

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

Silence in the face of evil is complicity

I am known for my directness and challenging the status quo. That is my professional bent on life. It is because I believe in seeking to be an ethical person, and try to follow the codes of ethics of professional organizations like the IEEE ¹ and ISC².

For all of my professional career, I have kept confidential information in confidence. This is part of the security culture. As a culture, it has been drilled into me. And it loses me business from time to time because, while I describe what happens in generic terms, I don't reveal confidential information, like client names, when that is part of our contracts with them.

For most of my life, I have kept personal information personal. This is part of the culture I was brought up in, and I think it stems from the desire of the generation before mine to not admit weakness. But it's also because I come from a family, many of who's relatives were killed because of the sickness of hatred at an industrial scale.

Somehow, along the way, I came to the conclusion that it was better for me to "keep my head down" when it comes to social issues and focus only on my professional life in my external, outside the family communications.

I was wrong

There comes a time

The events in Israel where the sick individuals from Hamas; who have been oppressing the innocent people naming themselves as Palestinian for decades and blaming it on the notion rather than the reality of "the Jews"; beheaded babies, murdered and kidnapped old people from nations around the world at a concert for peace, raped and killed and burned women, and not to be discriminatory, murdered boys and men of all ages; should be sickening to and disclaimed by every person on the planet.

But instead, we see disgusting so-called politicians and their sick followers on the right wing of US politics and others from select other nations, stand in favor of the sickness. They continue their disinformation campaigns; which is to say lies, frauds, power grabs, and so forth; using the infrastructure of the Internet, which was largely created by people seeking freedom to communicate and share their honest ideas; for lies instead of truths, for oppression instead of freedom, and to sew discord and hatred around the world. And the leaders of countries from around the world seem hesitant to rebuke them for long.

It seems to me that it is no longer the time to hold back on commentary about "political" issues, it is no longer acceptable to me to work for or with people who have fallen into, or are knowing participants in the trap of false equivocation. They largely claim that the things on the right wing of US politics are really no different from those on the left wing. While I am a centrist when it comes to politics, I think there is a very big difference between; people who lie, cheat, steal, and support people who kill out of hatred; and people who peacefully protest.

¹ <http://all.net/IEEE-CoE.pdf>

² <http://all.net/ISC2Ethics.html>

The hospital and the disinformation campaign

And then we see the events surrounding a hospital parking lot, which had an explosion caused by a weapon of war. The war started by these sick people who want to kill in order to gain power over others and murder whole races of people and family lines because of false narratives put forth by leaders who have historically become rich and lived well while others kill themselves to support the false narratives.

All of this is magnified by the immediacy of the cyber world, led by the Internet rumor mills and so-called deep fakes culture we have created. In near real time, many cameras saw and recorded the events surrounding the hospital; and the evidence, after preliminary examination, seems to refute the narrative brought forth by the violent extremist murders. But while the leaders of the nation states that have those murdering terror groups within their societies almost certainly know the truth as the facts come out, like so many so-called leaders, their inability to get in front of it and get the true narrative out in an instant fashion, the time associated with actually collecting facts and evidence before drawing conclusions that they take loses the narrative for them.

Lies get half way around the world (in both directions) before the truth can get its pants on.

It's not just the middle east

It seems the truth about the right wing of the Republican party of the US is coming out, as detailed by some of the members in Congress who are revealing the extortion and death threats being used against them.

- Why did they propagate the lies about the election being stolen?
 - Apparently because they were threatened, and not just with losing their offices.
 - The MAGA crowd, apparently urged on by the extreme right wing, threatens the spouses and children as well as the members of congress, extorting them to lie against the better interests of the nation and their own people.
- When will the rest of them stand up against it?
 - How hard would it be for you to speak out against people who are threatening your life and the lives of your family?

This is what these influence operations are all about

Now that you know, and there is plenty of information out there just from Republicans in Congress, don't continue to be fooled by the deceptions perpetrated against the masses by the violent right wing extremists of the Republican party.

And don't be fooled by the false narratives of the Arab street, induced by the disinformation and predisposition against Jews and Israelis and Americans and whoever else is on the scorecard these days.

And don't fall for the lies about Islam that led to the disgusting and unfathomably sick murder of a 6-year-old and attempted murder of his mother in Chicago by a landlord who thought that their religion and appearance was justification for murdering them.

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False equivocation

I tried for some time to reason with people I know who are not fools, but who I believe have fallen into the trap of false equivocation and deceptive scenarios. Here are some examples of false equivocation being applied today to corrupt the thinking of honest people:

- The Israeli Defense Forces are equivalent to the Hamas and Hasballah
 - They are not. As one person made clear in the popular media; The IDF protects the people of Israel, Hamas uses the people of Palestine to protect Hamas.
- The deaths of 2000 Israelis is equivalent to the deaths of 2000 Palestinians.
 - This is generally true as far as it goes, but there is a big difference between the intentional murder of innocents and the accidental death of those who are unable or unwilling to get out of the way of a war and being used as human shields by murderers.
- The word of terrorist organizations who did not take the time to determine what happened and simply sewed the narrative that benefited themselves and never back down from lies they have repeatedly told; is equivalent to the statements made after preliminary examination of the evidence by multiple credible nation-states who have historically told the truth in similar matters, and corrected errors when they found they had mad them.
 - They are not for the obvious reasons I identified above.
- The Democrats and Republicans are all the same, corrupt, liars, and so forth.
 - While I am not a big fan of the far right or the far left, and the far left in the 1960s included along with the peace movement a violent extremist element, today, the far left is not violent and the far right is. It's simple. I am against violence except when it is necessary to defend against violence. And I am against lies in any case.
 - In part 2, the facts seem to back up the Democrats and the lies seem to demonstrate the lack of sincerity of the Republicans. I say this based on the evidence they themselves provide. Both Republicans and Democrats admit that the last Presidential election was not stolen, while only Republican extremists claim that it was. I figure the bad folks are the ones trying to usurp power by lying, extorting, threatening violence, and carrying out violence. And today, that is the Republicans.

These are only a few examples of the false equivalencies I see and wish to rally against. And if you got the notion that I am asserting equivalence to the terrorists from Hamas and the right wing of the Republican party, while I wouldn't go quite that far yet, the Republican MAGA folks are in many ways working toward the Hamas view of the world. They are promoting violence to get their way, including hatred of religious and ethnic groups based on lies.

I know that those who disagree with me will claim that I am changing the subject or ignoring facts that they claim. But I stand up for facts and evidence, and the standards of proof go beyond hearsay. Eye witnesses and what they observed, leaving out their conclusions, are still subject to hearing what they wish to hear and seeing what they wish to see. But they can provide facts worthy of consideration, and perhaps more importantly, other forms of evidence.

It's not just the politicians and the terrorists

The news media has done some incredibly ridiculous things to try to show two sides. Earlier today I saw a video of men carrying babies and small children into and back out of a bomb crate. They entered from the other side and exited toward camera. None looked injured or even unhappy. But the announcer was reading that according to Hamas, babies and small children had been injured in the attack. Meanwhile, the near real-time videos only showed men of middle age being carried out on stretchers. Now I don't know who was killed or injured, but I do know that this staged video was not reflective of reality when taken with the words of the announcer. Then the scene changed to a hospital where the announcer told us that children and babies were injured, but all I saw was children, again not particularly looking injured in any way, sitting on parents laps, no apparent problems, but the narrator telling us what the picture did not show.

This is the press doing disinformation

Facts and evidence

Facts, not alternative facts, are the building blocks of reality. They are sticky things, hard things, and when you go up against them, it's a lot harder to win than when you are with them. But propagandists create narratives and use anecdotal information along with blatant falsehoods to support their story lines. The fictions they create get embedded in peoples' minds, and their susceptibility to things that sound like what they think is right combined with fixation because of primacy, repetition, and recency help push the falsehoods into the minds of those who do not question what they see and check it against what they hear. But while the emperor may have no clothes, the people of the village at first don't want to stand up to the potential negative consequences of disagreeing, and then they are shunned, threatened, and eventually become cowed. The child, so goes the story, tells the obvious truth, and everybody sees it for what it is. But that's not how it works in the real world. Push facts and people do not want to think about it. Push facts and people call you impolite, rude, a hater, and so forth.

It's not that easy to stand up

But it's not so easy to stand up for the facts and evidence when faced by threats of violence, loss of income and property, shunning by people you thought were your friends, and without the support of a party behind you.

I am an independent – politically – not believing in the ideas of either of the extremes in US politics, and not believing anything that says a person is evil or deserves to be treated badly because of where they came from or what they believe... with a few exceptions.

And I am tired of people who are unwilling or unable to think enough to use their eyes and ears to clarify what they have in their brains.

The apparent run-up to global conflict

We see this as a repeated process. The information war comes before the physical war. It must in order to get the average person to fight and kill someone else. Dehumanization, lies, false narratives, and so forth. They all work together to win the war. Propaganda is the common name, but I think we have gotten to whole new levels of disinformation with the emergence of the Internet and its extreme capabilities. Add in some AI, precise targeting, and higher quality generation of fake videos, and you can really get things going.

Brought to you by the autocrats

I wish you could hear the audio behind this one. I think I will put it on The Cyber Show next week. Imagine a great television or radio broadcast announcer saying those words.

... Yes, the autocrats. You're with them or dead... oh ... against them. Yes, the autocrats. Bringing peace and prosperity to themselves and those who support them, and death and destruction to every one else.

Don't be a fool and stand up for what you imagine is right. After all, "why do you think you know better than Stalin"³ ... Putin ... The Ayatollah... who is it today?

Stick with the team that will kill you if you leave. The Autocrats! Sign up today.

Here's another famous quote you might recognize.

*The land of the free, and the home of the brave.*⁴

We are not brave because we are free. We are free because we are brave. And if we stop being brave enough to look for and follow the facts to find the truth, and speak it, and speak up against those who lie, cheat, steal, kill, and seek to destroy us, we will no longer be free.

Simple clarity

I believe people when they threaten me. If it's bodily harm, I believe that the right of self defense kicks in. There are many tens of thousands of people today all around the world who support people who have openly declared that they will not stop till they kill me and my family.

I believe that the right of self defense in this case means that they should be stopped before they can kill me and my family. The threat itself, even without the action, is not 'free speech'. It is a threat of violence, an incitement to murder, and if anyone acts on it, it is a conspiracy.

I am OK with them being arrested and I think there should be a heavy penalty including incarceration and financial ruin to people who make such threats against others.

I don't understand why those who threaten lawmakers are not arrested. I don't understand how, as a society, our universities do not teach the pro-Hamas protesters about the actual historical facts to counter the lies and deceptions being perpetrated against them. And I don't understand how the "free press" doesn't fire the propagandists who push lies to their readers.

Conclusions

Silence in the face of evil is complicity. It is not OK for you to threaten others with violence, and anyone who ignores those threats does so at their own peril. As a society we need to stop it there rather than wait for it to escalate. But as individuals, when faced with such threats, it is important for us to stand up and be heard. Living in fear is hardly living at all.

I say this particularly to the oppressed people of what is now called Palestine, and of Russia, and China, and North Korea, and Iran, and the Republicans under threat from your own; Speak out against those threatening you and as for help to defeat them. It is the only path forward, fraught with danger, but the only path through it.

³ This is an actual quote (translated) from an intelligence chief in Russia under Stalin telling his intelligence expert that the information provided based on the facts in the field were not going into the intelligence assessment. After Stalin killed the previous intelligence chief for disagreeing.

⁴ The national anthem of the United States of America.