Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Dec 8, 2022 • 10 tweets • P_Kallioniemi/status/1600752100966662144

In today's #vatnik soup, I'll start an introduction about the Russian information operations (an activity that tries to affect the public opinion and behavior of a society), disinformation and propaganda.

This topic is a broad issue and I'll do it over several threads.

1/10

The Russian model of disinformation dates back to KGB days. KGB defector Yuri Bezmenov explained already in 1985 the idea of "ideological subversion" or "active measures" as an overt and open operation of manipulation of public opinion.

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Bezmenov said that Russian "active measures" can be divided into 4 stages: 1) demoralization, 2) destabilization, 3) crisis, and finally 4) normalization.

I can highly recommend watching this interview of Bezmenov as it's still very topical:

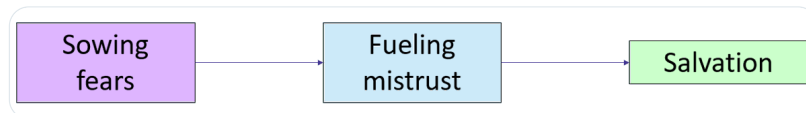https://www.youtube.com/embed/pOmXiapfCs8

3/10

The general model for info ops is as follows: 1) sowing fears, 2) fueling mistrust, and finally 3) offering salvation.

Let's use COVID-19 as an example: at the beginning of the pandemic, Russian disinformation was outlining that COVID is highly lethal ...

4/10

... and that you can't trust the government on anything they say. This same idea was then shifted to vaccinations. This disinfo campaign is still going strong:

"Ethically Unjustifiable" - Scientists from Harvard & Johns Hopkins Fo...
A new pre-print study by nine health experts from major universities showed that the COVID-19 vaccines are 98 times worse than the virus, and mandatory booster vaccination in college is "ethically un…

https://web.archive.org/web/20220914132500/https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/202…

Finally, Russia offered a "salvation" with their own Sputnik V vaccine.
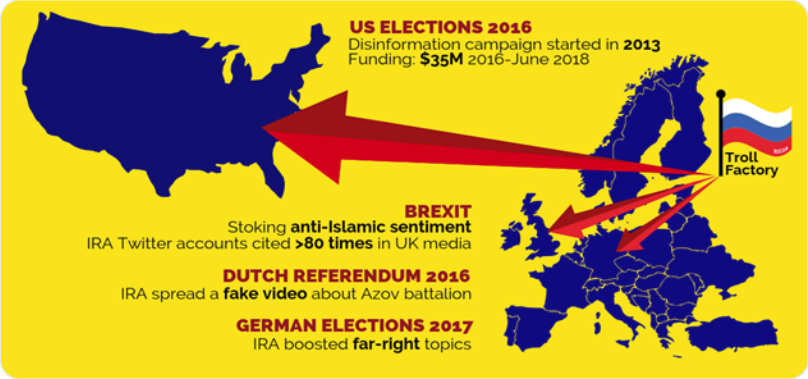
5/10

In this regard their propaganda was a total failure: it backfired, spread inside Russia and large portion of Russians skipped the vaccines altogether. In Lithuania, most of the COVID deaths were among the Russian speaking population who became victims of Russian disinfo.

6/10

Another example of a successful info op in the West were the 2016 US elections. Russia's "Project Lakhta" interfered with democratic election process with huge amount of disinformation, spreading mistrust and uncertainty in the society:

Russian Project Lakhta Member Charged with Wire Fraud Conspiracy
A criminal complaint was filed today charging a Russian national for his alleged role in a conspiracy to use the stolen identities of real U.S. persons to open fraudulent accounts at banking and cryp…

https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/russian-project-lakhta-member-charged-wire-fraud-cons…

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Troll farm IRA founder Yevgeny Prigozhin denied their involvement and even sued people who suggested this,but in Nov,'22 he admitted that "We have interfered (in U.S. elections), we are interfering and we will continue to interfere. [..] in our own way, as we know how to do."8/10

Trump was the perfect candidate for Russia: his businesses were in Russia & he was conducting the Russian disinformation model, "firehose of falsehood" perfectly: Based on Washington Post's research, Trump made over 30 000 false or misleading statements during his presidency.9/10

The Firehose of Falsehood: the Russian style of propaganda for an age of information abundance.

- High volume and multi-channel approach
- Shameless in its willingness to broadcast lies
- No commitment to, or requirement for consistency
- Rapid, continuous and repetitive messaging
- Point is not to persuade but to confuse and overwhelm
- Assumes a low trust environment *and lowers it further*
- Number of arguments matters more than their quality
- Drown out competing messages through sheer volume

The legacy of his pro-Putin politics can still be seen in the US with politicians like QAnon & Pizzagate advocate Marjorie Taylor Greene ([@RepMTG](#)) and agitator and a laughingstock Jackson Hinkle ([@jacksonhinklle](#)).

Stay tuned for part two!

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Marjorie Greene Claims She Stopped Believing QAnon In 2018—A Recent Tweet Suggests Otherwise

Jack Brewster Former Staff
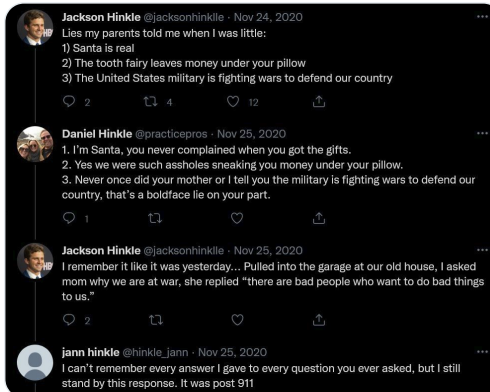*I write about national politics for Forbes, with a focus on Trump.*

Feb 4, 2021, 01:32pm EST

Updated Feb 4, 2021, 03:21pm EST

TOPLINE In remarks on the floor ahead of a House vote to strip her of committee assignments, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) disavowed her past support for QAnon—but did not apologize—before equating the media with the crackpot conspiracy theory.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jackson Hinkle @jacksonhinklle · Nov 24, 2020
Lies my parents told me when I was little:
1) Santa is real
2) The tooth fairy leaves money under your pillow
3) The United States military is fighting wars to defend our country

💬 2   🔁 4   ♡ 12

Daniel Hinkle @practicepros · Nov 25, 2020
1. I'm Santa, you never complained when you got the gifts.
2. Yes we were such assholes sneaking you money under your pillow.
3. Never once did your mother or I tell you the military is fighting wars to defend our country, that's a boldface lie on your part.

💬 1   🔁   ♡

Jackson Hinkle @jacksonhinklle · Nov 25, 2020
I remember it like it was yesterday... Pulled into the garage at our old house, I asked mom why we are at war, she replied "there are bad people who want to do bad things to us."

💬 2   🔁   ♡

jann hinkle @hinkle_jann · Nov 25, 2020
I can't remember every answer I gave to every question you ever asked, but I still stand by this response. It was post 911

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