Journal of Journalism, Media Science and Creative Arts
ISSN (Print): 2790-9700 ISSN (Online): 2790-9719

Salman, M Volume 5(1)2025

https://orcid.org/0009-0005-7533-4640

Post-Truth Politics And The Power Of Media: Media Manipulation In Contemporary Political Discourse

Muhammad Salman [1], Muhammad Umar Nasir [2]
[1,2]Department of international relations, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad, Pakistan
*Corresponding email: salmanfarsi0344@gmail.com

Received: 01.08.2025; **Accepted:** 30.06.2025; **Available online: Published:** 30.06.2025.

Cite this article Salman, M., & Nasir, M. U. (2025, June 31). Post-truth politics and the power of media: Media manipulation in contemporary political discourse. *Journal of Journalism, Media Science & Creative Arts, 5*(1)

ABSTRACT

This paper investigates post-truth politics and populism, in particular, media manipulation and the impact of social media on politics, as it currently exists. In a post-truth political culture, it is seen that, personal beliefs and emotional appeals commonly supersede objective fact and empirical evidence, the implications of which extend beyond democratic institutions, public trust, or the quality of political conversation. By utilizing case studies such as the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the Brexit referendum, or the actions of populist leaders Donald Trump and Narendra Modi, this research shows how populist actors are able to weaponized social media to create and dispense emotional-based narratives for their strategic advantage, while disregarding traditional fact-checking measures. The purposeful media manipulation also at times furthers political polarization, and erodes trusting relationships between journalism, democracy, and elections. The research also examines how politically analogous narratives at times signify a national decline in political and objective reasoning, disrupt state and international relations cohesiveness, and ultimately diminish a thoughtful and informed citizenry. Through a post-truth theoretical lens, the research looks at the reliance of populism on persona, emotive rhetoric, and a humanity based on conflict to destabilize.

Keywords: *Media manipulation, The power of media, Populism, The post-truth politics, Political polarization*

Introduction

A political society or culture where public opinion is shaped by their personal feelings, emotions, and sentiments rather than facts, truth, and empirical evidence. In this society, personal beliefs are prioritized, and objectivity doesn't matter. It simply refers to a political culture where emotional appeal and personal belief prevail over objective facts and evidence. Ultimately, truth and rationality become less effective in shaping narratives than emotions and identity. In previous decades, post-truth politics has gained more attraction and provides for a very disconcerting theme in terms of global consciousness.

There are some alternatives, such as the *post-truth era, post-fact society, and post-factual information*. However, social media and other digital platforms have played a major role as potential contributors to enhanced public debates, primarily in terms of propaganda, misinformation, and manipulated narratives. The ultimate result of post-truth politics is to create polarization and decisions based on falsehood and less consideration of logical thinking in the society.

Background of research

In 1992, the term, *post-truth*, was first used by a Serbian-American playwright, *Steve Tasich*, in his essay in *the Nation magazine*. Although the term

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

entered common usage primarily when the American public had accepted fabricated facts and lies of *the Iran-Contra scandal* and *the Gulf war*. This term has become widespread and popular during the 21th century. Post-truth has existed by manipulating and deceiving politics; nowadays, however, the current post-truth is unique in a way that it treats truth itself—not just as something to be easily manipulated but increasingly as something considered irrelevant. Due to post-truth, societies become chaotic and disastrous because it blurs the distinguishing line between factual data and fabricated info. In this era, the supply of more and more information and weaponizing lies confuses the people to an extent that they start believing in something that is far beyond any reality without cross-checking these data.

Its sudden applicability in the practical world, where political campaigns seemed to win not only on account of lies but majorly because of them. John Keane, a political theorist, states, "post-truth is not simply lying; it is a far more complex transformation of communication, where facts are drowned in emotional appeals and were felt truths often outweigh objective truths."

During the 21th century, especially after the 2016 U.S. presidential elections and the Brexit campaign, misinformation came to dominate the political dynamics. In fact, it was in the year 2016, that Oxford Dictionaries even termed "post-truth" as their Word of the Year since the term continued to play an important role in shaping global politics (Oxford Languages, 2016). Post-Truth Politics has gained prominence, supported by the 24/7 news cycle, social media, and fake news websites. As scholar *Tuukka Yla-Anttila* states, "Populist movements became an observable phenomenon that relies more on identity-based argumentation."

In the previous decade, the notion of post-truth politics has received a great deal of attention after events like the Brexit referendum and U.S. presidential election in 2016 highlighted the importance of emotionality over objective facts. The term post-truth politics is used here to describe a distinctly political environment where emotional reaction and personal beliefs take precedence over facts, evidence, and rational argument. This concept has important implications when considering political communication, trust in public institutions, and the functioning of democracies.

The emergence of populist political leaders, who inherently function in a post-truth environment, reflects larger trends where political discourse is shaped equally by emotion-invoking rhetoric and polarization rather than evidence and empirical facts (Mudde & Kaltwasser, 2017). These dynamics are evidenced in political figures like Donald Trump, Hugo Chávez, Viktor Orbán, and Narendra Modi, where media is utilized to fabricate narrative environments that allow their stories to become preferable if not synonymous with truth and fact.

At the core of post-truth politics are social media and digital platforms, which have changed politics in ways we have never experienced before. Social media was built as a place where people could communicate interpersonally, but it has emerged as a key platform of political messaging. Populist leaders, in particular, have seized social media as a way of abandoning traditional ways of messaging through media as a way to directly communicate with their audience. The direct communication through social media provides populist leaders the opportunity to create their own individualistic narratives that appeal to their bases emotionally. By saying nothing factual, they tell the story in connective ways, i.e., turning their attention from fact and into appeal (Lazer, 2018). For example, leaders like Trump and Modi utilize Twitter (X) and Facebook to express opinions without having to worry about fact-checking and manipulate the mass public in real time.

The ability to manipulate the narrative through the media is consequential. First, media manipulation has increased the distrust of the public trust in media outlets and fact-based journalism/reporting at large. By leveraging media, populist leaders are asserting their views and often questioning credibility when independent news journalism does not align with their narrative or is not in their favor (Gaston & Harrison-Evans, 2018). The ensuing doubts about authorities have contradictory effects: it taps followers into trusting political elites individually while corrupting the usefulness of the democratic system as a whole when followers question the legitimacy of objective journalism.

Politicians, such as Donald Trump, recognized long ago the value of media manipulation as a powerful tool to rally a loyal constituency. Trump's over-reliance on social media during his campaign and presidency illustrates how populist leaders can create a post-truth narrative for followers. Besides

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

his hyperlinks to alternative media, Trump's use of Twitter (X) to counteract traditional media outlets and convey messages directly to millions of people allowed him to bypass fact-checking and the monitoring by mainstream media. He also directly provided fake news through this media, creating a channel to get out disinformation (Iyengar & Hahn, 2009).

Another example is Narendra Modi's social media presence regarding creating an economic narrative for people to buy into a model of economic growth. Modi's social media presence and American-style engagement allow him to engage followers with an emotionally charged message about economic promises of growth. This enabled Modi to create some degree of national pride with contested governmental policies and actions, like the demonetization of currency in 2016 and state control over minorities (Vaishnav, 2019). Modi's use of social media as a way to engage his base model altered the political landscape in India and elevated the status of the citizen's voice even as truth and objectivity were often left behind for popular, populist messaging.

Hugo Chávez in Venezuela and Viktor Orbán in Hungary have both used media manipulation in order to take control of their state's message. Chávez used state-owned media sources to- bolster his socialist agenda while vilifying opposition and additional media people that opposed his policies (Hetlan, 2022). Since the government of Venezuela was tethered to the media landscape of Venezuela, Chávez was successful in crafting the public perception of his regime. For example, Orbán used media manipulation when his government controlled the media space to make its ultimately authoritarian government reflective of the savior or defender of Hungarian values against attacks from an external force, the European Union, and against an influx of some refugees.

In Hungary, the state took control of the media landscape, which has led to a significant loss of independent journalism and which has led to the naming of critics as enemies of the state by the government.

The implications of post-truth politics are widespread, eroding the functioning of democratic institutions because both the left and the right surround objective debate with emotional (and sometimes distorted) narratives. These circumstances threaten political accountability and, ultimately, public trust in the democratic process.

As populist leaders dominate the political conversation, the distinction between fact and fiction seems to evaporate, minimizing the ability for citizens to understand their own political environment and, therefore, engage as informed decision-makers.

Additionally, the issue of post-truth also impacts international relations. Populist leaders have ushered in a distinct form of international diplomacy, where facts are often argued against or disregarded altogether, and emotional appeals are more common than reasoned negotiation. Moving forward in this way can lead to international instability, where countries are acting from a place of narrower, inward-looking perspectives, in which nationalistic ambitions are of higher value than productive discussion (Mudde & Kaltwasser, 2017).

Research Question

- How do populist leaders use media, particularly social media, to construct and disseminate post-truth narratives?

- What are the effects of post-truth politics on democratic institutions and public trust?

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this research mainly draws from Post-Truth Theory, which explains how there has been a shift away from evidence-based political discourse towards political emotion and individual beliefs, where objective truth and objective evidence are secondary to emotional appeals. Specifically with populist leaders, we view how populists are able to develop rhetoric that is appealing to a wide audience, regardless of the falsehoods, exaggerations, and misleading statements (also known as lying).

By appealing to emotional values instead of facts, populist leaders can manipulate the media to forgo meaningful rational discourse, leading to an environment where political truth is treated as relative. These ideological forms of media manipulation allow us to look through a theoretical lens at the role of media manipulation in the rise of post-truth politics.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

Journal of Journalism, Media Science and Creative Arts
ISSN (Print): 2790-9700 ISSN (Online): 2790-9719

Research Objectives

- To analyze the media strategies employed by populist leaders in shaping post-truth narratives.
- To assess the implications of post-truth politics for democracy and international relations.

Conceptual Framework

- A structured model or theory that provides a framework for your research.
- Defines key concepts, relationships, and assumptions relevant to your study.
- Helps guide data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

Literature Review

Political situations have changed dramatically in recent years, in large part powered by social media outlets like Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, allowing populist rhetoric, misinformation, and news that is manipulated without any accountability (Lazer, 2018). Emotional content is prioritized by social media algorithms, leading to echo chambers and filter bubbles that insulate users from divergent perspectives. These modalities of communication have empowered populist leaders to ignore traditional journalistic scrutiny, instead communicating with their audiences directly without mediation. Donald Trump's over-reliance on Twitter is a prime example of using social media to spread misleading information and shape the narrative (Gopnik, 2020)

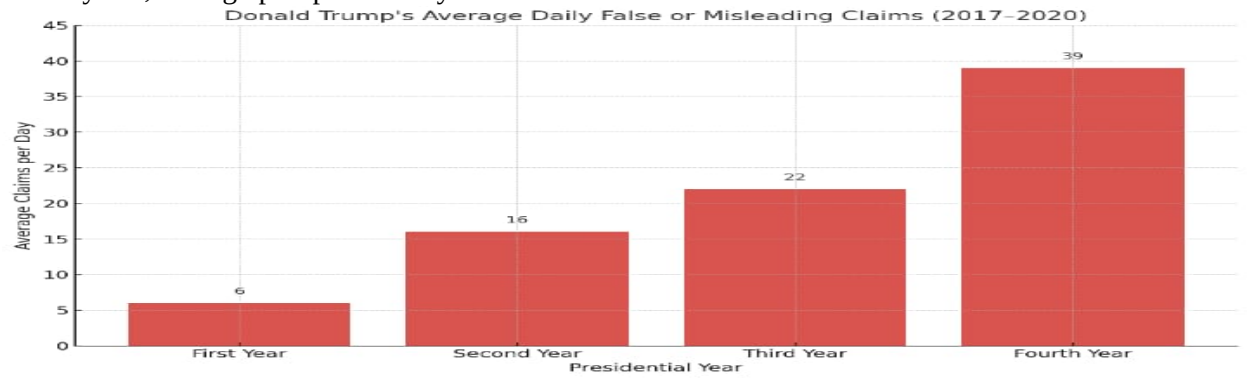


Fig. 1

More than 35,000 of these false or misleading claims were utilized in four years to undermine opponents, a distinction between which is essential for public manipulation (Washington Post, 2021).

Populist Media in Other Contexts

Despite the different cultural and political contexts, global populist leaders exhibit similar tactics for media manipulation through the establishment of an "us versus them" frame, which is necessary for their polarized political identity construction. Venezuela's Hugo Chávez used state-controlled media to articulate the revolutionary image he wanted to convey while limiting legitimate opposition (Samet, 2019). The "us vs. them" frame is the foundation for their rise to power.

Likewise, Orbán in Hungary has manipulated media to develop and promote nationalist ideology, which permits less independent journalism and emphasizes the use of outlets that are more favourable to his government (Nawaz, 2019). Narendra Modi in India employs social media in an effective way that allows him to communicate directly with members of the public and shape nationalistic consumer discourse.

Ethical and Democratic Challenges

Post-truth politics challenges the fate of democratic institutions because they develop distrust in traditional media and political institutions. Disinformation strategies and echo chambers reinforce polarization, which hinders dialogue and consensus (Lazer, 2018). The decrease in factual debate increases vulnerability to manipulation—

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

Journal of Journalism, Media Science and Creative Arts
ISSN (Print): 2790-9700 ISSN (Online): 2790-9719

potentially undermining what it means to be an informed citizen.

Election Campaigns and Media Manipulation

During the 2019 Indian general elections, political parties and their digital campaign arms (commonly known as "IT cells") widely disseminated misinformation and disinformation, shaping public opinion and polarizing the electorate. The direct manipulation of narratives on social media, including WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter, played a defining role. These actors leveraged half-truths and viral fake news, often targeting religious minorities or the opposition, while the mainstream media echoed and amplified these messages to a mass audience (Bajwa, 2024). Such disinformation was not always detected or countered due to suppression or harassment of independent fact-checkers and journalists critical of the government (Joshi, 2022). A stark illustration of the post-truth approach occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. Official data on cases and deaths were consistently challenged by independent researchers, who found that the real figures far exceeded the government's claims. Media, synchronized with government messaging, underreported casualties and highlighted political leaders' "unparalleled efforts," creating a powerful illusion of control and success even when confronted by visual evidence of mass cremations and overwhelmed healthcare facilities (Joshi, 2021).

Case Study 1: The Inauguration Crowd Size Controversy

The most revealing example of Donald Trump's post-truth politics was the controversy surrounding the crowd size at his 2017 inauguration (NBC4, 2017).

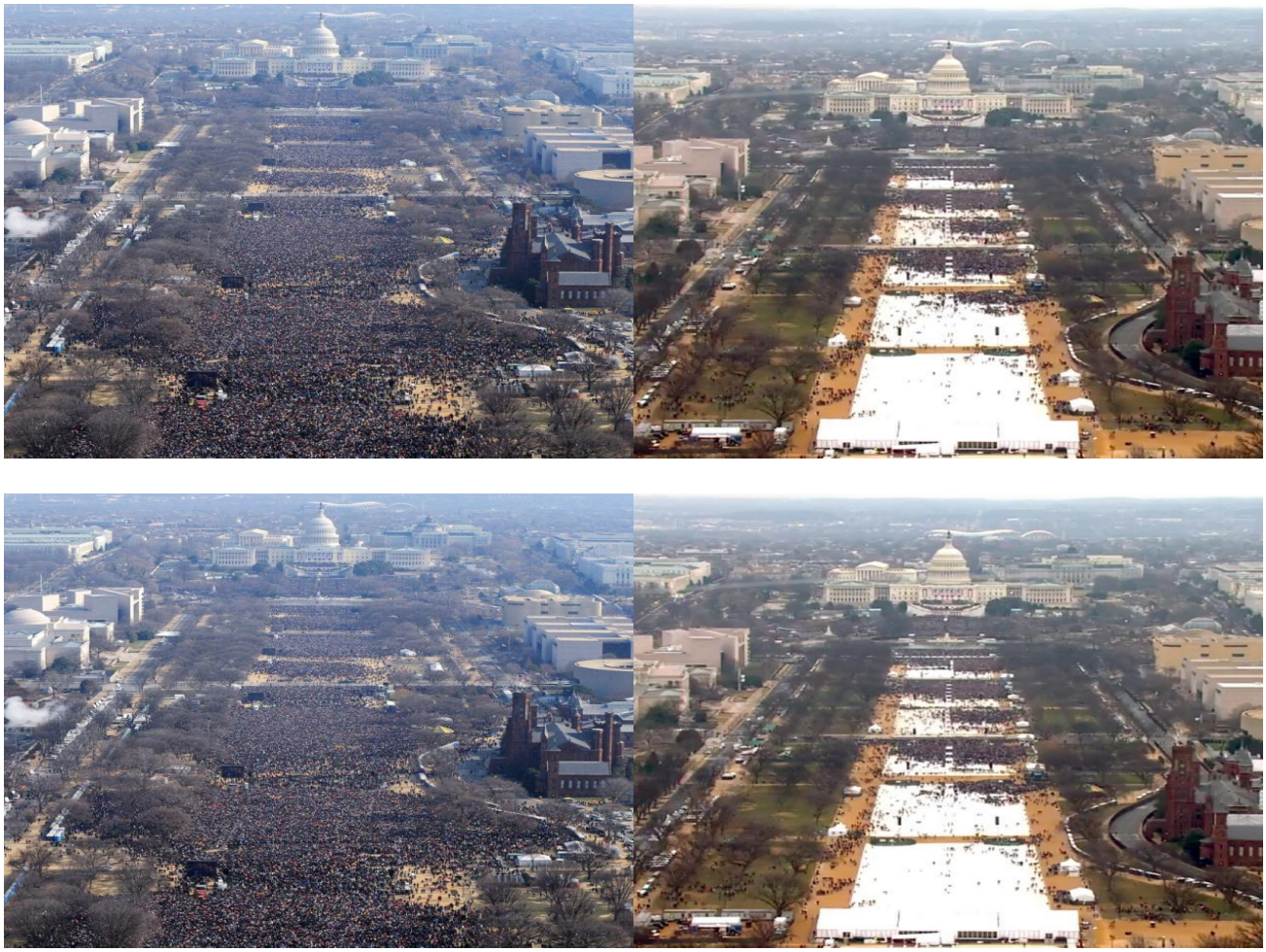


Fig. 2

Images on January 20, 2017, clearly showed that the crowd was far less than that of Barack Obama's inauguration in 2009. Rather than accepting this fact, Trump and his administration went into high

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

gear to create a counter-narrative. During the first briefing after the inauguration, Press Secretary *Sean Spicer* falsely claimed that it was "the largest audience to ever witness an inauguration—period." This claim was quickly revealed by many agencies, including the National Park Service, confirming that the 2009 crowd was about 1.8 million, while Trump's crowd was estimated between 700,000 and 900,000 (Wallace et al., 2017).

This was the first time the conjunction "alternative facts" was used, a term later popularized by Trump's advisor *Kellyanne Conway* and firmly associated with the post-truth era. For the administration, the controversy was not merely about crowd numbers but the crucial aspect of who controlled the narratives. The administration was clearly interested in perception (repetition of lies) over objective truth. It also set the stage for Trump to communicate by opposing emotion, attacking media credibility, and repeating lies until they gained acceptance among his base as he desired.

Case Study 2: The "Big Lie"—Election Fraud Claims of 2020

Trump's most consequential and dangerous post-truth campaign was the so-called "Big Lie," which claimed massive voter fraud in the stealing of the 2020 U.S. presidential election. With there being zero substantial evidence and over 60 court cases judged without success in proving any of the major allegations of fraud, patient insistence from Trump that the election had indeed been "rigged" carried the day. Some polling data, conducted by "YouGov" in 2020, indicated that nearly 70% of Republican voters believed Biden's victory was illegitimate (Frankovic, 2020). Trump amplified this narrative via social media, public rallies, and right-wing media influencers, leading to the January 6, 2021, insurrection in which five died and over 140 police officers were injured.

The event caused not only the second formal accusation of Donald Trump but also made clearly manifest the harmful consequences of post-Truth politics, where untruths incited violence, undermined democratic institutions, norms, and principles, and dragged a nation (USA) into polarization. The repetition of the Big Lie has thereafter formed the basis upon which all election denialism stands and has altered trust in the electoral mechanism of the U.S. for good.

Research Methodology

This qualitative investigation utilizes a critical discourse analysis strategy to analyze primary artifacts like speeches, social media posts, and media reports concerning the chosen populist leaders. Secondary data includes previous research articles, books, and reports, which serve to add context and development of theoretical views when conducting the research. This study identifies the media manipulation techniques employed by populists and identifies how they instrumentally impact political discourse.

Discussion

The emergence of populist media strategies as a crucial component of contemporary political discourse serves to mobilize portions of the public in effective ways. However, these ways are not without enormous costs to the health of democracy. The intentional creation of false or misleading narratives largely exploits cognitive biases, emotional weaknesses, and pre-existing beliefs, which can contribute to or create a populace that can no longer distinguish fact from fiction. The broader implications of this trend potentially threaten the bedrock of democratic governance, which relies on an informed citizenry that rationally makes evidence-based decisions.

Increased Manipulation of Media and Democratic Deterioration

The increasing prevalence of highly charged and sensational media within a political communications context has increasingly reduced opportunities for rational deliberation, which is a cornerstone of democratic functioning (Dryzek, 2002). Political populists often seem more interested in stimulating emotion than facilitating rational debate, thereby creating a moment in which decisions are made based on emotion rather than fact. This emotional manipulation ultimately undermines the public's capacity for critical assessment of information, and distorted facts and possibilities (misinformation and disinformation) thrive.

Furthermore, when populist movements or leaders control media narratives, often dissenting voices are repeatedly marginalized and silenced. Such media manipulation diminishes pluralism, which is important to the viability of any democratic system.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

Journal of Journalism, Media Science and Creative Arts
ISSN (Print): 2790-9700 ISSN (Online): 2790-9719

In a liberal democracy traditionally, various media can serve as valuable mechanisms for fostering accountability. However, populist leaders could distort reality with benefits from the media while lacking democratic accountability in liberal democracies (Moffitt, 2016).

The Influence of Social Media Algorithms

The social media phenomenon has greatly worsened the problem. Social media platforms (like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube), which prioritize user engagement (often by amplifying emotionally appealing or sensational material), come with algorithmically driven content.

Social media algorithms are one of several, and perhaps one of the most powerful, factors contributing to echo chambers in which individuals only engage in material suggesting a similar ideology that will deepen the ideological divide. Social media algorithms cultivate echo chambers and demonstrate the power of confirmation bias, polarizing social society and leaving users with the ability to scrutinize the material and acknowledge contrary ideologies (Tucker et al., 2018).

This amplification of sensationalism through algorithms creates a cycle in which fabricated or misleading narratives spread quickly that negates the efforts in verifying the information (Friggeri et al., 2014). Complicating this cycle is the potential for unfiltered material to be disseminated by users. Social media is fertile ground for misinformation, which, when published, acts as evidence, given its source is a verified user. The power of social media to shape public perception and influence political discussion cannot be listed enough in this digital age, given it has overwhelming influence on how people comprehend domestically and even globally.

Populism and International Relations

The impact of post-truth populism is not contained within national borders, as it has the capacity to bleed into international relations and foreign policy. Populist movements occur and drive a nationalist agenda as well as slogans promoting isolationist policy almost universally; many instances of tension are highlighted, unmarred by divisions.

To illustrate, the populist discourse common in the U.S. and parts of Europe has led to a retreat from multilateralism, for instance, by the U.S.'s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement under former president Donald Trump and Brexit, which was heavily influenced by nationalist and anti-globalization sentiments (Popli, 2025). Additionally, misinformation that is often propagated by populist leaders and/or movements can exacerbate geopolitical tensions.

In populism, disinformation may accompany the perversion of public understandings of specific foreign events—i.e. blaming the events on a rival nation or group to win nationalistic support—as witnessed in the populist response (both state and non-state) to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, where state and non-state actors distorted reality through the media to frame their political objectives and utilize the dynamic they produced. The implications of populism in the post-truth context affect international relations internationally in many profound ways, as populism undermines trust between nations, hampering diplomatic efforts and weakening the international, rules-based order (Eiran et al., 2025).

Fighting Back Against Post-Truth Politics

To mitigate the risk of populist media strategies, we need multiple approaches. First and foremost, we need more media literacy. In the era of widespread misinformation, helping citizens to think critically about their local and social news consumption and how to assess its credibility is vital (Wardle & Derakhshan, 2017). Media literacy could be achieved through schooling, a wide variety of public service announcements, or allowing people to better understand the specifics of news production, fact-checking, and the significance of source credibility.

Second, regulatory changes need to be undertaken to hold social media stores accountable for allowing unchecked misinformation & disinformation to spread virally. Lawmakers need to explore new guidelines that minimize the use of algorithms that have led to the amplification of prejudicial content. This could include new laws around transparency of algorithms and/or better accountability from owners of platforms that expose public citizens to information that undermines the democratic discourse (Gillespie, 2018).

In addition, support for responsible journalism is an important counter to the rise of post-truth politics. Journalistic integrity can be upheld by calling emphasis on evidence-based reporting, fact-

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

checking, and ensuring the mediation of all points of view. In an era of media marked by sensationalism, the principles of due process, as set out by the media, including fairness, objectivity, and truthfulness, are critical to uphold.

Finally, cross-party cooperation on democracy is vital. It is essential that all political actors work, where possible, in order to protect the institutions that help develop democratic deliberation, like the free press and public broadcasting services. It is only through these collaborative measures that democracies can begin to remedy the negative impacts of populism on democratic health and build a more reasonable and well-informed public sphere.

Conclusion

Post-truth politics signals a critical shift in the character of political communication and public debate with emotions and personal beliefs overriding objective facts and evidence. This shift puts serious pressure on the underlying structures of democracy, where informed citizenry and rational debate have provided legitimacy and accountability.

Post-truth politics is evident in high-profile recent examples like the Brexit referendum, the 2016 U.S. presidential election, and India's changing media landscape. These examples share a commonality: populist leaders and political movements utilize the media, traditional and digital, to provide an emotively driven narrative that completely bypasses the evidentiary standards that would be applied in more conventional processes. Emotive slogans, personalization, and identity-based claims are weaponized to generate support, divert criticisms, and delegitimize opposition.

The Indian media case details the convergence of ownership aligned with the state, consolidated online trolling capabilities, and coordinated censorship of dissent to form a mediated reality that reflects closely with the interests of political power. The same holds true for the constant stream of blurring misinformation and outright falsehoods disseminated by ex-President Donald Trump, which continued at an increasing rate for the duration of his presidency, illustrating how the constant barrage of misinformation gives rise to widespread suspicion of institutions and diminishes a sense of shared factual reality.

The media's double role as both enabler and battlefield is critical to this phenomenon. Post-truth paradigms flourish within information landscapes characterized by selective reporting, disinformation, and social media algorithms that promote polarization. When traditional journalistic values—such as objectivity, fact-checking, and fairness—erode, social mutations flourish in which populations are divided into echo chambers where confirmation bias replaces inquiry. Post-truth paradigms stymie democratic deliberation and cooperation by making agreement on facts and social policies more difficult.

The implications of post-truth politics are both deeper and wider than national elections or policy debates; they destabilize democratic institutions by eroding trust in the press, judiciary, and electoral processes. Populist leaders find ways to combine their own political identity with the identity of a nation—as with Modi's image in India, or Trump's cloaking of himself in the voice of the "people"—to delegitimize those critics as anti-national. This diminishes democratic space to dissent. When leaders inhibit investigative journalism or independent fact-checking using legal and regulatory measures, they feed the idea that "truth" is politically determined and subjective.

These challenges can be resolved with an approach that focuses on safeguarding democratic resilience. To enable active citizenship in the contemporary era, we need to widen the scope of media literacy to enable citizens to appraise information critically, identify biases, and contest falsehoods. To allow thorough investigative journalism and credible fact verification, there needs to be stronger independence and financial sustainability of media institutions. Policy frameworks that promote transparency in advertising, curtail disinformation efforts, and safeguard journalists from inappropriate legal and physical violence should be considered.

The vacant public space where dialogue can happen and facts can be shared is, sadly, lost, and whoever is willing to fill in that space must be governments, media actors, the civil society, and citizens—all of them in unison, appreciating the need to keep the democratic values of truth and openness. In a time where society is fragile and susceptible to emotional, instinctual manipulations and algorithmic echo chambers, democracy cannot survive devised and imagined thought. Only when citizens act in unison can plurality and evidence

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

reclaim public discourse, and the society can hope to acquire its democracy, and the dialogue can be called public, and institutions can be restored to a sensible imbalance, and the democracy we could have can stand firm against the growing impact of the post-truth politics.

REFERENCES

Bajwa, Z. (2024, May 1). *India's "post-truth" world*. The Nation. https://www.nation.com.pk/01-May-2024/india-s-post-truth-world

Dryzek, J. S. (2002). Deliberative democracy and beyond. *Oxford Academic*. https://doi.org/10.1093/019925043x.001.0001

Eiran, E., Ish-Shalom, P., & Kornprobst, M. (2025). Populism in international relations: Champion diplomacy. *Journal of International Relations and Development*, *28*(1), 80–104. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41268-025-00344-x

Frankovic, K. (2020, December 9). *One-third of trump supporters believe joe biden will not be inaugurated in january*. Yougov.com; YouGov. https://today.yougov.com/politics/articles/33398-biden-inauguration

Friggeri, A., Adamic, L., Eckles, D., & Cheng, J. (2014). Rumor cascades. *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media*, *8*(1), 101–110. https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/ICWSM/article/view/14559

Gaston, S., & Harrison-Evans, P. (2018). *Mediating populism* (pp. 10–13). https://demos.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Full-Report-Mediating-Populism-March-2018-Demos-1.pdf

Gillespie, T. (2018). *Custodians of the internet*. Yale University Press. https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300261431/custodians-of-the-internet/

Gopnik, A. (2018, April 17). *Trump's tweets are ridiculous, but perilous to ignore*. The New Yorker. https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/trumps-tweets-are-ridiculous-but-perilous-to-ignore

Hetland, G. (2022). The rise and fall of radical democracy in torres, "venezuela's first socialist city." *Espacio Abierto*, *31*(2), 75–89. https://www.redalyc.org/journal/122/12270893005/html/

Iyengar, S., & Hahn, K. S. (2009). Red media, blue media: Evidence of ideological selectivity in media use. *Journal of Communication*, *59*(1), 19–39. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.2008.01402.x

Joshi, K. (2022, August 10). *Post-truth, misinformation & fact checking: A state-sponsored tale of intimidation of journalists*. Media@LSE. https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/medialse/2022/08/10/post-truth-misinformation-fact-checking-a-state-sponsored-tale-of-intimidation-of-journalists/

Joshi, R. (2021, June 27). *The contours of india's post-truth state*. The Wire. https://thewire.in/politics/the-contours-of-indias-post-truth-state

Lazer, D. M. J. (2018). The science of fake news. *Science*, *359*(6380), 1094–1096. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aao2998

Moffitt, B. (2016). *The global rise of populism*. Stanford University Press. https://www.sup.org/books/politics/global-rise-populism

Mudde, C., & Kaltwasser, C. (2017). *Populism: A very short introduction* (pp. 97–98).

Nawaz, M. S. (2019, July 25). *What is populism? Jan-Werner müller. university of pennsylvania press: 2016, 136. | institute of strategic studies islamabad*. Issi.org.pk.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

https://issi.org.pk/what-is-populism-jan-werner-muller-university-of-pennsylvania-press-2016-136/

NBC4. (2017, January 13). *How many people will attend trump's inauguration? Why to take turnout estimates with a grain of salt*. NBC4 Washington. https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/trump-inauguration-crowd-estimates-4/90470/?noamp=mobile

Oxford Languages. (2016). *Oxford word of the year 2016*. Oup.com. https://languages.oup.com/word-of-the-year/2016/

Popli, N. (2025, January 22). *What happened the last time trump withdrew from the paris agreement*. Time; Time. https://time.com/7208955/trump-paris-climate-agreement-withdraw-impact/

Samet, R. (2019). *Media and the logic of populism (introduction to my book deadline: Populism and the press in venezuela)*. Deadline: Populism and the Press in Venezuela. https://www.academia.edu/39774417/Media_and_the_Logic_of_Populism_Introduction_to_my_book_Deadline_Populism_and_the_Press_in_Venezuela_

Tucker, J. A., Guess, A., Barbera, P., Vaccari, C., Siegel, A., Sanovich, S., Stukal, D., & Nyhan, B. (2018, March 19). *Social media, political polarization, and political disinformation: A review of the scientific literature*. SSRN. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3144139

Vaishnav, M. (2019, April 4). *The BJP in power: Indian democracy and religious nationalism*. Carnegieendowment.org. https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2019/04/the-bjp-in-power-indian-democracy-and-religious-nationalism?lang=en

Wallace, T., Yourish, K., & Griggs, T. (2017, January 20). Trump's inauguration vs. obama's: Comparing the crowds. *The New York Times*. https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/01/20/us/politics/trump-inauguration-crowd.html

Wardle, C., & Derakhshan, H. (2017, September 27). *Information disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making*. Council of Europe. https://edoc.coe.int/en/media/7495-information-disorder-toward-an-interdisciplinary-framework-for-research-and-policy-making.html

Washington Post. (2021, January 20). *Analysis | tracking all of president trump's false or misleading claims*. Washington Post. https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/trump-claims-database/

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License