

# Qanon: Part Three

## Politics, Churches, and “Pastel”

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# QAnon in the news

Los Angeles Times

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CALIFORNIA



## Far-right movements including QAnon, virus skeptics linked to Newsom recall



**For the record:**

**8:08 PM, Jan. 24, 2021:** A previous version of this article referred to a Church of Good Tidings event of being in Yuba County. The church is in Sutter County.

CORONAVIRUS AND PANDEMIC >

Fed's aid program for midsize businesses spent only 3% of its total

Teachers, food employees, essential workers cleared for COVID-19 vaccine in San Francisco



# Jo Rae Perkins



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## QAnon and the Cultification of the American Right

The conspiracy theory has become a theology of right-wing rebellion.



<https://newrepublic.com/article/161103/qa-non-cultification-american-right>

# Jo Rae Perkins

About two months before declaring from Sea-Tac that the revolution was here, Perkins won 912,814 votes in her race to represent Oregon in the U.S. Senate. That was close to the total number of votes Trump received in the state. Perkins had stunned national political observers earlier in 2020, when she won the Republican primary, beating out three other candidates

<https://newrepublic.com/article/161103/qa-non-cultivation-american-right>



# Jo Rae Perkins

That result perhaps gives a more clear sign of her hard-core base of support: 178,004, just below 50 percent of the GOP primary vote. What had shocked whatever remains of the Republican establishment was Perkins's avowed, enthusiastic support for the right-wing conspiracy cult QAnon, which places Donald Trump and select government insiders at the center of a crusade against pedophiles

<https://newrepublic.com/article/161103/qa-non-cultification-american-right>

# Jo Rae Perkins



<https://www.facebook.com/JoRaePerkins/videos/10214953201864020/>

# Jo Rae Perkins

2020

See also: [United States Senate election in Oregon, 2020](#)

[United States Senate election in Oregon, 2020 \(May 19 Republican primary\)](#)

[United States Senate election in Oregon, 2020 \(May 19 Democratic primary\)](#)

## General election

### General election for U.S. Senate Oregon

Incumbent [Jeff Merkley](#) defeated [Jo Rae Perkins](#), [Gary Dye](#), and [Ibrahim Taher](#) in the general election for U.S. Senate Oregon on November 3, 2020.

| Candidate   | %    | Votes     |
|---|------|-----------|
|  <a href="#">Jeff Merkley</a> (D / Independent / Working Families Party)   | 56.9 | 1,321,047 |
|  <a href="#">Jo Rae Perkins</a> (R)  | 39.3 | 912,814   |
|  <a href="#">Gary Dye</a> (L)   | 1.8  | 42,747    |
|  <a href="#">Ibrahim Taher</a> (Progressive Party / Pacific Green Party) | 1.8  | 42,239    |
| Other/Write-in votes  | 0.1  | 2,402     |



# Turner Diaries

**A** ☰ 🔍 Popular Latest *The Atlantic*

**POLITICS**  
**Alt History**  
How a self-published, racist novel changed white nationalism and inspired decades of violence  
J.M. BERGER SEPTEMBER 16, 2016



<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/09/how-the-turner-diaries-changed-white-nationalism/500039/>

# Turner Diaries

- Before there was an alt-right, there was The Turner Diaries.
- First published nearly 40 years ago, the infamous dystopian novel depicts a fictional white nationalist revolution culminating in global genocide.

# Turner Diaries

The events of the book open 25 years ago today—September 16, 1991, the date of the first entry in Earl Turner’s diary. The fictional diary describes a racist’s vision of a nightmare world, in which “The System”—African American enforcers led by Jewish politicians—attempt to confiscate all guns in the United States



# Turner Diaries

- A secretive organization known as The Order rises up to take back the country for white supremacists, eventually winning an apocalyptic insurgency and nuclear war, first taking over the country and later the world.

# Turner Diaries

- The Turner Diaries was created in the 1970s by William Luther Pierce, leader of the neo-Nazi group the National Alliance. Crudely written and wildly racist, The Turner Diaries has helped inspire dozens of armed robberies and more than 200 murders in the decades since its publication.

# Turner Diaries

- The Turner Diaries first made headlines when a violent white nationalist gang appropriated the name of The Order, following the tactical blueprint for terrorism in the book. Turner catapulted to national prominence when it was revealed to be a key inspiration for Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Timothy McVeigh, who killed 168 people using a truck bomb strikingly similar to one described in detail in the book.



# Turner Diaries

WEB POLICY BUSINESS

## Amazon pulls white supremacist novel *The Turner Diaries* alongside QAnon purge

*The infamous racist text has been removed from the store*

By Nick Statt | @nickstatt | Jan 12, 2021, 12:36pm EST

<https://www.theverge.com/2021/1/12/22227049/amazon-the-turner-diaries-q-anon-purge-removal-capitol-attack>

# Turner Diaries Overlap

The Turner Diaries is not specifically related to the QAnon movement. But the novel espouses ideologies that overlap with those of QAnon believers, many of whom think President Donald Trump is waging a secret war against a cabal of child predators who run the country that will one day require them to participate in a violent overthrow of the US government.

# Grooming Qanon Followers

Colin Clarke, the director of policy and research at the [Soufan Group](#), a security consulting firm, said he has seen white nationalists and neo-Nazi groups online seeking to “groom” disenchanted QAnon believers into their own hateful ideologies. The far-right movements, he noted, share what he called a “fringe fluidity” because they overlap in their ability to attract people prone to fringe beliefs about shadowy forces controlling the world.

“We’re very likely to see QAnon lead to a steppingstone of ... racially and ethnically motivated violent extremists,” he said. “They’re looking at this as an opportunity to grow their movement.”

Many QAnon believers, Clarke said, have been pulled into the movement at a time of great anxiety: Trapped at home by the pandemic and worried about money and health, they’re being presented with a never-ending assortment of polarizing “propaganda” that promises easy answers to intractable fears.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00257-y>



# QAnon goes "Pastel"



The image is a screenshot of a Rolling Stone article. At the top, the Rolling Stone logo is prominently displayed in red. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for Menu, Music, TV, Movies, Politics, Culture, Charts, Pro, and Newsletters. The article's breadcrumb trail reads 'HOME > CULTURE > CULTURE NEWS'. The date and time are 'DECEMBER 14, 2020 12:53PM ET'. The main headline is '‘Pastel QAnon’ Is Infiltrating the Natural Parenting Community'. Below the headline is a sub-headline: 'There’s long been a link between those who distrust hospital births and those who distrust vaccines — but Covid-19 and QAnon are making it worse'. The author is listed as 'By EJ DICKSON'. There are social media sharing buttons for Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, Email, and a plus sign for more options. At the bottom of the article preview is a photograph showing the back of a person's head with long, dark hair, looking out over a green, wooded area.

Q Send a Tip

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DECEMBER 14, 2020 12:53PM ET

## ‘Pastel QAnon’ Is Infiltrating the Natural Parenting Community

There’s long been a link between those who distrust hospital births and those who distrust vaccines — but Covid-19 and QAnon are making it worse

By EJ DICKSON

f t r e +



<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/qanon-pastel-antivax-natural-parenting-community-freebirth-1098518/>

# QAnon goes Pastel

WIRED

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Internet Culture

## The yoga world is riddled with anti-vaxxers and QAnon believers

In my day job, I monitor the spread of online disinformation and conspiracy theories. I never expected to find them at my yoga class



By CÉCILE GUERIN

Thursday 28 January 2021



<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/yoga-disinformation-qanon-conspiracy-wellness>

# QAnon and Yoga

Researchers have tried to document the recent revival of 'conspirituality' – the intersection of yoga, spirituality and holistic health with conspiracy theories. The Conspirituality podcast, co-founded by cult survivor and yoga teacher Matthew Remski, lists figures in the wellness industry who have shared conspiracy theories and aims at exposing 'faux-progressive wellness utopianism.'



# QAnon in the news

The trend stretches beyond influencers. Conspiracy content shared by yoga and wellness enthusiasts, or what researcher Marc-André Argentino calls 'Pastel QAnon', also appears in various forms in spaces which are difficult for researchers to access, including private Facebook groups, or in the form of short-lived content such as Instagram stories.

# Yoga, New Age, Ideologies

The historical links between yoga and New Age pursuits and extremist politics are well-documented, including Nazi Germany's interest in astrology and alternative medicine and the way yoga has sometimes served as inspiration to fascist ideology, including in Britain. Yoga, in addition, has embraced a 'transgressive' vision of itself, with the figure of the 'rebel yogi' a potent symbol in collective imagination.

# Wellness and profits

Wellness and yoga influencers already had products to sell before the pandemic – be it guidance material or just time with themselves. The pandemic “validated content they already had” Remski says. Some of the influencers who embraced QAnon saw their engagement rates skyrocket online. Krystal Tini, a yoga teacher and owner of a yoga mat business, gained thousands of followers in the early days of the pandemic after posting long videos in support of QAnon, becoming one of the movement’s most successful wellness representatives.



# QAnon and Yoga

Following President Joe Biden's inauguration, the QAnon movement has splintered as its predictions have failed to materialise, leaving many supporters at a loss. Online yoga communities can drive their supporters further down the rabbit hole or provide a space to disengage from conspiracies.

# More on wellness

## MotherJones

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CORONAVIRUS APRIL 15, 2020

### Wellness Influencers Are Spreading QAnon Conspiracies About the Coronavirus

*An unfounded far-right fever dream meets unfounded far-out fever treatments.*



ALI BRELAND

Reporter

[Bio](#)



<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2020/04/wellness-qanon-coronavirus/>

# Wellness

Some have fused wellness hoaxes and pseudoscientific homeopathic treatments with QAnon and other far-right conspiracies. One such notable influencer is Joseph Arena, a chiropractor who uses the title "Dr." and has more than 40,000 followers. Arena has pushed explicit QAnon theories about massive pedophile rings run by the deep state on his Instagram account and has directed his followers to pro-QAnon pages to find "the truth."

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2020/04/wellness-qanon-coronavirus/>

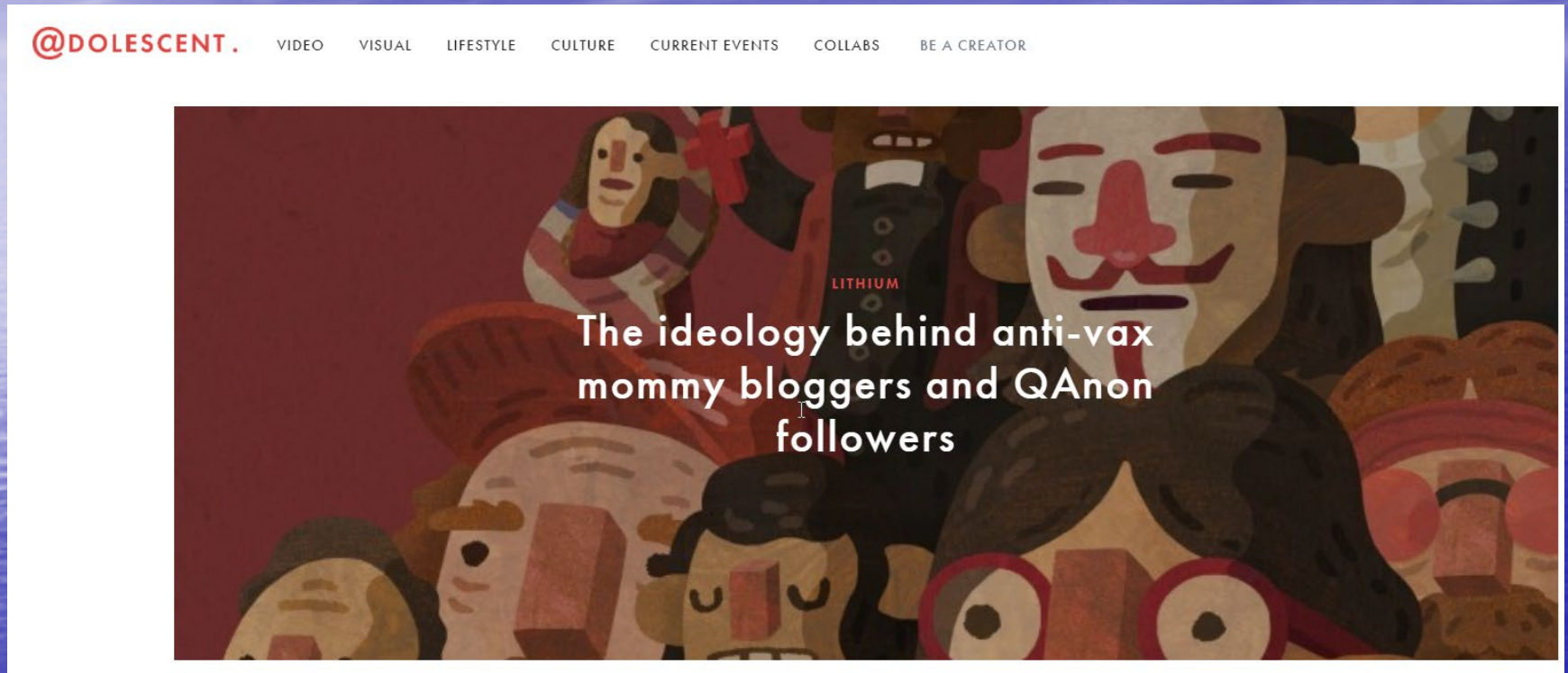


# Wellness

Get ready, it is about to start," Arena said in a Instagram story last Tuesday, regurgitating a modified version of a conspiracy theory that first surfaced in the 1970s about Federal Emergency Management Agency plans to put people in concentration camps under the pretense of martial law. (Arena responded to a request for comment by threatening legal action if his name was included in this story.)

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2020/04/wellness-qanon-coronavirus/>

# And anti-vaxxers



<https://www.adolescent.net/a/the-ideology-behind-anti-vax-mommy-bloggers-and-qanon-followers->

# And anti-vaxxers

Over the past few weeks, I've bookmarked a host of social media accounts and posts created by anti-vaxxers. They range vastly, from holistic mommy bloggers to QAnon conspiracy theorists (spoiler alert: they're not mutually exclusive). I've witnessed pseudoscience being disseminated via fear-mongering, Boomer-style video clips. I've also seen it dressed up in a pastel Instagram theme, smushed between a swarm of baby photos and vinyasa yoga sequences.

<https://www.adolescent.net/a/the-ideology-behind-anti-vax-mommy-bloggers-and-qanon-followers->



# Qanon focus on vaccines

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## THE STRATEGIST

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### The QAnon threat to Australia's vaccine rollout

2 Feb 2021 | Sam Williamson

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What began as a post on anonymous message board 4chan—home to trolls, internet shock-jocks and excursionists—has morphed into an international conspiracy theory posing a threat to Australia's vaccination rollout against Covid-19. The QAnon movement has spread worldwide since 2017, beyond the control of those who originally dropped the

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-qanon-threat-to-australias-vaccine-rollout/>

# Australia vaccines

The ever-evolving nature of the QAnon conspiracy theories and the amalgamation of the movement with antivaxx activists will no doubt result in the spreading of misinformation about vaccination, and the Australian government must be ready to counter that not with rhetoric but with facts and clarity. The success of our vaccination program relies on both the government's faith in the people and the people's faith in the government.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-qanon-threat-to-australias-vaccine-rollout/>



# QAnon and the continuing anti-vaccine effort



BBC Trending

July 27, 2020

Carrie Madej's viral video makes a false claim that the vaccines will change recipients' DNA (which carries genetic information).



BBC.COM

**False and misleading claims about the hunt for a vaccine**

Misinformation about coronavirus vaccine trials has been spreading on social media.



# QAnon and anti-vaccine doctors

“There’s many ways it can be taken up into our genome,” she continued. “So when this gets into the genome, if it’s permanent, guess what? You, as a human, can be patented and owned—look it up!”

Madej describes herself as an osteopathic doctor and a “child of God and a believer in Jesus Christ.” She’s also a QAnon believer who questions why COVID-19 has been a bigger story than what she describes as a “global elite pedophile ring” and reposts byzantine diagrams supposedly revealing Bill Gates as the mastermind behind the global pandemic.

This past summer, she was convinced that a long-debunked website advertising the “Cannibal Club” restaurant in Los Angeles was in fact a real eatery serving human flesh. “We ‘taste like pork,’” she tweeted. “Dear God—help us change this world for the better!”

# QAnon and the anti-vaccine doctors



Video TV The 8:46 Project News World News Tech Music

## The QAnon Doctor Pushing Wild Conspiracies About the COVID Vaccine

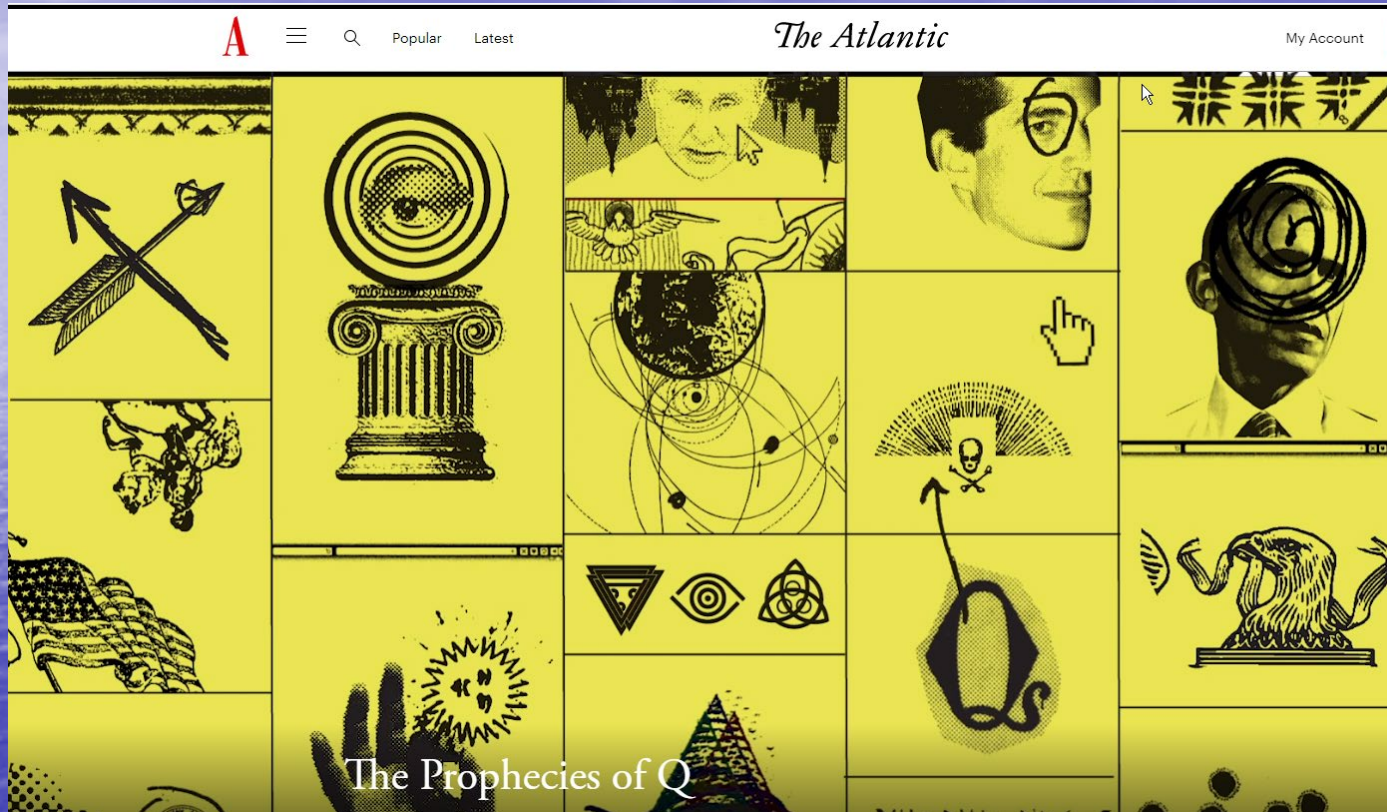
Dr. Carrie Madej spoke at the Capitol riots Wednesday and called the COVID vaccine a "witches' brew."



By [Jesse Hicks](#)

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/88avy5/a-qanon-doctor-who-spoke-at-the-capitol-riots-said-the-covid-vaccine-is-a-witches-brew>

# QAnon as a religion



<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/06/qanon-nothing-can-stop-what-is-coming/610567>



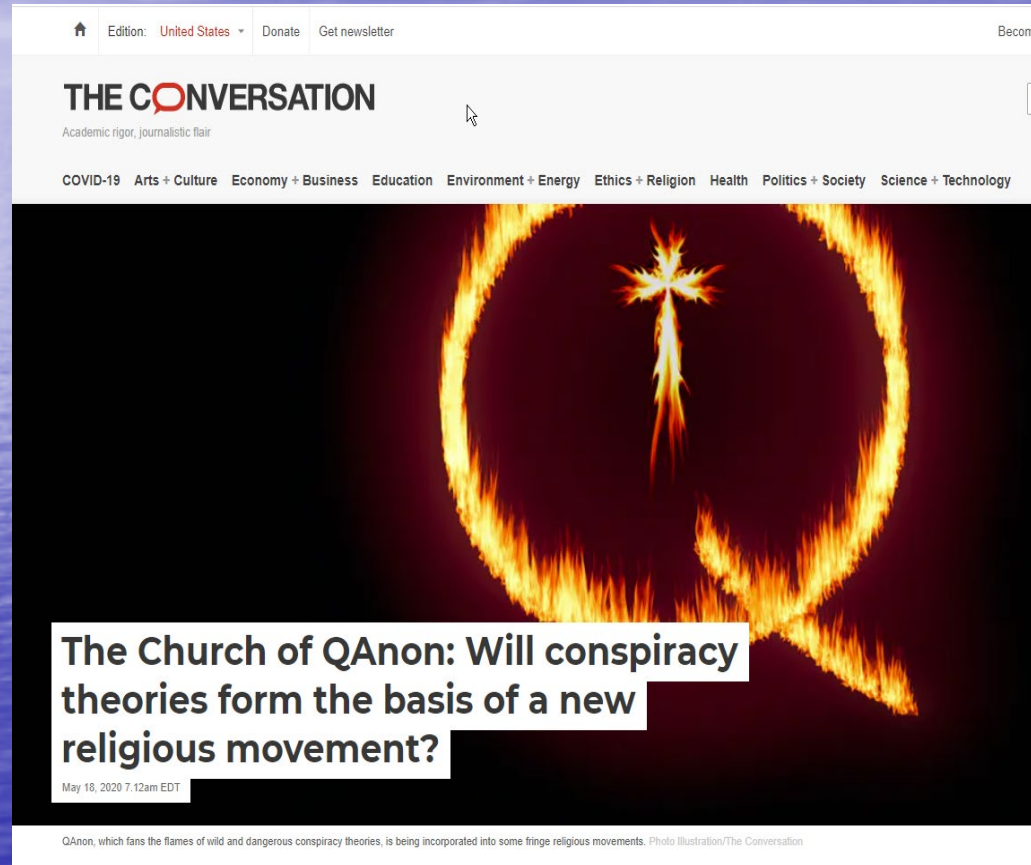
# QAnon and religion

- QAnon is emblematic of modern America's susceptibility to conspiracy theories, and its enthusiasm for them. But it is also already much more than a loose collection of conspiracy-minded chat-room inhabitants. It is a movement united in mass rejection of reason, objectivity, and other Enlightenment values. And we are likely closer to the beginning of its story than the end.

# QAnon in the news

- The group harnesses paranoia to fervent hope and a deep sense of belonging. The way it breathes life into an ancient preoccupation with end-times is also radically new. To look at QAnon is to see not just a conspiracy theory but the birth of a new religion

# QAnon and religion



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## The Church of QAnon: Will conspiracy theories form the basis of a new religious movement?

May 18, 2020 7:12am EDT

QAnon, which fans the flames of wild and dangerous conspiracy theories, is being incorporated into some fringe religious movements. Photo illustration/The Conversation

<https://theconversation.com/the-church-of-qanon-will-conspiracy-theories-form-the-basis-of-a-new-religious-movement-137859>



# QAnon and religion

- On Feb. 23, I logged onto Zoom to observe the first public service of what is essentially a QAnon church operating out of the Omega Kingdom Ministry (OKM). I've spent 12 weeks attending this two-hour Sunday morning service.

# QAnon and religion

- What I've witnessed is an existing model of neo-charismatic home churches — the neo-charismatic movement is an offshoot of evangelical Protestant Christianity and is made up of thousands of independent organizations — where QAnon conspiracy theories are reinterpreted through the Bible. In turn, QAnon conspiracy theories serve as a lens to interpret the Bible itself.



# QAnon and religion

- OKM is part of a network of independent congregations (or ekklesia) called Home Congregations Worldwide (HCW). The organization's spiritual adviser is Mark Taylor, a self-proclaimed "Trump Prophet" and QAnon influencer with a large social media following on Twitter and YouTube.



# QAnon and religion

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# QAnon and religion

- The resource page of the HCW website only links to QAnon propaganda — including the documentary Fall Cabal by Dutch conspiracy theorist Janet Ossebaard, which is used to formally indoctrinate e-congregants into QAnon. This 10-part YouTube series was the core material for the weekly Bible study during QAnon church sessions I observed.

# QAnon and religion

- The Sunday service is led by Russ Wagner, leader of the Indiana-based OKM, and Kevin Bushey, a retired colonel running for election to the Maine House of Representatives.



# QAnon and religion

- Everything is explained through the lens of the Bible and QAnon narratives. Bushey then does 45 minutes of decoding items that have appeared recently on the app called QMap that is used to share conspiracy theories. The last 15 minutes are dedicated to communion and prayer.

# QAnon and religion and Covid 19

- On May 3, the theme of the QAnon portion of the service was about COVID-19. Bushey spoke about a popular QAnon theory that the pandemic was planned. (There is no evidence of this.) And when an anti-vax conspiracy theory documentary called "Plandemic" went viral, the video was shared on the HCW websites as a way for e-congregants to consume the latest in a series of false theories about the coronavirus.




# QAnon and religion

- What is clear is that Wagner and Bushey are leveraging religious beliefs and their “authority” as a pastor and ex-military officer to indoctrinate attendees into the QAnon church. Their objective is to train congregants to form their own home congregations in the future and grow the movement.



# Qanon and politics

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## SUSAN COLLINS BACKS QANON BELIEVERS FOR MAINE LEGISLATURE

Candidates advocate “God-declared executions” for “traitorous” Jews, Catholics, Black Lives Matter and environmental activists

by NATHAN BERNARD AND CHRIS BUSBY | Oct 16, 2020



# QAnon and politics

## Susan Collins' PAC 'not aware' of 2 candidates' QAnon ties when it donated to them



by **Michael Shepherd** and **Caitlin Andrews**

October 16, 2020 Updated October 17, 2020



# QAnon and politics



In a statement on Friday, Collins campaign spokesperson Annie Clark said the senator “denounces QAnon” and its conspiracy theories. She said the committee makes contributions at **the recommendation of House Republican leaders** and it was “not aware of the activities of these two individuals at the time these two donations were made.”



# QAnon and politics

**Kevin Bushey** ([Republican Party](#)) ran for election to the Maine House of Representatives to general election on [November 3, 2020](#).

## Elections




### 2020

See also: [Maine House of Representatives elections, 2020](#)

#### General election

##### General election for Maine House of Representatives District 151

Incumbent [John Martin](#) defeated [Kevin Bushey](#) in the general election for Maine House of Representatives District 151 on November 3, 2020.

|   | Candidate                     | %  | Votes |
|---|-------------------------------|--|-------|
| ✓  | <b><u>John Martin</u></b> (D) |  | 2,763 |
|    | Kevin Bushey (R)              |  | 2,137 |


**BP** Incumbents are **bolded and underlined**. The results have been certified. [Source](#)

Total votes: 4,900

# QAnon and religious congregations

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- Catholicism Renunciation Prayer
- Simply Sharing Jesus
- Corey's Digs Blog
- OKM Friends Twitter List
- Divorce From Baal System
- Repentance/Renunciation Prayer
- Declaration-God's Kingdom
- QAnon** Videos
- FREE Constitution Course

ARCHIVES

<https://homecongregations.org/>

# QAnon and video tutorials



The screenshot shows the QAnon.Video website interface. At the top left is the logo, a film reel with the text 'QANON.Video'. The navigation menu includes: About Q, Q Cards, Q Drops, Q Threads, Q Videos, Q News, Q Gear, Q+ (with a dropdown arrow), and Contact Us. A 'FEATURED Q' button is on the right. The main banner image features a hooded figure in the foreground and a futuristic digital interface with various data points and icons like 'IDEA', 'TEAM', 'RISK', 'TIME', and 'average 45%'. Below the banner is the video title 'AMERICA'S FRONTLINE DOCTORS SUMMIT - PRESS CONFERENCE' with a date of July 28, 2020, and 0 comments. A search bar for 'SEARCH Q VIDEOS' is on the right, and a list of 'Q VIDEO CATEGORIES' is below it, including 'Q for Beginners (4)', 'Q Threads (280)', 'Q - The Plan (6)', and 'Kennedy - The Plan (1)'. The video player shows a group of people in white lab coats standing in front of a classical building.

[http://qanon.video/q-videos/americas-frontline-doctors-summit-press-conference/?fbclid=IwAR0aEnbmBUM9Bzipqh\\_6uuC5Z9D3UJP3VtavDm wRtRle-Xgdg0kXDH6\\_IMk](http://qanon.video/q-videos/americas-frontline-doctors-summit-press-conference/?fbclid=IwAR0aEnbmBUM9Bzipqh_6uuC5Z9D3UJP3VtavDm wRtRle-Xgdg0kXDH6_IMk)



# QAnon revitalized by losing

TECHNOLOGY

## QAnon Is Winning

Conspiracy thinking in America had a huge night on Tuesday.

KAITLYN TIFFANY NOVEMBER 5, 2020



OLIVIER DOULIERY / AFP / GETTY / THE ATLANTIC



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# QAnon and no “crisp” ending

Earlier this year—before Greene’s and Boebert’s victories; before baseless theories about child trafficking spread across the internet, possibly permanently damaging the standing of a furniture company that has never been found guilty of wrongdoing; before QAnon led rallies in dozens of cities—it might have been easy to imagine that the end of Trump’s presidency would spell the end of QAnon. But QAnon is bigger than Trump, and with a robust conspiracy theory, there’s never a crisp end. In a worldview dominated by the belief that Democratic elites have rigged the system, a Biden victory wouldn’t be a repudiation—it would be further evidence of a scandal. And the longer, closer, and more drawn-out vote-counting is, the more baroque the theories can become.

# QAnon adapting


The Washington Post  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

Tech Consumer Tech Future of Transportation Innovations Internet Culture Space Tech Policy Video Gaming

Technology

## QAnon believers seek to adapt their extremist ideology for a new era: 'Things have just started'

With Q having vanished and Trump out of office, far-right extremist groups are targeting disillusioned believers online in hopes of further radicalizing them to a new cause





# Qanon – Trump and conspiracy theory research

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NEWS · 04 FEBRUARY 2021

## Tracking QAnon: how Trump turned conspiracy-theory research upside down

By taking fringe ideas mainstream, the former US president taught new and dangerous lessons about manipulating social and mass media.

Jeff Tollefson

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00257-y>

# QAnon and conspiracy research

“Conspiracy theories are fundamentally a form of political propaganda,” says Quassim Cassam, a philosopher at the University of Warwick in Coventry, UK. Although Trump failed to overturn the election, Cassam says the former president was very successful at mobilizing his political base – and radicalizing the Republican Party.

# Efforts to shut down social media

## DISINFORMATION CRACKDOWN

Twitter shut down former US president Donald Trump's account, as well as more than 70,000 others associated with the conspiracy theory QAnon, after the US Capitol insurrection. This image depicts the effects of the purge on a network of politically influential accounts: 750 pro-Trump and QAnon accounts disappeared, along with 654 right-wing and 124 left-wing accounts.

● Suspended accounts

Each circle represents one influential Twitter account, and its size is dictated by the number of connections (shown by lines) it has to other influential Twitter accounts.

