Should the American government impose more regulations on social media platforms?

An ever-increasing number of **people** worldwide **use social media** everyday to receive and share information, connect with friends and strangers, or even get politically involved. Most of **the tech companies operating them are based in the US**, a country that prides itself on its defense of **freedom of speech**, granted there by the 1st amendment to the Constitution.

It grows more apparent though with the spread of **misinformation** and the growing **polarization** of liberal democracies around the globe it contributes to, that the unregulated circulation of all kinds of content comes with its share of dangerous downsides. So should the American government impose stricter regulations on social media platforms?

Expressing a hypothesis > If… then …

For each, assess the degree of probability and describe the tenses used.

If *the American government implemented new laws,* ***then*** *children would be safer.*

If *the American government were to implement new laws,* ***then*** *children would be safer.*

If *the American government implements new laws,* ***then*** *children will be safer.*

If *the American government had implemented news laws,* ***then*** *children would have been safer.*

Expressing a hypothesis > If… then …

For each, assess the degree of probability (––; –; +; ++) and describe the tenses used.

If *the American government implemented new laws,* ***then*** *children would be safer.*
Rather likely hypothesis (+) – past tense = preterite and WOULD+BV // COULD

If *the American government were to implement new laws,* ***then*** *children would be safer.*
Rather unlikely hypothesis (–) – *WERE TO*+BV and WOULD+BV // COULD

If *the American government implements new laws,* ***then*** *children will be safer.*
Likely hypothesis (++) – present tense and future tense

If *the American government had implemented news laws,* ***then*** *children would have been safer.*
Past hypothesis, so impossible (––) – pluperfect = HAD+past participle and WOULD+present perfect (HAVE+past participle)

Expressing a hypothesis > If... then ...

First conditional expresses a real or likely future. (++)

> ***If*** *the American government implements new laws,* ***then*** *children will be safer.*

> *If nothing is done, things will only worsen.*

Second conditional expresses an unreal or hypothetical present. (+)

> ***If*** *the American government implemented new laws,* ***then*** *children would be safer.*

> *If something were done, then things could improve.*

Third conditional expresses an unreal past or regrets. (--)

> ***If*** *the American government had implemented news laws,* ***then*** *children would have been safer.*

> *Had something been done sooner, things would not have gotten so terrible.*

Expressing a hypothesis > If… then …

How would you say in English …

Il serait impossible de réguler la circulation de l'information sans lois adaptées.

> **It would be impossible to regulate the flow of information without appropriate laws.**

Naviguer sur internet sera plus sûr quand des mesures auront été prises.

> Surfing the Internet will be safer when regulations are implemented.

Les mouvements de manifestation lycéenne auraient été représentés plus fidèlement si les médias avaient davantage expliqué leurs revendications.

> The high-school protest movement would have been more accurately represented if the media had further explained their demands.