



30 BC

Octavian ran a campaign of misinformation against his rival Mark Antony.

425 BC

Herodotus wrote The Histories as a biased observer to the great events of his era.

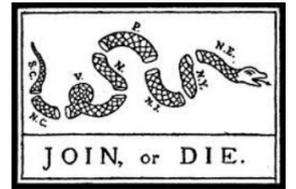


1755

The Church and other European authorities use the Lisbon earthquake of 1755 to blame the disaster on sinners.

1754

Benjamin Franklin released the political cartoon, Join or Die, which included propaganda stories about King George to sway public opinion for the American Revolution.



1835

The Sun becomes the world's best-selling paper by running a fake story about life on the moon, including giant man-bats that spent their days collecting fruit.



1895

Joseph Pulitzer published widely exaggerated crime stories to keep up with the "Yellow Journalism" sensationalism trend led by William Randolph Hearst. Yellow Journalism later helped to start the Spanish-American War in 1898.

1897

A major newspaper printed an obituary of Mark Twain. When contacted by a reporter, Twain said reports of his death were "greatly exaggerated."



1903

The Clarksburg Daily Telegram published a purposely fake story about the shooting of "Mejk Swenekafew" in an effort to expose a rival stealing their work. Swenekafew, is "we fake news" spelled backwards.

1912

Newspapers initially reported that the Titanic, believed to be unsinkable, was going to survive after receiving unverified and unsigned telegrams from the crew.



Mejk Swenekafew

1924

The Daily Mail published a fake directive from Moscow to British Communists to mobilize the Labour Party four days before an election. The Labour Party loses in a landslide.

1933

The Nazi Party established a propaganda department to promote their agenda. During World War II, both the Allies and Axis used fake news to persuade the public both domestically and abroad.

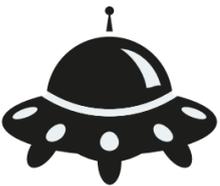


1938

Orson Welles' infamous radio program War of the Worlds did not trigger nationwide panic as widely believed.

1960s

The FBI, under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover, attempts to discredit Martin Luther King, Jr. through a smear campaign.



1980

Janet Cooke returned the Pulitzer Prize after it was determined she fabricated a story about an eight-year-old heroin addict.

1989

British newspapers printed that drunken fans were responsible for 96 soccer fans being crushed to death in England (this was based on lies).



2000

The mainstream media called the Presidential election in Florida too soon.

2003

The New York Times apologizes for reporter Jayson Blair's media fabrications. A 7,239-word front page story called it "a low point" in its history.

The New York Times



2004

Less than two months before the Presidential election, Dan Rather published unauthenticated memos about President Bush. Rather resigned from CBS after bloggers questioned the documents.

2006

Rueters fired a photographer who manipulated photos of an airstrike in Beirut.



CBS

2017

President Trump published more than 100 tweets about fake news. Research also showed that 30 percent of all fake news traffic could be linked back to Facebook.

