

# No Matter How Well Russian Media Expose Western Lies ...

By <u>Eric Zuesse</u> Global Research, November 09, 2015 Region: <u>Middle East & North Africa</u> Theme: <u>Media Disinformation</u>, <u>US NATO</u> <u>War Agenda</u> In-depth Report: <u>SYRIA</u>

Western 'news' media simply refuse to report the lying that's done by Western 'news' media and their governments.

Western media didn't even report — and more than a decade after the fact, they still are not reporting — that George W. Bush was lying when he <u>said on 7 September 2002 that the</u> <u>IAEA had just issued a report saying that Saddam Hussein was six months away from having a nuclear weapon — when he said this even though the IAEA repeatedly denied having ever issued such a report. (And: largely because Western media *still* don't report that he had *lied* there, the Gallup Poll, on 20 June 2014, found that former President George W. Bush was continuing to be well-regarded by the American public: he still had an approval rating of 53%, and only 44% of Americans disapproved of him.</u>

His approval-rating within his own Republican Party continued to be an astronomically high 88%. His failure to have acted on pre-9/11 intelligence about Al Qaeda, the massive needless bloodshed from foreign invasions, trillions of dollars wasted, millions of needless Iraqi refugees produced, tortures and 'renditions' in violation of international law, and the explosion of financial fraud and its resulting economic crash, all failed to cause him to be generally unpopular amongst the American people, whose nation he had actually almost wrecked. Such is the power of a constantly lying press, which claims that all these catastrophes were 'well-intentioned' by the 'democratically' 'elected' President.)

And, more than a decade later, the media are still not reporting that <u>Barack Obama lies</u> <u>saying</u> that the August 2013 sarin gas attack in Syria was from Assad's forces and not from the rebel side — which it actually was. (Obama repeats this lie every time he 'justifies' his invasion of Syria. He's actually supporting the people who *did* that sarin attack and <u>he *knows* it</u>.)

When will Western 'news' media start behaving as if they're actual news-media in an authentic democracy, instead of mere propaganda-outlets for their government against the various nations that the local aristocracy (the Western aristocrats who also own the 'news' media) want to take over or else destroy — first, Libya, then <u>Ukraine</u>, now Syria — all allies of Russia (<u>as had been Saddam Hussein's Iraq</u>), which Russia is <u>the American aristocracy's actual ultimate target here</u>.

It's like George Orwell's 1984, in "the West." It's no real <u>democracy</u> here. It's fake. It's built on lies. (Just as all U.S. Presidents since the end of the Soviet Union have been lying about

### <u>Russia.</u>)

And it has been going on like this for decades in the United States. For example, farther on, in that same video (at 3:17) which is linked here at the top of this article, is also the 1990 Congressional testimony of "Nurse Nayirah" about Saddam Hussein's atrocities in her country Kuwait, which testimony was used in Congress to 'justify' Bush Senior's war against Saddam's army in Kuwait. That 'evidence' too was <u>a U.S. government hoax, engineered with the assistance of Kuwait's U.S. Embassy and the PR firm Hill and Knowlton.</u> (And a fuller description of that PR campaign can be found <u>here</u>. And also <u>here</u>.)

It wasn't publicly revealed, that <u>Nayirah was a member of Kuwait's royal al-Sabah family</u>, she was the daughter of Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States, Saud Nasser Al-Saud Al-Sabah. The <u>al-Sabah family</u> plus the National Parliament, own Kuwait (they jointly control the country and own its oil wells), and the al-Sabahs had hired Hill and Knowlton for this propaganda-operation. None of that was revealed to the public when "nurse Nayirah" was shown <u>crying on U.S. television</u> as she testified <u>lying</u> in Congress.

What the al-Sabah family were actually crying about was the theft of Kuwait from them, after they had (centuries earlier) largely stolen Kuwait from the Kuwaiti public and privatized it largely to themselves. For this theft from the al-Sabahs and from the National Parliament, the Bush family, long allied with the Saud family (friends of the Sabah family) sent America's soldiers in to kill, and be killed, in Kuwait.

We know why the Bushes did this. Why is Obama doing it? Who are his friends?

And, above all: When will the Western 'news' media *start* reporting about their own fakeness? Isn't that the pre-condition for any *intelligent* consumer of news to start to take them seriously? (Perhaps Western 'news' executives don't think so; perhaps they think that, instead, *hiding* their fakery is the only way to *keep* their 'dumb' audience's trust.)

<u>Here</u> and <u>here</u> are two Western news-reporters who have gone public about those individual journalists' personal refusals of demands by management to deceive the public. (Both of them were fired and then blackballed for doing this. Journalists are actually trapped.)

#### Personal note:

No one pays me to write this sort of thing. I offer my news reports and commentaries free to all American and many other Western news-media, in order to persuade them that they should start to become honest — and also in order to encourage readers to support the few that already *are* honest enough to report the truth about what has actually happened to the media in the Western world (google the headline to this report between quotation-marks, and see who published this and who didn't).

The reason that I do this is that the biggest news-story of all, to me, is actually about the press itself. (Incidentally: America's self-styled 'critics' of the press, such as MediaMatters, FAIR, and AIM, don't report this particular news-beat either — they too are mere propaganda-vehicles.) And, in fact, the biggest scandal is that there is no market for honesty in the journalism-profession in the West.

The West is all that I know about and have investigated; so, I can't say whether this corruption is the same elsewhere, and I won't speculate about that. My concern is the

corruption here, not there. And I have found lots of that corruption, such as: <u>here</u> and <u>here</u> an

Until the Western press starts reporting its own corruptness, democracy will be impossible in the West. Wars and other catastrophes can be the result. Criminal invasions such as of Iraq in 2003, or perhaps even of Russia itself yet to come, can result from a lying press. That's why I am concerned about this.

\* Regarding the RT investigative news report that starts this article, the BBC even had the nerve to headline, after it was telecast, a 'news' report supposedly exposing the RT news report as false, while not identifying anything in it to *be* false. On 21 September 2015 they headlined, very misleadingly, <u>"UK regulator Ofcom backs BBC in Russian TV case,</u>" and opened (also misleadingly saying what had allegedly been affirmed in what they had 'won'): "The BBC has won a case against Russian TV channel RT, which claimed the corporation faked a report on Syria. The station [RT] said the BBC had 'staged' a chemical weapons attack for a news report, and digitally altered the words spoken by an interviewee.

The BBC complained to Ofcom, saying the 'incredibly serious' allegations struck 'at the heart' of its obligations to accuracy and impartiality." (At least that much from the BBC was honest: this RT report really did strike at the heart of the BBC's trustworthiness.) However, only at the end of this BBC 'news' article, after a lot of misdirection and side-tracking in the BBC's article, was the actual decision from Ofcom quoted from, or even summarized, when it finally said:

"It [Ofcom] ruled: 'We did not consider that viewers would have clearly understood that the 'massive public investigation'... was a complaint by a member of the public to the BBC which had been responded to in detail by the BBC and that it was also based on a number of online articles detailing individuals' opinions.' RT has been directed to broadcast a summary of Ofcom's decision that its programme was misleading."

Nothing was identified in this BBC 'news' article as having been 'misleading' in the RT news report. And, specifically, RT's allegation that the BBC had staged and "faked a report on Syria" wasn't actually denied in the BBC's article (though the opening of the BBC 'news' article misleadingly suggested that the charge that the BBC had engaged in fakery there had been found by Ofcom to be a false allegation by RT as the BBC was alleging — which wasn't at all true). However, in order for RT to retain its license in UK, they had to comply with the British regulatory agency's command. And Britain doesn't have a censored 'news' media? The UK is a 'democracy'? The Home Team (BBC) can use the home-nation's media-regulator to punish a foreign competitor that has exposed the Home Team's lies, and this is supposed to be 'democracy'?

Here is what Ofcom's actual report on this case actually said:

"Ofcom has not taken forward [i.e., accepted] the BBC's complaint of due accuracy under Rule 5.1 as this rule applies to news reports and is therefore not applicable to the Programme which was an investigative current affairs programme. However, Ofcom considered that the [RT] Programme raised issues warranting investigation under Rule 2.2 of the Code which states:

'Factual programmes or items or portrayals of factual matters must not materially mislead the audience.'"

In other words: Whereas the BBC's 'news' story here had opened by alleging that, "The BBC has won a case against Russian TV channel RT, which claimed the [BBC] corporation faked a report on Syria," that statement by BBC was false. Ofcom's report had clearly stated that, "accuracy ... is ... not applicable to the program." Furthermore: elsewhere in Ofcom's report, there was also this:

"Ofcom's functions do not extend to regulating the provision of the BBC's services in so far as they concern the accuracy or impartiality of the content of any programme included in the BBC's UK public broadcasting services."

In other words: As regards the BBC itself, accuracy isn't required, not only in "an investigative current affairs program" but in *anything at all* which comes from the BBC. Wow! Why would Ofcom — supposedly the BBC's (and all news-media's) regulator, say such things? The reason is obvious once one reads the rest of Ofcom's report. The BBC in its complaint to Ofcom, which had sparked this ruling by Ofcom, *provided no documentation disproving or in any way contesting the truth of what the RT news-report had reported*. For this reason, Ofcom instead applied a different, totally vague and therefore pliable standard, namely that "factual matters must not materially mislead the audience." Even if the given "investigative current affairs programme" is 100% "accurate," it must not "materially mislead" (unless it's the BBC, which is free to falsify. The BBC is allowed to be entirely inaccurate anywhere, but RT isn't allowed even to merely "materially mislead" — whatever that's supposed to mean).

So: what was the basis for Ofcom's ruling that this RT program did "materially mislead"? Ofcom presented details of where the progam was "misleading." Most of them consisted of arguments to the effect that the private person who had investigated the BBC's report, Robert Stuart, and who was quoted at several points in the RT report, had produced no 'massive public investigation,' though it was, in fact, massive and had, in fact, been made public on the Web, at

https://bbcpanoramasavingsyriaschildren.wordpress.com/.

The Ofcom report said that:

"The BBC said that the 'extremely disturbing findings' of the 'massive public investigation' referred to and relied on in the [RT] Programme were in fact the complaints of Mr Stuart and that the statement of Mr Stuart which is read out in the Programme is portrayed as the 'outcome of an official public investigation'. The BBC said that these assertions are false and 'unevidenced'."

Ofcom there stated the BBC's accusation, using BBC's original complaint from BBC.

However, in fact, Mr. Stuart's investigative report was "massive," and it was "public" in the sense of its being online; and, as far as "official" is concerned, that three-word phrase "official public investigation" employed by the BBC in their complaint against RT, used by BBC in their charge filed at Ofcom against RT, describing RT's references to RT's

*investigation, that it was an 'official public investigation,' was a fabrication by the BBC:* Not once in the RT news-report was that three-word phrase actually *used*. Never was Mr. Stuart's report being referenced there as an "official public investigation," nor was it referred to there as any "outcome of an official public investigation." (You can easily confirm this fact by examining the <u>transcript of the segment</u> — you'll need to click there on "Read the full transcript.") The BBC lied there to Ofcom, and Ofcom simply took their lie on that as being the Gospel Truth.

Ofcom concluded its finding:

"For the reasons stated above, Ofcom was of the view that the Programme, in stating that the BBC was the subject of a 'massive public investigation which made some extremely disturbing findings' presented the audience with a materially misleading fact, and therefore, within the context of the Programme which was a current affairs programme, had the potential to cause harm to viewers."

As if the BBC's faked chemical-weapons attack by Assad's forces hadn't caused real harm to the BBC's viewers — and to democracy itself? That's right; that's Ofcom.

Therefore, (p. 124)

"Ofcom found that the Programme as broadcast resulted in unfairness to the BBC. [Oh? It's not 'harm to viewers' that Ofcom was actually concerned about here, after all?] Therefore, Ofcom has upheld the BBC's complaint of unjust or unfair treatment in the Programme as broadcast."

Clearly, by Ofcom's phrase there, "unjust or unfair treatment," they were referring to the BBC as being their client — not the BBC's viewers, at all.

Therefore, RT, afraid that their license will be revoked if any further compaints against them by the BBC are filed at Ofcom, did whatever they were told.

According to Britain's pro-imperialist *New Statesman* magazine, RT is <u>"Putin's</u> <u>Mouthpiece"</u> and is thus a threat. So: this is how Britain deals with that alleged situation by imitating the Soviet Union.

A nation doesn't need to be communist in order to be a dictatorship. Just ask Julian Assange, involuntarily imprisoned for years in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London because he runs an operation (wikileaks) that exposes dictatorships that call themselves 'democratic' though they aren't. Perhaps the most-successful dictatorships are the ones that (<u>like</u> the <u>U.S.</u>) deny that this is what they are.

It's a lot easier to lead the herd to slaughter if they don't know <u>what is happening behind</u> <u>the wall at the front of the line</u>.

Ofcom's real message to the British public: Get in line, herd!

Investigative historian Eric Zuesse is the author, most recently, of <u>They're Not Even Close</u>: <u>The Democratic vs. Republican Economic Records</u>, <u>1910-2010</u>, and of <u>CHRIST'S</u> <u>VENTRILOQUISTS: The Event that Created Christianity</u>.

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