



**Just Now**

*a toolbox  
for teaching  
human rights*

# History of Propaganda & Disinformation

JustNow timeline cards set

The “JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights” project is focused on the development of methodological-didactical materials relating to human rights education, combined with simulation games and diversity learning in non-formal and formal youth educational work.

**This set of timeline cards focuses on teaching about propaganda and disinformation through history up until today, covering some key definitions, events and developments in this field. The cards can be used in history, ethics or civic education, or in other non-formal education settings, especially for contextualisation in media literacy and digital citizenship. It is advised that educators supplement the cards with local examples.**

The cards were created using images and information researched online, with sources noted on the back of the cards. The cards are created for exclusively non-profit educational purpose and use, in classrooms or non-formal educational settings.

Created by: JustNow project team

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# History of Propaganda & Disinformation

## Categories Overview

### Key Terms & Concepts

Definitions of key terms in the domain of propaganda & disinformation

### Harms & Scandals

Instances and examples of propaganda and disinformation harms in society

### Culture

Art, books, movies exploring the topic of propaganda and disinformation

### Techniques & Methods

Descriptions of propaganda techniques and methods

### Third Reich Case Study

Propaganda and disinformation examples from Third Reich in particular

### Solutions

Countering-disinformation actions and solutions

### Notable Individuals

Notable individuals, activists, scholars in the field of disinfo & propaganda

# Overview of all the 'History of Propaganda & Disinformation' cards

Key Terms & Concepts	Culture	Harms /Scandals (instances of propaganda large-scale harms in society)	Propaganda & Disinformation Techniques & Methods	Third Reich case study	Solutions (how to address the problems)	Notable Individuals
Conspiracy Theory	Thank you for Smoking	Muldergate scandal	Psychological warfare	Triumph of the Will	Counter-Propaganda	WikiLeaks
Deep Fakes	The Birth of a Nation	McCarthyism and the Red Scare	I Want You	Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda	Legal Actions	Propaganda Movement
Whistleblower	Wag the Dog	Infodemic	Hoax	Joseph Goebbels	Fact-checking	Edward Bernays
Spin doctor	Che Guevara poster	Weapons of Mass Destruction	Bot	Mein Kampf	Verification / Debunking	Noam Chomsky
Hate Speech	War of the worlds	Pizzagate	Anti-American murals in Tehran	Antisemitic propaganda	Media and Information Literacy	Hannah Arendt
Information disorder	Orwell 1984	Autism vaccine link	Information laundering	Reichstag fire	Digital citizenship education	Maria Ressa
Propaganda	Guernica	Space race	Clickbait	Nazi propaganda (posters)	Building critical thinking	Edward Snowden
Bias	Agitprop	January 6 riots in USA	Troll farms	Nazi Education and Indoctrination	Psychological inoculation	Korean leaders personality cult





# Triumph des Willens

Reichsparteitagfilm der N.S.D.A.P.  
Gesamtleitung v. Regie: Leni Riefenstahl

# Triumph of the Will

## 1935

Triumph of the Will, released in 1935, is a 114 minutes long German documentary and propaganda film made by the famous filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl. It chronicles the 1934 Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg, shortly after the Nazis came to power, and features Adolf Hitler, Hermann Göring and many other prominent Nazi leaders.

172 people participated in the making of the documentary (36 cameramen and assistant camera operators were dressed in SA uniforms so that they wouldn't stand out in panoramic shots taken by 9 aerial photographers). The final product, edited from over 60 hours' worth of footage shot over the rally's four days, was completed in five months. The event's enormous scale (over a million of Germans participated in it), numerous eagles and swastikas, perfect formations of soldiers marching to classical music and excerpts from speeches given by Hitler and other important figures emphasized the unity of the Nazi party and exhibited their power to the world.

It became one of the most important propaganda films of all times winning an award for the Best Foreign Documentary at 1935 Venice Film Festival and a gold medal at the 1937 World Exhibition in Paris.

The whole film is widely available online, for example at: [www.dailymotion.com/video/x6uajey](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6uajey)

The background of the title card features a large, embossed seal of the United States Department of Education. The seal depicts an eagle with wings spread, perched atop a shield with vertical stripes. Above the eagle's head is a circular medallion containing thirteen stars. A banner draped across the eagle's chest contains the letters "E PL".

# WHY WE FIGHT

A SERIES OF SEVEN  
INFORMATION FILMS

# Counterpropaganda

## Why We Fight (1942-1945)

Frank Capra, an Italian-American Oscar winning director, producer and writer, after seeing the German film *Triumph of the Will*, was inspired (and commissioned by the US Army) to create another documentary film, a direct response as form of counter-propaganda to the Nazi propaganda.

“Triumph fired no gun, dropped no bombs, but as a psychological weapon aimed at destroying the will to resist, it was just as lethal.”

(Capra; 1977; see: [www.thefilmmagazine.com/film-as-a-political-medium-propaganda-and-the-triumph-of-the-will/](http://www.thefilmmagazine.com/film-as-a-political-medium-propaganda-and-the-triumph-of-the-will/)).

“Why We Fight” is a series of seven propaganda films initially intended to be shown to US soldiers before they departed overseas. Later on, President Roosevelt ordered distribution for public viewing at the cinemas. The documentary had two tasks: to provide an informative overview of the war and justify American involvement in it, and to boost the morale of the American troops.

The films (*Prelude to War* (1942), *The Nazis Strike* (1943), *Divide and Conquer* (1943), *The Battle of Britain* (1943), *The Battle of Russia* (1943), *The Battle of China* (1944), *War Comes to America* (1945)) are in the public domain and available for viewing or downloading.



verb: translator



Gebauer Finanzrat M. d. E. Hugenberg,  
Kabinettsminister der Wirtschaft u. Reichs-  
minister für Ernährung u. Landwirtschaft



**Author:** *Editorial and the University, Birmingham  
Journal and Birmingham University*

Die nationalsozialistische Bewegung mit  
als Motto, die sie führt im letzten

Die beiden von der Polizei beschlagnahmten Briefe, die die beiden Männer an ihren Bruder geschrieben hatten, waren wie folgt: „Ich habe heute Nacht geschlafen, aber ich bin nicht glücklich, weil ich nicht weiß, was ich tun soll.“

Das Buch des Tages:

# Mein Kampf

von Adolf Hitler

Was wird Adolf Hitler tun? — fragen heute Millionen hoffender Deutscher! — Diese Frage kann jeder beantworten, der sein Werk und damit sein Wollen und Ziel kennt. Jeder, ob Freund oder Feind, kann jetzt das Werk Hitlers nicht unbeachtet lassen.



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Jede deutsche Buchhandlung hat dieses Buch vorrätig!  
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1910-1912 The United States

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## Turn- und Sportbesc

# Mein Kampf by Adolf Hitler

## 1925

In his political autobiography published in 1925, Adolf Hitler devoted at least two chapters to propaganda. English translation of the propaganda-related quotes below is taken from

<http://fcit.usf.edu/holocaust/resource/document/docpropa.htm>

“The function of propaganda does not lie in the scientific training of the individual, but in calling the masses' attention to certain facts, processes, necessities...whose significance is thus for the first time placed within their field of vision.”

“All propaganda must be popular and its intellectual level must be adjusted to the most limited intelligence among those it is addressed to. Consequently, the greater the mass it is intended to reach, the lower its purely intellectual level will have to be.”

“The receptivity of the great masses is very limited, their intelligence is small, but their power of forgetting is enormous. In consequence of these facts, all effective propaganda must be limited to a very few points and must harp on these in slogans until the last member of the public understands what you want him to understand by your slogan. As soon as you sacrifice this slogan and try to be many-sided, the effect will piddle away, for the crowd can neither digest nor retain the material offered.”

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WSZY



G. PEILER

TYFUS PLAMISTY



# Antisemitic Propaganda in Nazi Germany

In the 1930s and 1940s, Nazi Germany propagandists used the existing negative stereotypes about Jews to support the official government's anti-Jewish policies, which started with segregation, were followed by forced emigration and ended with the Holocaust. Jews were often depicted as “alien” and “parasitic” elements of the society responsible for Germany's cultural, political and economic degeneration. They were portrayed as the exact opposite to the Aryans and their removal was seen as the only guarantee of the Third Reich's bright future. Anti-Semitic conspiracy theories about powerful international Jewish plans to annihilate Aryan people and their supposed role in starting the war became constantly present in speeches, essays, newspapers, on the radio.

The Ministry of Propaganda promoted the idea of “the Jewish enemy” to justify and support the Nazi actions aimed at “solving the Jewish question”. Between 1923 and 1945 Julius Streicher (former school teacher) edited and published a weekly tabloid, *Der Stürmer*, the most anti-Semitic newspaper in Germany. After the Nazis took over the country, the newspaper's weekly circulation greatly increased. It sold outside Germany too.

Nazi propaganda didn't directly “ask” the German citizens to take action, but rather to support the government-imposed regulations and not to interfere with their implementation. They helped create the climate of indifference, hate and fear that made the later genocide of 6 million people in Europe possible.



# BRITONS



"WANTS  
**YOU**"

**JOIN YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY!**  
**GOD SAVE THE KING**

Reproduced by permission of LONDON OPINION

Printed by the Victoria House Printing Co., Ltd., Tudor Street, London, E.C.

Reproduced from an original poster, held by the Imperial War Museum, by Gemini Media Ltd.



**I WANT YOU**  
**FOR U.S. ARMY**

**NEAREST RECRUITING STATION**

Image (left): A. Erhardt (1914), Wikimedia Commons

Image (right): Flagg, James Montgomery (1967), <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2017645753/>

Text: <https://illustrationchronicles.com/i-want-you-the-story-of-james-montgomery-flagg-s-iconic-poster>

# **“I Want You”**

## **Recruitment Propaganda**

“The top hat, the goatee, the burning eyes and that long accusing finger – the “I Want YOU!” poster has become one of the most iconic images in American history. Used by the U.S. Army to recruit troops during the First World War, this image transformed the character of Uncle Sam into a stern and powerful figure. His persuasive pose and marked demeanour proved to be a hugely effective tool during the war, and a staggering four million copies of it were printed between 1917 and 1918.”

This extremely successful recruitment propaganda poster was designed by the famous U.S. illustrator James Montgomery Flagg whose inspiration came from an image of British war hero Lord Kitchener drawn by Alfred Leete in 1914 . Uncle Sam (whose facial features resemble the author’s) first appeared on the cover of the July 6, 1916, issue of Leslie’s Weekly magazine with the title “What Are You Doing for Preparedness?”. The same propaganda posters continued to be used in World War II.



# Joseph Goebbels

## (1897 - 1945)

Paul Joseph Goebbels was Hitler's minister of propaganda. He was a short, fragile man who couldn't actively participate in WW1 on account of his one leg being two inches shorter and a deformed foot, results of having contracted polio as a child. Instead, he continued his education and eventually earned a Ph.D. in history and literature from Heidelberg University. He joined the Nazi Party in 1924 and, being recognized as a great orator and propagandist, was named the Minister of Propaganda. To his final day he remained focused on two things – the “Jewish Question” and the “Hitler myth”. For example, he gave an ‘Our Hitler’ speech every year on Hitler's (the Führer) birthday. Here is an excerpt from the one given on his 50th birthday:

“The Führer possesses both characteristics in a unique harmony seldom seen in history. Imagination and reality join in him to determine the goals and methods of political policy. His contemporaries are constantly astonished and amazed by seeing how he brilliantly brings goals and methods together to influence history.”

On May 1, 1945, Goebbels and his wife Magda poisoned their six children with cyanide and then killed themselves. Before death, he served as a German chancellor for a single day (Hitler committed suicide on April 30th) and, allegedly, declared "We shall go down in history as the greatest statesmen of all time, or as the greatest criminals."



**THANK YOU  
FOR SMOKING**

# Thank you for Smoking

## 2005

Based on Christopher Buckley's 1994 novel of the same title and adapted for the screen in 2005 by Jason Reitman, "Thank You for Smoking" is a satirical black comedy which explores the culture of propaganda, lobbying and spin. The plot revolves around Nick Naylor (played by Aaron Eckhart), a spokesperson and a lobbyist for the tobacco industry. His friends work for alcohol and weapons industries – they call themselves the MOD Squad, i.e. the 'Merchants of Death Squad'.

"Few people on this planet know what it is to be truly despised. Can you blame them? I earn a living fronting an organization that kills 1200 people a day." (Nick Naylor)

Even though the obvious message in the film is that tobacco kills and that the industry tried to distract people from that fact for decades, the movie's focus is on the power and art of propaganda, spin and lobbying.

"That's the beauty of argument: if you argue correctly, you're never wrong." (Nick Naylor)

Watch the theatrical trailer to get the gist: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Df32RijORLo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Df32RijORLo)





# Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda

In 1933, shortly after coming to power, Hitler founded the Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda (Reichsministerium für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda; RMVP) whose head minister had “jurisdiction over the whole field of spiritual indoctrination of the nation, of propagandizing the State, of cultural and economic propaganda, of enlightenment of the public at home and abroad; furthermore, he is in charge of the administration of all institutions serving these purposes.” (translation of the original order)

In other words, the new Propaganda Ministry, headed by Joseph Goebbels, was in charge of controlling nearly all aspects of German culture including films, theatre, music, the press and radio.

Propaganda was one of the most important tools the Nazis used to influence the beliefs and attitudes of the German public. Goebbels subjected journalists and artists to state control and removed all Jews and political opponents from influential positions and immediately started with his plan to indoctrinate all Germans into Nazi ideology. On May 10, 1933, he staged a massive book burning in Berlin on May 10, 1933, destroying the works of Jewish and other blacklisted authors. His ministry funded movies like *Triumph of Will*, *The Eternal Jew* or *Olympia*. The main instrument of control were daily Reich press conferences and up to 100 000 press releases published between 1933 and 1945. Goebbels even organised the sale of cheap radios (big “People’s Receivers” cost 76 marks, small ones 35) so everyone could hear Hitler’s speeches.





D.W.  
**GRIFFITH'S**

- AMERICAN INSTITUTION -

# *THE BIRTH OF A NATION*

"THE SUPREME PICTURE OF ALL TIME"

NEW YORK MAIL

MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> 1921

Image:

<https://s-usih.org/2018/10/teaching-the-most-reprehensibly-racist-film-in-hollywood-history-past-present-lessons-on-white-supremacy-via-the-birth-of-a-nation/>

# The Birth of a Nation

## 1915

The Birth of a Nation, based on Thomas Dixon's novel and play "The Clansman", is a 1915 American epic drama directed by D. W. Griffith. This three hours long silent film consists of two parts (Civil War of United States and Reconstruction) and tells the story of two fictional families, one from the North and one from the South.

This propagandistic and historically inaccurate film (and probably the most racist one in the history of Hollywood), which portrays African Americans as dangerous, lazy, degenerate, etc. and finishes with Ku Klux Klan's revival in order to save the South, was the first movie to be shown inside The White House. It resulted in widespread street violence against blacks and was the subject of protests by civil-rights organizations. The Ku Klux Klan, successfully suppressed by the federal government in the 1870s, was re-founded in Georgia in December 1915 by William J. Simmons.

"I had no idea that The Birth of a Nation might be used to revive the old Klan... A terrific power lies in the motion picture. It's a power that is only too leanly recognized in these days. I'm constantly amazed and sometimes almost terrified by it." - D.W. Griffith

(see: [https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/ang/files/ang\\_birthofanation\\_nov2020.pdf](https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/ang/files/ang_birthofanation_nov2020.pdf))

Watch a short documentary focusing on the elements of propaganda in the film:

[www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/boam17.socst.us.modern.prop/the-birth-of-a-nation-film-as-propaganda/](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/boam17.socst.us.modern.prop/the-birth-of-a-nation-film-as-propaganda/)

# THE CONSPIRACY CHART 2021

DETACHED FROM REALITY



THE ANTISEMITIC POINT OF NO RETURN



REALITY DENIAL



LEAVING REALITY



SPECULATION LINE



Credit @tofology

GROUNDED IN REALITY

Credit to ABBIE RICHARDS

For licensing & creative questions: tofology@gmail.com

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Design: Pieter-Jan Brouwers / @anti\_conspiracy\_mememawrs

Image source: Abby Richards (2021) Twitter/X, <https://twitter.com/abbieasr/status/1462953203067240450>  
[www.bostonglobe.com/2021/11/29/metro/this-chart-conspiracy-theories-has-gone-viral-freebritney-qanon-local-disinformation-researcher-breaks-down-what-know/](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/11/29/metro/this-chart-conspiracy-theories-has-gone-viral-freebritney-qanon-local-disinformation-researcher-breaks-down-what-know/)

# Conspiracy Theory

CONSPIRACY THEORY is a **theory that explains an event or situation as the result of a secret plan by usually powerful people or groups**. (Britannica dictionary) Thanks to mass media, Internet and social networks, conspiracy theories today have more audience than ever. Some famous examples of conspiracy theories:

- 9/11 Attacks being committed by the US Government;
- The Moon Landing being a Hoax by NASA;
- JFK Assassination being committed by the CIA, or Illuminati, or aliens;
- Covid-19 virus as being caused by the 5G towers, etc.

Conspiracy theories have been closely related to propaganda, prejudice, extremists, terrorists, wars. A 2019 FBI report cites conspiracy theories as "a new domestic terror threat." Per the report, "The FBI assesses these conspiracy theories very likely will emerge, spread, and evolve in the modern information marketplace, occasionally driving both groups and individual extremists to carry out criminal or violent acts." ([https://guides.monmouth.edu/media\\_literacy/ConspTheories](https://guides.monmouth.edu/media_literacy/ConspTheories))

The case of Anders Breivik, the extremist who murdered 84 people in 2011 supports that. His proclaimed targets were "multiculturalists and cultural Marxists", he wanted to preserve "white Christian Europe" and greatly feared "Eurabia". (See: [www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/16/the-myth-of-eurabia-how-a-far-right-conspiracy-theory-went-mainstream](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/16/the-myth-of-eurabia-how-a-far-right-conspiracy-theory-went-mainstream))





# Whistleblower

“On the simplest level, a whistleblower is someone who reports waste, fraud, abuse, corruption, or dangers to public health and safety to someone who is in the position to rectify the wrongdoing. A whistleblower typically works inside of the organization where the wrongdoing is taking place; however, being an agency or company “insider” is not essential to serving as a whistleblower. What matters is that the individual discloses information about wrongdoing that otherwise would not be known. “ ([www.whistleblowers.org/what-is-a-whistleblower/](http://www.whistleblowers.org/what-is-a-whistleblower/))

One of the most famous whistleblowers of all time was the FBI agent Mark Felt, a.k.a. Deep Throat, who passed on information about the Watergate Scandal (1972 break-in into the Democratic National Committee HQ) to two journalists of the Washington Post – Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. In the aftermath, President Nixon resigned and the journalists wrote a book “All the President’s Men”. In 1976 Alan J. Pakula directed the movie of the same name starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman.

A more recent example involves Frances Haugen, a 37-year-old former Facebook employee, who filed eight complaints and disclosed information about Facebook’s Civic Integrity program and its shortcomings related to the social media’s misinformation and hate speech content. See an interview why she became a whistleblower: [www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/oct/24/frances-haugen-i-never-wanted-to-be-a-whistleblower-but-lives-were-in-danger](http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/oct/24/frances-haugen-i-never-wanted-to-be-a-whistleblower-but-lives-were-in-danger)





WikiLeaks

TOP SECRET

Mobile Information  
Collection Unit



# WikiLeaks

“WikiLeaks is a multi-national media organization and associated library. It was founded by its publisher Julian Assange in 2006. It specializes in the analysis and publication of large datasets of censored or otherwise restricted official materials involving war, spying and corruption. It has so far published more than 10 million documents and associated analyses.” (<https://wikileaks.org/What-is-WikiLeaks.html>)

Some of their biggest “leaks” over the years include: US Army Manual for Guantanamo prison camp (2007), The Scientology “secret” Bible (2008), Sarah Palin's Yahoo! email account contents (2008), 570 000 pager messages sent on 9/11 (2009), Video of US helicopter fire killing civilians in Iraq (2010), Iraq and Afghanistan War documents (2010), State Department Cables ( 2010/2011), and Stolen 2016 DNC emails (2016).

Australian born publisher, editor and activist, Julian Assange has been charged by three different governments (Sweden, UK, USA) on various accounts, including espionage. He has been confined to Ecuadorian embassy to avoid extradition (2012-2019) and, after that, in a high-security British prison. Waiting for the decision on his extradition he has written the book “In His Own Words”.





# WAG THE DOG

A comedy about truth, justice and other special effects

# Wag the Dog

“The tail wagging the dog is an idiom that usually refers to something important or powerful being controlled by something less so. The 1997 film “Wag the Dog” shortened the phrase and added the additional meaning of “superfluous (military) action in order to distract from domestic scandal.”

[www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/wag-the-dog-idiom-meaning](https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/wag-the-dog-idiom-meaning)

Based on a 1993 novel of the same name by Larry Beinhart, the 1997 political satire/black comedy called “Wag the Dog”, directed by Barry Levinson, revolves around the joint efforts of a spin-doctor and a famous Hollywood producer to distract attention of the voters in the upcoming election from a presidential sex-scandal by fabricating a war in Albania. The movie starring Dustin Hoffman, Robert de Niro and Anne Heche won the Silver Berlin Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Notable real-life examples of “wagging the dog” include 1998 Bill Clinton’s Monica Lewinsky Scandal and his ordering of missile strikes against Afghanistan and Sudan, as well as a 2017 Donald Trump’s Russian Connections Scandal and his airstrikes on Syria.



# Spin Doctor

A "spin doctor" is an informal title for a person who works as a PR advisor of a well-known person, usually a politician or a celebrity, or of a political party or a company. It is a person who composes and communicates favourable interpretations of actions, events and policies of their clients in order to preserve their positive public image. To do that, besides the usual press releases and appearing in the media, they sometimes have to use more covert tactics, also known as spins, which are often seen as a form of propaganda. Here are a few (rather self-explanatory) names of some of those tactics:

"The leak, the freeze, the spray, the drip, staying on message, pivoting, the vomit principle, playing a dead bat, the truth but not the whole truth, throwing out the bodies/taking out the garbage, get rid of it now, fire-breaking, kite-flying, feeding or starving a story, keeping out of the media/being a small target, flying under the radar, dishing dirt, dog-whistling, wedging." (For more about these tactics, with explanations and examples, see: <https://theconversation.com/the-vomit-principle-the-dead-bat-the-freeze-how-political-spin-doctors-tactics-aim-to-shape-the-news-106453>)



**COLORED**





Image: John Vachon, Wikimedia Commons

Text: <https://theconversation.com/book-review-selling-apartheid-south-africas-global-propaganda-war-49380>  
[www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/01/selling-apartheid-new-book-lays-bare-south-africas-propaganda-war](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/01/selling-apartheid-new-book-lays-bare-south-africas-propaganda-war)

# Muldergate Scandal

The Muldergate Scandal, also known as the Info Scandal, Infogate or South Africa's Propaganda War, was a famous political scandal involving Dr. Connie Mulder (Minister of Information), South African Prime Minister BJ Vorster (who resigned in the aftermath of the scandal), and Dr. Eschel Rhoodie (Secretary of Department of Information who wrote of "The Paper Curtain", a book that laid the principle foundation of the Propaganda War).

The government was concerned that the local English language press was spreading bad news and image about South Africa, so they decided to use as much as 64 million rand (over 300 million US dollars in 2021 terms) in order to try to change the negative perception of the Apartheid Government in the Western media. The manipulation of the press included bribing international news agencies, the purchase of the Washington Star newspaper and establishing the government controlled newspaper, The Citizen.

Ron Nixon, the author of the 2015 book "Selling Apartheid: South Africa's Global Propaganda" quoted Dr. Connie Mulder as telling the government that what South Africa needed was a campaign that would "buy, bribe, or bluff its way into the hearts and minds of the world."



Image: Photo by Laurie Nevay on Wikimedia Commons, The SIS Building (or MI6 Building) at Vauxhall Cross, London

# Operation Mass Appeal

## Weapons of Mass Destruction

“Operation Mass Appeal was a campaign set up by the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) in the run-up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq aimed at planting stories in the media about Saddam Hussein's alleged weapons of mass destruction. The operation was exposed in December 2003, although officials denied that it was deliberately disseminating misinformation.”

([https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Operation\\_Mass\\_Appeal](https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Operation_Mass_Appeal))

In order to justify the UK's involvement in the Iraq war, the Blair government first published two dossiers where they suggested that Saddam Hussein was a threat to world peace because of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons he had been developing. Later on, the second document turned out to be in great part a copy of a decade old PhD found on the Internet. Blair's chief chemical weapons inspector allegedly committed suicide two days after being questioned by the Parliament. All this led to the establishment of a special investigative body - The Iraq/Chilcot Inquiry (after its chairman, Sir John Chilcot). The Committee's Chilcot Report (2016) concluded that there had been no evidence that Saddam Hussein posed an imminent threat to the world and that the British joined the military operation long before all peace alternatives had been exhausted and weeks after the United Nations weapons inspector stated that he found no evidence of weapons of mass destruction there.

September 28, 2004 – Tony Blair - Speech to the Labour Party: “Do I know I'm right? Judgements aren't the same as facts. Instinct is not science. I'm like any other human being, as fallible and as capable of being wrong. I only know what I believe. The evidence about Saddam having actual biological and chemical weapons, as opposed to the capability to develop them, has turned out to be wrong.”  
[www.france24.com/en/20100129-what-tony-blair-has-said-wmd-iraq](http://www.france24.com/en/20100129-what-tony-blair-has-said-wmd-iraq)



Image: Alberto Korda, "Guerrillero Heroico" (public domain)

Text: [www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/iconic-photography-che-guevara-alberto-korda-cultural-travel-180960615/](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/iconic-photography-che-guevara-alberto-korda-cultural-travel-180960615/)

# Che Guevara iconic image

## 1960

On Friday, March 4, 1960, a ship called La Coubre, carrying weapons, exploded in Havana harbor, killing more than a hundred people. Alberto Korda, a staff photographer for the newspaper Revolución, was assigned to cover the funerals the next day at the Colón Cemetery. He later recalled: "Suddenly, through the 90mm lens, Che emerged above me. I was surprised by his gaze. By sheer reflex I shot twice, horizontal and vertical. I didn't have time to take a third photo, as Che stepped back discreetly into the second row.... It all happened in half a minute."

Korda never made any money of that photo (it wouldn't be revolutionary!), but his "Guerrillero Heroico" (heroic warrior) went on to become one the most reproduced images in the world.

Che Guevara became a pop icon and a tool of consumer marketing and political propaganda, a symbol of idealism and subculture. This image went viral before the Internet.





# Trello Everything: 28 Ways to Maximizing Visual Task Management Tool

100 by allison.groves@zapier.com (Allison Groves) / 2 mins, 100

12 Pomodoro Timer Apps that Will Boost Your Productivity

# Infodemic

An infodemic is too much information including false or misleading information in digital and physical environments during a disease outbreak. It causes confusion and risk-taking behaviours that can harm health. It also leads to mistrust in health authorities and undermines the public health response. An infodemic can intensify or lengthen outbreaks when people are unsure about what they need to do to protect their health and the health of people around them. With growing digitization – an expansion of social media and internet use – information can spread more rapidly. This can help to more quickly fill information voids but can also amplify harmful messages.

Infodemic management is the systematic use of risk- and evidence-based analysis and approaches to manage the infodemic and reduce its impact on health behaviours during health emergencies.

Infodemic management aims to enable good health practices through 4 types of activities:

- Listening to community concerns and questions
- Promoting understanding of risk and health expert advice
- Building resilience to misinformation
- Engaging and empowering communities to take positive action

For more information of how COVID-19-related infodemic negatively affected people, read Marianna Spring's article "Coronavirus: The human cost of virus misinformation," [www.bbc.com/news/stories-52731624](http://www.bbc.com/news/stories-52731624))



# Deepfakes

“Deepfakes” are very (sometimes extremely) realistic video and audio recordings that use artificial intelligence and “deep learning”, a form of Artificial Intelligence, to create “fake” content.

Deep learning algorithms are used to swap faces in video and digital content in order to make realistic-looking but fake media. For example, the AI program called Autoencoder employs face-swapping technique: it studies the video clips to understand what the person looks like from different angles and then maps that person on a selected person in the target video by finding their common features. An important step in the whole process is also finding a target video to use as the basis of a deepfake, and then a collection of video clips of the person you want to insert in your target video.

Making an important person (politician, for example) say or do something they did not, of course, has the potential to take the war of disinformation to a whole new level of danger.

For an example of a deepfake video featuring the former US President Obama, see:

[www.theverge.com/tldr/2018/4/17/17247334/ai-fake-news-video-barack-obama-jordan-peelee-buzzfeed](http://www.theverge.com/tldr/2018/4/17/17247334/ai-fake-news-video-barack-obama-jordan-peelee-buzzfeed)







Image: Photo by Vit Ch on Unsplash

Text: [www.rollingstone.com/feature/anatomy-of-a-fake-news-scandal-125877/](http://www.rollingstone.com/feature/anatomy-of-a-fake-news-scandal-125877/)

# Pizzagate

## 2016

The 2016 fake news/conspiracy theory Pizzagate that went viral during the presidential elections in the US alleged that some of the top Democrats were somehow involved with a child sex-trafficking ring organised out of the basement of the Comet Ping Pong Pizzeria in Washington.

It all started a month before the elections, with WikiLeaks releasing hacked e-mails of John Podesta, Hillary Clinton's campaign manager. Donald Trump's Reddit supporters started combing through those e-mails trying to find something "useful". Someone suggested messages were "coded" and a "cheese pizza" soon became interpreted as "a code" for "child pornography". The theory took the internet by storm.

The same year, in December, a man from North Carolina, armed with a handgun and a rifle, walked into the pizzeria. He surrendered after firing weapons three times during the Sunday rush, fortunately, harming no one. Not only did he not find endangered children, but the place itself didn't even have a basement.



**BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING**

Image: GraffitiWatcher (2010), CC3.0, DeviantArt

Text: [www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/literary/george-orwell-quotes-1984-animal-farm](http://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/literary/george-orwell-quotes-1984-animal-farm)

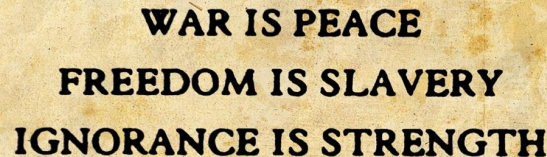
# 1984 by George Orwell

## 1949

In George Orwell's dystopian SF novel, 1984, the Party uses mind-control and several types of propaganda to keep the public controlled and maintain people's loyalty. One of the key propaganda tools they use are slogans, which are short, often memorable phrases meant to promote a product or an idea.

The Party slogans (examples below) are clearly displayed on the Ministry of Truth, the branch of Government in charge of propaganda. The face of the Big Brother (who is always watching) is everywhere, on coins, telescreens, posters... to serve as a reminder of the main goals of a totalitarian state – to keep people under control and in constant fear, as well as to eliminate any independent thought.

“That’s the whole point of good propaganda. You want to create a slogan that nobody’s going to be against, and everybody’s going to be for. Nobody knows what it means, because it doesn’t mean anything.” ~ Noam Chomsky (from his book Media Control, 2002)



**WAR IS PEACE**  
**FREEDOM IS SLAVERY**  
**IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH**

Front

## English Version

**Take an offensive posture and you  
will be destroyed.**



IZ 0005

## Arabic Version

**إتخذوا موقعا عدوانيا هكذا تدمرون**



IZ 0005

Back

**Do not take an offensive posture  
and you will not be destroyed.**



IZ 0005

**لا تتخذوا موقعا عدوانيا فإذا لن تدمروا**



IZ 0005

Image source: U.S. Navy photo (2003) Wikimedia Commons

Coalition aircraft have been dropping leaflets urging Iraqi military forces not to take an offensive posture

# Psychological Warfare

“Psychological Warfare (sometimes abbreviated to psywar) is the pre-war or wartime use of propaganda directed primarily at confusing or demoralizing enemy populations or troops, putting them off guard in the face of coming attacks, or inducing them to surrender. The related concept of political warfare encompasses the use of propaganda, among many other techniques, during peacetime to intensify social and political divisions and to sow confusion within the societies of adversary states.” ([www.britannica.com/topic/psychological-warfare](http://www.britannica.com/topic/psychological-warfare))

Popular psychological warfare methods include manipulation via leaflets, radio, television or other media broadcasts, visual intimidation, fake social media accounts, and the use of propaganda to encourage an enemy's surrender or terror (for example, sleep deprivation through the continual projection of loud, repetitive, annoying music).

In modern times, thanks to mass communication, which allows direct communication with an enemy population, psywar has been used in a variety of disinformation and misinformation campaigns.





Image: Acme Telephoto, Photograph of a rehearsal of CBS Radio's The Mercury Theatre on the Air (1938), Wikimedia Commons  
Text: [www.smithsonianmag.com/history/infamous-war-worlds-radio-broadcast-was-magnificent-fluke-180955180/](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/infamous-war-worlds-radio-broadcast-was-magnificent-fluke-180955180/)

# The War of the Worlds by Orson Welles

## 1938

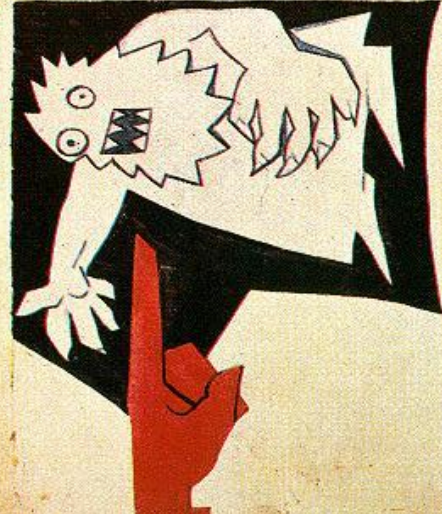
Listeners who had tuned into the 17th episode of the CBS Radio series “The Mercury Theatre” on the Air heard a news flash interrupt the regular program: “Ladies and gentlemen, we ... bring you a special bulletin from the Intercontinental Radio News. At 20 minutes before eight, central time, Professor Farrell of the Mount Jennings Observatory, Chicago, Illinois, reports observing several explosions of incandescent gas, occurring at regular intervals on the planet Mars. The spectroscope indicates the gas to be hydrogen and moving towards the Earth with enormous velocity.” After that, the real drama began. The broadcast first went back to dance music which was soon again interrupted to inform listeners that a strange object had landed in a field in rural New Jersey. The following day, media headlines suggested that the simple radio play had terrified the nation, claiming that the show generated a mass panic resulting in listeners fleeing their homes.

In reality, Orson Welles had adapted H.G. Wells' 1898 sci-fi novel, War of the Worlds (about a Martian invasion) using all the latest tricks known to radio broadcasters of that time (special bulletins, expert witnesses, on the scene reports). In other words, he demonstrated how fake news works.

Some sources claim that this incident was fake news about fake news, i.e. that the actual show had fewer listeners than the millions stated by the media and that no more than 50 people “panicked”. (See: [www.startribune.com/war-of-the-worlds-fake-news-that-spawned-ugly-fake-news-and-holds-lessons-for-today/499459191/](http://www.startribune.com/war-of-the-worlds-fake-news-that-spawned-ugly-fake-news-and-holds-lessons-for-today/499459191/))



# ХОЧЕШЬ? ВСТУПИ



1.ХОЧЕШЬ ПОБЕДИТЬ ХОЛОД?



2.ХОЧЕШЬ ПОБЕДИТЬ ГОЛОД?



3.ХОЧЕШЬ ЕСТЬ?



4.ХОЧЕШЬ ПИТЬ?

**СПЕШИ В УДАРНУЮ ГРУППУ  
ОБРАЗЦОВАГО ТРУДА ВСТУПИТЬ.**

# Agitprop

Agitprop, short for agitation and propaganda, is a political strategy which uses artistic forms to promote specific political agendas. The idea originated in Russia during the civil war, and the actual 'Agitacionnopropropagandistskij otel' (agitation propaganda section) was established by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party in 1920. Its goal was to influence, mobilize and control public opinion chiefly through literature, drama, music, or art. Palaces of culture, special trains and cars covered with slogans and posters, poster campaigns, agitation centres, or 'agitpunkts' (agitation centers), literacy programs, mass spectacles, books and libraries all played an important role in shaping the public opinion. Theatre was designed to appeal to the masses and its main purpose was more political and less artistic. It used forms like parodies, comedies and music. The whole idea spread to other European countries like Germany or UK, and later on to the USA.

These days the term is used to refer to any form of mass media or cultural manifestation with an overtly political purpose. Michael Moore's documentaries (Fahrenheit 9/11 being the first one of many to come) are often mentioned in Agitprop context.





# Internet Bot

A bot (short for robot) is a computer programme. It runs on a network and is programmed to do certain things like, for example, chatting with users or crawling websites. A bot usually includes: application logic, database and API integrations.

There are different types of bots (according to their function): chatbots, socialbots, shopbots, knowbots, crawlers, monitoring bots, transactional bots, etc. An example of a “good” bot is a 24/7 virtual customer service agent bot which will try to help you if, for example, you need to apply for an airline voucher because your flight has been cancelled due to Covid-19. On the other hand, there are malware bots which create problems and dangers for consumers such as data and identity theft, keylogging sensitive information like passwords, bank details and addresses, and, of course, phishing.

Bots play an important role in forming public opinions on different social media because they automatically create, share, and like contents on the platform. Today, bots are used to run ad campaigns, automate social media marketing, and even deliver high performing content marketing campaigns.

For a story about how bots can be programmed to automatically post information about news of any kind, check out the story “Alaska Back to Russia”:

[www.csis.org/npfp/covert-bots-cyber-nuisances-threatening-our-newsfeeds-and-our-democracy](https://www.csis.org/npfp/covert-bots-cyber-nuisances-threatening-our-newsfeeds-and-our-democracy)



# Mass Media Propaganda

“Propaganda is a type of communication that is used to promote a particular agenda or point of view. It can be used to influence people's opinions or to control their behavior. Propaganda often relies on disinformation and misinformation, which can be very effective in shaping people's opinions.”

([www.verywellmind.com/how-does-propaganda-work-5224974](http://www.verywellmind.com/how-does-propaganda-work-5224974))

There are different types of propaganda, for example, there is agitative propaganda (that wants to activate people towards a change, it calls for action) and integrative propaganda (to make them more passive, to get them to accept something) but it can also be white, gray and black depending on the source of propaganda (known, unknown or “somewhere in the middle”). There are also numerous techniques for spreading and presenting it.

Today, there is no better way to spread any kind of propaganda than by using mass media. Besides the traditional forms of mass media, which are print (newspapers, magazines, books), broadcast (television, radio) and cinema (movies, documentaries), today we have the Internet. And the Internet has changed not only the availability and speed of access to information (and propaganda) but created the environment where consumers become active participants in creating content.

Today, propaganda can travel around the globe in many shapes and forms (fake news, disinformation, misinformation, bots, etc.) fast and very often at no cost at all.





# Legal Action

Today's world of fake news, trolls, bots, misinformation and disinformation calls for new laws, regulations and actions aimed at controlling the damage(s) they cause. The similar “traditional” terms such as slander, libel and defamation by definition appear like “pieces of cake” comparing to the challenging “brave new world” we live in.

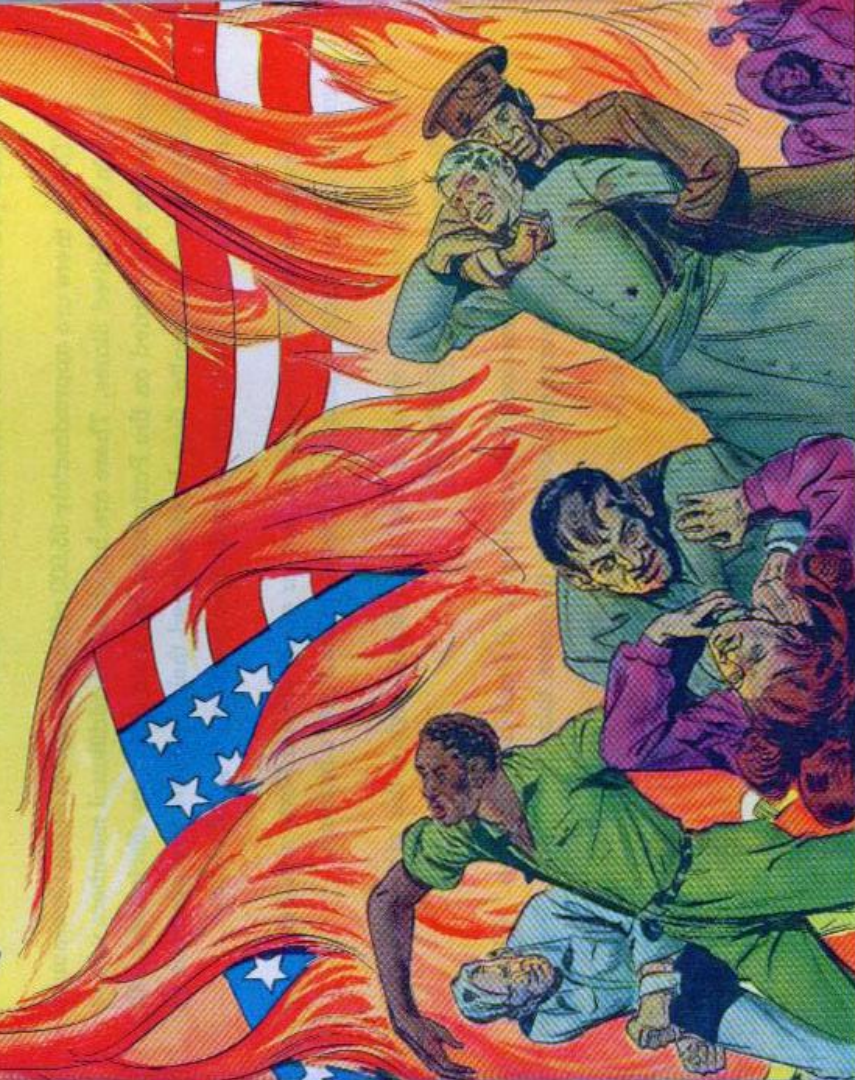
For a deeper insight into the complexity of the problem, see what legal actions are currently being created and enforced around the world in the following report: “A guide to anti-misinformation actions around the world” ([www.poynter.org/ifcn/anti-misinformation-actions/](http://www.poynter.org/ifcn/anti-misinformation-actions/))

Here is an example of a German anti-propaganda action:

“In Germany, government incentives seem to be working in the fight against propaganda. In March 2017, Germany began pressuring social networks to take responsibility for the spread of fake news with a bill to fine social media companies as much as 50 million euros if they fail to give users the option to complain about hate speech and fake news, or refuse to remove illegal content. The week after the bill was backed, Facebook Inc. published full-page ads in the country's most widely circulated newspapers offering readers 10 ways to identify the validity of news. Facebook took out similar ads in newspapers in France. The company also removed over 30,000 bot accounts spreading fake news stories, spam, misinformation, and other deceptive content in the country.”

([www.csis.org/nfpf/covert-bots-cyber-nuisances-threatening-our-newsfeeds-and-our-democracy](http://www.csis.org/nfpf/covert-bots-cyber-nuisances-threatening-our-newsfeeds-and-our-democracy))

**IS THIS  
TOMORROW**



**AMERICA UNDER COMMUNISM!**

Image: Anti-communist poster Unknown author, 1947, Cover to the propaganda comic book "Is This Tomorrow",  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Is\\_this\\_tomorrow.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Is_this_tomorrow.jpg)

# McCarthyism and the Red Scare

During the Cold War between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and The United States, concerns were raised in the United States that Communists were infiltrating all aspects of American life and that Soviet spies posed a threat to U.S. security. The period between the late 1940s and 1950s was marked by great fear of communism.

The House Un-American Activities Committee (established in 1938 to investigate the alleged disloyalty and suspicious activities of private citizens, public employees and organizations suspected of having Communist connections), together with Republican Senator from Wisconsin, Joseph R. McCarthy, investigated allegations of subversive elements in the federal government but also in the Hollywood film industry.

During that period, many Federal Government employees were accused of having affiliations with communism and leaking information. Most of those accused of treason or membership of the Communist Party were also union workers, prominent intellectuals, journalists, writers and Hollywood artists. They all ended up being interrogated and blacklisted. For example, government officials would lose their jobs. McCarthy's propaganda machine induced frenzy where everyone suspected everyone else, and people often reported people they had grudge against. Some of the famous Hollywood examples of blacklisted figures included Charlie Chaplin and Orson Welles.

Watch this anti-communist propaganda cartoon: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxsNU7ZZAIU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxsNU7ZZAIU) or this "tutorial" on "How to Spot a Communist": [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkYI\\_AH-qyk&t=14s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkYI_AH-qyk&t=14s), both from the Cold War period.



I CAN'T BELIEVE  
WE'RE MARCHING  
FOR FACTS





Image source: Mika Baumeister on Unsplash

Text: [www.oxfordpl.org/factcheckers.html](http://www.oxfordpl.org/factcheckers.html) and <https://abqlibrary.org/fakenews/factcheck> and IFLA (2017)  
<https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/167>

# Fact-checking

Fact checking is “the process of attempting to verify or disprove assertions made in speech, print media or online content. The practice is essential for integrity in any area where claims are made, including government, journalism and business.” ([www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/fact-checking](http://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/fact-checking))

There are many ways to fight false news and the spreading of misinformation. Here are some of the ideas... Check the credentials, links and sources, read the “About Us”, look for bias, check the dates, use the CRAAP Test - Currency, Relevance, Accuracy, Authority, and Purpose, Look out for questionable quotes or photos, search for it in other news outlets, check who owns the website posting the information, check the language (inflammatory? clear? tone?), check how publicly available it is.

You can always turn to professionals - there are many websites dedicated to fact checking. There are also platforms which bring together fact-checkers (see: <https://www.poynter.org/ifcn/>).

So, do not believe everything you read online - invest some energy into ensuring you're well, rather than falsely informed.

# DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION



# Digital Citizenship Education

People who hold citizenship of a certain country besides their rights also have responsibilities and duties as its citizens (for example, paying taxes, obeying laws...). Similarly, everyone who wishes to be a part (or a citizen) of the digital world should be equipped with the ability to use technology and the internet in a safe, responsible and meaningful way.

There are many elements or aspects of this 'digital citizenship'. To name just a few, one should know the rules of digital technology (computer skills), digital etiquette (how to respectfully treat others online), digital safety and security (protecting oneself from viruses, strangers, scams), etc.

The goal of the Council of Europe's Digital Citizenship Education (DCE) programme is to provide young citizens with innovative opportunities to communicate, learn, work and play responsibly in this digital environment, as they develop a whole range of competences that will enable them to harness the benefits and opportunities and overcome the pitfalls they will encounter. For more information, see Council of Europe's Digital Citizenship Education Handbook:

<https://rm.coe.int/digital-citizenship-education-handbook/168093586f>

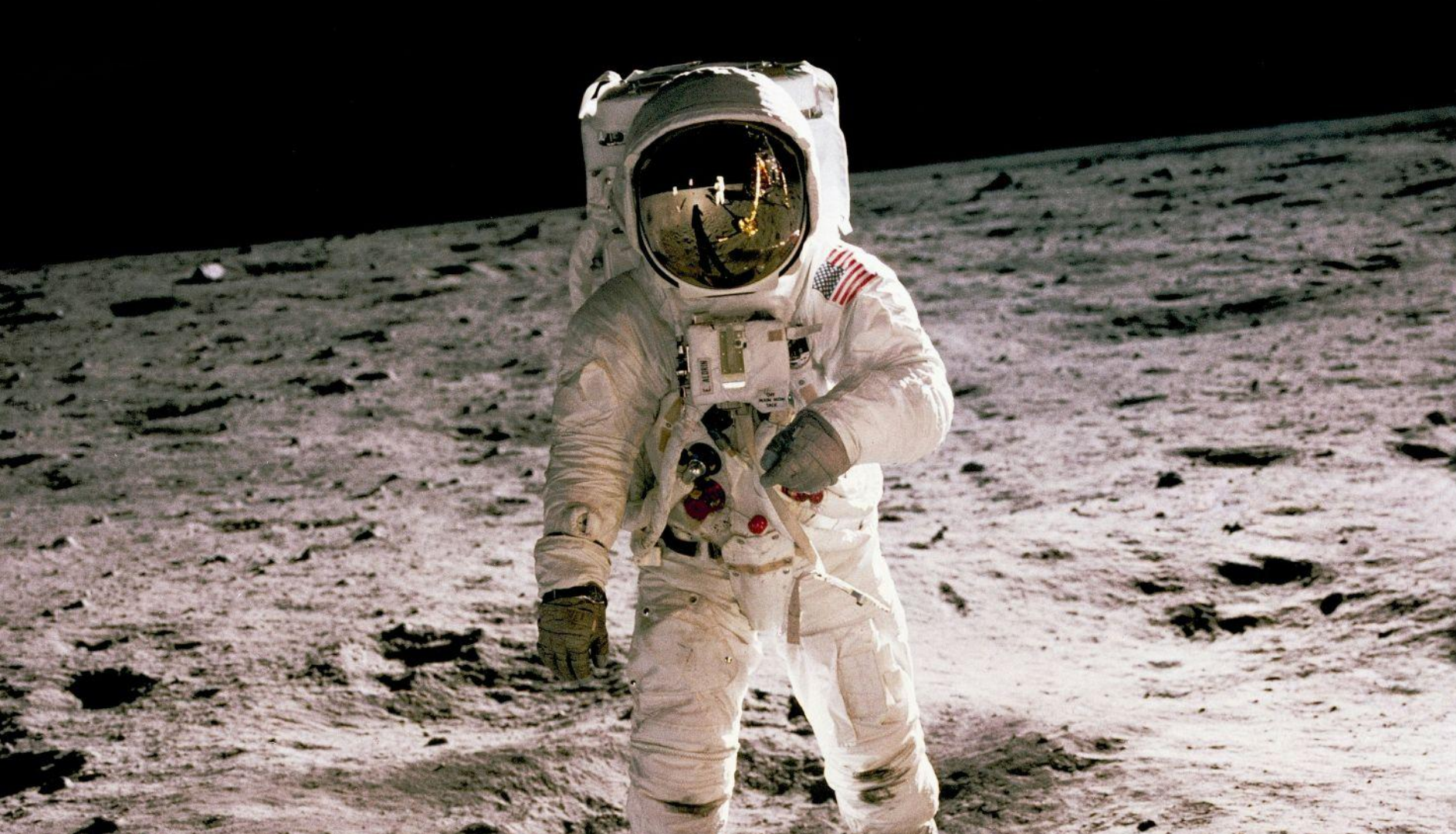




Image source History in HD on Unsplash

More on [www.paolacasoli.com/2014/12/space-race-propaganda-usa-vs-urss-a-matter-of-posters/](http://www.paolacasoli.com/2014/12/space-race-propaganda-usa-vs-urss-a-matter-of-posters/)

# Space Race

After the World War II, the two superpowers that emerged out of it, the USA and the USSR, began their competition for influence in Europe and around the world. One of the most prominent features of the Cold War was developing of nuclear weapons and all kinds of projectiles and rockets. So, when “the Earth became too small for them” they decided to expand their competition and the Cold War turned into the Space Race, i.e., who would reach the outer space first.

Each superpower tried to show its supremacy using all means available to them at the time. Through the use of mass media, posters, stamps etc. both the Soviets and the Americans made sure to not only show their scientific advancements, but to also communicate their ideological differences.



# Anti-American Murals in Iran

Revolutionary street art, i.e., murals and graffiti, have played an important role during political transformations and protests in Iran. Before and during the 1979 Islamic Revolution they were widely used to popularize ideological issues. Numerous political slogans, religious elements, oversized images of leaders of the revolution and anti-western propaganda were posted on walls during the post-revolutionary period. Street art and murals all over Tehran constantly remind its inhabitants and visitors about Iranian history and commemorate martyrs of the Iran-Iraq war, or celebrate the political values of the Islamic Republic.

Probably the most famous (and most visited by tourists) are the murals and graffiti on the former US embassy. Namely, in 1979 revolutionary students took over the US embassy (the “Den of Espionage” as they called it) in downtown Tehran. During the hostage crisis (1979-1981), while students held captive 52 Americans inside the compound for 444 days, the walls of the building were covered in mostly anti-American murals. Many of the walls surrounding the compound are “decorated” with an anti-American and pro-revolutionary artwork, slogans which read “Down with USA” and murals such as that of the statue of liberty depicted as a deathly grim reaper figure. Later, one part of the former embassy was turned into an anti-American museum.







# Information Laundering

The criminal activity of money laundering involves taking money obtained from illegal actions (drug sales, for example) and making it appear legitimate by concealing its origin. In the world of Internet, it is information that gets laundered. Namely, information laundering is taking false (“dirty”) pieces of information (from unverified sources or disinformation campaigns) and making them appear legitimate, mainstream, from a reliable source. In other words - “clean”.

Information laundering can involve different steps: placement (on social media, for example), layering (spreading to more credible sources) and integration (mass dissemination by a credible source). For more information, see: <https://securingdemocracy.gmfus.org/online-information-laundering-the-role-of-social-media/>



Image: Photo by Freepik on Freepik.com

text sources: [www.themoscowtimes.com/2017/10/17/kremlin-troll-factory-methods-and-figures-revealed-a59289](http://www.themoscowtimes.com/2017/10/17/kremlin-troll-factory-methods-and-figures-revealed-a59289) and <https://newslit.org/tips-tools/troll-farms-not-the-stuff-of-fairy-tales/>

# Troll Farms

An internet troll is not an unpleasant being from the Norse Mythology but a person who deliberately makes inflammatory and upsetting statements online, usually to provoke strong emotional responses or to change the topic of the conversation. Internet trolls do not reside in mountains or caves but on Twitter, in Comments sections and various forum boards. They tend to spread their disinformation through fake profiles accounts.

Troll factories or farms are organized groups that seek to, for example, interfere with political decision-making processes or create distrust of democratic institutions. They have whole armies of cyber users who fabricate and twist the facts on the Internet, change entire political pictures, spread rumors and false news. Troll farms can post thousands of comments on social media, reaching millions of people and altering their perception and understanding of certain topics and events.

*"Niemand hat  
das Recht  
zu gehorchen"*





Image: Bernd Schwabe, A mural of Hannah Arendt in Hannover, Germany, Wikimedia Commons

Text: <https://scroll.in/article/856549/ten-things-hannah-arendt-said-that-are-eerily-relevant-in-todays-political-times>

# Hannah Arendt

## 1906 - 1975

Hannah Arendt, an author, educator, political philosopher, public intellectual and a Holocaust survivor, published “The Origins of Totalitarianism” in 1951. In it she explored anti-Semitism and European imperialism which merged into Nazism and Bolshevism/Stalinism, trying to explain how those political movements became so popular and powerful attracting at the same time the crowds as well as the elites.

She wrote: “In an ever-changing, incomprehensible world the masses had reached the point where they would, at the same time, believe everything and nothing, think that everything was possible and nothing was true... The totalitarian mass leaders based their propaganda on the correct psychological assumption that, under such conditions, one could make people believe the most fantastic statements one day, and trust that if the next day they were given irrefutable proof of their falsehood, they would take refuge in cynicism; instead of deserting the leaders who had lied to them, they would protest that they had known all along that the statement was a lie and would admire the leaders for their superior tactical cleverness.”

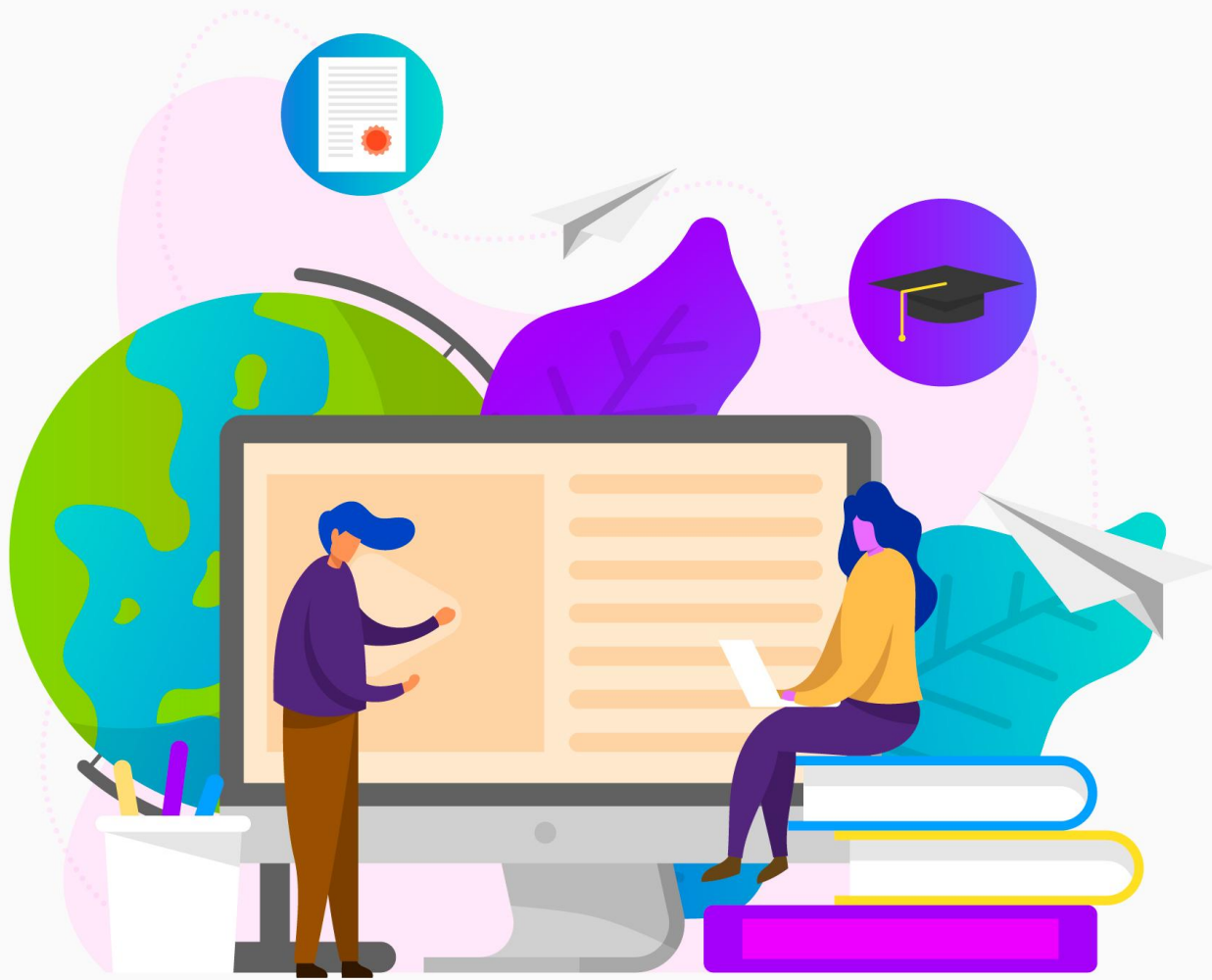


Image: by Freepik on Freepik.com

Text: <https://literacyideas.com/information-literacy/>

# Media and Information Literacy

Media literacy refers to the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and create media in all its forms. Information literacy refers to the ability to recognize when information is required, how to locate and evaluate it, as well as the ability to effectively communicate that information. Developing media and information literacy enables a person to develop their critical thinking and communication skills.

In his book “Seven Skills of Media Literacy”(2004) James W. Potter specifies (and gives practical advice on their improvement) seven skills of media literacy: analysis, evaluation, grouping, induction, deduction, synthesis, and abstracting.

Check out this short YouTube film about Media Literacy (one of many available):

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlaRw5R6Da4&t=9s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlaRw5R6Da4&t=9s)





# Hoax

Have you ever been asked to forward a chain email to at least 20 people and then something nice would happen to you (and bad if you didn't do it) or received a warning about a virus that would delete the hard disc on your computer?

A hoax is a false story or a deliberate lie designed to seem truthful. It has always been around, but as everything – Internet and social media help spread it much more efficiently than before. Very often hoaxes are just online pranks and playful jokes, but they can also be very dangerous and try to get, for example, your credit card details or install a virus on your computer.

These days Internet hoaxes play an important role in spreading political misinformation and they can seriously harm, damage or even destroy the reputation of political individuals or whole organisations.

Here are the “Five Alarm Signals” which can help you spot a hoax:

1. a request to forward the message to as many people as possible
2. the threat of consequences if you ignore the request
3. no or fake source information that would add to the credibility
4. no details cited on the author and origin of the information
5. time information such as “last week” or “yesterday” - a clear point in time is never mentioned



Image: [www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=File:Edward\\_Bernays.jpg](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=File:Edward_Bernays.jpg) (public domain)

Text: [www.thoughtco.com/edward-bernays-4685459](http://www.thoughtco.com/edward-bernays-4685459) and <https://antonabroad.com/edward-bernays-article/>

# Edward Bernays

## 1891 - 1995

When the USA engaged in a military action on foreign soil, the phrase “they are bringing democracy” to that country or part of the world was usually used as an explanation. A person who coined the phrase worked in Woodrow Wilson administration during WWI and used it to justify America’s involvement in Europe. His name was Edward Bernays and he is considered the father of modern Public Relations or PR (since the word ‘propaganda’ had negative connotations).

Bernays was a double nephew of Sigmund Freud (his mother was Freud's sister and his father was Freud's wife's brother), so it doesn't come as a surprise that he used psychology a lot in his work. Relying on Thomas Jefferson's idea that in democratic societies everything depends on consent, he set out to manipulate people's behaviour without them realizing it, that is, he promoted a scientific technique of forming and manipulating public opinion by understanding the opinion of the masses (“engineering of consent”). He wrote about it in his 1928 book “Propaganda”.

*“The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country. We are governed, our minds are molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of. This is a logical result of the way in which our democratic society is organized. Vast numbers of human beings must cooperate in this manner if they are to live together as a smoothly functioning society.”*





Image: by Freepik on Freepik.com

[https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/plagiarism-copyright-illustration\\_10757631.htm#fromView=search&page=1&position=1&uuid=c19a24cb-eb4a-4bf5-a757-f81a0c6d12ab](https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/plagiarism-copyright-illustration_10757631.htm#fromView=search&page=1&position=1&uuid=c19a24cb-eb4a-4bf5-a757-f81a0c6d12ab)

# Debunking

According to collinsdictionary.com “If you debunk a widely held belief, you show that it is false. If you debunk something that is widely admired, you show that it is not as good as people think it is.” Synonyms include words like expose, demystify, unmask.

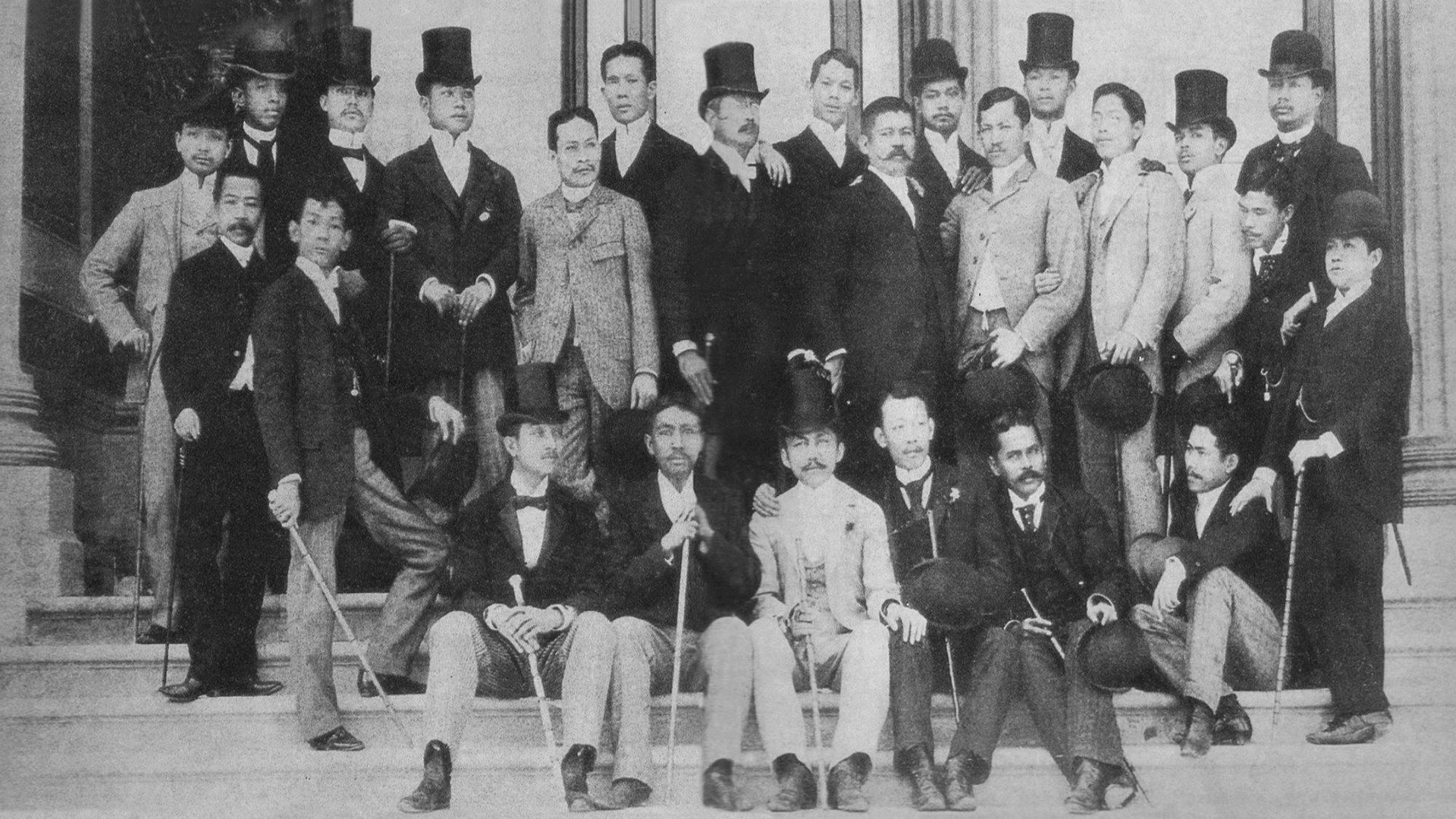
Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, the most dangerous myths have been those related to health, they are widely available online in abundance. Debunking harmful health myths is essential. Here are just two examples from mayoclinic.org:

1. 5G mobile networks. Avoiding exposure to or use of 5G networks doesn't prevent infection with the COVID-19 virus. Viruses can't travel on radio waves and mobile networks. The COVID-19 virus has spread in many countries that lack 5G mobile networks.
2. Ivermectin. This drug is used to treat or prevent parasites in animals. In humans, specific doses of ivermectin tablets can be used to treat parasitic worms. However, ivermectin isn't a drug for treating viruses. It hasn't been approved use of this drug to treat or prevent COVID-19. Taking large doses of this drug can cause serious harm. You should not use medications intended for animals on yourself.

Here is a YouTube video on how (what it takes) to debunk a myth using three elements (fact, myth, fallacy):  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6l37HD444aI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6l37HD444aI)

The ‘Debunking Handbook’ can be found here:

[www.climatechangecommunication.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/DebunkingHandbook2020.pdf](https://www.climatechangecommunication.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/DebunkingHandbook2020.pdf)



# Propaganda Movement

The Propaganda Movement (1872-1892) was the first Filipino nationalist movement. It was led by a Filipino upper-class, mostly young men, often mestizos and creoles whose families could afford to send them to Madrid and Barcelona to study in Spanish universities. In the atmosphere of free Europe they encountered different political movements inspired by Enlightenment thought, individual rights and anti-clericalism so they formed the Propaganda Movement. Organized for literary and cultural purposes they engaged in a set of communication actions through books, leaflets and newspaper articles which called for political reforms.

The main goal of the Propaganda Movement was creating reforms in the Philippines while specific goals were representation of the Philippines, as a province of Spain, in the Spanish parliament; secularization of the parishes; legalizing equality of Spaniards and Filipinos; creating public school system independent of the friars; abolition of the polo (labor service) and vandala (forced sale of local products to the government); guarantee of basic freedoms of speech and association; and equal opportunity for Filipinos and Spanish to enter government service.

Unfortunately, the propaganda movement did not succeed in its pursuit of reforms and the colonial government did not agree to any of its demands.

Here is a video lecture on the topic of Filipino Propaganda Movement:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9UfpsjN99I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9UfpsjN99I)





Image: Jesse Charlie, North Korean posthumous portrait of Kim Il-sung, CC0, Wikimedia Commons

Text: [www.vox.com/2016/1/6/10724334/north-korea-history](http://www.vox.com/2016/1/6/10724334/north-korea-history); [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-16336991](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-16336991)

# The Kim family (cult of personality)

Every night, North Korea's news bulletin begins with a song about the mythical qualities of the country's leader Kim Jong-il and the mountain where he is said to have been born. In North Korea, billboards are usually not plastered with advertisements. Instead, they very often carry pictures of the country's leaders (Kim Il-Sung, Kim Jong-II, Kim Jong-Un) and slogans about them. Kim Il-Sung was the founder of North Korea who led this communist country from its establishment in 1948 until his death in 1994. His images appear not only on billboards, but also on buildings, offices and classrooms. There are more than 500 statues across North Korea erected in his honour. Portraits of him and his son hang in nearly every North Korean home. Citizens are also often required to wear patriotic pins with their images on their shirts. Images of the leaders are everywhere.

Idolization propaganda is widespread throughout the educational curriculum with Kim Il-Sung's ideology and achievements are present to inspire idolization of the leaders and mold the population into supporters of the regime.

One article examined in detail the alleged claims about the present day Supreme Leader, Kim Jong Un (some of these claims are taught at schools or published in his biography), including the ones that he was born under a double rainbow, that he could drive a car at the age of three, that he raced a foreign yacht company's CEO when he was just 9 or that he has written more than 1500 books.



**VS**



**US**

**THEM**

## **THE ESSENCE OF PROPAGANDA**

Stereotypes are at the heart of all propaganda efforts.

Their purpose is to create the perception that our actions are always ethical and honorable, while those of our opponents are always unethical and dishonorable.

# Hate Speech and “Othering”

“Othering is a phenomenon in which some individuals or groups are defined and labeled as not fitting in within the norms of a social group. It is an effect that influences how people perceive and treat those who are viewed as being part of the in-group versus those who are seen as being part of the out-group.” ([www.verywellmind.com/what-is-othering-5084425](http://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-othering-5084425))

Hateful and offensive language, known as cyber hate speech or, simply, cyberhate, has been frequently posted and circulated on the Internet. Some of the main forms of hate speech are dehumanisation, demonisation, vilification, incitement, toxic misinformation and stereotyping on the basis of religion, disability, race, and sexual orientation.

Millions of Americans were repeatedly unpleasantly surprised when Republican presidential candidate, and later President Donald Trump, not only announced his plan to build a wall along the United States-Mexican border to keep the “criminals and rapists” out of the country, but also demanded a ban on immigrants of Muslim origin (Syrian refugees included) from entering the United States.

# TYPES OF INFORMATION DISORDER

FALSENESS

INTENT TO HARM

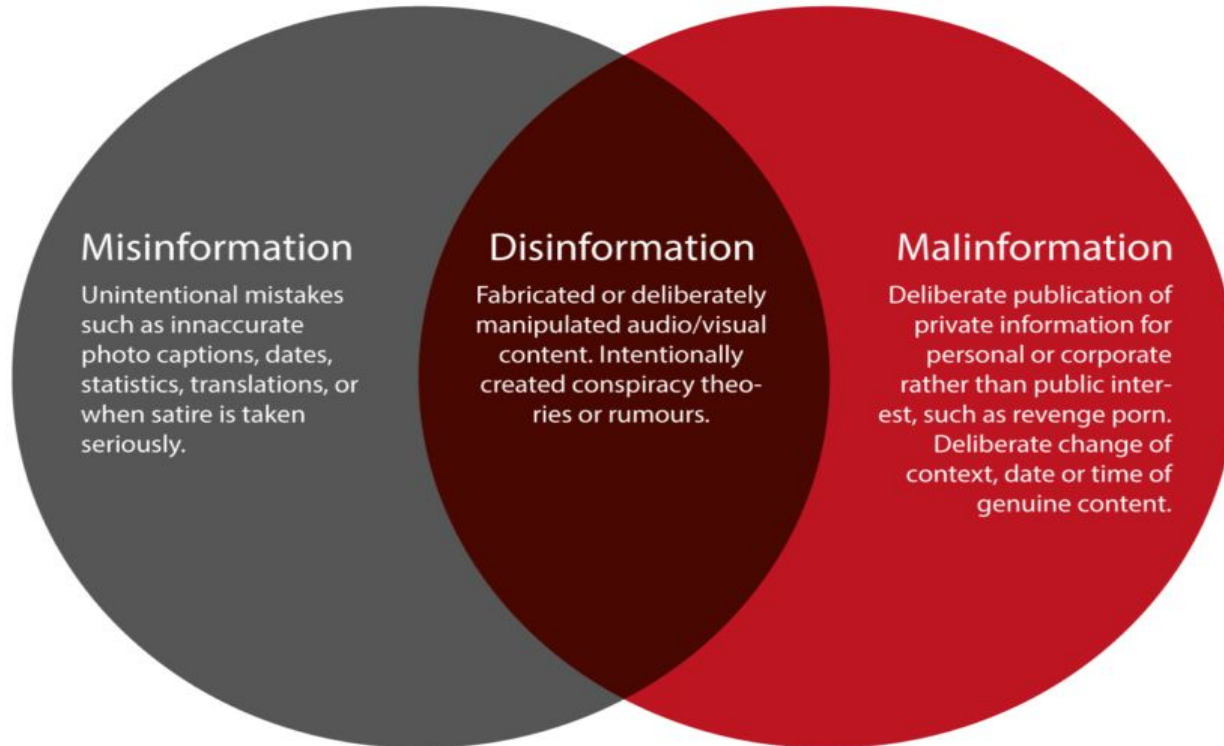




Image: Claire Wardle & Hossein Derakshan, 2017

<https://medium.com/1st-draft/information-disorder-part-3-useful-graphics-2446c7dbb485>

Text: <https://commonslibrary.org/disinformation-and-7-common-forms-of-information-disorder/>

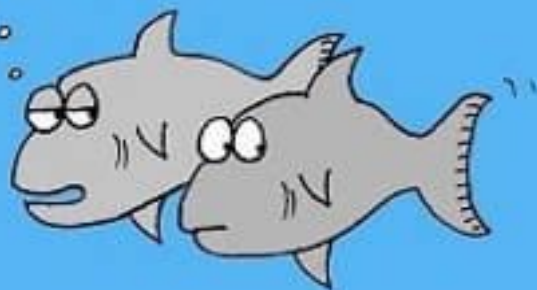
# Information Disorder

In today's world, it is very easy to create, modify, fabricate and widely share different messages. The information environment is polluted in many ways. Even if the information itself is genuine, it might be used out of context and turned into a propaganda weapon.

There are many different forms of disinformation, and some of the most common ones are Satire or Parody, False Connection ('clickbait' - when headlines and content do not match), Misleading Content (cropping photos, choosing specific quotes), False Context, Imposter Content (phishing and smishing using famous names, brands), Manipulated Content, Fabricated Content (deepfakes).

Information disorders usually consist of three elements: agent (origin), message (what? how?) and interpreter (reception).

Just ignore it.  
It's click-bait.



YOU'LL NEVER  
BELIEVE WHAT  
THIS WORM WAS  
CAUGHT DOING!



# Clickbait

From a marketing expert's point of view a headline or a similar content that instantly attracts attention and encourages visitors to open a specific link seems like a "dream come true". However, this phenomenon usually refers to the practice of generating misleading (often sensationalized) and sometimes even ridiculous headlines, called clickbaits, which rely on exaggerating and leaving out the most important pieces of information. Their sole purpose is to increase website traffic and, by doing so, increase revenue coming from online advertising. Thanks to human nature, they usually succeed.

Good (and usually successful) examples of a Clickbait are headlines which promise easy solutions, for example:

- This Simple Life Hack Saved Me \$10,000 Last Year
- I Ate Nothing But Meat For 3 Months, And This Is What Happened To My Body
- Hangover Cures That You Haven't Heard Of (Number 10 Works Every Time!)

If used correctly (and well-intendedly) clickbaits can turn people's attention in the positive direction such as, for example, to raise awareness about a social issue or injustice.





# Noam Chomsky

The most famous American linguist (and, for some, the father of modern linguistics), Noam Chomsky, is also a well known political activist and philosopher. In 1988, together with Edward S. Herman, he wrote the book "Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media" which examines how the corporate mass media operates.

Examining the American mainstream media, he found out that the apparently independent and professional press actually operates as a huge propaganda machine whose main purpose is to serve and promote the interests of the political and financial elites that control and finance it. Herman and Chomsky named the whole process "propaganda model".

According to that model, the relationship between media and power is determined by five factors or 'filters' that information must pass through in order to find its place in the media. Of course, they always serve the needs of the current financial and political powers and are, according to Chomsky and Herman, not the result of some conspiracy theory or conscious planning, but the result of complex economic and political processes. Those five filters are called: The Ownership, Advertising, The Media Elite, Flak, The Common Enemy.

Here they are explained: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=34LGPIXvU5M&t=27s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34LGPIXvU5M&t=27s)



Image: Gabi Rondon (2009), <https://flickr.com/photos/47869783@N00/3717053556>

Text: [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09bxkdm](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09bxkdm); [www.pablocicasso.org/guernica.jsp](http://www.pablocicasso.org/guernica.jsp)

# Guernica by Pablo Picasso

## 1937

Pablo Picasso's Guernica, a huge black-and-white oil painting from 1937 is probably his most important political work of art. It was painted in response to the German and Italian air force bombing of the ancient Basque town that bears the same name on Monday 26 April 1937, a bombing commissioned by the general Francisco Franco during the Spanish Civil War.

The painting was made for the 1937 Paris Exhibition where it received mixed reception of the public. Nevertheless it went on to become a powerful symbol of the atrocities of wars for anti-war protesters around the world (Vietnam War for example). Even Picasso himself stated that the painting was propaganda further politicizing it by keeping it out of Spain until the end of Franco's regime (and well after the end of Franco's and his own life) in 1981.

"Guernica shows the tragedies of war and the suffering it inflicts upon individuals, particularly innocent civilians. This work has gained a monumental status, becoming a perpetual reminder of the tragedies of war, an anti-war symbol, and an embodiment of peace...While Picasso was living in Nazi-occupied Paris during World War II, one German officer allegedly asked him, upon seeing a photo of Guernica in his apartment, "Did you do that?" Picasso responded, "No, you did."







Image: World Economic Forum, Sikarin Thanachaiary, [www.flickr.com/photos/worldeconomicforum/14062503408](https://www.flickr.com/photos/worldeconomicforum/14062503408)

Text: [www.rappler.com/nation/robredo-lauds-maria-ressa-nobel-peace-prize/](https://www.rappler.com/nation/robredo-lauds-maria-ressa-nobel-peace-prize/)

# Maria Ressa

A Filipino-American journalist (born in the Philippines, educated in the USA) who co-founded Manila based online news site called Rappler has been, together with Russian journalist Dmitry Murat, awarded a 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for her “efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace”. Maria Ressa became known for raising her voice against the Filipino Government, personally reporting on its propaganda on social media, its corruption and human rights violations.

The Nobel Prize was awarded to Maria Ressa for her focused critical attention on President Duterte’s controversial, murderous anti-drug campaign. She and Rappler have documented how social media have been used to spread fake news, harass opponents and manipulate public discourse.

According to her official “Rappler” biography “as Rappler's CEO and president, Maria has endured constant political harassment and arrests by the Duterte government, forced to post bail ten times to stay free.” She has been accused of fraud, tax evasion, receiving money from the CIA, and in 2020 she was found guilty of “cyber-libel”.



Image: Wikimedia Commons [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/05/Edward\\_Joseph\\_Snowden.svg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/05/Edward_Joseph_Snowden.svg)

Text: John Grace, [www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/sep/26/putin-grants-russian-citizenship-to-us-whistleblower-edward-snowden](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/sep/26/putin-grants-russian-citizenship-to-us-whistleblower-edward-snowden)

# Edward Snowden

“Permanent Record”, published on September 17, 2019 is an autobiography written by a whistleblower Edward Snowden, a former NSA (“National Security Agency”) computer analyst or “the man who risked everything to expose the US government’s system of mass surveillance”.

Snowden became famous in 2013 when he decided to leak highly classified details about secret information-gathering program to The Guardian journalists (Glenn Greenwald and Laura Poitras) in Hong Kong. Documents leaked by Snowden showed that YouTube, Facebook, Skype, Apple, Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, Dropbox, etc. all give the NSA direct access to its users’ content. The amount of collected intelligence reached over 3 billion domestic pieces in 2013 only showing the depth of surveillance programs active since 2007. Additionally, the leaks demonstrated the role of corporations, governments of other countries and lawmakers in legitimizing such surveillance programs.

Snowden was fired and then charged with espionage by federal prosecutors. He fled the country and was granted asylum by Russia in 2014, permanent residence in 2020, and citizenship in 2022.

Watch an interview with him where he explains his motives:

[www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/09/edward-snowden-nsa-whistleblower-surveillance](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/09/edward-snowden-nsa-whistleblower-surveillance)

## Psychological Inoculation

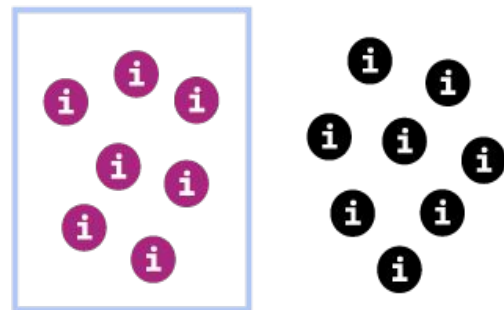
1. Introduce an emotional warning about misinformation.



2. Equip users to spot and refute the attack.



3. If misinfo appears again, users can identify it as misinfo.

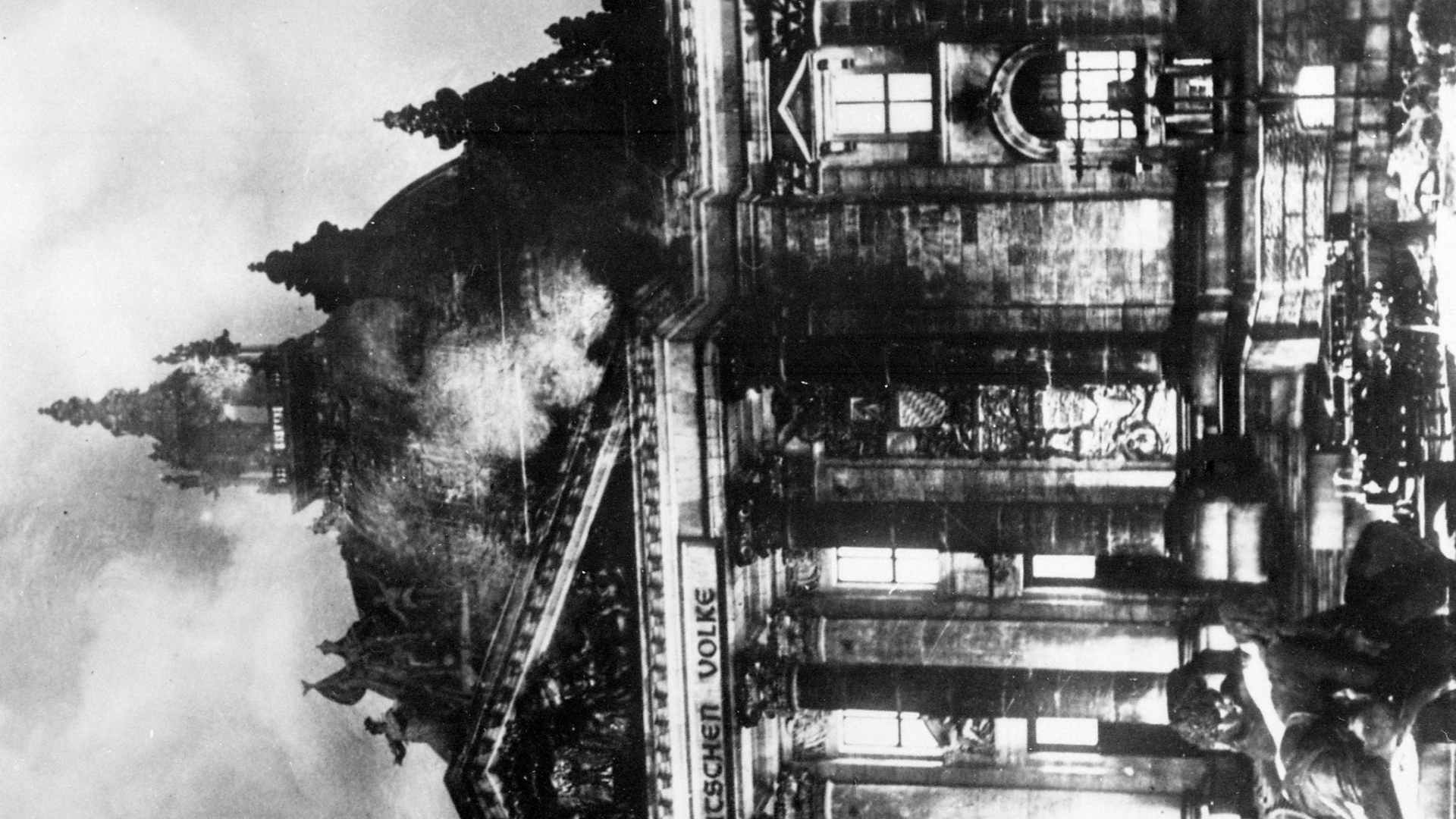




# Psychological Inoculation

Psychological inoculation works by helping people build “mental antibodies” by briefly exposing them to a weakened persuasive message and thoroughly refuting it. The goal is to help individuals better recognize and resist similar misleading messages when they encounter them in the future.

The theory developed in 1961 by social-psychologist William J. McGuire informs the problematic content (fake news and misinformation for example) users about how to strengthen their existing attitudes and beliefs, and resist persuasive attempts. He used the medical inoculation (synonym for vaccination and immunisation) analogy to illustrate the theory. Namely, inoculation exposes our body to a weakened virus, our body reacts with the production of antibodies, and later, when exposed to the virus again, those antibodies can provide protection.



DEUTSCHEN VOLKE

Image: Unknown author (1933), Wikimedia Commons <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Reichstagsbrand.jpg>

Text: <https://alphahistory.com/nazigermany/the-reichstag-fire/>

# The Reichstag Fire

On the night of February 27, 1933, the German parliament (Reichstag) burned down. Passers-by heard the sound of breaking glass and soon after that flames erupted from the building. The fire destroyed the Reichstag's gilded cupola, as well as a main chamber, causing huge damage.

Police swiftly arrested an unemployed 24-year-old Dutch labourer, Marinus van der Lubbe, who reportedly confessed to setting the fire. He was later tried in Leipzig and executed (beheaded) in January of 1934.

The Nazi leaders used the fire to establish their dictatorship by blaming the fire on the Communists. They claimed that emergency legislation was needed to prevent the Communist uprising and persuaded President Paul von Hindenburg to allow the enactment of the Decree for the Protection of the People and the State drawn up for states of emergency on February 4 of the same month by Hitler's cabinet. The so called Reichstag Fire Decree permitted the regime to arrest and incarcerate political opponents without a charge, suppress publications, dissolve political organizations, ban public meetings and marches.

Even today, the fire is the subject of continued debate. According to one, Hitler and his associates planted the arson and later brought the Dutchman to take the blame so that they could use the anti-Communist propaganda to obtain their goals.





Image: Photo by Samuel Regan-Asante on Unsplash

Text: [www.idsociety.org/idsa-newsletter/april-17-2019/new-idsa-patient-fact-sheet-social-graphics-debunk-measles-vaccine-myths/](http://www.idsociety.org/idsa-newsletter/april-17-2019/new-idsa-patient-fact-sheet-social-graphics-debunk-measles-vaccine-myths/) and <https://time.com/5175704/andrew-wakefield-vaccine-autism/>

# The Vaccine-Autism Myth

The vaccine-autism myth is one chilling example of fraudulent science. February 28, 2018 marks the 20th anniversary of an infamous article published in the prestigious medical journal, The Lancet, in which Andrew Wakefield, a former British doctor, falsely linked the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine to autism. The paper eventually was retracted by the co-authors and the journal. Wakefield was de-licensed by medical authorities for his deceit and “callous disregard” for children in his care. By the end, UK families had experienced more than 12,000 cases of measles, hundreds of hospitalizations — many with serious complications — and at least three deaths.

Despite being repeatedly debunked, the vaccine-autism myth persists to this day. It was amplified by the British media during its early years, later by celebrity endorsement and more recently by worldwide social media. Wakefield has continued his own relentless personal campaigning, putting forward his controversial film Vaxxed. Europe’s four-fold increase in measles cases and 35 measles-related deaths in 2017 — due largely to people not getting vaccinated — also reflects how Wakefield’s vaccine-autism scare can spark vaccine refusals that lead to debilitating and fatal cases of measles.



Image source: designed by @storyset on Freepik.com

Text: [www.marketgames.io/blog-posts/teaching-critical-thinking-with-technology](https://www.marketgames.io/blog-posts/teaching-critical-thinking-with-technology) and

[www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2022/08/05/13-easy-steps-to-improve-your-critical-thinking-skills/?sh=72e2ff145ecd](https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2022/08/05/13-easy-steps-to-improve-your-critical-thinking-skills/?sh=72e2ff145ecd)

# Building Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is considered to be an essential practice in media literacy and protecting oneself from disinformation and manipulation by propaganda. Here are some useful pieces of advice to help you sharpen your critical thinking skills:

1. Always vet new information with a cautious eye.
2. Look at where the information has come from. Is it a trustworthy source? What's the author's motivation?
3. Consider more than one point of view.
4. Practice active listening. Try to listen without judgment – critical thinking is about keeping an open mind.
5. Gather additional information where needed.
6. Ask lots of open-ended questions. Curiosity is a key trait of critical thinkers.
7. Find your own reputable sources of information (established news sites, non-profit organizations, etc.).
8. Try not to get your news from social media.
9. Learn to spot fake news and biased information.
10. Question your own biases and form your own opinions - critical thinking is about thinking independently.
11. Continue to work on your critical thinking skills. There are many online learning platforms such as Udemy and Coursera for courses on strengthening critical thinking skills, as well as courses on specific subjects like cognitive biases.

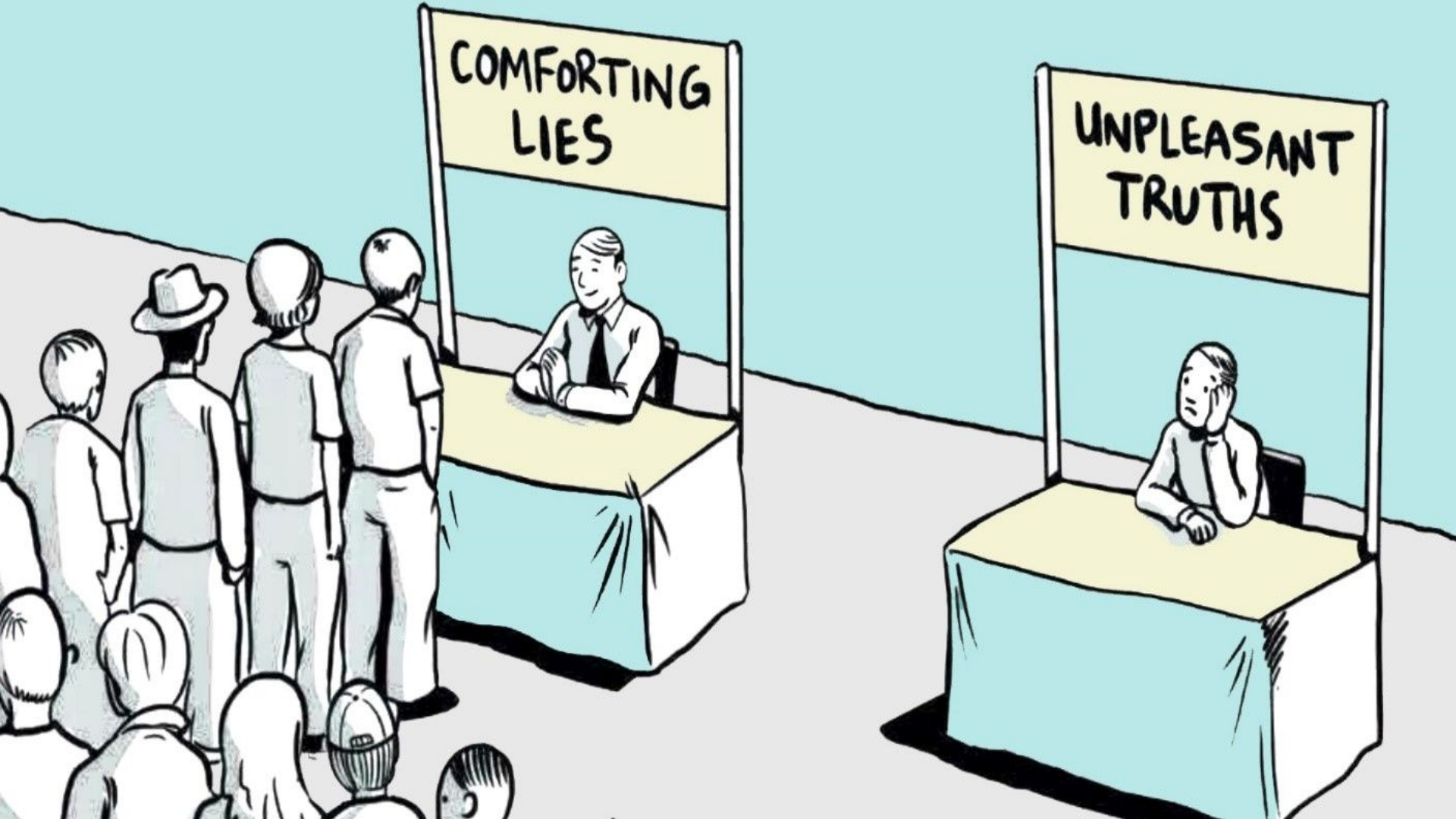




Image source: [www.tutorsploit.com/sociology/top-50-examples-of-confirmation-bias/](http://www.tutorsploit.com/sociology/top-50-examples-of-confirmation-bias/)

Text source: <https://hbr.org/tip/2017/07/to-avoid-confirmation-bias-in-your-decisions-consider-the-alternatives>

# Confirmation Bias

Confirmation bias can be defined as people's tendency to seek, favour, and remember information that supports or confirms their pre-existing beliefs while at the same time ignoring and/or discrediting information that doesn't. All human beings are prone to it because it is a sort of a shortcut or psychological error people use when gathering and interpreting information. Confirmation bias protects our self-esteem because people tend to feel good about themselves if something they assumed turns out to be right. Some of the types of Confirmation Bias are: biased attention, biased interpretation and biased memory.

Harvard Business Review suggests: "To avoid this trap, take some time before executing your decision and ask yourself what would've happened if you'd made the opposite choice. Gather the data you would need to defend this opposite view, and compare it with the data used to support your original decision. Reevaluate your decision in light of the bigger data set. Your perspective may still be incomplete, but it will be much more balanced."

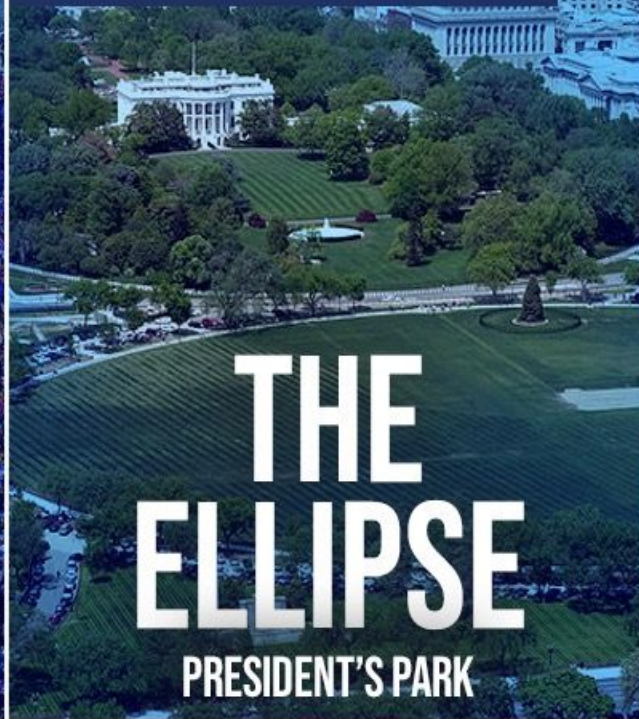
# TRUMP WANTS TO SEE YOU IN DC

**JAN 5 | 1 PM**



**FREEDOM  
PLAZA**

**JAN 6 | 9 AM**



**THE  
ELLIPSE**

**PRESIDENT'S PARK**

**JAN 6 | 1 PM**



**CAPITOL  
BLDG**

**(NORTH EAST DR)**

**MARCHTOSAVEAMERICA.COM**

# January 6, 2021 or the Capitol Riots

On November 3, 2020, Democratic candidate Joe Biden defeated Republican President Donald Trump. Biden became the new President of the United States. Before, during, and after the vote was counted, Trump and other Republicans tried to overturn the election alleging widespread voter fraud. In the end, an outburst of violence designed to spoil the peaceful transfer of power surprised everyone.

Supporters of US President Donald Trump gathered in Washington, DC on January 6, 2021 to protest the results of the elections and to support Trump's demand that Vice President Mike Pence and Congress reject Joe Biden's victory. A planned event on the Ellipse, called "Save America" rally, also hosted speeches from President Trump and Rudy Giuliani (former mayor of New York City and Trump's attorney). The demonstrations culminated in riots and the Trump supporters (some of them members of right-wing militias and white supremacy extremists' groups) attacked the United States Capitol.

It took four hours to secure the Capitol building. In the aftermath, a special committee was founded to investigate the event and more than 900 people have been charged.

Here you can find all of Donald Trump's Tweets posted on January 6, 2021:  
[www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/tweets-january-6-2021](https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/tweets-january-6-2021)



# STUDENTEN

CHRONO



SEID  
PROPAGANDISTEN  
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HOCH- u. FACHSCHULEN BEKENNEN SICH AM 29. MÄRZ  
ZUR DEUTSCHEN FREIHEITSBEWEGUNG



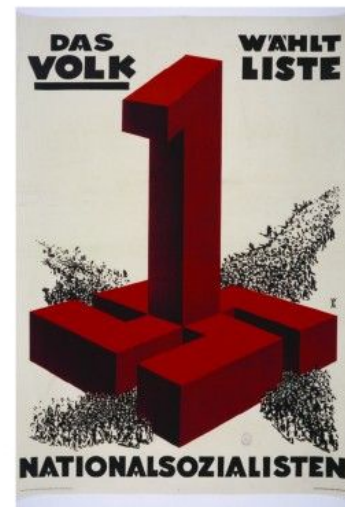
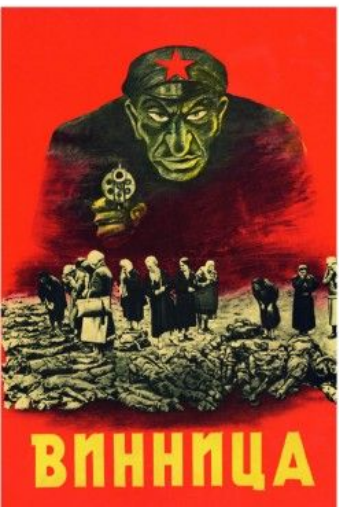
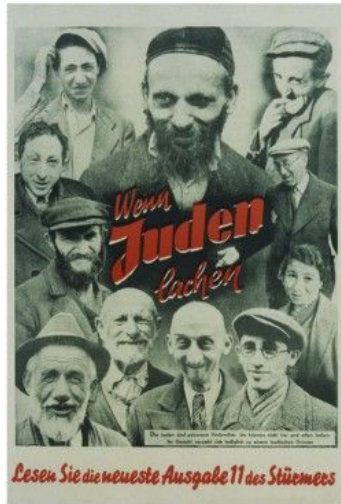


# Nazi Education and Indoctrination

Albert Einstein once said, "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think." Education in Nazi Germany, unfortunately, was guided by the exact opposite concept – the one of indoctrination – which, according to britannica.com, teaches (someone) to fully accept the ideas, opinions, and beliefs of a particular group and to not consider other ideas, opinions, and beliefs.

Education in the Third Reich served to indoctrinate students with the National Socialist world view. Nazi scholars and educators glorified Nordic and other "Aryan" races, while labeling Jews and other so-called inferior peoples as parasitic "bastard races" incapable of creating culture or civilization...In the classroom, instruction aimed to produce race-conscious, obedient, self-sacrificing Germans who would be willing to die for Führer and Fatherland. Devotion to Adolf Hitler was a key component of Hitler Youth training. German adolescents swore allegiance to Hitler and pledged to serve the nation and its leader as future soldiers.

Youth organizations, such as the Hitler Youth and the League of German Girls, served the same purpose.



Images: Row one: (third and fourth from left) Muzeum Okregowe w Rzeszowie; (fifth from left) Courtesy of Randall Bytwerk. Row two: (first from left) Hoover Institution Archives; (fourth from left) Library of Congress; (fifth from left) Muzeum Okregowe w Rzeszowie.  
<https://medium.com/memory-action/why-we-need-to-study-nazi-propaganda-69c7419b5a54>

# Nazi Propaganda Posters

The Nazi Party revolutionized ideological messaging in Germany. They made sure that all the Germans, not only the ones directly involved with military activity, but also the civilians (children and youth too) would believe in their cause. Besides investing into new tanks, airplanes and submarines, the people on the home front were abundantly fed with endless Nazi propaganda through movies, the radio, and countless posters wherever they turned. Nazi's innovative approaches to propaganda and insights into mass psychology continue to be applied today by many, from populist politicians to extremist organizations.

"Is propaganda, as we understand it, not also a form of art?" asked Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi Propaganda Minister, in June 1935. The Nazis designed highly artistic posters that were very successful in influencing the masses. They engaged all the famous artists of their time, many of whom were staunch Nazi supporters, like for example, graphic artist and architect Ludwig Hohlwein. His propaganda posters were so successful that he was banned from working for many years after the war. The aesthetic language of the posters employed photographic collages and clear lettering and conveyed clear messages appealing to people.

Even long after the war, the posters were (and still are) the subject of research studies and controversies. An exhibition on Nazi poster art at the Munich Stadtmuseum in 2012 titled "Typography of Terror - Posters in Munich from 1933 to 1945" triggered heated debates.