

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

By Pablo San José
19.10.2022

The information blockade is one more weapon of war



Sources: The Leap

Josep Borrell's recent statements affirm without shame that the control of information is also a weapon of war used by belligerent countries, something that we have been able to verify in the media since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine.

In the same run-up to the Russian invasion of Ukraine we could see how in record time, in Spain and throughout the EU, a real fence was built on information from media not committed to the Atlanticist discourse about this conflict. In flagrant contradiction to European laws on freedom of expression, access to media in Russia and elsewhere with speech akin to European radio frequencies and internet servers was denied. Given the

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

haste and lack of obstacles with which this was resolved, the suspicion that it was a response that was foreseen in advance remains plausible. It didn't stop there. In all kinds of wide-ranging generalist media, since then and until the present, in any information about the course of the war or analysis of it, data, opinion or point of view that does not coincide with the vision that endorses the NATO-EU binomial has been systematically excluded. Exactly the same, but in the opposite direction, happens with the media of the Russian Federation (especially those that the government of that country has dedicated to the international dissemination of its points of view).

In this context, focusing on our field, Spanish and European citizens, through the authorized media, receive every day a large amount of news and opinion on the conflict in Ukraine, information that is all absolutely selected, filtered and, it is possible to think that, in many cases, elaborated, by one of the two parties that is in conflict. It is natural to think that such information can hardly be neutral and objective. The information blockade is of such magnitude that it is not even necessary to hide or disguise it from public opinion. As Josep Borrell recently reminded us: "communication is a battlefield... In addition to conquering spaces, you have to conquer minds."

The propaganda factor of war crimes

As much as there are international conventions that try to delimit what kind of actions are lawful for the contenders of an armed conflict, antimilitarists (and every good person) know well that a war, in itself and considering each and every one of the acts committed under their umbrella, is a crime against humanity. Unfortunately not everyone sees it this way and in the context of communicative battle that Borrell well defined, these treaties and conventions that try to minimize the impact of war action are used as a weapon to promote one's own party and combat the opposite.

In any war, and more so when it comes to a (for now) "conventional" war, such as that of Ukraine, infinite acts of "illegality" occur with respect to these international laws. It is almost impossible for armed action to be restricted to military personnel and objectives and not to affect civilians or basic infrastructure for a dignified life. Nor does it seem possible to avoid that in the context of hatred, systematic violence and contempt for human life that constitutes a war of these characteristics, there are no acts of common

criminality (robbery, murder, torture, rape ...) induced by the respective command as part of the strategy, tolerated or simply of a spontaneous nature. Being able to accuse the opposing party of transgressing these limits while defending that it respects the "conventions" itself is a propaganda weapon of the first order when it comes to justifying military action and, even, at the diplomatic level, achieving the involvement of more states. For this, the control of the information that reaches the general public is fundamental.

Como decimos, y hemos comprobado sobradas veces en el pasado, en toda guerra se cometen crímenes; los que quedan dentro de la "legalidad" bélica y los que no. Sin embargo, el público de cada país solo llega a conocer los cometidos por las tropas del bando contrario. Y ni siquiera de forma cabal, puesto que en contextos de control de la información, como los que siempre han sido propios de toda dictadura que se precie y que en la actualidad prosperan también en Occidente, se hace sumamente difícil distinguir el hecho realmente acaecido, de la exageración deliberada, el montaje o la pura invención. Los medios de comunicación dedicados a la guerra de Ucrania frecuentemente nos informan de graves violaciones del derecho internacional y de "crímenes de guerra" (como si, decíamos, la guerra en sí no fuera ya un crimen) cometidos por las tropas rusas. Cabe pensar que pudiendo ser cierta la mayor parte o mucha de dicha información, dada la falta de objetividad y la parcialidad de dichos medios, y la imposibilidad de contrastar los datos con fuentes neutrales a causa del bloqueo informativo, se hace muy difícil verificar qué hay de verdadero o falso en cada caso.

Por otra parte, nada se nos cuenta en dichos *mass media*, por ejemplo, acerca de los efectos de los bombardeos y acciones de quinta columna ucranianas sobre población civil e infraestructuras en el Dombás, o las represalias que presuntamente sufren los ciudadanos prorrusos en las zonas recuperadas. Ni siquiera llegaron a reflejarse en los medios de masas a que nos estamos refiriendo las recientes declaraciones del presidente de Ucrania solicitando un bombardeo nuclear preventivo de la OTAN sobre territorio ruso (3), hecho escandaloso a todas luces y que debería invitar a una reflexión acerca de a qué agentes se está apoyando militarmente.

Resultados de la estrategia

This way of filtering and controlling the information that is administered to the general public, as has been explained, is another weapon of war. Its main function is to sensitize public opinion by demonizing the adversary (and sanctifying the related party) and generating states of opinion favorable to intervention and escalation of war. We could give numerous examples of how this communicative tactic was employed in the past in pursuit and achievement of the same ends. In the Spanish case, as in most of Europe, it can be said that the information monopoly imposed on the conflict in Ukraine is giving the desired results. Unfortunately we can see how military support, which translates into a significant arms and economic transfer from the NATO-EU countries to the Ukrainian government, receives great popular support and hardly generates debate. The concrete achievement of this effort (battle) of communicative control undertaken by the governments of the EU against their own citizens is the confirmation of the degree of support that today is given among the European (and Spanish) population towards a war that, in practical terms, did not cease to be as alien to the inhabitants of these states as others that are also underway on the planet. In fact, and it is a great paradox, the military involvement of the EU countries in the war in Ukraine has ended up having serious consequences for its population. Therefore, even more, it is necessary to maintain the communicative strategy that we have been talking about so that people who see how their respective governments scandalously increase military budgets to the detriment of basic services, how prices soar, how there is an energy shortage and how, in short, their country and the entire area enters a dangerous and uncertain economic crisis, Continue to support the war.

The antimilitarist task

Given the above, the antimilitarist task, in its denunciation of all war, is to shed light on this type of strategies of social control at the service of militarism and armamentism. Our speech, without ceasing to name them, should not be directed at the practical aspects of supporting the war: how, in this case, involvement in the conflict in Ukraine is endangering our economy. Our position must always be eminently ethical: even in the situation that a war could benefit us in some way, every war is a catastrophe for humanity and, whether it splashes us little or much, our duty is to do what is in our power for its cessation. Sticking to the Russian-Ukrainian war, a conflict in which our country

participates, our immediate objective must precisely be to pressure the institutions to cease Spanish collaboration in fueling the conflict. No shipment of weapons or funding, no training of military personnel from belligerent states. It also contributes to diminishing the pressure of NATO, an organization of which Spain is a part, on Russia and, in short, that every possible effort is made so that the parties to the conflict sit down at the negotiating table and can settle their interests through diplomatic channels.

Pablo San José, Grup Antimilitarista Tortuga.

Source: <https://www.elsaltodiario.com/planeta-desarmado/el-bloqueo-informativo-es-un-arma-belica-mas-como-la-censura-alimenta-la-guerra->

Rebellion 18.10.2022