

# Information Warfare Computer System Security

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December 9, 2025

## John Buchan: 1875-1940

- Author of The 39 Steps (Directed by Alfred Hitchcock)
  - And 29 other novels of "Daring Do" fiction
- First World War Correspondent for the Times
- 15th Governor General of Canada
- Member of Parliament
- Prolific Writer for "Wellington House": British WW1 Propaganda Bureau
  - Along with Arthur Conan Doyle, Rudyard Kipling, H.G.Wells, Thomas Hardy, and 20 others

# Co-scripted with the US Dept. Of Defence

- *Armageddon* (1998)
- *Batman & Robin* (1997)
- *Behind Enemy Lines* (2001)
- *Black Hawk Down* (2001)
- *Deep Impact* (1998)
- *Godzilla* (1998)
- *The Green Berets* (1968)
- *I Am Legend* (2007)
- *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989)
- *Iron Man* (2008)
  - *Iron Man 2* (2010)
- *The Jackal* (1997)
- *James Bond series*:
  - *Goldfinger* (1964)
  - *Thunderball* (1965)
  - *Licence to Kill* (1989)

# Soviet International Propaganda

- Provided funding for front organisations
  - World Federation of Trade Unions
  - International Union of Students
  - ... and many others
- Funded literature and socialist newspapers
- Funded Student Scholarships to Russian Universities
- Believed to have funded various conspiracy theories, notably JFK, and US origin of AIDS

# United States Information Agency: 1953-1999

- Budget of \$2 billion year
- "To explain and advocate U.S. policies in terms that are credible and meaningful in foreign cultures"
- Funded libraries, newspapers and magazines
- Failed to collaborate with Hollywood
  - There is extensive US Forces support for Hollywood productions though.
- Fulbright Scholarships
- Now known as the US Agency for Global Media



Search ...

WHO WE ARE

OUR WORK

ENTITIES

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WORK WITH US

**Press Release**  
USAGM calls on Belarusian authorities to release jailed RFE/RL consultant

Addressing disinformation:  
Playing defense is no longer  
enough

Marking USAGM coverage of  
Syria's 10 years of civil war

Kremlin's increasing aggression  
against RFE/RL unacceptable,  
USAGM says

The main banner features a portrait of a young man with dark hair and a blue jacket, looking directly at the camera. Behind him is a large banner with the text "RadioFree RadioLib" and a yellow crescent moon and star. Below the main banner are three video thumbnails. The first shows a group of people in a city street. The second shows a man running across a sandy field with a crowd in the background. The third shows a person in a blue jacket running through a doorway.



78



Just a reminder to all the doomers  
out there

1 day ago by Suckmedry +78 / -0

Joe Biden is legally not the President. He was installed, not voted in. What we saw was a 4 year long coup against a sitting president, the real President. Donald Trump.

Trump doesn't take losing for anything, that man works until it's right, you really think Trump went into this knowing how corrupt they are and didn't have some sort of last laugh type of thing?

He's signed multiple executive orders to make sure things go smoothly to keep this country standing

# Today's Propaganda

- Social Media Presence Mandatory
  - Israeli Defense Forces and Hamas use similar techniques
  - Photographs, Videos, Memes
  - Online magazines (ISIS "Cyber Caliphate")
  - Facebook, Twitter Propaganda Campaigns
- Forum monitoring and participation
  - circa 2000's - China's "50-cent" Brigade
  - Mostly low level party members with organised sources
  - Not clear they actually get paid (Expected as part of job)

# Chinese Rules of Engagement (Wikipedia)

- (1) To the extent possible make America the target of criticism. Play down the existence of Taiwan.
- (2) Do not directly confront [the idea of] democracy; rather, frame the argument in terms of "what kind of system can truly implement democracy."
- (3) To the extent possible, choose various examples in [Western countries](#) of violence and unreasonable circumstances to explain how democracy is not well-suited to capitalism.
- (4) Use America's and other countries' interference in [international affairs](#) to explain how [Western democracy](#) is actually an invasion of other countries and [how the West] is forcibly pushing [on other countries] Western values.
- (5) Use the bloody and tear-stained history of a [once] weak people [i.e., China] to stir up pro-Party and patriotic emotions.
- (6) Increase the exposure that positive developments inside China receive; further accommodate the work of maintaining [social] stability.<sup>[36][37]</sup>

# Troll Armies

- Dedicated teams often for hire
- Manually (possibly with some automation)
  - Flood Facebook and other forums
  - Newspaper comment sections
  - One star reviews and similar
- Also used for advertising (Influencers)
- Almost mandatory now to have some form of moderation

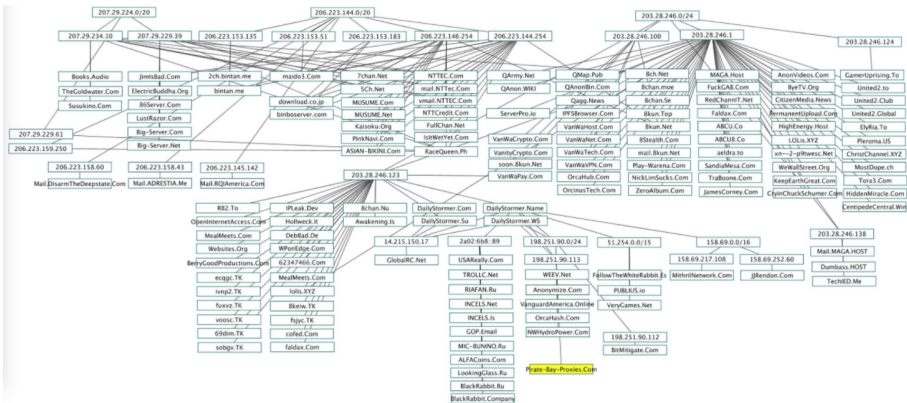
# Rent a Mob



# Self Organised



## QAnon



# QAnon

- Originates circa October 2017 with Q Drop
- Purports to be messages from high up US Official
  - Stylometric analysis suggests 2-3 people
  - Originates on 4Chan
- Very well put together conspiracy cult
  - Conspiracy theories also widely circulated by Russian sources
- Elements of franchise operation
- Quite possibly motivated as a for profit operation for Ad Money

# There's an App for that...

Citing App Store guidelines, Apple has pulled "QDrops," an app meant to alert adherents to new developments in the fringe conspiracy theory.

The app was dropped from the App Store Sunday, after reporters from *NBC News* [discovered it and alerted Apple](#). The app, launched in April, reached as high as No. 10 on the App Store charts and No. 1 in the App Store's Entertainment section.



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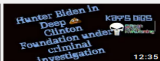
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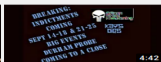
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**KAYS DIGS KUNG FLU VIRUS-ETHNIC CLEANSING-STATS DON'T...**  
2:36



**KAYS DIGS ATLANTIC CRYSTAL EXPLODED... TRUMP IS NOT THE RACIST!**  
8:39



**KAYS DIGS BREAKING: ATLANTIC CRYSTAL EXPLODED... TRUMP IS NOT THE RACIST!**  
7:17



**KAYS DIGS LATEST Q DROPS... PRIVILEGED PELOSI RACISM PROTS TIME FOR CHANGE!**  
6:01

# Psychological Operations (PsyOps)

- Coordinated operations to influence emotions and objective reasoning
  - Encourage dissent against leadership
  - Pollute the information space
    - Essentially initiate a human level broadcast storm
    - Prevents any useful information getting through
- US Army 2nd, 4th, 7th and 8th Psychological Operations Groups
- US Air Force 193rd Special Operations Wing

# Bot Holiday

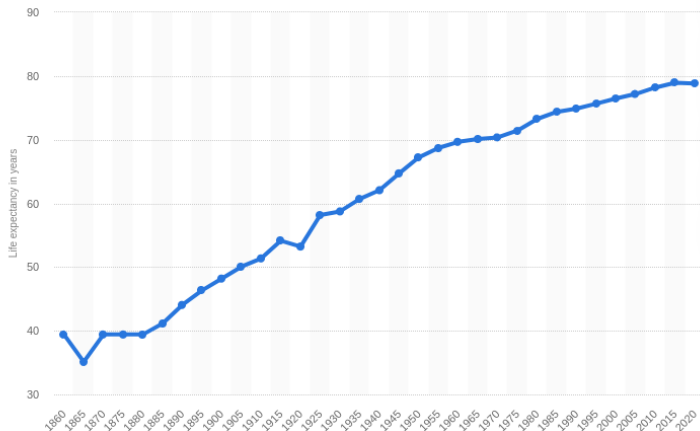
📷 'We're seeing a seismic shift in the disinformation sphere towards Ukraine entirely,' said online campaign analyst Joel Finkelstein. Photograph: Nikolas Kokovlis/NurPhoto/Rex/Shutterstock

When David Fisman tweets, he often receives a deluge of hate within moments of posting. Fisman, an epidemiologist and physician, has been outspoken about Covid and public health.

Even when he tweets something innocuous - once, to test his theory, he wrote the banal statement “kids are remarkable” - he still receives a flood of angry pushback.

But in recent days, Fisman noticed an “astounding” trend, he said. He posted about topics like requiring vaccination and improving ventilation to prevent the spread of Covid - and the nasty responses never came. No support for the trucker convoy, no calls to try the Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau, for treason.

# Life expectancy (from birth) in the United States, from 1860 to 2020\*



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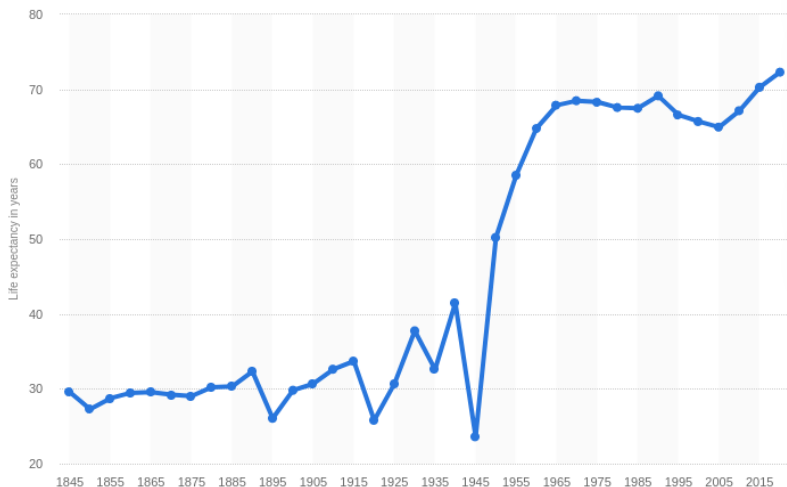
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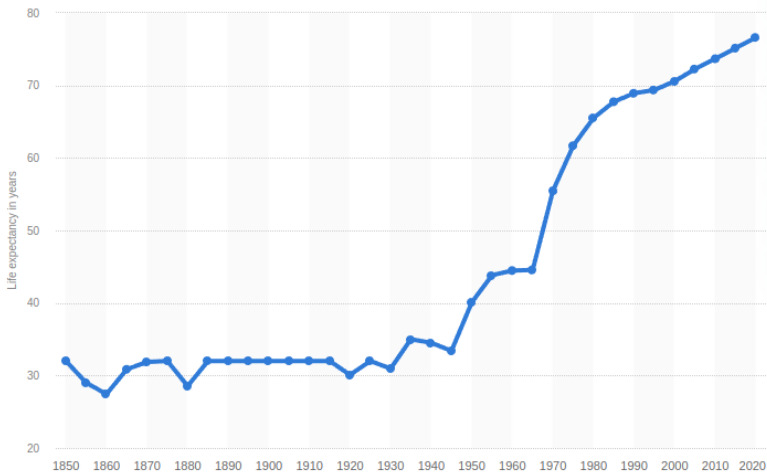
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## Life expectancy (from birth) in Russia, from 1845 to 2020\*



## Life expectancy (from birth) in China from 1850 to 2020\*



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# Kate Brown: Manual for Survival

Both suggest that remembering the fears, doubts, errors – and improvised decisions, creative ideas and small successes – of the people involved in Chernobyl would serve us well in bracing for the next disaster.

Brown's page-turner skilfully weaves an original narrative on the long-term medical effects of the Chernobyl disaster. Today, the official number of fatalities quoted by United Nations agencies ranges from 31 to 54, with another 2,000–9,000 future cancer deaths predicted. Yet in 2005, environmental charity Greenpeace indicated that 200,000 people had already died as a consequence of the disaster, and a further 93,000 fatal cancers were to be expected. A bewildered Brown uses this discrepancy, and our ignorance about it, as a starting point in *Manual for Survival*. Just as she did in the fascinating *Plutopia* (2013) – a comparative study of twentieth-century US and Soviet plutonium production plants ([M. Peplow \*Nature\* 495, 444–445; 2013](#)) – she has unearthed documents never viewed before, and listened to people who have been all but forgotten.

If there was an area in which we previously believed Russia to be incredibly strong, it was **influence operations conducted through cyberspace** (Cordey 2019). Russia's combination of computer hacking and targeted propaganda in both the U.K. **Brexit** referendum and U.S. national elections in 2016 indicated its intelligence services' tremendous skill and sophistication in undermining NATO democratic institutions. We have come to expect online **active measures** that confound NATO democracies (Rid 2020). However, Ukraine has dominated the information war for public support.

In information operations, Ukraine has been able to effectively turn everything from **leaked, unsecure Russian communications to video of anti-armor ambushes** (Sabbagh 2022) into a narrative of triumph over a hapless opponent. Ukraine has waged a media war that effectively portrays the country as a victim (which it is) and that shows Russia has paid a terrible price for the invasion (which it has). With the retreat of Russian forces from the outskirts of Kyiv came additional propaganda points.

Source: Cyber and Information Warfare in Ukraine (Rice University)