

# **Strategic Communications and Public Diplomacy “Quotables” and “Seen on the Web” (#51)**

January 31, 2017

Quotable 538-540

Seen on the Web 1092-1165

This newsletter provides a compilation of news, articles, essays, and reports of interest to practitioners and scholars of strategic communications, Public Diplomacy, public affairs, U.S. government international broadcasting, and information operations. "Quotables" are gists of articles and reports available on the website of the Public Diplomacy Council. "Seen on the Web" entries provide key quotes and links. They:

- bring to busy overseas practitioners some of the academic and policy ferment in Public Diplomacy and related fields.
- from long speeches, testimonies, and articles, flag the portions that bear on Public Diplomacy.
- provide a window on armed forces thinking on the fields that neighbor Public Diplomacy -  
- military public affairs, strategic communication, information operations, inform-influence-engage, and cultural learning, for instance.
- introduce the long history of Public Diplomacy by citing some of the older books, articles, reports, and documents that are not available on the internet. These are labeled "Classic Quotables."

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## In the News

### THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

- The left-wing Media Matters for America plans to expand its opposition research operation beyond its traditional focus on media to directly combat statements from the incoming Trump administration, according to internal documents.

#### **Media Matters Expands Mission to Combat Government ‘Misinformation’**

Lachlan Markay, Washington Free Beacon, January 20, 2017

### ON CAPITOL HILL

- Today, more than 60 percent of the world's population lacks access to broadband, lacks access to the Internet. That means 3 billion people have been left out of the biggest technological revolution of our time. Three billion people are being denied the benefits of the free flow of

information and game-changing innovations in health, education, and commerce; and 3 billion consumers remain out of the reach of American goods and services.

#### **Digital Global Access Policy Act of 2017**

Representative Edward Royce, Congressional Record, January 24, 2017

### GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER

- It is possible that the State Department Global Engagement Center could provide a good model for the coordination, integration, and synchronization of messaging but it will require a focus beyond counterterrorism and a home that can truly have access to senior interagency leadership rather than being buried in the bureaucracy. In whatever form, the new capability must operate with the agility of a new-media start-up.

**Quotable: Ludes and Jacobson on organizing for information warfare**

## Professional Topics

### PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

- In November 2016, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), along with the Center on Public Diplomacy (CPD) at the University of Southern California, convened public diplomacy thought leaders currently working in and out of government to assess the successes of PD in the outgoing administration, and make recommendations for a future course.

**Quotable: CPD Report on the Way Forward for Public Diplomacy**

- "Today's myriad of international journalism outlets makes it increasingly challenging for U.S. government public diplomacy programs to capture global attention," said Major [Gregory] Tomlin in an interview with the Gazette. "Consider that in 1963, 600 million people in 104 countries viewed U.S. Information Agency films each month, and the Voice of America provided 2,000 hours of broadcast a day in nearly 40 languages. Compare this to 2016, where foreigners wondering about U. S. policies are more likely to read a tweet on their smart phone – which may or may not be credible – than they are to access VOA's online stream to gain their news."

**How does technology affect public diplomacy?**

Frank Shatz, The Virginia Gazette, January 24, 2017

- Social media, emotion, and identity are redefining traditional strategies, and Trump has exploited these shifting communication dynamics. 1. Social Media Bypassing Elite Media \* \* \* 2. Personalized Politics \* \* \* 3. Emotion Reigns \* \* \* 4. Expression and Authenticity \* \* \* 5. Emotional Identification: Angry Like Me \* \* \* 6. Death of the Target Audience \* \* \* 7. Crude Empathy to Diplomatic Empathy

**Trumping Traditional Public Diplomacy**

R. S. Zajarna, CPD Blog, January 17, 2017

- There is an increasing recognition among public diplomacy (PD) experts that we need to pay more attention to the audience. In fact, the word audience itself is losing credence as it implies one-directional communication. Instead, we are urged to engage with our 'partners' in an on-going dialogue. In PD headquarters around the world, there is also a trend to make PD activities more accountable and to build monitoring and evaluation into the design of programs, largely based on the impact the program had on our partners.

**Hidden Successes In Public Diplomacy**

Thomas Miller, Take Five Blog, January 13, 2017

**BROADCASTING**

- The Broadcasting Board of Governors has elected Kenneth Weinstein acting chairman of the board. He has been a member of the board since October 2013. . . . Weinstein is president and CEO of think tank, The Hudson Institute.

**BBG Elects New Chairman: Think tank exec succeeds Universal's Jeff Shell**

John Eggerton, RadioWorld, January 26, 2017

- Last month President Obama signed a law abolishing the Broadcasting Board of Governors . . . Yet today the (perhaps nonexistent) BBG named a new chairman . . . As President Obama noted when he signed the bill into law last month, Constitutional barriers may prevent Congress abolishing BBG. But he signed the bill anyway. And now?

**Confusion reigns: Does the Broadcasting Board of Governors exist, or not?**

Adam Powell, Public Diplomacy Council Commentary, January 25 2017

- ...on page 1,404 of the defense bill that was passed by the Republican Congress right after the election . . . they took the [Broadcasting] board of governors part out of the equation. Isn't that interesting? So that's no longer who runs this \$800 million broadcasting effort, Voice of America. Now instead of being run by a non-partisan sort of insulated board of governors it's now run by a CEO who is appointed by the president and who serves at the pleasure of the president.

### **Rachel Maddow Details How Trump Is Turning Voice Of America Into His Personal Propaganda Outlet**

Media Matters, January 25, 2017

- President Donald Trump on Monday dispatched two aides to scope out the studios of Voice of America, heightening concerns among some longtime staffers that Trump may quickly put his stamp on the broadcasting arm that has long pushed U.S. democratic ideals across the world.

### **Trump moves to put his own stamp on Voice of America**

Tara Palmeri, Politico, January 23, 2017

## **SOCIAL MEDIA • INTERNET**

- . . . in politics, Twitter has dramatic limits and can become a disturbing substitute for disciplined thought. One hundred and forty characters are suitable to expressing an impulse, but not an argument. It is the rhetorical equivalent of a groan, a shriek, a sneer or a burp. If reason and persuasion are what our politics lacks and needs, Twitter is not the answer.

### **Why a tweeting president is so bad for our politics**

Michael Gerson, The Washington Post, January 26, 2017

- The term “the media” was first used as a singular, collective noun around 100 years ago, meaning “an intervening agency, means, or instrument.” The instrument (or medium) of the time was the printing press. People in the business of operating printing presses were a distinct group. Now mediums abound—many like Twitter and Facebook are still known as *social media*, even though the platforms have faded toward something closer to personal printing presses.

### **What Do You Mean by 'The Media?': The term has been weaponized.**

James Hamblin, The Atlantic, January 24, 2017

- Research conducted by social psychologists at Cambridge University in the UK, and Yale and George Mason in the US, offers a potential strategy for mitigating the spread of misinformation online — involving the use of pro-active warnings designed to contextualize and pre-expose web users to related but fake information in order to debunk factual distortion in advance.

### **Fake news' power to influence shrinks with a contextual warning, study finds**

Natasha Lomas, techcrunch.com, January 23, 2017

- In the 1930s, Franklin D. Roosevelt tapped directly into Americans' homes with his “fireside chats.” While not quite as warm, Donald Trump's Twitter feed is a similarly direct connection to an emotionally open president. “Twitter is a perfect tool for what he wants to do, which is bypass the media and talk directly to the people,” explains Atlantic editor Andrew McGill in this video.

### **Are Trump's Tweets Presidential? (VIDEO)**

Andrew McGill, The Atlantic, January 20, 2017

## DISINFORMATION ▪ FAKE NEWS

- Fake news is like a nasty weed, it grows quickly and is hard to kill. \* \* \* In the short time we've been devoted to fact-checking "fake news," the phrase has been overused and misappropriated to the point that it's become pretty much meaningless. \* \* \* The trouble with fighting back against fake news is it's hard to know who you're fighting against. \* \* \* Fake news is cheap to make, but the dividends can be great.

### **Fact-checking fake news reveals how hard it is to kill pervasive 'nasty weed' online**

Josh Gillin, Politifact, January 27th, 2017

- One of the more striking developments of 2016 was the emergence of a "post-fact" world, in which virtually all authoritative information sources are challenged by contrary facts of dubious quality and provenance. In a world without gatekeepers, there is no reason to think that good information will win out over bad.

### **The Emergence of a Post-Fact World**

Francis Fukuyama, Project Syndicate, January 12, 2017

- For decades, researchers have been wrestling with the nature of falsehood: How does it arise? How does it affect our brains? Can we choose to combat it? The answers aren't encouraging for those who worry about the national impact of a reign of untruth over the next four, or eight, years. Lies are exhausting to fight, pernicious in their effects and, perhaps worst of all, almost impossible to correct if their content resonates strongly enough with people's sense of themselves . . .

### **Trump's Lies vs. Your Brain**

Maria Konnikova, Politico, Jan/Feb, 2017

- . . . the MSM still fails to appreciate is the degree to which they've spent the last 40 years — at least — presenting news as unbiased and objective when it was in fact coated with, saturated in, and bent by all manner of confirmation biases, self-serving narratives, assumptions, and ideological priorities that leaned left. No, it wasn't all "fake news" (man, am I exhausted by the ridiculous misuse of that term) ...most of the time liberal bias isn't even deliberate.

### **The G-File**

Jonah Goldberg, National Review, January 28, 2017

- In China, Twitter is blocked but fake tweets by @realdonaldtrump look set to become the latest internet sensation. Users are flocking to websites that let them generate images of fake tweets that look just like those sent from U.S. President Donald Trump's distinctive personal Twitter account — replete with his avatar and a real-time timestamp.

### **[Chinese send fake Trump tweets as jokes, New Year wishes](#)**

Gerry Shih, Associated Press, January 26, 2017

- Google kicked 200 publishers off one of its ad networks in the fourth quarter, partly in response to the proliferation of fake news sites.

### **[Google has banned 200 publishers since it passed a new policy against fake news](#)**

Tess Townsend, Recode, January 25, 2017

- There is a large and frightened readership looking for confirmation of its darkest fears in every "unprecedented" (but often, not really) move that Trump and his administration make.

These readers trust liberal-leaning mainstream outlets to deliver them the truth. But their clicks and shares will reward those outlets when they make rumor seem like certainty, or make the truth more alarming than it is.

### [The Tempting of the Media](#)

Ross Douthat, The New York Times, January 21, 2017

- The man behind one of America's biggest "fake news" websites is a former BBC worker from London whose mother writes many of his stories.

### [Mother churns out stories for master of fake news](#)

Josh Boswell, The Sunday Times, January 29, 2016

- Harris told the Times that he created fake news to earn money. After investing \$5 for the domain name, he earned about \$22,000 in online advertising revenue. In an interview with the Times, Harris expressed guilt for spreading lies but also a sense of pride in doing it so well. "At first it kind of shocked me — the response I was getting," he said. "How easily people would believe. It was almost like a sociological experiment."

### [Aide to Md. lawmaker fabricated article on fraudulent votes for Clinton](#)

Ovetta Wiggins, The Washington Post, January 18, 2017

- You cannot defeat disinformation: it is a tactic, not an enemy in its own right. But Europe can counter it, and do so more effectively. European countries, NATO, and the EU need to pool their resources and their efforts if they are to succeed. [Ian Bond]

### [Judy Asks: Can Europe Defeat Russian Disinformation?](#)

Judy Dempsey, Carnegie Europe, January 11, 2017

- In 2016, a so-called "post-truth" world emerged, where objective truths seem to carry less weight than opinions that appeal to personal beliefs. But experts and truth still matter. For me, the most important reason is that they provide evidence. Evidence of all kinds, from multiple sources, allows us to make informed decisions.

### [In a 'Post-Truth' World, Evidence and Experts Matter More Than Ever](#)

Molly Morgan Jones, RAND, December 16, 2017

- Fake news has become a problem that the media and the tech industries are urgently searching for ways to solve. But in the post-election push to fix the problem, those who most want to find the solution have managed to lose control over what, exactly, the definition of "fake news" is.

### [How the war against fake news backfired](#)

Abby Ohlheiser, The Washington Post, December 7, 2016

- What can we do about news so toxic that it moves people to take up arms to investigate conspiracies? Unfortunately, the simple answers are inadequate, and some are downright counterproductive. Instead, any successful approach to fake news demands that we treat these three different diseases with different techniques.

### [Quotable: Ethan Zuckerman on three varieties of "fake news"](#)

## INFORMATION WARFARE

- [John McCain](#) warned that the Trump administration is unprepared to deal with Russian attempts "to influence elections in France and European countries in the coming months". In audio obtained by the Guardian of the 2008 presidential nominee speaking at the

congressional retreat in Philadelphia, the Arizona senator said “we don’t have a policy and we don’t have a strategy” for Russian cyber warfare.

[\*\*John McCain says US has no strategy to deal with Russian cyber warfare\*\*](#)

Ben Jacobs, The Guardian, January 27, 2017

- Here in the Czech Republic . . . intelligence officials are charging Moscow with rebuilding its spy operations and engaging in “covert infiltration” of Czech media ahead of elections later this year. And the new government truth squad will pay special attention to a proliferation of opaque, pro-Russian websites in the Czech language that officials say are seeking to gaslight the public by fostering paranoia and undermining faith in democracy and the West.

[\*\*As Cold War turns to Information War, a new fake news police combats disinformation\*\*](#)

Anthony Faiola, The New York Times, January 22, 2016

- Amid a growing scandal in the United States over Russian attempts to interfere in the 8 November presidential election, Moscow has denied the existence of both its 'cyber corps' or the assertion that any Russian government entity engages in attacks on foreign computer systems. Statements to this

[\*\*Russia denies existence of cyber attack units\*\*](#)

Reuben F. Johnson, IHS, Jane’s 360, January 13, 2017

- The last of our three environmental spaces—the virtual—has seen the most expanded influence on the conduct of warfare, particularly on the strategic narrative via the increased ability for parties to target specific audiences through social media. It is a realm in which even impoverished nonstate actors have access to capabilities on par with those of their otherwise more advantaged opponents.

[\*\*Information and Warfare: The Israeli Case\*\*](#)

Gideon Avidor and Russell W. Glenn, Parameters, August, 2016

- Capabilities to inform, influence, and persuade are necessary both for national security success and as a cost-effective toolset relative to physical military power. This article discusses shortfalls and deficiencies in this area, and concludes with recommendations to increase resources for manning and tools for informing, influencing, and persuading, as well as efforts to inculcate “communication mindedness” in commanders and senior leaders.

[\*\*Enhancing US Efforts to Inform, Influence, and Persuade\*\*](#)

Christopher Paul, Parameters, August 2016

## **CYBER**

- Trump also intends to make cyber defense a priority of the U.S. military, according to the White House. Cyber-attacks have become a source of serious concern among congressional lawmakers and the media as a result of the intelligence community’s [conclusions](#) about the Russian government’s hacking campaign aimed at the U.S. presidential election.

[\*\*White House to End Defense Sequester, Boost Military’s Cyber Capabilities\*\*](#)

Morgan Chalfant, Washington Free Beacon, January 23, 2017

## **NATIONAL HISTORICAL NARRATIVES**

- [Bangladesh](#)’s Education Ministry was preparing to print the 2017 editions of its standard Bengali textbooks when a group of conservative Islamic religious scholars demanded the



removal of 17 poems and stories they deemed “atheistic.” By the time the books were distributed to schools on Jan. 1, the 17 poems and stories were gone, with no explanation from the government. . . . The changes were barely noticeable to the general public, but they alarmed some Bangladesh intellectuals, who saw them as the government’s accommodating a larger shift toward radical Islam.

### [To Secular Bangladeshis, Textbook Changes Are a Harbinger](#)

Ellen Barry and Julfikar Ali Manikjan, The New York Times, January 22, 2017

## KOMPROMAT

- A diabolical-sounding Russian word has been making waves recently: “kompromat,” meaning “compromising material,” collected on someone for the purposes of blackmail.

### [How ‘Kompromat’ Became a Word for Using Scandal as a Weapon](#)

Ben Zimmer, The Wall Street Journal, January 20, 2017

- The vast bulk of compromising material gathered in China is used by Chinese officials — and other power players — against each other.

### [Chinese are Masters at Blackmailing—Each Other](#)

James Palmer, Foreign Polciy, 19 Jan 2017

## ANTI-SEMITISM

- The Anti-Semitism Awareness Act will mirror the State Department's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism's definition of anti-Semitism, including critical language to define where anti-Israel bias crosses the line into anti-Semitism. The new Act would enhance the Education Department's ability to identify, investigate, and punish all forms of anti-Semitism, including anti-Zionism and anti-Israel harassment.

### [Anti-Semitism Awareness Act Sparks Hysteria on Campus](#)

Asaf Romirowsky, Middle East Forum, January 10, 2017

## PERSUASION

- We did some digging to uncover the key behaviors that [emotionally intelligent](#) people engage in that make them so persuasive. Here are the tricks of the trade that exceptionally persuasive people use to their advantage: **1. They’re pleasers. \* \* \*** **2. They aren’t pushy. \* \* \*** **3. They aren’t mousy, either. \* \* \*** **4. They know their audience. \* \* \*** **5. They paint a picture. \* \* \*** **6. They use positive body language. \* \* \*** **7. They smile. \* \* \*** **8. They acknowledge your point of view. \* \* \*** **9. They ask good questions. \* \* \*** **10. They use your name. \* \* \*** **11. They form connections. \* \* \*** **12. They are genuine. \* \* \*** **13. They know when to pull back. \* \* \***

### [13 Habits of Super Persuasive People](#)

Travis Bradberry, The Huffington Post, January 21, 2017

## PROPAGANDA

- Russian media are incensed that Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels’ diary will be published in a Ukrainian translation. With monotonous predictability, the Kremlin claims Ukrainians are glorifying Nazism. But Moscow’s real concern is that an examination of Goebbels’ techniques exposes how closely Putin’s methods, using lies and fake news, are derived from and mirror those of the masterful Nazi propagandist.



## [Goebbels Techniques Inspire Russian Propaganda](#)

StopFake, January 26, 2017

- A traveling exhibition about propaganda will be on display at the National World War II Museum [in New Orleans], starting this month. "State of Deception : The Power of Nazi Propaganda" comes from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. . . . It shows, chronologically, how the Nazis used biased information to sway public opinion in the years leading up to and during World War II, the news release says.

### [National WW2 Museum to host traveling propaganda exhibit](#)

The Daily Progress, January 21, 2017

## **MEDIA SAVVY ▪ EDUCATION ▪ JUDGMENT**

- "[W]e need to develop new rules that adhere to the core values of honesty and respect for our audience," wrote BuzzFeed Editor-in-Chief Ben Smith in the New York Times [on Monday](#). "That means debunking falsehoods, and being transparent with readers about our process of reporting. Sometimes, it means publishing unverified information in a transparent way that informs our users of its provenance, its impact and why we trust or distrust it."

### [Press seeks 'new rules' in the age of Trump](#)

Eddie Scarry, Washington Examiner, January 24, 2017

- As you read, listen to and watch the news, you may notice stories that you think are biased. To see if they really are biased, you need to determine if the story falls into at least one of the several forms in which bias occurs. TYPES OF MEDIA BIAS: Bias by omission . . . Bias by selection of sources . . . Bias by story selection . . . Bias by placement. . . Bias by labeling . . . Bias by spin . . .

### [Media Bias](#)

Student News Daily

## **IDEAS, CONCEPTS, DOCTRINE**

- America First is not a policy that any of our allies around the world want to hear. Our adversaries are delighted. Our power and influence with our friends and adversaries came in large part because we were the one nation that did not always put ourselves first.

### [The End of the American Century](#)

Richard Stengel, The Atlantic, January 26, 2017

- Not surprisingly, "1984" has found a nervous readership in today's "[post-truth](#)" era. It's an era in which misinformation and fake news have proliferated on the web; Russia is flooding the West with propaganda to affect elections and sow doubts about the democratic process; poisonous tensions among ethnic and religious groups are fanned by right-wing demagogues; and reporters scramble to sort out a cascade of lies and falsehoods told by President Trump and his aides.

### [Why '1984' Is a 2017 Must-Read](#)

Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times, January 26, 2017

- Trump and some of his advisors (most notably Stephen Bannon) may be operating from a broad, [Huntingtonian "clash of civilizations" framework](#) that informs both their aversion to multiculturalism at home and their identification of friends and foes abroad.

### [America's New President Is Not a Rational Actor](#)

Stephen M. Walt, Foreign Policy, 25 Jan 2017

- In conversations with dozens of entertainment and media executives and academics from hit-making industries over the past few years, I have learned that there are three overarching rules of popular entertainment. Each applies to Mr. Trump. First, every successful franchise is fundamentally a hero myth. \* \* \* \* The second rule of popular entertainment is that, as critical as it is to write stories that move people, distribution is more important than content. \* \* \* \* THE third rule of popular entertainment is the most distressing for the news media and for the country at large. The dark history of 20th-century entertainment is that media blockbusters seek to become monopolies.

[Live From the White House, It's Trump TV](#)

Derek Thompson, The New York Times, December 28, 2017

- Force is at best a temporary substitute for ideas. In the contest between nation-states, power does not come from the barrel of a gun. Force has a role, but even the immensely powerful U.S. military cannot impose our values on other nations. The success of universal values, which seemed unassailable in 1989, has been reversed on the watch of the last two administrations, and rebuilding an effective foreign policy requires blending the pursuit of values with a willingness to use force and coercion in their service.... -- How do we defend the universal values now under attack?

[What role should values play in American strategy?](#)

James Andrew Lewis, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 15 December, 2016

## **Countries and Regions**

### **RUSSIA**

- The pro-Kremlin outlets enjoy accusing others of being Nazi. Most frequently, [this insult targets the Ukrainians and the people in the three Baltic states](#). But practically anything and anyone opposing the Kremlin's interests can be "Nazi", e.g. [the anti-Soviet uprising in Hungary in 1956](#). Most recently, the new Foreign Minister of Canada was accused of being the daughter of a Nazi collaborator in pro-Kremlin outlets <http://bit.ly/2jILWu6>. Mrs Freeland is, incidentally, a prominent critic of Russia <http://bit.ly/2jaCX4U>.

[And You are a Nazi Too](#)

EU East StratCom Task Force, Disinformation Review, January 26, 2017

- During the last week, we have seen some creative attempts to adjust history in pro-Kremlin media. For example, it was claimed that President Putin never waged a war on Chechnya and Chechens, but was in fact fighting Western-funded international terrorists and freeing Chechen people from their destructive influence and violence . . .

[History Under Revision](#)

EU East StratCom Task Force, Disinformation Review, January 26, 2017

- Even before the release of the unclassified version of the U.S. intelligence community's conclusions regarding Russian hacking and involvement in the U.S. presidential elections, before President-elect Donald Trump got his classified briefing on the report from the heads of the U.S. Intelligence Community, before all the reactions to the report, Russia was already the big winner.

[It's a Win-Win-Win Scenario for Russia](#)

Steven L. Hall, The Cipher Brief, January 25, 2017

- The Russian propaganda machine is pushing the theme of reconciliation with Russia to Ukraine, attempting to reduce Ukraine resistance to Russia and increase an affinity to again return to the Russian sphere of influence.

**[Mediagigiena: how to pay for the promotion of the theme of reconciliation with Russia](#)**

Joel Harding, To Inform is to Influence, January 23, 2017

- If the issue is divisive, if the issue sows or fosters dissent within the United States, if the issue can construe or even misconstrue negatively on the US, RT can reliably be counted on to promote the issue.

**[Notice What RT Is Pushing Now?](#)**

Joel Harding, To Inform is to Influence, January 23, 2017

- Classic Putin is both a master bureaucrat and a salt-of-the-earth guy; he is fluent both in cunning bureaucratese . . . —and in the language of the *muzhik*, the hearty, salty Russian man . . . . Classic Putin is a master of the confirmation-by-denial trick, as he was Tuesday when he said that the DNC hacking scandal was a false flag, “but I want to reiterate, the hackers didn’t doctor anything, they didn’t make anything up. Whoever they may have been, they just unearthed the information.” Which brings us to another trait of Classic Putin: Blame others for doing the things that you’re doing....

**[The Real Meaning of Putin's Press Conference](#)**

Julia Ioffe, The Atlantic, January, 2017

- . . . Russia’s goals are not greater attraction and credibility, but rather the opposite: sowing disinformation, distrust, and dislike amongst its targets. Unlike a “soft power” strategy employed by the United States, Russia’s public diplomacy strategy is asymmetrical—what could best be called “wicked power.”

**[Russia’s Wicked Power in the 2016 U.S. Election](#)**

Eric Nisbet, CPD Blog, January 23, 2017

- Stability and economic well-being became the ideology of the day, peppered with a heavy dose of nostalgia for the U.S.S.R. and a whitewashing of its sins. Putin called the disintegration of the Soviet Union “the greatest geopolitical catastrophe” of the 20th century. Whoever didn’t feel that, he said, “doesn’t have a heart.” Joseph Stalin became, in the business-friendly lingo of the day, an “effective manager” who went a bit too far. Textbooks and television came to reflect this new, state-sanctioned nostalgia.

**[Why Many Young Russians See a Hero in Putin](#)**

Julia Ioffe, National Geographic, December, 2016

- Russian-state owned media use two main information operations themes. The first, portrays U.S. and NATO activity as provocative, damaging to Russia’s legitimate security interests, and dangerous for European states. The second, depicts Western activity as ineffective, damaging to Eastern European Allies, and largely reflective of the Allies’ self-interests.

**[Russia’s Information Operations Themes: NATO under Attack](#)**

Geoffrey W. Wright, Army War College Review, August, 2016, p. 58ff

## UKRAINE

- Russian state news agency [TASS](#) declared that Tillerson had named the terms under which Crimea would be recognized as part of Russia and [Lenta.ru](#) quickly followed suit claiming

that he “clarified” those conditions. Both agencies conveniently ignored the fact that Tillerson agreed that Russia’s annexation of Crimea was illegal and violated Ukraine’s sovereignty.

**[Fake: Tillerson Names Conditions under Which Crimea Would Be Recognized as Russian](#)**

StopFake, January 13, 2017

## **CHINA**

- . . . this is a more sophisticated cyber-economic campaign than those launched in the late 1990’s. . . . due [to its] links to the Ministry of Propaganda initiatives. This segment campaign includes: 1. Mobile and online games 2. Internet browsers 3. Media content (archived movies, television shows, online distribution services etc.) 4. Data streaming and content delivery 5. Automatic Content Recognition (ACR) 6. Production studios 7. Resorts and Theme Parks 8. Cruise lines 9. Sports and Sport Media

**[Testimony before the U.S. – China Economic and Security Review Commission Hearing on “Chinese Investment in the United States: Impacts and Issues for Policy Makers”](#)**

Jeffrey Z. Johnson, President & CEO, SquirrelWerkz, January 26, 2017

- The US should attack the Chinese sweeping censorship rules (the Great Firewall) directly by bringing a case against this huge trade barrier in the World Trade Organization.

**[China bans 8 of the world’s top 25 websites? There’s still more to the digital trade problem.](#)**

Claude Barfield, American Enterprise Institute, January 25, 2017

- At present, the target audience for China’s diplomatic campaigns and soft-power activities abroad are usually Chinese domestic audiences and the Chinese diaspora.

**[China’s Outdated Foreign Service Needs Rebooting for the Age of Trump](#)**

Qiu Zhibo, Tea Leaf Nation, Foreign Policy, January 23, 2017

- Chinese authorities [block access to big-name websites](#) such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and numerous others, and to thwart these restrictions, many residents on the mainland use [virtual private networks](#). Starting this week, that could be a crime. Use of VPNs and special cable connections in China must now be approved by the government, essentially making these services illegal in the country.

**[China just made VPNs illegal](#)**

Jessica Conditt, Engadget, January 23, 2017

- State media prominently [mentioned](#) a speech given on Friday by Politburo member and former Party propaganda chief Liu Yunshan 刘云山 in which he said that “ideological education should be continuously advanced” and “ordered building a cleaner cyberspace through better governance of the internet.” This follows news earlier this week of state media demanding loyalty to the Party [from judges and police officers](#), and another report of similar official remarks about the need for people working in [media and education to toe the line](#).

**[Push for ideology continues](#)**

**Jeremy Goldkorn, SupChina, January 21, 2017**

- "Trade protectionism and self-isolation will benefit no one," Xi told an invited audience at the United Nations in Geneva. "Big countries should treat smaller countries as equals instead of acting as a hegemon imposing their will on others."

### [Xi portrays China as global leader as Trump era looms](#)

Tom Miles and Stephanie Nebehay, Reuters, 18 Jan, 2017

- Take Trump’s drone tweet, which has been widely discussed on Weibo, China’s version of Twitter, where talk of international politics and media is exceedingly common. In one particularly widely shared and widely discussed comment, one user [called](#) Trump “a viral online President who governs via Twitter.” “Merely by using Twitter,” the post reads, “Trump has repeatedly enraged China.”

### [Trump Tweets, Supporters Cheer, China Chafes](#)

David Wertime, Tea Leaf Nation, Foreign Policy, December 21, 2016

- China’s sprawling and sophisticated system of censorship is well-known. But it would be a mistake to conclude that the system is static, suppressing news on a standard list of politically sensitive topics. An analysis of leaked party directives to media outlets shows that from one year to the next, there are notable shifts in the types of stories that Chinese government censors are most interested in squelching or amplifying.

### [All the News Unfit to Print: What Beijing Quashed in 2016](#)

Sarah Cook, Tea Leaf Nation, Foreign Policy, December 16, 2016

- . . . many in the Chinese middle and even upper classes also share the rank-amateur conspiratorial beliefs about U.S. politics pushed by the alt-right likes of InfoWars, Breitbart and the National Policy Institute, whose articles, unmoored from the bonds of fact or reason, are frequently [translated](#) and disseminated on Chinese social media without context or dissent.

### [Breitbart Has Landed in Beijing](#)

Robert Foyle Hunwick, Tea Leaf Nation, Foreign Policy, December 2, 2017

## **NORTH KOREA**

- “The regime can only stay in place by preventing outside information,” [defector Thae Yong-ho] said. “People there are not educated about the outside world and have no opportunity to experience freedom or a system that is different.” In North Korea, the Internet is banned for all but a handful of elites, radios and televisions play only state propaganda, and the newspapers are full of the leader’s “great feats.” South Korean dramas are increasingly being smuggled into North Korea, but people watch them in secret, fearing severe punishment if they are caught.

### [Ex-diplomat: ‘I’ve known that there was no future for North Korea for a long time’](#)

Anna Fitfield, The Washington Post, January 25, 2017

- The best way to force change in the isolated North, he continued, is to disseminate outside information there to help ordinary citizens eventually rebel. South Korean TV dramas and movies smuggled from China are already popular in the North, he said.

### [North Korean Defector Says Kim Jong-Un’s Control Is Crumbling](#)

Choe Sang-hun, The New York Times, January 25, 2017

## **SOUTH ASIA**

- “The market value for nationalism is very high,” said Gayantha Karunathilaka, Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media for the Government of Sri Lanka. “Politically and commercially driven media have to be replaced by good ethical and public-interest driven

media.” He blamed heavy competition, especially in television, as one of the factors driving nationalistic reporting.

**[Sri Lankan Media Minister Calls on South Asian Media Owners to End Nationalistic Coverage Aimed at Boosting Profits](#)**

East-West Center, January 18, 2017

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

- We're in the midst of a propaganda war and the battlefield is social media, with "bots" as foot soldiers and hub managers as commanders, says Jean le Roux, a former investigator at the public protector, who is researching South Africa's information wars.

**[Paid Twitter, Bots, Hubs And Astroturfing: The Anatomy Of The New Propaganda War](#)**

Pieter du Toit, Huffington Post, January 25, 2017

## **ISLAMIC STATE**

- This paper aims to analyze still unnoticed aspects of the so-called Islamic State's cyber jihadist campaign in order to indicate its potential utility for state-sponsored information warfare. To begin with, it tends to present the most important features of the “Islamic Caliphate's” online campaign, which aims to generate the “viral effect.” [From the abstract]

**[Lessons Learned from the “Viral Caliphate”: Viral Effect as a New PSYOPS Tool?](#)**

Miron Lakomy, Cyber, Intelligence, and Security, vol. 1, no. 1, January 2017

- . . . the United States continues to under-resource its activities in the informational space. It has generally failed to effectively leverage the lethal effects of its military operations against IS to create decisive nonlethal effects in the psychological and informational domains. . . The United States must devote even greater resources and effort to framing the narrative regarding the struggle with salafi-jihadist groups like IS and al-Qaeda, as well as its strategic competition with Iran.

**[Rethinking American Military Intervention in the Middle East](#)**

Michael Eisenstadt, Defense Dossier, American Foreign Policy Council, December 31, 2016

## **Toolkit**

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

- White House press briefings are “access journalism,” in which official statements — achieved by closeness to the source — are taken at face value and breathlessly reported as news. And that is over. Dead.

**[The Traditional way of reporting on a President is dead. And Trump's press secretary killed it.](#)**

Margaret Sullivan, The Washington Post, 22 January, 2017

- Spin, obfuscation, eliding context, or even lying by omission—these are normal acts of dishonesty expected from political spokespeople. It is the job of press secretaries to put a gloss on the facts that makes their boss look good. In administrations run by both parties, this has sometimes turned into outright lying or dishonesty.

**[Professionalism, Propaganda, and the Press](#)**

Adam Serwer, The Atlantic, January 24, 2017

## **EXCHANGES**

- As reports circulate that his administration plans to eliminate the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and privatize the Public Broadcasting Service, other global-education-focused programs like Title VI of the Higher Education Act, which provides funds to international-studies and foreign-language centers, as well as the Fulbright-Hays grants and Hubert H. Humphrey fellowships, will also most likely be cut.

### **[Why Trump's Executive Order Is Wrongheaded and Reckless](#)**

Keith David Watenpaugh, Chronicle of Higher Education, January 29, 2017

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

- I am perhaps proudest of the great strides we have made together in advancing education and development across the hemisphere. A prime example is the 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative, launched in March 2011, which has increased the number of U.S. students studying in Latin America and the Caribbean by 20 percent and the number of students from the Americas studying in the United States by 24 percent. The linkages forged by connecting American students with their counterparts in the region are critical to our shared security and prosperity in today's interconnected world and will pay enormous dividends for us all for many years to come.

### **[Welcome Program for Central America and Caribbean Youth Ambassadors](#)**

Acting Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Bruce Wharton, Department of State, January 23, 2017