

The demise of Bari Weiss has already begun

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate on the swift fall from grace of the newly installed CBS News editor in chief Bari Weiss. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

#Aaron

It's like a horror movie. Imagine working at CBS News—you've spent your career in journalism, and suddenly you have to answer to an opinion journalist with no reporting experience, installed in the job by new billionaire owners devoted to Israel. That's why she's there, because she's also a lifelong pro-Israel activist. And now you have to answer to her, while her bosses are trying to get Trump's approval for their bid to expand their media empire even more. We're talking about Bari Weiss working for the Ellisons at CBS News. And this latest embarrassment for them—at least if you care about having some shred of journalistic integrity—is that Bari Weiss essentially censored a 60 Minutes story on behalf of the Trump administration.

#Max

Well, this is Bari Weiss's note to her staff after she apparently spiked the entire segment on the Center for the Confinement of Terrorists, or CECOT, in El Salvador, which has effectively been a torture dungeon exploited by the Trump administration to deposit Venezuelan migrants for geopolitical reasons—which I'll get into, because I think that's the deeper, more important layer of the story that even progressive media isn't touching on. But this is the note she sent out. Let's zoom in on that. It's been a whirlwind week. It sure has, Bari.

I'm sure we all have the same experience as you—with the five bodyguards surrounding us at all times, costing \$15,000 a day to maintain. I appreciate all the warm welcomes and those who've served as unpaid tour guides through the labyrinth of this building. Sounds like you were really ready to come into that job—blah, blah, blah. "Well, I want to restore CBS to its rightful place as number one, the most trusted and most consumed news source in the nation." She says this after a town hall with Erica Kirk, which I, as a masochist, watched—I watched like 30 minutes of it.

#Aaron

But I believe you're reading her introductory note from when she first took the job. I think this is—yeah.

#Max

Oh, sorry. Okay, I pulled up the wrong note.

#Aaron

There are so many notes she's had to write.

#Max

She's had a lot of notes.

#Aaron

But look, the key line from that note you're reading—her introductory one—is that she closes it by saying, or maybe she said it on a conference call, not in the note, "Let's do the effing news," like a rallying cry. Like everyone's supposed to be so excited to follow General Bari into battle. "Let's do the effing news." Well, apparently, covering the torture of undocumented immigrants kidnapped by the Trump administration, according to Bari Weiss, is not the effing news, because last week she pulled, as Max mentioned, at the last minute—just as the show was about to go to air—a 60 Minutes story about CECOT.

#Max

All right, well, here's a note from Sharon Alfonsi, a senior producer at 60 Minutes, who said she learned that Bari Weiss spiked our story on CECOT. We asked for a call to discuss her decision, and she refused. Our story was screened five times and cleared by both CBS attorneys and Standards and Practices. It is factually correct. Pulling it now is a political decision, Alfonsi contends. They did request responses to questions and interviews with DHS, the White House—meaning Stephen Miller—and the State Department—meaning Marco Rubio—who was responsible for the CECOT detention deal.

Government silence is a statement, not a veto. The refusal to be interviewed is a tactical maneuver designed to kill the story. Great point. If the administration's refusal to participate becomes a valid reason to spike a story, we've effectively handed them a kill switch for any reporting they find inconvenient. So then Bari Weiss claimed they needed to do more because they didn't get Stephen Miller and his comment. So it was all an elaborate maneuver where the White House refuses to comment, then claims they weren't given the opportunity to comment, just to kill the story.

And there was an editorial call the following day with Bari Weiss, CBS's editor-in-chief, installed by pro-Israel billionaire David Ellison when Paramount took over CBS. And this is a leaked photo from that editorial call. I could have sworn that Calvin Coolidge's wife was installed as CBS editor-in-chief,

but Bari Weiss looks to be feeling the heat. We haven't seen much of her recently since the Erica Kirk town hall, which got about as many views as this livestream will get on YouTube, but was hyped and probably cost hundreds of thousands, if not millions, to stage. I predicted early on that Bari Weiss would have a very quick flameout, and that appears to be happening.

#Aaron

Listen, it's hard for me to feel sympathy for someone who works for CBS News. I mean, 60 Minutes, long before Bari Weiss came along, was laundering State Department propaganda. They have one correspondent in particular, Scott Pelley, and every story he does just feels like it has the CIA behind it. But listen, at the same time, everyone has certain limits. And I think at this point, being told what to do by someone with no journalism experience—just an opinion pundit who's only there because they're a pro-Israel activist—that's angered a lot of people. I feel sorry for anyone who has to report to this smug elitist with no journalism experience, who then constantly goes around acting like the dean of journalism.

So this is from—okay, well, it's not really readable because the text is too small. But basically, in defense of herself, Bari Weiss wrote this memo to her colleagues, saying that Americans don't trust the media and that we have to win back their trust. As if she's the oracle of integrity in journalism. When a big reason Americans don't trust the media is because of people like her—entitled, out of touch, serving a foreign country, Israel, not even their own—and willing, in this case, to spike a story on behalf of the party in power, as she did here on Trump's behalf in Seacott again.

We know now the Ellisons are trying to get Trump's approval for their takeover of Warner Brothers. There was a recent New York Times story saying that Trump has told people the Ellisons assured him CBS News will become even more favorable to the Trump White House. So whatever trust is left in CBS News—and 60 Minutes, because it's such an important show and still has some staying power—it's one of the few shows people still pay attention to. Bari Weiss is completely shredding it.

#Max

And you make a good point. Scott Pelley—I really suspected he was some kind of CIA asset. Everything he did felt like a commercial for the CIA or the State Department. And do you remember when CBS basically did a commercial for Richard Nephew, the Biden guy who designed all the sanctions and boasted about how his sanctions destroyed the economies of Iran, Russia, and all these other countries? I mean, it's just like, where's the public interest in that? 60 Minutes had become state propaganda long before Bari Weiss. But what Bari Weiss is doing now is advancing the consolidation of a Trump–Vance regime on behalf of the tech warlords who bought that fake university in Austin for her and created this astroturfed, artificial, Zionist radical media empire to make her seem important. And she's just being puppeteered. I don't even think she understands what's happening.

#Aaron

You know, to draw one example—before Bari Weiss took over CBS News, they had this mini controversy where they did a story on how Israel was blocking aid into Gaza. But they held it for months and months. They finally aired it, eventually. So under the old regime at CBS News, they'd have important reporting about Israel blocking aid, which they kept under wraps for a long time before finally releasing it. But the difference now, under Bari Weiss—would they ever air such a story? There's just no way. Absolutely no way.