



Fake News, Disinformation, and Consequences for Democracy

Elective Course

Marcel Schliebs

Fall Semester 2020

Zeppelin University

One week of world politics (Aug 29th - Sept 5th, 2020)

August 29th

- German far right activists storm Parliament stairs after false rumor that Trump has “arrived at Berlin embassy to liberate the German people” and that police are starting to defect: Video



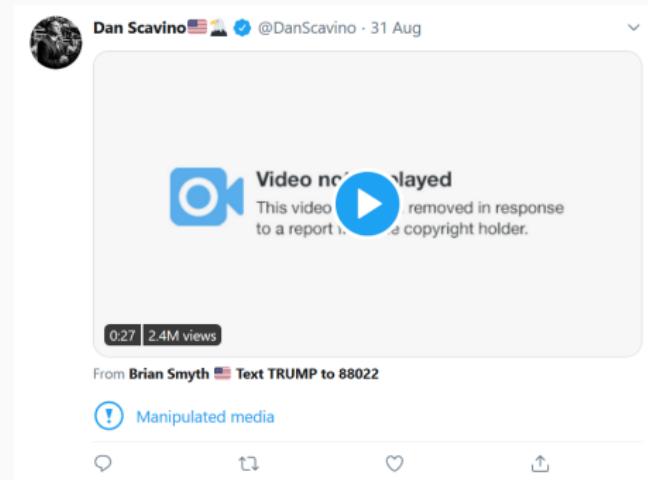


Chinese FM Wang

“The rights of all trainees in the education and training program, though their minds have been encroached by terrorism and extremism, have been fully guaranteed. Now all of them have graduated, there is no one in the education and training centre now. They all have found jobs.”

August 31st

- Fake Video of apparently sleeping Joe Biden goes viral on Twitter



Click for Video

September 1st

- Facebook and FBI expose Russian Info Op “peacedata.net”, which targeted left-wing audiences in Western countries
- (Link to WebArchive Version)

September 2nd



(a)



(b)

Chancellor Merkel announces Novichok poisoning diagnosis,
Russian disinfo machine goes into full speed

Navalny Poisoning

Alexander Sabayev,
Chief Toxicologist of
the Omsk Region
(04-09-2020)

"There were problems with digestion, with nutrition. The patient was also practicing dieting for weight loss, decreased body mass. It may have been stress, exhaustion, a temperature factor - being in the sun for too long or else a hypothermia. Any external factor may have facilitated the sudden deterioration, even a simple skipped breakfast. This is by far not a rare case, I cannot say that this case was unique."

Cui bono?



Dmitry Peskov

Kremlin Spokesperson
(03-09-2020)

"I don't think anyone in Russia would benefit from poisoning Navalny if you take a sober look at what's happening."

Cui bono?



Andrei Lugovoy
Russian Member of
Parliament
(02-09-2020)

If they have found anything connected to Novichok, it's likely that he got it at the clinic. A nurse, a doctor, could easily have inserted a toxic substance on Navalny. I am sure that this was exactly what happened.

Cui bono?



Yelena Panina
Russian Member of
Parliament
(02-09-2020)

“Another phase of the information and propaganda war against Russia has begun, all along Goebbel’s law on propaganda: the worse the lie, the more it’s believed. Any critically thinking people, able to ask questions, are excluded from the discourse beforehand.”

September 3rd



(c)



(d)

Figure 1: Trump calls unfavorable polls by Fox “Fake News”

September 4th



(a)

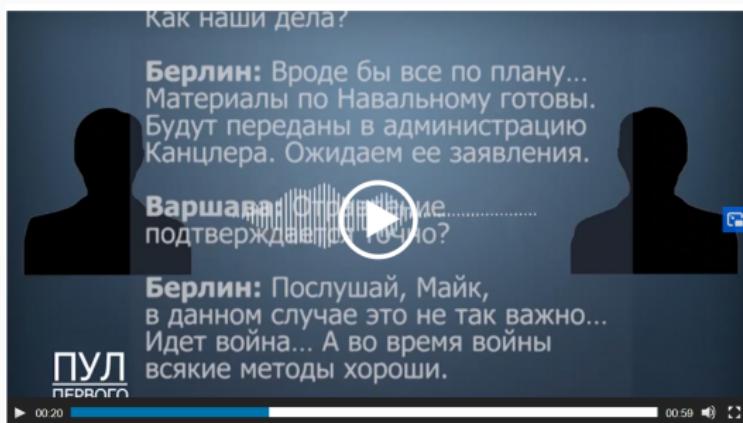


(b)

Figure 2: Revelations that Trump insulted veterans, he denies

September 5th

- Belarus Secret Service releases Fake Call between Berlin and Warsaw



September 5th

- Warsaw: Hello! Good afternoon, Nick! How are we doing?
- Berlin: Everything seems to be going as planned. The materials on Navalny are ready. They will be forwarded to the Chancellor's Office. We are awaiting her statement.
- Warsaw: Is the poisoning finally confirmed?
- Berlin: Listen, Mike, in this case that's not so important... There is a war going on. All is fair during a war.

September 5th

- Warsaw: Agree, we need to discourage Putin from poking his nose in the affairs of Belarus. The most effective way is to drown him in Russia's problems, and there are many of them! Moreover, they will have election in the near future, voting day in Russia's regions.
- Berlin: That's what we are working on right now. And how are things in Belarus in general?
- Warsaw: Not so good, to be honest. President Lukashenko turned out to be a tough nut to crack. They are professionals and organized. Obviously, Russia supports them. The officials and the military are loyal to the president. We are still working. Let's discuss the rest when we meet, not over the phone.
- Berlin: Yes, yes, I understand, see you then, bye.

And more

New York Post  @nypost

Osama bin Laden's niece says only Trump can prevent another 9/11 trib.al/84YQePZ



(a) Osama Bin-Laden's niece endorses Trump

Noor Bin Laden
@NoorBinLadin

From Switzerland, #WWG1WGA
#WWG1WGAWORLDWIDE
#QAnon



(b) and QAnon

and more



Foreign Policy

@ForeignPolicy

A false story about a Chinese plane shootdown that never happened has further heightened tensions between India and China, FP's James Palmer writes.



Indian Social Media Goes Nuts Over Fake Claim of Su-35 Shootdown in Taiwan

With tensions high, nationalist audiences are primed for dangerous nonsense.

foreignpolicy.com

4:30 pm · 5 Sep 2020 · Buffer

24 Retweets **5** Quote Tweets **41** Likes

and more



The screenshot shows the homepage of Der Postillon. At the top is the logo featuring a stylized figure holding a scroll and a sword, with the text "Der Postillon" in a serif font. Below the logo is the tagline "Ehrliche Nachrichten - unabhängig, schnell, seit 1845". A navigation bar follows, with categories: Politik, Wirtschaft, Sport, Lesezeichen, Medien, Wissenschaft, Panorama, Ratgeber, Newsletter, and Live-Tour. A "NEWSSTICKER" section contains the text "+++ Mitterrand: Französischer Politiker als Pizza immer komplett +++". The main article headline is "Unglaublicher Verdacht: Wird Attila Hildmann von Merkel bezahlt, um die Querdenker-Szene lächerlich zu machen?". Below the article is a photograph of two people standing behind a metal railing. To the right of the article is a small image of a person riding a bicycle.

(c)



A screenshot of a Twitter post from the account "ATTILA HILDMANN OFFICIAL". The post was made at 09:00 and has 104 chats. It has 80,646 subscribers. The tweet text is: "Da mich hunderte Nachrichten erreichen! Der Postillon ist ne Satireseite! Wenn ich eines Tages mit Merkel spazierengehe, dann von ihrer Zelle zum Militärgericht!" Below the tweet is a link: <https://www.der-postillon.com/2020/09/hildmann-merkel.html>. To the right of the link is another image of the same two people from the news sticker, standing behind a metal railing.

(d)

and more

Majority Of Republicans Believe The QAnon Conspiracy Theory Is Partly Or Mostly True, Survey Finds



Tommy Beer Forbes Staff
Business

Updated Sep 2, 2020, 09:33pm EDT

f **TOPLINE** Some 56% of Republicans believe that QAnon, a far-right conspiracy theory, is mostly or partly true, according to a new [Daily Kos/Civiqs](#) poll released Wednesday, a remarkably high number considering many of the outlandish assertions espoused by QAnon supporters.

in



and more

Exclusive: Two-thirds of Americans say they won't get COVID-19 vaccine when it's first available, USA TODAY/Suffolk Poll shows

(e)

Umfrage

52 Prozent der Deutschen wollen sich gegen Corona impfen lassen

(f)

We have a problem

- “Post-Truth Age?”
- Initial promise of the internet to bring enlightenment and empower the masses
- New dark age of lies and propaganda?

Many questions

- What types of disinformation is being spread and by whom? How widespread is it?
- How is it different from the past? What role does the internet and social media play?
- What effect does exposure to different forms of disinformation have on individuals?
- What are aggregated consequences for democracy? Are we entering a dark age of post-truth?
- How can disinformation be studied and what epistemological challenges do we face?
- How can and should we fight it? What interventions are available and which are effective?
- Should we intervene? Is lying illegal? Illegitimate?
- What does the future look like? Do AI and Deep Fakes foreshadow a future where truth will fade altogether?

Structure, Syllabus, and Introductions

Structure of the Course (1/3)

- 1. Introduction, History, Comparative Overview, and Definitions
- 2. Russia
- 3. China et al.
- 4. Domestic Forms (QAnon, Domestic Forms, Elections, (Anti-Vaccine Community))

Structure of the Course (2/3)

- 5. Epistemology of Fake News
- 6. Combating Misinformation
- 7. Micro-Perspective: Effects on Individuals
- 8. Macro-Perspective: Effects on Democracy

Structure of the Course (3/3)

- 9. The COVID-19 “Infodemic”
- 10. The 2020 U.S. Presidential Election
- 11. Artificial Intelligence & Deep Fakes
- 12. Conclusion & Big Picture

Examination (1/2)

- Paper on one or multiple of the course themes, addressing once specific question
- Ideally creative, innovative, thought-provoking
- Consistent citation style
- Length up to you (~ 15-20 pages most likely)

Examination (2/2)

- Due on January 31st 2021 via e-mail to marcel.schliebs@oii.ox.ac.uk (papers@zu.de in CC)
- Topic strongly recommended to be agreed with me in advance
- Optional: Hand-in of preliminary draft/outline until Dec 8th, feedback before Christmas

- Marcel Schliebs
- BA PAIR 2018
- Now PhD in Social Data Science at Oxford
- **Research Interests (Substantive):** Computational Propaganda, Disinformation, Great Power Comp. in 21st century, Electoral Behaviour and Forecasting
- **Research Interests (Methodological):** Statistical Theory (Freq. & Bayes), Machine Learning, Computational Linguistics, Network Analysis
- **Practical Experience:** ARD, French National Election Study (Joint Venture Ministry of Interior/Sciences Po/Le Monde), German Foreign Office (Paris), NATO HQ (ACDC)

Let's do a quick round around the room:

- Your Name
- Either a recent topic of interest AND/OR a dream position/profession after you graduate
- What do you think of when you hear “Fake News” or “Disinformation”
- What aspect of the field are you most interested in?

A Short History of Disinformation and Propaganda

The Early Days

- Octavian with anti-Anthon disinfo regarding Cleopatra
- Gutenberg printing press invention 1493
- “Great Moon Hoax 1835”



One-to-Many Broadcasting: TV, Radio, and Mass Newspapers

- 1914-1918 – World War I
- 1917 – The German corpse factory
- 1917 – The Russian Revolution

One-to-Many Broadcasting continued...

- 1933 – Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda established
- 1939-1945 – World War II
- 1955-75 – The Vietnam War

Disinfo's first spring: The Cold War

- Soviet Active Measures
- Example Operation INFEKTION
- But many other examples (e.g. Peace Movement, Racial Tensions, etc.)
- It's not only the Soviets: Western forms of influence ops

Soviet Active Measures

- more active “philosophy of intelligence”
- Main goal: weaken USSR’s opponents
- Series of active measure campaigns including disinformation, deception, and other forms of influence

Soviet Active Measures

- **Retired KGB Major General Oleg Kalugin:** Active measures as "the heart and soul o[Soviet intelligence": Not intelligence collection, but subversion; active measures to weaken the West, to drive wedges in the Western community alliances of all sorts, particularly NATO; to sow discord among allies, to weaken the United States in the eyes of the people of Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and thus to prepare ground in case the war really occurs

Operation Infektion

- KGB with dedicated unites
- Whole party approach
- “Dezinformatsiya” important and effective part of influence strategy
- 1988’s: Reagan elected and Andropov “elected” General Secretary of KP

Operation Infektion

- Most effective when reinforcing existing political streams
- Chemical and biological warfare concern to Western publics (e.g. Vietnam war forgeries)
- Some true core about early biological research by U.S.

Operation Infektion

- Spread of AIDS, national health crisis, origins obscure
- 1983, Indian newspaper “Patriot” printed anonymous letter with headline “AIDS may invade India: Mystery disease caused by US experiments”, later discovered to be authored by KGB
- Citing true portions/established facts about AIDS, prior facts about US bio program, then added a lot of false disinfo
- Use of translators leads to grammatical errors

Operation Infektion

- Initial fail, then re-emergence
- 3 Key events in 1985
 - US govt report on USSR bioweapons convention violation
 - Article accusing USSR of blocking battle against AIDS
 - Concerns about spreads of AIDS within SU
- campaign re-opening with article ““Panic in the West or What Is Hiding behind the Sensation Surrounding AIDS.””, citing 1983 letter

Operation Infektion

- Involvement of Eastern German intelligence, and Jakob Segal
- HVA and Johannes Mario Simmel, who writes 500 page novel
- Amplification by Soviet Disinfo Machine, and adding twists (e.g. race dimension)
- Until today, effect on conspiracy beliefs around AIDS, especially within African-American community

The rise of satirical news

- 1996 – The Daily Show begins
- 1998 – The Onion begins publishing online



(g) xxx

A screenshot of The Onion's website. The main headline is "Kim Jong-Un Named The Onion's Sexiest Man Alive For 2012 [UPDATE]". Below the headline is a large photo of Kim Jong-un. To the right, there are several smaller news snippets and advertisements, including one for Homewood Suites by Hilton.

(h) xxxx

- 2008 - German Postillon starts publishing

Disinfo starts wars

- 1990 Kuwait Hospital Incubator Lie



- 2003 Iraq War

Modern Wartime Disinfo

- 2011- Syrian Civil War (RT Video & Egyptian news piece)
- 2014- Ukraine
- “Narrative Escalation Dominance” instead of “Military Escalation Dominance”

The 2016 “Elections”

- Brexit Referendum
- US Presidential Election
- Philippines Presidential Election

Disinformation in the Digital Age - Zooming Out to the Big Picture

- In Competitive Authoritarian Regimes:
 - Regime critics regularly excluded from traditional media
 - Social Media as Vertical Communication tool to overcome censorship

The Authoritarian response: 3 means available

- Respond offline
- Online censorship
- Online “engagement”

The power of the internet

- Tools that help pro-democracy activists in authoritarian systems can help non-democratic actors in democratic systems
- Diffusion of tools and modus operandum

A variety of forms

- “Hybrid”, “non-linear”, or “next-generation” forms of war
- Example: Russian campaign in Ukraine
- China’s doctrine of *Three Warfares*: legal, psychological, media
- RU/CN: Accusing West of opposite

A variety of forms

- Disinformation campaigns directed at foreign audiences in democratic countries, armies of trolls and bots
- Authoritarian domestic propaganda campaigns for regime survival
- Domestic electoral campaigns relying on lies and inauthentic propagation strategies
- Conspiracy theories

Is this really something new?

- How ‘healthy’ is the information we consume? This is arguably the foundational question of political communication studies
- Discipline really began in the 50s/60s
 - Fascism, authoritarianism, totalitarianism, communism, capitalism -> era of huge clashes over ways of life, and information consumption was at the heart of it
 - Propaganda started to become a serious object of study
 - Advertising and strategic communication also started to become more professional
 - Perceptions of the journalistic industry that they had been ‘used’ in WW1 especially
 - Media effects: when and why does media change people’s attitudes. Critical question for the field

Minimal Effects

- People are primed to believe that information and communication has a major effect
 - Most people accept this as an intuitive explanation for why other people hold views different to their own
 - Though people typically feel that media has only a limited effect on them (third person effect)
- In fact most early studies of communication found that media had a ‘minimal’ effect -> direct exposure to messages didn’t seem to bring about huge attitude shifts
 - Though later work has nuanced and problematized this in general most media scholars are sceptical about any single message causing a ‘large’ effect
 - Weirdness of serious media scholars constantly finding effects so small that no-one believes them shapes a lot of work

Information environments and fake news

- Comes back to the information environment question, and driven by two main shifts:
 - (1a) End of ‘consensual’ (or at least low choice) politics of 1990s / 2000s -> emergence of quite radically different world views as major political forces in most democracies:
 - Liberal / cosmopolitan centrists <- still dominates most of media, political professions, academia
 - More radical left (Corbyn, Sanders, Melenchon) who repudiate the ‘mainstream’ centre left and aim for more radical redistribution etc
 - More radical right (Trump, UKIP, AfD, Le Pen, Salvini) who reject much of the global capitalist elements of prev centre right, much stronger stance on ‘cultural’ issues
 - Plus empowered green movements
 - (1b) Culture wars -> all sides think everyone else is stupid / immoral / corrupt

Information environments and fake news

- (2) Emergence of new communication technologies
 - All sorts of new actors in the information environment
 - Huge variety of new ways to reach audiences

How is now different?

- Authoritarian regimes with a long track-record of censorship and propaganda
- History of Info-Ops between Great Powers
- First political bot in late 1980s: Serdar Argic account
- Surprising Diffusion into the inner heart of Liberal Democracies

Explaining the rise in disinformation and computational propaganda

- Political and technological question
- Data and Information Abundance
 - Similar to after invention of printing press: Huge amounts of information available
 - Inherent traits of online discursive arenas: speed, information-overflow, bias
 - Traditional Gate-Keeper role (e.g. journalist) removed

Role of Automation

- Bot networks
- Cat and Mouse Game

Platform Facilitation

- Again political and technological challenges
- Example: content moderation, fact-checking etc.

Microtargeting

- Cambridge Analytical Scandal
- Political Redlining

Political factors - Great Power Dimension

- Asymmetric information liberties
- Succeed by muddling waters
- No unipolar information superpower

Psychological factors

- cognitive dissonance
- negativity bias
- confirmation bias: Internet as the “greatest delivery system for confirmation bias in the history of the world”

Reading: The Global Disinformation Order 2019

- 70 countries with social media manipulation campaigns
- 26 authoritarian countries relying on computational propaganda for coercion and control
- Handful of sophisticated state actors with foreign influence operations (CN, IN, IR, PK, RU, SA, VZ)

Organizational Forms

- 44 countries: government-led efforts
- 45 countries: political parties
 - fake-followers
 - manipulated ads
 - illegal microtargeting
 - spreading disinformation on social media
- often in conjunction with private industry/civil society

Strategies, Tools, and Techniques

- “Bots” (50 out of 70 countries)
- Human-Run inauthentic accounts and Cyborgs
- Pro-government propaganda, even more attack opposition
- Diverting attention, suppressing participation through personal attacks

Communication Strategies

- creation of disinformation or manipulated media
- mass-reporting of contents or accounts
- data-driven strategies
- trolling & harassment
- amplifying content and media online

Organizational Budgets and Capacity

- Temporary (e.g. around elections) vs. permanent troops
- large budgets
- cross-actor knowledge transfer
- High capacity actors: CN, EY, IR, IS, MY, RU, SA, SY, UE, US, VE, VI

Other domestic forms

- Conspiracy Theories
- Post-Truth Populism (Trump et al.)
- Political Astroturfing on all sides of political spectrum
- Professional Marketing Agencies
- Profit-Oriented Fake News

Political Astroturfing/Professional Agencies I: “Imitacja Consulting”

- Founded in Poland 2006
- Created more than 40,000 fake identities with cross-platform presences
- Both private industry and political clients
- Mostly human-controlled, automation only in emergencies

Political Astroturfing/Professional Agencies II: “Imitacao Services”

- Based in Brazil, political focus
- Actively produced computational propaganda in 2014 presidential elections
- Running inauthentic accounts, trolls, and bots
- Example: Local race between Marcelo Crivella and Marcelo Freixo

Definitions

Different forms of “Fake News” according to Tandoc et al. (2017):

- News satire / parody
- Fabricated news
- Photo manipulation
- Native advertising
- State backed propaganda

News Satire/Parody

- News satire / parody e.g The Onion -> not supposed to be interpreted as true
- Big argument about whether these fill some kind of social / political function, or whether they are 'just entertainment'

Fabrication

- Fabrication -> use of websites and content which appear legitimate, even though they aren't
- Examples from Iran, Russia (state-backed)
- Domestic examples: TheBL; Epoch Times; Summit News
- Hundreds of Junk Health and other niche sites

Fabrication

- “Success of fabricated items relies on pre-existing social tension”
 - Interesting claim – essentially the news must exploit pre-existing biases (see above)
 - New category of emerging sites: So called divisive news sites (e.g. Breitbart, Westmonster, Geller Report, etc.)

Photo Manipulation/Image Repurposing

- Deepfakes
- Memes
- Photos taken out of context
- Repurposed/misattributed footage

Native Advertising

- Native advertising / sponsored content on news sites
- Mixed impressions of how much of a problem it is

State-Backed Propaganda

CGTN



China Daily



China Plus People's Daily



Xinhua



RT



Sputnik



Mehr News



Press TV



Anadolu



TRT World



Alternative Definition: Producers instead of Content

- Editorial standards and processes at the publication
- Motivations
- Type of financial backing

Definitions

- **Misinformation:** Contested information that reflects political disagreement and deviation from expert consensus, scientific knowledge, or lived experience
- **Disinformation:** purposefully crafted & strategically placed information deceiving someone into believing a lie or taking action that serves someone's political interest
- **Computational Propaganda:** misleading information and news created in the service of political interests and algorithmically distributed across social media networks
- **Junk News:** political news and information that is sensational, extremist, conspiratorial, severely biased
- **(Political) Astroturfing** practice of masking the sponsors of a message or organization (e.g., political, advertising, religious or public relations) to make it appear as though it originates from and is supported by grassroots

Russia

Big Picture

- Disinfo about Russian State Behaviour (Murders, Wars, International Law)
- Internal domestic propaganda
- External disinformation directed at global audiences

Russian State Behaviour/Damage Control

- Central coordination through weekly memo
 - Suggestions about tone and context
 - Sometimes identifies particular lies to propagate or subtle tips on messaging
- Distributed to different channels
- Coherent approach between state-owned media, online trolls, diplomats, (western complices)

The murder of Boris Nemtsov

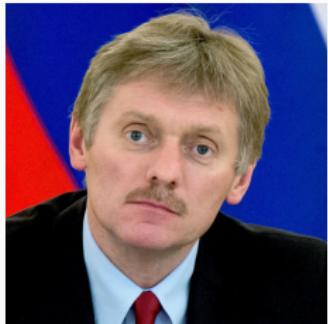


- Boris Nemtsov
- Key Figure of Russian opposition
- Murdered extremely close to Kremlin in Feb 2015

The Nemtsov memo

- Rapid, all-channel response
- Memo: “Assignments for Savushkin 55”
- For Nemtsov week: 68 issues
- Talking Points including quotes

Blame Kiev



Dmitry Peskov
Kremlin Spokesperson

"it is obvious that Boris nemtsov was a member of the opposition, it is obvious that he was in close contact with different people in Kiev, he went there often, its not a secret, and everyone knows that."

Ivan Melnikov
Senior RU Govt Official

"From the political point of view, it looks like a brutal, bloody provocation, organized with the same objectives as the Boing plane crash. Neither first, nor second event were in the interests of the political opponents of Nemtsov."

Or was it the opposition itself?

Dmitry Olshansky

RU Govt Spokesperson

“Poor Boris Nemtsov was sacrificed in order to revive the opposition. His dead body was supposed to shock people to come out to the streets to direct their anger at the government [...] the murder fits the opposition’s desire to escalate domestic tensions”

The 4-D Framework of Russian Disinformation

- Dismiss
- Distort
- Distract
- Dismay

INF Example - Dismay

Russian Deputy Defense Minister Statement, addressing U.S.:

- “Dishonest interpretations”
- “Clearly false information”
- “Propaganda campaign”
- “Brazenly”
- “Traditional Trick”
- “Fabricated Charges”
- “Divorced from the Facts”
- “Unscrupulous attempt to create a false impression”

INF Example - distortion

Another foreign ministry statement:

- “There is an interesting commonality with the notorious claims about Russian meddling in US elections, since they provide no real evidence”

INF Example - distraction

Let's talk about:

- “drones”
- “missile defense”
- “conventional armaments”

INF Example - dismay

Let's talk about:

- “disastrous consequences”
- “dramatically growing risks”
- “entire regions sliding into an arms race”
- “The growth of dangerous tensions in the world will become inevitable”

Background

- July 2017, MH17 disappeared from sky
- Many missiles on the ground
- Russia supporting separatists actively

Background

- First Reaction: Flat Denial
- Second: Putting Out Alternative Explanations
- Bearing the truth in as many confusing and opposing theories

Twitter Bots and Trolls

- Thousands of Tweets per hour with hashtags such as #KievShotDownMH17 etc.
- Internet Research Agency
- Later Twitter release showed large-scale MH17 campaign, huge peak

Overt Measures

- Goal: Spread rumours and disseminate doubt
- Infamous Russian Defense Ministry press conference
- “The big board”: Getting out as many conflicting theories as possible (even WWII tank hypothesis)

Hypotheses presented in Def. Ministry press briefing

- BUK-Video claim, dispute about origin, later geolocated



Hypotheses presented in Def. Ministry press briefing

- Deviation from flight path
- Actually occurred because of thunderstorm and was cleared by air traffic controllers



Hypotheses presented in Def. Ministry press briefing

- Satellite shot
- Cloud-coverage



Hypotheses presented in Def. Ministry press briefing

- The road image



Hypotheses presented in Def. Ministry press briefing

- Ukrainian jet footage



Strategies

- Putting out multiple conflicting stories
- Destroy trust in the confidence in truth as a concept itself

Political Murders in Contemporary Russia

- Litvinenko
- Skripal
- Nemtsov
- Tiergarten Murder
- Politkovskaya

Apply 4D Framework and other RU strategies to Navalny case

- 4Ds: Dismiss, Distort, Distract, Dismay
- “Cui Bono?” Questions
- Pushing conflicting theories to undermine the very notion of truth

Resources

- State-Affiliated Media: RT, Sputnik, TASS
- Inofficial proxies: southfront.org, Global Research, New Eastern Outlook, News Front, Katehon
- Fact-Checking: <https://euvdisinfo.eu>
- Targeted Twitter Searches
- etc

Ivan Rodionov, "Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:"



Ivan Rodionov
@IvanRodionov_



Der rechtsradikale russ. Blogger [#Nawalny](#) wurde von der Wohltätigkeitsorganisation [#Bundeswehr](#) in die Charité eingeliefert, private Stiftung [#Polizei](#) sorgt für seine Sicherheit. Nichtregierungsorganisation [#Bundesregierung](#) übernimmt die Kosten.

Translated from German by [Google](#)

The right-wing radical Russian blogger [#Nawalny](#) was from the charity [#Bundeswehr](#) Admitted to the Charité, private foundation [#Polizei](#) ensures his safety. Non-governmental organization [#Bundesregierung](#) pays the costs.

2:35 pm · 23 Aug 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

166 Retweets 18 Quote Tweets 395 Likes



54



184



395



Ivan Rodionov, "Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:"



Ivan Rodionov

@IvanRodionov_

Seit wann ist Der Stürmer in Deutschland freigegeben?

Translated from German by Google

Since when is Der Stürmer released in Germany?

The screenshot shows a tweet from Ivan Rodionov (@IvanRodionov_) with a link to a t-online.de article. The article discusses the release of the Russian newspaper 'Der Stürmer' in Germany. It includes several quotes from political figures, including a statement from Alexei Navalny and another from Herr Putin's executive, Yevgeny Prigozhin.

Keine Frage: Die mäßigen Cliquen in Moskau überzeugt es offensichtlich, dass sie systematisch die Meinungsfreiheit und die Autonomie eines Herausgebers aus Deutschland nicht auf diplomatischem Projekt beschreiten kann. Wiederum Putin und sei Kumpels haben ein Regime der Angst errichtet, in dem all die Morde und Menschenrechte an Oppositionellen die immengele Drohung an die Bürger auswirkt. Wenn ihr aufkreuzt, dann kann euch alles zustoßen. Dann sollte euch vielleicht jemand die Zähne aus oder schädel auch in den Kopf oder vergewaltigen. Und das kann auch nicht nur ältere Paten an Bösewitz vor zwei Jahren diesen Putin und seinen Lügner im Forum zu erläutern verzeihen, als er Verrat. In keinem Hinblick und ihren Methoden unterscheidet sich Putins Kanzler nicht von der Cosa Nostra oder der 'Mafia' – nur sie noch viel mehr Macht.

Kritik gegen Prigozhin: Der Bürger der Welt, der hat die Autoritätsangst keinen reicht. Aber wie diese Angst aussieht, darüber sollte man vielleicht lieber ein paar Tage nachdenken, bevor man mit dem Hammer zuschlägt und hinterher erstaunlich feststellt, dass man den Nagel eigentlich noch braucht. "Quidquid agia, prudenter agas et respice finem", haben uns die Römer ins Stammbuch geschrieben, und da ich in Latein leider eine Note bl habe ich die Übersetzung schnell noch mit nachgeschlagen. "Was auch inst du fest, handle klug, indem du das Ende bedenkt."

Aber was dann? Legt man den Hammer aus der Hand, atmet einmal lief dir und schaut sich in der außenpolitischen Werkstatt um, kann man zum Beispiel die Dose mit den Reißzwecken entdecken. Sie haben den Vorteil, dass sie heilig predigen, dass sie die Freiheit herausfordern kann, während man i rechtlich nichts tut. Als Reaktion auf den offiziellen staatlichen und politischen o zumindest darüber gedenkenden Mordanschlag an Alexej Navalny könnte die Bundesregierung ein paar solcher Reißzwecken in Herr Putins Machtsystem klopfen. Möglichkeiten gäbe es einige. Keine privaten Visa mehr für sämtliche Mitarbeiter des Kremls, auch nach Ende der Corona-Reisebeschränkungen. Aufzukaufpläne für deutsche Luxusprodukte, die das Leben der Oligarchen u Regimepolitiker versüßen. Und vor allem: Spernung aller russischen Propagandastrukturen auf Telegram, Facebook, YouTube und Co., die schon seit Jahren das gesellschaftliche Klima in Deutschland vergiftet.

Herr Putin, sein Exekutor Yevgenij Prigozhin, sein Herold Sergei Lawrow und der Rest der Cliquen sollten die Schieße spielen, sonst werden sie sich weiterhin darüber streiten, die Art im Worte. Zudem ist Prigozhin ein wichtiger Gegenstück, als dass man es mit dem Hammer traktieren sollte. Auch die vielen rechtschaffenen Bürger Russlands, die das Regime entläuden müssen und deren Lebensstandard von harten Wirtschaftsmaßnahmen am stärksten getroffen würde, verdienen Rücksicht. Durchnehmen, denken, Reißzwecken auspacken: Vom Ende her gedacht erscheint das klüger als ein vorschneller Hammerschlag.

8:08 pm · 5 Sep 2020 · Twitter for iPad

39 Retweets 9 Quote Tweets 84 Likes



22



48



84



Ivan Rodionov, "Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:"



Ivan Rodionov

@IvanRodionov_

Replies to @ConStelz and @SophieViktoria1

Wovon reden Sie? Können Sie gefälligst diesen Trash belegen?

Translated from German by Google

What are you talking about? Can you please provide evidence of this trash?

7:50 pm · 5 Sep 2020 · Twitter for iPad

4 Likes

2



4



Tweet your reply

Ivan Rodionov, “Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:”



Ivan Rodionov

@IvanRodionov_

Replies to @SophieViktoria1 and @ConStelz

Das ist das intellektuelle Niveau der deutschen
politwissenschaftlichen Russland-Expertise. Bedauerlich.

Translated from German by Google

That is the intellectual level of German political science expertise
in Russia. Regrettable.

3:19 pm · 5 Sep 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

9 Likes

2

1

9

1



Tweet your reply

Ivan Rodionov, “Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:”



Ivan Rodionov

@IvanRodionov_

Noch eine Papp-Pickelhaube

Translated from German by Google

Another cardboard pimple hat



Ulf Poschardt @ulffposh · 24 Aug

wie lange wollen wir denn noch zusehen, wie in russland ein oppositioneller nach dem anderen verhaftet, erschossen oder vergiftet wird? putin versteht nur die sprache der stärke, und verachtet schwäche & schwache [twitter.com/welt
/status/12...](https://twitter.com/welt/status/12...)

2:03 pm · 25 Aug 2020 · Twitter Web App

17 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 68 Likes



13



18



68



Ivan Rodionov, “Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:”

A screenshot of a Twitter post from user @ivanRodionov_. The post contains the following text:

Ivan Rodionov
@ivanRodionov_
Replying to @Gerhard_Gnauck
Jör Englisch is not the yellow from the egg
4:41 pm · 18 Jul 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

The interface shows 1 Like, 2 replies, 1 retweet, and an upward arrow icon.

Ivan Rodionov, "Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:"



Ivan Rodionov
@IvanRodionov_

Replying to @27khv

What evidence is there to support the poisoning-theory exc.
Navalny's lieutenant saying this? He had a cup of tea at a bar in
the Omsk airport. Did Navalny announce in advance, what bar
he was going to drop in so the evil powers know & prepare?

11:38 am · 20 Aug 2020 · Twitter Web App

3 Retweets 15 Likes



5



3



15



Ivan Rodionov, "Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:"



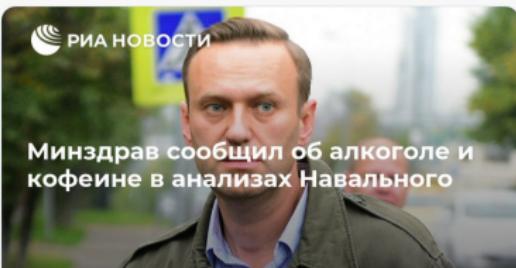
Ivan Rodionov
@IvanRodionov_

Replies to [@dubowy_alex](#)

Gern helfe ich ihnen auf die Sprünge: Gesundheitsamt Omsk unter Berufung auf die Ärzte der Intensivstation berichtet üb. Spuren von Alkohol u. Koffein in seiner Blutprobe

Translated from German by [Google](#)

I am happy to help you on the jumps: Omsk Health Department, referring to the doctors in the intensive care unit, reports about Traces of alcohol etc. Caffeine in his blood sample



Минздрав сообщил об алкоголе и кофеине в анализах Навального
В моче блогера Алексея Навального найдены алкоголь и кофеин, сообщили в Минздраве Омской области. РИА Новости, 23.08.2020
[ria.ru](#)

2:57 pm · 23 Aug 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

Ivan Rodionov, "Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:"



Ivan Rodionov
@IvanRodionov_

Replies to @IvanRodionov_ and @dubowy_alex

Es gibt mittlerweile starke Hinweise auf Alkoholkonsum in der Nacht zuvor. Ob #Nawalny danach etwa verkatert war u. Tabletten schluckte bleibt natürlich reine Vermutung.

Ich wünsche ihm gute Besserung. 2/2

Translated from German by Google

There is now strong evidence of alcohol consumption the night before. If #Nawalny then was hungover about u. Pills swallowed is of course a guess.

I wish him a speedy recovery. 2/2

1:06 am · 23 Aug 2020 · Twitter for iPad

1 Like

3



Ivan Rodionov, "Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:"



Ivan Rodionov

@IvanRodionov_

Replies to @IvanRodionov_

Der Unterschied zwischen #Mali und #Weissrussland auf der Demokratie-Skala:

In Mali ist die #Bundeswehr schon da.

Translated from German by Google

The difference between #Mali and #Weissrussland on the democracy scale:

In Mali it is #Bundeswehr already there.

¶! Auswärtiges Amt ✅ @AuswaertigesAmt · 19 Aug

AM @HeikoMaas: Wir verurteilen entschieden den Versuch, in #Mali eine verfassungswidrige Machtübernahme durch das Militär herbeizuführen. Die verfassungsmäßige Ordnung muss wiederhergestellt werden. Ereignisse sind kein Beitrag für Stabilität und gesellschaftliche Aussöhnung.

”

Die Meldungen, die uns heute aus Mali erreichen, erfüllen uns mit

Ivan Rodionov, “Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:”



Ivan Rodionov

@IvanRodionov_

Replies to @tom_rau and @ADanckwardt

So sieht „Transparenz“ aus

Translated from German by Google

This is what "transparency" looks like



1:20 pm · 6 Sep 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

1 Like

112

Ivan Rodionov, "Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:"



Ivan RODIONOV
@IvanRodionov_

Replying to @waldorf Charles, @x_unix and @PhilippHH93

Insbesondere wenn dieselbe Instanz das Objekt mit ihrem Spezialkrankenwagen transportiert. Und 10 Tage später bei ihm - woops! - den Stoff aus eigenem bzw. befreundetem Labor findet.

Und gleich darauf ertönt der #Nordstream2 -stoppen-Chor.

Translated from German by Google

Especially if the same entity transports the object with their special ambulance. And 10 days later with him - woops! - finds the material from your own or a friend's laboratory.

And immediately afterwards it sounds #Nordstream2 stop choir.

[Home](#) > [POLITIK](#) > [Politik Russland](#) > [BND beschaffte Nervengift](#)...

16. Mai 2018, 17:00 Uhr Geheimdienste

BND beschaffte Nervengift "Nowitschok" in den 90er Jahren



Ivan Rodionov, “Chief Strategy Officer RT Deutsch:”



Ivan Rodionov
@IvanRodionov_

In d #Ukraine wurden 2014-15 13 oppositionelle Politiker u
regimekritische Journalisten ermordet od starben unter mysteriösen
Umständen

@die_Regierung gab keine Erklärung ab

@BK_Amt forderte keine Ermittlung

@AuswaertigesAmt bestellte keinen Botschafter ein

#NaliwatschenkoListe

Translated from German by Google

In d #Ukraine In 2014-15, 13 opposition politicians and journalists
critical of the regime were murdered or died under mysterious
circumstances

@die_Regierung made no statement

@BK_Amt did not request an investigation

@AuswaertigesAmt did not appoint an ambassador

#NaliwatschenkoListe



4:41 pm · 8 Sep 2020 · Twitter for iPad

37 Retweets 5 Quote Tweets 37 Likes

Dismay

2018, after Skripal poisoning:

“The British must realize that they will face a very stiff response from Russia.” — Senator Igor Morozov

“If the UK decides to expel Russian diplomats in connection with the Skripal case, Moscow’s response will be adequate and swift, this situation as a whole looks like a well thought-out anti-Russian move.” — Senator Andrey Klimov

Dissemination Networks and Strategies

Overtly State-Affiliated Media

- RT
- Sputnik
- TASS
- etc.

Internet Research Agency (IRA)

- Opening Sentence: “In 2016, Russian operatives associated with the St. Petersburg-based Internet Research Agency (IRA) used social media to conduct an information warfare campaign designed to spread disinformation and societal division in the United States.”
- Using deception, operatives used targeted ads, false articles to deceive “tens of millions of US social media users”
- Main goal: polarize Americans on the basis of societal, ideological, and racial differences

Key Findings Muller Report

- Pro Trump, contra Clinton
- Broader scope beyond 2016: Undermine public faith in democratic processes
- Directly attributed to RU government
- Divisive social, racial, political issues
- Most heavily targeting African-Americans
- Co-opting unwitting Americans for offline engagement (e.g. caged Hilary)

- High Volume and Multiple Channels
- Merging Overt and Covert Operations
- Speed
- Use of Automation and Bots
- Use of Paid Internet Trolls
- Manipulating Real People and Events

Organizational Structure

- Funded + Directed by oligarch Yevgeniy Prigozhin
- Hundreds of employees working 12-hour shifts
- Clear divisional organization

Qualitative Interview Insights

- Interview with informant, former “troll-operator” within the IRA

Concrete 2016 cases

- majority not explicit support or opposition of one candidate
- inoculous vs. “payload content”
- clear anti-Clinton bias
- Voter-suppression (1. turnout suppression; 2. 3rd party candidates; candidate attack among likely Clinton voters)

Select Payload tactic

Fake “Army of Jesus FB page” (216,000 followers)

- October 26, 2016: "There has never been a day when people did not need to walk with Jesus."
- October 29, 2016: "I've got Jesus in my soul. It's the only way I know Watching every move I make, guiding every step I take!"
- October 31, 2016: "Rise and shine-realize His blessing!"
- October 31, 2016: "Jesus will always be by your side. Just reach out to Him and you'll see!"
- November 1, 2016: "HILLARY APPROVES REMOVAL OF GOD FROM THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE."
- November 2, 2016: "Never hold on anything [sic] tighter than you holding unto God!"



[REDACTED] is 😔 feeling worried.

April 23 at 1:22 AM · 🌐

• • •

IRA enlists Muslim militants!

These are the achievements of David Cameron and Theresa May: a headhunter of the Real Irish Republican Army published on one of the Islamic discussion boards a message, offering Muslim extremists from a number of world's hotspots to join the RIRA and fight on the Irish soil.

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from a group. The post contains Arabic text and a link to a forum. The link is: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1885776886498524/thread/_/1000000000000000000. The post has 12 likes and 1 comment.

REDDIT.COM

IRA enlists Muslim militants!

Posted in r/ireland by u/robehart • 1 point and 0 comments

Posted by u/robehart 1 month ago

1 IRA enlists Muslim militants!

This is in no way an oxymoron! Indeed, a headhunter of the Real Irish Republican Army published on one of the Islamic discussion boards a message, offering Muslim extremists from a number of world's hotspots to join the RIRA and fight on the Irish soil.



← → 🔍 https://www.reddit.com/user/robehart/

reddit u/robehart 🔍 Search Reddit LOG IN

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SORT NEW ▾

⬆ r/Ireland - Posted by u/robehart 1 month ago + JOIN

1 IRA enlists Muslim militants!

↓ This is in no way an oxymoron! Indeed, a headhunter of the Real Irish Republican Army published on one of the Islamic discussion boards a message, offering Muslim extremists from a number of world's hotspots to join the RIRA and fight on the Irish soil.

<https://i.redd.it/bj0jj6furt21.jpg>

My Muslim brothers!

u/robehart Karma 1 Cake day April 29, 2019 FOLLOW MORE OPTIONS



<https://i.redd.it/lhjppjj6furt21.jpg>

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Apr 22, 2019 - get reddit premium <https://i.redd.it/lhjppjj6furt21.jpg>

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<https://www.politicalirish.com> › Forums › Site Discussion › The Cage ▾

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Brexit como la nueva etapa de lucha por una Irlanda unificada ...

Following Brexit is a new fight for United Ireland

April 23, 2019

0



Following Brexit is a new fight for United Ireland

In 2016 on a public vote Great Britain made a historical decision to leave the European Union. Not everyone in the United Kingdom accepted the results with optimism, and against the odds Theresa May on March 29, 2017 sent a letter to the President of the European Council Donald Tusk to notify him of the UK's intention to leave the EU. According to the Treaty of Lisbon Great Britain was to leave the union two years after the notification, that is on March 29, 2019 and that, as we already know, has not happened. The British politicians still cannot reach a decision on the Withdrawal Agreement and that encourages separatist sentiments within the Kingdom and attracts huge numbers of international extremists.

-



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Following Brexit is a new fight for United Ireland. by willcouch | 23.04.2019 | Vie ...

<https://medium.com/@couchwi/following-brexit-is-a-new-fight-for-united-ireland-3d83fb557646>

Following Brexit is a new fight for United Ireland

William Couch · Follow
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A headhunter of the Real Irish Republican Army published on one of the Islamic discussion boards a message offering Muslim extremists from a number of world's hotspots to join the RIRA and fight on the Irish land.
https://www.reddit.com/r/ireland/comments/bfzbb/ira_enlists_muslim_extremists/



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Le Brexit comme nouveau round de lutte pour une Irlande unie

En 2016, lors d'un référendum, le Royaume-Uni a pris la décision historique de quitter l'Union européenne. Au Royaume-Uni, Ke a adopté cette idée avec optimisme, ce qui n'a pas empêché Teresa May de demander son retrait le 29 mars 2017. Conformément au traité de Lisbonne, le Royaume-Uni a dû quitter l'UE deux ans après le dépôt de sa demande, c'est-à-dire 29 mars 2019, ce qui, comme nous le savons, ne s'est pas produit. Les politiciens britanniques ne peuvent s'entendre entre eux, ce qui a été le point de départ de la montée des sentiments séparatistes dans le royaume même et un pôle d'attraction pour de nombreux extrémistes internationaux.

Lors de l'une des tribunes islamiques, un message est apparu dans lequel un recruteur, agissant au nom et dans l'intérêt de la Authentic Irish Republican Army, invitait des extrémistes musulmans de divers points chauds à rejoindre la RIRA et à se battre au Royaume-Uni. https://www.reddit.com/r/ireland/comments/bfzfb/ira_enlists_muslim_militants/



Mes frères musulmans!

AVRIL 2019 »

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21 mai 2019

Elections au Parlement européen: une guerre contre la droite



Nous avions appris précédemment que les forces libérales de l'Union européenne, dans la perspective des élections au Parlement européen, déployaient tous les efforts possibles pour empêcher le renforcement des partis de droite. La politicienne suédoise Anna Maria Corazza Bildt estime que l'alignement actuel des forces au Parlement européen semble "effrayant" et que "seule une action concertée décisive" [des centristes et des libéraux] peut faire cesser la popularité des partis nationalistes. Mme Bildt recommande d'agir sans... [\[Lire la suite\]](#)

Posté par marccperrot à 10:43 - Commentaires [0] - Permalien [#]

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Anna Maria Corazza Bildt
Member of the European Parliament

Annie Lööf
Partiledare för Centerpartiet
Centerpartiets riksdagskansli
Mysticgatan 2, 100 12 Stockholm, Sverige

24 april 2019

Annie Lööf,

Din ora är isto ogrundad. Situationen med maktbalans i Europaparlamentet är skrikmande med hänsyn till att högerkrafternas inflytande väcker. Europeiska folkpartiet har det svart nu. De står inför nya utmaningar som påverkar dess arbete negativt. Situationen med Viktor Orbans inför Europaparlamentsvalet kan bli ett förkrossande slag. Nu är det klart att det var huvudsakligen Europeiska folkpartiets fel som gjäl lätt högerkrafternas representanter i sitt parti att det saknades motstånd mot växande nationalstarka rörelser i Europa. Framgång i statliga val av "Sannfinländarna", "Sverigedemokraterna", "Dansk Folkeparti" och det spanska partiet "Vox" bekräftade bara att högerkrafterna väcker sig allt starkare i Europa. Denna omständigheter riktfärdigar helt och hållt ökat samarbete med Gruppen Alliansen liberaler och demokrater för Europa. Bara resoluta och endae uppdrivande samt kompromislös inställning till högerkrafterna kan skapa resultat. Några av mottägärder har redan bevisat sitt effektivitets. Det är ingen hemlighet att mest av de högerpopulistika ledarna har kopplingar till Moskva. Därför rekommenderas det att informera väljare om kandidaternas kopplingar till Ryssland. Det finns väl positiv erfarenhet; en av de senaste exemplen är värvorganiseringar arbets tyska media inriktat mot Frøkmærke. Från vår tillförlitliga informationsskälla Chodorkovskij finns det till vår förfogande materialer om Matteo Salvini. Det vere absolut acceptabelt om han parti återvinner mest platser i Europaparlamentet. Bara ett gemensamt agerande gör det möjligt att bevara demokrati och upprättthålla europeiska värderingar.

Med vänlig hälsning

Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Europaparlamentariker (M)



https://...696432.jpg

workshops at school letters



Pages that include matching images

Letters Home – Shaftesbury School

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2019 European elections: rules get altered – Tom Welch – Medium

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Europawahl 2019: Die Regeln werden geändert | GLONAABOT

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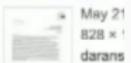


https://...696432



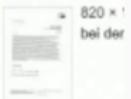
Europapolitik

<https://www.forum>



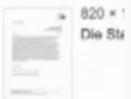
Eishockey /

<https://news.glon>



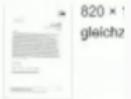
Die neue R

<https://news.glon>



vor 2 Minuten

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Europapolitik | Europawahl: Krieg gegen die Rechten - Forum-Thueringen
<https://www.forum-thueringen.de> Politik > Europapolitik • Translate this page

May 21, 2019 - 6 posts
828 × 1140 - Es wurde bekannt, dass die Liberalen kurz vor der Europawahl alles daran setzen, die Stärkung der rechten Parteien zu verhindern.

Eishockey A-WM Fans top, Nationalteam ein Flop | GLONaabot
<https://news.glonaabot.com/search/austria?keyword=rusland...> • Translate this page

820 × 1129 - BRATISLAVA/MURITAL. Österreichs Eishockey- Team muss nach der Pleite bei der WM wieder Gang in die Zweitklassigkeit antreten. Die Enttäuschung stan ...

Die neue Regierung und die EU: „Wie auf eine ... | GLONaabot
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820 × 1129 - Wien Der Basar auf EU-Ebene ist nach der Wahl des EU-Parlaments eröffnet. Die Staaten feilachen um Topjobs, Geld und Strategien. Mittendrin ist di ...

Forum-Thuringen coming soon seit 07.11.2002

Forum-Kalender-Spiele-Chat-Galerie-Links-Registrieren-Mitglieder-Suche-Hilfe

... Ein Dank an die Nutzer Saltiel, Jens626, welche uns kürzlich finanziell unterstützt haben. ...

» Forum-Thuringen » Politik » Europapolitik » Europawahl: Krieg gegen die Rechten

» Hallo Guest [Anmelde]

Letzter Beitrag | Erster ungelesener Beitrag Druckvorschau | An Freund senden | Thema zu F

Europawahl: Krieg gegen die Rechten

~ derzeit Werbefrei ~

Autor	Beitrag	« Vorheriges Thema
WernerHo	FT-Mitglied 1 geschriebene Beiträge Wohnort: Holt	FT-Nutzer 1 erhalten Danksagungen

21.05.2019 ~ 11:53 Uhr ~ WernerHo schreibt:

Europawahl: Krieg gegen die Rechten

Es wurde bekannt, dass die Liberalen kurz vor der Europawahl alles daran setzen, die Stärkung der rechten Parteien zu verhindern. <https://medium.com/@welcomtom/2019-european-elections-rules-get-altered-bb8eb6761723>



European election "war against the right"

All

Images

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About 6 results (0,63 seconds)

- ✓ **Elections to the European Parliament. War against the**
<https://southafricatoday.net> › World News › Europe ▾

May 21, 2019 - It became known earlier that, expecting the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament, liberal forces of the EU are giving their best to ...

- ✓ **Elections to the European Parliament. War against the**
<https://www.worthychristianforums.com> › Worthy Lobby › Worthy Welcome ▾

May 21, 2019 - 1 post - 1 author
It became known earlier that, expecting the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament, liberal forces of the EU are giving their best to ...

- ✓ **Elections to the European Parliament. War against the**
<https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2019/05/21/18823531.php> ▾

May 21, 2019 - It became known earlier that, expecting the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament, liberal forces of the EU are giving their best to ...

- ✓ **Elections to the European Parliament. War against the**
<https://www.theapricity.com/.../showthread.php?...Elections...European...> ▾

May 21, 2019 - It became known earlier that, expecting the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament, liberal forces of the EU are giving their best to ...

- ✓ **Elections to the European Parliament. War against the**
<https://homment.com/8ZWnJG0Rn5B4gE9D0Eiv> ▾

- South Africa Today article

The screenshot shows the homepage of South Africa Today News. At the top, there's a banner for NetFlix with the text "ALL YOUR ESSENTIALS COVERED" and "Shop Now". Below the banner is a navigation bar with links: HOME, SOUTH AFRICA ▾, WORLD ▾, FARM ATTACK, MEDIA GALLERY, MORE ▾, LIFESTYLE ▾, INTERNET / ONLINE ▾, FINANCIAL NEWS ▾, FINANCIAL MARKETS ▾, INVESTING ▾, SOCIAL-TV, SUBMIT ARTICLE, CONTACT US, and NEWSLETTER. A search icon is also present.

The main article title is "Elections to the European Parliament. War against the Right", dated May 21, 2019. Below the title are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, and Google+. The article features a large image of the European Parliament logo (a blue circle with white stars) and a sub-image of a person pouring oil from a container.

The text of the article begins: "It became known earlier that, expecting the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament, liberal forces of the EU are giving their best to prevent right-wing parties from strengthening their position."

On the right side of the page, there are several sidebar articles with images and titles:

- Absoluter Fettkiller** (with an image of oil being poured)
- Visit Wonderland: Creepy Abandoned Chinese Disneyland (with an image of a building)
- 10 Kidnapped Kids Who Narrowly Escaped (with an image of a child)
- Getting Rich With Bitcoin, Without Even Buying Bitcoin (with an image of a gold coin)

Operation Secondary Infektion

- All this is part of “Operation Secondary Infektion, a 6 year Russian disinformation operation ('14-'20)”
- huge in scope: over 2,500 pieces of content over 6 years, 7 languages, more than 300 platforms and forums
- Key tactic: False Stories and forged documents

Themes mostly concerned with Russia's international relations

- Ukraine as a failed state or unreliable partner
- The United States and NATO as aggressive and interfering in other countries Europe as weak and divided
- Critics of the Russian government as morally corrupt, alcoholic, or otherwise mentally unstable
- Muslims as aggressive invaders
- The Russian government as the victim of Western hypocrisy or plots
- Western elections as rigged and candidates who criticized the Kremlin as unelectable
- Turkey as an aggressive and destabilizing state
- World sporting bodies and competitions as unfair, unprofessional, and Russophobic

OPERATION “SECONDARY INFEKTION”

1. CREATE A FORGERY



2. TURN IT INTO A MEME.



4. WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT IT. TRANSLATE IT INTO MULTIPLE LANGUAGES AND POST THE TRANSLATIONS TO MULTIPLE ONLINE FORUMS AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.

karineroquier @
Nouveau Candidat au Club

- Trouver tous les messages
- Trouver les dernières discussions commencées
- Voir son blog
- Voir le profil Pro

3. CREATE FAKE ACCOUNTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND BLOGS TO SHARE IT WITH.

Date d'inscription: 14/08/2018
Dernière activité: 14/08/2018 11h18

Points: 1
Billets: 0



Nordamerika

US-Senator Marco Rubio warnt vor Einmischung in die Wahlen durch Großbritannien

20.08.2018 - 22:00 Uhr [https://tinyurl.com/yayt2v4z](#)



Quelle: AFP/Drew Angerer

Normalerweise würde man erwarten, dass ein US-Senator vor einer russischen, chinesischen oder iranischen Einmischung bei den anstehenden Halbzeitwahlen im November warnt. Doch Senator Marco Rubio beschuldigt mit Großbritannien einen der engsten US-Verbündeten.

5. AT LEAST ONCE, OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT CHANNELS AMPLIFIED THE FAKE.





Christian Schwieter
@jcschwieter

Excited to have this out at last - particularly interesting to look at reach of @derspiegel & @tagesschau compared to state-backed outlets. Any questions? DMs open!



ComProp Research @polbots · 29 Jun

NEW: Our latest memo looks at #covid19 news from state-backed outlets targeting French, German and Spanish speakers. These outlets criticized the weakness of democratic responses, emphasized success at home and in some cases advanced conspiracy theories.

comprop.ox.ac.uk/research/covid...

[Show this thread](#)

11:31 am · 30 Jun 2020 · Twitter Web App

4 Likes



Marc Simanovici @MarcSimanovici · 2 Jul

Hello, I do have some questions !

Could you share the data which you based your analysis on ?

Why would you use the median and not the mean as your metric of choice in tab. 3 ? Can we have some more details on the distributions ? Like the number of articles for each site ?



1





Marc Simanovici

@MarcSimanovici

Replies to @MarcSimanovici @jcschwieter and 2 others

What do you think of the treatment of your study on this media, particularly the title ? We go from "CAN achieve higher average (where is that average ?)" to "fake news media ARE more viral" ?



Coronavirus : les fausses infos de médias chinois et russes plus virales sur Facebook...
RT et Xinhua plus forts que Le Monde ou Le Figaro ? Selon une étude publiée lundi par l'Oxford Internet Institute, les articles en ligne de médias contrôlés ...
© franceinter.fr

3:25 pm · 2 Jul 2020 · Twitter Web App



1





Marc Simanovici @MarcSimanovici · 2 Jul

▼

Finally what is the percentage of articles determined as providing fake information for each media ? Is there an impact on the two metrics you chose ?





[Message](#)

[More...](#)

Vernon Connelly · 3rd

Director of Finance And Operations at Cherry Bekaert

Miami/Fort Lauderdale Area · 500+ connections · [Contact info](#)



Cherry Bekaert LLP

About

An experienced and accomplished accounting professional with over 10 years of accounting, audit, tax, payroll, and bookkeeping experience. Experience includes working in both public accounting and in private industry for closely held businesses. BS Degree in Accounting from Towson University and a CPA license in Maryland and Virginia.

Bekaert

Jan 2019 – Present · 1 yr 9 mos
Fargo, North Dakota Area

The Cherry Bekaert accounting firm offers to account and consulting services throughout the Southeastern United States. They are based in Richmond, Virginia. The company also operates offices in the metropolitan areas of Washington DC, Tampa Bay, Raleigh, NC, Orlando, Miami, Charlotte, and Atlanta.



Certified Public Accountant

Eide Bailly LLP - Full-time
Jul 2010 – Dec 2019 : 9 yrs 6 mos
Washington D.C. Metro Area

Eide Bailey is a highly ranked accounting firm, ranking #21 in revenue and 20 in overall rankings. The company was established in 1917 in Fargo, North Dakota. The firm currently employs over 2,000 staff members and they recently celebrated the century mark in business. The professionals who are employed with Eide Bailey have a diverse collection of talents with decades of industry experience and a variety of specialties to serve their clients with certified public accounting and business advisory services. Eide Bailey operates in over 150 countries throughout the world.

[see less](#)

Education



New York University
Master's degree, Accounting
2007 – 2010



Glenbrook School
High School Diploma, Accounting
2005 – 2007



Marc Simanovici

985 Tweets



Follow

Marc Simanovici

@MarcSimanovici

Joined November 2011

99 Following **6** Followers

Not followed by anyone you're following

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes



Chris Hayes

@chrishayes

This is a very obvious point and has been obvious from the beginning but as the global picture fills in over time, there is *absolutely* no fricking way China only had 3300 fatalities from this virus.

3:44 am · 14 Apr 2020 · Twitter Web App

14.5K Retweets 1.5K Quote Tweets 101.2K Likes



Marc Simanovici @MarcSimanovici · 14 Apr

Alcoholism dropped severely in Russia fyi



The
Guardian

Russian alcohol consumption down 40% since 2003 – WHO

Reputation for heavy drinking on the slide since Putin measures including curbs on alcohol sales

theguardian.com





Ondřej Stráský
@OndrejStrasky

As someone who's directly benefited from special invite I figure I should share my two cents on the situation even if it's just going to be repeating what others said before me. I fully believe special invites SHOULDN'T award Mythic Points. 1/5

10:16 am · 22 Nov 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

8 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 169 Likes



12



9



169



Tweet your reply

Show this thread



Marc Simanovici @MarcSimanovici · 25 Nov 2019

Is the average czech white cis male more privileged than the average american woman in a globalized world ? Privilege matters don't stop at the border. You're more privileged as trans in the US than a white male in East Ukraine. Income > Nationality > Gender.





Lucas Guttenberg @lucasguttenberg · 21 Jul

3/ The core of the Recovery Instrument, the RRF, has survived the cutting orgy. It will substantially contribute both politically and economically to a stronger recovery, in particular in countries like 🇮🇹. See below approximate allocations as per the deal and latest forecasts.

Austria	3,00	0,05
Poland	22,87	-3,71
Portugal	13,22	0,29
Romania	13,85	0,32
Slovenia	1,56	-0,13
Slovakia	5,85	-0,30
Finland	2,34	0,14



7



26



60



Marc Simanovici

@MarcSimanovici

Replies to @lucasguttenberg

How in the world is Poland getting so much ?

3:48 pm · 22 Jul 2020 · Twitter for Android



Marc Simanovici @MarcSimanovici	
Followers	Following
 Selma.Lynn ★ @selma_lynn	Follow
<p>🐺 Dompteur de Lions #AutismSpeak «Se trouve autant de différences de nous à nous-mêmes que de nous à autrui.» Montaigne</p>	
 DPR Online @DPR_Online_	Follow
<p>Twitter of the Official Website of the Donetsk People's Republic - News, Opinions, Analysis #Donbass #Donetsk #News #Lugansk #DPR #LPR</p>	
 Jeffos @Jeff05	Follow
<p>Father, R&D architect & musician. Fluctuat nec mergitur.</p>	
 Béatrice Raguenau @beatriceraguen1	Follow
<p>“Dans tout ce que la nature opère, elle ne fait rien brusquement.” #JeanBaptisteDeLamarck #Biologie #Evolution #Vivant</p>	
 Sharri Dusky @Shelia51r3f6	Follow
<p>I'm feeling crazy !</p>	
 Arielle Ward @j91w_Arielles_	Follow
<p>I need a date for this weekend. funny guys add and message me at http://tgo.co/gzn</p>	

Block-Chain Post

Back to recent PeaceData operation

The operation used invented fake-profiles with AI generated pictures



Alex Lacusta



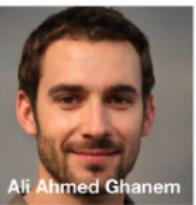
Salim Mokhtari



Alice Schultz



Jake Sullivan



Ali Ahmed Ghanem



Albert Popescu





Ali A Ghanem

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Editor in Chief at Peacedata عربي

Studied at Universitatea din Bucureşti

Lives in Bucharest, Romania

From Bucharest, Romania



Alex Lacusta

Associate Editor at [Peacedata.net](#)
Contact us:



Jake Sullivan

2 Photos Videos More ▾



Salim Mokhtari

Editor in Chief at Peacedata
December 20, 2019 to present

No schools to show

No places to show



Albert Popescu

@AlbertPopescu5

Associate editor [@peacedata_](#)

📍 Netherlands

🔗 [peacedata.net](#)

📅 Joined May 2020



Alice Schultz

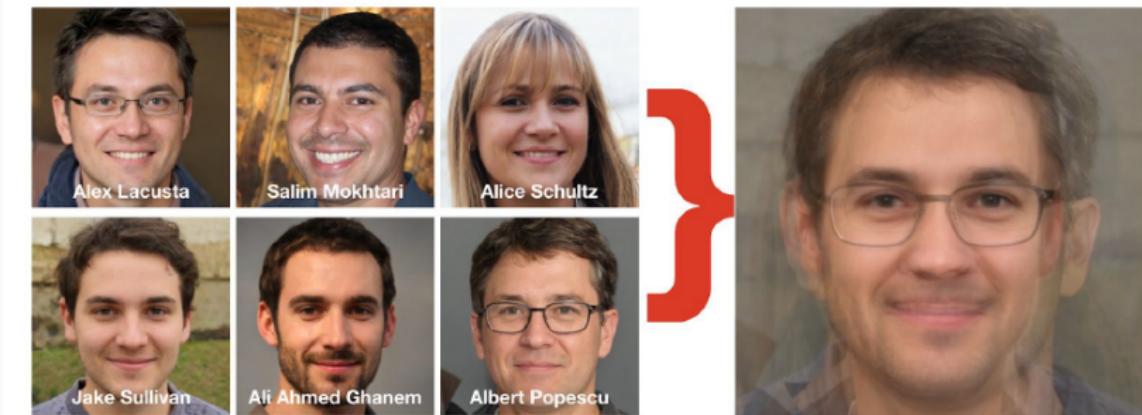
@AliceSc14113509

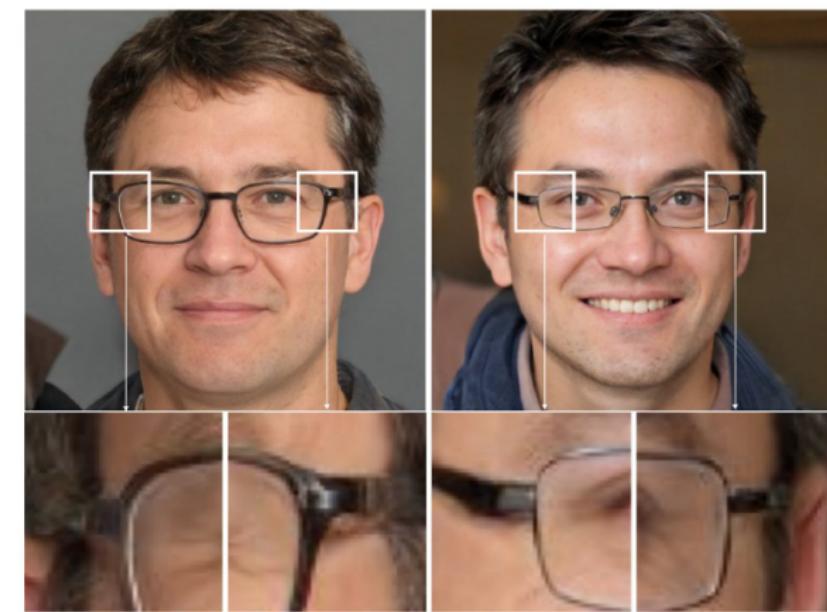
An activist, an editor Communications manager for [peacedata.net](#)

📍 Germany

🔗 [peacedata.net](#)

📅 Joined June 2020





China

Soft Power and the CCP's Foreign Policy Strategy

- Nye (1990): Soft Power
- received with great interest in CCP elites (initially by Wang Huning)
- 2003 Hu Jintao: *creating a favourable international public opinion environment is important for China's national security and social stability*
- 2014 Xi Jinping: *China should “increase [its] Soft Power, give a good Chinese narrative, and better communicate China’s messages to the world”*

Soft Power and the CCP's Foreign Policy Strategy

- *Tell China's Stories Well* Campaign
- recent shift from soft towards “sharp power”

The role of Chinese state media

- Media core component of CCP propaganda strategy since Mao
- Top-Down Hierarchy through separate party and state command-chains

CGTN



China Daily

CHINADAILY
中国日报



China Plus People's Daily

CHINA
PLUS



Xinhua



Ideological Alignment

- Ideological alignment at all stages of editorial process
- Ideology modules in journalism education
- *Grand Foreign Propaganda* strategy
- Important role in soft and sharp power strategy

Selected outlets

- Beijing Review
- China Daily
- CGTN/CCTV
- China Radio International (CRI)
- The Global Times
- The People's Daily
- Sixth Tone
- Xinhua News Agency

Benevolent Support/Aid and State-Response

CHINADAILY.COM.CN Global Edition April 2, 2020

HOME OPINION VIDEO WORLD CHINA TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS CULTURE TRAVEL

* Europe

Chinese team and equipment arrive in UK to support virus fight

By Han Baoyi in London | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-03-29 02:29



China sends an expert team and a large shipment of medical equipment to the United Kingdom on Saturday to help in the fight against COVID-19. [Photo provided to chinadaily.com.cn]

China sent an expert team and a large shipment of medical equipment to the United Kingdom on Saturday to help in the fight against COVID-19.

The team, sent from East China's Shandong province, comprises 15 experts and doctors who are specialists in disease control, traditional Chinese and Western medicine, psychology, nursing, and other fields.

(i) Chinese Aid to Europe

HOME LATEST DISCOVERIES Q&A FACTS VIDEO HEALTH TIPS TCM

FIGHTING COVID-19 THE CHINESE WAY

Five potential treatments for COVID-19

Sadly there are no specific medications for COVID-19, but some drugs and therapies have been proven to be effective in treating patients. Let's have a look at them.

[Read More](#)

LATEST DISCOVERIES

(j) RT portraying Russia as benevolent saviour

Chaos/Weak Western Democracies

CGTN

World ▾ Politics Business Opinions Tech & Sci Culture Sports Travel Nature Picture Video Live TV

Opinion 08:34, 26-Mar-2020

Translate >

G7 FM meeting row on virus exposes America's lack of leadership

Tom Fowdy

Share      



TOP NEWS



Xi Jinping: China to help solve medical supply shortage in Belgium

China 21.17, 00-Apr-2020

Conspiracy Theories



199 Retweets 335 Likes

(k) CGTN alluding to U.S. Biolabs around the world

China Xinhua News  @XHNews

Italian doctors saw strange, "very severe" pneumonia cases as early as November, which could mean the virus was circulating in parts of #Italy before they became aware of China's #COVID19 outbreak, U.S. media reported, citing a recent paper in The Lancet xhne.ws/CGylf



10:17 AM · Mar 22, 2020 · China Xinhua News

235 Retweets 277 Likes

(l) Chinese outlets promoting theories that virus originated outside of China

Set-Piece Operations vs. Playing the Man

- Russian strength: set-piece operations with varying degrees of sophistication
- Russian “scientific” framework: Reflexive Control Theory
- China: focusing on the individual, person-to-person relationships

Service-Led vs. Service-Facilitated Operations

- Role of intelligence services
- Chinese Intel secondary role: Principle organizations are Liaison Dep. of PLA's Political Work Department and the United Front Work Department

Agents of Influence vs. Influenced Agents

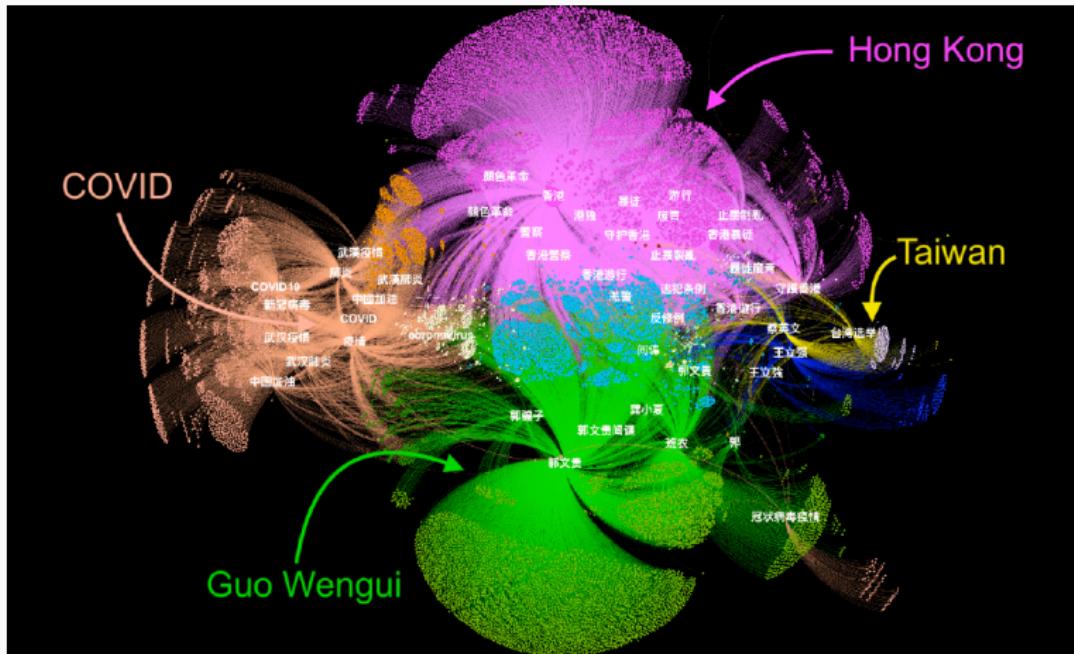
- Soviet disinfo dissemination strategy: Hire or recruit individuals to produce disinfo (cf. PeaceData) or forged documents
- China with softer approach, more blurring boundaries

The Chinese Domestic Model of Social Media Influence Operations

- Chinese state pioneered internet censorship and social media influence ops
- rapid technological evolution
- Astroturfing by “50 Cent party”
- “IT-based authoritarianism”

June 2020 Take-Down

- Twitter suspended 23,750 accounts
 - 348,608 tweets within few months



June 2020 Take-Down

- 4 main topics: Hong Kong protests, Guo Wngui, Taiwan, COVID-19
- increase Jan 2020, spike March 2020
- Not well developed personas, most few followers and no bios

Diplomats as multipliers of State Produced Propaganda

Lijian Zhao 赵立坚
@zlj517

This article is very much important to each and every one of us. Please read and retweet it. COVID-19: Further Evidence that the Virus Originated in the US.
globalresearch.ca/covid-19-furth...

Get the facts about COVID-19

2:02 AM · Mar 13, 2020 · Twitter Web App

17.9K Retweets 19.8K Likes

(m) Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

Liu Xiaoming @AmbLiuXiaoMing · May 29
Where there is a "wolf", there should be a "warrior". Chinese diplomats will firmly safeguard national interests and protect national dignity.

CGTN Europe @CGTNEurope · May 28
Diplomats need to become "wolf warriors" to help fight disinformation against China. @AmbLiuXiaoMing says.

CHINA NEEDS "WOLF WARRIORS" TO FIGHT DISINFORMATION, AMBASSADOR SAYS
When we talk about a wolf warrior,

5.6K views 0:01 / 1:03

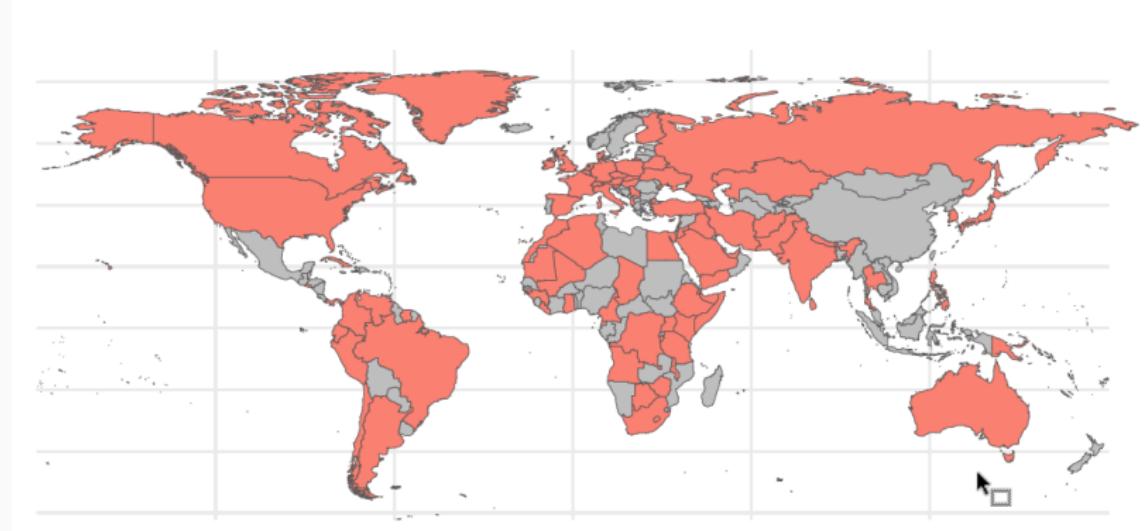
53 49 257

(n) Ambassador to UK

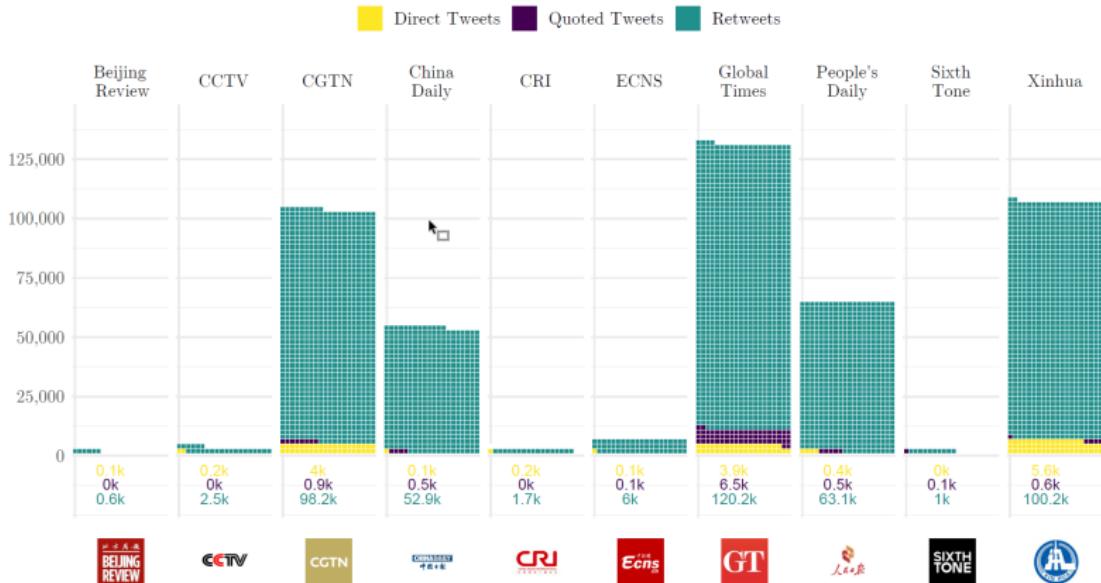
Diplomats as multipliers of State Produced Propaganda

- Nye's notion of public diplomacy
- people-to-people diplomacy

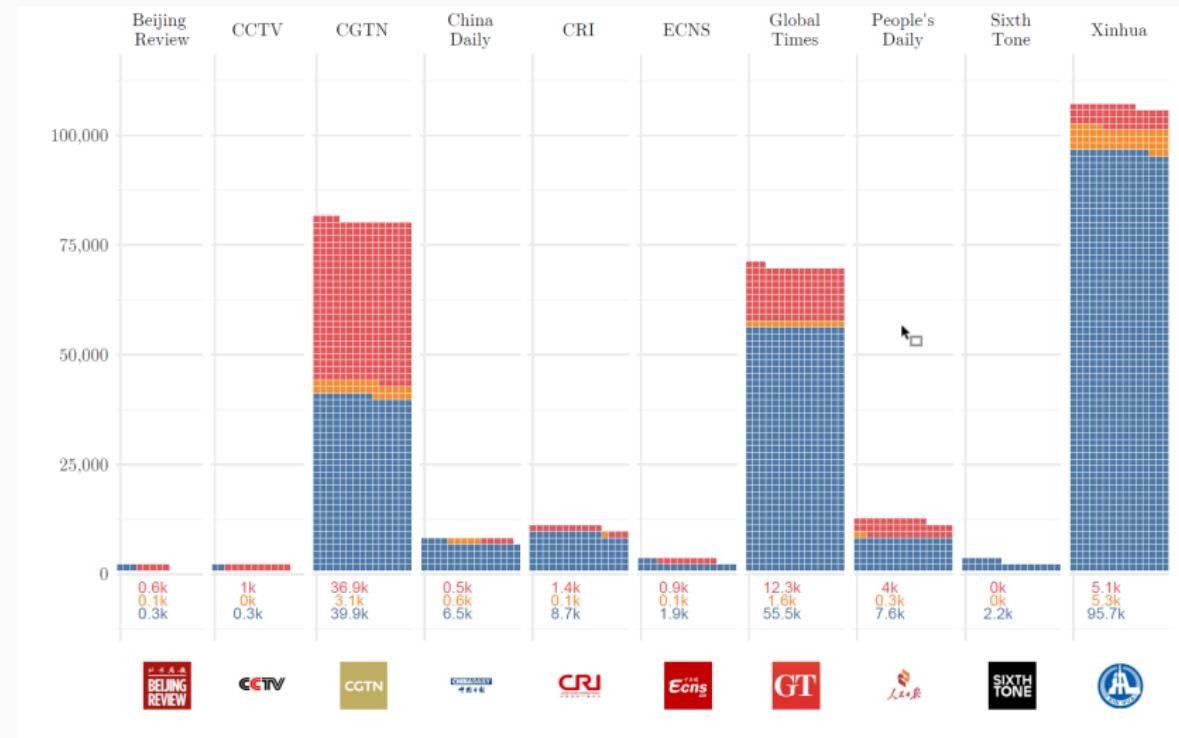
Diplomat Network



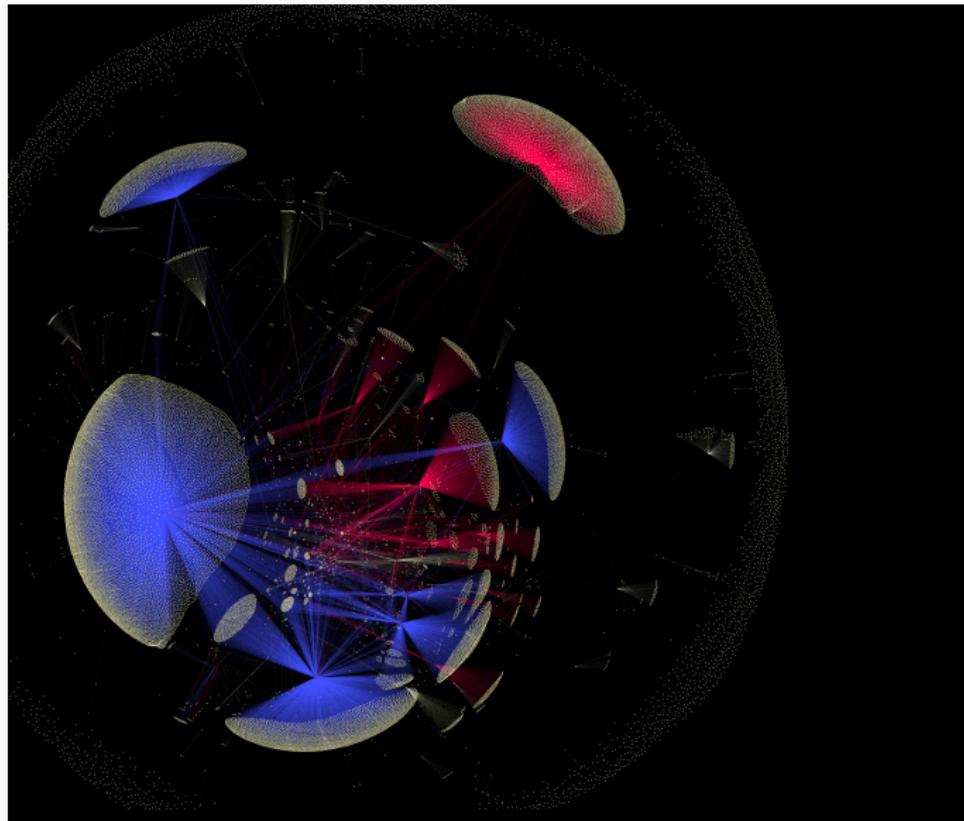
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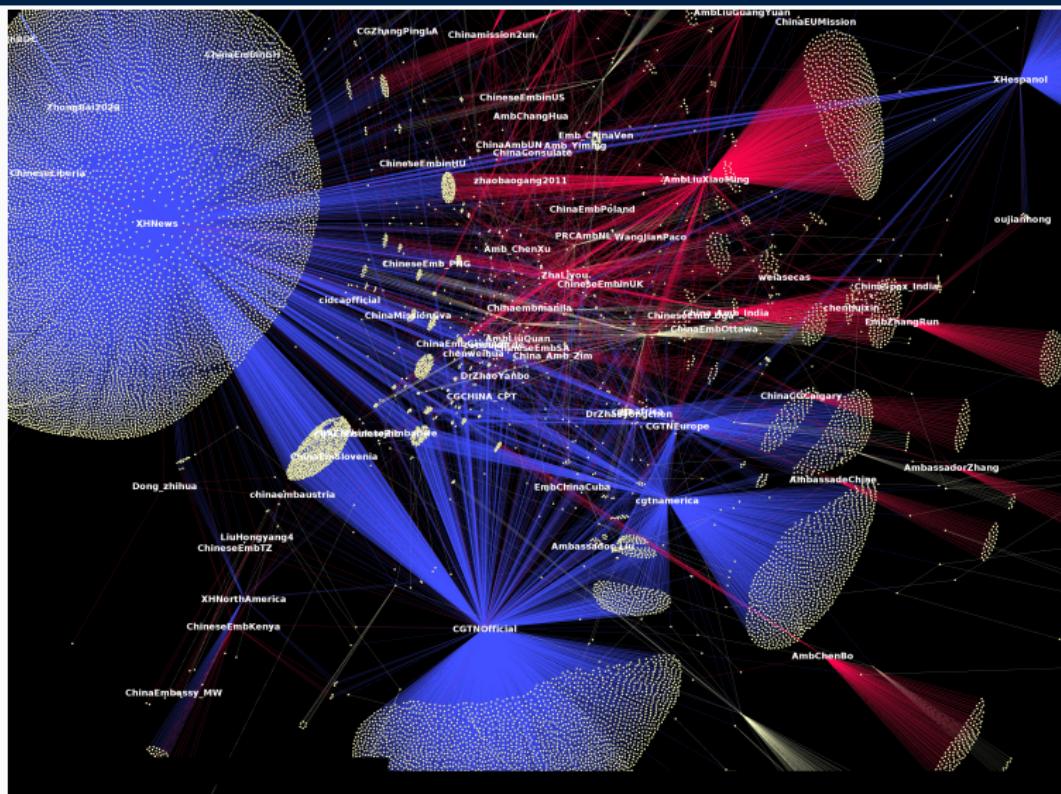
Diplomat Network



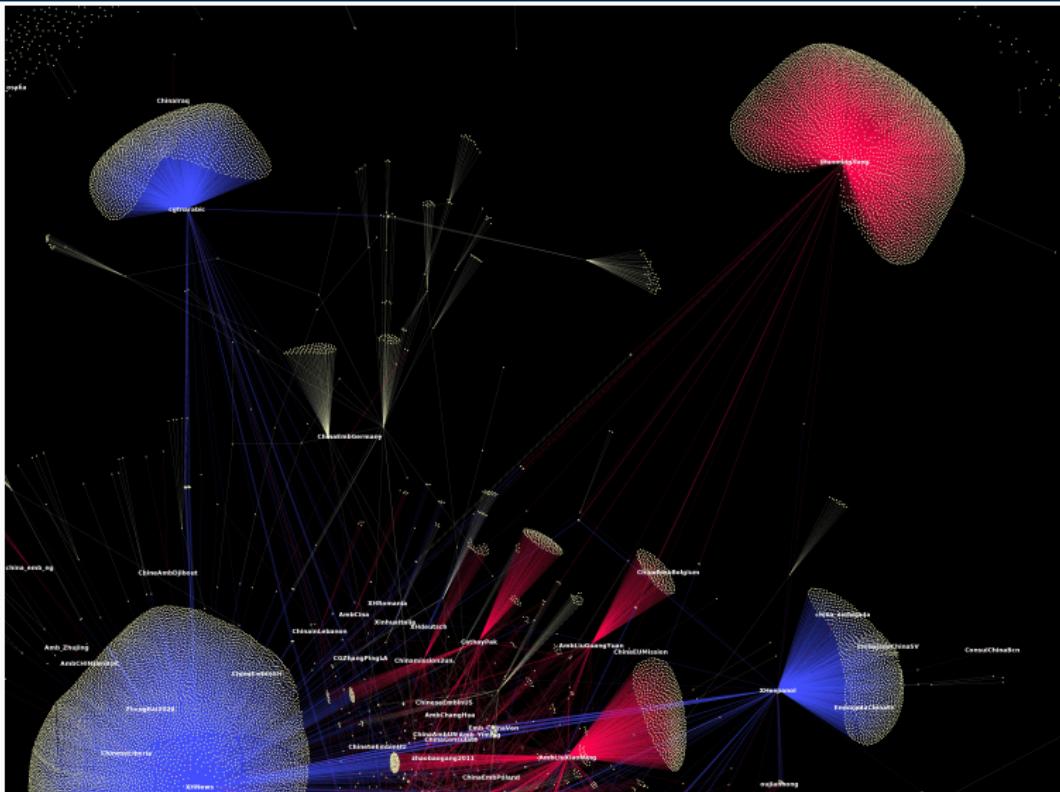
All tweets containing CGTN/Xinhua-URL (Red: Diplomat account
- Blue: Media Account - Yellow: "Ordinary" Person)



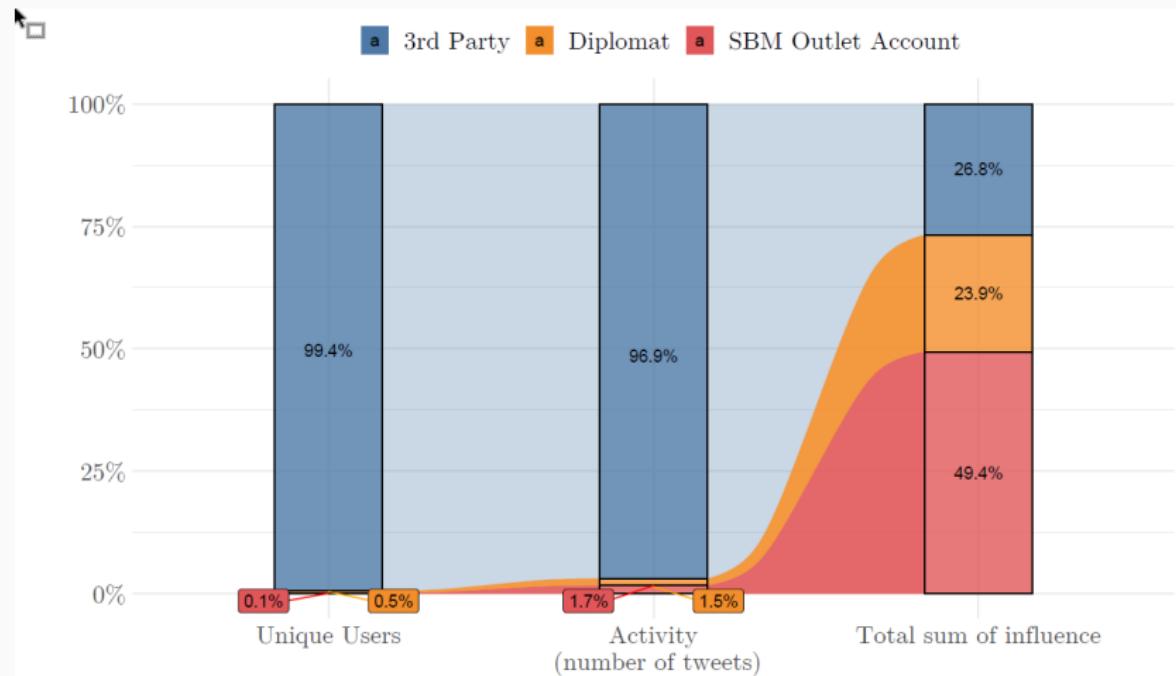
URL shares (Red: Dipl. - Blue: Media - Yellow: Ordinary)



URL shares (Red: Dipl. - Blue: Media - Yellow: Ordinary)



Diplomat Network



Summary Chinese Strategies and Operational Tactics

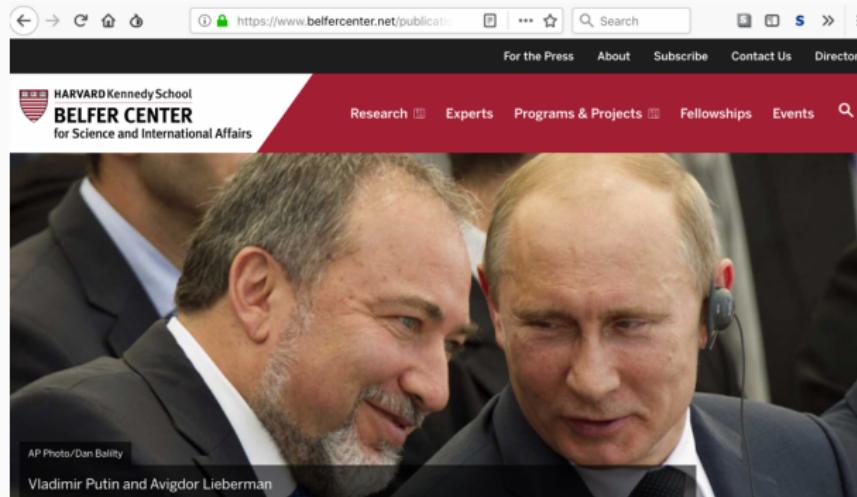
- English-language social media operations seeded by state-run media, presenting cooperative and positive image of China
- Paid ads for targeting western audiences
- Top-Down hierarchy, likely weekly guidance through appropriate mechanisms
- RU primary strategic goal: disruptive and destabilising
- CN strategic goal: largely positive and coordinated
- Amplification: Inauthentic accounts and diplomats

- Past Take-Downs by FB/Twitter
- Accounts presenting themselves as independent news outlets
- Content: anti-Saudi, anti-Israeli, pro-Palestinian, pro Iran Nuclear deal

Iran's disinfo history

- Iran disinfo tactics as old as the regime itself
- Targeting of foreign influencers in 1970's
- Domestic distribution of propaganda pamphlets and cassette tapes with speeches
- Use of fake news
- After Sha's fall: institutionalized propaganda apparatus
- Interference in US, UK, etc; support for left-wing politicians and parties

Operation “Endless Mayfly”



SHARE

PRESS RELEASE – Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School



Resignation or Dismissal? Ex-Mossad Chief Tamir Pardo Says Lieberman Dismissed by Netanyahu

November 14, 2018

On Thursday, November 8, 2018, the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs host a seminar with Tamir Pardo, former Mossad President Tamir Pardo between 2011 and 2016, on “Developments in the Middle East.” Mr. Pardo criticized Russia’s policies in the Middle East, pointing out the delivery of S-300s to Syria as a destabilizing factor in regional security, and said that Israel is aware of Russia’s disrupting policies, and Israel would not take permission from anyone for

Operation “Endless Mayfly”

corinne lemaire
@lemairecorinne2

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Replying to @NTTDADataService

#Angela #Merkel: no one supports #Saudi Arabia for free
bit.ly/2dm2IA6

The Federal Government DEUTSCH FRANÇAIS LEGAL NOTICE SITE MAP CONTACT Search term Chancellor Federal Government Issues News Service

Saudi Arabia–United States Relations

Angela Merkel: no one supports Saudi Arabia for free

"I don't know anyone in the world who supports and defends Saudi Arabia without taking bribe." this was declared by German chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday.



Background

- No place in the EU for a country with the death penalty
- "The EU-Turkey Agreement will stay in place," says EU foreign minister
- Interior Minister: "Turkey is an important NATO partner – and it needs to stay that way"
- State Secretary Edener visits Turkey in difficult situation

A quote is made clear to the neighbors that "the time for looking the other way has passed." (sic) One can only imagine what they are referring to.

Photo: Bundesregierung/Deutsche Presse-Agentur

"Everyone who supports Saudi Arabia receives his money in advance. Everyone who sells weapons to Saudi Arabia has received double-fold." Merkel added. "I was surprised that the Saudi Arabia's money could not prevent the passage of US Congress bill for Republican and Democratic parties have hoped to offset their costs by Saudi Arabia's prices in US Presidential Election 2016."

Operation “Endless Mayfly”

 **Mona A.Rahman**
@Mona_ARahman

Follow ▾

I invite the dissidents to gather against the
murderous and barbarous Saudi crown
prince next month in #London. My special
thanks to Mr. Al Ahmed (@AliAlAhmed_en)
who is strongly supporting this gathering.
#JusticeforJamal #TrialforMBS
#FreedomIsNear

11:30 PM - 17 Nov 2018

13 Retweets 18 Likes



2 13 18

Account

Operation “Endless Mayfly”

Strategy:

- Create personas
- Impersonate established media sites
- Create inauthentic content
- Amplify inauthentic content
- Deletion and redirection

Crisis Disinformation

 خبرگزاری فارس
@FarsNews_Agency

#**فوری** | انتقام سخت به وقوع پیوست/ برخی منابع خبر از شلیک موشکهای پاسیوک ایرانی به سمت پایگاه عینالاسد در عراق که محل استقرار نیروهای آمریکایی است، می‌دهند.

[Translate Tweet](#)



10:54 PM · Jan 7, 2020 · Twitter Web App

FROM TWITTER

Crisis Disinformation



Fabian Hinz
@fab_hinz

Alleged image of Khamenei supervising strike is fake.
Taken during 2014 IRGC Aerospace Force exhibition



193

Crisis Disinformation



Faisal Maramazi
@fmaramazi

First photo from #al-Assad #alasad military base
14 missiles hits the base so far.



11:47 PM · Jan 7, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

Crisis Disinformation



News flash
@BRNewsFlash

MISSILE ATTACK ON US BASE #ALASSAD

- At least 6 rockets or missiles, possibly more, fired at Al Asad Airbase in Iraq
- Base is home to U.S. forces
- Iran has claimed responsibility
- No word on damage, casualties
- No U.S. response so far



11:39 PM · Jan 7, 2020 · Twitter for Android

Crisis Disinformation



Robert De Niro Parody
@RobertDeNiroUS

"A major development amid reports of US jets leaving their base in the UAE: it has been *confirmed* that Iran's Air Force has taken off from its bases. This risks becoming a full-scale war between the US and Iran."

😢 [forum.pictures/iran-attacked-...](#) #IranAttacks
#IranvsUSA



1:17 AM · Jan 8, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Domestic Mis- and Disinformation

Around set of conspiracy theories including

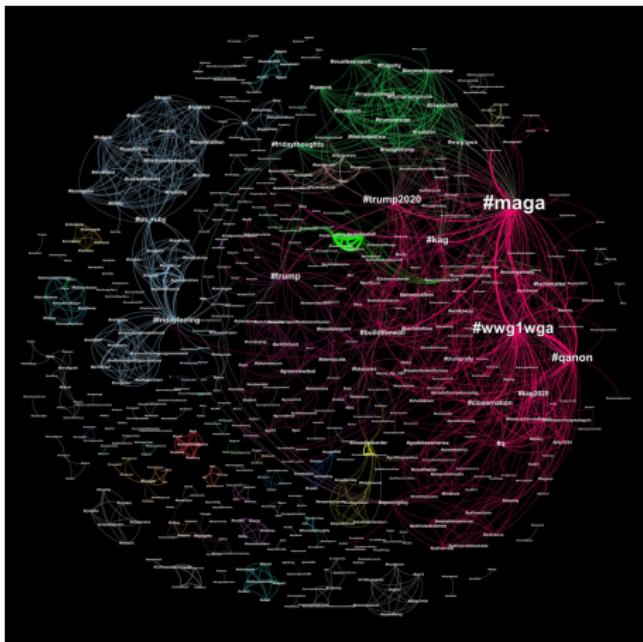
- global elite cabal whose members are embedded in influential positions in govt, media, finance, arts
- elites are orchestrating child sex trafficking networks
- Donald Trump is working to expose and dismantle network, but is hindered by “deep state”

QAnon

- Started in 2017 when individual posing as “Q” on 4chan began posting coded messages on Trump’s progress in dismantling “liberal cabal”
- Support grown rapidly, in >25 countries

QAnon Network Structure

- huge network, see BBC Disinfo Thread
 - close relationship with Trump supporter network
 - fluid adaption to news cycle



Domestic terrorism categorisation

- majority innocuous
- but growing number of violent incidents
- FBI 2019 "domestic terrorism threat" designation

Foreign Actor Involvement

- Ahead of 2020 election: convergence between clusters of Russian state media and QAnon supporters
- Increasing intersections and air-time for QAnon-related content on RU media
- anonymity

QAnon and the 2020 election

- QAnon followers recently started to embrace concept of “information warfare”
- Inspired by 2016 IRA interventions
- Target hashtag lists and coordination, online “raids”
- role of Memes

QAnon going global

- Global surge, including Germany, France, Japan, Brazil, etc.
- Germany second largest after US
- more than 500,000 followers in Europe (200,000 followers for YT, FB, TEL alone in Germany)

Trump

- Averaged one lie every 56 seconds in nomination speech
- “Fake News”
- Trump vs. Clinton twitter strategies

Lakoff's framework of Trump Tweets

- **pre-emptive framing** @realDonaldTrump—*Only reason the hacking of the poorly defended DNC is discussed is that the loss by the Dems was so big that they are totally embarrassed!*
- **diversion** @realDonaldTrump—*Meryl Streep, one of the most over-rated actresses in Hollywood, doesn't know me but attacked last night at the Golden Globes. She is a .*
- **deflection** @realDonaldTrump—*Intelligence agencies should never have allowed this fake news to “leak” into the public. One last shot at me. Are we living in Nazi Germany?*
- **trial balloon** @realDonaldTrump—*The United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes*

Ross and Rivers: 3 types of accusations for deflection

Direct accusations

- @realDonaldTrump—*The Fake News Media has never been so wrong or so dirty. Purposely incorrect stories and phony sources to meet their agenda of hate. Sad!*
- @realDonaldTrump—*Any negative polls are fake news, just like the CNN, ABC, NBC polls in the election. Sorry, people want border security and extreme vetting.*
- @realDonaldTrump—*Fake News is at an all time high. Where is their apology to me for all of the incorrect stories???*
- *With all of its phony unnamed sources & highly slanted & even fraudulent reporting, Fake News is DISTORTING DEMOCRACY in our country!*

Ross and Rivers: 3 types of accusations

Accusations as a Signal of Allegiance

- @realDonaldTrump—Just heard *Fake News CNN is doing polls again despite the fact that their election polls were a WAY OFF disaster. Much higher ratings at Fox*
- @realDonaldTrump—*The fake news media is going crazy with their conspiracy theories and blind hatred. @MSNBC & @CNN are unwatchable. @foxandfriends is great!*
- @realDonaldTrump—*Congratulations to @FoxNews for being number one in inauguration ratings. They were many times higher than FAKE NEWS @CNN - public is smart!*
- @realDonaldTrump—*Wow, the failing @nytimes said about @foxandfriends “... the most powerful T.V. show in America.”*

Ross and Rivers: 3 types of accusations

Accusation as a Cover for the Spreading of Mis- and Disinformation

- *@realDonaldTrump—Thank you to Prime Minister of Australia for telling the truth about our very civil conversation that FAKE NEWS media lied about. Very nice!*
- *@realDonaldTrump—The dishonest media does not report that any money spent on building the Great Wall (for sake of speed), will be paid back by Mexico later!*
- *@realDonaldTrump—Dishonest media says Mexico won't be paying for the wall if they pay a little later so the wall can be built more quickly. Media is fake!*

South Korea spy agency admits trying to rig 2012 presidential election

National Intelligence Service says it mobilised cyberwarfare experts to ensure Park Geun-hye beat rival and now president Moon Jae-in

Justin McCurry

Fri 4 Aug 2017 08.15 BST



592



▲ Park Geun-Hye (centre) the day after her slim victory in the 2012 presidential elections. South Korea's spy agency admits it was behind an aggressive online campaign to sway voters against her rival. Photograph: Jung Yeon-Je/AFP/Getty Images

South Korea's spy agency has admitted it conducted an illicit campaign to influence the country's 2012 presidential election, mobilising teams of experts in psychological warfare to ensure that the conservative candidate, [Park Geun-hye](#), beat her liberal rival.

German 2017 Election - Far Right Astroturfing



Weißt du noch...?
Silvester...!

#gehwaehlen Alternative

Alternative für Deutschland + AfD
Hochsauerlandkreis
Like This Page · Yesterday · 0

On 24.09.17 a new direction for our country!
#AfD
See original · Rate this translation

Like Comment Share

61 Top Comments

46 Shares 15 Comments

Hubertus Wiethoff Mit der Angst der Menschen Politik machen, um so die Wähler zu beeinflussen
Finde ich genau so schrecklich wie die Silvesterparty. Könnt Politik sollte Lösungen finden und keine Angst verbreiten! Am 24.09.2017 FDP WÄHLEN!
See Translation

Like Reply · 0 0 · Yesterday at 4:48am

Alternative für Deutschland + AfD Hochsau
Danke ihrer "hervorragenden Arbeit" der

Write a comment...



Lara Logan: Horrific gang sexual ass...

NY Daily News - 1200 x 630 - Search by image

Lara Logan: Horrific gang sexual assault in Egypt still haunts me -
NY Daily News

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J Huff

@haywuffff8

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12:55 PM - 21 Sep 2017

1 Like











UK Conservative Party in 2019 Election

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Fact checking Labour from CCHQ

📍 Westminster 📅 Joined July 2009

2,250 Following **75.4K** Followers

UK Conservative Party in 2019 Election



CCHQ Press #StayAlert

@CCHQPress



FACT: Corbyn's Labour would spend £1.2 trillion over the next five years if they get elected - the equivalent of funding the entire NHS budget for nine years

#CostofCorbyn

9:42 PM · Nov 19, 2019



40



78 people are Tweeting about this

Financially-Motivated Operations

- Veles, North Macedonia



Summary First Weekend

- Introduction, historical context, current trends, and definitions
- Russia
- China, Iran et al.
- Domestic Forms

- One symptomatic video

Trumpian Post-Truthism

- Trump's detachment from empirical reality
- Facts vs. Feelings (Newt Gingrich Example)
- Oxford Dictionary Definition Post-Truth: *Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief*
- International Dimension

- Plato/Socrates: Danger of Ignorance
- Aristotle's definition: *To say of what is that it is not, or of what is not that it is, is false, while to say of what is that it is, and of what is not that it is not, is true*
- Different stages: falsehood, willful ignorance, lie
- Post-Truth: Facts are subordinate to our *political* point of view

Understanding Post-Truth

- Science denial as road map for understanding PT
- falsificationism
- Early example: tobacco-cancer debat
- Recent example: climate change example

Questions

- Why?
- How much and who?
- So what?
- How can we study it?
- And what can we do about it?

Why?

- Psychology and cognitive bias
- Decline of traditional news media
- Role of social media, data, and the internet

Psychological factors

- cognitive dissonance
- negativity bias
- confirmation bias: Internet as the “greatest delivery system for confirmation bias in the history of the world”

A closer look at cognitive bias

- *People can foresee the future only when it coincides with their own wishes, and the most grossly obvious facts can be ignored when they are unwelcome.*

- **George Orwell**

A closer look at cognitive bias

- Cognitive biases wired into human intuition over the course of evolution
- Central concept of human psychology: *avoiding psychic discomfort*
- when confronted with contradicting evidence: different options of belief update
- 3 Core Findings from Classical Social Psychology

Cognitive Dissonance

- 1957 Festinger experiment: 1\$ vs. 20\$ reward
- Doomsday “Seekers”
- reinforcement through peer support

Social Conformity

- 1955 paper (Ash): lines-on-card experiment
- discard beliefs that are not in harmony with those around us

Confirmation Bias

- 1960 experiment by Peter Wason: Rule Discovery
- human intuition struggles to falsify and seeks confirmation rather

Contemporary Findings on Cognitive Bias

- “Source Amnesia”
- “Repetition Effect”
- “Motivated Reasoning”
- Two examples
 - “Backfire effect”
 - “Dunning-Kruger effect”

Backfire Effect

- Based on experiment by Nyhan and Reifler
- partisans exposed to evidence that political belief was wrong
- as a result, reject evidence and “double down” on mistaken belief
- in many cases, belief strength increased (!)
- recent Social Media variant: Bail et al. (2018): *Exposure to opposing views on social media can increase political polarization*

Dunning-Kruger effect

- 1999 experiment by Dunning & Kruger: Overconfidence
- LSAT: Average student places themselves in 66th percentile
- Greatest ability inflation from lowest performers

Consequences for Post-Truth

- “Succumbing to cognitive bias can feel a lot like thinking. But especially when we are emotionally invested in a subject, all of the experimental evidence shows that our ability to reason well will probably be affected.”
- Lee McIntyre

Decline of Traditional Media

- Decline in Newspaper circulations
- Changing business models for TV broadcasters: From non-profit news to 24/7 for-profit coverage
- Increasing polarization: MSNBC/Fox News
- The “fair and balanced” problem

Implications for Post-Truth

- Falling for pressure to achieve “balanced reporting” at the core of the issue
- Increasing “Data-Fication” of content and headlines

The Role of Social Media

- Role of Internet in decline of traditional media
- Social media as engine for confirmation bias
- In addition to platform algorithms: microtargeting and political redlining
- From commercial operation to dangerous
- Buzzfeed study: Top Fake News stories more engagement than top real news studies

Trump's constant adoption of lying as a strategy

1. Raise questions about some extreme claim (e.g. Obama was born outside U.S.)
2. provide no evidence
3. suggest press cannot be trusted because they are biased
4. people start doubting press' impartiality
5. in face of uncertainty, people dive deeper into confirmation bias
6. In this environment, people believe him just because he said it (tribal belief)

Micro-Level Effects: Who, where, and how much?

Back to the Muller Report

- 11.4m people saw IRA ads on FB (p.44)
- 470 pages with 60,000 posts; 30m shares, 37m likes, 3.3m comments
- FB: 126m Americans came into contact with IRA content (p.45)
- Instagram: 133 accounts and 116,000 posts; 187m engagements (p.48)
- Twitter: 8.5m IRA tweets, 72m engagement (p.50)
- Reddit: 944 accounts, 14,000 posts; Hilary Fake Porn video created by IRA viewed 250,000 times

Hyperpartisan Facebook Pages Are Publishing False And Misleading Information At An Alarming Rate

- 3x3 Design (3 outlets for right & left wing disinfo, and mainstream) (Link to Article)
- 38% of hyperpartisan right wing false information (19% left wing)
- Troubling finding: false articles significantly more shares (both within and between outlet categories)

Social media and fake news in the 2016 election

- Theoretical model: economics of Fake News
- Method: Survey and Web Traffic Data
- 41 pro Clinton shared 7.6m times, 115 Trump 30.3m times
- Webbrowsing Data: 159 FN impressions
- Explanatory Model of FN belief

- Equivalent structure: 4 RQs
- Design: Quantitative Data Collection FB/Twitter + Manual Coding
- Context: 2019 European Election and UK General Election

Fake News on Twitter during the 2016 presidential election

- 3 RQs: (1) How many stories seen and shared? (2) Characteristics of those who engaged? (3) How interact with broader news system
- attribution at outlet level
- 5% of total exposures FN
- Power-law distribution
- Age, polarisation, and congruence

- Who is sharing?
- Design: Facebook data merged with survey, cross-referencing against silverman list
- Findings: Ideology, Age (Digital literacy vs. Memory) [age vs. cohort effects]

“Fake news” may have limited effects beyond increasing beliefs in false claims

- RQ: Influence on attitudes and belief?
- observational and experimental design
- Findings: Partisan effects, belief effects, little behaviour effects

Exposure to untrustworthy websites in the 2016 US election
5 main findings:

- Differential Consumption
- Ideology and Partisanship
- FB with central role
- Fact-Checks almost never reach audience
- Effect on voting unclear

- American media diets: Majority not news related; if news: TV; small portion fake news
- Data sources: Nielsen TV panel, Comscore desktop+mobile panel, Nielsen desktop representative panel
- Age differences

Signs of Optimism...

- Decrease of prevalence since 2016
- Exposure and consumption clustered rather than uniformly distributed throughout society
- small effects on political behaviour?

But Reasons for Caution...

- measurement issues with recent studies (e.g. source list approach)
- small *relative* shares compared to total news consumption still represent a significant amount
- cyclical effects
- Platform diffusion (Telegram, Parler)
- Hyperpartisan Divisive Outlets
- effects on individuals still very much in the dark

and even worry.

- Health misinformation
- Growing conspiracy theories
- High polarisation in democracies across the west

Macro-Level Effects: Impact of misinformation and the role of truth for on Democracy

Aggregating Challenges

- Real impact begins to exist at the aggregate level
- not only arithmetic aggregation, but taking into account interactions

Structure

- Network dynamics and diffusion
- Theoretical perspective: Fake News and the rule of truth for democracy
- Aggregated impact at the system level - 2 case-studies
 - Howard (2020): Impact of Brexit campaign fraud
 - Jamieson (2018): Impact of Russian interference on 2016 U.S. presidential election

Hypercomplex system with multiple dimensions to consider

- Density and distribution of problematic content
- Microtargeting
- Actors and collusive alliances
- Effects on individuals
- Role of digital technologies, algorithms, and amplification bots

The spread of true and false news online

- RQ: How do truth and falsehood diffuse differently, and what role play human judgment factors?
- Data: 126,000 rumour cascades, 3m users, 4.5m tweets
- Different measures: Depth, Size, Breath, Structural Virality
- Alarming results: False news spreads faster, deeper, more viral
- Theoretical explanation: User attributes cannot explain, therefore information and Bayesian decision theory: Novelty attracts attention

So why does truth matter?

- Reciprocal relationship between democracy and truth
- Minimal agreement on foundation for democratic process
- Post-Truth: citizens as members of “epistemic tribes”
- demise of the notion of truth itself

- Marketplace of Ideas
- Thomas Jefferson: "Information is the foundation of Democracy"
- Emmanuel Macron in 2018 U.S. speech: "Democracy = Truth"
- Condorcet's Jury Theorem

- Fake News and the Risk of Epistemic Uncertainty
- Politics and Truth
- Deliberative Democracy and Truth-Tracking
- The Public Sphere, Social Media, and Fake News
- Virtues of Accuracy

- Data Mining and Microtargeting
- Example of the Brexit campaign
- Vote Leave's Waterloo strategy
- Estimating political outcomes

The COVID-19 Infodemic

The COVID-19 “infodemic”

- Spread of virus accompanied by wave of mis- and disinformation
- consequences: jeopardised public health, undermined trust in govt, shifted blame onto imaginary scapegoats
- sources diverse
- Large scale (some sources suggesting multiple billion exposures)
- consequences for public health and beyond

Pandemic Misinformation - A surprise?

- Long History of Epidemics misinformation - From Black death to Ebola
- Black Plague in 14th century: Anti-semitic murders
- Spanish flu 1918: massive censorship
- Swine flu 2009 & Ebola 2014: Russian misinformation

Actors, Types, and Strategies

- Brennen et al. (2020)
- Scale
- Sources
- Claims
- Responses

The “Plandemic”

- Conspiracy theorists spread false information about the origins of the virus, the effectiveness of public health measures, pseudo-medical cures
- Example Plandemic
- Viral spread, viewed more than 8 million times
- multi- and cross platform spread

Actors

- Conspiracy Theorists
- Celebrities and Politicians
- Ordinary, often inadvertent users
- malign foreign state-actors

State-Backed Media Outlets



Definition: "media organisations that are either directly funded by the state or are editorially managed by their governments".

State-Backed Media Outlets and the COVID-19 infodemic



CGTN
@CGTNOfficial

"Grazie Cina" 🇨🇳🇮🇹

National anthem played in a "balcony concert" in Rome as gratitude to China's aid to Italy

Over 30 tonnes of medical supplies and nine experts arrived from Shanghai to Rome to help fight against the virus

The Italian balcony concert played the Chinese national anthem.

(o) Chinese CGTN



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News / Foreign Policy / Editor's Choice

Scientist: COVID-19 was produced in a US laboratory as bioweapon

Monday, 30 March 2020 3:46 PM [Last Update: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 11:15 AM]

A medical worker takes a swab sample from the photographer to be tested for the COVID-19 coronavirus in Wuhan, in China's central Hubei province on March 30, 2020. (AFP photo)

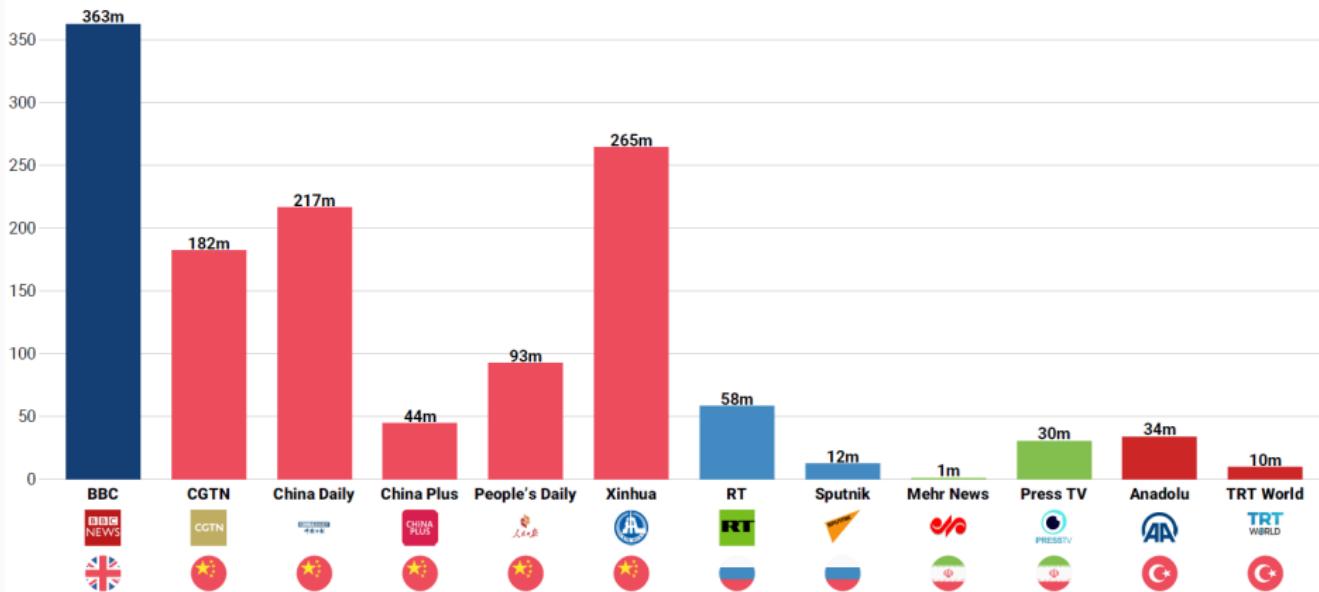
Pakistani scientist specializing in organic chemistry has said that the highly contagious novel coronavirus did not necessarily emerge naturally through mutation but rather may have been produced in a laboratory in the United States as a bioweapon.

(p) Iranian PressTV

Quantitative Insights

Quantitative Insights I: Social Distribution Networks

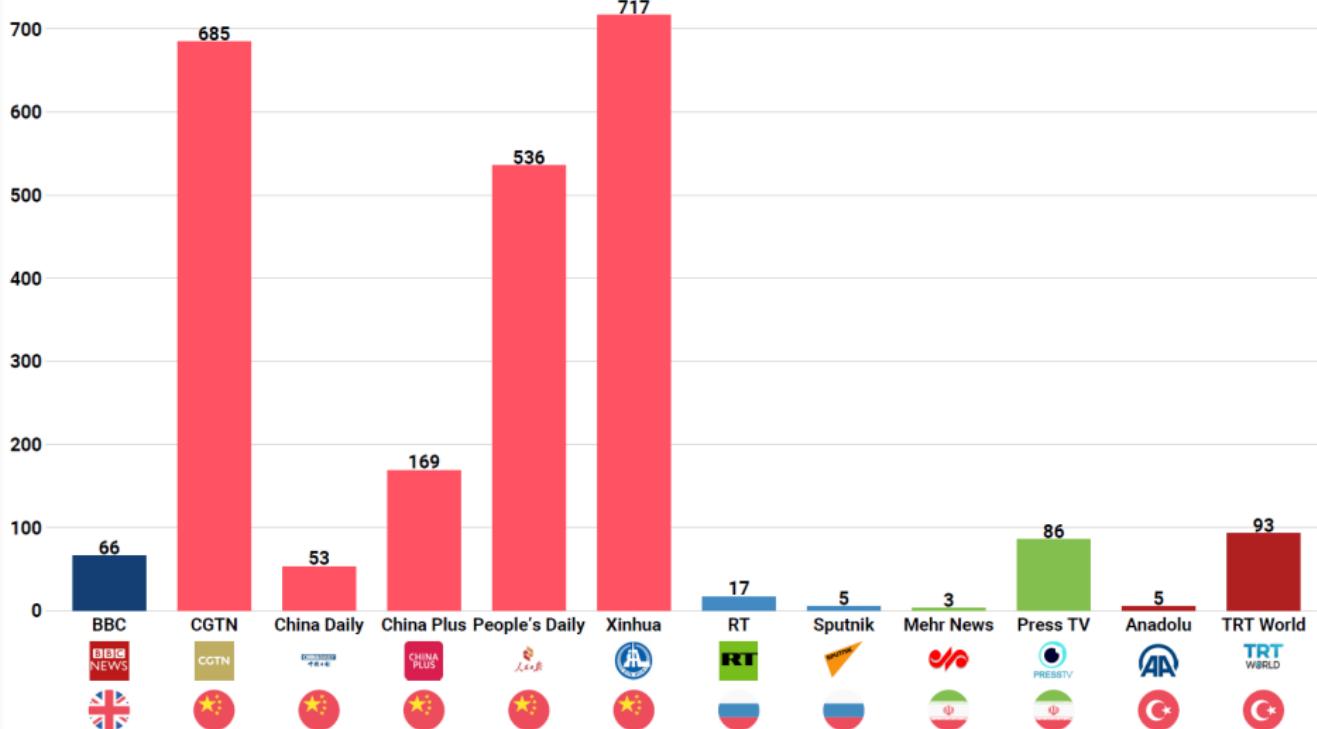
FIGURE 1: Followers of State-Backed Social Distribution Networks (Millions)



Source: Authors' calculations based on data collected between March 18th and March 31st 2020

Note: Sum of the follower count of unique Twitter accounts and Facebook groups/pages sharing content

Quantitative Insights II: Median Engagement



Qualitative Insights

Qualitative Insights I: Benevolent Support/Aid

CHINADAILY.COM.CN Global Edition April 2, 2020

HOME OPINION VIDEO WORLD CHINA TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS CULTURE TRAVEL

* Europe

Chinese team and equipment arrive in UK to support virus fight

By Han Baoyi in London | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-03-29 02:29

f v in +



China sends an expert team and a large shipment of medical equipment to the United Kingdom on Saturday to help in the fight against COVID-19. [Photo provided to chinadaily.com.cn]

China sent an expert team and a large shipment of medical equipment to the United Kingdom on Saturday to help in the fight against COVID-19.

The team, sent from East China's Shandong province, comprises 15 experts and doctors who are specialists in disease control, traditional Chinese and Western medicine, psychology, nursing, and other fields.

(q) Chinese Aid to Europe



(r) RT portraying Russia as benevolent saviour

Qualitative Insights II: State-Response

TRT World  @trtworld

Compared to European countries and the US, Turkey has managed to keep the coronavirus death toll low. Here's why it's better equipped to deal with the ongoing crisis



Why is the coronavirus fatality rate low in Turkey?
High intensive care unit number per person, proactive healthcare sector and trust in government officials is helping the country cope with the pandemic
trtworld.com

8:00 pm · 23 Apr 2020 · Buffer

6 Retweets 41 Likes

(s) TRT portraying Turkey as exemplary

HOME | LATEST DISCOVERIES | Q&A | FACTS | VIDEO | HEALTH TIPS | TCM

FIGHTING COVID-19 THE CHINESE WAY

Five potential treatments for COVID-19

So far there are no specific medications for COVID-19. But some drugs and therapies have been proven to be effective in treating patients. Let's have a look at them.

[Read More](#)



LATEST DISCOVERIES

(t) China praising its way of dealing with crisis

Qualitative Insights III: Chaos/Weak Western Democracies

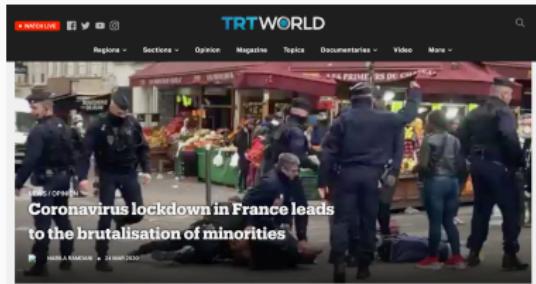


(u) Chinese CGTN



(v) RT worrying about fundamental constitutional rights (in the US)

Qualitative Insights IIIb: Chaos/Weak Western Democracies



(w) TRT coverage about the situation in France

Covid-19 dismantles the hollow commandments of European liberalism



Graham Dockery
is an Irish journalist, commentator, and writer at RT. Previously based in Amsterdam, he wrote for DutchNews and a scatter of local and national newspapers.

20 Mar, 2020 18:38

Get short URL



FILE PHOTO © Reuters / Dylan Martinez

(x) RT commentary

Qualitative Insights IV: Conspiracy Theories



1:00 PM · May 11, 2020 · Twitter Media Studio

199 Retweets 335 Likes

(y) CGTN alluding to U.S. Biolabs around the world

China Xinhua News @XHNews

Italian doctors saw strange, "very severe" pneumonia cases as early as November, which could mean the virus was circulating in parts of #Italy before they became aware of China's #COVID19 outbreak, U.S. media reported, citing a recent paper in The Lancet xhne.ws/CGylf

10:17 AM · Mar 22, 2020 · China Xinhua News

(z) Chinese outlets promoting theories that virus originated outside of China

Example Deep-Dive: Chinese Social Distribution Networks and the Role of Diplomat Accounts

Diplomats as multipliers of State Produced Propaganda

Lijian Zhao 赵立坚
@zlj517

This article is very much important to each and every one of us. Please read and retweet it. COVID-19: Further Evidence that the Virus Originated in the US.
globalresearch.ca/covid-19-furth...

Get the facts about COVID-19

2:02 AM · Mar 13, 2020 · Twitter Web App

17.9K Retweets 19.8K Likes

(a) Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

Liu Xiaoming @AmbLiuXiaoMing · May 29
Where there is a "wolf", there should be a "warrior". Chinese diplomats will firmly safeguard national interests and protect national dignity.

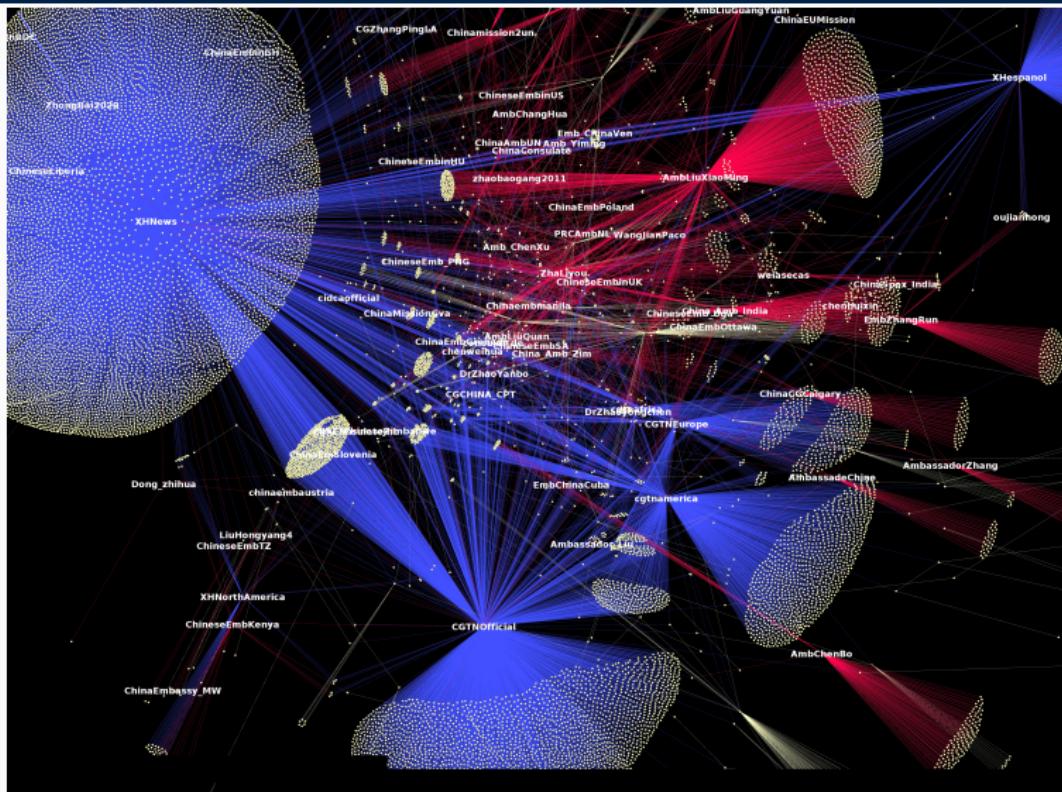
CGTN Europe @CGTNEurope · May 28
Diplomats need to become "wolf warriors" to help fight disinformation against China. @AmbLiuXiaoMing says.

CHINA NEEDS 'WOLF WARRIORS' TO FIGHT DISINFORMATION, AMBASSADOR SAYS
When we talk about a wolf warrior,

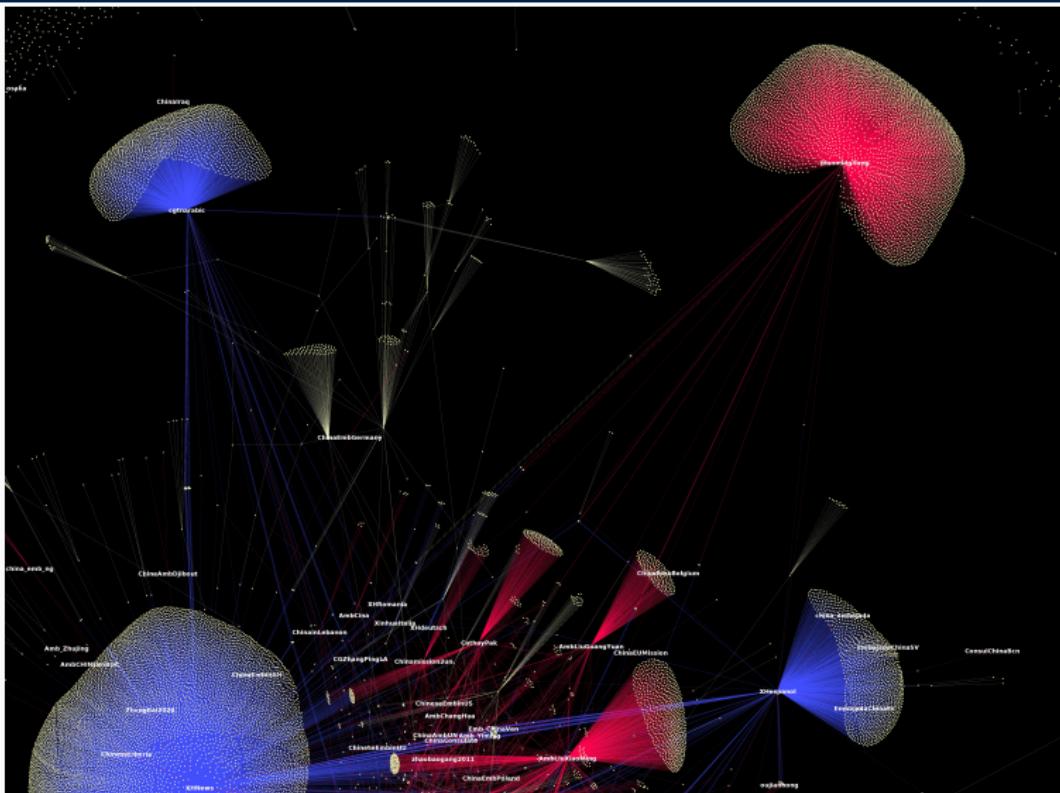
5.6K views 0:01 / 1:03

(b) Ambassador to UK

URL shares (Red: Dipl. - Blue: Media - Yellow: Ordinary)



URL shares (Red: Dipl. - Blue: Media - Yellow: Ordinary)



State-Backed Misinformation and Propaganda

- Bright et al. (2020): Coronavirus Coverage by State-Backed News Sources
- Rebello et al. (2020): COVID-19 News from State-Backed Sources Targeting French, German, and Spanish Social Media Users
- RT mask example
- Forged Anthem Video

Impact on Public Health and Democracy

- Question of impact key to all disinformation studies
- Direct Forms:
 - Trump hydroxychloroquine recommendation leads to poisonings from Arizona to Nigeria
 - India: 3 Muslim men attacked after rumours spread on social media
 - Islam et al. (2020): 800 deaths in Iran theory (BBC coverage)
- Indirect Forms:
 - Allington et al. (2020): Impact on Health-Protective Behaviour
 - Burning of Telephone masts after 5G conspiracies (Video)
 - TikTok Aldi Hoax

- Tech-Platforms increasingly interventionist (FB, TW, YT, TK)
- But: many caught off guard early on
- Opaque implementation => Exploited by conspiracy theorists
- Circumvention
- Western focused resource allocation for content moderation
- Role of encrypted peer-to-peer messaging

Building Resilience

- Role of journalism & fact-checking
- FC is scarce resource, can only superficially solve problem of contaminated info environment
- successful automation far away (nuanced problem, circumvention)
- Role of governments & health authorities
- Essential: Transparent communication
- Including admitting mistakes
- Pro-actively design and implement countermeasures and content moderation regulation

The looming vaccine disinformation crisis

- Anti-Vaxxers waging war against vaccine around the globe
- Year-long experience of demonizing vaccines
- Millions of supporters world-wide, diverse ideological spectrum
- extremely organized and strategic (exploiting social media features)
- COVID-19 is in many ways natural climax

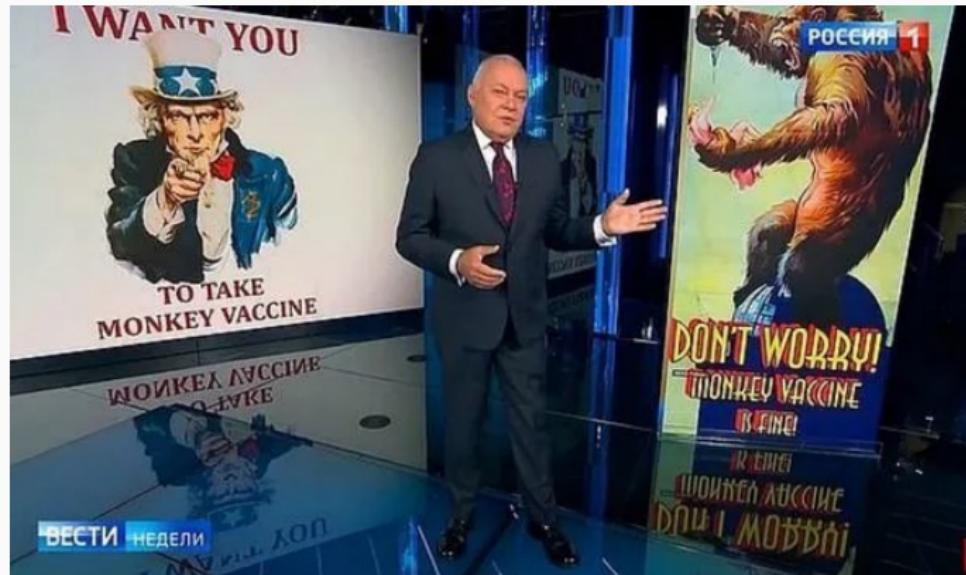
Foreign State-Sponsored Vaccine Disinformation

- Opportunistic support by malign state actors
- Russia with long-lasting track record (see Broniatowski et al [2018] and Wilson and Wiysonge [2020])
- Russian Propaganda Pro Sputnik V
- Alleged RU disinformation campaign against Oxford COVID-vaccine

Monkey Vaccine



Monkey Vaccine



Monkey Vaccine



Monkey Vaccine

*2 weeks after monkey vaccine:
Can't hear, can't see, can't talk!*



Effects of Vaccine Disinformation

- Broniatowski et al. (2018)
- Wilson and Wiysonge (2020)

Worrying Prospects

- University of Hamburg survey: 57% of Germans willing to take vaccine (down from 70% in April)
- France: 48%; USA 51%
- 44% of Republicans and 50% of FOX Viewers believe that “Bill Gates wants to use a mass vaccination campaign against COVID-19 to implant microchips in people that would be used to track people with a digital ID.”

Consequences and Recommendations

- Multidisciplinary, pro-active effort by social media platforms, governments, scientific community, civil society; including:
- rigorous transparency about trials
- provision of sufficient resources for strategic communication
- vigilant and pre-emptive approach to detect and counter domestic and foreign attempts to undermine vaccine

The 2020 U.S. Presidential Elections

- Infamous election night news conference



Plan for Today

- Comparing to 2016: Foreign and Domestic Misinfo
- Microtargeting and Political Advertising
- Election Night and Beyond - The Predictable Catastrophe
- Impact on Individuals and the Real World
- Governing Election Misinformation: Platform and Government Responses
- Lessons learned

Comparing to 2016: Foreign and Domestic Misinfo

Foreign Disinformation and Propaganda

- Overt vs. Covert (RU, CN, etc.)
- RU: Secondary Infektion/Operation Peacedata.org
- IR: Proud Boys Fake Emails intimidating Florida voters
- Shift in Strategy: Opportunistic exploitation rather than creative curation
- Likely low impact

Domestic Dimension

- Blind-Spot due to foreign-focus?
- New challenges: Freedom of Speech laws and culture
- top-down vs. bottom up narratives

Microtargeting and Political Advertising

Microtargeting

- 2016 Voter Suppression Campaign by Trump
- The role of mobilisation in 2020
- Targeting Strategies
- Central question: impact?
- Platform rules and transparency

Election Night and Beyond - The Predictable Catastrophe

How it unfolded - Pre Election

- During campaign: Constant lies by Trump campaign (including forged imagery)
- Blindspot: Spanish/Chinese misinfo
- Core narrative: Voter Fraud/Mail-in Ballots (120 Tweets on fraud by Trump alone in 2020)

How it unfolded - Election Day

- Wave of disconnected examples of alleged fraud - often following same narratives
- Concentration in battleground states - absolute spikes in PA
- Fraud robo calls/voter suppression text messages

After Polls close

- Trump with promising start in FL
- But then, Arizona happens.
- Combination of counting laws and Trump's campaign against mail-in voting lead to early Trump leads eroding
- Once this pattern becomes clear, Trump camp disinfo machine goes in full speed

Examples

- Voter Fraud (4.7 million mentions)



Examples

- Legal votes (1.3 million mentions)



If you count the legal votes, I easily win

59.447 Aufrufe • 05.11.2020

1 6597 588 TEILEN SPEICHERN ...



Donald J Trump
2,13 Mio. Abonnenten

ABONNIEREN

President Donald Trump: If you count the legal votes, I easily win

Examples

- Stop the Steal (1 million mentions)



Examples

- Stop the Count (878,709 mentions)



Trump supporters gathered at the State Capitol in Phoenix. Matt York/Associated Press

Examples

- Sharpiegate (405,888 mentions)



Examples

- Ineligible or Illegal Ballots (392,871 mentions)
- Missing or Magically Found Ballots (376,762 mentions)
- The 'Deep State' (303,573 mentions)
- Biden 'admits' to voter fraud (203,106 mentions)
- Dead people voting (159,393 mentions)

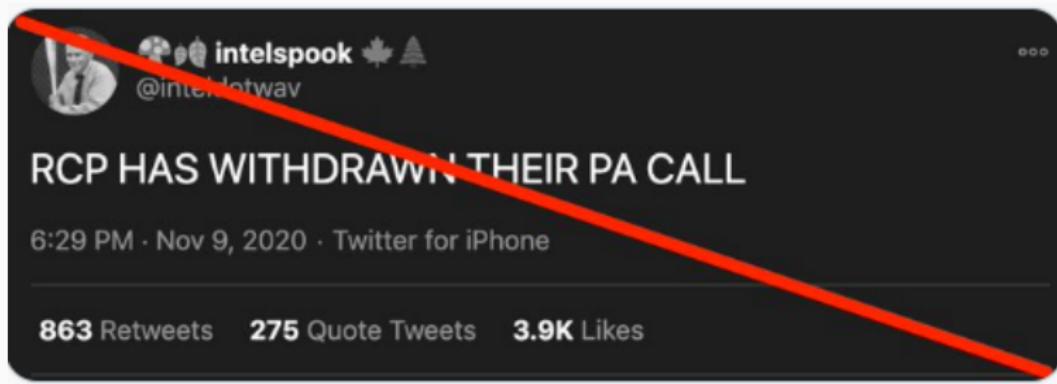
Examples

- RCP Pennsylvania Example



Examples

- RCP Pennsylvania Example



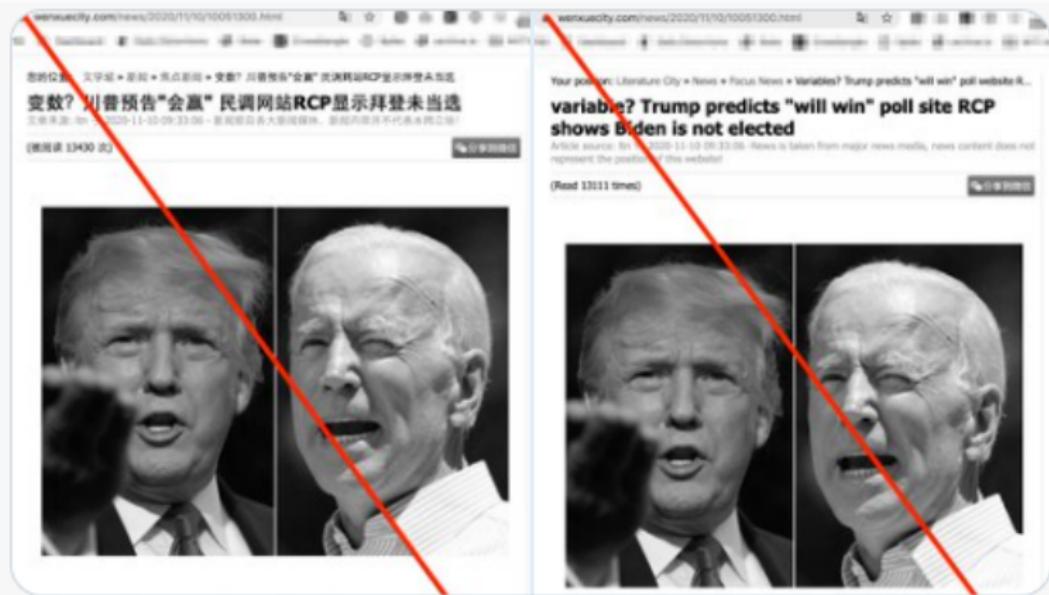
Examples

- RCP Pennsylvania Example



Examples

- RCP Pennsylvania Example



Examples

- RCP Pennsylvania Example
- Flooding Twitter

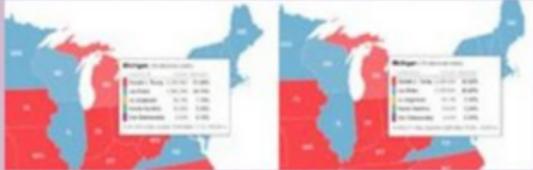
Bottom-Up vs. Top-Down

Bottom-Up

- Data error, screenshot first posted 8kun on Wed morning

▶ Anonymous 11/04/20 (Wed) 10:37:27 ID: 104aad (2) No.11452012 >>11452029 >>
[>>11452068](#) [>>11452074](#) [>>11452094](#)

File ([hide](#)): [db5d9d176be829d...jpg](#) (48.67 KB, 1024x329, 1024:329, michigan_diff.jpg) (b) (u)



>100% of new votes go for Biden
You can't make this up

Disclaimer: this post and the subject matter otherwise - do not necessarily reflect the

Bottom-Up

- 30 min later: over to Twitter

So they magically found ballots that ALL went to Biden??

Michigan (16 electoral votes)

CANDIDATE	VOTES (PERCENT)
Donald J. Trump	2,201,962 (11.44%)
Joe Biden	3,182,306 (88.56%)
Jo Jorgensen	45,196 (1.35%)
Mario Hirsch	16,559 (0.25%)
Don Blankenship	4,549 (0.13%)

4,281,073 votes counted. Estimated 77.0% - 80.0%.

Michigan (16 electoral votes)

CANDIDATE	VOTES (PERCENT)
Donald J. Trump	2,201,952 (8.52%)
Joe Biden	3,185,619 (80.47%)
Jo Jorgensen	45,196 (1.12%)
Mario Hirsch	16,558 (0.21%)
Don Blankenship	4,545 (0.11%)

4,303,077 votes counted. Estimated 78.0% - 83.0%.

Learn about US 2020 election security efforts

EADING

Twitter Web App

Bottom-Up

- retweeted by conservative influencer Matt Mackowiak

Donald J. Trump Retweeted

Matt Mackowiak @MattMackowiak · 3h

An update gives Biden 100% of new votes — 128k+

Michigan (16 electoral votes)

CANDIDATE	VOTES	PERCENT
Donald J. Trump	2,200,962	51.64%
Joe Biden	3,952,264	48.75%
Jr Jorgensen	45,731	1.15%
Houle Hawkins	10,551	0.25%
Don Blankenship	6,541	0.15%

4,251,279 votes counted. Estimated 77.2% - 90.8% in.

Michigan (13 congressional districts)

CANDIDATE	VOTES	PERCENT
Donald J. Trump	2,396,902	53.82%
Joe Biden	2,158,650	46.42%
Jr Jorgensen	49,191	1.12%
Houle Hawkins	10,308	0.24%
Don Blankenship	6,541	0.15%

4,403,217 votes counted. Estimated 79.8% - 83.8% in.

Bottom-Up

- Within a few hours, makes it way all the way into the White House



Donald J. Trump 
@realDonaldTrump

...

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

Some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and might be misleading about how to participate in an election or another civic process. [Learn more](#)

[View](#)

3:35 pm · 4 Nov 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

42.9K Retweets 29.1K Quote Tweets 161.2K Likes



Tnrl Mélinda @Mtnrl73 · 4 Nov
Replying to @realDonaldTrump
De la triche !!! Flagrant

...

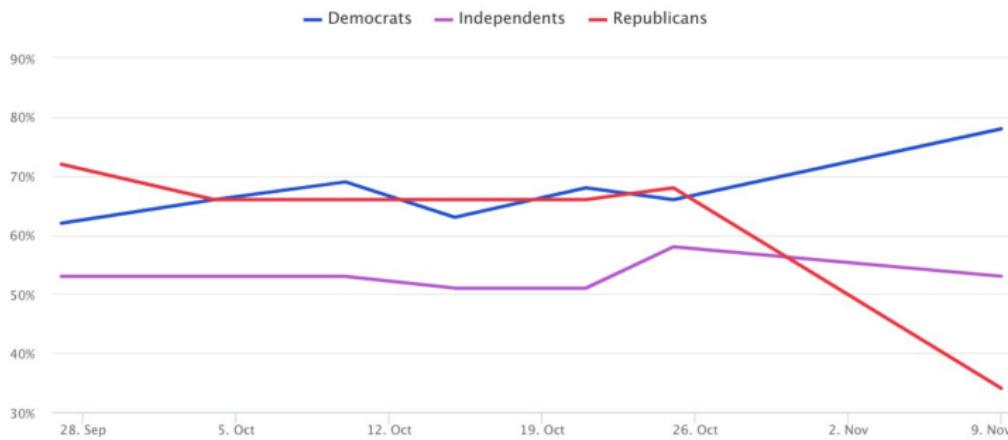
314

Impact on the Real World

- Morning Consult Poll

Democratic trust in elections rises as Republican trust plummets

The share of registered voters who say they trust the United States' election system either "a lot" or "some:"

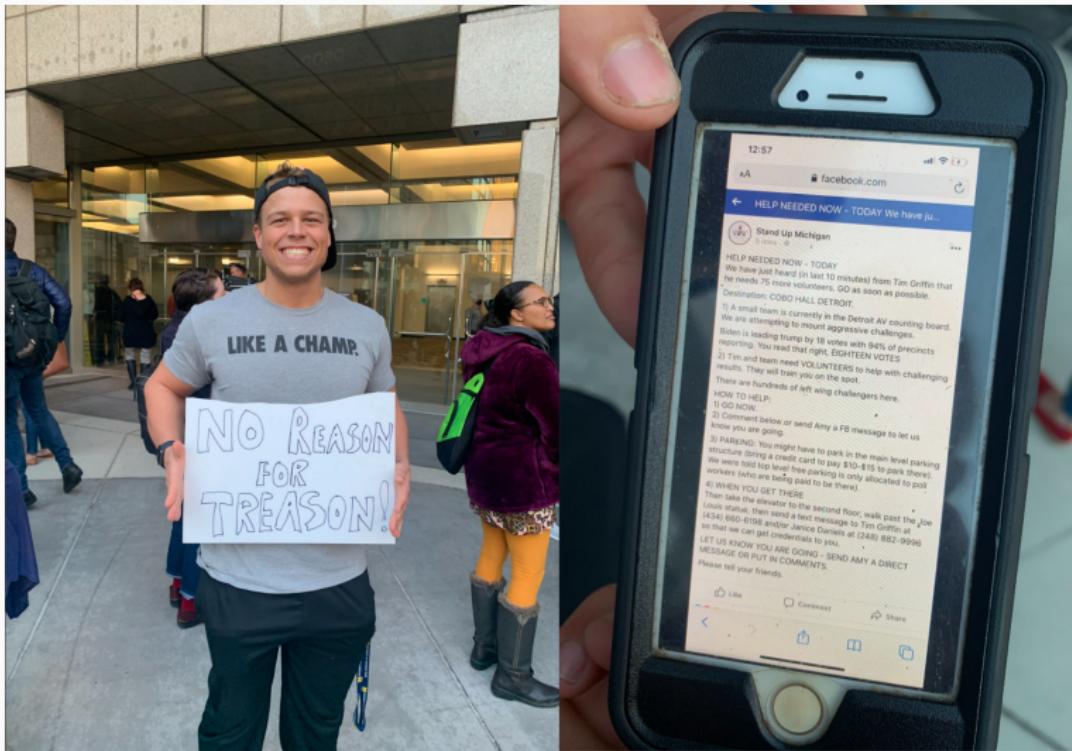


Philadelphia elections officials have been receiving death threats, harassment, and abuse, and it hasn't stopped.



Philly elections officials are getting death threats as Trump targets the city. Philadelphia police have been stationed outside elections officials' homes to protect them, sometimes in unmarked cars.

- Turning out real people



- Threats of violence



The Independent 
@Independent

...

Evacuations underway after bomb threats near
Philadelphia vote counting centre



Evacuations underway after bomb threats near Philadelphia vote counting centre

- Threats of violence

Grab your guns ... the second amendment is not about hunting and how many bullets you need it's about the right to take down a tyrannical government! This is our last shot ! We either do as our forefathers did or go peacefully into the night and surrender!

I for one will not go peacefully through the night! I will fight to the death for every American 

Impact

- Threats of violence

My guns are ready all 15 assault rifles I own that I wont be giving up

26 m

I like

Reply



2

Impact

- Threats of violence

[REDACTED]

Civil war!! We are sick of this! It's about that time. We won't talk, we act!

10 m Like Reply

[REDACTED]

God, Guns, and Glory

8 m Like Reply

[REDACTED]

Gun sales went up 300% in the past 6

Impact

- Threats of violence

Karen Johnson

Debbie, I feel the same way. I truly feel that we're headed towards a civil war

37 m Like Reply



Karen

Lock and load, Sister.

36 m Like Reply



322

- CNN Video on Real-Life Mobilization

The remaining impact gap/blindspot

- What we know, what we don't know
- Causal challenges
- How can science contribute to a better understanding?

Governing Election Misinformation: Platform and Government Responses

Platform Preparations and Vigilance

- Early Preparation, high-resource teams
- Focus on foreign interference
- Fear of October surprise

October Surprise: Hunter's e-Mails

- Very heterogeneous responses by FB, TW, YT
- Partisan reactions to tech platforms' responses
- Difficult balancing act

Election Day Responses

- FB: Generic Information-Provision
- TW: Labelling (and Blocking!!) specific content
- YT: Do (almost) nothing and hope people focus on FB/TW
(Example: NewsMax Video)
- Other Niche Platforms: Do nothing (either lack of resources or ideological reasons)

Labelling

- FB Example Pre-election



Donald J. Trump

6h ·

...

Mail-In Voting, unless changed by the courts, will lead to the most CORRUPT ELECTION in our Nation's History! #RIGGEDELECTION



Get official voting info on how to vote in the 2020 US Election at usa.gov.

[Get Voting Information](#)



29K

10K Comments 2.9K Shares

Like

Comment

Share

Labelling

- FB Example Post-election



Donald J. Trump

8h ·



They are working hard to make up 500,000 vote advantage in Pennsylvania disappear — ASAP. Likewise, Michigan and others!



Election officials follow strict rules when it comes to ballot counting, handling and reporting.



Source: Bipartisan Policy Center

[See Election Updates](#)

Labelling

- FB Example Post-election



Donald J. Trump

8h ·

...

Ballot Corruption will be exposed tonight at 9:00pmE on Sean Hannity on Fox News!



The US has laws, procedures, and established institutions to ensure the integrity of our elections.



Source: Bipartisan Policy Center

[See election results](#)



718K

59K comments 66K shares

Labelling

- TW Example

The image shows three identical tweets from Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) posted 1 hour ago. Each tweet includes a profile picture of Donald Trump, his name, his handle @realDonaldTrump, and a timestamp of 1h. Below each name is a blue button with a white checkmark icon. A dark grey callout bubble appears above each tweet, containing the text: "Some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and might be misleading about an election or other civic process." Below this message is a blue link labeled "Learn more". To the right of the callout bubble is a "View" button. Above the "View" button are three small grey dots. To the right of the third tweet, there is a vertical column of text and icons, likely representing a sidebar or a different part of the Twitter interface.

Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · 1h

Some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and
might be misleading about an election or other civic process.
[Learn more](#) [View](#)

Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · 1h

Some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and
might be misleading about an election or other civic process.
[Learn more](#) [View](#)

Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · 1h

Some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and
might be misleading about an election or other civic process.
[Learn more](#) [View](#)

- TW Example



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · 7. Nov. ...

I WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT!

 Official sources may not have called the race when this was Tweeted

 982.177  885.843  1,1 Mio. 

Labelling

- YT Example



U.S. elections

Results may not be final. See the latest on Google.

SHOW ME

Trump won. MSM hopes you don't believe your eyes.

333

- Theoretical Model and Pre-Registered Hypotheses
- Methodological Design
- Results

Lessons learned

Mixed Feelings

- Many aspects of the election actually went smoothly:
National election amidst height of pandemic
- BUT: "Smoke machine" disinformation campaign
- Lessons Learned

What about <INSERT YOUR COUNTRY>?

- How do political cultures and the media system differ?
- What role does the electoral system play?
- Could it happen here too?

Deepfakes, AI Bots, and the future of disinformation



Core definitions

- "Synthetic Media": "A type of media (images, audio, video, text) that is either manipulated or wholly generated by AI
- "Deepfake": Synthetic media produced and used in a malicious way
- "Cheapfakes": Miscontextualized images/text





Plan for Today

- A brief introduction to neural networks
- Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) and Deepfakes
- AI Text Generation (GPT-3)
- Post-Truth (Geo-) Politics and AI
- Consequences/Solutions

Go to Drawing Board

Deep Fakes

- Portmanteau of Deep Learning and Fake
- Person in image or video is replaced with someone else
- Far beyond faces (e.g. dancing body, CT scan lung cancer)
- Term "Deepfake" inspired by Reddit user in 2017

General Adversarial Networks (GAN)

- Generator creates new images from latent representations
- Discriminator detects if real or fake face
- Generator and discriminator in min-max adversarial relationship
- Mutual improvement

Deepfake Creation

- Encoder: reduces image to lower dimensional latent space
- Decoder: reconstructs image from this latent representation
- Deep fakes use this architecture:
 - Encoder encodes person into latent space (contains key features about facial features, body posture, hair, skin color, etc.)
 - Latent representation can be decoded with model specifically for that target
 - Target's detailed information is superimposed on the underlying facial and body features of original video
- GAN-effect

Why is it so powerful?

- Quality
- Democratization effects
- Cost

Detection

- Detection algorithms and projects
- Burden of Proof
- Arms race dynamics

Post-Truth (Geo-)Politics

Foreign State Actors (APTs)

- Russia with history of forgeries
- Key challenge to running an info op: Content creation
- Primitiveness of many state backed info ops on Twitter (e.g. China)

Decline of Truth in the West

- Trump presidency is also presidency of Cheap Fakes
- Deep Fakes starting to occur
- Short- and Medium term future

- India: cheap- and deepfake incidents
- Malaysia Ministerial Sex Affair: Liar's dividend
- Gabon coup (Liar's dividend reversed)

Generative Text Models; GPT-3

- GPT-3: Autoregressive Language Model using DL to produce human like text
- 175 BILLION parameters (!!!!!)
- Takes text as input and predicts what comes next
- Try it out on: <https://app.inferkit.com/demo>
- Guardian Example
- Future: Autonomous bot armies (AI spam creator on Twitter experiment)

Consequences, Solutions, and Outlook

Technological Solutions

- Forensic detection
- Digital Provenance (e.g. watermarks, blockchain)
- Authenticated Alibi Services

Legal Perspective

- Criminalizing? (Attribution Problem)
- Platform Incentives (but remember global dimension and censorship)
- Lessons from Nuclear Arms Control?

Outlook: Truth in a world of AI

- Resilience and adaptation
- Evolution in perception, societal adjustments
- Also chances in AI for information security: Content moderation, threat detection, etc.