



# Fact Check: NO Evidence CEO Resignations Are Linked To Global Conspiracy

Mar 14, 2020

by: Ryan

Cooper

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Do recent CEO resignations foretell a global conspiracy involving mass extinctions, automation, and economic collapse? No, that's not true: The post being widely shared is filled with fear-mongering conspiracy theories. While several chief executive officers have stepped down in recent months, there is no evidence linking these moves to a coordinated "shift in power" on a global scale.

The claim originated in [a post](#) (archived [here](#)) published on Facebook by Cody Harris on March 12, 2020. It opened:



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website that is always looking for the latest false, deceptive or inaccurate stories (or media) making the rounds on the internet.

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 CEO of Tinder, Hinge, OKcupid, Match all stepped down  
 CEO of Hulu stepped down  
 CEO of MedMen stepped down  
 CEO of L brands like Victoria Secret bath and body works stepped down  
 CEO of Salesforce's stepped down  
 CEO of Harley Davidson stepped down  
 CEO of IBM stepped down  
 CEO of T Mobile stepping down  
 CEO of LinkedIn stepping down  
 CEO of Mastercard is stepping down  
 And soooooo many more, but let's just stick with these that most know about.

Hoax Alert



Bad Assumption

Hoax Alert



Wrong Number

## Fact Check: Doctors Are NOT 'Encouraged' By Hospitals And AMA To Overcount COVID-19 Deaths

🕒 May 13,

2020 🌿 by:

Jessica

Ravitz

## Fact Check: House Resolution 6666 Does NOT Fund Forced Quarantine For Americans With COVID-19

🕒 May 11,

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by: Gita

Smith

Users on social media only saw this:

**Cody Harris**

circa 2 mesi fa

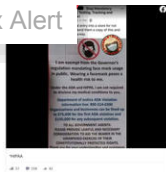


Right before corona virus came...

CEO of disney stepped down

CEO of Tinder, Hinge, OKcupid, Match all stepped down... Altro...

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Not The Law

**Fact Check: Card Does NOT Exempt Anyone From Wearing A Mask In Public**

May

13, 2020

by:

Gita

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**Fact Check: Biological Engineer Did NOT Offer Medically-Supported Information In Viral Video**

Apr 14,

2020

by: Ryan

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There are several copy-and-paste versions of this post, but this appears to be the original one because it mentions "Cody" by name a couple of times. It has received hundreds of shares, comments, and engagements. Here is a sample of the many versions being shared online:

Hoax Alert



Bad Science



The post attempted to link a string of CEO resignations that it claimed happened *before* the novel coronavirus outbreak to a global conspiracy theory. Harris suggested that the CEOs "had warning before any of us" and stepped down "to prepare for something much bigger than themselves."

In many cases, the executives are actually remaining with the company in other roles. Bob Iger, for example, is staying with Disney through 2021.

As detailed below, the post wrongly said these executives stepped down before the coronavirus outbreak, which originated in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The [first case](#) in the United States was announced on January 21, 2020, in Washington state.

In fact, some of these departures were announced *after* that date, not before. The post is also misleading to suggest these administrative changes are somehow interconnected.

Here are the facts about each of the CEOs referenced in the post:

- **Bob Iger** - [Stepped down](#) as CEO of Disney on February 25, 2020. He will become the executive chairman through 2021.
- **Mandy Ginsburg** - She [resigned](#) from Match Group as CEO and from the board of directors on January 28, 2020, to focus on her health. Ginsburg had a double mastectomy and required more surgery, according to Tech Crunch.
- **Randy Freer** - [Stepped down](#)



Not Real



## Fact Check: Photo Of "Sleeping Lady" Mt. Susitna Was NOT Taken From A Drone

🕒 Apr 6,

2020 🌿

by: Ryan

Cooper

**Fake News: Mary And Fred Trump Pictured With Son Donald Are NOT In Their KKK Outfits**

🕒 Oct

28, 2019

🌿 by:

Alan

Duke

as CEO of Hulu on January 31, 2020, after Comcast sold its stake to Disney in 2019. Disney moved the business under its own executives.



## Fake News: No Proof Trump's Grandfather Was A Pimp And Tax Evader Or That His father A Member Of The KKK

🕒 Oct 2,

2019 🌿 by:

Alan Duke

- **Adam Bierman** - The CEO and co-founder [stepped down](#) effective February 1, 2020, but he will remain on the board. Barron's reported that the company's stock had dropped more than 90% in the past year under his leadership.

## Most Recent



Not California

- **Leslie Wexner** - The chairman and CEO of L Brands' announced in February 2020, that he was [stepping down](#) after leading the company for more than five decades. Wexner, 82, will become chairman emeritus, and remain on the board, according to Bloomberg.

- **Keith Block** - He [stepped down](#) as co-CEO of Salesforce on February 25, 2020, but he will stay on as Advisor to the new CEO.

- **Matt Levatich** - He [resigned](#) as Harley CEO on February 28, 2020, after 26 years at the motorcycle company. According to USA Today, the company's shares had dropped 46% since he took over the company in May 2015. The paper reported the board said it was time for a new leader at the helm.

- **Ginni Rometty** - She

## Fact Check: Photo Does NOT Show Someone Got Two Mail-In Ballots in California

🕒 May

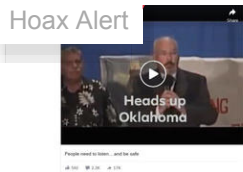
15, 2020

🌿 by:

Chandler

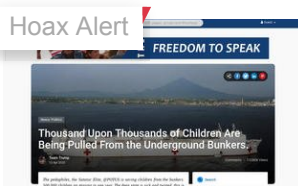
Friedman

announced on January 30, 2020, that she would [no longer serve](#) as CEO of IBM but will remain with the company as executive chairwoman of the board until the end of the year. The New York Times reported Rometty "struggled to achieve growth at the technology giant as it made the transition to new fields like cloud computing and artificial intelligence."



2009 Video

- **John Legere** - On November 18, 2019, T-Mobile announced that Legere would [leave his role](#) as CEO at the end of his contract on April 30, 2020. However, he will remain on the board.



He's Nuts

- **Jeff Weiner** - LinkedIn announced on February 5, 2020, that Weiner had decided to [assume a new role](#) as the company's executive chairman effective June 1, 2020.
- **Ajay Banga** - On February 25, 2020, Mastercard announced that Banga would [depart his position](#) as CEO next year and take over as executive chairman, according to CNBC.

[USA Today](#) reported that Iger was among a number of executives to step down abruptly or be ousted from their roles. However, in almost all of the cases the Facebook post cited, the executives are remaining

## Fact Check: Greg Evensen's 'Heads Up Oklahoma' Posted By Johnnie Cheadle Is NOT About 2020 Coronavirus

May 15, 2020

by: Gita

Smith

## Fact Check: 'Thousands Upon Thousands' Of Children Purportedly Kidnapped By A Satanic Pedophile Ring Have NOT Been 'Pulled From Underground Bunkers'

May 15,

2020 by:

Gita Smith

with the company in some capacity. To suggest that they all collectively decided to depart because they had some warning about a future crisis is nonsensical. In some cases, the company boards simply wanted new leadership.

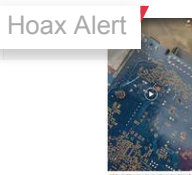
Exactly what the timing of these resignations had to do with the novel coronavirus is not made clear in the rambling post, which is filled with grammatical and spelling errors.

Harris opined that the coronavirus outbreak "was a planned epidemic" and had been in the works for decades, but he offered no evidence to back up his claims. It appears to be just his unqualified opinion. Lead Stories has debunked [similar suggestions](#) before.

Finally, he went on to foreshadow economic doom, mass layoffs, and a shift to a virtual world. There is no reason to suggest this doomsday scenario will play itself out, though. Fear-mongering posts such as this only serve to create a sense of panic at a time when the public is being urged to stay calm.



Needs Study



TV Equipment

## Fact Check: No Research Proves Mouthwash Could Protect Against COVID-19, But Scientists Say It Should Be Studied

May 15, 2020

by: Mary

Acosta

## Fact Check: Worker Did NOT Expose COV-19 Circuit Boards Being Installed in 5G Towers

May 15, 2020

by:

Maarten

Schenk





**World Outrage**



**Hoax Alert**

**QUEEN ELIZABETH FOUND GUILTY IN MISSING CHILDREN CASE - WHISTLE BLOWERS INCARCERATED**

[QUEEN ELIZABETH FOUND GUILTY IN MISSING CHILDREN CASE - WHISTLE BLOWERS INCARCERATED](#)

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Tereszcuk



London bureau. An award-winning producer, Cooper oversaw the network's Emmy Award-winning coverage of the uprising in Egypt in 2011. He also served as a supervising producer during much of the network's live reporting on the Israel-Hezbollah conflict in 2006, for which CNN received an Edward R. Murrow Award.

[Read more about or contact Ryan Cooper](#)



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