

## Disinformation Manipulation by Misinterpretation of a Historical Fact

**Zaza Tsotniashvili**  
Caucasus International  
University Professor

**Abstract:** Numerous facts of the use of history by powerful media outlets for ideological purposes are known to information warfare researchers. In this regard, the interpretation of the Russian propaganda machine of the 1774 Kuchuk-Kainarji armistice between Russia and the Ottomans is particularly important. The misinformation interpretation of the Kuchuk-Kainarji truce is directly influenced by such an influential figure as President Putin, which greatly complicates the problem. Another attempt to justify the occupation of the territories of Georgia is another hybrid attack on our territorial integrity by the Russian propaganda media. The different historical past of the Kuchuk-Kainarji truce does not prevent the modern Russian disinformation machine from consolidating public opinion against the state interests of Georgia. There are local efforts by Georgian media outlets to neutralize disinformation, with only a handful of attempts to combat propaganda.

It is state-important that a specific fact be followed by an international assessment and that it is constantly circulated in the international media based on reliable sources

**Keywords:** Disinformation, manipulation, propaganda, information warfare, media, occupation

### Introduction

Numerous facts of the use of history by powerful media outlets for ideological purposes are known to information warfare researchers.

In this regard, the interpretation of the Russian propaganda machine of the 1774 Kuchuk-Kainarji armistice between Russia and the Ottomans is particularly important.

It is in Russia's interest to defend our positions in a selfless struggle in a hybrid war. Unfortunately, these interests are at odds with our national security, and defending democratic values is a great challenge to such a force. Vladimir Putin's well-known directive:

"We must take into account the plans and directions of other countries' armed forces. Our response must be an intellectual advantage, which will be asymmetric and cheap." (Putin, V.)

Even at the forefront of the misinformation interpretation of the Kuchuk-Kainarji truce is an influential figure like President Putin, which greatly complicates the problem.

It is typical for the working mechanism of the propaganda machine to create a preliminary background, which before the statement of Vladimir Putin took on the so-called President Kokoiti: "The leader of the breakaway republic of South Ossetia instructed the de facto ministries of justice and foreign affairs in March to prepare documents to file a lawsuit in the Russian constitutional court.

"United Ossetia became part of the Russian Empire in 1774 on the basis of the Kuchuk-Kainarji truce between Russia and the Ottomans," said Eduard Kokoity.

"He demanded that the Russian Constitutional Court take into account this finding, as well as the fact that the majority of the population in the Tskhinvali region is Russian, and recognize the Tskhinvali region as Russian territory." (Tsamalashvili E., 2006)

### **Literature review**

The president of Russia gave new life to Kokoity's "historic discovery" in July 2019 and offered us a Russian version of the history of Georgia. By violating our history, the leader of the occupier country, on the contrary, used propaganda methods to make Georgia an occupier and also accused the Ossetian genocide:

"The independent Ossetian state became part of the Russian Empire in 1774. Later, southern Ossetia became part of Tiflisi (Tbilisi). They were brutally treated in Ossetia, which is essentially the same as genocide. "

The territorial changes that took place after the end of the Kuchuk-Kainarji treaty (1774) - the redistribution of territory between Russia and the Ottomans. Information F. To distribute effectively.

### **Main part**

It is noteworthy that such an irreconcilable position of Vladimir Putin was followed by swearing at him on Rustavi 2 TV, which was officially condemned by the minister of foreign affairs of Georgia and noted that it is inadmissible to make statements that could "cause irreparable damage to our country." (TV "Imedi", 2019)

Another attempt to justify the occupation of the territories of Georgia is another hybrid attack on our territorial integrity by the Russian propaganda media. The different historical past of the Kuchuk-Kainarji truce does not prevent the modern Russian disinformation machine from consolidating public opinion against the state interests of Georgia.

There are local efforts by Georgian media outlets to neutralize disinformation, with only a handful of attempts to combat propaganda. According to the historian, the active passages of professor Giorgi Otkhmezuri in the media are interesting from this point of view:

As for the "entry of the southern part of Ossetia into the Tbilissi province", when Russia abolished the kingdom of Kartli-Kakheti, in the 1940s they carried out administrative reforms in the Caucasus and created the so-called Osetinsky district (existed from 1842 to 1859).

A map of this "district" is also published. Ossetian historian Kaloev published the book "Ossetine" in 1967 and included a map in it. He repeated this edition in 1982, but the map has already been removed because it is about 1/3 of what is later called the district. It was an autonomous region of South Ossetia and today is a self-proclaimed republic.

"Neither Tskhinvali nor Akhagori were part of that " Ossetian district ", so you are no longer compiling this map." (Pitskhelauri N.)

The next attack of the russian propaganda machine was carried out by spreading false news about the georgian statehood, which is an integral part of the propaganda and is considered a necessary tool for carrying it out.

### Conclusion

There is no recognized definition of fake news, but in a more established sense it is a misinformation / lie spread through the media that serves to popularize the source of information and / or to pursue policies set by a particular group. However, if we look at the examples of false information, we will see that the information given in them is often not based on a single lie, and we can also find elements of truth. This is why fake news can serve not only to mislead the audience, but also to confuse them. While technological development and social media are a major means of disseminating fake news, it is still not a product of modernity. False news as a major propaganda tool is also found in the ancient Roman Empire, Nazi Germany, and the Soviet Union. The most actively used fake news was used during World War II. The goal of the states involved in the war was to aggress the population towards the opposite camp, in which propaganda and false news played an important role.

It is state-important that a specific fact be followed by an international assessment and that it is constantly circulated in the international media based on reliable sources.

### References:

1. Tsamalashvili E. (2006, June), Eduard Kokoity demands unification of Tskhinvali region with Russia, Radio Liberty - <https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/1547128.html> (2021.01.20)
2. Putin, V. (2006) "Солдат есть звание высокое и почетное" ('Soldier' is an honorable and respected rank), excerpts from annual Address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Krasnaya zvezda, May 11, 2006, [http://old.redstar.ru/2006/05/11\\_05/1\\_01.html](http://old.redstar.ru/2006/05/11_05/1_01.html) 12.01.2021
3. TV - Россия 24, (2019) Putin does not want a sanction against Georgia and the exorcised journalist - [www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=1AbGWL2BIsY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=1AbGWL2BIsY) (2021.02.16)
4. TV "Imedi" (July 2019) - Zalkaliani welcomes Putin's statement - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLOISI0G8-k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLOISI0G8-k) (2020.11.10)
5. Pitskhelauri N. (2019), Interview with Giorgi Otkhmezur, Kviris Palitra, 2019, August 4 - [https://www.kvirispalitra.ge/politic/55356-istoriis-okupacia-anu-putinis-gzavnilebi.html?all=0&add\\_new=1&reply=0](https://www.kvirispalitra.ge/politic/55356-istoriis-okupacia-anu-putinis-gzavnilebi.html?all=0&add_new=1&reply=0) (2020.12.15)