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America Last: How Fuentes's Coordinated Raids and Foreign Fake-Speech Networks Inflate His Influence



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Executive Summary and BLUF

Nick Fuentes's surge into national visibility did not originate from a broad or sudden shift in American political sentiment. It emerged from a pattern of online amplification that was unusually fast, unusually concentrated, and unusually foreign in origin. This report examines the structure of that amplification, the signals it produced inside the information environment, and the ways mainstream, legacy institutions interpreted those signals as indicators of emerging relevance. The goal is not to explain Fuentes's ideology or his existing audience, but to assess how synthetic engagement, real-world events, and media incentives converged to elevate a fringe figure into a central subject of national attention.

- Algorithmic Amplification Far Exceeds Legitimate Reach:** Fuentes received dramatically higher early retweet velocity than any comparator, including Elon Musk (the platform's most-followed user). Within the critical first 30 minutes, Fuentes routinely outperformed accounts with 10-100x more followers.
- Early Engagement is Dominated by Repeat Actors:** In a sample of 20 recent posts, 61% of Fuentes's first-30-minute retweets came from accounts that retweeted multiple of these 20 posts within that same ultra-short window - behavior highly suggestive of coordination or automation.
- The Amplification Network is Overwhelmingly Anonymous & Ideologically Dedicated:** 92% of repeat early-retweeters were fully anonymous (no real name, no real photo, no location, no contact info) and the majority are openly or functionally single-purpose "Groper" / "America First" accounts whose primary activity is boosting Nick Fuentes and related fringextremist messaging.
- Foreign-Origin Amplification Dominated Fuentes's Viral Posts:** In the months before Charlie Kirk's death, roughly half of the retweets on Fuentes's most-viral posts came from foreign accounts, heavily concentrated in India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Malaysia, and Indonesia. These regions have no organic link to Fuentes's politics but do match the known geographic footprint of low-cost engagement farms, making the pattern consistent with bot-farm amplification rather than genuine foreign audiences.
- Mainstream Media Reinforcement:** Since September 2025, mainstream media coverage increased more than threefold and high-status descriptions of Fuentes increased by 59.6%. Outlets also adopted markedly more polished visual treatments, including studio-grade portraits,

controlled lighting, shallow depth of field, and editorial framing that visually positioned Fuentes as a consequential political figure.

- Fuentes Himself is Involved in Coordination: His manipulated reach is not accidental; full show transcripts reveal hundreds of real-time commands to “retweet this” and “retweet me,” establishing raid-style amplification as a core operating method. These directed raids built the behavioral infrastructure of his account and laid the groundwork for consistent X policy violations by the anonymous and foreign network now amplifying him.

Introduction

In the volatile landscape of American politics, where digital platforms serve as both battlegrounds and echo chambers, the rise of fringe ideologies and influencers poses a profound threat to democratic discourse and institutional integrity.¹ This report examines the mechanisms of social media manipulation that propel fringe ideologies into the mainstream, with a particular focus on Nicholas Joseph Fuentes: a polarizing 27-year-old online influencer whose reach within the Republican party and right-of-center voters more generally has increased amid the uncertainties of Donald Trump's second term.

During this period, Fuentes made a series of public statements that diverged sharply from typical political rhetoric while his online visibility was being amplified. He endorsed the idea of marrying a sixteen-year-old, stating he wanted a 16-year-old wife “when the milk is fresh,”² argued that rape within marriage is impossible because a woman’s body belongs to the husband, that Hitler was “awesome”,³ and directed racial attacks at Usha Vance, the wife of JD Vance, in commentary questioning her background and her husband’s political alignment.^{4 5 6} He also praised Vladimir Putin for the invasion of Ukraine,^{7 8} expressed support for China taking Taiwan,⁹ and described the Taliban’s victory over U.S. forces as a positive development.¹⁰ These statements occurred while foreign-linked amplification and subsequent corporate media attention were elevating Fuentes’s profile, creating a dynamic in which rhetoric of this nature entered national coverage as his visibility increased.

¹ Benkler, Y., Faris, R., & Roberts, H. (2018). *Network propaganda: Manipulation, disinformation, and radicalization in American politics*. Oxford University Press.

² <https://x.com/AnOpenSecret/status/1659022901213900801?s=20>

³ <https://x.com/MarinaMedvin/status/1985119027245560100?s=20>

⁴ <https://x.com/NickJFuentes/status/1957856512375693390?s=20>

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<https://www.newsweek.com/jd-vance-pressed-trump-nick-fuentes-dinner-racist-remarks-usha-vance-1937573>

⁶ <https://x.com/NickJFuentes/status/1958630355931652428?s=20>

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<https://www.businessinsider.com/nick-fuentes-praises-putin-weeks-after-gop-lawmakers-attend-event-2022-3>

⁸ <https://www.bitchute.com/video/IdzAEi6L35ry/>

⁹ <https://www.bitchute.com/video/IdzAEi6L35ry/>

¹⁰ <https://www.vice.com/en/article/hard-not-to-respect-that-why-white-nationalists-are-toasting-the-taliban/>

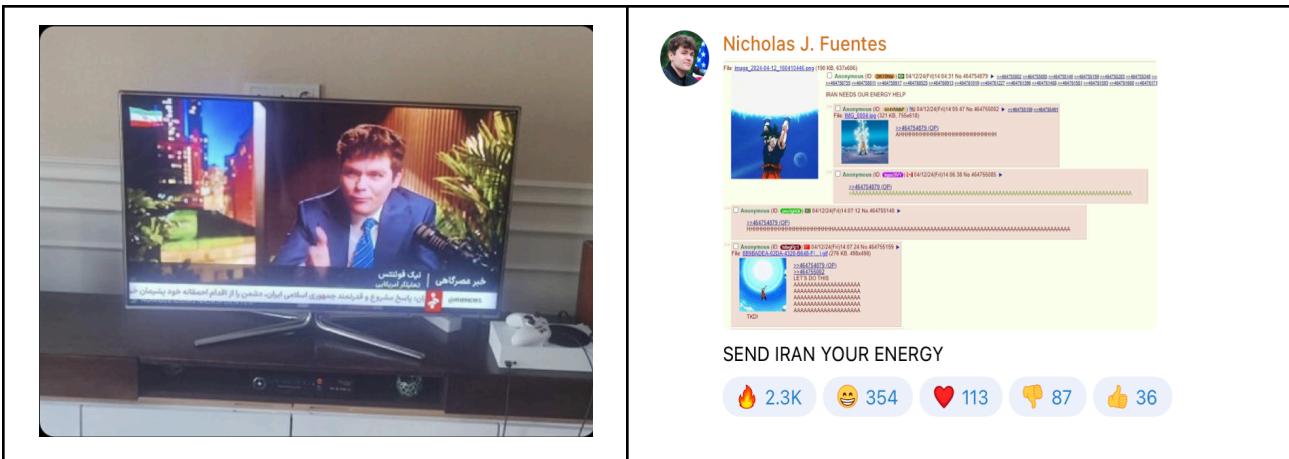


Figure 9: Left: Image of Nick Fuentes appearing as a representative of US sentiment on the Iranian regime's Press TV.¹¹ Right: On Telegram, Fuentes sided with Iran during a live crisis, opposing the United States at the very moment America was mobilizing to counter Tehran.

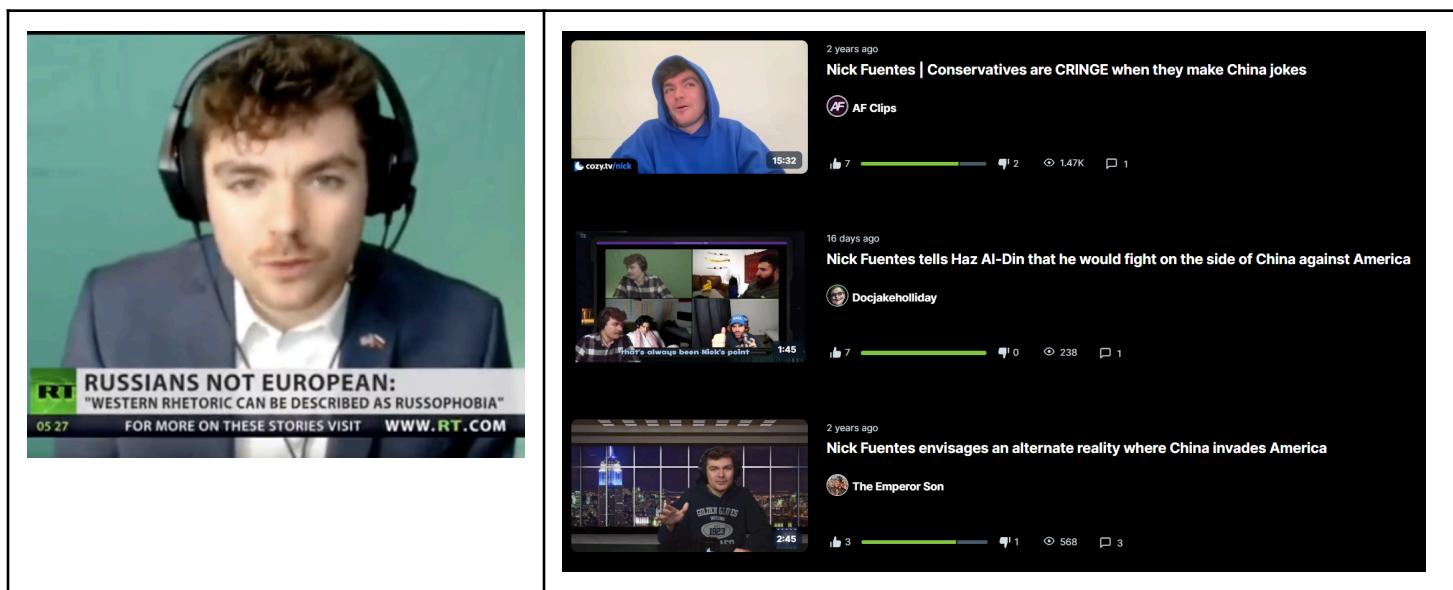


Figure 10: Left: Nick Fuentes appears on Putin-aligned Russia Today (RT), arguing that the West is Russophobic for its support of Ukraine.¹² Right: Fuentes praises or defends other U.S. adversaries, including China and Iran - telling Haz Al-Din he would “fight on the side of China against America,” mocking conservatives who criticize China, and imagining scenarios where China invades the U.S. - illustrating a consistent pattern of siding with foreign powers hostile to the United States.

¹¹ <https://x.com/fuentesupdates/status/1933614745275543774?s=48>

¹² <https://x.com/RightWingWatch/status/1514967350239506432?s=20>

Moreover, despite his relentless branding as an “America First” nationalist, Nick Fuentes has repeatedly gone to bat for regimes hostile to the United States. He has praised Vladimir Putin’s war in Ukraine, referred to the U.S. as the “Great Satan”, rooted for Russian soldiers in their effort to destroy Ukraine and humble the “American regime”.^{13 14} At his own political conference, he led chants of “Putin! Putin!” as Russia bombarded a U.S. ally.¹⁵ Iranian state media aired segments of Fuentes justifying Iranian aggression as “self-defense”,¹⁶ and he has amplified anti-Israel rhetoric that effectively excuses Iran’s militancy by blaming U.S. foreign policy on “Jewish control” that will lead to the deaths of Americans for Israel.^{17 18} He has even admired China’s repression of Muslim minorities, once suggesting the CCP’s tactics might be “ideal” if applied to American cities like Chicago or Harlem.¹⁹



Figure 11: Nick Fuentes introduces Marjorie Taylor Green by saying: “And now they’re going on about Russia and Vladimir Putin, saying he’s Hitler – they say that’s not a good thing. Can we get a round of applause for Russia?”²⁰

¹³ <https://x.com/RightWingWatch/status/1504167055557201925?s=20>

¹⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEO5M0c2cnE>

¹⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/mar/05/putin-ukraine-invasion-white-nationalists-far-right>

¹⁶

<https://deepnewz.com/middle-east/iran-state-tv-airs-candace-owens-nick-fuentes-remarks-sparks-conservative-a883bb5f>

¹⁷ <https://x.com/RedPillMediaX/status/1936974305625313677?s=20>

¹⁸ <https://irehr.org/2025/06/26/white-nationalist-responses-to-the-bombing-of-iran/>

¹⁹

<https://www.peoplefor.org/rightwingwatch/post/is-that-not-ideal-nick-fuentes-wants-china-to-invade-the-us-and-start-killing-black-people>

²⁰ https://x.com/Liz_Cheney/status/1497613102765907968?s=20

Fuentes's defense of authoritarian adversaries – Russia, Iran, China – is not a minor contradiction. It represents a coherent pattern in which his anti-American worldview aligns more closely with America's enemies than with its interests. His self-proclaimed patriotism crumbles in the face of performative contrarianism, where any regime that resists liberal democracy becomes, in his eyes, preferable to the current United States. The fact that Iranian and Russian broadcasters have aired or quoted him approvingly underscores the broader point: the figure elevated by algorithmic manipulation and mainstream media grooming as a voice of nationalist revival is, in reality, one of the most reliable public defenders of America's geopolitical foes.

Fuentes couples his coverage with extraordinarily regressive political positions. He labels interracial marriage degenerate²¹, adding at other times that Jim Crow was ultimately good for Black people.²² He claimed that it's time for the state to "crush the free market" for not serving the people.²³ Similar attitudes are mirrored in his view of women: they should get "back in the kitchen"²⁴ and are on a "fundamentally lower cognitive plane" than men²⁵; indeed, "bullying women works".²⁶ Far from occasional provocations, these statements are delivered to tens of thousands of live viewers and millions more through clips in a nightly doctrine that defines Fuentes's brand and binds his Groyper movement together.

Moreover, Fuentes, a self-described Catholic, has explicitly rejected core evangelical practices. In a November 2025 livestream, he advised followers to stop reading the Bible independently, claiming it fosters "modernist errors" like "transgender ideology" and "transgender pastors" – a direct jab at Protestant traditions emphasizing personal Scripture interpretation, which he negatively traces back to the Reformation.^{27 28} He has praised Islam over Protestantism for limiting lay access to texts and demanded a "rigidly Roman Catholic 'America First' identity that excludes Christian Zionists.²⁹ Fuentes contrasted "Christendom" with evangelical "inclusivity", accusing the latter of tolerating "civilizational suicide".^{30 31}

Fuentes represents a vanguard and devoted cadre of young online activists known as "Groypers" – a Pepe the Frog-inspired army that has orchestrated "Groyper Wars" to heckle mainstream

²¹ <https://www.bitchute.com/video/PSuksMxrUE86/>

²² <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/2025/11/nick-fuentes-tucker-carlson-randy-fine/684939/>

²³ https://fight.fudgie.org/search/show/nf/episode/20190215_Fri_VxXdEzgRUHY

²⁴ https://fight.fudgie.org/search/show/nf/episode/20190221_Thu_gT_pJxykFe4#line4738

²⁵ <https://x.com/DelGroyp/status/1678999922815959040>

²⁶ https://fight.fudgie.org/search/show/nf/episode/20191217_Tue_LE4SG4d4E7s

²⁷ <https://www.jfeed.com/news-world/nick-fuentes-bible-reading>

²⁸

https://www.reddit.com/r/exchristian/comments/1ozfbwb/nick_fuentes_says_it_would_be_better_if_people/

²⁹

https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2025/11/tucker_carlson_and_nick_fuentes_are_enemies_of_the_gop.html

³⁰ <https://x.com/NickJFuentes/status/1810437235118162389>

³¹ <https://x.com/NickJFuentes/status/1807832766157091143>

MAGA conservatives like Charlie Kirk at events,^{32 33} demanding purer strains of white grievance politics. By late 2025, Fuentes's ascent had triggered widespread media attention after Tucker Carlson's two-hour interview with him in October, wherein Fuentes decried "organized Jewry" as America's chief threat, even as he praised Joseph Stalin.³⁴ Yet, as this report reveals, Fuentes's outsized digital footprint invites a series of questions around whether his fame is a reflection of purely genuine grassroots appeal or a manipulated product of algorithmic exploitation by a shadowy network of anonymous "Groyper" accounts.

Fuentes's War on TPUSA and Charlie Kirk

Nick Fuentes's antagonism toward Turning Point USA (TPUSA) and its founder Charlie Kirk is not a marginal part of his persona or brand. It is a defining axis of his movement's identity. Long before the assassination of Charlie Kirk became a catalytic moment in the media ecosystem, Fuentes had built his early notoriety by positioning TPUSA as his primary enemy on the mainstream right.^{35 36} In multiple livestreams and Groyper War events, Fuentes framed TPUSA as a corrupt, weak, and "degenerate" institution standing in the way of his desired ideological takeover of the conservative movement. He repeatedly told his audience to "heckle", "invade", and "humiliate" TPUSA events, and the Groyper brand was cemented through these coordinated disruptions.^{37 38 39}

But the hostility was not merely strategic. Fuentes spoke about TPUSA with open contempt, once declaring on air that he "fuck[s] TPUSA", denouncing the organization as a "joke", "grifters", "Zionist sellouts", and the embodiment of everything he believed was wrong with the MAGA world. His rhetoric toward Charlie Kirk himself was even more venomous. He referred to Kirk as a "fat retard", a "traitor", a "puppet" of Jewish donors, a "retarded idiot", a "fake Christian", a "fake patriot", and an "anti-White" figure who hates America. This all made Kirk the symbolic villain of the Groyper narrative: the gatekeeper who must be destroyed for "America First" to rise.

Methodology and Results

The Amplification Problem

In our first exploration, we wanted to understand whether the sheer volume of retweets of Fuentes's posts came from an organic audience or not by comparing his online profile to that of other figures. To do so, we analyzed recent tweets made by each of five online personalities or influencers, each active in the online political conversation: Elon Musk, Hasan Piker, Ian Carroll, Nick Fuentes, and Steven "Destiny" Bonnell. For each influencer, we studied their 20 most

³² <https://x.com/NickJFuentes/status/1983953858276790445?s=20>

³³ <https://truthout.org/articles/turning-point-usa-struggles-to-bar-white-nationalists-from-student-summit/>

³⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efBB0D4tf1Y>

³⁵ <https://www.newsweek.com/groyper-charlie-kirk-shooting-nick-fuentes-2129114>

³⁶ <https://www.axios.com/2025/09/15/groyper-charlie-kirk-nick-fuentes-tyler-robinson>

³⁷ <https://x.com/jingoisticpig/status/1967019230236471512>

³⁸ <https://x.com/RedPillSayian/status/1927205279780782347>

³⁹ <https://x.com/Kaizerrev/status/1960213708380193020>

recent tweets⁴⁰ dating from November 6 or 7, 2025 backwards⁴¹; and for each of these 20 tweets per influencer, we collected *all* retweets of that tweet that were made within the first 30 minutes after the tweet was posted.⁴²

Figure 1A shows the average number of retweets that each influencer obtained across these 20 tweets, within various periods of time since the original tweet was posted. Figure 1B presents these same numbers but normalized by each influencer's number of followers.

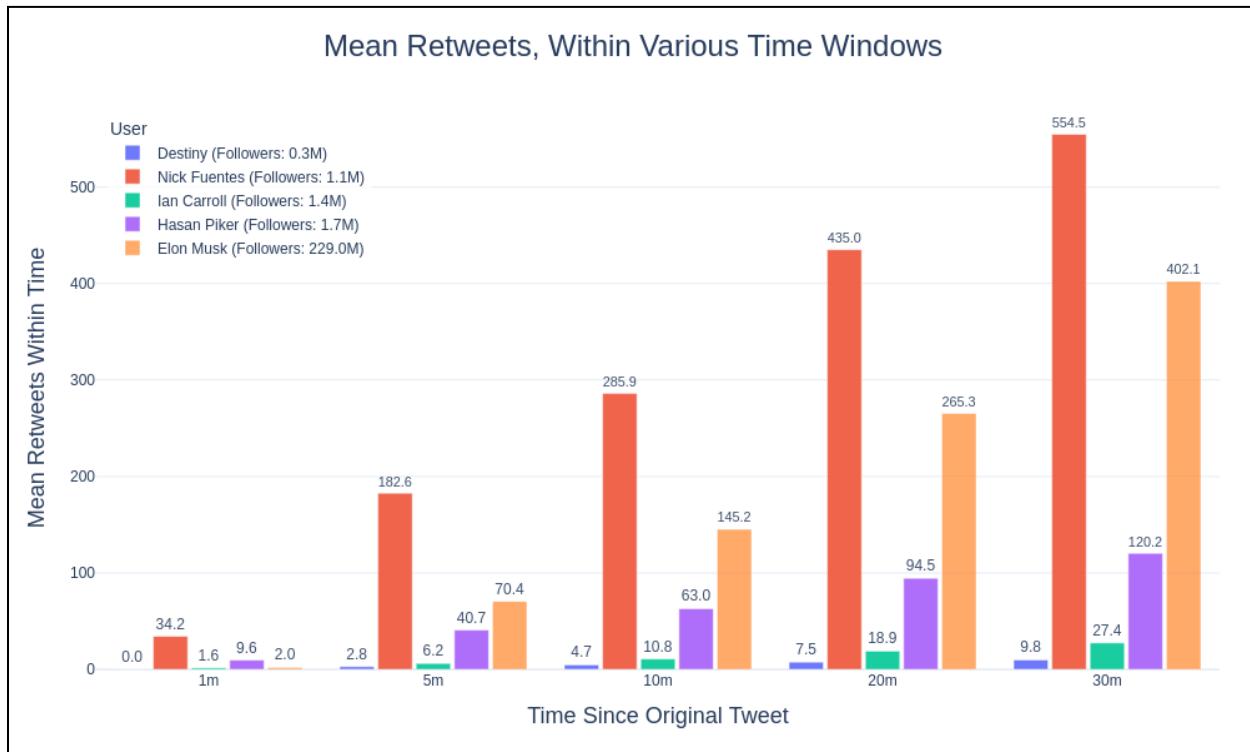


Figure 1A: Fuentes gets vastly more retweets in the first 30 minutes than similar accounts, and even gets more than Elon Musk.

The data show that Nick Fuentes obtains an extraordinarily outsized number of retweets within the first 30 minutes (and first 1 minute, 5 minutes, 10 minutes, and 20 minutes) of each of his posts. His early engagement outpaces that of even X's #1 most-followed account (Elon Musk). As can be seen in Figure 1A, the number of early retweets within each of 5, 10, 20, and 30 minutes decreases as we examine influencers with smaller and smaller numbers of followers (i.e. go right-to-left within each bar group), with Nick Fuentes being the one massive exception.

⁴⁰ "Replies" made by the influencer were included in this analysis.

⁴¹ Since some influencers post more frequently than others, for some influencers the 20 tweets dated back as little as ~1 day, but for others they dated back over 4 months.

⁴² We used [Meltwater](#) to collect and download all of these retweets.

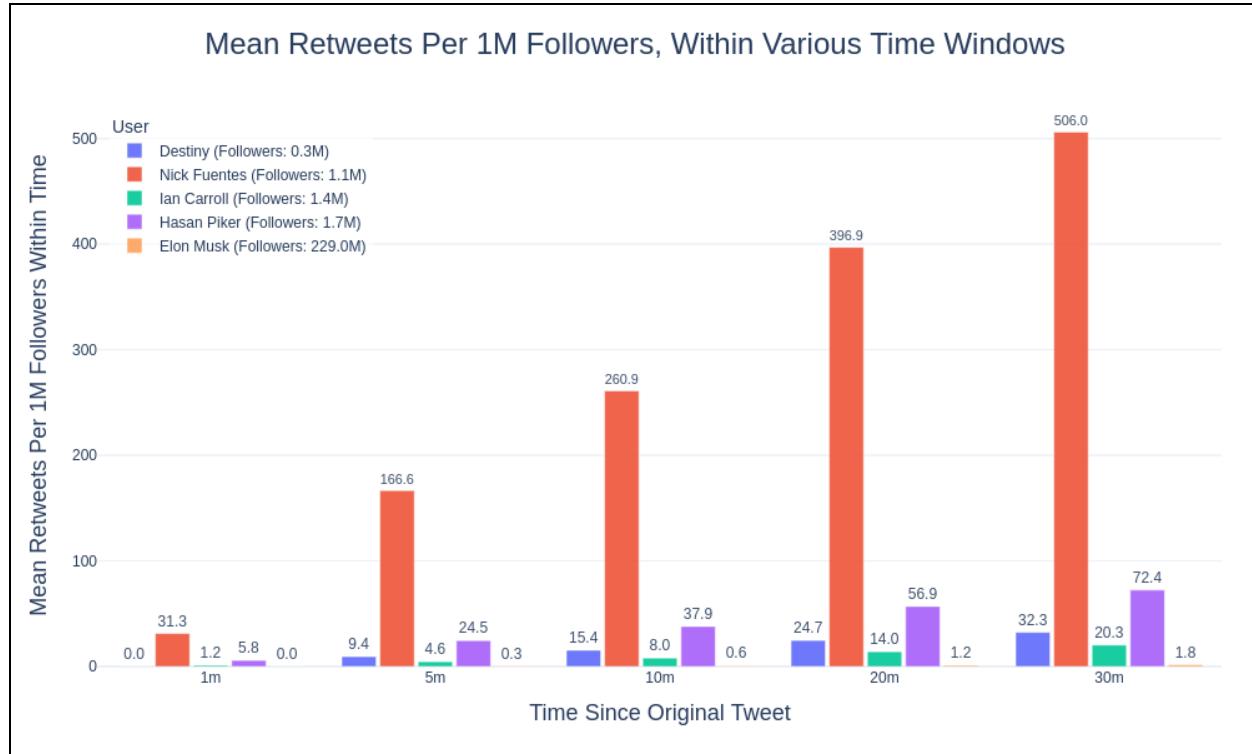


Figure 1B: Fuentes's retweets in the first 30 minutes are radically disproportionate to his number of followers.

Together, Figure 1A and 1B paint a disturbing picture of Fuentes' growth. As is more explicit in the second figure, he vastly outpaces other influencers – especially when accounting for the size of their follower bases. It is highly questionable, at best, that such numbers can be produced organically. The likely conclusion to be drawn is that such velocity is artificially induced – in other words, manipulated by actors coordinating in unison in order to amplify his reach.

Anonymous Groyper Assets Form the Core Amplification Network

After observing that Fuentes's reach is stratospherically inflated, we aimed to understand the mechanics of such outsized influence. Across the 20 Fuentes tweets we studied, we found that 61% of early retweets⁴³ came from accounts that had retweeted *multiple* of these 20 tweets within the first 30 minutes. Figure 2 shows the amount of early retweets coming from such *Repeat Early Retweeter* accounts.

In other words, of the enormous reach generated by retweeting Fuentes, nearly *two-thirds* came from users who were doing so repeatedly and almost immediately. Thus, Fuentes's extreme early engagement appears not to be the result of users organically happening upon, appreciating, and reposting his content, but rather the result of a coordinated process in which a

⁴³ That is, retweets taking place within 30 minutes of the original post.

brigade of accounts manipulates algorithms by systematically retweeting Fuentes as soon as he makes a post.

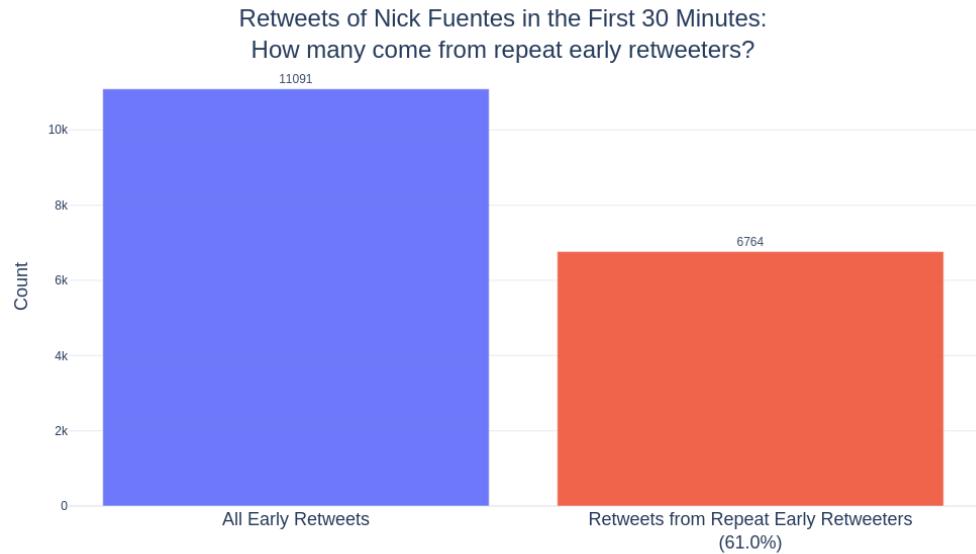


Figure 2: Early retweets of Nick Fuentes mostly come from accounts that repeatedly retweet within the first 30 minutes.

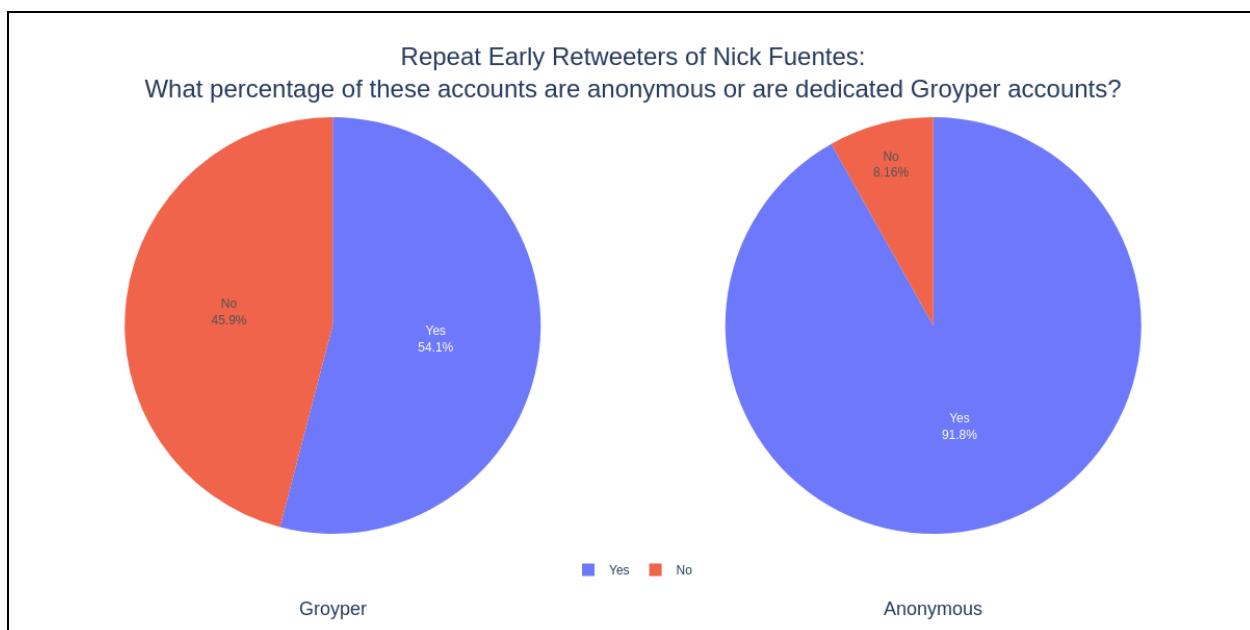


Figure 3: Most repeat early retweeters of Nick Fuentes are dedicated Groyper accounts, and 92% are anonymous.

After understanding that most of the amplification of Fuentes comes from accounts that repeatedly boost him almost immediately after he posts, we wanted to understand what sort of users were behind this brigade of accounts that repeatedly boosted Fuentes's posts. As can be seen in Figure 3, 92% of these accounts were anonymous: their profiles had no real person's name or photograph and listed no location or contact information. Additionally, we discovered that a majority of these repeat early retweeters were in fact dedicated "Groyper" accounts – those whose posts are almost exclusively retweets of or replies to Fuentes, or which contain "grop" or similar phrases in their names⁴⁴.

Most of these accounts do not attempt to hide the fact that they are dedicated Groypers, utterly anonymous, and/or attempting to game the X algorithm to increase Nick Fuentes's reach. Figure 4 shows a few examples of the profile pages of repeat early retweeters of Fuentes. Even when their names do not include Groyper/Fuentes references, these accounts often use Groyper imagery such as Pepe the Frog or the "Native Americans Beware of Foreign Influence" flag.

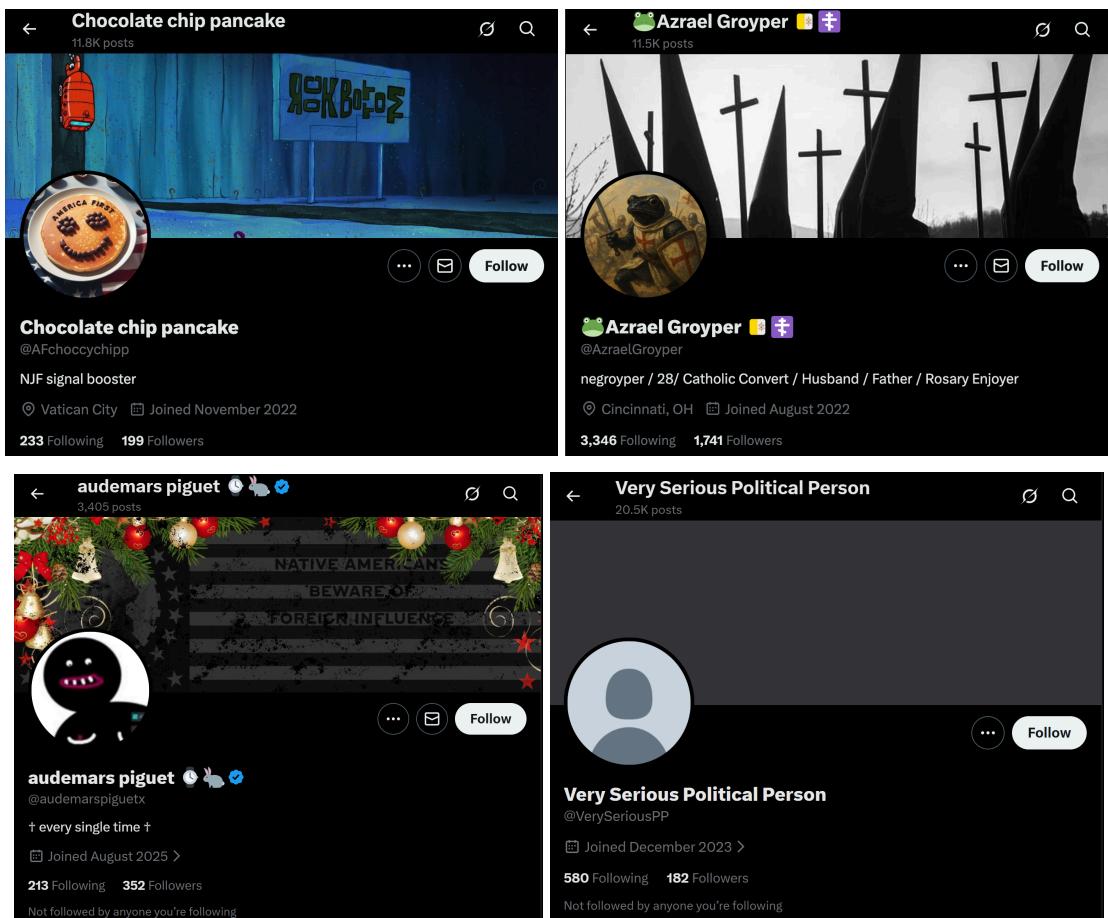


Figure 4: Example Repeat Early Retweeters of Nick Fuentes. Top Left: Dedicated "NJF Signal Booster" account. Top Right: A Groyper account with crusader and Pepe the Frog imagery.

⁴⁴ See Appendix 1 for the complete criteria used to determine if an account was a "Groyper" account.

Bottom Right: A totally anonymous account. Bottom Left: An account whose banner includes the “Native Americans Beware of Foreign Influence” flag.

Foreign Clusters Generate the Viral Retweet Surge

Lastly, having identified that the amplification network surrounding Fuentes consists largely of anonymous, single-purpose “Groper” assets, we examined a more strategic question: who is driving the virality of his highest-impact content? To answer this, we analyzed Fuentes’s three most-engaged Fuentes posts in 2025 before and after Charlie Kirk’s assassination⁴⁵ – an inflection point noted widely in media and extremist-monitoring channels. This approach allowed us to compare not only early-engagement velocity but the entire retweet ecosystem behind Fuentes’s most viral content.

The results were clear: Before Kirk’s death, approximately half of all retweets on these top-performing posts originated from foreign, non-US accounts.⁴⁶

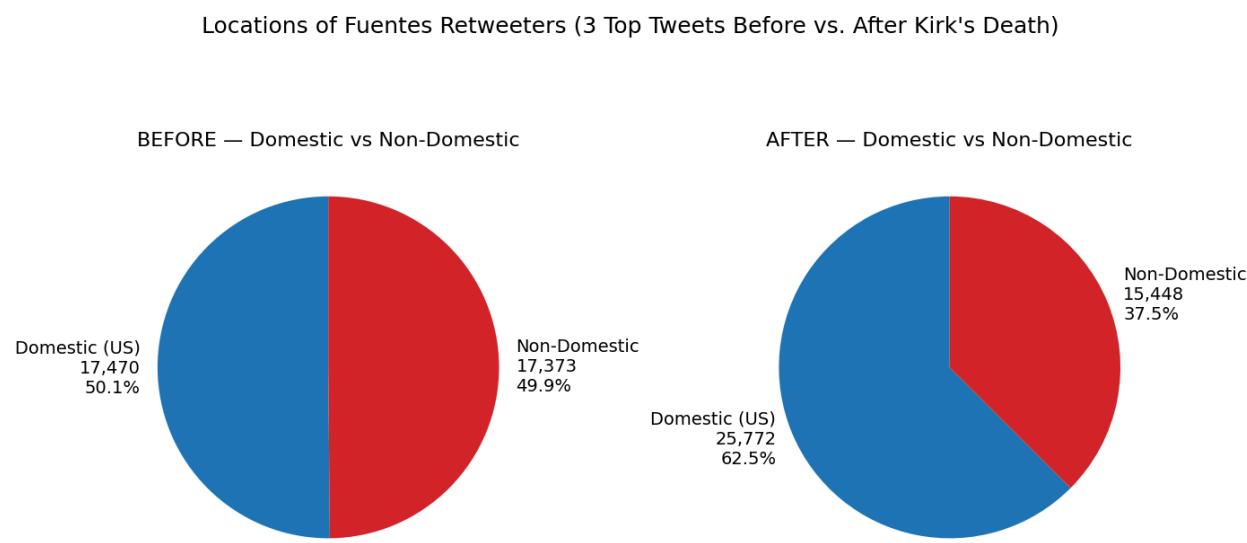


Figure 5: Foreign vs. domestic retweeters of Nick Fuentes, before and after Kirk's assassination.

Foreign Engagement Spatial Signatures Match that of Known Manipulation Infrastructure

Before Kirk’s assassination, the foreign retweet pool also showed a highly irregular geographic footprint. Although the top 2 foreign sources were the UK (12%) and Canada (9%), non-Western

⁴⁵ Specifically, we analyzed Fuentes’s 3 most-retweeted tweets before Sept 7 and his 3 most-retweeted tweets after Sept 13.

⁴⁶ 14% of all retweets (foreign and domestic) came from users using a VPN. We included these retweets in the analysis, using the location given by x.com. Retweets from VPN users whose location was listed as a foreign country represented only 7.6% of all retweets – not remotely enough to explain the volume of foreign retweets coming from countries such as India, Pakistan and Nigeria.

countries together constituted the source of a *majority* of the foreign retweets of Nick Fuentes (Appendix 2, Table A). The top non-Western sources of Fuentes retweets included India (7%), Pakistan (7%), Nigeria (4%), Malaysia (3%), and Indonesia (3%). There is no organic explanation for this pattern. There is no natural ideological or cultural link between these regions and a fringe American extremist figure, especially one whose content is tightly focused on US politics and who espouses white supremacy.

This pattern is, however, consistent with outsourced engagement infrastructure. These geographies describe the same low-cost amplification clusters and engagement farms that foreign actors often use to manufacture virality, distort platform metrics, and manipulate recommendation systems.

After the assassination, the distribution shifted, with Western accounts increasing their share of the foreign pool even as Groyper accounts began invading TPUSA comment sections to opportunistically further domestic engagement farming (Appendix 2, Figure B). The shift in distribution did not remove the anomaly. Instead, it revealed a layered structure in which non-Western engagement played the initial catalytic role and Western engagement followed once the content had already been artificially elevated.

Violations of X's Terms of Service Under Coordinated and Inauthentic Activity

According to X's own Platform Manipulation and Authenticity policies, the coordinated use of inauthentic or anonymized accounts to artificially boost engagement - including bulk retweets, repeated amplification, and cross-account coordination - is explicitly prohibited.⁴⁷

The data above document multiple forms of such behavior: a preponderance of anonymous or single-purpose amplification accounts; synchronized early-retweet patterns; cross-platform orchestration (e.g. via Fuentes's other social media venues such as Rumble); and repetitive content propagation. These collectively satisfy each of the key ban criteria under X's policy: dedicated duplication accounts, coordinated amplification, and coordinated duplication of content across accounts.

Therefore, the campaign described here constitutes a clear breach of X's Terms of Service. As such, X – and perhaps other platforms – should treat it as a legitimate and reportable case of “platform manipulation and spam.”

The Mainstream Media and the Grooming of Nick Fuentes

Finally, much of this social media amplification has transitioned into the mainstream media environment, including prestigious, widely-read outlets like the New York Times and the Atlantic. Since September 2025, there has been a noticeable shift in which visual narratives around Nick Fuentes changed dramatically. Previously described and shown in ghoulish, unattractive terms; his image became presented as extremely appealing, even for ostensibly liberal-left outlets.

⁴⁷ <https://help.x.com/en/rules-and-policies/authenticity>

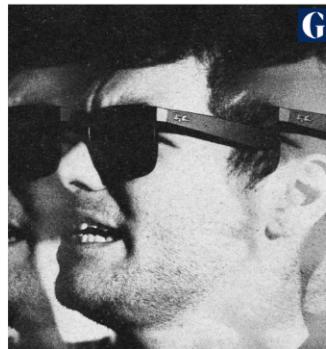
Before	After
	
	
	
	

Figure 6: Fuentes's visual portrayal in mainstream media outlets, before and after the beginning of September 2025.

Beyond such publications as The Atlantic, The Guardian, Politico, and the New York Times; Fuentes has appeared on a number of other popular media outlets in the past year. While he often aligns with right-wing talking points on immigration, free speech, and America First priorities, his appearances on the PBD Podcast (Episode 654, September 23, 2024) and Louder with Crowder (December 4, 2024) included remarks that veered into controversial territory - expressing historical fascination with authoritarian figures, expressing unease with aspects of core American values like the Second Amendment. These media appearances also soft brush Fuentes: giving him the airtime and legitimacy as public figure despite professing views radically antithetical to traditional American values.

On Steven Crowder's podcast, Fuentes described Joseph Stalin as "more compelling" than Hitler as a historical figure, citing his industrialization of Russia into a "nuclear empire" as an example of effective nationalist leadership amid America's "de-industrialized" state and demographic challenges. Crowder pushed back on this, questioning the separation of Stalin's results from his "brutal evil methods" and expressing concern over Fuentes' earlier suggestion that Kamala Harris would be preferable to Trump because a Trump win "legitimizes the system". Crowder also called such vote-withholding tactics "accelerationism" and argued they risk "descending into the abyss" emphasizing the need for coalition-building among conservatives and using free speech to foster unity rather than division.⁴⁸ Similarly, on Patrick Bet-David's show, Fuentes openly stated his opposition to interracial marriage, tying it to Groyper movement's "racial realism," dismissing Bet-David's pushback on American freedoms as outdated "cuckservative" thinking.⁴⁹

Together, these attempts to quietly legitimize Nick Fuentes as an American figure of influence, alongside his sudden glow-up and mass media attention might be less mysterious when viewed through the lens of audience capture and profit motive.

Fake it Till you Make it: From Artificial Amplification to Mainstream Media Adoration

To understand how Fuentes moved from a marginal extremist figure to a national subject of interest, we examined all articles mentioning Nick Fuentes published by 15 major mainstream media outlets between June 1 and November 18, 2025.⁵⁰ In Figure 7, We aligned the timeline of these articles with Fuentes's online activity and key real-world events. The goal was not to assign causality, but rather to determine how genuine shocks in the political environment interacted with the sustained artificial visibility created by foreign and inauthentic engagement.

The timeline shows that the major media surges track two real triggers: the assassination of Charlie Kirk and Fuentes's two-hour Tucker Carlson interview. These are legitimate news events that created a natural demand signal in the media system. At the same time, the persistent manufactured engagement described earlier kept Fuentes elevated in the information environment between and after these shocks. This allowed him to appear active, relevant, and in position when a replacement narrative became available inside the broader MAGA ecosystem. Figure 7 shows how synthetic amplification and major news shocks aligned to pull Fuentes from the fringes and place him at the center of national coverage.

⁴⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VTTix6E2Pw>

⁴⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TEnJ5pyFDg>

⁵⁰ There were 149 such articles. See the legend in Figure 7 for the complete list of these 15 outlets.

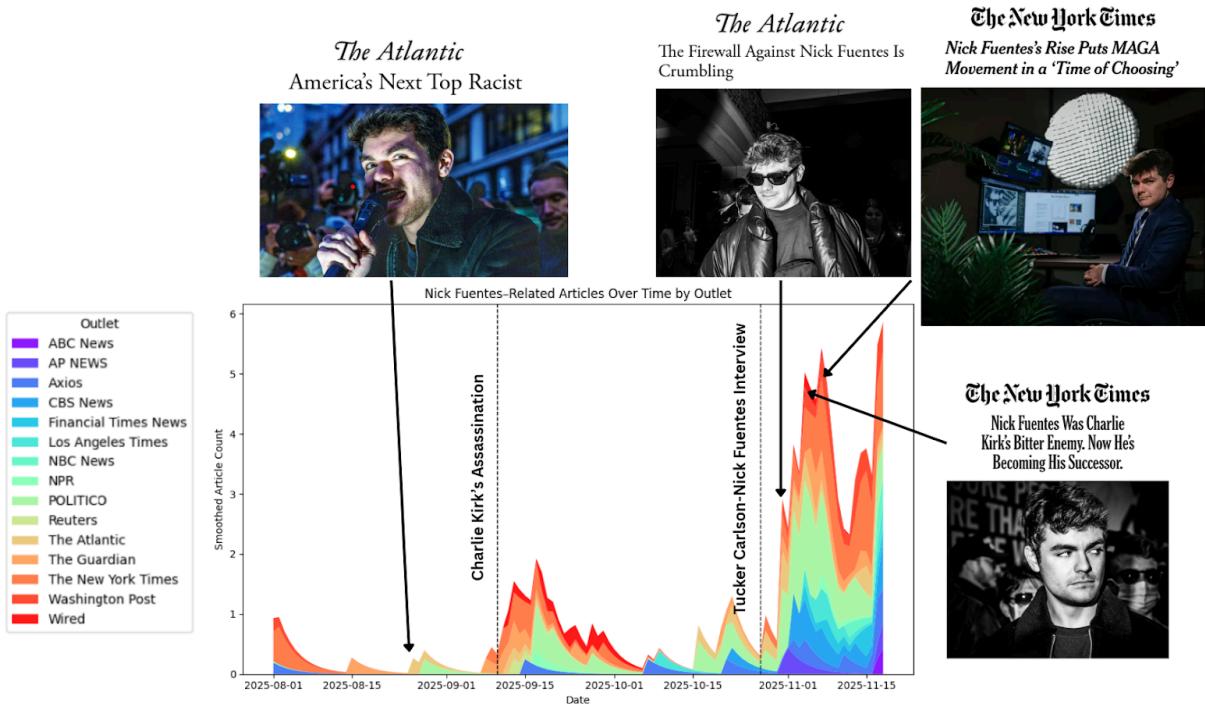


Figure 7: Timeline of major mainstream media articles about Nick Fuentes. Coverage upsurges follow Kirk's death and Tucker Carlson's interview, with a dip in between - during which Fuentes's virality was carried by the suspicious online activity discussed above.

Besides comparing the quantity of mainstream press Fuentes received before and after Charlie Kirk's death, we also evaluated *how* Fuentes was being described by these major outlets. To do so, we conducted an LLM-based text analysis of mainstream media coverage of Fuentes before and after September 10th, the day of Kirk's assassination.⁵¹ The goal was to determine whether the tone or status/framing of Fuentes shifted once he became positioned as a possible replacement figure for Kirk.

The analysis showed a sharp 59.6 percent increase in high-status description after Kirk's assassination. Thus, regardless of any material changes in Fuentes's prominence, he was portrayed in mainstream media articles as vastly more consequential and influential within the political landscape after Charlie Kirk's death.

⁵¹ We analyzed all 149 articles mentioning Nick Fuentes published between June 1 and November 18, 2025 by the 15 mainstream media outlets listed in Figure 7 above. The LLM was asked to score each article's attitude towards Nick Fuentes on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating that the article considers Fuentes politically insignificant and 5 indicating that the article considers Fuentes politically prominent.

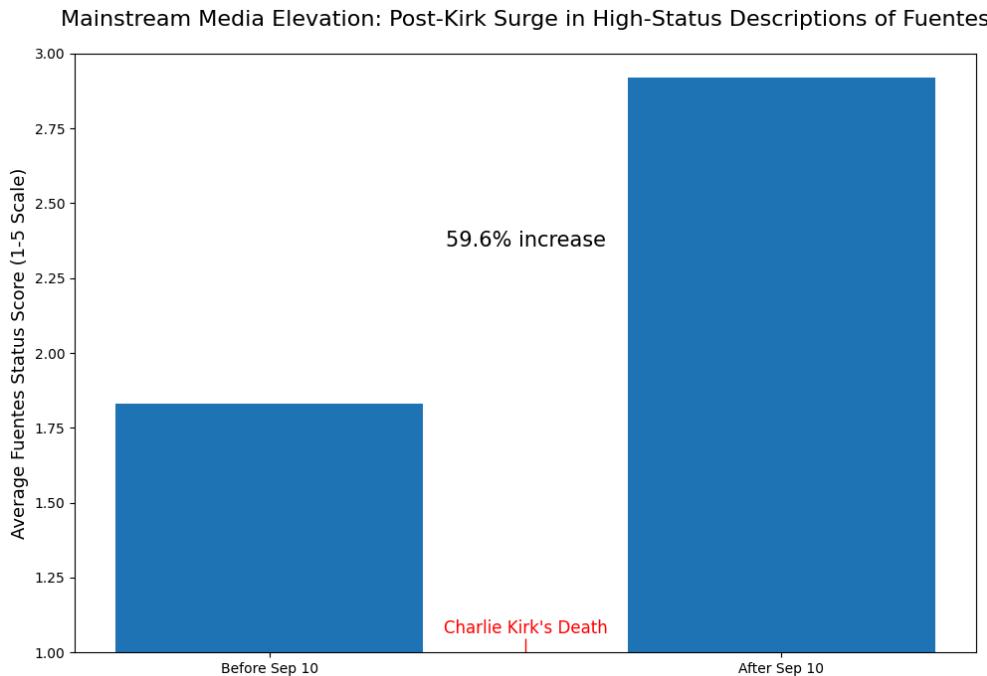


Figure 8: LLM-based analysis of mainstream media articles shows a 59.6 percent rise in high-status framing of Fuentes by major outlets after Charlie Kirk's death.

Fuentes is An Active Coordinator of Fake Speech

As the preceding analyses demonstrate, the anomaly in Fuentes's online footprint cannot be explained by audience enthusiasm or media attention alone. After examining foreign amplification patterns, repeat-anonymous retweeter networks, and the raid-like early-velocity spikes documented earlier in this report, it is important to note that Fuentes himself plays an active, integral role in producing these effects. Across hundreds of episodes of his show, Fuentes repeatedly issues direct commands instructing his followers to boost specific posts at specific moments: "Retweet this," "Retweet me," "Retweet her," "Everybody retweet," "Quote tweet it, comment," often immediately after placing the link into the livestream chat. These are not generic appeals for engagement; they are synchronized directives targeted at individual tweets in real time.

These coordinated raids, executed through anonymous repeat accounts in response to Fuentes's explicit directives, constitute clear-cut violations of X's Platform Manipulation and Spam policy, which prohibits orchestrated amplification, bulk engagement, and the coordinated use of inauthentic accounts to game visibility.

Additional evidence shows that Fuentes has a prior history of coordinated digital manipulation.⁵² In 2022, two former associates described internal group chats where Fuentes directed interns

52

<https://medium.com/dfrlab/allegations-of-platform-manipulation-stir-tensions-in-online-white-nationalist-movement-96af4f34abc9>

and loyalists to carry out online tasks on his behalf, and a former technical aide alleged that viewer counts on his streaming platform were artificially inflated using a built-in multiplier. Fuentes did not deny the inflation itself. These documented practices demonstrate a willingness to orchestrate controlled teams and manipulate digital metrics—behavior entirely consistent with the coordinated amplification patterns observed on X

The screenshot below illustrates just a small subset of the nearly 100's of instances in which Fuentes has explicitly directed his followers to inflate engagement. Taken together, his verbal commands and the observable early-velocity spikes form a consistent picture: Fuentes is actively orchestrating a fake-speech ecosystem that manipulates X's algorithms, manufactures relevance, and amplifies his influence far beyond what an organic audience could produce.

America First - Nick Fuent		
	retweet	Phrase
Episode	Time	Text
[2019-03-28] nick fuentes	▶ 01:10:45	FNATO. Retweet. Garrett Dalton says, legalize weed.
[2024-09-10] nick fuentes	▶ 05:06:04	Just retweet this main one. Retweet. We could do this stuff with the other one, but mainly juice this one.
[2022-10-26] nick fuentes	▶ 00:42:13	Juice this. Retweet. Like.
[2020-01-09]	▶ 01:20:59	Yeah. Retweet. yeah uh based papa john says we must secure the quality of our pizza and a future for our customers yeah meeting pizza hut and all these like uh you know the most insufferable people on the internet will say oh y
[2019-08-16] nick fuentes	▶ 01:40:10	Well, thanks, bro. Retweet. Peter says, I like blacks.
[2019-08-20] nick fuentes	▶ 01:19:12	Yeah, very, very relatable. Retweet. Anon says, boomers be like demon crats are the real racist.
[2024-10-17] nick fuentes	▶ 03:30:46	I'm gonna quote tweet this. Alright, everybody quote tweet this. Or everybody retweet. Like and retweet this. this. I'm a court tweet. Chris Rufo. All right. That's crazy.
[2019-11-15] nick fuentes	▶ 01:46:13	Andrew Torbas says, Jesus Christ is King. Yes, retweet. It's true.
[2023-12-27] nick fuentes	▶ 03:43:50	Get Keith Woods on Tucker! Everybody retweet! So I don't want to, you know, rain on that parade, but I was wondering what your take is on that whole inte

Figure 9: Fuentes repeatedly gives direct “retweet” orders to coordinate engagement (source: <https://fight.fudgie.org>).

Conclusion

The analysis of early retweet patterns across major online political influencers reveals a singular and extreme anomaly in Nick Fuentes's account: within the first 30 minutes of posting, Fuentes consistently amasses far more retweets than any comparable figure, including Elon Musk, despite having a fraction (<1%) of the follower count. When normalized for audience size, the disparity becomes even more stark: Fuentes's early velocity is orders of magnitude higher than that of other prominent voices on both the left and right. This disproportionate surge cannot plausibly be explained by organic enthusiasm alone; the speed, volume, and consistency of the engagement strongly suggest algorithmic manipulation through coordinated, rapid-fire retweeting designed to catapult his posts into wider visibility.

Further examination of the retweeters themselves confirms that the amplification is artificial and highly organized. Over 60% of Fuentes's early retweets originate from a small cadre of accounts that repeatedly retweet him within minutes of each new post, with the overwhelming majority of these accounts lacking any personal identity, profile picture, or verifiable human presence and most accounts openly identifying as "Groypers". Approximately half of his retweet activity in viral posts traced to non-U.S. locations, including unusually high volumes from countries such as India and Pakistan that have no discernible organic interest in American, fringe, and dissident politics.

Taken together, the evidence points to a deliberate, foreign-influenced campaign - relying on anonymous and possibly automated accounts – to artificially inflate Nick Fuentes's reach, gaming the platform's algorithm in a systematic effort to elevate his influence far beyond what genuine grassroots support could achieve. The consequences for civic discourse in America remain far beyond what Fuentes might have achieved otherwise. The question, then, is which actors benefit from such an artificial amplification of attitudes once (indeed, less than a year ago) absolutely marginal to American politics.

The evidence shows that legacy media institutions treated manipulated visibility as a meaningful signal. Following the assassination of Charlie Kirk, mainstream media coverage of Fuentes increased sharply, with peak article volume more than tripling compared to the prior period. An LLM-based analysis showed a 59.6 percent increase in high-status description of Fuentes after September 10. These shifts coincided with his sudden appearance in national venues, including a two-hour interview with Tucker Carlson that presented him to a large audience at a moment when his online profile had already been sustained by artificial activity.

Finally, and critically, Fuentes is not merely the beneficiary of this manipulated visibility – he is an active participant in generating it. As documented in Figure 9, he repeatedly instructs his followers to "retweet this," "retweet me," "get in there," and "quote tweet it," often immediately after dropping links into live chat. These directives match the precise structural anomalies

found in the data, confirming that coordinated raids are an intentional and routine part of Fuentes's online strategy.

Overall, such a pattern reflects how complex it has become to differentiate between synthetic and authentic signals within the broader information environment. Nick Fuentes benefits from manipulated visibility structures, leading to alarming consequences for democratic discourse and the quality of American civic behavior. Increasingly, Americans are operating inside an environment where manipulated reach can shape coverage decisions and where visibility can be mistaken for significance. This vulnerability is persistent and is likely to shape the future of digital, media, and real-world political ecosystems.

APPENDIX 1: Detailed Methodology for Determining if Accounts are Groypers / Anonymous

To better understand these *Repeat Early Retweeter* accounts that drive the majority of Fuentes's outsized early engagement, we sampled 200 of these accounts at random and analyzed their profile pages and post history. 4 of these accounts were deleted or suspended by the time of our analysis, leaving 196 accounts to analyze. Trained analysts⁵³ determined if each account was (1) Anonymous and/or (2) a dedicated "Groyper" account, according to the following criteria:

An account is "Anonymous" if its profile has NONE of the following:

- A name that plausibly belongs to a real person
- A profile picture that is plausibly a real person
- Location information
- Contact information

An account is a "Groyper" if ANY of the following is true:

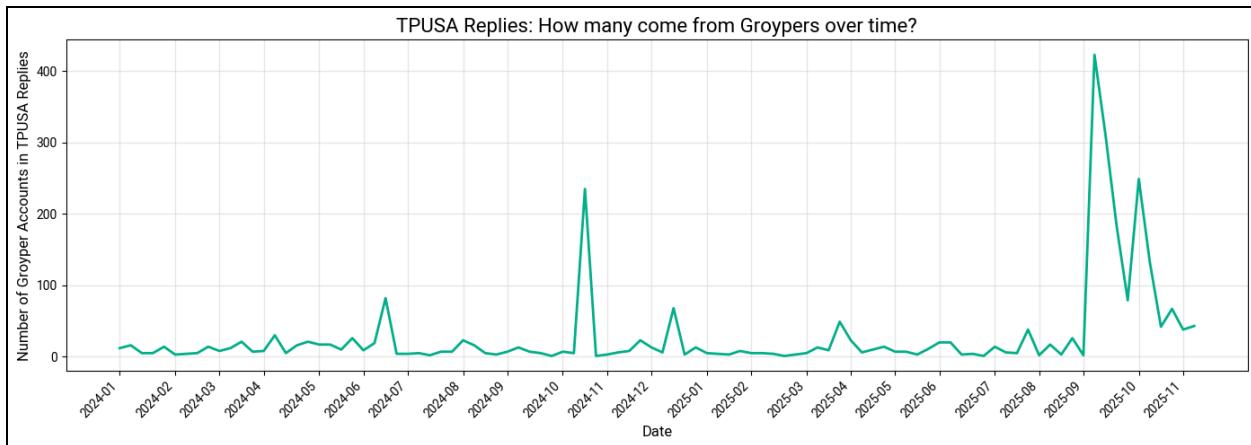
- Its name, handle, or bio contains "groyp" or "groyper" (or variations such as "gryp") or contains other terms clearly indicating the America First movement or support for Nick Fuentes, such as "AF", "RKD4NJF", or "WANGHAF"
- Its profile picture or banner contains Nick Fuentes, contains quotes of Nick Fuentes, contains symbols such as the "Native Americans beware of Foreign Influence" America First flag, or uses Pepe the Frog in a manner clearly indicating support for Nick Fuentes/America First
- A sizeable proportion its posts are retweets/quote tweets of, or replies to, Nick Fuentes tweets

⁵³ Three independent NCRI analysts evaluated each account for anonymity and for whether or not it was a Groyper account. For whether or not the account was anonymous, all 3 reviewers agreed 87% of the time. For whether or not the account was a Groyper, all 3 agreed 70% of the time. Final judgements about whether an account was anonymous and/or a Groyper were based on the majority opinion of the three analysts.

APPENDIX 2: Additional Results

Country (Sorted by Average Across Both Periods)	Before Charlie Kirk Assassination (09/10/2025)	After Charlie Kirk Assassination (09/10/2025)	Average Across Both Periods
United Kingdom	11.8%	12.5%	12.1%
Canada	9.2%	10.9%	10%
India	6.9%	4%	5.5%
Pakistan	6.7%	2.9%	4.9%
Australia	3.8%	4.4%	4.1%
Nigeria	4.2%	3.1%	3.7%
France	2.3%	2.9%	2.6%
South Africa	3%	2.1%	2.6%
Malaysia	2.7%	2.3%	2.5%
Indonesia	2.7%	2.1%	2.4%
Other: Western Countries	21.6%	24.2%	22.8%
Other: non-Western Countries	25.1%	28.6%	26.8%
Total: Western Countries	48.7%	54.9%	51.6%
Total: non-Western Countries	51.3%	45.1%	48.4%

Appendix A: Location analysis of foreign retweets of 6 of Nick Fuentes's most viral tweets in 2025 (top 3 before Sept 7 and top 3 after Sept 13, i.e. before and after Kirk's assassination). The number displayed in a particular country's row is the percentage of all foreign retweets which came from that country.



Appendix B: Analysis of all replies to @TPUSA since January 2024. The y-axis measures how many repliers to TPUSA each week contain Groyper phrases in their account names (“groyp” or “Fuentes”) or bios (“groyper”, “America First”, “WANGHAF”, “RKD4NJF”). These Groyper accounts show repeated spikes in reply activity, with greater magnitude over time and peaking around the assassination of Charlie Kirk.