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April 04, 2023 by Peoples Dispatch



<https://peoplesdispatch.org/2023/04/04/un-human-rights-council-condemns-impact-of-unilateral-sanctions-on-human-rights/>

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By Xu Keyue

Published: Feb 20, 2023 10:30 PM



<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285858.shtml>

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By Li Xuanmin and Chu Daye

Published: Apr 03, 2023 09:31 PM Updated: Apr 03, 2023 10:59 PM



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By Muhammad Zulfikar Rakhmat and Yeta Purnama

April 17, 2023



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<https://thediplomat.com/2023/04/the-china-brokered-iran-saudi-peace-deal-implications-for-indonesia/>

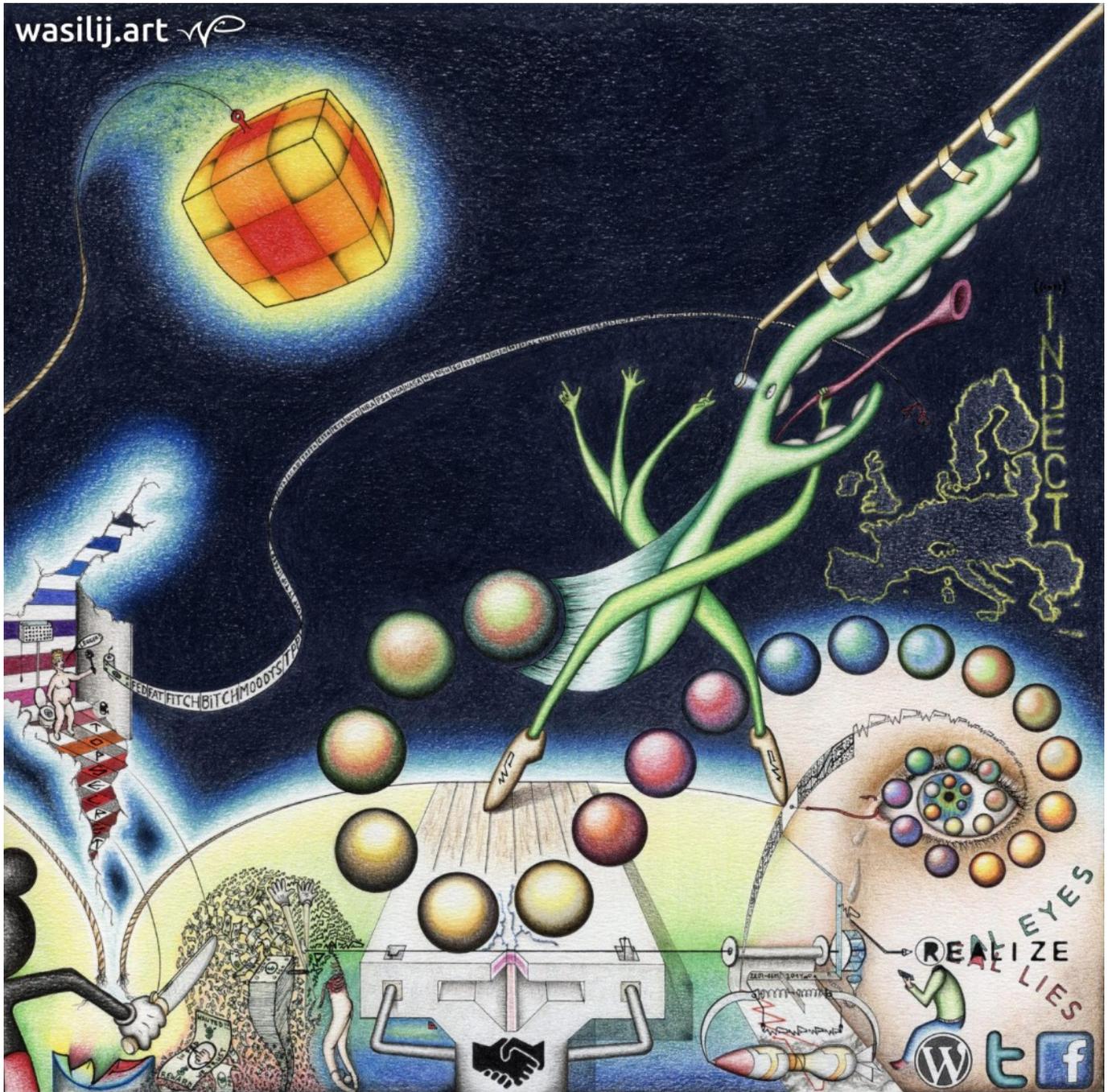
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<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/8/how-has-the-world-reacted-to-syria-rejoining-the-arab-league>





By wasilij.art

The 10 principles of war propaganda in the Ukraine

“The Basic Principles of War Propaganda” is a book written by the historian Anne Morelli and is based on the work of Arthur Ponsonby regarding propaganda in the First World War. In the book, Morelli summarizes and synthesizes Ponsonby's findings into 10 principles being used for war propaganda and illustrates them with examples from wars of modern times, e.g. in Vietnam, Iraq, or Afghanistan. The following article explains all of the principles and illustrates them on the basis of the Ukraine war.

PROPAGANDA

1. We don't want war, we are only defending ourselves!

Since populations usually do not prefer to be sent out to slaughter and being slaughtered and wars are usually seen negatively, no government of a modern country will ever admit her desire for war. They are always against war and they do it only because it is an inevitable emergency where they have no choice but to send troops, e.g. to defend themselves, some self-proclaimed values like freedom and democracy or to restore peace with arms. At least that is what they tell their populations since they need their consent.

And so the Russian propaganda tells its citizens, that despite wanting peace, they have to defend themselves against Ukrainian Nazis led in a proxy war by the USA. While western propaganda tells the people that they have to support Ukraine at any cost with weapons and even under the risk of further military escalation since it is the only way to regain

peace. You may wonder how there are wars at all if all political leaders are self-proclaimed pacifists inspired by the will for peace. Their actions, in Russia's case, starting the war and in the case of the West, e.g. expanding the military alliance NATO into the east, proof them to be liars, so do not listen to their nonsense.

2. Our adversary is solely responsible for this war!

The aim of war propaganda is to make populations support murder and slaughter. There is no room for reflected perspectives regarding the reasons, since the slightest shades or doubts in the own morals and actions may reduce the consent of the people for such an inhumane task as war. So naturally, war propaganda knows only black and white. The complete fault for the war lies on the side of the adversary, the own side was forced to react and had no other choice. That's the undeniable truth, swallow it.

So regarding the Ukraine war, no history exists before February 24th, 2022. The war started on this day and since the Russians started it, it is completely their fault. The permanent NATO expansions into the east since 1990 against verbal promises, the overthrow of the Ukrainian government in 2014, the nationalist government fighting against everything Russian in the country and bombing Eastern Ukraine for eight years, the Minsk agreements being a deception to give Ukraine more time for military build-up by the western countries and the Ukrainians plans of 2021 to retake the Crimea by force have nothing to do with the current war. Russia started it, and Russia is the only one to blame, if you think otherwise, you have fallen for Kremlin propaganda.

3. Our adversary's leader is inherently evil and resembles the devil

War propaganda works by channelizing the hate of the own population towards the adversary country. The problem is, a whole country or its population is pretty much an anonymous mass. It is way easier to project your hate on a specific face, so it is only natural for war propaganda to demonize the enemy's leader since no one would doubt he is the most responsible person for his country's actions. As a result, the conflict will be personalized since the whole adversary country will be reduced to one person and her actions. The enemy's leader will be characterized as the devil himself, as a monster or maniac that has to be stopped. If possible, also deformities of the physical appearance will be highlighted since people tend to assume negative characteristics in ugliness. For the mass media, it is quite easy to write a large number of negative articles focusing only on the personal aspects of the respective leader so that the people know who they have to hate.

From the first day, the Ukraine war was characterized as Putin's personal war to restore the former tsardom of Russia. The history that led to this war is ignored in the same way as there are people in Russia criticizing Putin for waiting too long to start the war. He is characterized alternately as a devil,

maniac, or idiot. At the beginning of the war, it was stated that he may be sick and has little time to live. But he is still there and in apparently good healthy condition. Also, politicians and media as well suggest that every problem is solved when Putin is gone, overturned, or killed. They are ignoring the fact that there are hardliners in Russia that might take over and could escalate the conflict even further.

4. We are defending a noble cause, not our particular interests!

Since economic and geopolitical interests are improper reasons to persuade the own population to support a war, those true goals have to be masked with morality. As a result, war propaganda will always argue with selfless, honorable motives like defending democratic values or human rights, stopping evil tyrants to massacre innocent children, or protecting their own country or an allied country. On contrary, the enemy's motives and actions are described as egoistic, bloodthirsty, and barbaric as the society of the adversary's country is described as morally primitive.

In the Ukraine war, it was actually quite easy to label the support of Ukraine with weapons and to increasingly escalate the situation as a noble goal since Russia attacked the country. After all, the Ukrainians are only defending their country from a barbaric aggressor and as free countries with high democratic and moral values, it is our duty to support them at all costs. That Ukraine bombed their own people in the Donbas region for eight years and that the "Western values" appear to be quite selective since the USA starts wars and murders people with drones all the time is completely concealed. Also, Ukraine, the most corrupt country in Europe with a distinct Nazi cult for Stephan Bandera suddenly declared a defender of democracy and human rights. So the support of those "heroic" defenders is declared as a defense of Europe itself.

5. The enemy is purposefully committing atrocities; if we are making mistakes this happens without intention

Every war comes with cruelties and crimes on both sides. But war propaganda focuses only on the crimes on the enemies' side. It is only natural that the own side does not commit atrocities since committing atrocities would contradict the self-proclaimed noble goals made up for the population. So if there is sufficient evidence of war crimes of the enemy, it will be sensationalized to the fullest extent. And if there is no sufficient evidence, war crimes will be invented. The mass media will swallow it since they are part of the propaganda system, and there will be no critical reflection. On the other hand, the war crimes of the own side will be completely concealed if possible. If the evidence is too strong to conceal, the atrocity will be labeled as an unfortunate accident and individual case, while the enemy commits crimes systematically.

In the Ukraine war, we are told that Russia's soldiers systematically murder people and rape women as part of their

strategy. While it appears to be sure that Russian soldiers also commit atrocities, supposed Russian crimes like the massacre in Bucha at least rise some serious questions about what really happened for numerous reasons. On the other hand, obvious crimes of Ukrainian soldiers like executing captured Russian soldiers, filmed and uploaded by the offenders themselves, are mostly ignored by the Western media as well as the self-justice “tradition” to strap people with cling film naked at lamp posts.

6. The enemy makes use of illegal weapons

This principle pretty much complements the previous one. While the own side follows honorable rules even at war, the enemy's side, since being cruel and barbaric, does not hesitate to use underhanded and dirty tactics and methods. Naturally, this includes the use of illegal weapons. So in the narratives of war propaganda, the enemy is either using illegal weapons or is planning to use them. If there is actual evidence for the use of illegal weapons, both sides often accuse each other of being responsible.

Over the period of the Ukraine war, there have been numerous rumors that the Russians plan to use chemical weapons in Western media while Russian media told that the Ukrainian army plans to use them or build a dirty bomb. Apparently actually used by the Russians were cluster bombs and grenades despite being internationally proscribed. But the Western countries are not a bit better since the USA and Great Britain also used such weapons in their wars and Ukraine officially demanded their delivery. Furthermore, Uranium ammunition against tanks is now delivered to Ukraine by Western countries despite clear evidence from past wars that they contaminate the people and environment with radiation. Not to mention the mutual accuses of Ukraine and Russia to each other for shooting at the nuclear plant in Saporischjha (interestingly the Russians were accused to shoot at a nuclear plant they keep occupied themselves and only at this nuclear plant).

7. We suffer few losses, the enemy's losses are considerable

It appears to be a tendency for people to follow victors. Also, if one war party admits many losses, her own population might question the reasonableness of continuing an endeavor of sacrificing so much human life. So naturally, war propaganda highlights the winning side and the winning side can only be the own one, independently of what's actually happening on the battlefield. So every territorial gain, even if it may be small, will be exaggerated to the fullest and labeled as a decisive victory, and every destruction of the enemy's troops and material will be overestimated and described as a devastating strike. On the other hand, territorial losses will be labeled as strategic retreats, and the own losses of men and materials are concealed completely. The incapable enemy is senselessly scarifying all of his armies and it is only a matter of time before he is defeated. With an enemy described on the verge of defeat the whole time, you may wonder why the war lasts so long anyway.

Since February 24th, 2022, when Russia attacked Ukraine, western media permanently exaggerated the superiority of the Ukrainian army. They are better equipped, and trained, and have better leadership and morals. According to the media, you should think the Ukrainian army must have conquered Moscow by now since they apparently only won. On the other hand, Russia should have collapsed economically a long time ago through the “effective” sanctions. And of course, only the losses of the Russian army are colossal, not to forget to mention that their equipment is trash and their soldier's morale low. They already lost this war, they just don't know it, and that's what our media tell us. But apparently, the actual situation does not look too well for Ukraine. Nevertheless, the Ukrainian government lately presented plans for what to do with Crimea after reconquering, an endeavor whose success is even doubted by the Pentagon. I should not forget to mention that the Russian population is exposed to the same kind of propaganda, just switch the proclaimed winning and losing side.

8. Recognized intellectuals and artists support our cause

War propaganda is all about using everything you have to influence public opinion to justify the actions of your party regarding war efforts. This includes also persons who, due to their expertise or celebrity, can act as opinion leaders. Philosophers, scientists, and historians do their best efforts to underpin the necessity of war with supposed intellectual or scientific evidence. But even if they pretend not to, they are more acting like political activists instead of intellectuals aiming to objectively assess the situation. Furthermore, artists like musicians and caricaturists are being used to evoke support for the war from a more emotional side.

Since the beginning of the Ukraine war, so-called intellectuals or experts permanently trying to explain why escalating measures like weapon deliveries are without any alternative and de-escalating measures like negotiating for peace are the worst you can do. Often in TV interviews, they are allowed to say a few superficial sentences confirming the desired narrative. Public talk shows are occupied either with completely one-sided rounds or with rounds consisting of one person with an alternative opinion (e.g. pro negotiations for peace) intended to get completely verbally destroyed by the conforming majority of participants. There are benefit concerts for Ukraine, Ukrainian singers win contests like the European Song Contest (ESC) and Ukrainian writers automatically win literature prizes, even if their work is full of hate and racism against Russians.

9. Our cause is sacred

This principle can be understood in a literal way within a religious context, where the war is labeled as a crusade by the will of god. Such an understanding may work in countries with a highly religious population and a lower degree of secularization. But it can also be understood in a more symbolic way, that the war is labeled as some kind of crusade for democracy, human rights, or other higher values against an

enemy aiming to destroy these values. So basically as a classic “good versus evil”-story.

In the Ukraine war, the second understanding appears to be the more suitable. The war is described not only as a heroic act of self-defense of democratic Ukraine but also as an act of defense of the whole Western civilization. If Ukraine falls, then Europe is lost, that’s what we are told (despite on the other hand it is always highlighted how weak the Russian army and economy are). So an act of support for Ukraine is also an act of defense for our self-proclaimed higher Western values. On the other hand, Russia’s army is dehumanized as an army of hell, or, to be more precise, as an army of Mordor since Russian soldiers permanently are called Orks.

10. Whoever casts doubt on our propaganda helps the enemy and is a traitor

The last principle is an overarching one that complements all the others. As I already mentioned, war propaganda knows only black and white. This simplified perspective is utilized not only for the description of the enemy but also for people on their own side. You are either for the course or against the course of your country, there are no grey shades between. That means, if you do not completely support the war, if you have even the slightest doubts about the rightfulness of the actions and propaganda based on the principles mentioned before, it does not matter how diplomatic and logically you present your opinion. You will be considered as someone to have to be fought against. In the best case, you will be labeled only as influenced by the enemy’s propaganda and thereby as someone nobody should listen to. In worse cases, you will be considered a collaborator or traitor and be actively fought against, with repressions like the loss of a job, sanctions, or even with legal measures.

Since the start of the Ukraine war, everyone who does not see Putin as the devil himself and Russia as the country of darkness is categorized as a friend of the Kremlin. Don’t even start with historical facts that support the role of the USA, other Western countries, and Ukraine in escalating the situation to war – all of this is Russian propaganda and you are a propagandist if you mention this fact. Racism against Russians suddenly woke up, Russian sportsmen are prohibited to participate despite having nothing to do with the war and some Russians even lost their jobs despite living in foreign countries for many years, just because they did not condemn the Russian government enough. Peace activists proclaiming negotiations insulted low down, public talk shows serve as verbal executions for them since one person has to argue against four or five hateful counterparts including the moderator. Especially the media increasingly lose all sense of decency and appropriate manners, using language that feels replicated from dark phases of human history.

In summary, the ten principles of war propaganda apply to the Ukraine war in the same way as they applied to wars in the past. The methods keep being the same, black/white painting

instead of reflected perspectives, emotionalization, and moralization instead of evidence, and unfair combat against alternative opinions instead of democratic discourse. One should keep in mind that all war parties use these principles of propaganda, there is no exception. So the first and in my opinion most important measure to become immune to such propaganda is the awareness of being exposed to propaganda. If one has inherited this kind of thinking, consuming different sources of information in favor of the own country as well as the enemy's country may help to acquire a more reflected perspective about what is actually happening.

By Peter Mueller

Leaked documents reveal depth of U.S. spy efforts and Russia’s military struggles



<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/08/us/politics/leaked-documents-russia-ukraine-war.html>

How Much Longer Will the U.S. Support Ukraine?

BY NOAH CARL 11 MAY 2023 1:14 PM

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Kyiv’s head of military intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov, planned bold strikes deep behind enemy lines that unnerved officials in Washington

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/04/24/discord-leaks-moscow-strikes-ukraine/>



By Uwe Albert (editiondaslabor.de/blog/2013/05/15/)

Former CIA Officer Says Decision To Drone Attack Kremlin Was Made By The United States

BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, MAY 05, 2023 - 03:00 PM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News

Former CIA intelligence officer Larry Johnson says the decision to launch a drone attack on the Kremlin was made by the United States.



<https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/former-cia-officer-says-decision-drone-attack-kremlin-was-made-united-states>

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A separate technical problem, since fixed, had been causing the munitions to fail.



<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/04/12/russia-jamming-u-s-smart-bombs-in-ukraine-leaked-docs-say-00091600>

Russia's newest weapon is changing the course of Ukraine war

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<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/05/07/how-russias-new-glide-bombs-are-changing-the-course-of-war/>

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By Karen DeYoung

Updated May 9, 2023 at 10:23 a.m. EDT | Published May 8, 2023 at 8:39 p.m. EDT



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By Natasha Bertrand and Tim Lister, CNN

Updated 4:35 AM EDT, Wed April 19, 2023

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<https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/18/politics/us-warns-russia-zaporizhzhia-nuclear-plant/index.html>

Biden's team fears the aftermath of a failed Ukrainian counteroffensive

Behind closed doors, the administration worries about what Ukraine can accomplish.



<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/04/24/biden-ukraine-russia-counteroffensive-defense-00093384>

As Putin Bides His Time, Ukraine Faces a Ticking Clock

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/06/world/europe/ukraine-counteroffensive-russia.html>



Why general amnesty for all?



By looking carefully at the first page of this issue, you will see, like in all issues, the statement “for a society of equals and general amnesty to all”. This statement is also one central principle of the association UMEHR that legally represents this journal. While its first part is generally accepted quite well by critical people in contact with UMEHR, the second part “general amnesty for all” frequently meets with incomprehension. Let's take an example of the Corona crisis: As a result of the unparalleled aggression against people refusing to take the Covid-vaccine, who were defamed and discriminated, many unvaccinated people developed a lot of rage and aggression up until hate towards the politicians responsible and their supporters. The unvaccinated in Germany were no exception. Due to actively taking part in the organization of large demonstrations against the Corona restrictions, UMEHR naturally got in contact with many unvaccinated people who did not agree with the principle of general amnesty for all. “How could you let these criminals go?” or “It is unfair that there are no consequences for the people responsible for these crimes!”, in this style common statements are given. While I, as an unvaccinated person by myself, can completely understand the rage, anger, and frustration, I think revenge and as result punishment are destructive ways if you want to build a new and better society. To me, a general amnesty for all is the way more constructive way and in this article, I want to explain this position based on the example of the Corona-crisis.

Prevention of bloodshed and violence

When is an animal most dangerous? When it is driven into a corner without the possibility to escape since it has no other choice left than fighting. This principle is quite the same with political change. If you want it to be peaceful, you have to consider an “escape option” for the people responsible for the policy you want to change. Many people in policy, companies, and the media are opportunists, choosing the best option for their own. A political balance that turns more and more against them will let them seek opportunities to get out unharmed, so if you provide them with such an opportunity, they will thankfully use it. On the other hand, if you proclaim to punish them, by taking them to prison or doing even worse harm to them, not only their propagandists will use it against you painting the picture of some bloodthirsty rebels, but for their personal sake they will fight against you with anything

they have until the last stand. Since this is the only option they have left. Political change under such conditions will become dirty and bloody.

Take an example of a fictive country under political change, where a mass of five million angry protesters marches to the government building where the reigning politicians have barricaded themselves with thousand of members of a heavily armed special force loyal to them. The odds are clearly against the politicians and their servants since they are heavily outnumbered. So how will they decide what to do next? It clearly depends on the behavior of the protesters. If they proclaim they will do the politicians no harm if they leave without fighting (and of course keep their promise) in a first scenario, they will most likely take this opportunity to order the special forces to put down their weapons and surrender peacefully since it is their safest option. However, if the protesters proclaim that they will hang the politicians in a second scenario, they will most likely order the special forces to shoot at the protesters. They simply have no other option left to save their life. Even a desperate, unwinnable fight like this appears to be the better option since it may be more likely to create an opportunity for them to escape with their life compared to surrendering to the protesters which would result in a definitive death.

Regarding political change, the outcome of overthrowing the current government would be the same in both scenarios. But while the change in the first scenario passes peacefully, the second scenario would not only result in a bloodbath with thousands or ten thousands of dead people but also in the barbarism of many protesters getting their hands dirty by committing murder. Which scenario would be the better one if you want to establish a new, democratic system with constructive approaches?

Where should we start anyway?

Considering the Corona-crisis, critical groups often talk about the punishment of the guilty who were responsible for all that happened. For the lockdowns that destroyed or heavily damaged companies, especially the small, family-led ones. For the misuse of children by forcing them to wear FFP2 masks despite not being affected much by the virus. For the aggressiveness, ruthlessness, and discrimination towards people who did not want to get the vaccine against Covid. But who are the responsible, who are the guilty? Critical groups often call the politicians that decided on the measures guilty, journalists that supported them by defaming everyone critical, or judges that permitted measures and rejected contradictions. But from my perspective, the number of guilty persons exceeds these groups by far.

It is easy to blame only the ones mentioned above, the ones on central switch points. But are they really the only ones to blame? What is with the responsibility and guilt of the common people, who often accepted the evidence-less corona measures without questioning and actively or passively

supported their conduction, agitated by continuous medial propaganda? Are the bosses who threatened their employees to take the vaccination not guilty in the same way as people from the groups mentioned above? Or the policemen who violently broke absolutely legitimated protests with pretextual reasons like totally senseless mask duties on the outside? The teachers who forced the children to carry FFP 2 masks despite the harmlessness of Corona for the majority of the children? Or even the family members who refused any contact with their unvaccinated relatives and strongly blamed them?

From my perspective, they are as guilty as politicians, journalists, or judges. So if you want to punish the guilty of the Corona-crisis, you have to punish those people equally as well. But how do you punish millions of people? How do you find them out anyway, where can you place the line if someone is guilty or innocent? Can a passive acceptance and following of unethical measures also be considered as some kind of guilt? I think these considerations lead us to nowhere since it is impossible to punish millions of people like it is impossible to establish fair and objective criteria to determine guilt.

Going new paths

In addition to the impossibility to punish all guilty people, the ones who decide and their willing supporters, I do not think it is a good way to start something new. Look at how all revolutions in history have ended: The former government or system was overthrown and the first thing the new powers did is to clean everything from the old, structures as well as people and often in a violent manner. While maybe driven by idealism at the beginning, the new rulers quickly became drunk by their power, unwilling to give it away. So they started to implement interventions to keep them in power at all costs, through violence, corruption, lies, propaganda, or a combination of them. Despite proclaiming something different, even equality of all people, the long-term result of all revolutions was only a change in the privileged elites. The same old structures and patterns, just in a new layout.

If we want to build a new, radical democratic society, we have to leave these old structures and patterns behind as well as ensure in a democratic way that they cannot return. I do not want to go into detail about what a radical democratic system is here since it is not the topic of this article and thus would go beyond its scope, but it requires completely different thinking and completely different approaches. Establishing structures and patterns that are democratic as well as safe against misuse and overthrow requires the efforts of the whole society that wants to be radical democratic. Considering the magnitude of the changes that have to be made, I do not think it is a good idea to waste our resources by hunting down every person who made herself guilty in the old system out of revenge since this approach is only destructive and creates new potential for conflict. For a system proclaimed to be completely new and better, we also need completely new and more constructive approaches.

General amnesty does not mean no consequences

But nevertheless, many people see it as unjust that the (in their eyes) criminals like the ones responsible for the events within the Corona Crisis can walk away freely without consequences. But this is a quite common misconception: General amnesty means only that the guilty will not be punished by law. But they surely will face large consequences.

They will lose all of their privileges and will never gain important positions again since they have proven themselves incapable of holding responsibility and being trustworthy. While they should not be harmed physically, it is most likely that they will be treated not in the friendliest way by the members of society anymore. Instead of punishment, they will get the opportunity to compensate for their crimes as much as possible, even if complete compensation is impossible due to their magnitude. This compensation not only includes being a productive member of society. It also means collaboration within the reconditioning of everything that happened, especially the things that happened behind closed doors, since we have to understand it completely to gain enough awareness to prevent it from happening again. And who could give better information about these crimes than insiders? If they do not agree to these terms, they can leave as outcasts and society does not care about them anymore.

So even with a general amnesty, the consequences for the guilty will be enormous but directed in a way more constructive and effective way compared to wasting resources to feed them in prison or doing something worse and thereby abandoning humanity. And for those who urgently want punishment, since the guilty ones usually are people enjoying their privileges of wealth and power, losing them may and will be seen as some kind of "punishment" anyway.

So despite I can completely understand the emotional feelings many of the unvaccinated have towards the guilty ones of the Corona crisis, from my perspective, the advantages of general amnesty clearly outweigh the problems accompanying a planned or conducted judicial punishment. Not only from a constructive and pragmatic but also from a humanistic perspective.

By Peter Mueller

The Biden-Harris Administration Will End COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Federal Employees, Contractors, International Travelers, Head Start Educators, and CMS-Certified Facilities

 BRIEFING ROOM • STATEMENTS AND RELEASES
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/01/the-biden-administration-will-end-covid-19-vaccination-requirements-for-federal-employees-contractors->

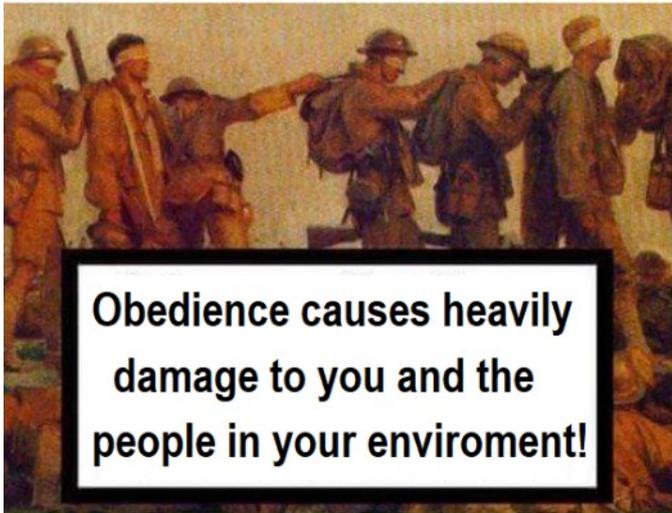
Chelsea Clinton: 'It's Time To Force-Jab Every Unvaccinated Child in America'

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<https://thepeoplesvoice.tv/chelsea-clinton-its-time-to-force-jab-every-unvaccinated-child-in-america/>



Do the Benefits of Covid Vaccines Outweigh the Risks? A View From the Pharmaceutical Industry

BY GEORGE AND MILDRED 29 APRIL 2023 9:00 AM

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<https://dailysceptic.org/2023/04/29/do-the-benefits-of-covid-vaccines-outweigh-the-risks-a-view-from-the-pharmaceutical-industry/>

Do the Benefits of Covid Vaccines Outweigh the Risks? A View From the Pharmaceutical Industry – Part 2

BY GEORGE AND MILDRED 1 MAY 2023 7:00 AM

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Republican fury grows at Biden administration's 'absolutely reckless' decision to give another \$2million taxpayer grant to EcoHealth Alliance to research bat coronaviruses - despite their links to lab leak fears

- EcoHealth will get \$2.3 million in taxpayer dollars over the next four years to work on 'bat-origin coronaviruses'
- Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, says the renewal of the grant does not pass the 'COVID smell test'
- It's 'absolutely reckless,' slams Rep. Morgan Griffith of Virginia, while Oversight Chairman James Comer said it's 'bat crazy'

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12063851/GOP-fury-grows-Bidens-RECKLESS-renewal-2-million-grant-EcoHealth-Alliance.html>

Rochelle Walensky, who played a key role in Covid response, resigns as CDC chief

Her departure comes as emergency declarations come to an end: 'I have never been prouder of anything I've done'



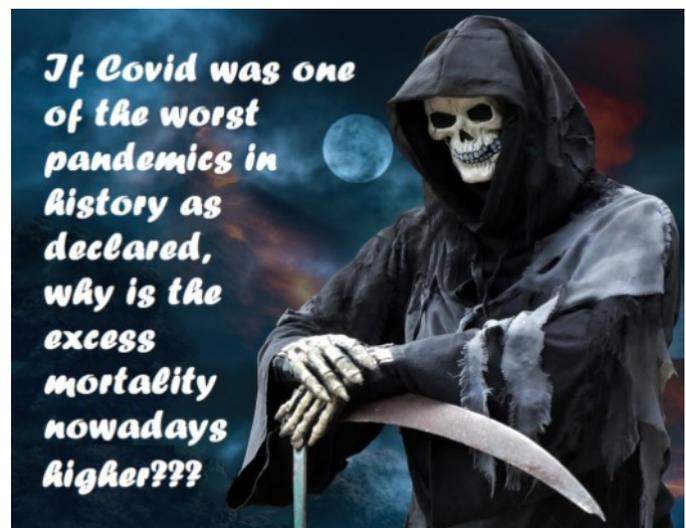
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/may/05/rochelle-walensky-resigns-cdc-chief>

BioNTech/Pfizer's mooted EU deal for 70mn Covid shots threatens rivals

European health officials have advocated portfolio diversity to help fight different variants



<https://www.ft.com/content/fbcd28ad-f39a-4eae-8ffd-1baf940f41f1>



Is transhumanism evil? A differentiated perspective



Logo of transhumanism

Transhumanism is usually regarded as a kind of red flag in political-critical groups and presented almost exclusively in a negative light. As a politically critical person by myself receiving information from alternative channels, I always get warnings about the dangers of transhumanism and thus the impression that transhumanism should be rejected in all respects. Although I can understand many concerns, such a perspective appears to me quite one-sided on the one hand and incomplete on the other. Besides a differentiated view, I miss the representation of the in my opinion most important problem regarding transhumanism in our modern times and reasonable approaches for solutions. As a result, a lot of potential is wasted and criticism often seems to be a one-sided roasting instead of a constructive discussion of the topic. Therefore I would like to look at transhumanism from a more differentiated perspective.

Transhumanism is already ubiquitous

Often critic gives the impression that transhumanism is a uniform school of thought with the same, clearly defined goals. But since transhumanism can be seen as more of a philosophical movement instead of an organized movement, there are many different currents. Due to the rapid scientific and technical progress of our world, many transhumanist views are under constant revision and development. Different currents mix their transhumanistic philosophy with other philosophical or political currents and ideologies, e.g. with Humanism, Libertarianism, or concepts of democracy. So transhumanists are by no means a homogeneous, cult-like lobby organization with the general goal to replace the imperfect present humanity with technically and genetically optimized superhumans.

While a uniform definition of transhumanism and its goals does not exist, nevertheless certain core elements appear over and over again. Transhumanism represents the tendency to

overcome and/or extend the physical and mental borders of humans with the support of science and in particular technologies. Often critic gives the impression that this is a school of thought of our modern world. However, when I look at the basic core elements of the definitions of transhumanism, then I have to ask quite honestly: What is so new about it anyway?

Since the beginning of time, mankind has strived to go beyond its natural limits with the help of technical achievements. Due to the lack of ability to swim longer distances, people started building boats tens of thousands of years ago. In more recent times, motorized vehicles such as cars were added. We can't fly, so we have built airplanes. And if that's not "close to the body" enough to qualify as transhumanism, what about eyeglasses, which have been used to improve vision since the 13th century? What about pacemakers, used to support weakened hearts, or defibrillators, which bring irregularly beating hearts back into a regular beat? With the help of these invasive modifications to the human body, which have been around for 50 years or more, many people can continue to live a dignified life for years; without them, they would have died long ago or at least been in need of intensive care. Our ability to think has also long been supported by technology, from the simple slide rules used for thousands of years to modern computers. And genetic engineering has been used for decades to get bacteria to produce insulin, a hormone also produced naturally in the human body, to help diabetes patients.

The highly criticized genetic engineering in particular is a good example of the double standard in the perception of many people when talking about achievements regarding transhumanism. Modifying the human genome is bad because it is unnatural. However, these standards do not seem to be applied to animals and plants, where systematic genetic modification has a history of at least 8000 years. Selective breeding, in which desired traits are made more and more pronounced by selective crossing, is nothing other than genetic engineering or genetic manipulation. The resulting plant and animal breeds would often not be able to survive in nature or under natural selection, only human cultivation and care enable their continued existence. Resolute opponents of genetic engineering should keep these facts in mind when, after the demonstration against stem cell research, they head for the nearest health food store with their panting pug on a leash to take home a few more of the particularly juicy tasty apples.

So, from my point of view, transhumanism is by no means something new and exotic. No, oriented to the core components of its definition, it already pervades our complete everyday life. However, this "triumph of transhumanism" is not the result of the efforts of a mysterious lobbying association, but rather of the human drive for research and development that made our modern civilization possible in the first place.

A reflective approach to transhumanism cannot avoid the system question

If transhumanism is already ubiquitous anyway, where does this aversion to certain achievements regarding transhumanism, such as digitalization, artificial modifications of the body, or genetic engineering, come from? I suspect, at least partially, it is not really rational, but results from a certain discomfort with the strange, the unknown, and the unnatural. Despite the historically developed omnipresence of transhumanism, it should be acknowledged that scientific progress nowadays enables far more diverse interventions in this direction and that new options are constantly being added. And as history has shown often enough, there are rather rejecting attitudes regarding new inventions, because they push people to question their usual values or to leave the comfort zone of their "value bubble". Since this step is not necessarily comfortable, people instead try to protect their "bubble" by rejecting the things that could cause it to "burst." A perfectly understandable, human behavior from my point of view.

Nevertheless, such aversion remains irrational, because logic alone says that there are no sweeping good or bad achievements. Even a simple tool like a hammer can be used either to nail planks and build houses or to bash someone's skull in. Black powder has been used for mining, but also for weapons of war. Airplanes were used to transport passengers to their destinations, or bombs. The list could go on for a very long time, but one thing becomes clear above all: Not the achievements themselves are to blame, but rather the intention or the goal for which they are used. And thus to the people who are using them. In my opinion, transhumanism with all its tools and possibilities should also be considered from this differentiated point of view.

When I look at the achievements that already exist today with regard to transhumanism, two adjectives spontaneously come to mind: Great and scary. Great, because as a scientist by myself, I am impressed by the creative genius of others. But above all, I see the enormous potential of these achievements for the benefit of mankind. High-tech prostheses that enable the disabled or injured to lead a normal life, organs grown in the test tube that solve the problem of a lack of organs to donate once and for all, gene therapies that can permanently cure chronic illnesses, robots that take over dangerous jobs...the possibilities of benefit are almost limitless.

Equally limitless, however, are the possibilities for abuse, and that's the scary part. On this point, I share the fears of many critical groups. I have little desire for a microchip in my head that would allow total monitoring of all my bodily functions and, if necessary, targeted intervention in them. Nor do I find a technocracy desirable in which people are no longer regarded as human beings but as molecular sequences that can be influenced at will, and in which eugenics is part of everyday life, such as the endeavor to produce only "perfect" babies and to dispose of all "imperfect" ones. Stimulated

discussions in this direction are already taking place today, in the area of pregnancy diagnostics and the resulting abortion. The increasing reliance on technology is also causing people to decline both physically and mentally. Such tendencies can already be seen today: Physical performance compared to the previous generations is declining. The trend of increasing hygiene and sterility, which has become particularly noticeable with Corona, causes a decline in the performance of the immune system in the long term. And who still strains his head to calculate a complicated mathematical formula today, when a mouse click produces a much faster and more likely correct result? This regression leads to increasing dependence on the achievements regarding transhumanism. In my opinion, such a tendency is not completely avoidable, as it is an inevitable result of human progress. But if these dependencies or the technologies themselves are misused to specifically control and regulate people and their behavior, then we have more than just a small problem. In the wrong hands, today's achievements regarding transhumanism are an extremely dangerous weapon for creating totality and unfreedom.

And it is out of question for me that these achievements are currently in the wrong hands or are being misused with the wrong intentions, which brings me to the real core of the problem. We live in an undemocratic, capitalist system controlled by oligarchs, in which property rights enable elite minorities to increasingly enrich themselves at the disadvantage of the majorities. This is the inevitable course of this system. In short, it leads to increasing social inequality and the remaining of only a few super-rich while the rest of humanity will live in poverty. If the achievements concerning transhumanism are used to maintain this system or to provide even more profit to the profiteers of this system and/or to exercise even better control, as it is done at the moment, this never happens for the benefit of mankind. The possibility of benefit is completely out of the question because it would be a fundamental contradiction to the course of the system. However, as I said, the reason are not the achievements themselves, but their goal of use or those who proclaim the use. Certainly, the philosophical movement of the transhumanists, as many of the critics state, is also abused and infiltrated by the profiteers of this system to enforce their egoistic interests. But since transhumanism concerns very heterogeneous currents, I am convinced that there are not only hirelings among the transhumanists but also idealists, whose efforts are focused on the well-being of mankind. As often, I think sweeping generalizations are inappropriate.

So how do we solve the current problem with transhumanism? From my perspective, by getting to the root of the problem. Of course we could completely reject transhumanism or the achievements associated with it and say we do not want to have anything to do with it. That would be the worst possible approach, because human progress, of which transhumanism is only one manifestation, cannot be stopped. So instead of letting it overwhelm us completely unprepared, we should

rather take the lead together and create the basis for a reflective approach to the topic of transhumanism. Since a reflective approach is not possible in this system, it appears to be logical that the system has to be changed. Away from oligarchy, away from capitalism, and away from property rights. Towards a truly democratic system in which people own only what they need for a good, dignified life and in which no individuals enrich themselves disproportionately and to the disadvantage of others. Only such a change of system will enable us to conduct an honest and differentiated discourse on transhumanism, addressing its opportunities, but also its risks and dangers on equal ground and from a wide variety of perspectives (e.g., technical, philosophical, ethical, legal, sociological). As a result of this discourse, strategies for solutions can be developed for a free and open society, always with the overarching goal of using transhumanism or its achievements as optimally as possible for the benefit of humanity.

By Peter Mueller

Robert Kennedy Jr. blames CIA for JFK assassination, fueling controversial claim

By Cari Campanie

May 7, 2023 | 12:53pm | Updated



<https://nypost.com/2023/05/07/robert-kennedy-jr-blames-cia-for-john-f-kennedy-assassination/>

Human Rights Watch teams with Hollywood to sharpen humanitarian focus

Campaign group follows lead of Pentagon, FBI and CIA to insert its messages into popular film and TV culture



<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/may/04/human-rights-watch-hollywood-film-tv>

Elon Musk hires World Economic Forum executive to replace him as Twitter CEO

Musk's selection for CEO, Linda Yaccarion, is the current chairwoman of the World Economic Forum's 'future of work' taskforce and sits on the globalist group's 'steering committee' for 'media, entertainment, and culture industry.'



<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/elon-musk-to-step-down-as-twitter-ceo-fueling-fears-wef-exec-to-replace-him/>



Sam Altman. (Drew Angerer via Getty Images)

Is AI the End of the World? Or the Dawn of a New One?

A conversation with Sam Altman, the man behind ChatGPT, about the risks and responsibilities of the artificial intelligence revolution.

<https://www.thefp.com/p/is-ai-the-end-of-the-world-or-the>

South Africans call for UK to return diamonds set in crown jewels

Reuters



<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/south-africans-call-uk-return-diamonds-set-crown-jewels-2023-05-04/>

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By Jim Holt May 5, 2023 9:45 am 140 Comments



https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2023/05/a-kingly-proposal-julian-assange-pens-letter-to-king-charles-iii-on-his-coronation-eve/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=a-kingly-proposal-julian-assange-pens-letter-to-king-charles-iii-on-his-coronation-eve

Outrage Over WHO Guidance on "Sexuality for Infants"

BY WILL JONES 14 MAY 2023 9:00 AM



<https://dailysceptic.org/2023/05/14/outrage-over-who-guidance-on-sexuality-for-infants/>

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BY CHRIS MORRISON 13 MAY 2023 7:00 AM

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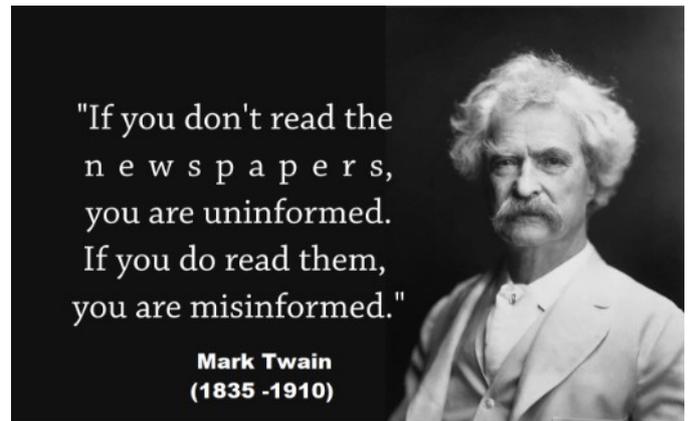
<https://dailysceptic.org/2023/05/13/ipcc-admits-many-of-its-gloomy-climate-forecasts-are-of-low-likelihood/>

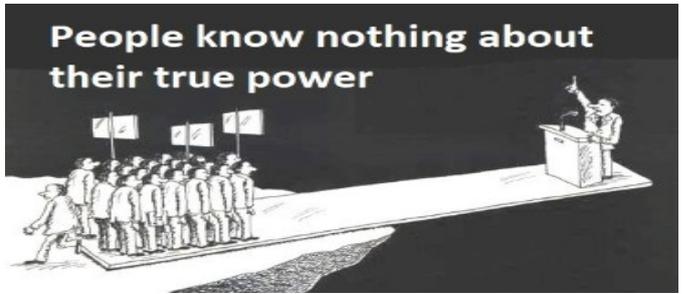


Activists celebrate the closure of the Emsland nuclear power plant on April 15. (David Hecker via Getty Images)

Germany's Greens Have Ukrainian Blood on Their Hands

<https://www.thefp.com/p/germanys-greens-have-ukrainian-blood>





About The Carrier Pigeon

Background and aim

The carrier pigeon is published by the Society of Equals (SoE), which is an independent group within and legally represented by the UMEHR association (United Movement for Equal Human Rights). UMEHR is a radical-democratic organized association, that campaigns for anchoring universal human rights in constitutions and laws and supporting local people in the definition and realization of their democratic claims for their human rights. Therefore, UMEHR organizes itself regionally, supra-regionally, continentally, and globally and forms alliances with other initiatives, organizations, and associations.

Homepage of UMEHR (German): <https://www.umehr.net/>

To cultivate the debate on human rights, make problems visible in the public, and broaden the spectrum of opinion, the association develops, promotes, and provides pamphlets, newspapers, books, and events. In this regard, The Carrier Pigeon is a journal to receive and transmit information and opinions regarding English-speaking countries and to facilitate international cooperation.

Editorial principles

The editorial office kindly invites everyone to provide content for The Carrier Pigeon, this includes articles as well as artwork. All submitted content not violating the purpose of UMEHR or legal regulations (e.g. regarding content, copyright issues) will be published equally with no censorship. The responsibility for submitted content lies with its author/creator, the work of the editorial office is limited to technical formatting. Submitted content does not reflect the political position of the editorial office. Members of the editorial office can submit their own work equally under the same conditions.

Content can be sent to: deraufstand@umehr.net

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Range of this Journal

At the moment, The Carrier Pigeon is published in **33 Facebook-Groups** with a **total of about 178.864 followers**. Complete list of Facebook-Groups the Carrier Pigeon is published:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/2em3ip7touuj1qc/The%20Carrier%20Pigeon_Group%20list.xlsx?dl=0

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