

**Committee:** Special Committee



**Topic:** Government Censorship

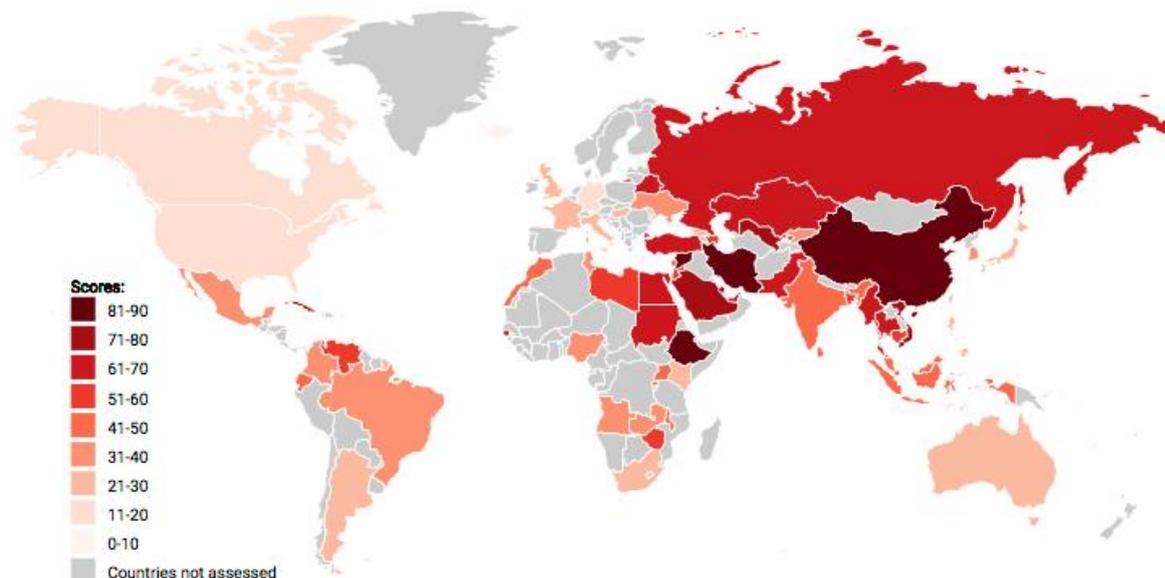
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### **What is government censorship?**

Censorship, the altering or prohibition of speech or writing. The main types of censorship in question are moral and political.

**Moral censorship** is the suppression of content which the public believes to be offensive or obscene. This is the most common form of censorship and is thought to be protecting the general public. This type of censorship is for the most part uncontroversial with both East and Western Countries using it.

**Political censorship**, is when political parties withhold information from their citizens to avoid revolutions or rebellions. A more recent form of political censorship is disinformation where the government will spread fabricated stories to distract its citizens from controversial issues.



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### **Why is government censorship used?**

Some forms of censorship such as, moral censorship are used in order to protect its citizens from what the government deems inappropriate. For example, pornographic content is commonly censored in very religious countries. This type of censorship can also help to protect the youth in society from seeing harmful content such as when the Christchurch shooter (Brenton Tarrant) live streamed himself while killing 51 innocent people. Censorship can also prevent harmfully extreme views from spreading. An example of this is stopping radicalisation.

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### **Why is government censorship opposed?**

Censorship can lead to the population becoming less educated. This is because the party in power can prevent their people from gaining access to literature and other sources of knowledge. This allows the party in power to spread propaganda to create support or to turn the population against a minority.

This type of censorship can be dangerous as it can prevent the spread of different ideas which aim to develop the political landscape. This can be seen in North Korea's strict censorship, which allows very little contact from the outside world which can prevent the spread of knowledge. Censorship can sometimes take away the ability for an individual to express themselves freely.

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