The personal website of Maurizio Blondet, an Italian journalist who has promoted conspiracy theories about health and politics.

Ownership and Financing

The site was founded and is owned by Maurizio Blondet, although that is not stated on the site. Blondet is an Italian journalist who promotes far-right political positions and traditional conservative Catholic views.

Blondet has been criticized by anti-hate speech groups such as Milan-based Osservatorio Antisemitismo for his allegedly anti-Semitic views. In 2002, Blondet published a book titled “9/11, U.S. coup” (“11 Settembre, colpo di stato in Usa”), in which he asserted that the 9/11 terror attacks were perpetrated by “the neocon, pro-Israeli extremists of the Jewish lobby in the U.S.” (“i neoconservatori, estremisti filo-israeliani della lobby ebraica in Usa”).

Blondet previously worked as a contributor for several Italian magazines and newspapers, including the weekly Gente, the Catholic newspaper Avvenire, and the defunct newspaper of the League, La Padania.

The website derives revenue from advertising.

Content

MaurizioBlondet.it is the personal website of Maurizio Blondet, who describes himself on his social media profiles as a “journalist, author and speaker” who is “focused on the influence of lobbies on world governments.” (“Giornalista, scrittore e conferenziere. Tratta l'influenza delle lobby nei governi mondiali”).

The site publishes news and commentary about health, the economy, and national and international politics. While most content is written by Blondet, he also publishes and links to stories written by other authors and media outlets.

Articles are sorted in sections including We Liked Them (Ci sono piaciuti), which includes articles aggregated from other sources; Without Words (Senza parole) and
Good to Know (Buoni a sapersi), which both cover national and international news; and Friends, which publishes articles and videos produced by outside contributors. Writers who have appeared in the Friends section have included the nationalist philosopher Diego Fusaro, Catholic philosopher Roberto Pecchioli, and far-right conspiracy theorist Walt Garlington.

The site’s Bookmarks (Segnalibri) section links to other sites, including ZeroHedge.com, a political and financial blog that NewsGuard found repeatedly publishes false content, and other blogs that express far-right views.

Typical headlines on the site have included “What happens on the Greek-Turkish border” (“Cosa succede ai confini greco-turchi”); “Immigration dictated by esoteric Freemasonry” (“L’immigrazionismo dettato dalla Massoneria esoterica”); and “We need to help China” (“Bisogna aiutare la Cina”).

MaurizioBlondet.it regularly publishes articles that promote discredited conspiracy theories and unproven medical and scientific claims. In early 2020, the site published misleading and unsubstantiated claims about the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak, which originated in China and prompted the World Health Organization to declare a global health emergency.

In one such article, titled “Two things about the coronavirus,” (“Due cose sul coronavirus”), the site stated that the virus “may have been engineered in order to sell a vaccine, which is already ready” (“potrebbe aver creato il virus per vendere il vaccino, che pare sia già pronto”). The article also quoted from InfoWars.com, a site run by conspiracy theorist and radio host Alex Jones, which said that the Pirbright Institute, a U.K. research institute, “owns the patent to the deadly virus and are working on a vaccine to solve the crisis,” adding that “suspiciously, the Pirbright Institute ‘primary funder’ is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.”
A February 2020 article, titled “Coronavirus - Has the mass vaccination plan been thwarted?” (“Coronavirus - Sventato il piano vaccinale di massa?”), claimed that there was a “big vaccination plan (run by the Gates?”). The aim of such a plan, according to Blondet, was to “sell billions of vaccine doses to the world’s countries using a terror campaign going on for weeks in the international media” (“sventato il grande piano vaccinale (dei Gates?) - la speranza di vendere agli Stati miliardi di dosi di vaccini - a cui doveva preparare la campagna di terrore in corso da settimane sui media internazionali”). The article also stated that the coronavirus is part of a strategy to “tear apart China’s economy.”

These articles provided no evidence to back the claims that the outbreak was “engineered” in order to sell vaccines or to carry out mass vaccinations. It is true that the Gates Foundation participated in a simulated emergency preparedness exercise for a pandemic in October 2019, but according to FactCheck.org, the exercise involved a mock coronavirus with different features than the Wuhan coronavirus.

Moreover, although the Gates Foundation has provided funding to the U.K.-based Pirbright Institute, the patent referenced by Maurizio Blondet. It covers a different, weaker strain of coronavirus that affects chickens, not humans.

The website has claimed that cells from aborted fetuses have been used to make vaccines. An October 2019 article, headlined “Is it the DNA from abortion that makes vaccines dangerous?” (“È il DNA di aborti che rende i vaccini pericolosi?”), claimed that the vaccines for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) are “heavily contaminated by human fetal DNA from the production process” (“fortemente contaminati dal DNA fetale umano proveniente dal processo di produzione”), quoting the work of the American anti-vaccine scientist Theresa Deisher.

Some vaccines are in fact produced using cell lines descended from two fetuses aborted in the 1960s, according to a January 2017 article in Science magazine. However, no additional fetal cells are
required for vaccine production, and no actual fetal tissue is present in these vaccines. The National Catholic Bioethics Center, which consults with the Vatican and Catholics on medical ethics issues and opposes abortion, has stated that “one cannot accurately say that the vaccines contain any of the cells from the original abortion.”

The site has repeatedly advanced the narrative of the Russian state that Syrian government forces under Russia-backed President Bashar al-Assad did not engage in a chemical attack against Syria’s citizens in April 2018. One such article claimed that “the attack with chemical weapons in Syria has not occurred. It was a hoax, a false flag to justify the US-led airstrikes staged by the rebels.” (“Non si è verificato l’attacco alle armi chimiche in Siria. Era una bufala, una falsa bandiera per giustificare gli attacchi aerei guidati dagli Stati Uniti, messi in scena dai ribelli”).

The site did not provide evidence to back this claim, which is contradicted by a large body of evidence assembled since the attack by, among others, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Syrian-American Medical Society, and press organizations including the BBC and The New York Times.

MaurizioBlondet.it has promoted other debunked conspiracy theories. Several stories claimed that the 9/11 terrorist attack was a “false flag” perpetrated by the U.S. government and Jewish interests. The site has also published numerous articles supporting the “Pizzagate” conspiracy theory, claiming that a child sex ring was being run by Democrats out of a pizza restaurant in Washington.

Because MaurizioBlondet.it regularly promotes false and widely debunked claims in its articles and headlines, NewsGuard has determined that the site has repeatedly published false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.
MaurizioBlondet.it does not disclose that it is an opinion blog with a particular point of view. Moreover, none of the articles on the site are labeled opinion, yet articles are often opinionated.

For example, an unlabeled January 2020 article called the former Italian prime minister and founder of the Democratic Party, Romano Prodi, a “phoney” (“un bidone”). Another unlabeled article published the same month described the current government coalition as a “Rotting corpse” (“Un cadavere putrefatto”).

An unlabeled article published in December 2019 and titled “Don't call them scoundrels - it's a hate crime” (“Non chiamateli farabutti - è un crimine d'odio”) stated that the politicians who pushed for the privatization of Autostrade, the Italian highway system, are “criminals.”

Because MaurizioBlondet.it frequently publishes unlabeled opinion without disclosing its agenda or orientation, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

MaurizioBlondet.it does not publish a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

MaurizioBlondet.it did not respond to NewsGuard's two emails seeking comment on its history of publishing false claims, its handling of opinion, and its approach to corrections.

Transparency

The site does not disclose its ownership or provide any information about its editorial leadership or content creators. At the top of every page, the site provides a generic email to contact the newsroom.

NewsGuard sent two emails to the site inquiring about its transparency standards, but did not receive a response.

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.
The site was registered in 2015.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: Click Here

Sources

Ownership and Financing
https://domainbigdata.com/maurizioblondet.it

Content
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