



THE GOOD FIGHT CLUB ANNUAL #1

Supplementary reading material for the militant
woke liberal's favourite edutainment show since
November 8, 2016.

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HYBRID WAR NEWS

NEWS / RUSSIA

Russian spies found guilty of Montenegro coup attempt

Court found 14 people intended to take over parliament, assassinate PM to set up pro-Russia, anti-NATO leadership.

According to the ruling, the Russians - said to be members of the Russian military secret service agency GRU - coordinated the attempted coup from neighbouring [Serbia](#).

Chief judge Suzana Mugosa said the agents provided at least 200,000 euros (\$224,596) for purchasing rifles and guns, Reuters news agency reported.

The two Russian agents tried to "change the electoral will" and "prevent Montenegro from joining NATO", Mugosa said, as reported by Reuters.

Mugosa said that Mandic and Knezevic made several trips to Moscow on the eve of the election where it's believed they received instructions from GRU operatives.

"Each member of the criminal organisation had a task and role that had been previously determined and the criminal organisation was ready to implement violence and intimidation," Mugosa said.

REPORT

How Pro-Iran Hackers Spoofed FP and the News Media

Fake news articles and tweets sought to cast Saudi Arabia and other rivals of Tehran in a bad light.

The pro-Iran campaign breaks new ground by using a tactic that Citizen Lab's researchers are calling "ephemeral disinformation." Its operators would create fake news pages and sites, post fake articles, and then delete the pages once the articles began to get pickup on social media. The tactic appears aimed at injecting false narratives into the information ecosystem and then deleting the underlying evidence of the fake news infrastructure behind the claim.

Israeli TV Eurovision webcast hacked with fake missile alert

Song contest semi-final interrupted with warnings of imminent attack on Tel Aviv

The online stream of the [Eurovision](#) semi-finals in Israel was hacked to show warnings of a missile strike and images of blasts in the host city, Tel Aviv.

The website for KAN's television stations was interrupted on Tuesday evening - just as the competition's first round was beginning - with a fake alert from Israel's army telling of an impending attack.

Messages such as: "Risk of Missile Attack, Please Take Shelter" and: "Israel is NOT Safe. You Will See!" appeared on the screen. Animated satellite footage showed explosions in the coastal city.

"We know that at a certain stage there was an attempt, apparently by [Hamas](#), to commandeer our digital broadcast," the chief executive of KAN, Eldad Koblenz, told Israel's Army Radio.

"But I am happy to say that within a few minutes we managed to assume control over this phenomenon."

HYBRID WAR THEORY

Executive Summary

The West is at war. It is not a war of the old sort, fought with the thunder of guns, but a new sort, fought with the rustle of money, the shrill mantras of propagandists, and the stealthy whispers of spies.

This is often described as 'hybrid war,' a blend of the military and the political, but in fact **there are two separate issues, two separate kinds of non-linear war, which have become unhelpfully intertwined.** The first is the way—as the Russians have been quick to spot—that modern technologies and modern societies mean that a shooting war will likely be preceded by and maybe even almost, but not quite, replaced by a phase of political destabilization. The second, though, is **the political war that Moscow is waging against the West, in the hope not of preparing the ground for an invasion, but rather of dividing, demoralizing and distracting it** enough that it cannot resist as the Kremlin asserts its claims to being a 'great power' and in the

process a sphere of influence over most of the post-Soviet states of Eurasia.

The two overlap heavily, and maybe they could usefully be regarded as the two sides of a wider form of 'non-linear war.' The instruments which make up 'political war' are also crucial to the earlier phases of 'hybrid war.' Nonetheless, while a comprehensive analysis of the full arsenal and objectives of Moscow's 'political war' against the West are beyond the scope of this report, a study of 'hybrid war' as the Kremlin sees it is essential to explore the nature of the potential threat not just to the West but other countries. In addition, it is central to understanding the way war is changing in the modern age, and what we can do in order to deter, defend and, if need be, defeat any 'hybrid' challenge.

To this end, his report initially considers the way Russian operations in Crimea and south-eastern Ukraine led to the rise of concerns about 'hybrid war' and the belief that it represents

something substantively new before questioning many of these assumptions by considering Russian thinking on the matter. **To Moscow, it is the West which led the way in pioneering political-military operations** focusing on destabilizing hostile regimes, and it has taken its cues from its sometimes-acute, sometimes-deeply-mistaken perceptions about our thinking.

What has emerged, if not wholly new, is certainly a distinctive war of war, one that is rooted, as discussed in the second part of the report, in response to five particular challenges or conditions with which Moscow must contend, from the mismatch between assets and ambitions, to the deinstitutionalization of Putin's state. Part three then looks at the particular assets the Russians can deploy in their pursuit of 'hybrid' operations short of all-out warfare, from the special forces and thuggish gangster auxiliaries who seized Crimea in 2014 to spies, propagandists and spinmasters.

The point of trying to understand this threat is to respond to it, and the final part presents a series of observations and recommendations for Western policy. **The aim must be deterrence if possible, but such is the nature of this diffuse and undeclared form of war that this will often be by denial—developing 'hybrid defenses'**—and the right mix of forces ready for a conflict that could as easily be fought in cyberspace or the courts as on the battlefield.

Nor is this simply a threat that will subside as and when Putin's regime implodes or subsides, however inevitable this undoubtedly is. There are other revisionist powers in the world and likely to emerge. 'Hybrid war' is a convenient and catchy term, even if of questionable scholarly rigor, but if anything it simply reflects the way conflict is evolving, and **the sooner the West adapts to the Russian challenge, the better it will also be positioned to face the one coming next after that.**

INTERNET RESEARCH
AGENCY TACTICS

3. U.S. Operations Through Facebook

Many IRA operations used Facebook accounts created and operated by its specialists.

Harm to Ongoing Matter

Harm to Ongoing Matter

33

Harm to Ongoing Matter

4 IRA Facebook groups active during the 2016 campaign covered a range of political issues and included purported conservative

groups (with names such as “Being Patriotic,” “Stop All Immigrants,” “Secured Borders,” and “Tea Party News”), purported Black social justice groups (“Black Matters,” “Blacktivist,” and “Don’t Shoot Us”), LGBTQ groups (“LGBT United”), and religious groups (“United Muslims of America”).

Throughout 2016, IRA accounts published an increasing number of materials supporting the Trump Campaign and opposing the Clinton Campaign. For example, on May 31, 2016, the operational account “Matt Skiber” began to privately message dozens of pro-Trump Facebook groups asking them to help plan a “pro-Trump rally near Trump Tower.”⁵⁵

To reach larger U.S. audiences, the IRA purchased advertisements from Facebook that promoted the IRA groups on the newsfeeds of U.S. audience members. According to Facebook, the IRA purchased over 3,500 advertisements, and the expenditures totaled approximately \$100,000.⁵⁶

During the U.S. presidential campaign, many IRA-purchased advertisements explicitly supported or opposed a presidential candidate or promoted U.S. rallies organized by the IRA (discussed below). As early as March 2016, the IRA purchased advertisements that overtly opposed the Clinton Campaign. For example, on March 18, 2016, the IRA purchased an advertisement depicting candidate Clinton and a caption that read in part, “If one day God lets this liar enter the White House as a president – that day would be a real national tragedy.”⁵⁷ Similarly, on April 6, 2016, the IRA purchased advertisements for its account “Black Matters” calling for a “flashmob” of U.S. persons to “take a photo with #HillaryClintonForPrison2016 or #nohillary2016.”⁵⁸ IRA-purchased advertisements featuring Clinton were, with very few exceptions, negative.⁵⁹

IRA-purchased advertisements referencing candidate Trump largely supported his campaign. The first known IRA advertisement explicitly endorsing the Trump Campaign was purchased on April 19, 2016. The IRA bought an advertisement for its Instagram account “Tea Party News” asking U.S. persons to help them “make a patriotic team of young Trump supporters” by uploading photos with the hashtag “#KIDS4TRUMP.”⁶⁰ In subsequent months, the IRA purchased dozens of advertisements supporting the Trump Campaign, predominantly through the Facebook groups “Being Patriotic,” “Stop All Invaders,” and “Secured Borders.”

Collectively, the IRA’s social media accounts reached tens of millions of U.S. persons. Individual IRA social media accounts attracted hundreds of thousands of followers. For example, at the time they were deactivated by Facebook in mid-2017, the IRA’s “United Muslims of America” Facebook group had over 300,000 followers, the “Don’t Shoot Us” Facebook group had over 250,000 followers, the “Being Patriotic” Facebook group had over 200,000 followers, and the “Secured Borders” Facebook group had over 130,000 followers.⁶¹ According to Facebook, in total the IRA-controlled accounts made over 80,000 posts before their deactivation in August 2017, and these posts reached at least 29 million U.S. persons and “may have reached an estimated 126 million people.”⁶²

IRA Facebook groups active during the 2016 campaign covered a range of political issues and included purported conservative groups (with names such as “Being Patriotic,” “Stop All Immigrants,” “Secured Borders,” and “Tea Party News”), purported Black social justice groups (“Black Matters,” “Blacktivist,” and “Don’t Shoot Us”), LGBTQ groups (“LGBT United”), and religious groups (“United Muslims of America”).

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VLADISLAV SURKOV AND NON-LINEAR WARFARE

But then a technologist emerged who went much further. And his ideas would become central to Putin's grip on power.

He was called **Vladislav Surkov**.

Surkov came originally from the theatre world and those who have studied his career say that what he did was take avant-garde ideas from the theatre and bring them into the heart of politics.

Surkov's aim was not just to manipulate people but to go deeper and play with, and undermine their very perception of the world so they are never sure what is really happening.

Surkov turned Russian politics into a bewildering, constantly changing piece of theatre. He used Kremlin money to sponsor all kinds of groups - from mass anti-fascist youth organisations, to the very opposite - neo-Nazi skinheads.

And liberal human rights groups who then attacked the government.

Surkov even backed whole political parties that were opposed to President Putin.

*But the key thing was that Surkov then let it be known that this was what he was doing. Which meant that **no-one was sure what was real or what was fake** in modern Russia.*

As one journalist put it,

"It's a strategy of power that keeps any opposition constantly confused - a ceaseless shape-shifting that is unstoppable because it is indefinable."

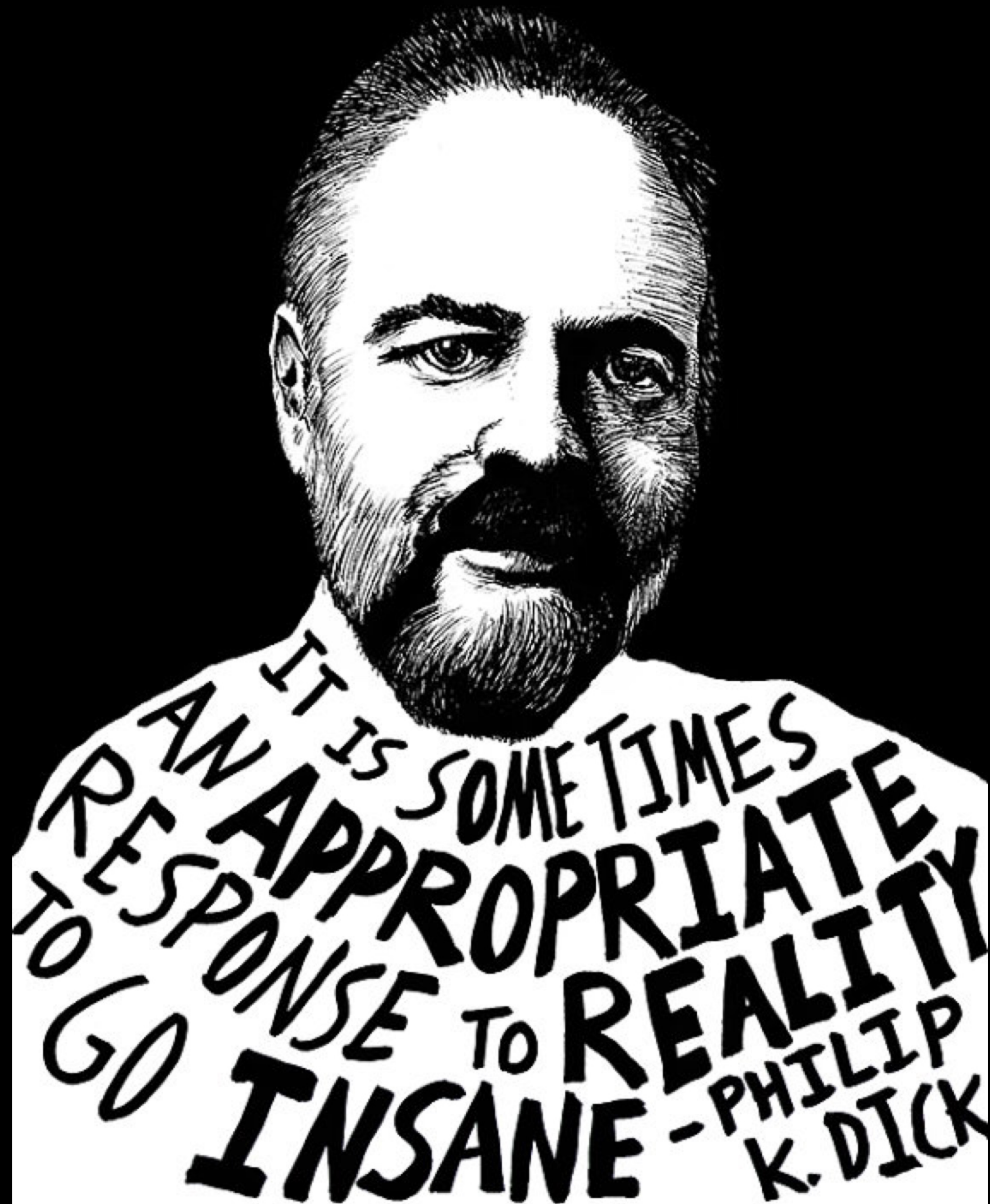
Meanwhile, **real power was elsewhere** - hidden away behind the stage, **exercised without anyone seeing it.**

And then the same thing seemed to start happening in the West.

THE NEW RULES

Move Fast.
Be Smart.
Attack.
Lie.

Don't Get Caught.



THE END OF CIVILISATION AS WE KNOW IT IS OLD NEWS

Nostalgia settled like a cloud on European thought after the French Revolution and has never fully lifted. It became particularly potent in the aftermath of World War I, which prompted an “end of civilization as we know it” despair hardly different from what opponents of the Revolution felt after 1789.

That anguish only intensified after World War II, the revelation of the Shoah, and the deployment of nuclear weapons and their subsequent proliferation.

This string of disasters cried out for explanation. And so a crowd of thinkers – philosophers, historian, theologians –

began to offer them. First was Oswald Spengler in his hugely influential study *The Decline of the West* (1918-1923).

A host of competing declinists followed his example, all claiming to have discovered the decisive idea or the decisive event that sealed our doom.

Since the 1950s this has been a popular and growing literature on the European and American right.

But its tropes can also be found on the fringe left, where apocalyptic deep ecologists, antiglobalists, and antigrowth activists have joined the ranks of twenty-first-century reactionaries.

I realized it's alright that the world is crazy, as long as I make my little corner of the world sane.

THE MASTER'S TOOLS

For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change.

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Inside

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“It was only after I’d lost everything that I was free to do anything.”

