

**Current examples of disinformation campaigns and countervailing
measures applied today**

Essay

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Abstract

Statistics and informational sources that continue to reach out to the audience have enabled humanity to read the local news and daily announcements about intriguing issues that rule various states. Going through the ordinary chaos, rumors, and other remarks, we inevitably discover sprinkles of modern lies that unmistakably dazzle us. Regardless of any reason, one persuasive gossip is enough to change an entire population's perspective by showing effective concepts. Our lives are constantly threatened by social media or fake news, forcing us to deny our vital rights or misbehave. As a consequence, disinformation is the fundamental key to a flustered community, presenting in this note the main reasons why it must be stopped as fast as we can. In order to summarize the composition of this article, I chose 5 keywords that expound flawlessly the essential idea of the essay:

- Distortion
- Manipulation
- Acknowledgement
- Controversy
- Awareness

Table of Contents

| | | |
|-----------|--|----------|
| 1. | Table of Contents..... | 1 |
| 2. | Introduction..... | 2 |
| 3. | Disinformation campaigns..... | 3 |
| 3.1. | Is disinformation defined as a strategy..... | 3 |
| 3.2. | The influence of the migrants..... | 4 |
| 3.3. | Peace is the solution to geopolitical conflicts..... | 5 |
| 4. | Conclusion..... | 6 |
| 5. | Annexes..... | 7 |
| 5.1. | List of Abbreviations..... | 7 |
| 5.2. | List of Figures..... | 7 |
| 5.3. | List of Literature..... | 7 |
| 6. | Affidavit..... | 8 |

Introduction

In time, disinformation has succeeded in creating its duties, due to a burst of color in the statements, that refuse to accept the verifiable idea. Benefiting from the most relevant forces of our planet, the army, education, and our health, fake news has always manipulated the system on social media, the newspaper, and even on TV with shocking words. If we desire to change something in this regard, we must think about whose fault that is or how disinformation affects humanity, and, above all, to conceive how we can control it. In the following chapters, these pertinent questions will be explained and elaborated by debating the fundamental examples of disinformation that constantly fight the truth.



Figure 1: Searching for the truth in a sea of lies¹

¹ Homepage of Cartoon Movement. URL: <https://cartoonmovement.com/search?query=disinformation> [15-02-2023]

3. The consequences of disinformation

From my point of view, disinformation has its roots in history, since it has had an effect on the population in a variety of subjects, such as conflicts, or concerning natural disasters. We must acknowledge our values and consolidate what we see in our searches. The word „consolidate” describes more than asking ourselves if the article is confusing, it takes responsibility and effort, including verifying the real source, and the information we received, by checking out the day it was posted or pointing out when an inappropriate expression does not match the post. We all have the right to be aware of the primary issues that rule the entire world, without having to be alert to what truly happens.

3.1. Is disinformation defined as a strategy?

Looking closer to one of the most known disinformation campaigns „Operation Infektion”, created in the long-term conflict, the Cold War, had its start located in Asia „*In July 1983, an Indian newspaper in New Delhi published an article alleging “U.S. experiment” were the likely cause of a new mysterious disease dubbed ‘AIDS’*”² as the official site Russia Beyond affirms. This warfare can be assimilated with the current dispute between Ukraine and Russia with the Russian disinformation campaign, as they both have the same desire: to win against the opposite camp by eradicating the enemies. Their strategies are quite different because nowadays fake news is a few clicks away. We must not close our eyes, since disinformation has become the most useful weapon. In the context of modern war, disinformation does not just represent the aspiration of political members, it is chosen to protect the country and the hidden truth, to draw attention from the real problems, as Winston Churchill said: “*In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies.*”³ Every time the trigger gets pulled, we are harmed and affected, because every bullet is an example of lies and denial of their own actions, frequently encountered on social media. In the framework of wartime or an international disagreement, peace may be very difficult to maintain, but out there is hope, and we can take advantage of it. By involving ourselves in

² Homepage of Russia Beyond. History Page. URL: <https://www.rbth.com/history/333296-kgb-aids-operation-infektion-pentagon> [15-02-2023]

³ Homepage of Goodreads. Disinformation Page. URL: <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/disinformation> [15-02-2023]

charity enterprises, and by helping those in need with personal goods or food, a few aspects begin to exchange in ethical ways of stopping the war and valuing the future.

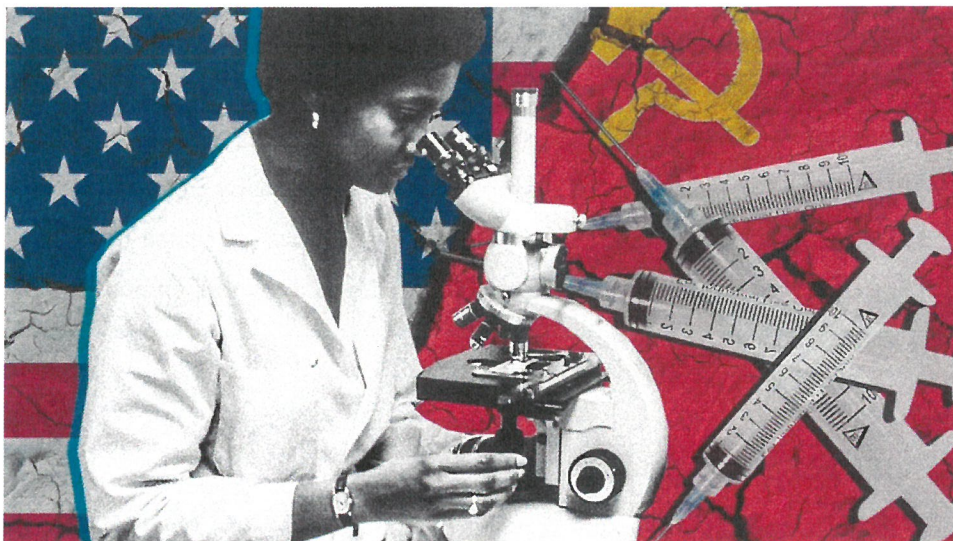


Figure 2: Picture describing the campaign „Operation Infektion”⁴

3.2. The influence of the migrants

How many times have you thought that the person sitting next to you represents a risk for your own existence, just because you read an article on your mobile about those people who came from another state, with distinct skin color or traditions? In many instances, the vast influence of mass media on the population focuses on the migrants, in order to impress everyone with their harmful actions, which establishes just invented theories. Strongly related to the declarations of the European Parliament in their report „*In light of the COVID-19*

pandemic, migrants are also depicted as a health threat”⁵, the migrants are considered to be carriers of new vital viruses or diseases, affecting the stability of humanity, and, the essential, the peace of the countries. Therefore, we neglect one main idea: our nation has the proper and reasonable resources for it to sustain refugees on their new path, since they have lost their precious homes and all the memories have to be kept in their hearts. Whether it is food, a residence, or the assurance that all the migrants get tested at the border, the country is able to ease the difficulties. With the help of WHO and the United Nations, we can reduce the global agitation, coming from any kind of newspaper, radio, etc, that frightens the inhabitants and

⁴ Ibid. P. 2-3.

⁵ Homepage of European Parliament. Analysis. URL:

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2021/653641/EXPO_IDA\(2021\)653641_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2021/653641/EXPO_IDA(2021)653641_EN.pdf)
[15-02-2023]

protests over the hatred of the migrants. These organizations will determine all the member states to fight against disinformation and join a key journey that not only resolves the issue, but will support a calm and heartsease life. For example, the cooperation between the World Health Organization and the Government of Thailand has already started to make a major change „*In Thailand, universal health coverage is available to all migrants and refugees, regardless of legal status*”⁶. Now, it is time for us to stop believing everything we discern from the mass media.

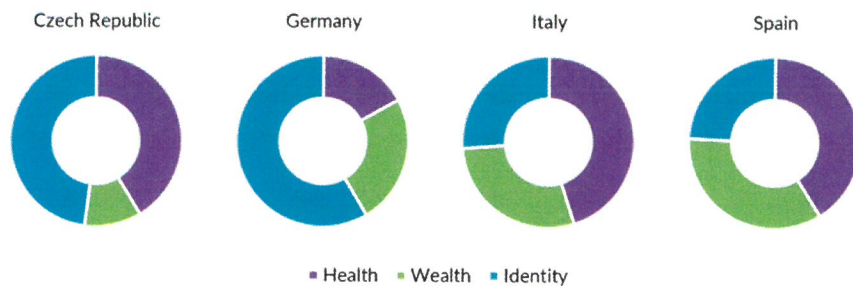


Figure 3: Migration Disinformation Content by Frame in Select EU Member States⁷

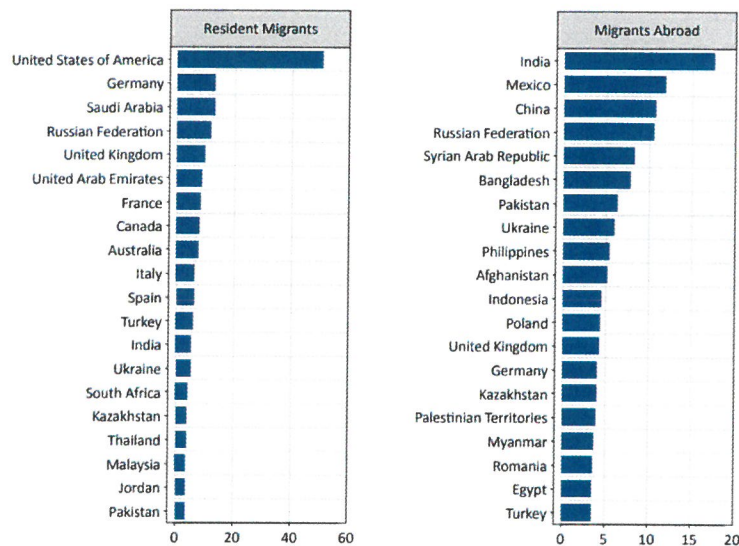


Figure 4: Top 20 destinations (left) and origins (right) of international migrants in 2019⁸

⁶ Homepage of World Health Organization. Newsroom Page. Feature stories Page. Detail Page. URL: <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/how-who-is-supporting-refugees-and-migrants-during-the-covid-19-pandemic> [15-02-2023]

⁷ Homepage of Migration Policy URL: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/disinformation-migration-how-fake-news-spreads> [15-02-2023]

⁸ Homepage of World Economic Forum. Migration Page. URL: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/01/iom-global-migration-report-international-migrants-2020/> [15-02-2023]

3.3. Peace is the solution to geopolitical conflicts

Flipping through history's prominent titles and living in the current environment situations, we came to the following conclusion: economic, military, as well as political conflicts will not vanish, as a consequence of a multitude of factors. In other words, focusing on geopolitics, this strong-minded doctrine has a critical role for all the nations, to analyze and target their motions at a constitutional level, vigorously bonded on their map position. With this in mind, we find further relevant effects that specifically illustrate the association between politics and lively areas. In a world of confrontations, uncertainties, and other high-point interests, our beliefs burst into bewilderment, creating protests and fake news. Having said that, we, as humanity, leave behind an essential and indispensable concept, that holds the power of change and preserves the welfare, as well as the prosperity of the planet: peace. By taking small steps, we may brighten up our future with faith and hope. However, we must discuss real problems and encourage a positive environment, and peace operations that attempt to encourage amicable relationships over the world.

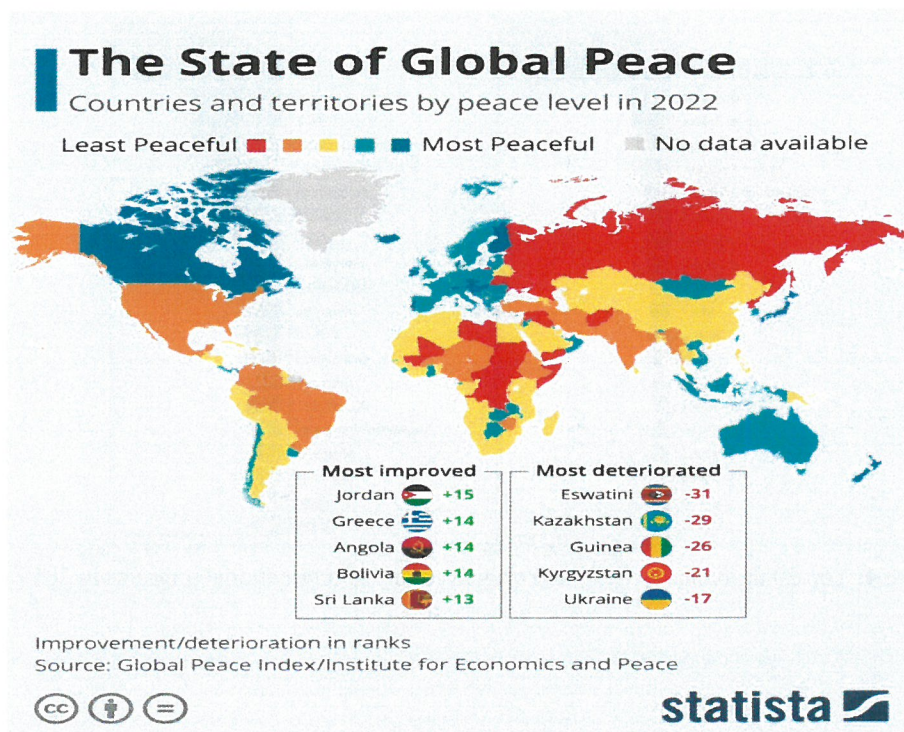


Figure 5: Map showing the least to most peaceful countries in 2022⁹

⁹ Homepage of Statista. Topics Page. Global Economy Page. The State of Global Peace Page. URL: <https://www.statista.com/chart/18339/countries-ranked-by-peace-level/> [15-02[2023]]

4. Conclusion

All things considered, our perspective of the world is trapped in a sphere full of unsafe information, confusion, and anger. We, as a society, must be determined to stop this toxic routine, that became an uncommon mechanism. For us to achieve this purpose, we must build a healthy relationship between cultures, people, and traditions, because humanity is the one that keeps a whole existence alive, that must use its voice. Therefore we must focus on reducing fake news, and harmful social media ideas, as the connections among human beings picture the answer to a durable evolution.



Figure 6: Newspaper showing only fake news¹⁰

¹⁰ Homepage of DepositPhotos. URL: <https://ro.depositphotos.com/627323438/stock-photo-fake-news-conspiracy-theory-hoax.html> [15-02-2023]

5. Annexes

5.1. List of Abbreviations

- Ibid.

5.2 List of figures

- Figure 1. Searching for the truth in a sea of lies. Page 2
- Figure 2. Picture describing the campaign „Operation Infektion”. Page 3
- Figure 3. Graphic showing Migration Disinformation Content by Frame in Select EU Member States. Page 4
- Figure 4. Statistics showing Top 20 destinations (left) and origins (right) of international migrants in 2019. Page 4
- Figure 5. A graphic that shows Forecasts of near-surface temperature and precipitation for the five year-period 2020-2024 in Africa. Page 5
- Figure 6. Newspaper showing only fake news. Page 6

5.3. List of literature

- <https://cartoonmovement.com/search?query=disinformation> [15-02-2023]
- <https://ro.depositphotos.com/627323438/stock-photo-fake-news-conspiracy-theory-hoax.html> [15-02-2023]
- <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/disinformation> [15-02-2023]
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- <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/01/iom-global-migration-report-international-migrants-2020/> [15-02-2023]
- <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/how-who-is-supporting-refugees-and-migrants-during-the-covid-19-pandemic> [15-02-2023]

6. Affidavit

I declare that I have written the present essay independently and on my own. I have clearly marked any ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The essay does not contain any work that I have handed in or have had graded as a previous scientific paper earlier on.

I am aware that any failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were my own – even if I summarise, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them.

I am aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the essay and exclusion from participation in the PSP Forum High School Student Writing Competition. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e. if plagiarism is discovered after the essay has been accepted and graded. I am fully aware of the scope of these consequences.


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(Andreea David)

Câmpulung Moldovenesc, Romania in February 2023



