



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Apr 14 · 23 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1646817793776529408](#)

In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll introduce Daniel Iivandjiiski's fake news blog, Zero Hedge ([@zerohedge](#)). The site's best-known for its alarmist doomsday predictions on Wall Street, and for its far-right, conspiratorial and pro-Russian content.

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The logo for ZeroHedge, featuring a stylized 'H' inside a circle followed by the text 'ZeroHedge' in a serif font.

The site was launched in 2009 by Bulgarian-born Daniel Iivandjiiski, a former investment banker. Since its launch, most of the articles on ZH were published under the pseudonym "Tyler Durden". Dan was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, and moved to the US to study medicine, ...

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...only to realize that one could make much more money on Wall Street. In 2006, Ivandjiiski was charged of gaining 780 USD from inside trading and was eventually barred from acting as a broker.

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The screenshot shows the BrokerCheck website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'FEEDBACK', 'BrokerCheck Help Line (800) 289-9999', and 'FINRA Home'. Below this is a search bar with tabs for 'INDIVIDUAL' and 'FIRM'. The search bar contains the following text: 'Individual Name/CRD#', '11', 'Firm Name or CRD/SECID (optional)', 'City, State or ZIP (optional)', and a 'SEARCH' button. A disclaimer below the search bar reads: 'Please be aware that fraudsters may link to BrokerCheck from phishing and similar scam websites, trying to steal your personal information or your money. Make sure you know who you're dealing with when investing, and contact FINRA with any concerns. For more information read our investor alert on imposters.'

Below the search bar, there are links for 'Back to Results' and 'Detailed Report' with a 'Share' icon. The main profile section is for 'DANIEL KRASSIMIROV IVANDJIISKI' with CRD#: 4445294. A red 'BARRED' warning is displayed: 'FINRA has barred this individual from acting as a broker or otherwise associating with a broker-dealer firm.'

The profile summary includes the following statistics:

- 1 Disclosure
- 5 Years of Experience, 3 Firms
- 2 Exams Passed
- 0 State Licenses

At the bottom, there is a 'Registration History' section with a calendar view showing a red dot for the year 2009.

Few weeks after leaving the business, Dan launched ZH. Based on various financial experts, the site was a pretty good financial blog, and in Mar 2011, it was selected as the 9th best financial blogs by the Time Magazine.

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The screenshot shows a New York Post article. At the top, there's a red navigation bar with the 'NEW YORK POST' logo and social media icons. Below that, a 'BUSINESS' category tag is visible. The main headline is 'BLOGGER MAY HAVE A PAST' in large, bold, black letters. The byline reads 'By Kaja Whitehouse' and the date is 'August 21, 2009 | 7:04am'. The central image is a video player from CNBC. On the left of the video, a man in a suit is speaking. On the right, a stock chart for 'SVB FINANCIAL (SIVB)' is displayed, showing a sharp decline from 106.04 to 39.40, a drop of -66.64 (-62.84%). The chart is labeled '24-HOUR' and 'EXT HOURS'. Below the video, a 'BREAKING NEWS' banner reads 'YELLEN: MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS FROM SVB FALL OUT VERY CAREFULLY' and 'testifying before the House Ways and Means Committee'. The CNBC logo is in the bottom right corner of the video player.

A 30-year-old New Yorker who was barred from the securities industry last year may be behind an increasingly popular financial blog known as Zerohedge.com, which is catching flack for its obsession with anonymity.

Daniel Ivandjiiski, whose most recently listed address is on the Upper East Side, was barred last September by the financial industry's self regulatory authority, FINRA, for insider trading.

Ivandjiiski is also suspected of being one of the founders of controversial financial blog Zerohedge.com, sources tell The Post.

Ivandjiiski didn't return requests for comment, but he recently told industry publication Hedge Fund Alert that while he writes for Zerohedge, he's not a founder.

The site's domain name was registered under a company called ABC Media Ltd., ran by Dan's father, Krassimir Ivandjiiski. In 1974, Krassimir became a member of a Soviet propaganda organization called International Organization of Journalists.

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The screenshot shows the profile page for Krassimir Ivanov Ivandjiiski on the 'STROGO SEKRETHO' website. The page features a navigation menu on the left with options like Home, Archive, Search, Sponsors, About us, Contact, and Donation. A 'Translate' section is also present. The main content area includes a profile picture, a bio, and several articles with 'read more' links. The bio states: 'Krassimir Ivanov Ivandjiiski Born: 15 June 1947'. The articles listed include: 'Krassimir Ivandjiiski - publicist, editor, journalist, one of the doyens of modern Bulgarian and European journalism and political thought, known inside and beyond Europe for five decades.', 'Krassimir Ivandjiiski is publisher and editor-in-chief of "Strogo sekretno" in newspaper and internet versions since 1994.', 'Krassimir Ivandjiiski is member of the Union of Bulgarian Journalists and of the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ) since 1974, member of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). Worked with leading international journalists within the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ) in Prague 1978 -1982.', 'Krassimir Ivandjiiski was guest professor /lecturer/ in geopolitics, geo-economics, international relations and international law in 1975-1994 within Lecturer Groups and some universities in Central Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, Master's Degree in Foreign trade and Economics.', 'Krassimir Ivandjiiski is author of more than 50,000 articles and analyses, several books and screenplays in Bulgaria and elsewhere during his 50 years professional career.', 'Krassimir Ivandjiiski is founder of the geopolitics and geo-economics in Eastern Europe and Bulgaria.', 'Krassimir Ivandjiiski is expert in international political, economic and financial structures.', 'Krassimir Ivandjiiski has covered for many years the high level forums of the Warsaw Pact.

He then worked as an international correspondent for the Rabotnichesko Delo, a Soviet propaganda newspaper, allegedly until the fall of the USSR. Since 1994, Krassimir has worked as a publisher and as editor-in-chief for the anti-Semitic, conspiratorial fake news blog...

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'STROGO SEKRETHO' website. The page features a navigation menu on the left, a 'Headline Analyzes' section with a large image and text: 'Войната в Украйна - година втора. Лондон и Берлин изпращат снаряди с обеднен уран', a 'CURRENT ISSUE' section for April 23, an 'Editor's Choice' section with a large image of a missile, a 'Featured articles - Ivandjiiski' section with a link to '„Белгород“ ще носи суперторпедото „Посейдон“', a 'News, Events And Updates' section, and a 'World authors and analytics' section with a link to 'The Real Reason Gold Hasn't Exploded'. The page also includes a login form and a 'TV & Videos' section.

...called Strogo Sekretno ("Top Secret"). In his blog, he's suggested that COVID-19 was actually a "Western Zionist act of bioterrorism". Several sources, connected to the Bulgarian government, have suggested that ZH could actually be a Bulgarian intel operation.

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A Bulgarian attorney, Nikolay Hadjigenov, stated that "If you read carefully his career, you can see the possibilities of the KGB in the shadow of the mirror," referring to Krassimir Ivandjiiski.

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Later it turned out that Dan wasn't the only one who was writing under the pseudonym Tyler Durden. In Apr 2016, Bloomberg published an article that revealed three contributors to the name: Dan Ivandjiiski, Tim Backshall and Colin Lokey.

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Business

Unmasking the Men Behind Zero Hedge, Wall Street's Renegade Blog

The veil is lifted on a secretive website.

By Tracy Alloway and Luke Kawa
April 29, 2016 at 12:00 PM GMT+3

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Colin Lokey, also known as "Tyler Durden," is breaking the first rule of Fight Club: You do not talk about Fight Club. He's also breaking the second rule of Fight Club. (See the first rule.)

After more than a year writing for the financial website Zero Hedge under the *nom de doom* of the cult classic's anarchic hero, Lokey's going public. In doing so, he's answering a question that has bedeviled Wall Street since the site sprang up seven years ago: Just who is Tyler Durden, anyway?

In the same article, Lokey, who had left the company, told Bloomberg how Ivandjiiski's personal beliefs don't intersect with the site's content, and that he's using controversial topics to make money. Lokey described ZH's approach to "news" as follows: "Russia=good. ...

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...Obama=idiot. Bashar al-Assad=benevolent leader. John Kerry=dunce. Vladimir Putin=greatest leader in the history of statecraft." Lokey earned more than a 100 000 USD annually for writing this BS. Back then, Dan said that the blog generates income from online ads.

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- Commentary and Analysis

All BASIC features, plus:

All PREMIUM features, plus:

All PROFESSIONAL features, plus:

And boy, do those ads make a lot of money! Even though Dan has tried to hide all information on revenue, his divorce case revealed some of his ownings, including a 2,3 million USD mansion. Previously Dan & his wife had paid off 1,7 million USD mortgage in just two years.

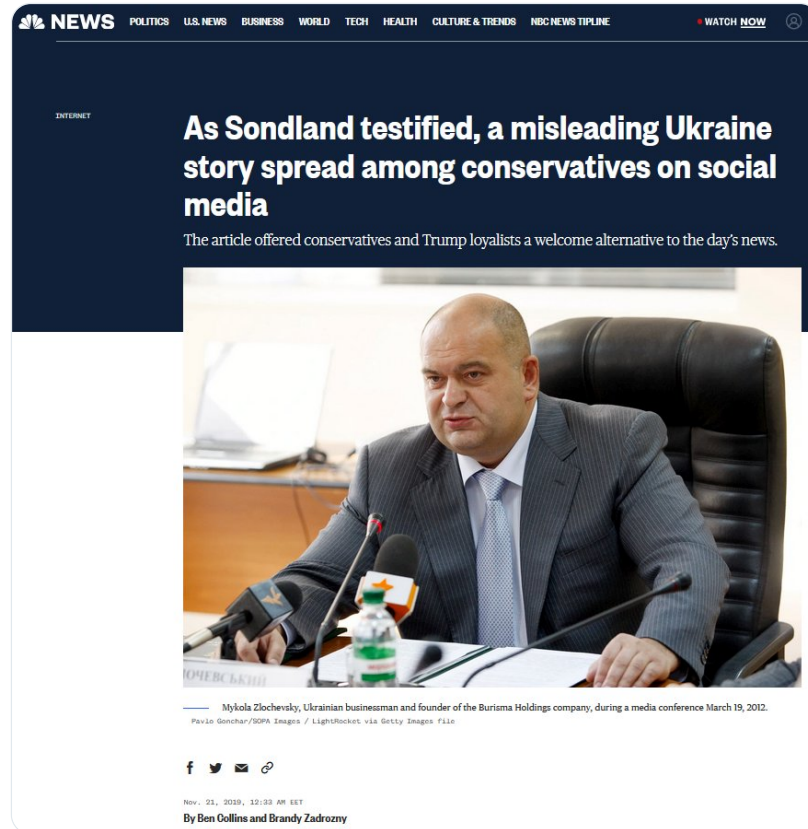
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Lokey also provided chat transcripts to Bloomberg in which Dan calls the US "silent majority" "beastly" (i.e. "very unpleasant"), and that life in the US "outside of my bubble" is bad. After these revelations, Dan tried to defame Lokey, calling him "an emotionally unstable,..13/22

psychologically troubled alcoholic with a drug dealer past, as per his own disclosures."

In 2019, ZH published an article falsely claiming that Mykola Zlochevsky, the head of a Ukrainian energy company Burisma, had been indicted for money laundering, and that the crime...

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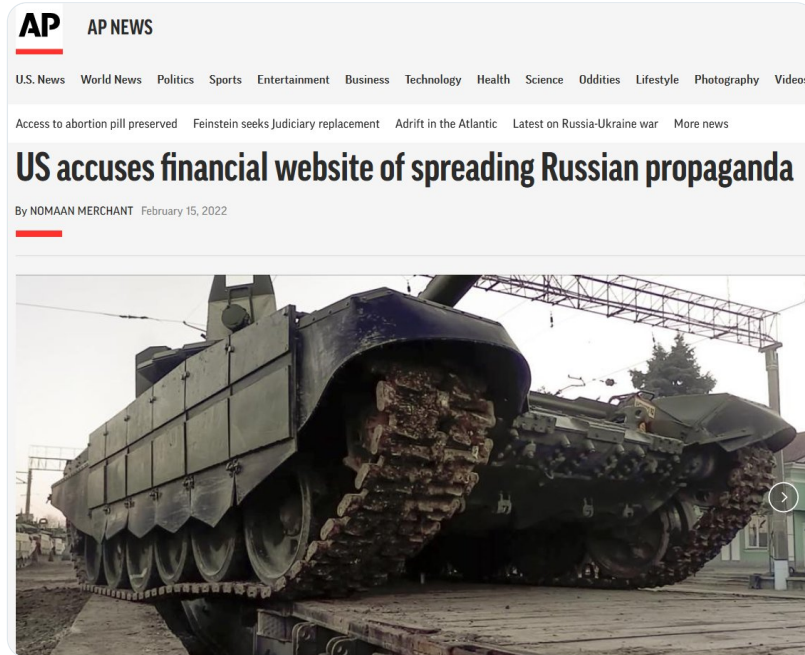
...was related to the Biden family. Apparently ZH bloggers had misunderstood the original Russian article from the Interfax-Ukraine News Agency and just went with their own interpretation. As is tradition, this fake news spread like a wildfire when it was spread by...

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...far-right propagandists like Jack Posobiec and Charlie Kirk, and again amplified by QAnon conspiracy theorists.

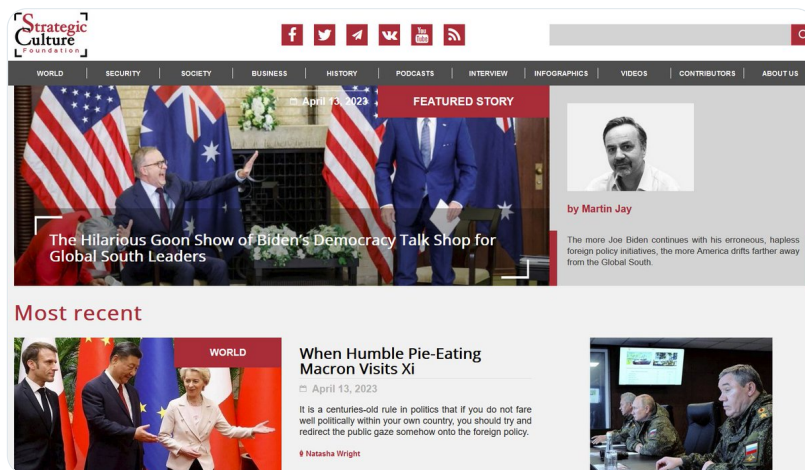
In Feb 2022, right before Russia invaded Ukraine, intelligence officials claimed that ZH had published and spread articles written by the Kremlin-run media.

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ZH has also published articles written by people affiliated with the Strategic Culture Foundation, a US sanctioned foundation that interfered with the 2020 US presidential election, and allegedly has ties to Russia's foreign intel service, SVR.

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These rather biased takes have headlines such as "NATO Sliding Towards War Against Russia In Ukraine," and "Theater Of Absurd... Pentagon Demands Russia Explain Troops On Russian Soil."

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They've also claimed without any evidence that the down shooting of MH17 was a pretext for a NATO invasion of East of Ukraine. This article was widely referenced in Russian state media. ZH has also suggested that the Skripali poisonings were staged by the British...

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In an article premised on an interview with Malaysian military Colonel Mohamad Sakri, who was responsible for retrieving the black boxes from flight MH17 from eastern Ukraine, English-language conspiracy site ZeroHedge added its own unsubstantiated claims that the interview had not included. In particular, it alleged that the United States planned to use the crash as a pretext to launch an organized NATO operation in the Donbas region of Ukraine. Many pro-Kremlin media outlets in Russia then picked up the story and amplified it in the Russian language space.

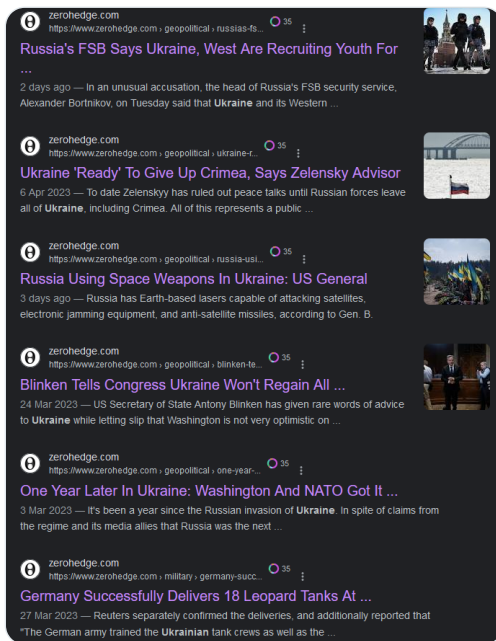
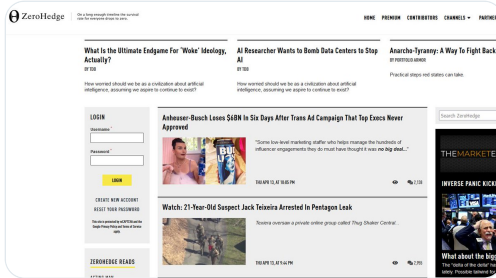


..intelligence services, and that the Steele Dossier, a report suggesting financial connection between Donald Trump and the Kremlin, was a "fanfiction" originating from 4chan. The site has also featured articles from the PUA grifter and sleazeball extraordinaire, Gonzalo Lira. 20/22



With headlines like "What Is the Ultimate Endgame For 'Woke' Ideology, Actually?" and "Anheuser-Busch Loses \$6BN In Six Days After Trans Ad Campaign That Top Execs Never Approved", ZH's front page shows how the site has transformed from a finance blog into a fake news blog.

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If you have ran into a Zero Hedge article that criticizes Putin, please let me know. I'm still looking.

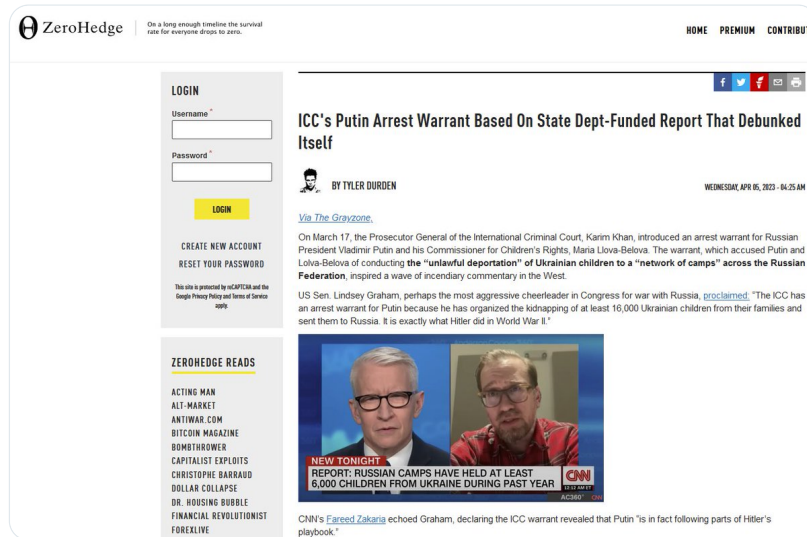
Ping: [@seth_hettena](#) [@tracyalloway](#) [@LJKawa](#)

Sources:



<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-04-29/unmasking-the-men-behind-zero-hedge-wall-street-s-renegade-blog> (paywall)

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In today's #vatnik soup I'll introduce one of the biggest disinformation and propaganda blogs on the web: The Grayzone (@TheGrayzoneNews). It's best known for misleading reporting, disinformation and love of authoritarian regimes and dictators.

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In today's #vatniksoup I'll introduce a conspiratorial fake news blog called Mintpress News (@MintPressNews). The site's best-known for spreading disinformation and propaganda, and for its support of totalitarian regimes.

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9:26 AM · Mar 24, 2023



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In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll introduce an opportunist, grifter and YouTuber Gonzalo Lira ([@GonzaloLira1968](#)). He's best-known for appearing as an expert and making money from controversial topics, such as the "Red Pill" movement, economics and of course the war in Ukraine.

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11:43 AM · Apr 1, 2023



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