

The Biggest threat
of current age is
fake news and
propaganda

Outline

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Understanding the phenomena
of fake news and
propaganda
- 3) How does fake news and
propaganda pose a biggest
threat in contemporary
world?

• Political

a) Erosion of democratic institution

b) Manipulation of voter

∴ case in point:

Russian's disinformation campaigns
in US Elections

• Social

a) Fueling social Unrest & Violence
came in point

∴ Facebook propaganda in Myanmar
fuelled violence against
Rohingya Muslims

b) Creating social Divisions & Polarisation

∴ India - Whatsapp rumors led
to mob killings over child abduction
lie

• Economic

a) Stock Market manipulation

b) Reputational Damage to
companies.

∴ Fake Tweet on Wall Street - loss
of Billion of dollars

∴ Tesla Stock Manipulation

• Security

• Increasing cyber warfare,
& Terrorism recruitments

∴ Zelensky Deepfake (Russia -
Ukraine war)

_ _ _ 1 _ _ 1 _ _ 6/5

∴ Pakistan - India Tension (May 2025)

• Health

a) Deepfakes destroying individuals reputation and mental health

b) Fake claims about drugs

∴ COVID-19 "Miracle Cure Scams"

4) Analysts' Views

i) Noam Chomsky - propaganda tool for elites

ii) Yuval Noah Harari - information overload - clarity power

iii) Fareed Zakaria - fake news, manipulation of decision.

5) Recommendations

i) Enact cyber laws & digital regulations

ii) Improve AI facts check and transparency in algorithms

iii) Global awareness

6) Conclusion

In May 2025, as India and Pakistan edge towards arm conflict - media erupted with digitised illusions not with battlefield footage. AI generated clips of Pakistani general admitting defeat and Indian jets destroying Pakistani bases - circulated widely bringing close to nuclear brinkmanship. Thus in a world where lies can fuel real wars, fake news has become more of a dangerous weapon in of contemporary times. Further more, according to ^{recently} ~~Europe~~ ^{Europol}, 90% of online content will be AI-generated by 2027. Then in such world, the question is not, "what is fake" but what is real. Fake news and propaganda pose one of the gravest threats of 21st century by undermining

_1_1_05

truth, & distorting public opinion,
kindling social unrest and division.

Along with these, fake news
is being used for political
manipulation, and economic
damage, security harm and
~~destroying~~ mental health deteriorations.

Moreover, people like Chomsky
and Harevi explained the
propaganda tools. Last but not
the least, this challenge can
be cope up by regulations
on cyber and improvement in
AI facts checking and global
awareness. Therefore this essay
explores the menace of fake
news and propaganda.

Fake news refers to
deliberately fabricated or
misleading information presented
as factual truth. It is

_ / _ / 20

often designed to manipulate public opinion. Propaganda, on the other hand, biased misleading information to promote particular political, ideological, or national interest. Historically, propaganda has been used previously many times for instance by Hitler's Nazi Germany. But, now, with digital revolution it has transformed in form of social media algorithms amplifying these concepts. MIT researchers discovered that fake news spread 6 times faster on Twitter, FB or whatsapp than accurate one. Thus, misleading information deliberately weaponized in politics, business and warfare

_ _ _ 1 _ _ : 6/11

Fake news and propaganda are posing a gravest challenge in 21st century in multifaceted domains. Beginning from political arena, fake news has been eroding trust in institutions and are manipulating public opinion during elections. Deep fake - driven propaganda in democratic elections of many countries - UNESCO That depicts that during elections, counter parties use deep fakes against each other. Furthermore, it is also use by countries; for instance, Russian disinformation campaigns in US Presidential Election (2016). Thus, undermining democracy and governance by political manipulations.

Along the same vein, misinformation has impacted on social realm.

It has fuelled social violence and conflict by via spread propagation of fake news.

Facebook propaganda in Myanmar fuelled violence against Rohingya Muslims. One post which is even inaccurate lead to mob violence against a particular group and fragmenting the society

Furthermore, fake news is creating social divisions and polarizations.