**Why They Censor**


URL: http://www.cfr.org/china/media-censorship-china/p11515

**Quote:**

Specific material considered a **threat to political stability** is also **banned**, including controversial **photos** and **video**, as well as **search terms**. The government is particularly **keen** (vocab) on **blocking** reports of issues that could **incite** (vocab) **social unrest** (vocab), like official **corruption**, the **economy**, health and environmental **scandals**, certain **religious** **groups**, and **ethnic strife** (vocab).
Paraphrase:

**Why China censors the Internet = control**

Basically, this is about *government control* - controlling what Chinese people see, read, hear about, search so that the government always appears to be good and powerful

- **government reputation** - bans/blocks things that might cause problems for the government; for example, people might get angry or dissatisfied with the government. The government “looks bad”

- **"controversial" information** :
  - photos & videos
  - search terms - this surprises me!!!

- about
  - political corruption
  - the economy - what does this mean???
  - scandals re health and environment
  - certain religious groups - which ones???
  - ethnic problems - specific ethnic groups???
My Ideas:

My main takeaway:

Chinese government doesn’t trust the Chinese people with information - not trusting people to be able to make good decisions is definitely a Legalist principle

This article has strong specifics about what is restricted on the Internet

I'll use this in a part of my essay about the government needing to control information. Strong government control is Legalism.

My claim: this is Legalism at work today.

Questions I still have:
1. which religious groups is China concerned about?
2. which ethnic groups?
3. Why block information about the economy? – need more info
4. HOW do they block the Internet???
5. Can people get around it?

vocab:
1. keen - having or showing eagerness or enthusiasm
2. incite - urge or persuade (someone) to act in a violent or unlawful way
3. unrest - a state of dissatisfaction, disturbance, and agitation in a group of people, typically involving public demonstrations or disorder
4. strife - angry or bitter disagreement over fundamental issues; conflict