

## AFD 270 Breaking Up Tech Giants

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/09/opinion/sunday/chris-hughes-facebook-zuckerberg.html>
- <https://www.vox.com/recode/2019/5/9/18548296/chris-hughes-break-up-facebook-mark-zuckerberg>
- [https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/05/09/food-delivery-freight-logistics-how-uber-aims-move-things-around-world/?utm\\_term=.b46142f909cb](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/05/09/food-delivery-freight-logistics-how-uber-aims-move-things-around-world/?utm_term=.b46142f909cb)
- <https://techcrunch.com/2019/05/11/zuckerberg-responds-to-hughes/>

Claiming that a breakup “isn’t going to do anything to help” is a more unequivocal refutation of Hughes’ claim than that of Facebook VP of communications and former UK deputy Prime Minister [Nick Clegg](#). He wrote in [his own NYT op-ed](#) today that “what matters is not size but rather the rights and interests of consumers, and our accountability to the governments and legislators who oversee commerce and communications . . . Big in itself isn’t bad. Success should not be penalized.”

- <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/04/30/amazon-freight-uber-for-trucking-service-running-since-last-year.html>
- <https://www.theverge.com/2019/3/8/18256032/elizabeth-warren-antitrust-google-amazon-facebook-break-up>

Warren’s proposal includes a plan to pass legislation designating platforms with more than \$25 billion in revenue as “platform utilities,” which would be barred from owning both the platform and “participants” on the platform at the same time. Smaller companies would not face the same requirements. A law like that would have immediate effects on the digital economy, the proposal continues, as Google is forced to spin off Search and Amazon spins off Marketplace.

As president, Warren writes, she would also appoint regulators to reverse mergers that have already been completed. The proposal names some of those mergers specifically, including Amazon’s acquisition of Whole Foods, Facebook’s acquisition of WhatsApp and Instagram, and Google’s acquisition of Waze and Nest.

The idea of taking antitrust action against the tech industry has gained new relevance recently, as the companies face a public reckoning over their power. But while many lawmakers have suggested regulation as an answer, few have crossed the threshold to an antitrust solution.

- <https://www.businessinsider.com/elizabeth-warren-celebrates-chris-hughes-call-to-break-up-facebook-2019-5>
- <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/12/amazons-bid-on-a-10-billion-pentagon-contract-is-riddled-with-conflicts-of-interest/>
- <https://www.esquire.com/news-politics/a15895746/bust-big-tech-silicon-valley/>
- <https://gizmodo.com/life-without-the-tech-giants-1830258056>