

Post-truth

*in the context of disinformation
and a risk for fact-based policymaking*

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Complex context of disinformation & post-truth

- Much more than just fake news.
- Facts mixed with half-truths, exaggerations and lies.
- Populist-driven conspiracy theories; not just about freemasons.
- Revisionist distrust of the media, political institutions and scientific expertise.
- Putting topics out of context and mixing them with alternative narratives.
- False dilemmas based on problems without clear baseline.

Political risk for democracies

- Facts, critical thinking and scientific expertise become relative or irrelevant.
- Human intelligence's competitiveness undermined before the AI.
- Decreased need for facts-based policymaking/governance:
 1. Certain impact on evidence-based institutional and economic reforms.
 2. Strong impact on the stability of institutional structure and fundamental values of liberal democracies (EU & NATO, foreign policy options).
 3. Significant implications for transatlantic and global security.

The Assault on Intelligence (Michael Hayden)

- Post-truth connected with alternative-facts and deep state narratives.
- Erosion of the Enlightenment values (basic inputs for liberal democracies).
- Decreased value of fact-based intelligence.
- Base important societal decisions on the best judgment of objective reality.

Michael Hayden is former director of CIA and NSA.

Policy solutions

1. Constant fact checking (everyone has a chance)
2. Communication with arguments (informed policy making)
3. Civic education for liberal democracy (critical thinking & civic virtues)
4. Designing inclusive policies (different actors working together)