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- [Opinion](#)
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- [Video](#)
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- [Feature](#)
- [Help](#)



Googlegate – Google censors Climategate story

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Better off with Bing; Googlegate: The search engine may be standing up to Chinese censors. What about Google's own censors?

By Lawrence Solomon

This week, Google announced an end to its long-standing collaboration with the Chinese Communists – it will no longer censor users inside China.

That's good of it. Maybe Google will now also stop using its search engine to censor the rest of us, in the Western countries.

Search for "Googlegate" on Google and you'll get a paltry result (my result yesterday was 29,300). Search for "Googlegate" on Bing, Microsoft's search engine competitor, and the result numbers an eye-popping 72.4 million. If you're a regular Google user, as opposed to a Bing user, you might not even know that "Googlegate" has been a hot topic for years in the blogosphere – that's the power that comes of being able to control information.

Despite Google's motto of "Do No Evil," it has long been controversial and suspected of evil-doing – and not just in its cooperation with China, or in protecting itself by hiding criticism of itself from unsuspecting Google users. In recent months, most of the evil-doing has focused on the Climategate scandal, the startling emails from the Climate Research Unit in the UK that show climate change scientists to be cooking the books.

For many weeks now, readers have been sending me emails describing how Google has been doing its best to hide information relating to Climategate, which has been the single biggest story on the Internet since the Climategate emails came to light on November 19. By Nov. 26, the term had gone viral and Google returned more results for "climategate" (10.4 million) than for "global warming" (10.1 million). As the Climate Scandal exploded, and increasing numbers of blog sites covered it, the number of web pages with Climategate continued to climb. On Dec. 7, Google's search engine found 31.6 million hits for people who searched for "Climategate."

Sometime around then, in early December, Google began to minimize the Climategate scandal by hiding Climategate pages from its users. By Dec. 17, the number of climategate pages that a Google search found dropped by almost 10 million, to 22.2 million. One day later Google dropped its find by another 8 million pages, to 14.1 million. By Dec. 23, Google could find only 7.5 million hits and on Dec. 24 just 6 million. And yesterday, when I checked, Google reported a mere 1.8 million climategate pages.

Bing, in contrast, didn't make climategate pages disappear. As you'd expect from a search engine that wasn't manipulating data, search results on Bing climbed steadily until they peaked at around 51 million, where they have remained since.

Starting in late November, Google has been keeping the public in the dark about Climategate in other ways, too.

[Read the rest of this article here.](#)



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