Parahyangan Catholic University
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
Undergraduate International Relations Study Program

Accredited "Unggul"

SK BAN-PT No. 1853/SK/BAN-PT/Ak-PNB/S/V/2023

The QAnon Phenomenon
and Their Violations Against the United Nations Values

Skripsi

Diajukan untuk Ujian Sidang Jenjang Sarjana

Program Studi Hubungan Internasional Program Sarjana

Oleh

Nada Khaula Itsnani

6091901244

Bandung

2024

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Adrianus Harsawaskita, S.IP., M.A

Bandung

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**List of Improvements to the Thesis
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No.	Revision Notes	Improvement	Placement of Improvement
1.	Changing the writing of *"Superior Accredited"* into a credible certification writing	Replaced the writing into *"Accredited 'Unggul'"*	Title page
2.	Wrong spacing format of written abstract	Changed the abstract spacing into 1.0, and added more explanation on abstract to align with improvements	Abstract, page iv and v
3.	More detailed description on Research Question regarding the UN Resolutions that apply to QAnon's violations	Added more description of Research Question and explanation of the significance of the question to help identify.	Chapter I, page 6
4.	Wrong choice of wording format for "Research Uses"	Replaced the wording format to "Research Utilities" for better understanding	Chapter I, page 7
5.	Suggested adding more QAnon related journals to Literature Review	Removed George Michael's book *Confronting Right Wing Extremism and Terrorism in the USA* and added Mia Bloom's book	Chapter I, page 7

		Pastels and Pedophiles.	
6.	Changing conceptual framework of "Far-right Ideology"	Removed the use of the "Far-right Ideology" concept and replaced it with "Conspiracy and Foreign Policy."	Chapter I, page 10
7.	Add a more narrative description on methodology and replace the term with "Data Collection Techniques."	Improved with more descriptive narration on the paragraph, and replaced the sub-title into "Data Collection Techniques."	Chapter I, page 15
8.	Replace the sub-title "Systemic Guidelines" and add a more descriptive explanation on the structure.	Replaced the sub-title into "Research Structure" and added a more detailed description on the structure mentioning the contents of each chapter.	Chapter I, page 16
9.	Remove the sub-title explaining the history of the UN, and just describe QAnon, and improve paragraphs into a more readable structure.	Removed the sub-title "Purpose of the UN" replaced with the "The Significance of United Nations Resolutions" to explain the relevant resolutions mentioned in the analysis, and improved paragraphs.	Chapter II, page 18-38
10.	Add a description on the figures mentioned in the thesis	Added description on figure 2.2 and figure 2.3	Chapter II, page 26 and 38
11.	Align and adjust the research based on the new conceptual framework	Fixed the title and changed it into "Qanon, Values, and Violations" and adjusted the contents based on the new conceptual framework and some paragraph fixes.	Chapter III, page 39-62
12.	Add a description concluding the research into conclusion.	Added the conclusion of the research within the paragraph mentioning the	Chapter IV, page 63-65

		RQ and the analysis using the RQ and some paragraph fixes.	

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Judul   : The QAnon Phenomenon and Their Violations Against the United

Nations Values

Melalui lembar pernyataan ini menyatakan bahwa penelitian ini merupakan hasil karya tulis ilmiah milik sendiri dan tidak mengatasnamakan atau diatasnamakan orang lain dengan tujuan memperoleh gelar akademik tertentu. Jika terdapat hasil karya tulis ilmiah milik orang lain, itu semua bersifat sebagai sumber rujukan yang ditulis sesuai kaidah serta pedoman yang berlaku.

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Bandung, 4 Januari 2024

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Abstrak

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Judul   : The QAnon Phenomenon and Their Violations Against the

United Nations Values

Teori konspirasi QAnon adalah teori yang menggunakan disinformasi yang disengaja melalui kampanye dan menyebarkan ujaran kebencian dan narasi palsu terhadap pemerintah global. Diketahui, keyakinan penganut QAnon yang bertentangan dengan nilai-nilai PBB yang menjunjung tinggi tindakan non-diskriminasi dan mengutuk ekstremisme, menimbulkan kekhawatiran jika dilihat dalam lingkup internasional. Kekhawatiran ini menimbulkan pertanyaan tentang nilai-nilai apa yang telah dilanggar oleh QAnon di PBB. Teori konspirasi bukanlah sesuatu yang baru dalam politik dunia, dan hal ini memerlukan konseptualisasi teori konspirasi dalam kebijakan luar negeri. Melalui urgensi ini dijelaskan bagaimana konspirasi QAnon digunakan sebagai bagian dari relasi kekuasaan dan bagaimana teori konspirasi memotivasi adanya urgensi tentang kebijakan luar negeri untuk terlibat. QAnon diketahui menargetkan kaum Yahudi, artinya mereka memiliki karakteristik anti-semit. Melalui disinformasi, QAnon mengobarkan ideologi ekstremis, melanggar kebijakan PBB dengan menargetkan identitas agama, dan dengan sengaja menyebarkan informasi palsu mengenai pandemi Covid-19, yang dapat mengancam kebijakan kesehatan masyarakat publik.

Kata Kunci: QAnon, Teori Konspirasi, PBB, Disinformasi, Ujaran Kebencian

Abstract

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United Nations Values

The QAnon conspiracy theory is a theory that embodies deliberate disinformation through their campaigns, spreading hate speech and false narratives against the global government. It is known that the beliefs of QAnon adherents are against the values of the UN that upholds the act of non-discrimination and condemns extremism, posing a concern if seen through an international scope. This concern raises the question of what kind of values has the QAnon violated from the UN. Conspiracy based theories are not a thing of yesterday when it comes to world politics, and this calls for the conceptualization of conspiracy theory within foreign policy. Through this study, it explains how the QAnon conspiracy is used as part of power relations and how conspiracy theories motivate the production of foreign policy knowledge. QAnon particularly targets the Jewish community, meaning that they have anti-semitic characteristics. Through disinformation, QAnon fuels the extremist ideology, violating the policies of the UN by targeting religious identities, and deliberately spreading false information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, which could pose a threat for public health measures.

Keywords: QAnon, Conspiracy Theory, UN, Disinformation, Hate speech

Acknowledgement

After a long eventful 6 months of the process of writing this research, filled with obstacles and challenges, the author can proudly say that this thesis is finished. This research, "The QAnon Phenomenon and Their Violations Against the United Nations Values" is inspired by the author's interest in international relations and conspiracy theories, finding a way to link the two and prove just how much of an issue it could be. This thesis serves as a requirement to obtain the bachelor degree in the International Relations study program under the faculty of Social Science and Political Science in Parahyangan Catholic University.

This research will try to explain the QAnon conspiracy theory, how it violates the UN values, and explore the roots of the conspiracy theory through the lens of foreign policy and conspiracy theory, within the framework of world politics. The author realizes that this research is not perfect, due to the language barrier, obfuscation of information, and the author's own incompetence. Therefore, the author welcomes any form of constructive criticism that will improve the general understanding of the topic.

The author would like to thank the kind people who kindly contributed and supported in the creation of this research, so that this research could be finalized in a timely fashion.

1. Mr. Agus Miranto and Mrs. Alicia Erawati Djonhar, the author's parents, who supported the author wholeheartedly from the beginning of the

know on international relations, inspiring her for the creation of this thesis.

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9. And last but not least, thank you to Nicki Minaj, for reminding the *barbs* to stay in school.

Bandung, 25 December 2023

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List of Acronyms

ARPANET	=	Advanced Research Projects Agency
ABC	=	American Broadcasting Company
ADL	=	Anti-Defamation League
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation
CBS	=	Columbia Broadcasting System
CNN	=	Cable News Network
CISA	=	Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
DNA	=	Deoxyribonucleic acid
FBI	=	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FFTCUK	=	Freedom For The Children UK
IET	=	Institution of Engineering and Technology
NCSWIC	=	Nothing Can Stop What Is Coming
NBC	=	National Broadcasting Company
TV	=	Television
UK	=	United kingdom
USA	=	United States of America
USSR	=	Union of Soviet Socialist Republic
UNHCR	=	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSCR	=	United Nations Security Council
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN	=	United Nations
WHO	=	World Health Organization
WWG1WGA	=	Where We Go One, We Go All

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In this modern day and age, the UN has contributed to a lot of issues and crises, adopting resolutions that would benefit the states. One of the issues that we still face to this day is the alarming rate of xenophobia, racial discrimination, intolerance as well as anti-semitism and islamophobia around the world. Its scale and the impact of this hate speech is further amplified by the existence of the internet and modern day communication technologies. In response to this threat potentially disrupting the peace of the world, the UN launched the *United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech* on June 18, 2019.[1] The UN Security Council then released Resolution 2686 at their 9347th meeting, specifically on June 14, 2023 to combat this problem, recognizing the dangers of hate speech, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, as well as other forms of intolerance that could cause escalation of conflict.[2]

Another problem that has come into issue that is not far too different from the threats of hate speech, is the dangers of disinformation. Both issues have become prominent in the digital age, and that is why modern day problems require modern day solutions. Through the advancement of technological transformations surrounding the ease of access to information, the spread of disinformation is just as easy as one click

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[1] ———. 2023. "Say #NoToHate - the Impacts of Hate Speech and Actions You Can Take." United Nations. 2023. https://www.un.org/en/hate-speech.
[2] UN Security Council. 2023. "Security Council Resolution 2686 (2023)." https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s-res-2686.pdf.

away from a phone in someone's hand. Disinformation and misinformation are often aligned, but as a matter of fact, they are intended with different goals. Differing from misinformation, disinformation is purposefully created and shared with the aim to deceive.[3] From this definition, comes conspiracy theories and hoaxes that are spread around easily accessible social media platforms, which is harmful and could potentially be a threat to the world. The recent spread of disinformation regarding Covid-19 has prompted the UN to officially release a resolution to combat this information threat that was adopted by the General Assembly on December 24th, 2021.[4] These two issues could be applied and analyzed in one of America's most famous conspiracy theories that has resulted in real life consequences, the QAnon conspiracy.

Disinformation alongside with hate speech goes side by side as media-based weapons. Evidently, we could see that disinformation and hate speech was heightened during the 2016 presidential elections, according to a study done by Louisiana State University, reporting that the amount of disinformation spread on *Facebook* that was in favor of Trump was around 30 million, whereas those in favor of Clinton only amounted to be 8 million times.[5] Other than the disinformation, it was also reported that the hate speech had been spiraling around social media during the election season, adding elements of racism, xenophobia, homophobia, sexism, and bigotry, which are against the UN code as it violates the respect for human rights.

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[3] "Misinformation vs Disinformation - Taylor & Francis Insights." n.d. Insights - Taylor & Francis. https://insights.taylorandfrancis.com/social-justice/misinformation-vs-disinformation/#.
[4] UN General Assembly. 2021. "Resolution 76/227."
[5] Georgacopoulos, Christina, and Grayce Mores. 2020. "2016 Election." Faculty LSU. July 2020. https://faculty.lsu.edu/fakenews/elections/sixteen.php.

In the year of 2017, an anonymous user posted a series of messages on the website 4chan. This anonymous user signed off as "Q", and they claimed to have a level of US security approval known as the "Q clearance". The user posted a series of unfounded theories that claims that President Donald Trump is secretly holding a war against an elite Satan-worshiping pedophiles inside the government, business, and media, particularly from the democratic parties.. As absurd as that sounds, Q has a way of convincing the mass through his cryptic and encoded messages on the 4chan website.

The world itself has a long history of conspiracy-theory-based movements that always seem too ridiculous to take seriously. One of the most prominent examples of how disinformation and hate speech go hand-in-hand, was the propaganda done by the Nazis during the world war, persecuting the Jews and discriminating against them.[6] In terms of scaling, QAnon could not be considered as a cult as it's too big. It isn't secretive, and people are actually trying to make it into a big movement. The followers of the QAnon conspiracy are known to be a majority of it are individuals who seek alternative reasons and factors from events that have already happened. It is safe to say that the QAnon movement has entered the evangelical churches to some degree, infiltrating religious beliefs. Acts of hate and discrimination are condemned by the international organization, stating that they pose a threat towards the peace that has been maintained. The whole point of the UN was to help support this agenda, maintaining

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[6] United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. 2023. "Nazi Propaganda." Holocaust Encyclopedia. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. 2023.
https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/nazi-propaganda.

peace through cooperation. But the existence of QAnon has raised some questions, debating about its dangers.

1.2   Problem Identification

In this day and age, the world will continue to have new problems to deal with, that will also require us to come up with solutions and resolve to handle this situation. The QAnon conspiracy theory is a conspiracy theory originating from the United States that has made an impact on a global scale. Unfortunately for the movement, the QAnon conspiracy has violated more than one UN values, with the potential of endangering human rights, peace, and security.

The first one being the UN General Assembly Resolution 76/227 in which QAnon's method of conspiring do not align with, as it harms the usage of media and information through their conspiracies, deliberately spreading fake news and disinformation and sprinkling them to influence other people that could harm peace and security. The policy urges the tackling of fake news and disinformation by various actions, and thus does not align with QAnon's disinformation technique.

Whereas the second one, the UN Security Council Resolution 2686 discusses how crucial it is to respect basic human rights and not practice hate speech, something QAnon is very active in doing within their movement. The policy mentions the condemnation of the act of racism, anti-semitism, islamophobia, xenophobia, and many acts of hatred that could jeopardize free speech and peace.

And thus, in this research, the author elaborates on the dangers of conspiracy based theories when mixed with world politics, and the UN values that the conspiracy theory has violated as well as how it contributed to public hate speech and the spread of disinformation that resulted in real life consequences.

1.2.1   Problem Limitation

The QAnon conspiracy started in late 2016 during the presidential elections in the US, which was later popularized in the following year by many of its faithful followers. The contents and data of the conspiracy theory that would be provided and analyzed in this research would range from 2016. Following the inability to access social media algorithm tracker application, this analysis will not contain quantitative data that explores the impacts of the QAnon conspiracy theory on the social media scale, but will be provided through narrative analysis on some journals as well as articles that have been released by experts, compiled by the author. As examples used in this research to prove the reach of the information, the author would only mention a limited number of countries, such as Germany, Japan, Canada, and lastly, the United Kingdom as these countries are known to have the most QAnon influence according to mainstream media.

1.3   Research Question

After addressing the problems, it is safe to conclude that the author has come to a conclusion for the research question; **What are the contents of the QAnon**

conspiracy that are conflicting with the existing UN values? This research question proves the need to address the violations done by the QAnon conspirators that are not according to the UN values. Through this research question, it helps us determine and identify the values that QAnon has violated within the UN, and proves how conspiracy theories are not a thing to be taken lightly on an international platform, as it has potential in disrupting and disturbing world peace. The significance of the values practiced within QAnon allows us to study the behaviors of QAnon conspirators, study their pattern, and calls for the awareness of internet and media consumption.

1.3.1 Research Purposes

The purpose of this research is to better understand the dangers of unfiltered internet use, as well as being able to distinguish between credible information and disinformation. Through this research, it underlines the urgency and the need of foreign policy to tackle conspiracy theories, and urges international bodies to address this ongoing issue. This research also proves how QAnon violates the UN values, explains their methods in violation, and proves just how harmful media can be at the wrong hands, exploring the various methods of weaponization of media. The author will also explain QAnon's violations towards the UN code, particularly in hate speech, anti-semitism, racism, and racial discrimination as their most used tactic in spreading their influence.

1.3.2 Research Utilities

The usage of the research helps to address how important it is to have media literacy and distinguish between right and wrong. The world is moving with the help of technology, and this research would like to underline the importance of understanding behind every information in this new era of globalization. It is important to make sure when we are reading an information online, that it comes from reliable sources and proven to be reliable. With the globalization of information, the free access to information would also bring the dangers along with the benefits. The author would also highlight the importance of tolerance and respect to every group of people, condemn racism, antisemitism, and underline that human rights are for everyone.

1.4 Literature Review

For the literature review, the author will divide it into three parts; the first one would be studies surrounding the QAnon conspiracy, the second one would be about far right ideology, and the third one would be about UN value violations, followed by the author's opinions.

The first literature is *Trust the Plan: The Rise of QAnon and the Conspiracy That Reshaped the World* by American journalist working for The Washington Post, Will Sommer. His book, released just earlier last year in 2023, talks about the grounded experience of trying to follow the QAnon movement within the American society, dedicating his research on the QAnon conspiracy movement exposes how QAnon rose into fame, and how the belief has shaped the society. In this book contains a list of

interviews he has done to the QAnon protesters after being in their community for so long, infiltrating the community since day one. His book also talks about how the QAnon conspiracy gained its mainstream following among Republican lawmakers, their ordinary citizens, and how the belief poses a threat to democracy. Sommer's book provides the firsthand experience of being a QAnon follower, as we explore the mind of the followers, described by Sommer as he refers to them in third person. He had mentioned that his interactions with QAnon had gotten worse when the 2020 election came by, as he believed that QAnon and their followers are not a powerless internet oddity anymore, but the main event.[7]

The second literature is *Pastels and Pedophiles: Inside the Mind of QAnon* by Mia Bloom and Sophia Moskalenko. This book that was released in 2021 talks about the society under the effect of QAnon's corrosiveness, and also mentions how gender plays a central role into the QAnon conspiracy theory. Bloom and Moskalenko showcases the women in the QAnon society, how they actively participate in the Save the Children organizations as one of the beliefs of QAnon is the secret pedophilia ring and children being trafficked by secret government officials. Through their study, it shows how the QAnon phenomenon aligns with the views of extremism, for example, how they compare QAnon's method of women participation with ISIS's way of recruiting women. Bloom and Moskalenko state in their book that QAnon is nothing more than a collective lie.[8]

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[7] Sommer, Will. 2023. Trust the Plan. HarperCollins.
[8] Bloom, Mia. 2021. PASTELS and PEDOPHILES : Inside the Mind of Qanon. S.L.: Redwood Pr.

Last but not least, the third literature is *Human Rights in the United Nations* published in the journal of *American Society of International Law* Vol. 58 by Myres S. Mcdougal and Gerhard Bebr. This journal was released in 1964 and it discusses the goals of the UN program to value human rights, announcing that it is one of the promoted values of the international organization. It talks about the violations of the UN values, particularly in human rights, through historical experience. The mentions of the Genocide Convention that was drafted by the ad hoc committee should prove to be one of the first human rights promotion measure that the UN ever took, condemning its inhumane acts, and judging that it is a "crime against humanity," and deems that the intentional destruction of "a national, ethical, racial, or religious group" is part of an international crime.[9]

The three books discuss the values very nicely, one being the values followed by the QAnon, one explaining the society inside the QAnon, and one explaining how disinformation as a tool used by QAnon could violate the UN. But that's where the research gap comes in. The QAnon conspiracy should be a domestic problem originating from the United States. Sure those journals explain the concerns of main problems, but it doesn't explain how harmful QAnon is, when outside the scope of the United States. The first book didn't explain how the QAnon conspiracy theory could potentially violate the UN values, as we could only get a glimpse of the community through Sommer's eyes. This second book mischaracterizes QAnon into a simple collective lie, when in truth, it's much more in-depth than what Bloom and Moskalenko

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[9] McDougal, Myres S., and Gerhard Bebr. 1964. "Human Rights in the United Nations." American Journal of International Law 58 (3): 603–41. https://doi.org/10.2307/2196662.

have stated. Mcdougal and Bebr's book did not mention how disinformation and hate speech go hand-in-hand with each other as part of a bigger propaganda. In this research, we will explain *what* are the QAnon conspiracy values that violate the UN values, and *how* QAnon spread the conspiracy theory.

1.5   Conceptual Framework

The framework used for this research is **conspiracy and foreign policy,** a study by Tim Aistrope and Roland Bleiker that argues conspiracy as an act and pushes the perceptions of conspiracies as narratives that are intrinsically linked to power relations and the production of foreign policy knowledge.[10] Through this study, it explains how conspiracies are used as narratives that allow conspiracy theories to be situated as part of power relations that can legitimize and delegitimize.[11] This study suggests that the legitimacy of a conspiracy theory is closely related to the political position of the actor promoting or advancing it. To start, the term conspiracy theory refers to a theory or explanation that features a conspiracy among a group of agents as a central ingredient.[12]

Some examples of conspiracy theories are famous ones such as the first moon landing by NASA was accused as a hoax staged by them, the theory that the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center building were not exclusively caused by al-Qaeda, but also conspired by the U.S government, and lastly, the QAnon conspiracy theory that

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[10] Aistrope, Tim, and Roland Bleiker. 2018. "Conspiracy and Foreign Policy." Security Dialogue 49 (3): 165–82. https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010617748305.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Pauly, Marc. n.d. "Conspiracy Theories | Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy." Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy. https://iep.utm.edu/conspiracy-theories/.

accuses the global government of being part of an elite cabal network that owns a Satanic cult and a child trafficking ring and many more accusations that is analyzed in this research. According to this study, conspiracy theories play a central role in world politics.

In order to understand how conspiracy theories take role in world politics, we need to conceptualize it, according to Aistrope and Bleiker, into three different perspectives. The first perspective is that conspiracies are connected with paranoia and misperception, the second perspective on conspiracies is that it takes secrecy and suspicion to be important characteristics of mainstream political culture, and the third one is understanding the correlation of conspiracy theories and power relations.[13] For this research, the relevant perspectives that could be applied in this analysis about the QAnon phenomenon are the first one regarding conspiracy theory and misperception, and the third one, regarding power relations.

1.5.1 Paranoia and Misperception Perspective

Using this viewpoint, it explains the birth of conspiracy theories and how they are tightly linked to feelings of paranoia and distorted perceptions. From this perspective, it often uses the term "conspiracy theory" with negative undertones if according to Richard Hofstadter in his essay, *The Paranoid Style in American Politics (1964).* According to Hofstadter, his study suggests that the domestic issues happening in the United States correlates with the broader understanding of conspiracies in global

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[13] Aistrope, Tim, and Roland Bleiker. 2018. "Conspiracy and Foreign Policy." Security Dialogue 49 (3): 4-7. https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010617748305.

politics.[14] His study also links that the birth of paranoia and conspiracy theories at the time -- during the 1960s -- were heavily associated with right-wing political movements that were proposed to challenge the post-War establishment.[15] Some of the characteristics of right-wing extremists according to American historian George Michael include racism and anti-semitism, an element that is very tightly intertwined with conspiracy theories.[16]

Using Hofstadter's approach in this perception helps us understand sophisticated socio-political insights in the analysis of resurgent populism, especially in the Western culture. Until now, his approach has become the prevailing view of conspiracies in the political culture of the U.S. In the lens of foreign policy, conspiracy and conspirators are seen as a concerning feature of resurgent global populism. The study mentions how the irrational beliefs of extremists could threaten Western liberal democracy, as such in anti-semitic movements that are centered around the mythology of Jewish conspiracies.

Anti-semitism is an act of hatred towards Jews. People who are anti-semitic have this certain perception of Jews, where the rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-semitism are directed toward Jewish or even non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, and also toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.[17] Anti-semitism is often used to charge Jews for their "crimes" with conspiring to harm humanity, and often used to blame the Jews for "why things go wrong."[18] Some

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[14] Ibid.
[15] Ibid. p 5
[16] Michael, George. 2003. Confronting Right Wing Extremism and Terrorism in the USA. Routledge. p 3
According to Michael, the far right ideology also includes ethnic chauvinism and xenophobia.
[17] "Defining Antisemitism." 2016. United States Department of State. May 26, 2016.
https://www.state.gov/defining-antisemitism/.
[18] Ibid.

examples of anti-semitism include calling or justifying the harming of Jews in the name of radical ideology or religious extremism, accusing the Jewish for being the one controlling the media, economy, even government based on conspiracy theories, and many more hateful expressions up to the point of blaming all Jews for the actions of Israel.[19]

1.5.2 Narratives of Power Relations

The second perspective that is used in this analysis is the narratives of power relations that exist within conspiracy theories intertwining with global politics, where this perspective explains how conspiracy narratives are best comprehended as stories that could help gain legitimacy and/or the delegitimization in specific political contexts within the established hierarchies of authority and knowledge production.[20] The usage of the language of conspiracy which has implications and claims toward a subject that is problematic, is a tool for political contestation.

When a claim is labeled as a conspiracy theory, the consumers of said theory are directed away from the content of specific claims towards the social-psychological status of the people that make them.[21] The study suggests that this is an example of an *ad hominem* attack, an element existing within conspirators. The delegitimization process not only discredits specific claims, but also serves as a disincentive for engaging in political controversies, in particular when challenging established views

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[19] Ibid.
[20] Aistrope, Tim, and Roland Bleiker. 2018. "Conspiracy and Foreign Policy." Security Dialogue 49 (3):7. https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010617748305.
[21] Ibid.

that carries high personal and professional costs.[22] The power dynamics inherent in describing positions as conspiracies are highlighted, emphasizing that those with the power to use the term possess the ability to discredit certain positions. Meaning that the one that holds the power and claims toward a conspiracy theory, holds power towards the mass public opinion, and could weaponize conspiracy theories.

In this analysis, an example of a tool used in the power relations narrative is the instrument of **disinformation,** the deliberation of the falsehood of information that is covertly spread in order to influence the public opinion or obscure the truth, deliberately spreading misleading or biased information.[23] In other words, it could also be said that it is biased manipulated information, which has the goal to deliberately mislead and create propaganda. Disinformation according to this perspective becomes a weapon with the capacity to shape narratives and control the discourse.

In this perspective, the focus is not solely on the content of specific claims but on the broader dynamics of how narratives are constructed and manipulated to serve vested interests. The intentional dissemination of disinformation becomes a means of influencing political landscapes, shaping perceptions, and maintaining or challenging existing power structures within society. Understanding disinformation within the framework of narratives of power relations allows for a deeper analysis of how information is weaponized to gain and maintain influence in the political arena.

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[22] Ibid.

[23] National Library of Australia. "What Is Fake News, Misinformation, and Disinformation?" National Library of Australia. https://www.nla.gov.au/faq/what-is-fake-news-misinformation-and-disinformation.

1.6   Data Collection Techniques

The research method for this paper will be through qualitative research, using the journals and articles the author has gathered, as well as a compilation of QAnon's leaks and statements that are purposefully widely spread on the internet. Qualitative research is a study that focuses on the understanding of a research query using a humanistic or idealistic approach.[24] The qualitative method is used to understand people's beliefs, experiences, attitudes, behavior, and interactions as it generates non-numerical data. This method of research was first used in psychological studies, and has since then been used as an approach that can help view data more extensively.[25]

From the articles and journals that the author has compiled, the author would elaborate further on the violations of the QAnon conspiracy theory, in accordance with the values of the UN, and the conspiracy theory and foreign policy study using a narrative analysis. Narrative analysis is a subtype of qualitative data analysis that focuses on interpreting the core narratives from human experiences and motivations captured using loosely structured views.[26] Narrative analysis differs from content analysis, as content analysis determines how often certain words, concepts, or even themes appear inside a sampling of qualitative data, whereas narrative analysis points to the overall story and organizes the constructs and features of a narrative.[27] Using this technique, it applies the conceptual framework into the analysis, and allows the

[24]Pathak, Vibha, Sanjay Kalra, and Bijayini Jena. 2013. "Qualitative Research." Perspectives in Clinical Research 4 (3): 192. https://doi.org/10.4103/2229-3485.115389.
[25] Ibid.
[26] Kaluza, Jean. 2023. "Narrative Analysis in Qualitative Research: Examples, Methods & Types." Dovetail.com. March 7, 2023.
https://dovetail.com/research/narrative-analysis/#:~:text=Narrative%20analysis%20is%20a%20type.
[27] Ibid.

identification of characters, plotlines, and symbols that are in the QAnon conspiracy theory, along with the foreign policy study.

1.7   Research Structure

The chapters in this paper will consist of 5 chapters, with each chapter discussing specific topics. The specific topics are as follows;

Chapter I – This chapter consists of introduction, research questions, research purposes and data collection methods. The author would introduce the topic and give a brief background on the research that this paper will discuss. Through this chapter, the research question, utilities, purpose and the methodology of this research will be explained as a way to classify the tools used to do this analysis regarding QAnon's violations against the UN Values, before finally exploring the matter in Chapter III.

Chapter II – Significance of the UN and The Beginning of QAnon

This chapter explains the significance of the UN in this case and explains how UN resolutions could push for the need of developing policy in states, particularly in the case of hate speech, and the spread of fake news through disinformation which are the issues mentioned in this research as a result of the QAnon conspiracy theory. And lastly, the second part of this chapter mentions the history of the QAnon conspiracy theory, how it first emerged, as well as how it developed in the United States that would later leave a global impact and influence politics.

Chapter III – QAnon, Values and Violations

This chapter consists of the analysis of this research, an explanation on the values practiced by QAnon and how it violates the UN resolutions. The analysis done in this chapter uses the framework of conspiracy and foreign policy, as mentioned in the conceptual framework, and dives deeper into the QAnon phenomenon through the two perspectives used, connecting QAnon with paranoia, and QAnon with power relations. This chapter also explains the UN resolutions that are being undermined by QAnon, and how these resolutions pushed the urgency to tackle these issues. This chapter also mentions the number of countries affected by QAnon, their influence, and explains how the conspiracy theory has reached other countries in such a short time.

Chapter IV – Conclusion

This chapter consists of the conclusion of this analysis, and some piece of advice on media consumption. It explains QAnon's violations according to the UN resolutions briefly, and how the QAnon conspiracy theory connects with the framework of conspiracy and foreign policy. Mentions of harmful impact on hate speech and disinformation are also concluded in this chapter. This analysis ends with Richard Hofstadter's quote on conspiracy theory believers.