

Russia wants more influence in Africa. It's using disinformation to get there. | Washington Post

By Shelby Grossman

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In October, the Russian government hosted the first [Russia-Africa Summit](#). More than 40 African heads of state arrived in Sochi to “identify new areas and forms of cooperation,” as Vladimir Putin noted in his greeting to participants.

A week later, Facebook [announced](#) that it had removed three networks of pages and accounts engaged in a long-term influence operation spanning eight African countries. Facebook, which had proactively identified a majority of the pages, attributed this operation to companies run by [Yevgeniy Prigozhin](#), a man with [close ties to Putin](#). Prigozhin is also the Russian oligarch U.S. authorities accused of bankrolling the Internet Research Agency — which the New York Times referred to as the “[notorious Russian troll factory](#).”

[...]

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