



Revelation: Winnie the Pooh not banned in China – Western fake news media

For years the Western media purports that the much loved Winnie the Pooh was banned in China because it looked too much alike President Xi. All not true - we have the facts.

Felix Abt

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Short introduction by Peter Hanseler

I am always thrilled when Felix Abt allows us to publish one of his great articles which he publishes on his own blog easteranlge.com.

Voice from Russia regularly criticises the very propagandist Western media where even flagship newspapers like the Swiss Neue Zürcher Zeitung resort to unsavoury propaganda as shown in our article "[Resist the beginnings! – Propaganda of the](#)

NZZ" where we showed that NZZ tells lies about Russia as a business concept.

In this article, Felix Abt assesses - among others - the NZZ with regard to its truthfulness about China.

Article

Years ago, when I happened to see a large stall with lots of Winnie-the-Pooh products at the market in a medium-sized Chinese city, I stopped and was amazed. Hadn't I recently read in the Western media that Winnie the Pooh had been banned in China?

The story of the banned plush bears, T-shirts and other Winnie the Pooh paraphernalia has been in the media ever since. One of the first was the BBC, which "reported" in 2017 that Winnie the Pooh had been banned in China.



The image is a screenshot of the BBC News website. At the top, the BBC logo is on the left, followed by a user profile icon and navigation links for Home, News, Sport, and Earth. A search icon is on the right. Below this is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. Under the banner, there are links for Home, Israel-Gaza war, War in Ukraine, Climate, Video, World, and a 'More' button with a hamburger menu icon. Below these are links for UK, Business, Tech, and Science. The article title 'Why China censors banned Winnie the Pooh' is prominently displayed in large black font. Below the title, the date '17 July 2017' is shown with a clock icon. The article content begins with a paragraph about a German news magazine reporting on the ban.

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China blog

Why China censors banned Winnie the Pooh

🕒 17 July 2017

A year later, in 2018, the leading German news magazine Der Spiegel "reported" that the "Chinese ruler" was afraid of Winnie the Pooh and that the cute toy bear should therefore be banned. *"Because the bear looks like the ruler"*, it said without joking. And the fact that Chinese people with bear-like facial features could be a racist slur didn't bother the otherwise woke, morality-spouting Spiegel. It made the lofty claim that *"images of Winnie the Pooh have long been banned in China - precisely to prevent Xi memes that are critical of the system."*

China verbietet den neuen Winnie-Puh-Film – weil der Bär wie der Machthaber aussieht

Zwei Antworten zum kuriosen Vorfall

Von Marc Röhlig

07.08.2018, 10.13 Uhr

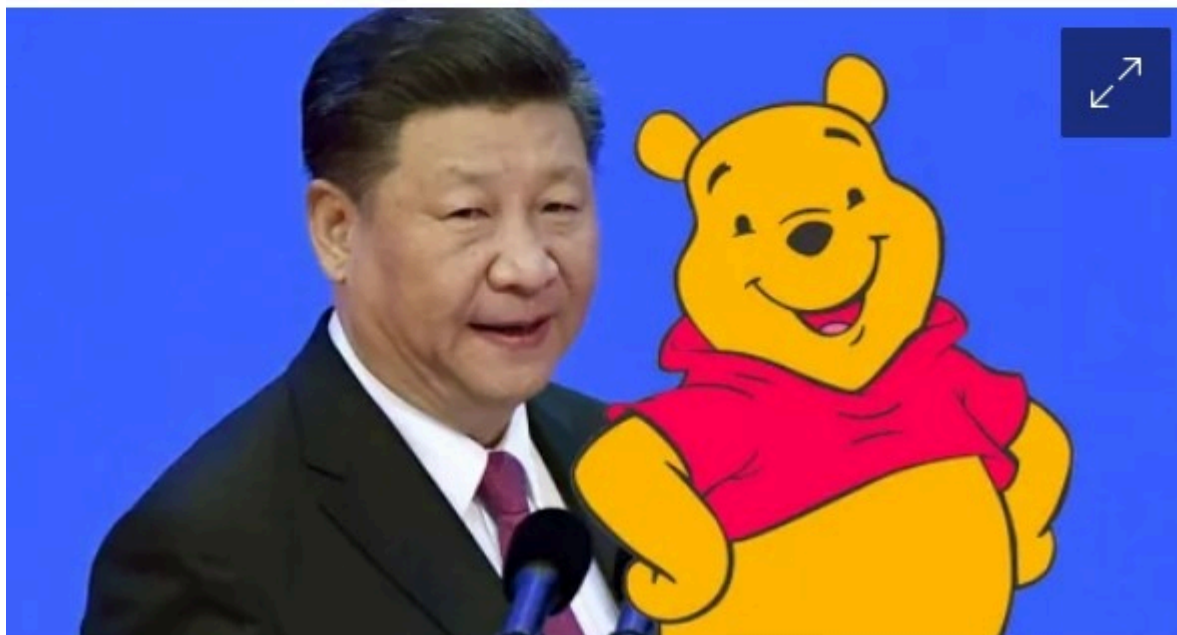


Foto: dpa/BBC; Montage: bento

Better late than never: a full five years later, in 2023, the Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ), perhaps the most influential newspaper in the German-speaking part of Europe, also "reported" on the Chinese head of state's uncanny fear of bears. The NZZ cited the Winnie the Pooh ban as watertight proof of China's all-encompassing repression (see screenshot).

Wer hat Angst vor Winnie-the-Pooh? Der chinesische Staatschef will mit dem Comic-Bären nicht verglichen werden

In Hongkong wird die neuste Winnie-the-Pooh-Adaption nicht gezeigt. Dass die Regierung über eine Zeichentrickfigur die Zensur verhängt, zeigt das Ausmass der chinesischen Repression.

Fabian Vogt

23.03.2023, 16.15 Uhr ⌚ 3 min

Winnie-the-Pooh was also banned elsewhere because the bear was accused of being an "inappropriate hermaphrodite" with "dubious sexuality". As this happened in a Polish and not a Chinese city, it was not worthy of a headline in the Western media.

None of these "reporters" who wrote about the oppression of the bear and its fans in China were on the ground to clarify the matter. Ideological beliefs have the power to replace facts in the media like never before.

Fortunately, today there are social media that not only spread nonsense and untruths like the traditional media, but also truth that cannot be found in the latter.

Foreigners living in China, who consume Western media less for information - that would be a waste of time - and more for amusement, have dared to post Winnie the Pooh on social media, as seen at Chinese markets or on T-shirts worn by Chinese people.

For example, Lee Barrett, who is British and lives in Shenzhen, recently tweeted photos from a Chinese store selling Winnie the Pooh products (see screenshot).



And Katrina, an American living in China, tweeted a picture of her Chinese neighbor's car painted with Winnie the Pooh (see screenshot).



Katrina   
@zapatas_mom



This is my neighbors car.

Doesn't he know westerners say Winnie the Pooh is banned?!



5:30 PM · Jan 14, 2024 · 47.7K Views

Where is the repression, dear NZZ? Now a new article with the telling title is probably due: "*In unpredictable China, you can't even rely on repression anymore!*"

ARTICLE TAGS:

Analysis Pooh, Winnie the China BBC Xi Jinping Der Spiegel
Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ)