

# Review of: "Free Speech Regimes and Democratic Vehemence"

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This article raises several interesting questions about shifting norms about free speech, the treatment of various kinds of speech, particularly forms that contain invective aimed at particular groups, by various legal and political regimes. It does a good job of identifying some of the core questions in related debates, including those related to the definition of victimhood and the parameters within which the left and right, in various national contexts, impose normative or legal limits on the expression of views to which certain groups might take offense. However, in my view, the article tries to do too much and does not fully deliver on its promises. This is particularly true in the context of its use of the term "regime," which is never clearly defined (as a general conceptual category) in ways that allows consistent treatment of various national cases. Instead, the reader is presented with several (fairly lengthy) examples of national and discursive contexts in which such issues are salient, without ever really learning what it all adds up to. In this vein, I would urge the author to state his or her central argument more clearly up front, reduce the length of the cases and connect them more clearly a (set of) central analytical claim(s), and expand the so-far very brief conclusion to bring home the central claims and relate them to a synthetic, rather than serial, treatment of the cases.