

The Experts Agree: There Is No Antitrust Case Against Leading Tech Services

There's not an actual problem with consumer welfare here. Keep in mind the standard of American antitrust law: Are consumers harmed? ...There's really not been significant evidence that American consumers have been harmed. Facebook and Google are not building a moat to keep out content...Monopoly is a loaded word. It's misleading, because the price is zero.

- Tyler Cowen, GMU Professor of Economics

"Any similarities to Microsoft are superficial, and prevailing antitrust doctrine and sound enforcement policy firmly support Google's business practices in online search."

- David Balto & Brendan Coffman, Antitrust Lawyers

"Any call to break up large tech firms based on economic considerations needs to address the concern that dismembering some of our most successful companies will significantly reduce economic efficiency... On this basis alone, breaking up the largest and most successful firms makes me rather nervous. On top of that, we know that there are substantial economies of scale of various types in the technology sector...So these market may drift back toward winner-takes-most anyhow. I vote for strengthening enforcement of the Sherman Act rather than breaking up the largest tech firms."

- Carl Shapiro, Berkeley Economist

"The last twenty years of history should humble anyone who claims that online platforms have secure monopolies. The record is replete with forecasts, soon proved wrong and then forgotten, that the winners that took all, or most, were unbeatable... Thus, as of now, comparisons between the online platforms and old titans are inapt and overwrought."

- David Evans, Chairman of Global Economics Group

"We might take the same approach with the Amazons of the twenty-first century world – condemn their actions precisely because their lower prices attract so many consumers that smaller competitors might be unable to survive...First, it clearly injures rather than benefits consumers...Second, there is no obvious way of limiting its application. Should antitrust condemn every practice that reduces the defendant's prices or costs, or improves the quality of its product when rivals are injured or suppliers are worse off? That policy would rather quickly drive the economy back into the Stone Age, imposing hysterical costs on everyone."

- Herbert Hovenkamp, Pennsylvania Professor of Law

Choice, competition, and innovation are not the hallmarks of monopoly, but a healthy market benefiting consumers, entrepreneurs, and our economy at-large.