



# DISINFORMATION: THE HIDDEN WEAPON OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

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# Introduction

- Disinformation is more prevalent than ever
- People can start to be overwhelmed with everything that is happening



# What is Disinformation?

MISINFORMATION, DISINFORMATION: HOW DO THEY DIFFER?



## Disinformation

When people intentionally create false or misleading information to make money, have political influence, or to maliciously cause trouble or harm.

Why do people share disinformation?

Money, political gain, to cause confusion, to sow mistrust.



## Misinformation

When people share disinformation but they don't realize it's false or misleading, often because they're trying to help or want to feel part of a community.

Why do people share misinformation?

Out of fear and wanting to protect people they care about or to connect with others who are sharing similar information.



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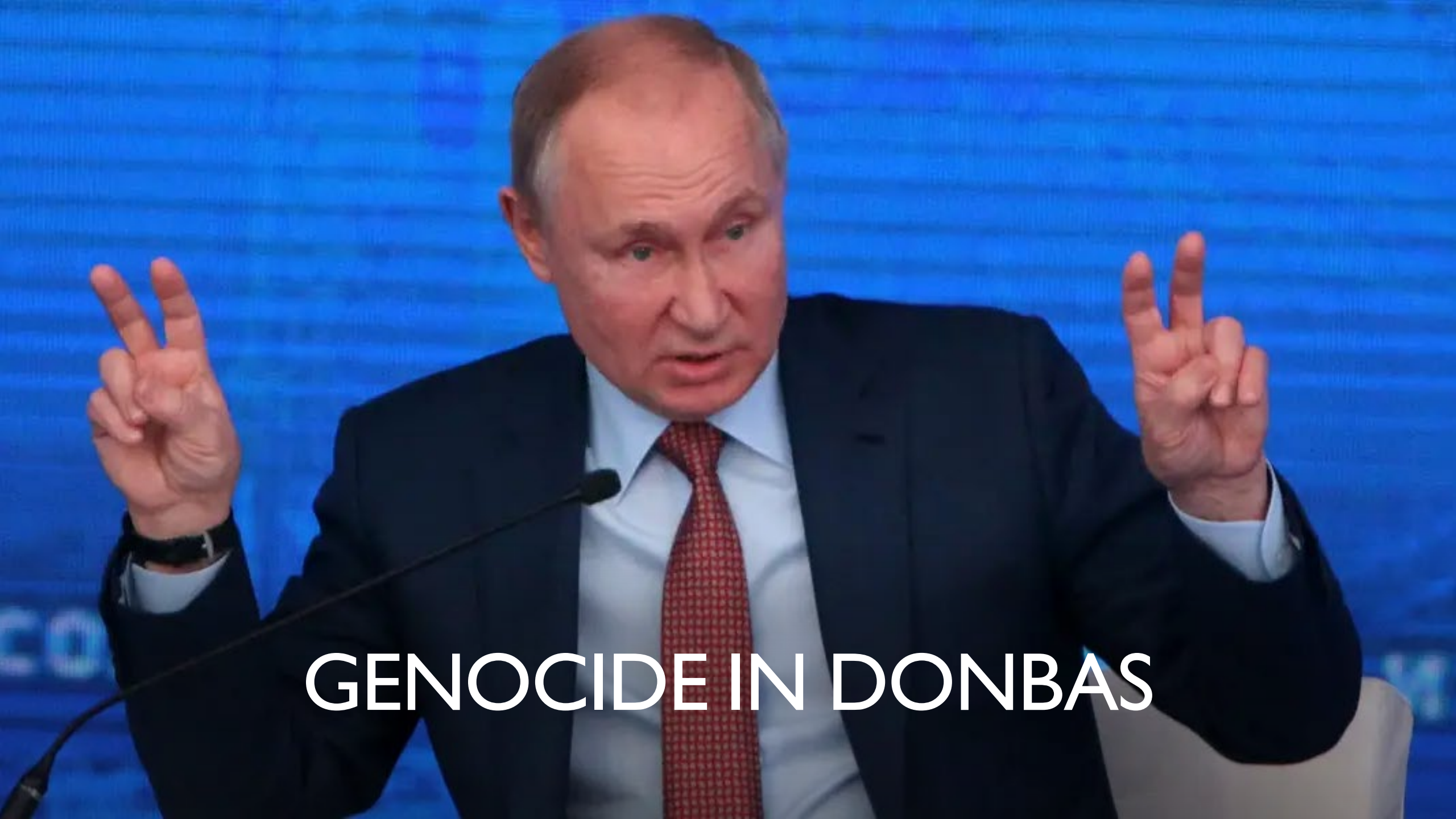
[Source](#)

# **RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION**

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# Russia's Usage of Disinformation

- This is a very one sided disinformation war between Russia and Ukraine
- Russia is trying to portray itself as altruistic
- They want to control the narrative



**GENOCIDE IN DONBAS**

## Birds as Bio-Weapons?



[Russian Ambassador at the United Nations](#)

- This claim is as bizarre as it is dangerous
- Russia claims there is collaboration between the United State and Ukraine

# UKRAINIAN DISINFORMATION

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[Source](#)



Ukraine / Україна ✓  
@Ukraine



People call him the Ghost of Kyiv. And rightly so — this UAF ace dominates the skies over our capital and country, and has already become a nightmare for invading Russian aircrafts.

[Source](#)

## The Ghost of Kyiv

- One of the most prominent examples of Ukrainian Disinformation















## Total casualties

Breakdown	Casualties	Time period	Source
Civilians	6,788–7,115+ killed	24 February – 31 March 2022	Ukrainian government <sup>[73]</sup>
	1,417 killed, 2,038 wounded	24 February – 2 April 2022	United Nations <sup>[74]</sup>
Ukrainian forces (UAF, NGU)	2,000–4,000 killed	24 February – 9 March 2022	US estimate <sup>[75]</sup>
	1,300 killed, 3,825 wounded	24 February – 12 March 2022	Ukrainian government <sup>[76]</sup>
Russian forces (RAF, Rosgvardiya, PMC Wagner)	1,351 killed <sup>[note 5]</sup>	24 February – 25 March 2022	Russian government <sup>[77]</sup>
	7,000–15,000 killed	24 February – 23 March 2022	NATO estimate <sup>[78]</sup>
	10,000+ killed	24 February – 30 March 2022	US estimate <sup>[79]</sup>
Donetsk PR forces	767 killed, 3,559 wounded	25 February – 31 March 2022	Donetsk PR <sup>[80]</sup>

[Source](#)

## Russia's losses as of April 18

Source: Indicative estimates by Ukraine's Armed Forces as of 9 a.m. EET

 20,600 troops <small>(approx., to be confirmed)</small>	 130 MLRS
 167 planes	 8 boats
 147 helicopters	 1,487 vehicles
 790 tanks	 76 fuel tanks
 381 artillery pieces	 155 UAV
 2,041 armored personnel carriers	 67 anti-aircraft warfare
 4 mobile SRBM system	 27 special equipment

THE  
KYIV INDEPENDENT

[Source](#)

# WHO'S TELLING THE TRUTH?



# **RUSSIAN OFFICIALS HIDING WAR TRUTH**

[Russian Officials Hiding War Truth](#)

## Limiting the Truth

- On March 4, 2022, Putin signed in a law that states anyone who spreads “knowingly false information” can be jailed for 15 years.

# Social Imagination

- This is a theory created by C.Wright Mills and it came from a book he published called *The Sociological Imagination*, 1959.
- The idea here is that the Social Imagination is the “ability to see personal troubles as public issues and to consider the impact of broader social and historical contexts on personal situations” (Mooney)

# Societal Impacts of Disinformation

- “Lies breed confusion and contribute to the ‘decay of truth’ and to a clash of narratives” (United Nations)
- The more people are subjected to disinformation the more it starts to shape their reality
- People are becoming more polarized

# Effects of Disinformation - Playing into feelings of Nationalism

## **Ukrainians & Western Citizens**

- Hearing about things like the “The Ghost of Kyiv” and the high number of Russian losses inspires Ukrainians and improve their morale.
- When the odds based on numbers are totally against Ukrainians it is stories and information like this that help the mental strength of citizens.
- The Ukrainian Government amplifies stories that focus on the creation of Heroes and Martyrs which dramatizes Ukraine’s fortitude.

## **Russian Citizens**

- By being told this disinformation by the state run media they are appealing to peoples feelings of nationalism.
- The state media is meant to serve the Russian people the exact framing that the government wants.

# Conclusion

- In summary, disinformation is an issue that must be taken seriously because the consequences of letting it spread rampantly are dire.

**THANK YOU!**

I am happy  
to answer  
any  
questions!