

Cognitive warfare

The war propaganda changes its shape

by Thierry Meyssan*



Thierry Meyssan
(Photo réseau voltaire)

If the Russian army has won the war against the "Banderites" [term for Ukrainian extremists, named after Stepan Bandera] in Ukraine, NATO has won the cognitive war against its own citizens in the West. The Atlantic Alliance has developed a new form of

propaganda based on what it denounced a short time ago: Fake News, that is to say not false information, but biased information. How to protect yourself from it?

The Nato device

"Subduing the enemy by force is not the highest art of war, the highest art of war is to subdue the enemy without shedding a single drop of blood."
(Sun Tzu, The Art of War)

French General *Philippe Lavigne* of NATO's *Allied Command Transformation* (ACT) oversees research on new propaganda methods.

His command has 21 centres of excellence, including one for propaganda, the *Strategic Communications Center of Excellence* (STRATCOM) in Riga, Latvia.¹ It has created the NATO Innovation Hub (*iHub*) under the direction of Frenchman *Francois du Cluzel*, a former professor at the *Collège militaire interarmes* de Coëtquidan (F). It funds research at *Johns Hopkins University* and *Imperial College* of London on cognitive abilities. This research covers the entire cognitive domain with various applications ranging from bionic soldiers to war propaganda.

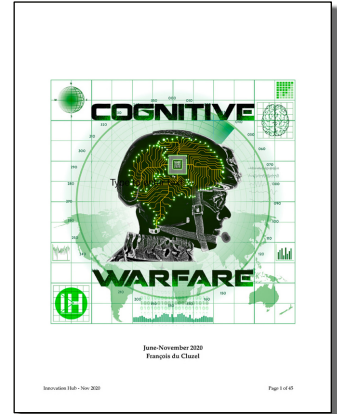
Nato's general idea is to add to the five usual domains of intervention (air, land, sea, space and cyber), a sixth: the human brain. "While actions in the five domains are carried out in order to

have an effect on the human domain, the objective of cognitive warfare is to make each one a weapon," writes *François du Cluzel*.

If war propaganda was based, during the First World War, on false information popularised by great writers; then on the repetition of selected messages during the Second World War; today it is conceived as an illusionist's act.² It is about moving people to distract their attention and hide from them what they should not see. They judge what they see with the uninteresting information they are fed. In this way, we manage – without lying to them – to make them take bladders for lanterns.

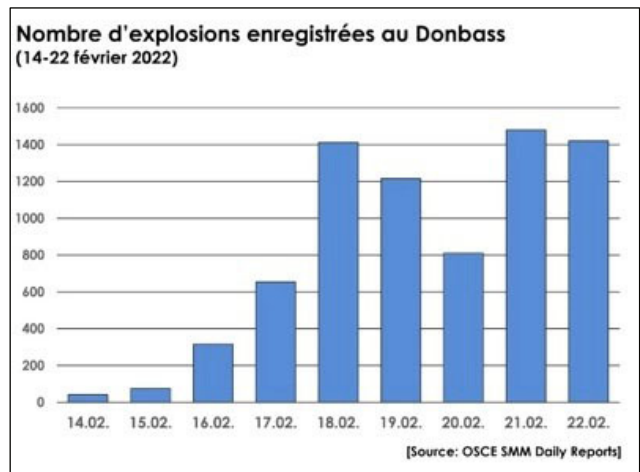
We are witnessing the first application of this technique, on the occasion of the war in Ukraine.

To make myself understood, I will first present some information that might be overlooked, then come back on the treatment of the war by French State television. I would have obtained the same result if I had used a German, British or American example.



NATO report presenting cognitive warfare (November 2020). Click on the image to download the document.

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Number of registered explosions (14-22. February 2022)
You can download the daily reports of the OSCE observers at: <https://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/reports>

The responsibility of Western leaders for the war in Ukraine

In the West, the narrative of the war in Ukraine places all the blame solely on the Russian president, *Vladimir Putin*, and secondarily on the political and financial figures of his regime. However, this version is clearly false if one considers the daily reports of the observers of the *Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe* (OSCE). They testify that they heard an attack from the Donbass (still Ukrainian) by Kiev forces on the afternoon of February 17. All news agencies reported that at least 100,000 civilians had fled into the Donbass or to Russia.

In addition, the main political leaders of NATO heard Ukrainian President *Volodymyr Zelenskyy* tell them at the *Munich Security Conference* that he intended to acquire nuclear weapons against Russia. It is clear that it was not Moscow, but Kiev, that triggered the hostilities.

No one can imagine that Kiev has unleashed this war against a far superior enemy without having received prior assurances from allies apparently capable of defending the country against Russia. This can only be NATO or the United States and possibly the other two nuclear powers, France and the United Kingdom.

The first meeting where this war was presented as desirable was held to our knowledge in the House of Representatives on September 5, 2019. It was organized by the Rand Corporation, the think tank of the US military-industrial lobby. The purpose was to present two reports, "Overextending and Unbalancing Russia" and "Extending Russia: Competing from Advantageous Ground"³ to the parliamentarians. The main idea is to use the particularity on which Russia bases its defense, against it. Since it is a huge territory that the Russians defend by moving around and practicing the "scorched earth strategy", it is enough to force them to move abroad to exhaust them.

The importance of this event is shown to us by the incident that affected our collaborator, the Italian geographer *Manlio Dinucci*. His article on the subject was censored by his newspaper, *Il Manifesto*, which he had to leave.⁴

Three events attest to the involvement of the United States, the United Kingdom and France in the secret preparation of the war.

British minister of defence, Ben Wallace

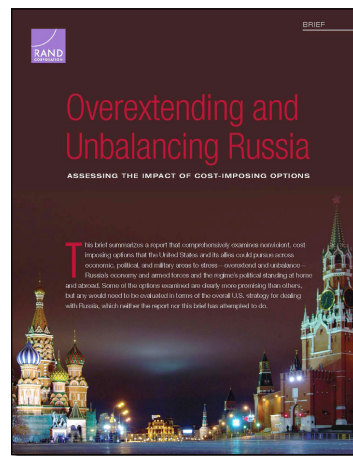
On March 24, 2022, a video of a 22-minute telephone conversation between the British Minister

of Defense, Ben Wallace, and Russian comedians *Vladimir (Vovan) Kuznetsov* and *Alexei (Lexus) Stolyarov* was published. One of the Russians was posing as the Ukrainian Prime Minister, *Denys Shmyhal*, whom Wallace never met.

- Asked whether the UK would help Kiev to acquire nuclear weapons, the Rt. Hon. Wallace replied that he had to consult with Prime Minister *Boris Johnson* and that "The principle is that we will support Ukraine as a friend in whatever choice you make". In one sentence, he swept aside the *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty*.
- On the subject of the *Next generation Light Anti-tank Weapon* (NLAW) missiles that the United Kingdom has just sent to the Ukrainian army, Ben Wallace admitted that they were not working properly and that spare parts had also been sent.
- But it is especially on the subject of NATO that Ben Wallace's language has been too prolix. The British minister once again invited Ukraine to join the Atlantic Alliance. In passing, he unwittingly revealed that the United Kingdom had been sending military instructors to prepare the Ukrainian army for several years.

Boris Johnson's government used every means at its disposal to conceal, or rather minimise, these statements. It claimed that the interview lasted only 10 minutes and forbade *YouTube/Google* to broadcast the entire sketch. The Western media was asked to talk about his blunder on the atomic bomb and to cover up the other two points. This is how the British always do it: not to deny everything, but to make the most dangerous points disappear.

At the request of Boris Johnson's cabinet, the full video of Ben Wallace assuring that the United Kingdom had been sending military instructors secretly to Ukraine for several years is no longer available on YouTube and is no longer referenced by Western search engines.



US President Joe Biden

On March 25, 2022, President *Joe Biden* visited the Congress Palace in Rzeszów, Poland. He was accompanied by the director of USAID, *Samantha Power* (former ambassador to the UN), and the Polish president, *Andrej Duda*. It is worth noting that *Andrej Duda* had his parliament pass a law denying the role of the Polish state in Nazi crimes and authorising legal action against anyone who mentions them.

Joe Biden spoke with various NGOs to praise their assistance to Ukrainian refugees. Afterwards, he gave a speech to his soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division, stationed there.⁵

He also visited them in the dining hall and spoke to them without a teleprompter or cameras. As always at such times, the old man (79 years old) revealed state secrets.

According to the witnesses, he thanked them for their commitment in Ukraine for a long time, even though officially there have never been any US soldiers in that country.

President Emanuel Macron, head of the armed forces



*General Eric Vidaud was not fired because he was at fault, but because the secret mission he sent to Ukraine with the Azov regiment failed to describe the situation. His predecessors showed him their support.
(Photo voltairenet.org)*

On March 29, 2022, General *Eric Vidaud*, director of French military intelligence, was dismissed. No official explanation was given. It seems that in reality, General *Viaud* had deployed men on the direct instruction of President *Macron's* private staff, in 2021 when he was commander of special operations, to supervise the *Azov regiment*.

The next day, five Ukrainian helicopters tried to flee Mariupol, the stronghold of the *Azov regiment*. Two were shot down on March 30. The

survivors were taken prisoner by the Russian army. They spoke immediately. The soldiers of the Special Operations Command are placed for all logistical matters under the orders of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, General *Thierry Burkhard*, but they take their orders directly from the head of the armed forces, President *Emmanuel Macron*.

Relations between Presidents *Macron* and *Putin* cooled sharply.

How war propaganda masks reality

In France the state has *France-Télévision* for its own population, with *France-2* being the most watched channel, and *France Médias Monde* for abroad. The latter group depends directly on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and broadcasts *France-24* in several languages.

Anne-Sophie Lapix interviewing Andriy Sadovy for France 2 without pointing out that he is a Banderite oligarch is a bit like interviewing the Propaganda Minister of the Third Reich, Joseph Goebbels, without pointing out that he was a Nazi.

https://www.voltairenet.org/IMG/mp4/mon_film.mp4

To begin with, *France 2* proposed a live newscast from Lviv (Ukraine) presented by its star, *Anne-Sophie Lapix*, on March 14, 2022.⁶ This newscast gathers every day a little more than 20% of the public. The young woman showed a lot of destruction and traumatized refugees. She walked through the city, but did not notice the imposing monument to commemorate *Stepan Bandera*, the leader of the Ukrainian Nazi collaborators.

She also questioned the mayor of Lviv, *Andriy Sadovy*, without explaining that he is one of the country's leading oligarchs. She did not ask him about his media group, of which his wife is the director. So she did not ask him about the remarks made the previous day on his channel, 24 Канал, calling for the killing of all Russians, women and children included, according to the method advocated by SS *Adolf Eichman*.⁷

At no time was it specified that this program was an initiative of the Banderite oligarch *Andriy Sadovy* and his wife, both former clients of the *Publicis agency of Arthur Sadoun*, the husband of *Anne-Sophie Lapix*.

The viewer who ignores Ukrainian tributes to the Nazis and exhortations to follow their example can only weep at the accumulation of suffering that was shown to him. He cannot doubt

that the Russians are liars and criminals and that Ukrainians in general are innocent victims.

Tatar journalist Fakhrudin Sharafmal addresses the Russians on March 13, 2022, on the channel of the mayor of Lviv : "You are garbage that must be swept off the face of the planet. If a Ukrainian has the chance to crush your bones, to slit your throats, to choke Ruskies, I hope he will seize his chance to contribute to the cause and kill at least one of you."

https://www.voltairenet.org/IMG/webm/_37_ukrainian_journalist_fakhrudin_sharafmal_eichmann_quot.webm

On 25 March, France 24 in English, in its column Truth or Fake, <https://youtu.be/NIVM9Ygg94s> reported on the interview of British Defense Minister Ben Wallace by Russian comedians.

Following the instructions of Boris Johnson's cabinet, the French Foreign Ministry's television channel mocked his statements on the atomic bomb in order to better conceal those on the inefficiency of his anti-tank weapons and especially those on the presence of British military instructors in Ukraine for several years.

The journalist presented the comedians as youtubers, whereas they work for the NTV channel, which allowed her not to mention that they are censored on YouTube in the country of the 1st amendment and freedom of expression.

The column was produced by journalist Catalina Marchant de Abreu, a specialist in debunking fake news (*debunking fake news*; sic!).

The peak was reached on March 31 with *France 2 news*.⁸ *France-Television*, which until now denied the ideological character of the Azov regiment, broadcast a report on this formation. The public television admitted that it had, in 2014, been infiltrated by neo-Nazi elements, citing one of its founders, *Andriy Biletsky*, but assured that it had since changed into a respectable defense force. *France-2* did not mention one of its other founders, *Dmytro Yarosh*, a NATO agent and former coordinator of European neo-

France 2 cites neo-Nazi Andriy Biletsky as the leader of the Azov Battalion in 2014. The journalist, Arnaud Comte, deputy editor-in-chief of the channel, does not have time to point out that Biletsky, inter alia the "White Führer", was elevated to the rank of lieutenant colonel and decorated by President *Pedro Poroshenko*, and then founded a political party (the "National Corps") preaching ethnic cleansing of Central Europe and was elected as a neo-Nazi deputy to the Verkhovna Rada (National Assembly).

<https://www.voltairenet.org/IMG/mp4/azov.mp4>

Nazis and Middle Eastern jihadists against Russia,⁹ who has become a special advisor to the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armies.¹⁰

France-2 referred to an old UN report on torture, but not to the discovery of his special prisons by the Russian army,¹¹ nor to recent UN statements on the subject.

The report also failed to explain what "Banderites" are in Ukrainian history and reduced the importance of neo-Nazis to the wearing of the swastika. Having thus glossed over the problem, the channel estimated the danger to be between 3,000 and 5,000 men, while *Reuters* assures us that the Banderite paramilitaries today represent 102,000 men divided into numerous militias incorporated into the Territorial Defense.¹²

Source: <https://voltairenet.org/article216358.html>, 5 April 2022

(Translation Roger Lagassé)

¹ "The NATO campaign against freedom of expression", by Thierry Meyssan, Voltaire Network, 5 December 2016.

² "The techniques of modern military propaganda", by Thierry Meyssan, Voltaire Network, 18 May 2016.

³ *Overextending and Unbalancing Russia*, James Dobbins, Raphael S. Cohen, Nathan Chandler, Bryan Frederick, Edward Geist, Paul DeLuca, Forrest E. Morgan, Howard J. Shatz & Brent Williams, Rand Corporation, April 2019. See also further details in: *Extending Russia: Competing from Advantageous Ground*, Raphael S. Cohen, Nathan Chandler, Bryan Frederick, Edward Geist, Paul DeLuca, Forrest E. Morgan, Howard J. Shatz & Brent Williams, Rand Corporation, 25 May 2019.

⁴ «Ukraine: tout était écrit dans le plan de la Rand Corp.», by Manlio Dinucci, Voltaire Network 8 March 2022,

⁵ «Remarks by President Biden During Visit with Service Members of the 82nd Airborne Division», Joe Biden, White House, 25 March 2020.

⁶ Video available on: <https://www.france.tv/france-2/journal-20h00/3130515-edition-du-lundi-14-mars-2022.html>.

⁷ "Ukraine Channel 24 calls for the extermination of all Russians, including women and children", Voltaire Network, 17 March 2022.

⁸ Video available on <https://www.france.tv/france-2/journal-20h00/3171237-edition-du-jeudi-31-mars-2022.html>

⁹ "The CIA Coordinates Nazis and Jihadists", by Thierry Meyssan, Translation Roger Lagassé, Al-Watan (Syria), Voltaire Network, 19 May 2014.

¹⁰ "Dmitro Yarosh returns as adviser of Ukrainian Army commander", Voltaire Network, 22 February 2022.

¹¹ "Secret prison discovered in Ukraine", Voltaire Network, 22 March 2022.

¹² The article was modified on the Reuters site. However, one can consult: «On the edge of war», Prasanta Kumar Dutta, Samuel Granados & Michael Ovaska, 26 January 2022. There it says that the "paramilitary" amounts to 102,000 or 40 percent of the Ukrainian armed forces.