

## The War for Hearts and Memes

by Mary Beaudoin

Two potent messages have been resounding through the echo chamber of the collective consciousness of American citizens—in other words, these memes have gone viral:

“Russia hacked the U.S. elections” and “fake news.” But the Russian hack remains unproven, and arbiters of fake news have smeared some good information resources. However, you might not hear about this unless you look at alternative news.

These memes coincide with the U.S./NATO military build-up on Russia’s borders. And lest peace-loving U.S. citizens might desire détente instead, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 is creating a Global Engagement Center, a collaboration of the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to counter foreign influence on Americans. This was preceded by “PropOrNot”, which popped up rather mysteriously on the internet and the front page of the *Washington Post*, attacking many legitimate alternative websites claiming that they are fake news, pushing Russian propaganda or acting as useful idiots to influence gullible Americans on behalf of Putin’s “brutal kleptocracy.” PropOrNot also cautioned against Russian and Iranian media assuming that U.S. citizens are too unsophisticated to be able to handle perspectives other than those provided by U.S. officials and corporate media. Have an open mind? Here are some websites maligned on the list:

antiwar.com  
asia-pacific research.com  
blackagendareport.com  
consortiumnews.com  
corbettreport.com  
globalresearch.ca  
greenvillepost.com  
informationclearinghouse.info  
journal-neo.org  
mintpressnews.org  
nakedcapitalism.com  
opednews.com  
paulcraigroberts.org  
presstv.com  
ronpaulinstitute.org  
rt.com  
russia-insider.com  
southfront.org  
sputniknews.com  
stormcloudsgathering.com  
strategic-culture.org  
thesaker.is  
truth-out.org  
truthdig.com  
voltairenet.org  
washingtonsblog.com  
wikileaks.org  
zerohedge.com