

In the Ukraine Conflict, Fake Fact-Checks Are Being Used to Spread Disinformation | ProPublica

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On March 3, Daniil Bezsonov, an official with the pro-Russian separatist region of Ukraine that styles itself as the Donetsk People's Republic, tweeted a video that he said revealed "How Ukrainian fakes are made."

The clip showed two juxtaposed videos of a huge explosion in an urban area. Russian-language captions claimed that one video had been circulated by Ukrainian propagandists who said it showed a Russian missile strike in Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city.

But, as captions in the second video explained, the footage actually showed a deadly arms depot explosion in the same area back in 2017. The message was clear: Don't trust footage of supposed Russian missile strikes. Ukrainians are spreading lies about what's really going on, and pro-Russian groups are debunking them. (Bezsonov did not respond to questions from ProPublica.)

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