Twitter Thread by EUvsDisinfo

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2020 has brought many challenges and with them - a large volume of #disinformation. Here's our recap! (THREAD 1/20)

In late JANUARY we collected the first examples of pro-Kremlin disinformation spinning conspiracy theories about the origins of COVID-19. (2/20) https://t.co/iAbo00JH56

In FEBRUARY disinfo outlets kept amplifying conspiracy theories about COVID-19, no matter how ridiculous. The @WHO warned that the pandemic was accompanied by "infodemic": an unprecedented flood of false or inaccurate information about coronavirus. (3/20) https://t.co/uJXJlyCWez

In MARCH Josep Borrell, the head of the European External Action Service, warned: "disinformation can kill". https://t.co/9bZknYDtfX

In APRIL global activist network @Avaaz found that harmful misinformation on coronavirus was shared over 1.7 million times on Facebook and viewed an estimated 117 million times. (5/20) https://t.co/WTVAGknLb5

The eventual slowing down of infection rates in Europe decreased the volume of COVID-19 related disinformation. In MAY it was no longer cool to fuel anti-vaxx moods on Russian TVs. Oscar-winning film director N.Mikhalkov had to learn it the hard way. (6/20)https://t.co/nKGAhk87RP

Nonetheless, Disinformation narrative about "secret labs", an old darling of pro-Kremlin disinformation, found new prominence, as it was increasingly adopted by Chinese sources. (7/20) https://t.co/Yk49cJgjFB

In JUNE, as the racial justice protests spread in the US, pro-Kremlin pundits could hardly contain their glee. (8/20) https://t.co/6HzATiDvds

In JULY, following the spurious voting process to adopt amendments to the Russian constitution, the Kremlin intensified crack down on independent journalism. (9/20) https://t.co/FXhufoLq8e

Disinformation campaign aiming to obfuscate the Kremlin's responsibility for downing flight #MH17 continued into 6th year. As more and more evidence of Russia's direct involvement came to light, pro-Kremlin disinformation began grasping at

straws. (10/20) https://t.co/tF2rWkGGlD

In AUGUST protests against the results of rigged presidential election began in Belarus. To aid the embattled dictator, Russian media “specialists” were soon dispatched to the country. (11/20)
https://t.co/U0cC6Byygs

A Botched assassination attempt at Alexei #Navalny put pro-Kremlin media in a crisis management mode. In a striking case of déjà vu, disinformation outlets sought to muddy the waters just like they did in 2018 after Salisbury attack. (12/20)

PRO-KREMLIN DISINFO NARRATIVES ABOUT NOVICHOK POISONINGS



THE SKRIPALS, 2018		NAVALNY, 2020
London has no evidence of Moscow's complicity in Skripals' poisoning	THERE IS NO EVIDENCE	There is no evidence that Navalny was poisoned
London continues its massive anti-Russian provocation, people have been officially indicted	THE POISONING IS A PROVOCATION	It's a provocation to spoil relations between Russia & Germany in an attempt to stop Nord Stream 2
British authorities are exploiting the case for anti-Russian propaganda	THE WEST IS EXPLOITING POISONING	Poisoning of Navalny is exploited by the West to impose sanctions against Moscow
Skripal poisoning was staged by the British to divert attention from "unsuccessful Brexit talks"	THE POISONING WAS STAGED	The West staged a show with the delivery of an aircraft to transport Navalny to Germany
Western journalism is dominated by Russophobia and prefers fantasy to objective reporting	WESTERN MEDIA IS RUSSOPHOBIC	Russophobic Western media push narrative of Putin's role in Navalny poisoning
Alcoholism, drug addiction, stress... are the inevitable occupational diseases of the traitor. As a result— heart attacks, strokes, traffic accidents — and, finally, suicide	THEY DID IT THEMSELVES	Navalny could have caused his coma himself. A few days before hospitalization, he had problems with nutrition and digestion
It is said that the Russians have deployed a chemical weapon of military level. But nobody is dead!	IF IT WAS NOVICHOK, HE WOULD HAVE DIED	The symptoms of Navalny's alleged poisoning are absolutely uncharacteristic of the use of the Novichok nerve agent
Theresa May is trying to deal with her political enemies by bringing up the Skripal case	IT'S POLITICS	Poisoning Navalny manifests the fierce political struggle in Germany
Novichok, which poisoned the Skripals was produced and patented in the US	MADE IN USA	Novichok is not produced in Russia, but in Georgia & the US
Poisoning could have been carried out by foreign special services	SECRET SERVICES	The alleged "poisoning" could have been orchestrated by Western special forces
May's government has ignored the repeated proposals by the Russian side for constructive cooperation in the investigation of this case	NO COOPERATION	Berlin refuses to cooperate and provide information that would at least somehow verify the statements it made

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In SEPTEMBER our research showed, that pro-Kremlin disinformation on #Navalny poisoning has found a fertile ground in Germany. (13/20)
https://t.co/XNPwY7GUtU

Throughout the autumn the pro-Kremlin media were busy promoting Sputnik V vaccine to global audiences. Particular attention was paid to Latin America. (14/20) https://t.co/6THHJK5VZB

In OCTOBER, as renewed fighting in Nagorno Karabakh continued, pro-Kremlin outlets presented pictures from the video game as authentic war footage. (15/20) https://t.co/qnnuYdrOqG

In NOVEMBER as protracted tally of the votes followed the #USElections2020, the pro-Kremlin media amplified conspiracy theories alleging election fraud. (16/20) https://t.co/HkNOJ37Vz8

Presidential election in Moldova were also a target, in particular Moldova's president elect Maia #Sandu. (17/20)
https://t.co/OEo4dgxLNE

As the challenging year came to the end, DECEMBER brought silver linings: @bellingcat investigations shed light on FSB officers implicated in the poisoning of #Navalny. (18/20) https://t.co/DatqpY2Sgg and https://t.co/YUt3GwLVkP

Belarusian opposition received the #SakharovPrize for Freedom of Thought, the highest tribute paid by the European Union to human rights work (19/20) https://t.co/tRnOzNWnxP

> Parliament President David Sassoli presented the 2020 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and Veranika Tsapkala representing te Belarussian opposition today \u2192 https://t.co/iN4HDTMQ7O pic.twitter.com/Lj5NXTakhN
>
> — European Parliament (@Europarl_EN) December 16, 2020

And the EU took further steps to strengthen its response to disinformation! (20/20) https://t.co/pZDL0EgbSq

> The #DigitalServicesAct is a game changer.
> Together with the revision of the Code of Practice against #disinformation, initiated by the #EUDemocracy Action Plan, they provide solutions to risks brought by the amplification of harmful content and lack of transparency. pic.twitter.com/OEe5VWXgy1
>
> — V\u011bra Jourov\xe1 (@VeraJourova) December 17, 2020