Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook crises will totally destroy his legacy because he does not understand that Sheryl Sandberg uses him as a Hilla-Tool!

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Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Reuters

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- Mark Zuckerberg was grilled by European lawmakers in Brussels during his tour of Europe this week.
- As well as asking the Facebook CEO about his handling of the Cambridge Analytica, fake news, and election meddling scandals, EU politicians raised questions about Zuckerberg's legacy.
- He was asked by one lawmaker if Facebook's woes mean he will be remembered as a "genius who created a digital monster that is destroying our democracies and societies."
- Zuckerberg has been reflecting on his legacy more after having children.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg may have walked away from Europe without having to answer any big questions, but his time away from Menlo Park would still have been a punishing experience.

In a preposterously formatted hearing at the European Parliament on Tuesday, Zuckerberg was subjected to 40 minutes of eye-watering monologues from EU lawmakers, who surrounded him like they were taking part in a ritual flagellation.

The politicians, from all different ends of the political spectrum, posed questions about a collection of Facebook crises over the past 18 months, including the Cambridge Analytica data breach, election interference, and fake news.

So far, so familiar for Zuckerberg. But one important new theme did emerge from the session: The idea that Facebook's woes will damage on Zuckerberg's legacy.

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The starkest analysis was offered by Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's Brexit coordinator and a man who has become famous for trolling Britain's decision to leave the EU. Finger-wagging at Zuckerberg over his thick-rimmed glasses, the Belgian said: "You have to ask yourself how you will be remembered. As one of the big three internet giants, together with Steve Jobs and Bill Gates, who have enriched our world and our societies. Or on the other hand, a genius who created a digital monster that is destroying our democracies and societies. That is a question you have to put to yourself, for yourself."

Reflecting on the hearing to Business Insider, another EU politician asked if Zuckerberg wants to go down in history as the man who let Vladimir Putin "trash" democracy or the man who built a social network for the wider good.

During the session, Zuckerberg stared back at Verhofstadt grimly. His expression was almost haunted as he contemplated what the European lawmaker was asking him. And we know from Zuckerberg's recent comments that the exchange may have been a gut punch.

The Guy Verhofstadt and Mark Zuckerberg exchange. European Parliament

It was only in January that the 34-year-old multi-billionaire admitted that he was giving more thought to his legacy after becoming a father. "It's important to me that when Max and August grow up that they feel like what their father built was good for the world," Mark Zuckerbergtold The New York Times.