

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The internet is a very vast place, full of many things we can access. The era of globalization has made it easier for information to be obtained, with no limitation. Though we must ask ourselves, what makes something a lie? Falsehoods make a lie, baseless claims make a lie. But sometimes... a lie is repeated every so often to the point where it turns into truth. In digital media, it is very easy to weaponize this globally used technology. We can access the web as easily as through the phone we hold in our hands, the computer we use every day for our work, and the TV we use for entertainment. Disinformation is truly a global issue we must be wary of, especially in the modern age. Every day, we receive messages through broadcasts that contain information that is sometimes untrue. At the end of the day, it is up to us to discern the information we receive, be wiser in the usage of the internet, and be more vigilant to combat this issue.

The case of the QAnon conspiracy theory is an interesting one, if we're talking about the weaponization of the media. Conspiracy theory is a belief that some big influential organization is responsible for an event or a phenomenon, much like the QAnon conspiracy. The conspiracy theory, which accuses the global government of participating in a Satanic cult who does ritual sacrifices of children, sex trafficking is a result of paranoia. Conspiracy paranoia in the U.S is heavily associated with right-wing extremism, a character that QAnon has, and through their paranoia, birth hate speech. Their hate speech specifically targets Jewish faith, continuing the ongoing hate towards

the Semites through their accusations of Jewish involvement in the sex trafficking ring, the children sacrifice rituals, even so far as accusing them of being in control of the whole world.

QAnon conspirators feed on falsehoods, using the tool of disinformation. Disinformation in their hands proves as a weapon that they use in order to legitimize themselves and have political influence in the political sphere as well as delegitimize their opposing parties, being the democratic institutions. The legitimization of QAnon gains more support as QAnon adherents run for political office. This means that those with power in certain positions with the language of conspiracy possess the power to discredit, and delegitimize. QAnon uses hate speech and disinformation, two values that the UN is strongly against.

It might not be guns or spears that we choose as our weapons to fight each other. The QAnon conspiracy is a mere weapon that is being used by their followers and supporters, believers who are avid followers of American nationalism, and the far right extremists. The whole world, a part of the international organization, the UN, has come together to combat this issue. Releasing statements, resolutions, to finally urging states to release a policy. To combat modern day issues, we need modern day solutions. But we as a society have a role to play, as a non-state actor, to take part in condemning this issue that would disrupt international peace. This research has proven one of the modern day conspiracies, originating from the U.S, to be violating some of the international values held by the UN. Values that would assist in maintaining peace and order in the world. The author hopes that this paper would come to be used as a way to prove many

more UN violations that have happened across the globe, especially threats that come from the media.

To end this paper, the author strongly condemns all forms of discrimination and incrimination of many of the marginalized groups, believing that we are all equal and deserving of the same rights. The author in no way believes in the act of persecuting a group because of their beliefs, their skin color, or their race, and the author supports the freedom and peace of existence. The author would also advise in being wise on the usage of the internet, and the consumption of media to avoid disinformation, misinformation, and to not fall for baseless claims. Being wise and filtering the usage of media consumption would prove healthy for both body and mind, as stated by Richard Hofstadter in his book of the *Paranoid Style of American politics*, “we are all sufferers from history, but the paranoid is a double sufferer, since he is afflicted not only by the real world, with the rest of us, by his fantasies as well.”

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