

The Psycho-Dynamics of Global Conflict

Brian Davey

SUMMARY: This article asks if British society has been driven by its political and security elite to become a paranoid society.

KEY WORDS: Russian hackers, fake news, projection, paranoia

'Early in life I have noticed that no event is ever correctly reported in a newspaper, but in Spain, for the first time, I saw newspaper reports which did not bear any relation to the facts, not even the relationship which is implied in an ordinary lie. I saw great battles reported where there had been no fighting, and complete silence where hundreds of men had been killed. I saw troops who had fought bravely denounced as cowards and traitors, and others who had never seen a shot fired hailed as the heroes of imaginary victories; and I saw newspapers in London retailing these lies and eager intellectuals building emotional superstructures over events that had never happened. I saw, in fact, history being written not in terms of what happened but of what ought to have happened according to various 'party lines'.' (George Orwell, 1943)

Are we becoming a paranoid society?

A few months ago I watched the 'comedy' *The Death of Stalin* – a portrayal of a paranoid society and the succession crisis caused by the death of its leader. I did not expect that British society would evolve, or be driven by its political and security elite, to become like the kind of society portrayed but it has begun to look like that.

Brian Davey started out as a radical economist, had psychiatric problems and ended up working in the mental health voluntary sector. He returned to being an ecological economist and is now retired.

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