

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD
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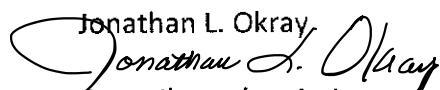
The commentary of this memorandum regards this consideration and its scope. It is from a news article written by Ralph Peters, a former enlisted soldier and officer who served in the infantry and military intelligence. The Hoover Institution published the article entitled, "Post Modern Propaganda: The Gatekeepers Are Gone" February 23, 2018 ("Post-Modern Propaganda: The Gatekeepers Are Gone | Hoover Institution," n.d.).

Mr. Peters states in the article that no plague in history spread with the speed of internet disinformation. We live in an age of hyper-charged propaganda, an onslaught of lies more pervasive than any that came before. Over millennia, propaganda changed minds: today it changes governments and subverts institutions...modern propaganda started with the Reformation and Counter-Reformation as contests of belief collided with newly inexpensive printing technologies...Newspapers as we know them started in the eighteenth century and swelled in popularity as literacy increased and technological advances enables mass production and distribution.

The most hysterical printed diatribes had to have provable grounding facts; accuracy became an ideal. Then the new media and new dangers appeared. Propaganda enjoyed a new heyday under authoritarian regimes and dictatorships as communication means broadened. In contrast, the American media needed facts behind the spin. Planted stories did slip though. In the 1930's the New York Times made the mistake of trusting a corrupted foreign correspondent who lied on a grand scale about conditions in the Soviet Union. Consumers of mainstream news sources received a fact-based picture of the world.

Today's popular culture celebrates a few big-name editors who broke big stories, but the true heroes were the everyday editors who wanted to know, "where is the proof"? Skillful propagandist who can reach millions without the need to meet editorial standards of background knowledge and truth overwhelm present-day efforts of objectivity in journalism.

We have entered a new age of hyper-propaganda. It is up to the titans of technology to defend the civilization that enrich them by imposing objective editorial standards on their platforms, to develop a new and credible system of guardians of the facts, of gatekeepers against subversive lies. The private sector, not the government has to do it. Or we can let the propagandist win.

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Bibliography

Post-Modern Propaganda: The Gatekeepers Are Gone | Hoover Institution. (n.d.). Retrieved

February 26, 2018, from <https://www.hoover.org/research/post-modern-propaganda-gatekeepers-are-gone>