

## THE PROBLEM OF CONFRONTATION OF THE COGNITIVE WARFARE IN CASE OF INTER- CIVILIZATIONAL CONFLICTS AMONG NARRATIVES

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### Abstract

*“Who controls the past, controls  
the future: who controls the present  
controls the past”.*

*George Orwell (1903-1950)*

*In the modern world, the revolutionary development of the new Informational technologies (IT) along with the various opportunities it has brought, also has created new challenges for humanity.*

*The scope of these challenges is so great that it has become an insurmountable force for a separate state. Therefore, to overcome them, the states must form an alliance, and establish supranational organizations and systems, through which it will be possible to reduce and, if possible, neutralize the threats and emerging risks arising from them.*

*One of the similar threats is “lie”: falsification, misinformation, “mass confabulation”<sup>\*</sup> and fake news, the speed,*

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<sup>\*</sup> “Confabulation - Spurious memories or fabrications are very common in psychiatric disorders and may take on an expansive and grandiose character. They may also embody obvious elements from fantasy and dreams. At a more realistic level, the production of false memories (confabulation) is best studied among sufferers of Korsakoff’s syndrome, for whom consciousness and reasoning remain clear. When asked what he did on the previous day, such a person may give a detailed account of a typical day in his life several months

*volume, and diversity of which spread has turned into a “war of narratives”, in the chaos of which an urgent issue of international protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of human, also truth and justice of civilization has arisen.*

*The subject of this article is “Narrative warfare” (NW). Purpose: is an analysis of the role of creating an “alternative past” (AP) for an “alternative future” (AF) in international relations, against a “paradigmatic future” (PF), using the substitution of meanings, symbols, and influence on the mass perception of reality, causing cognitive dissonance and mass psychosis in the affected areas.*

*Results of the research paper show, that due to the NW, universal justice suffers, and the chain of intertwined historical perceptions of collective identity is broken.*

*In conclusion, to defend the truth, states must unite and consolidate the world community, and establish appropriate institutions within the framework of the new world order.*

**Keywords:** strategy, three-dimensional time, post-truth, narrative, civilization, justice, Cognitive Warfare, strategic future.

## **Introduction**

In 2016 the word “post-truth”<sup>\*</sup> has declared as an international word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries. The editors of the dictionary conditioned their choice by the fact that with the rapid development of social networks and media, the place of objective truth is continuously occupied by falsehood. The word describes circumstances in which objective facts are less important in

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or years earlier. Evidently, his retrograde amnesia and his disorientation in time provide fertile soil for false reminiscence. When the confabulation embodies dramatic, fanciful elements, it is the exception rather than the rule”. (Britannica)

<sup>\*</sup> “Post-truth - relating to circumstances in which people respond more to feelings and beliefs than to facts”. (Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries)

shaping public opinion than appeals to emotions and personal beliefs.

The correctness of the above is continuously proven in real politics, when we witness a global conflict of “justices” going against each other over the same object, in the context of narratives put forward by different societies.

### **Cognitive Warfare**

Due to civilizational value systems and national dreams regarding the same realities, nations face sharp opposition in international relations, which often lead to wars, in all theaters of the battlefield.

Along with the traditional battlefields of land (underground), water (underwater), air (space), and their modernization, in the information age consciousness, which was not so important before, is becoming more important as the most important battlefield. Consciousness is the space in which the cognitive wars take place.

Cognitive Warfare is a war in which the human mind becomes the battlefield.

Cognitive Warfare includes activities conducted in synchronization with other Instruments of Power, to affect attitudes and behaviours, by influencing, protecting, or disrupting individual, group, or population-level cognition, to gain an advantage over an adversary (NATO Allied Command Transformation, 2023).

The attack on consciousness is carried out for the purpose of distorting realities and replacing meanings, due to which the aggrieved party will be deprived of the grounds for equal self-defense. The replacement of concepts will be carried out to break causality and create an alternative, virtual, reality. Cognitive warfare is, therefore, the art of deceiving the brain or making it doubt what it thinks it knows (Claverie et al., 2022).

Cognitive warfare is essentially a combined war; it includes informational and psychological warfare.

## Narrative Warfare

As the great Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu said in his “On the Art of War”, all warfare is based on deception (2000).

In the global war of narratives, the parties put forward stories conditioned by their epic mentality, historical “facts”, “moral grounds” justifying military operations, distinctly different authentic and fake news, etc.

Propaganda can be considered an international crime only in rare exceptions, such as in the context of inciting genocide (Aleksejeva, 2023). According to Article 25 of the Rome Statute, a person “shall be individually responsible and liable for punishment” for “directly and publicly incites others to commit genocide” (International Criminal Court, 2011).

Regardless of one’s stance in this enduring conflict, dominant narratives are often handed down from generation to generation (Can 2023).

In the war of narratives, the parties in conflict are currently trying to influence historical events so that they can structure a strategic future in line with their expectations.

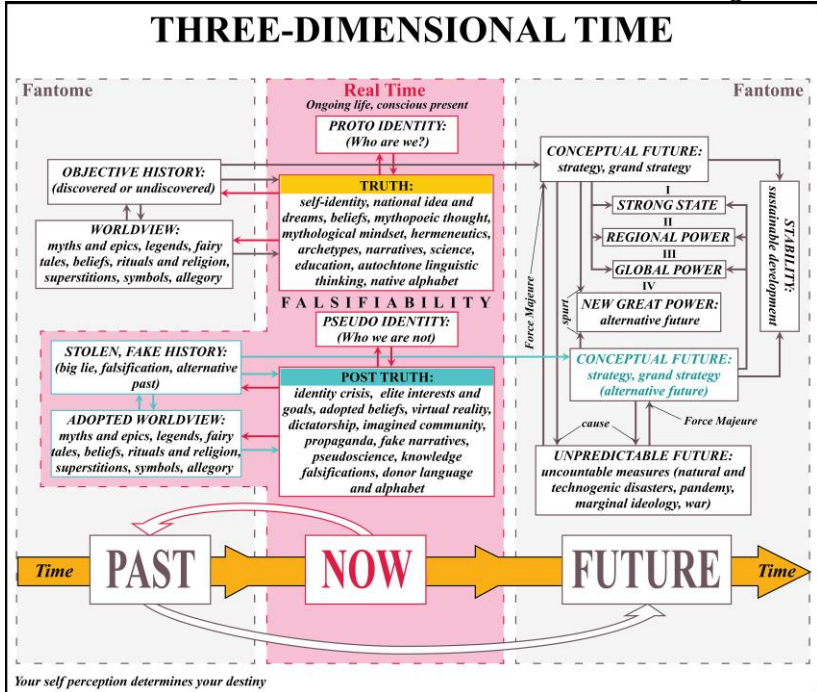
So, as shown in Figure 1. The graphic shows three-dimensional time in its past-present-future paradigm.

The two mutually antagonistic societies are presented in two conflicting formats, according to which one side tries to ensure its security and structure the strategic future through the dissemination and protection of objective information (ancient, autochthonous nations usually have such a motive), and the other side tries to fake it, because in the context of objective reality, it has no chance to compete with the first society, and as a cause-and-effect link to justify the war being waged, to grant the latter moral foundations, disputing the socio-cultural and physical-geographic territories of the objectively older nation.

In this context, it is necessary to emphasize that world history is interwoven with historical events taking place in real-time in different regions, so the falsification of historical events

regarding a certain region inevitably hits the reliable study of global history by which people self-identify.

Figure 1



## Conclusion

In the 21st century, the states are facing such challenges, the measure of which does not allow an individual state to face the threats arising from them equally that is why the states are forced to unite and fight against them together to overcome them.

Just like the ecological and climate problems, food and drinking water safety, international terrorism, human trafficking, drug trafficking, natural and man-made disasters, war, and nuclear weapons, so the lies require a universal struggle.

To protect the universal truth, the democratic countries that support fundamental human rights and freedoms are obliged to

form an alliance and act with a united front against big lies: falsifications, alternative past, fake narratives, and fake news.

Today, the most vulnerable value system and the most central to ensuring the security of nations is the truth, the protection of which has become a global issue and imperative of the times.

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