

Date: The Biggest Threat of current Age is Fake News and Propaganda.

1. Introduction:

1.1 Hook

1.2 General Statements

1.3 Thesis statement: Fake news and propagandas

are one of a greatest danger to modern age, democracy, international relation, global security and ^{has} many negative impacts on domestic lives of ordinary citizens.

2. Historical Background

2.1. Roman Myths: Emperors making up stories

2.2. Medieval time: Churchs controlling information

2.3. World War I: Nazis spreading lies about Jew.

2.4 Cold War: USSR and USA building narratives against each other

3. Understanding Fake News & Propaganda

3.1 Fake New: Fabricated news presented as facts.

3.2 Propaganda: truth & lies mixed to shape public opinio

3.3 Types: Political, Commercial, Social, Technological.

4. Causes of Spread in Modern Age.

4.1 Digital Revolution & Social Media

4.2 Algorithm Driven News.

4.3 Citizen Journalism.

4.4 Political motives

4.5 Economic incentives

4.6 Lack of Digital Literacy

5. Effects on Politics & Governance

- 5.1 Election Manipulation.
- 5.2 Authoritarian control.
- 5.3 Erosion of Democracy.
- 5.4 Loss of Trust in Institutions.

6. Impacts on Society.

- 6.1 Social Polarization & Hate Speech.
- 6.2 Health concerns.
- 6.3 Psychological Impacts.
- 6.4 Undermining Journalism.

7. Impacts on International Relations.

- 7.1 Disinformation wars.
- 7.2 Cyber Propaganda Units.
- 7.3 Diplomatic Tensions.

8. Critical opinion : there are bigger issues.

- 8.1 Terrorism, Climate change etc are bigger issues.
- 8.2 Denial : Actually misinformation acts as a force multiplier.

9. Solutions & Way Forward.

- 9.1 Government Regulation.
- 9.2 Media Responsibility.
- 9.3 Technological Solutions.
- 9.4 Public Responsibility.
- 9.5 International Cooperation.

10. Conclusion :

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"A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes," said Mark Twain. We today are living in a world ^{where} lies spread faster than ever and information is considered power. The rise of internet, social media and technologies had made information accessible to billions within seconds. However, this very accessibility has become a double-edged sword. While the digital age has made democratized information, it has also made it easily manipulatable, distortable and fabricatable. Fake news and propaganda once limited to authoritarian regimes and wartime strategies are now effecting the lives of ordinary citizens. Fake news are fabricated lies presented as facts and propaganda is a wider concept where truth and lies are mixed to build narratives and change public opinion. However, Fake news and propagandas together ~~are a enormous~~ ^{one of a} greatest dangers to modern age, undermining democracy, manipulating international relations, dividing societies and loss of trust in institutions.

4130- Fake News and Propagandas, ~~lies~~ ^{now} ^{more} prevalent than ever, are not a new phenomena. They have their history rooted back to centuries and centuries. Be it the Roman emperors who circulated myths about themselves to ^{declare} their assert their power and themselves divine or ^{the} church in medieval times which controlled information and let only that information accessible to public the which suited their interests. In recent history, the Nazi propaganda under Joseph Goebbels that aimed to spread lies about Jews and hatred against Jews, and increase a social divide with Jewish communities & to eventually justify making people to believe the inhumane behaviour with Jews as rightful. Another notable example is of USSR and USA spreading building narratives against each other during Cold War. USA through Voice of America and ^{many} other national and private owned media houses promoted capitalism and democracy and on the hand USSR too using its means promoted communism and Anti-Western sentiments. But today, the advancement in technologies and the greated extend of accessibility to information has made multifolded the spread of fake news & propaganda.

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Fake news and propaganda sometimes used interchangeably ~~however~~ are defined by different characteristics. Fake news are fabricated or deliberately misleading stories presented as actual lies ^{particularly} to damage someone's reputation e.g. Deepfakes, etc. On the other hand propaganda is a broader concept that involves systematic dissemination of fabrications, truth mixed with truth for pro political, economic or other gain against rival. The US propaganda during COVID against Chinese vaccines, questioning their credibility. There are different types of fake news and propagandas e.g. political, commercial social and technological. Political fake news and propagandas involves maligning election campaigns, spreading lies about rival politicians or candidates. The US comic of Adolf Hitler looking proudly at Vladimir Putin and many other comics representation of Vladimir Zelensky as clown not only increase political divide but hate speech between supporters. Commercially, fake reviews and news about products are published to attract viewers and customers. And with advancement in technology Deepfake images, voices and video are a relatively new addition in the tools to spread fake news and propagandas.

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In today's world, the factors like digital revolution, social media, algorithm driven news, political motives

In Modern age, among many factors some that exacerbate the spread of these fake news and propaganda are social media, lack of digital literacy, political motives, etc. Digital Revolution in past 25 years and the increased use of social media has made the spread of information by thousand folds. As of 2025, 5.24 billion people, approximately 63.9% of global people population uses social media actively. Any fake news news reaches this much people within seconds. Moreover, no systematic fact checking of news on social media. It makes any kind of news accessible to everyone. Secondly the algorithm driven echo chambers of social media, where the users get ^{content} recommended on the basis of likes their liking and trends with no credibility checks in between and no opposing narrative ^{against their liking} recommended on their feeds. ^{these days has} Everyone ~~having~~ cellphones, which gives them access to record and upload whatever, ^{with} no context and journalism insight ~~now~~ on social media to be seen by people other users and create confusion. Political motives to gain vote are also behind such fake news e.g., thousands of bots ^{work actively} on X used by Indian government to spread hate speech and fake news.

against Pakistani nation and government. To gain revenue and other financial benefits, ~~fake adds~~ ^{fake adds} these days ~~fake adds~~ ^{news} looking like interviews of famous, these days particularly fake adds looking like fake news from some credible source and involving interviews of some famous celebrity ~~to~~ promoting a particular product are used for clickbait, more clicks and attracting more customers. Last but not the least the digital illiteracy among masses makes them share and believe the news with no fact checking through other sources.

Fake news and Propagandas have an adverse effect of Politics and Governance. ~~US~~ Propaganda are spread to hijack election campaigns. Most recently, in 2016 the fake news ~~and~~ ^{were} spread using social media against immigrants ~~in~~ ^{US} by Russia to effect the elections and particularly Trump. All this interrupts the systematic democratic processes and contribute to erosion of democracy in countries like North Korea, where authoritarian rule is prevalent, the ones in power use information to control the public and keep them obedient. All this leads to loss of trust of public in government institutions, often leading to riots.

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and civil wars or coups. between the public and government and or increased divide between the government and the public.

Fake news not only effect politics but overall fabric of the society contributing significantly in social polarization and hate speech. The Isreal trying to control the narrative has not only lead to killing of journalists but the publication of ^{fake} news in their like Hamas beheaded 40 babies and raped women, in their news papers has strengthen hatred against Muslims and news in international media like Islam oppresses women ^{not only} promotes Islamophobia but also a social divide between people believers of different religions. During COVID, propagandas against vaccines from different countries and reasearches like wearing masks promotes increases the chances of ^{getting} virus and other such opposing views and remedies had a humungous impact of people's health also psychological toll on pe. their mental health. ~~The opposing views and~~ no moreover, the publicity of different ^{counterfeit} medicinal products on social media leads to people using them effecting their health negatively. At moreover,

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people in power particularly politicians label news that doesn't suit their beliefs or narrative, as unauthentic or fake. making it harder for ordinary citizens for what to believe often leading to undermining independent journalism.

International Relation & Global security and also very ~~to~~ strongly shaped and by these fake news and propagandas. Disinformation war is part of ^{modern} hybrid warfare to spread lies in rivals to ~~st~~ weaken the public internally. In the current ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict, Russia spread its propaganda of military advancement and winning the war. and so did Ukraine. Same happened during Indo-Pak war in May this year, despite having 6 ~~the~~ ^{of IAF} fighter jets downed by Pakistan Air Force. the Indian news channels built a warmongering narrative and didn't disclose the news about their defeat in dogfight with Pakistan on their national television. This all together keeps people away from reality and in the illusion of being ^{strong} ~~strength~~ and winning. As Joseph Goebbels said, "Propaganda works best when who are being manipulated are confident they are acting on their own free will."