

USA moves to ban TikTok for security reasons

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[theday.co.uk/usa-moves-to-ban-tiktok-for-security-reasons-4](https://www.theday.co.uk/usa-moves-to-ban-tiktok-for-security-reasons-4)



Protest: TikTok creators, above, say the proposed ban threatens lives and livelihoods.

Would you miss it? American politicians have voted to ban TikTok over security fears. It has not happened yet, but users argue a ban puts jobs and creativity at risk.

What's happening?

History was made on Wednesday. In the USA, politicians in the **House of Representatives** voted to ban **TikTok** — unless the company that owns it sells it off.

TikTok is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance. American lawmakers worry that the app is a threat to national security. They fear that the app could be used to spy on Americans, and that it could be used to spread false information. TikTok says this is not true.

Find out more

The ban has not happened yet. It still needs to be agreed upon by another group of politicians in the **Senate** and by American president Joe Biden.

Even if it never becomes law, this is a big moment. Social media often looks like the most powerful force in the world.

This week, politicians struck back. It is not just about security. Others worry about the spread of fake news and about how social media affects our brains. One study found that TikTok users are more likely to be easily **distracted** and unable to focus on tasks.

Others say banning TikTok is a bad idea. It has allowed millions of people to be creative and make their own films. For some, it has even become their job. For these people, a ban could be bad news.

Yes! TikTok became so popular so quickly because it offered something new: an easy way to be creative and share ideas. If the app was banned we would lose something big.

Would you miss it?

Some say

Others think

No! TikTok has only been around since 2016. We were perfectly fine without it before then. It will quickly be replaced by something else.

Some people say

"There is nothing permanent except change."

Heraclitus (544 BC – 483 BC), Ancient Greek philosopher

What do you think?

Six steps to discovery

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - Do you use TikTok?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: What other countries have banned TikTok and why?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - You are a businessperson. TikTok is on sale. Would you buy it?

5. Express

What do others believe? - Do you worry about social media companies taking your data? Why or why not? Discuss as a class.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Make a TikTok video either explaining why you are for or against the ban.

Glossary

House of Representatives - The lower chamber of the United States congress. There are 435 representatives, with a certain number allocated to each state based on the state's population.

TikTok - A Chinese social media company featuring short videos with one billion monthly users.

Senate - The upper chamber of the Congress that - along with the US House of Representatives (lower chamber) - comprises the legislative branch of the US government. Each of the 50 US states is equally represented by two senators, regardless of its population size.

Distracted - Not focussed.