

Fake News in Republic of Moldova

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Table of Contents

1. Top 5 Fake News in Moldova in 2021
2. Introduction
3. The contents of the news
4. The target group
5. The impact on the intended target group

Top 3 Fake News in 2021

1. "The Occident is interfering with Moldova's intern affairs"
2. "Moldova is planning an attack on Transnistria, with the support of the Occident"
3. "Russia has played a huge role in Moldova's development, while Romania made things only worse"



Introduction

To fully understand the content and the target of these fake news, you need a little context:

2021 was, as you know, the year in which Russia attacked Ukraine.

As you may also know, Moldova has always had people attached to Russia, so opinions have been divided into 2: those supporting Russia and those who were against Russia and what they did. In this context, a lot of fake news appeared online, with the purpose to convince people of taking one of the 2 sides mentioned. As you may have noticed, top 3 fake news are from the side supporting Russia, trying to make people fear the Occident, Romania and Europe in general, whilst making them praise Russia.

We will present the second fake news from the top 3 presented: *"Moldova is planning an attack on Transnistria, with the support of the Occident"*

The content of the news

This piece of news was very popular in Moldova shortly after Russia's attack on Ukraine. Titles like "The Occident is pushing Moldova toward a war with Transnistria and Russia" or "Romania, Poland, Ukraine and Moldova are preparing to attack Transnistria" were all over the internet in the months following the beginning of the war in Ukraine.

Links to the full version of the news:

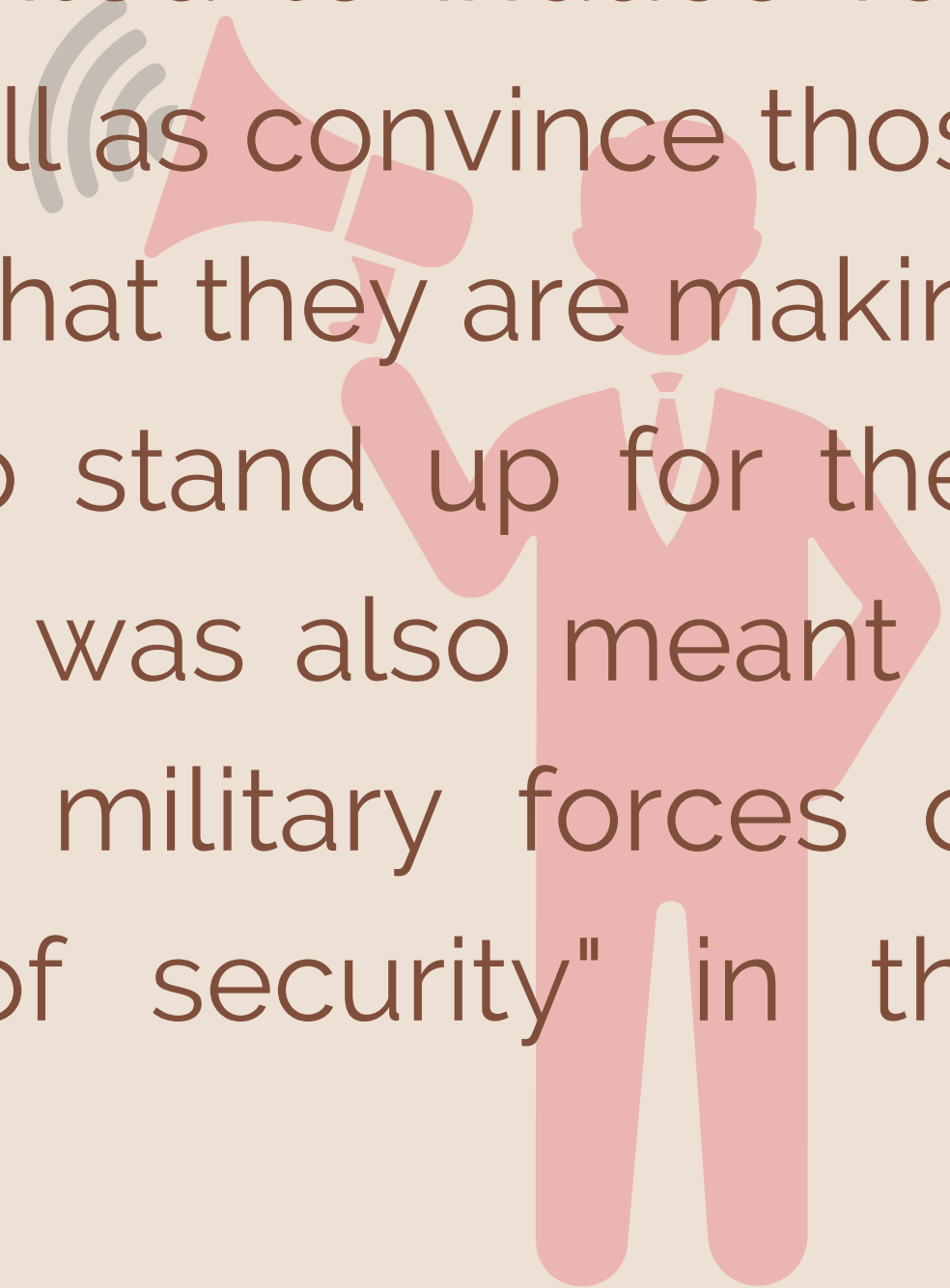
<https://www.veridica.ro/dezinformare/dezinformare-romnia-alaturi-de-polonia-ucraina-si-moldova-se-pregateste-sa-invadeze-transnistria>

<https://www.veridica.ro/stiri-false/fake-news-ofake-news-occidentul-impinge-republica-moldova-spre-razboi-cu-transnistria-si-rusia>

The target group



The authors of these fake news wanted to induce fear and panic amongst moldovans, as well as convince those supporting Europe and the Occident that they are making a mistake and give more reasons to stand up for their cause for those supporting Russia. It was also meant to justify the presence of the russian military forces on Moldova's territory as "the base of security" in this country.





The impact

As intended, the news created panic on the territory. The context of the war made people susceptible and sensitive, so a little spark ignited the fire in many people. But, of course, it was easy for the authorities and for anyone with a little bit of capacity to think analytically to prove it was fake news, so I would say that none of the people supporting Europe did not start supporting it less. Maybe it had an effect only on those already supporting Russia, since it gave them another reason to criticise the government and be violent with people who criticised the war in Ukraine and Russia's politics.

Thank you
for your attention!