

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد
بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم
از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

Jorge Elbaum

13.04.2022

False information, adulterated images, tricked videos and censorship in the service of NATO

The new world order that will come from this conflagration will include China as one of the great victors. And it will require endless Hollywood productions to disguise or hide this mutation.



War propaganda is all the more efficient when there is a relative lack of critical thinking and a unique, de-historicized and simplistic explanation of events is installed.



Russia's military intervention in Ukraine prolongs the reconfiguration of the world order. Any scenario that emerges from the war tragedy will reorder international relations and that situation worries those who are dedicated to instituting a homogeneous common sense at the global level. The Kremlin's decision kicked the board of an exclusive hegemony in which one of the state actors, the United States, arrogated to itself the prerogative of intervention, interference or invasion of territories outside its borders. Vladimir Putin's breaking of that implicit rule – and its support despite threats and sanctions – is a severe setback for those who hold the belief in a unique franchise of imperial tone.

The military intervention deployed in Ukraine – and even the negotiations taking place on the border of Belarus and Poland – pose a double challenge to the common sense of unilateralized thinking: on the one hand it demolishes the dogma of the existence of a single player with the capacity to impose rules of the game on the global architecture; on the other, it exhibits the impotence of those who show themselves as guarantors of international security: Washington struggles to prove that its economic and financial sanctions are effective, while the military limit warned by Putin is evident.

These are the two reasons why a huge communication campaign has been unleashed, through institutional and informal channels, aimed at imposing a unique narrative capable of faking the broken leadership of the White House. The military actions taking place on the eastern edge of Europe are accompanied by a bombardment of intentional political propaganda, crammed with [cognitive warfare](#) operations based on false information, simulations and virtualizations of reality.

War is an act of violence aimed at forcing a contender to submit to a certain will. The [communication of war](#) – deployed incrementally in the last half century – implies a psychological and cognitive coercion aimed at adopting certain patterns of hostility

towards who is sought to be labeled as an enemy. War wars are increasingly accompanied by communication operations that are installed inside and outside the battlefield.



The propagation of political-military content seeks to empower one of the actors in conflict and discredit the opponent: it is a process of dissemination of concepts aimed at directing and / or manipulating public opinion through data, information or images, with the intention of favoring a point of view or the position of one of the contenders. It seeks, in this context, to mobilize trust, empathy and adherence in relation to one of the antagonists, and to produce the abhorrence and hatred of the rest. This operation includes the deliberate use of suggestion mechanisms in line with the (previous) structures of significance existing in a society.

The first stage of this communication war was described by Colonel Jacques Baud, an intelligence analyst, NATO consultant and former member of the General Staff of the Swiss Armed Forces, in his detailed analysis of the construction of Ukraine as an outpost of Washington to weaken Moscow. Baud was sent by NATO to Kiev after the nationalist ultra-right carried out a coup in 2014; and recently published a chronology of the conflict in the publication [of the French Center for Research and Intelligence](#). In his article he details the combined actions, stimulated by NATO, that led to the tragic outcome that is being experienced today.

Erase history



[The reasoning and detail of the Ukrainian war](#)

Among the most used mechanisms from 2014 to the present is de-historization. This [communicational instrument](#) seeks to disconnect current events from their antecedents and impose the idea of an irrational and untimely measure decided by Moscow. To achieve this dominant sense, the invisibility of the previous nine years of repression in the Donbas, of the proscription of the Russian language as an official language (spoken by approximately 20% of the Ukrainian population), the persecution of the parishioners of the Russian Orthodox Church and the periodic designation – by the Kiev government – of Nazi criminals as heroes or heroes were imposed. To deepen the sense of arbitrariness produced by Moscow, it was also essential to silence the ethnic [cleansing in Luhansk and Donetsk](#), which from 2014 to the present produced some 14,000 victims.

The media conflagration that is currently unfolding at a global level imitates – according to Spanish Colonel [Pedro Baños](#) – "the main instrument or element of the art of war: deception. And disinformation is deceiving (...) they seek to manipulate our emotions (...) and what is intended is to manipulate our decisions more than our thoughts." For this, ideological opinionators are used to elaborate conclusions without data or information, or images from video games are used, as was exposed with the use of [War Thunder](#) at the beginning of March.

War propaganda is all the more efficient when there is a relative lack of critical thinking and a single, dehistoricized and simplistic explanation of events is installed. It is in this context that the global media machine of neoliberal capitalism manipulates information, appeals to fake news and uses tricked videos to generate a vision totally favorable to NATO, demonizing Russia and Vladimir Putin. This mechanism includes the offer of

content only favorable to one of the contenders, omitting that which weakens the so-called West, supposedly peaceful and democratic.



[The hand that rocks the cradle:](#)

Washington accepted the existence of military research laboratories of pathogens found by Moscow in Ukraine.

That same register is the one that despairs of omitting the [fascist character](#) of the Ukrainian nationalists and carries out conscientious sentences of military opinionology in order to impose formats of reality opposed to the result of the operations carried out by the Kremlin. According to the *mainstream* panelists, the Russians are weakened, counting many casualties and the Ukrainian resistance is very effective.

War propaganda seeks to intimidate the enemy and, at the same time, exalt the contender considered virtuous. It seeks to make certain defeats invisible and threaten those who do not repeat the official script – in this case the one recreated by NATO and Hollywood. For these objectives, harassment of all critical thinking becomes essential, always based on historical intellectual constructions. In recent weeks, countries that perceive themselves as open to information plurality have been inhibiting the dissemination of alternative information, fearing debate about the complexities of the conflagration.

The French newspaper *Le Figaro* removed from its website the investigations of the French journalist [Anne Laure Bonnel](#), who has been covering the conflict from Ukraine for five years. NATO member countries, for their part, banned Russian news portals on

charges of spreading false information. During the last week, Spanish communication regulators tried to remove from the web and social networks the [journalist Inna Afinogenova, of Russia Today](#), who has 700,000 followers.

On January 29, Inna unmasked the portal ElDiario.es, which had covered Ukrainians living in Western Europe. Among those interviewed, ElDiario.es spoke with Sonia Barabasch, whom she introduced as the daughter of a victim of Russian imperial cravings. His father, a member of the 14th *Waffen-SS* Grenadier Division, avoided the Nuremberg trials by marrying an Asturian woman and receiving the well-known protection of the warlord Francisco Franco. In the interview, in which she was assumed as a victim, Sonia claimed that her father emigrated to Spain "after fighting against the USSR for a free Ukraine", which is why he was decorated a few years ago by the current Ukrainian state after the Maidan, with the same consideration that was given to [Stepan Bandera](#). Once Inna lifted the veil of ignorance, a fierce campaign was launched to block [Russia TV](#) from all broadcast media outlets.

The communication war includes the growing virtualization of content that has an unprecedented ability to deceive the receiver. Applications based on [Artificial Intelligence \(IT\)](#), which are used to modify reality or impose versions of it alien to events, represent a great danger for those who are unaware of the new innovations of invention, adulteration and falsification that are being manipulated to capture consciences at the service of the promotion of hatred or the accumulation of empathy with the interests of transnational corporations. This is what is being manipulated today: faces are modified, videos of other conflicts [are juxtaposed](#), identifying signs of the uniforms of the contenders are supplanted, photos of bombings are propagated in other latitudes and [statements are invented with false subtitles](#).

Build the image

According to Jonas Bendiksen, one of the most renowned photojournalists at the Magnum agency, the culture of *fake news* "has entered fully into the world of the image." In its recent publication, [The Book of Veles](#) has highlighted how photos are intervened today and how deception is used to persuade and redirect emotions in pursuit of corporate interests. In September last year, Bendiksen surprised his colleagues at the Magnum agency by revealing that his book was the product of a hoax based on digitally manipulated photographs and texts vomited by IT.

None of the photographers responsible for the famous Visa Pour l'Image festival – whose edition was held some time after the book was published – realized the falsity that the text entailed. The conclusion is well known to those who promote communication warfare operations: the image is no longer worth a thousand words. But it is lucrative to catch consciences.

One of the main resources of war mediatization is simplification. The objectification of the enemy, treated as a single entity capable of correcting all negative feelings: "Propaganda," says [Alejandro Pizarroso](#), "must concentrate on a single objective: (...) we must locate an enemy – a person, a group, a country – and against him concentrate all the arguments. To weaken the cause of the adversary, we must "[demonize the enemy leader](#), present him as an unclean being to be overthrown, as the last of the dinosaurs, as a madman, a barbarian, a diabolical criminal, a butcher, a disturber of peace, an enemy of Humanity, a monster."

This is the framework from which it is tried to instill emotional rejection of the Kremlin despots and/or the Russian oligarchies, seeking to legitimize sanctions by those who present themselves as the protectors of humanity. In the last 70 years, no media has referred to a president in the way they have referred to the Russian ruler. An excellent text by Ecuadorian researcher [Dax Toscano](#) compiles the accusations made against President Putin in recent months. Among them are those pronounced by Joe Biden on March 17, 2021, when he defined the Russian ruler as a murderer, and those uttered a week ago, when he defined him as a "war criminal".

None of these serious epithets was enunciated from the corporate media *mainstream* to catalog the military actions carried out during the last century by the United States: in 1945, when Nazi Germany had surrendered unconditionally, President Harry Truman ordered the dropping on civilian population of two atomic bombs – in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. causing the death of half a million citizens. This crime against humanity came as a warning to the rest of the world, especially the Soviet Union, about the world system that was intended to impose itself in [the post-war period](#).

Five years later, during the Korean War, Truman himself ordered the bombing of civilians, dropping 635,000 tons of bombs and producing almost two million dead. A decade later, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon used chemical weapons like napalm and Agent Orange to exterminate a million people. The number of victims in Iraq, Afghanistan,

Yemen and Libya – correlates of the "war on terror" – amounts to seven million displaced people and 3 million who lost their lives.

In 1991 the philosopher Jean Baudrillard published three essays in the newspaper Libération that later formed a unified text entitled [The Gulf War Has Not Taken Place](#). On that occasion, the bombing of civilians in Iraq took place without any tragedy, mutilation or blood stain on the ground. Years later, Julian Assange rescued the intrinsic cruelty of war by releasing documents of US military operations in Afghanistan. For exhibiting truths of terrifying rawness, he has been detained for ten years.

The current war in Ukraine appears, unlike what Baudrillard observed, as over-presented by multiple images and stories whose simulation does not aim to hide the tragedy but to confuse to hide a very likely defeat of the neoliberal discourse of Western character. The new world order that will come from this conflagration will include China as one of the great victors. And it will require endless Hollywood productions to disguise or hide this mutation.

Jorge Elbaum

Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)

Published by [Cubadebate](#), April 11, 2022

Taken from: [Culture and Resistance](#)

La Pluma.net 12.04.2022