

# Challenging Truth and Trust: A Global Inventory of Organized Social Media Manipulation | Oxford Internet Institute

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The Oxford Internet Institute has released a new report on the manipulation of social media, noting that governments and political parties used Internet platforms to spread disinformation in at least 48 countries last year, up from 28 countries in an [earlier report](#).

The manipulation of public opinion over social media platforms has emerged as a critical threat to public life. Around the world, a range of government agencies and political parties are exploiting social media platforms to spread junk news and disinformation, exercise censorship and control, and undermine trust in the media, public institutions, and science. At a time when news consumption is increasingly digital, artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and “black-box” algorithms are being leveraged to challenge truth and trust: the cornerstones of our democratic society.

Social media manipulation is big business. Since 2010, political parties and governments have spent more than half a billion dollars on the research, development, and implementation of psychological operations and public opinion manipulation over social media. In a few countries this includes efforts to counter extremism, but in most countries this involves the spread junk news and misinformation during elections, military crises, and complex humanitarian disasters.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Source: [Challenging Truth and Trust: A Global Inventory of Organized Social Media Manipulation - The Computational Propaganda Project](#)