy theory that Dominion's machines were used to rig the 2020 election in favor of [Joe Biden](#). All defendants denied any wrongdoing." [Read more](#)