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THE DYSTOPIAN NOVEL
AND CONTEMPORARY
FEARS

Opinion Video Series

OPERATION INFEKTION

RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION:
FROM COLD WAR TO ARMY

FEATURING: DEBATING REALITY

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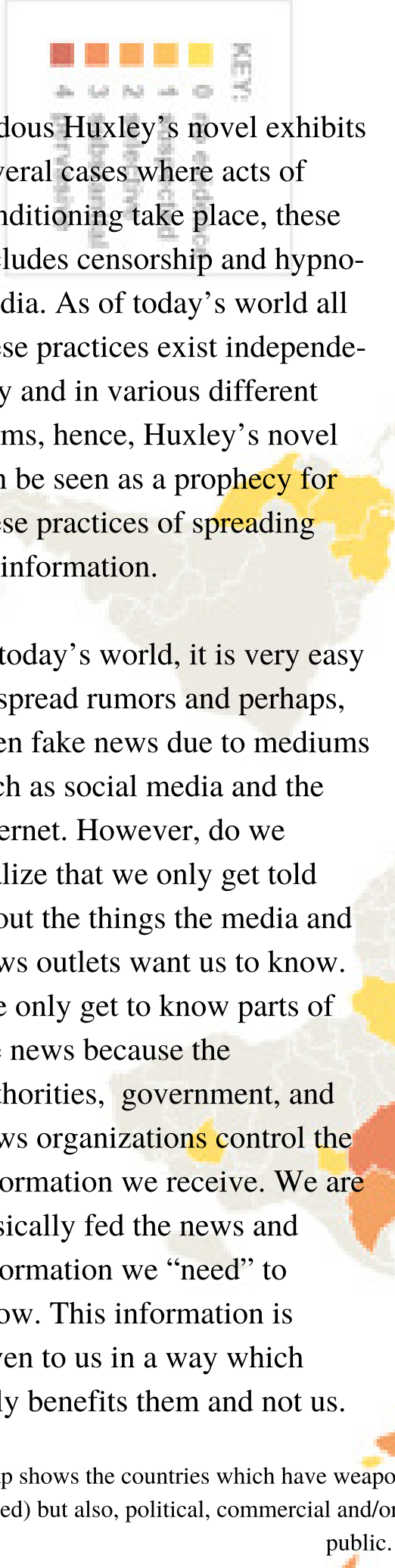
THE CHRONICLES OF INFORMATION WARFARE

Debating Reality

This conditioning, spread of disinformation and new forms of hypnopædia still exist today and are even more powerful and authoritative.

Imagine a time period where one was told everything about their future, and there was no “future”... as if there was nothing futuristic about the future. Everything that happened, you already knew about. Assume that you know that in the near “future” water will become an inexhaustible resource. Would you even care about not wasting water or “save water, and it will save you” Wouldn’t you change certain things to make the future beneficial for you?

Even though scenarios as such seem unrealistic and far fetched ,there have been many people who have predicted the future and formed prophecies. One of the many people who have predicted the future is Aldous Huxley in his book, “Brave New World”. In his speculative fiction novel, he takes a close look at his world and tries to predict what the future will hold. These interpretations turn out to be similar to the real future, and the novel is then considered prophetic.



Aldous Huxley's novel exhibits several cases where acts of conditioning take place, these includes censorship and hypnopædia. As of today's world all these practices exist independently and in various different forms, hence, Huxley's novel can be seen as a prophecy for these practices of spreading disinformation.

In today's world, it is very easy to spread rumors and perhaps, even fake news due to mediums such as social media and the internet. However, do we realize that we only get told about the things the media and news outlets want us to know. We only get to know parts of the news because the authorities, government, and news organizations control the information we receive. We are basically fed the news and information we "need" to know. This information is given to us in a way which only benefits them and not us.

For instance, a series of videos by Adam B. Elick and Adam Westbrook entitled "Operation Infektion" talk about the origins of fake news and Russian Disinformation, specifically regarding the KGB (Komitet gosudarstvennoy bezopasnosti) meaning "Committee for State Security" in the Soviet Union. An organization which forms news about active measures and disinformation. In the video Adam B. Elick and Adam Westbrook talk about how The Soviet Union has been using methods such as disinformation. They say, "deliberately distorted information that is secretly leaked into the communication process in order to deceive and manipulate." The three videos highlight how the KGB used tactics to spread fake news about America. The video also states that 85% of the time in the organization is spent on false stories or fake news also known as active measures and

This map shows the countries which have weaponized censorship for not only inappropriate content (which is justified) but also, political, commercial and/or security related content, which is unjust and unfair for the public. Source: theguardian.

disinformation. The organization does this in order to change the perception of reality to such an extent that despite of abundance of information no one is able to come to sensible conclusions. These KGB agents basically controlled the news outlets and media, while we were being manipulated to believe the false stories KGB invented, and refused to think about what is actually the truth. We just followed what we were given to believe and no one questioned these stories in fact these stories were published and broadcasted on various channels which caught the eyes of thousands of people. Aldous Huxley took a hard look at his world in the 1930s and predicted this ignorant and manipulative behaviour of man in his speculative fiction. In the novel Huxley states how the characters of the novel were conditioned to believe certain morals, beliefs and values, conditioning also played a

crucial role in the rampant use of soma (a medicine for instant gratification). As the Director explains the functioning and purpose of hypnopædia he says, "They'll have that repeated forty or fifty times more before they wake; Then again on Thursday, And again on Saturday. A hundred and twenty times three minutes a twenty times three minutes a week for thirty months. After which they go on to a more advanced lesson." This evidence shows how strategically and closely they designed the process of sleep-learning, so that people can believe certain things as the truth and not only did they believe these ideas and values as the ultimate truth but also as something so strong that it cannot be disagreeable. In different parts of the book, Huxley mentions people from the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre who were also conditioned through hypnopædia (sleep-learning).

This image shows how we are provided with half of the information, the other half is invisible and in the dark, kept far beyond our sight. Source: MotherJones.

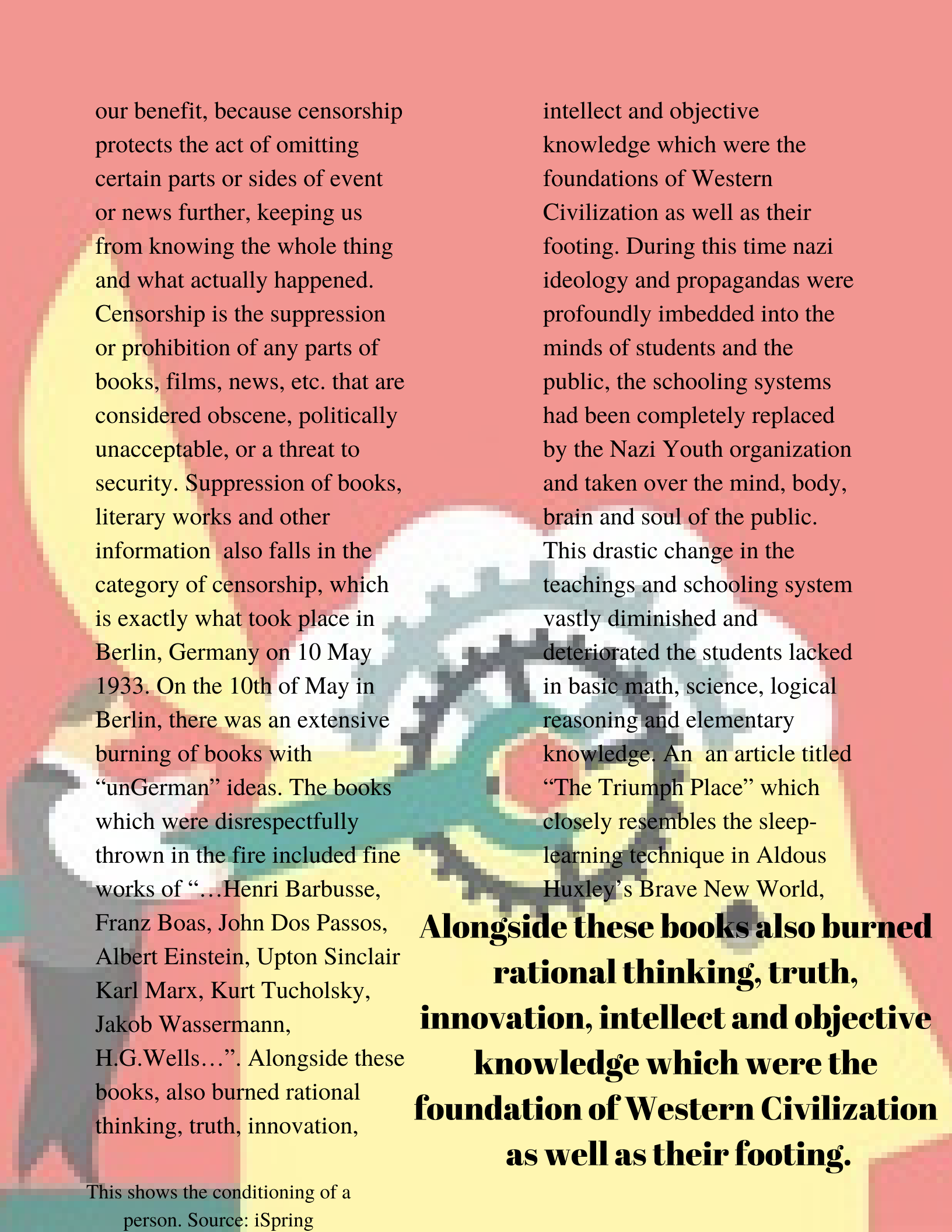
Similar to disinformation, the characters of the novel did not realize when they had been introduced to wrong and incorrect ideas, through conditioning. This realization did not take place mainly because, conditioning was such a normal process for them and the disinformation was "secretly leaked into the communication process". Which made it easier to believe the disinformation. These people do not know how to justify their thoughts and beliefs because the beliefs they were "taught" were not understood, they were just embedded in their memories. Yet, the characters only come to this realization when the characters are interrogated by the members of the savage reservation, a very different world from the Centre where hypnopædia conditioning or soma do not exist. In the centre, no one questions their beliefs, but when they encounter people, from the savage

"A lie is halfway around the world, when the truth just put its boots on"

reservation, and were interrogated about their beliefs they did not know how to explain what they "learnt". The highly detailed, strategic and prudent functioning and working of hypnopædia resembles the key weapon which was used by the KGB agents to deceive and manipulate people into believing the fake news and false stories which were formed very precisely and structurally, otherwise known as disinformation.

But it is not as though there is no possible way one can avoid misleading and wrong information and news, censorship plays a very important role in banning and eliminating various false and fictional stories and news headlines. However censorship doesn't always work in our favor... censorship too can blind us and prevent us from knowing what is factual.

As stated earlier, even censorship can work against



our benefit, because censorship protects the act of omitting certain parts or sides of event or news further, keeping us from knowing the whole thing and what actually happened. Censorship is the suppression or prohibition of any parts of books, films, news, etc. that are considered obscene, politically unacceptable, or a threat to security. Suppression of books, literary works and other information also falls in the category of censorship, which is exactly what took place in Berlin, Germany on 10 May 1933. On the 10th of May in Berlin, there was an extensive burning of books with “unGerman” ideas. The books which were disrespectfully thrown in the fire included fine works of “...Henri Barbusse, Franz Boas, John Dos Passos, Albert Einstein, Upton Sinclair Karl Marx, Kurt Tucholsky, Jakob Wassermann, H.G.Wells...”. Alongside these books, also burned rational thinking, truth, innovation,

intellect and objective knowledge which were the foundations of Western Civilization as well as their footing. During this time nazi ideology and propagandas were profoundly imbedded into the minds of students and the public, the schooling systems had been completely replaced by the Nazi Youth organization and taken over the mind, body, brain and soul of the public. This drastic change in the teachings and schooling system vastly diminished and deteriorated the students lacked in basic math, science, logical reasoning and elementary knowledge. An an article titled “The Triumph Place” which closely resembles the sleep-learning technique in Aldous Huxley’s Brave New World,

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“...They taught Nazi propaganda as truth and had their young students recite it back from memory...” A statement from the book which coincides with the evidence says “The students nodded, emphatically agreeing with a statement which upwards of sixty-two thousand repetitions in the dark had made them accept, not merely as true, but as axiomatic, self-evident, utterly indisputable”. Both of these dialogues demonstrate the

We all are victims of the same disease, the disease which is so towering and massive that it results in the suppression of individuality and one's thoughts

use of hypnopædia and conditioning. The dialogues state how the people just believe the ideas they are “taught” as true and indisputable. This suggestibility of the two sets of people also prevents them from focusing on

other crucial things, which further causes the population to be ignorant and unintelligent. This conditioning, spread of disinformation and new forms of hypnopædia still exist today and are even more powerful and authoritative. The medium which promotes and practices the use of disinformation, censorship, conditioning is the none other than the internet.

Today numerous stories, articles, news outlets, and information are streamed on the internet, social media networks and even YouTube. But most of these stories and articles are very far from being true, most of them are formed in organizations such as KGB. This modern day disinformation with new mediums such as social media and the internet greatly damage the image of “the truth” as we don't know the truth of what we are reading or viewing.

When you search something

up, you expect to be given the true information about your search, and for most times you are provided with a true and reliable answer. But this is not true in every case, especially in the case of social media.

FaceBook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, all are networks that bring the world the world together, but also the battleground for the most influential and widespread war: information warfare. In the third episode of “Operation Infektion” the narrator talks openly about digital disinformation and how impactful it is on the spread of fake news all around the globe.

Not only does the internet manipulate and deceive people into believing the false stories, but also targets one’s likes and dislikes to make us purchase certain products and items, for this happens every time one opens the internet. This overwhelming technique of deceiving and manipulating one's thoughts and opinions is

also seen in Huxley's novel. During the demonstration of sleep learning and its working, the dictator, triumphantly explains how all the opinions in one's mind are the not theirs, but the government's and centre's. He says, "Till at last the child's

mind is these suggestions, and the sum of the suggestions is the child's mind ...The mind that judges and suggestions. But all these suggestions are our suggestions!" This dialogue clearly suggests how one's beliefs, ideas even minds can be controlled by a bigger and more influential being.

Similarly, in today's world, this being is the internet, which inserts numerous advertisements on our screens which eventually change our perspective and one ends up doing exactly what the advertisement wants us to do. And one

This image shows how the media and news outlets blind the public by their fake news and stories. Source:

might not even want to do as the advertisement says, but eventually the thoughts and suggestions of the advertisements become one's and we then, become victims of disinformation. We all are victims of the same disease, the disease which is so towering and massive that it results in the suppression of individuality and one's thoughts as well as countries and nations which are constantly debating reality. In one of the episodes of the "Operation Infektion" the narrator mentions how Facebook is a threat to the world, as fake news spreads faster than the truth. And Facebook is a globally used network, making it easier for fake news to destroy and replace the truth. Facebook has countless users and most of them aren't even real. The world is a train, more like a bullet train, all information, news, real. The world is a train, more like a bullet train, all information, news, paparazzi, rumours, fake

news... disinformation travels all around the globe in just mere hours! And this leads to conflicts... conflicts between continents, conflicts between countries, and even civil war. And most of the time a lie or a fake story is more advantageous because, lies are more attractive and interesting, once a lie is repeated several times, it becomes more real, until it eventually replaces the truth.

... Lies, fake news, disinformation are all highly powerful and impactful means of spreading false information rapidly. All these means are so wide ranged that they have the ability to change universal facts and disarray a whole government, and that is not ALL what disinformation is capable of achieving, who knows maybe it's even capable of influencing presidential elections.

Ruchi Chola is most likely to be a dog lady by the age of 20.