

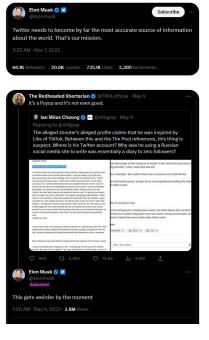
In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a South African-American(!) businessman and social media figure, Elon Musk (@elonmusk). He's best-known for being the wealthiest man in the world, running Tesla Inc., SpaceX & Twitter, and for parroting Kremlin's propaganda narratives.

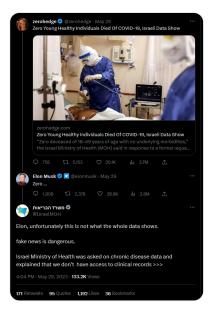


Let's start with the obvious: Elon's tweets have enormous effect on Twitter & his tweets have a big audience. Every tweet he likes or comments gets a huge boost in the algorithm & is then shown to tens of millions of people. Some have called his replies a "stamp of approval". 2/24



He's promised to make Twitter the "most accurate source of information about the world," but strangely he's flirted with various conspiracy theories throughout the years. Among other things, he's denied the white supremacist background of a mass shooter, spread COVID-19...





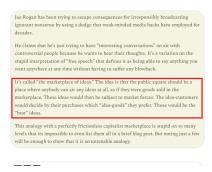


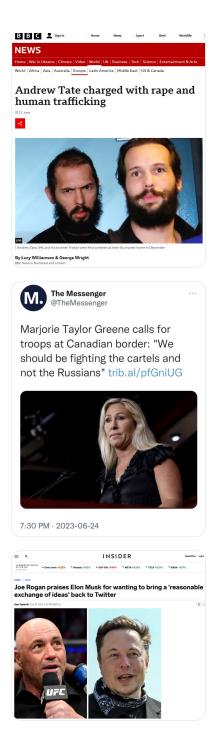
...misinformation and parroted George Soros related conspiracy theories. A lot of Elon's views on various topics may actually come from other people. His ex-wife, @TalulahRiley called for unbanning of @TheBabylonBee, his friend @joerogan had previously called for a social...

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..media platform that works like a "marketplace of ideas" - a philosophy where the "best" ideas from the likes of alleged human trafficker/rapist @cobratate & QAnon-affiliated @RepMTG rise to the top - & said that Musk should "liberate Twitter from the censorship happy mob".





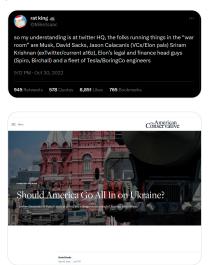
When it comes to war,he seems to mostly listen to @davidsacks, among a few other disinformation peddlers. In Oct 2022, Musk tweeted about "Ukraine-Russia Peace", calling for UN-supervised elections in the annexed areas. He also stated that Crimea would remain part of Russia.





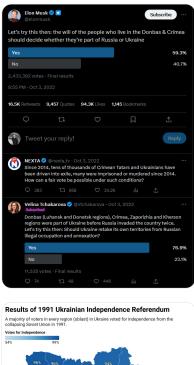


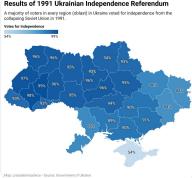
He then warned about escalation and the threat of nuclear war. A very similar peace plan was suggested by his "war room" buddy @davidsacks just week before Musk's tweet. He later backtracked, polling whether the people in Donbas & Crimea should "decide whether they want...



...to be part of Russia or Ukraine" - which they did already in 1991 as you can see from this Independence Referendum voting map.

In Jun 2023, @davidsacks blessed us with another long tweet, condemning the Ukrainian counteroffensive as a failure, while at the same time... 8/24





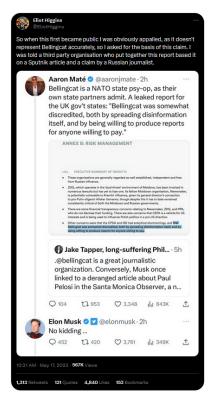
...praising Mearsheimer's realpolitik garbage. Musk commended his old friend's post, stating that it was "Well said."

Elon has also discredited @bellingcat, one of the biggest investigative groups fighting Russian disinformation, calling them a "psyop".









Bellingcat has exposed loads of Russian atrocities, including the down shooting of MH17, the identity of Russia's drone operators, and the Skripal poisonings.

For this, it has become number one target of defamation by the pro-Kremlin propagandists like @aaronjmate.

10/24



After Twitter introduced subscription service, one of Elon's first subscriptions on Twitter was @KanekoaTheGreat, a QAnon-affiliated conspiracy theorist known for pushing Kremlin narratives about Ukraine, especially about the country's ethnic "division".









He's also attended civil discussions on Twitter Spaces with pro-Kremlin propagandists like @KimDotcom and @stillgray. Incidentally, these Spaces rarely offer any real discussion, but are rather back-patting exercises of people who mostly agree with each other.









Musk has strongly promoted one of the biggest liars and Putin cheerleaders in the US media, Tucker Carlson. In the first episode of his new "show" on Twitter, Carlson implied that the Kakhovka Dam was destroyed by the Ukrainians without offering any solid proof.



These narratives are heavily promoted by Musk and his Twitter platform, promoting Russia's biggest adversaries as "psyops" and Ukraine as a corrupt nation ruled by far-right militias. As you know by now, they come directly from the Kremlin propaganda playbook.

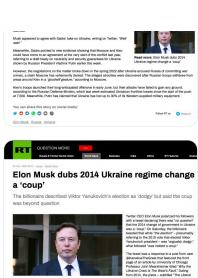
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Of course all this has been used for propaganda purposes by Russia, and these days Elon appears often on RT's headlines allegedly agreeing that the Ukrainian counterattack is failing and the 2014 Revolution of Dignity was a coup.

15/24





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While the 2010 election that installed Yanukovich as president was deemed an 'impressive display' of democracy by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the West sound on the Party of Regions politician when he standancied a 2013 encomic operation agreement with the EU.

Massive viciner protests followed, forcing Yaruskovich files. The US* hand in the unreat was confirmed in a teaked phoncal between the reassistant US Secretary of State Vicinic Natural and US ambassador to Usariane Genffrey Part in which on the yaruskovich and install Asseniy Yatseniuk – who indeed briefly became Prime Minister following Yaruskovich's one of the Vicinic Yaruskovich and install Asseniy Yatseniuk – who indeed briefly became Prime Minister following Yaruskovich's one.

READ MORE: Musk accuses top US official of 'pushing war' in Ukrain

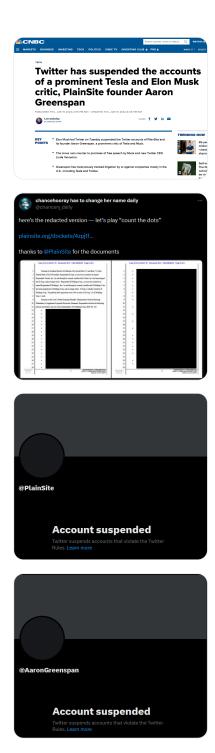
Musik also replied approvingly to a previous post by Kanekoa that featured a video clip of All in podcast host David Sacks claiming that the US "counted" the Usraine conflict. The video likened Nuland to former Biden administration medical adviser Anthory Facual, a frequent taged of Musiks' ler.



Elon has called himself a "politically moderate",but in 2022 clearly chose a side,saying that he could "no longer support" the Democrats due to their politics & encouraged people to vote Republicans in the midterms.DeSantis announced his run for presidency on Twitter Spaces.16/24



For some, Twitter has become more "free speech". But for others, not so much: On 13 Jun 2023, Musk-led Twitter suspended the Twitter account of Aaron Greenspan, a critic of both Tesla and Musk. His project, PlainSite, that shares court filings for free was also suspended.



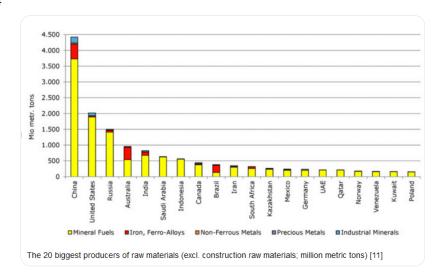
Musk has removed plenty of barriers to slow down the spread of disinformation, including EU's voluntary Code of Practice against disinformation. At the same time, he's complied to censorship requests from Indian and Turkish ruling parties by removing and restricting content.

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To conclude: Why is Musk pushing, among other things, the peace plan where Ukraine would lose a lot? My theory is that the war is bad for business. His businesses require a lot of raw materials, and both Russia & China are in the top 3 of the biggest raw material producers.

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Tesla Inc.'s conflict mineral report from 2022 reveals that Russia (as well as China) is a country of origin for their gold, tantalum, tin and tungsten. Tesla has also been buying aluminum from Rusal since 2020. Rusal was founded by Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska and it...



Gold	Tantalum	Tin	Tungsten
Algeria, Andorra,	Australia,	Angola,	Australia, Austria,
Antigua and Barbuda,	Belarus,	Argentina,	Bolivia, Brazil,
Argentina, Australia,	Brazil,	Australia.	Burundi, Canada,
Austria, Azerbaijan,	Burundi,	Austria, Bahrain,	China, Democratic
Bahamas, Bangladesh,	Canada,	Bangladesh,	Republic of the
Barbados, Belarus,	China, Czech	Belarus, Belgium,	Congo, Germany,
Belgium, Benin, Bolivia	Republic,	Bolivia	Ireland, Israel,
(Pluralnational State	Democratic	(Plurinational	Japan, Kazakhstan
of), Bosnia and	Republic of	State of), Brazil.	Kyrgyzstan,
Herzegovina,	the Congo,	Bulgaria,	Malaysia, Mexico,
Botswana, Brazil,	El Salvador,	Burundi, Canada.	Mongolia, Myanma
Bulgaria, Burkina	Estonia,	Chile, China,	Nigeria, Peru,
Faso, Cambodia,	Ethiopia,	Colombia.	Portugal, Russian
Canada, Cayman	France,		Federation, Rwanda, South
Islands, Chile, China,	Germany,	Croatia, Czech	Korea, Spain,
Colombia, Costa Rica,	Hong Kong,	Republic,	Thailand, Uganda,
Cote	India,	Democratic	United Kingdom of
l'Ivoire, Croatia,	Indonesia, Ireland,	Republic of the	Great Britain and
Curacao, Cyprus, , Czech	Israel, Japan,	Congo, Denmark,	Northern Ireland,
Republic, Democratic	Kazakhstan.	Egypt, Finland,	United States of
Republic of the	Mexico.	France, Germany,	America, Vietnam, Zimbabwe
Congo, Denmark,	Mozambique,	Ghana, Greece,	Zimbabwe
Dominican Republic,	Nigeria,	Guinea, Hong	
Ecuador, Egypt, El	Russian	Kong, Hungary,	
Salvador, Eritrea,	Federation, Rwanda.	India, Indonesia,	
Estonia,, Fiji, Finland,	Sierra Leone.	Ireland, Israel,	
France, French Guiana,	Singapore.	Italy, Japan,	
Georgia, Germany,	South Korea,	Jordan,	
Ghana, Greece,	Spain,	Kazakhstan,	
Grenada, Guatemala,	Taiwan,	Kenya, Kuwait.	
Guinea, Guyana,	Thailand, United	Laos, Latvia,	
Honduras, Hong Kong,	Kingdom of	Lebanon, Liberia.	
Hungary, Iceland,	Great Britain	Lithuania.	
ndia, Indonesia, reland, Israel, Italy,	and Northern	Malaysia, Malta,	
amaica, Japan, Jordan,	Ireland,	Mexico, Morocco.	
Kazakhstan, Kenya,	United States	Myanmar.	
Kazakiistan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao	of America,	Namibia,	
Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao	Zimbabwe	Netherlands, New	
		Zealand, Nigeria,	
Panama, Papua New		Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines,	
Guinea, Peru,		Poland, Portugal,	
Philippines, Poland,		Puerto Rico,	
Portugal, Puerto Rico,		Romania, Russian	
Republic of Korea,		Federation,	
Romania, Russian		Rwanda, Saudia	
Federation, Saint Kitts		Arabia, Senegal,	
and Nevis, Saudi Arabia,		Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia,	
Senegal,		Slovenia, South	
Serbia, Singapore, Sint		Africa, South	
Maarten, Slovakia,		Korea, Spain,	
Slovenia, South Africa,		Sudan, Sweden,	
South Korea, Spain, St		Switzerland,	
vincent and		Tanzania.	





...accounts for almost 9% of the world's aluminum output. He was sanctioned by the Trump administration in Apr 2018 for alleged illegal wiretapping, extortion and racketeering, and he also allegedly ordered a murder of a businessman. The sanctions were later watered down...



...Trump and co. as they would "disrupt the aluminum markets" and Deripaska intended to invest 200 million USD in a Kentucky aluminum mill, but this plan eventually failed.

But business is business, even when it comes from a Russian oligarch, and I'm sure Elon knows this.



It would probably be impossible or extremely expensive to produce cars, rockets and other technology without the raw materials from Russia or China, and the US sanctions imposed on the former have probably already made it more difficult.

23/24



Maybe Elon just doesn't want to bite the hand that feeds his companies?I'm sure his lobbying power in the US will keep his businesses going even after his "anti-establishment" hot takes,but we will probably never see him criticizing the likes of Russia, CCP or Saudi Arabia.



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