

# PARKLAND AND THE TWITTERED REVOLT

Marvel at the teen survivors of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Their composed rage is terrifying to a generation or two which have not seen the like since the 1960s and early 1970s. They are leading a revolution – but note the platform they’re using to best effect.



I can't tell you how much use they are making of Facebook as I haven't used it in several years. What I find telling is the dearth of links to students' and followers' Facebook posts tweeted into my timeline. I also note at least one MSD student exited Facebook after receiving death threats.

Twitter's platform allows the authenticity and immediacy of the students' communications, as easy to use as texting. There's no filter. For whatever reason, parents haven't taken to Twitter as they did Facebook, leaving the micro-blogging platform a space without as much adult oversight.

These attributes terrify the right-wing. There's nothing limiting the reach of students' messages – no algorithms slow their tweets. The ability to communicate bluntly, efficiently, and yet

with grace has further thrown the right. The right-wing's inability to accept these students as legitimately speaking for themselves and for their fellow students across the country is an expression of the right's cognitive dissonance.



The students' use of Twitter redeems the platform, asserting its true value. It's 180 degrees from the problems Twitter posed as a toxic cesspool filled with trolls and bots. Parkland's tragedy exposes what Twitter should be, what Twitter must do to ensure it doesn't backslide.

Minors shouldn't have to put up with bullying – especially bullying by adults. Donnie Trump Jr. is one of the worst examples of this bullying and should be booted out of the platform. Other adult bullies have also emerged but Twitter's user base is ruthless in its swiftness, dealing a *coup de grâce* to Laura Ingraham's sponsorships.



If only Twitter itself was as swift in ejecting bullies and trolls. Troll bots continue to flourish even after a large number were removed recently. Victims of tragedies should expect an ethical social media platform to eliminate trolls and bots promptly along with bullies.

Ethical social media platforms also need to ask themselves whether they want to make profit off products intended to maim and kill. Should it allow certain businesses to use promoted tweets to promote deadly products, or allow accounts for lobbying organizations representing weapons manufacturers as well as owners? Should Twitter remove the NRA just as it doesn't permit accounts representing tobacco products?

Not to mention avoiding Facebook's ethical crisis – should Twitter be more proactive in protecting its users now that Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students have revitalized its brand?