

reseauinternational.net

A website that frequently shares conspiracy theories and false international news, often drawn from sites known for publishing propaganda and misinformation.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 7.5/100

Ownership and Financing

ReseauInternational.net does not disclose its ownership. According to registration records at the French Registry of Commerce and Companies (Registre du commerce et des sociétés), Réseau International is owned by a Mauritanian-born French entrepreneur based in Bordeaux named Sy Abou.

Réseau International generates revenue from advertising and reader donations.

Content

The About page of ReseauInternational.net is written in the first person by someone identified only as "Avic" and states that the objective of the site is to "distance itself from the media" and to "denounce manipulations" ("se distancier des médias" - "dénonce les manipulations").

The homepage is updated multiple times a day with articles on international news and politics, which are typically republished from right-wing blogs and websites and various YouTube channels. The homepage features content categories including News Facts (Faits d'actu), Geopolitics (Geopolitique), Ideas & Society (Idées & société), Technology/Science (Technologie/sciences), RI International (RI Monde), and Lies & Manipulation (Mensonges & Manipulation).

"Avic" states on the About page that he or she "doesn't belong to any political or religious clan" ("Je n'appartiens à aucun clan, ni politique ni religieux"). Still, most of the content on the site espouses far-right political views on immigration, national security, and European policies.

Typical articles have run under headlines including "Terrorist groups in Idlib are covered in French fingerprints" ("Les empreintes de la France sont

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

partout sur les groupes terroristes à Idlib"); "The apocalyptic cult of global warming" ("Le culte apocalyptique du réchauffement climatique"); and "Coronavirus - a fake pandemic? Who is behind it? Economical, social and geopolitical destabilization." ("Coronavirus – Une fausse pandémie ? Qui est derrière cela ? Déstabilisation économique, sociale et géopolitique mondiale").

The homepage also links to a seldom-updated English-language section.

Credibility

Most content on ReseauInternational.net is produced by other websites, with source attribution often appearing at the bottom of the article. Many ReseauInternational.net articles are republished from sites that promote Russian and Chinese government views, including the Russian-state run outlets RT and Sputnik, pro-Russian news website Strategika51.org, the anglophone website of the Chinese Communist Party newspaper People's Daily, and German anti-establishment video site KLA.tv.

ReseauInternational.net frequently publishes false or misleading information, including conspiracy theories on the Wuhan coronavirus and conspiracies promoted by the 9/11 "truther" movement that dispute the official account of the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks.

For example, a March 2020 article, titled "Coronavirus: 'a product of fate' or specifically used as a weapon" ("Le coronavirus : 'Produit du hasard' ou spécifiquement utilisé comme arme"), featured a video from far-right conspiracy German website KLa.tv. The video promoted the claims of two virologists that the virus likely originated in a Chinese laboratory, where it was genetically modified. "The conclusions from these two virologists ... are supported by the fact that several patents on coronaviruses have officially been registered," the video said. ("Les constatations des deux virologues (...) sont étayées par le fait que plusieurs brevets sur les coronavirus ont été officiellement enregistrés"). The site did not include any evidence about the patents.

Screenshots of several patents related to viruses have been circulating online. However, as multiple international fact-checking organizations, including FactCheck.org, have shown, these patents were related to different viruses in the family of coronaviruses. "There is no patent related to the new virus," FactCheck.org wrote in January 2020.

A January 2020 article on ReseauInternational.net, was titled "2019-nCoV Virus -- The theory of a biological weapon is more and more clear" ("Virus 2019-nCoV – La piste de l'arme biologique se précise de plus en plus"). The article, which was translated from the website Strategika51.org, stated: "According to information gathered by Chinese sources, the replication of the new 2019-nCoV coronavirus is ... the result of the transfer of a highly sensitive biological material between two countries ... as part of an economical, commercial and financial asymmetric war strategy using campaigns in media as well as biological disruptive carriers." ("Selon des indications recueillies par des sources chinoises, la réplication du nouveau coronavirus 2019-nCoV (...) le résultat d'un transfert d'un matériau biologique hautement sensible entre deux pays (...) dans le cadre d'une stratégie de guerre économique, commerciale et financière asymétrique utilisant aussi bien des campagnes de médiaguerre que des vecteurs de 'disruption' biologiques".) The article does not provide any source or information to back this claim.

There is no evidence that the virus originated anywhere but in Wuhan or that it was brought to China as part of a hostile campaign involving biological weapons. According to a February 2020 report by the World Health Organization, "increasing evidence demonstrates the link between the 2019-nCoV and other similar known coronaviruses (CoV) circulating in bats." A study published the same month in Nature found that the virus is "96% identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus."

In a September 2019 post, headlined "18th Anniversary of September 11th: The official version collapses as..." ("18ème anniversaire du 11 septembre : La version

officielle s'effondre comme..."), the site claimed that video images prove that the collapse of the 7 World Trade Center building near the Twin Towers "was not triggered by fire," thus contradicting "the US government's official version." ("L'écroulement du bâtiment n'a pas été déclenché par le feu (...) comme la version officielle du gouvernement américain veut le faire croire".) The article, which was originally published by KLA.tv, also advanced the notion that the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon "were staged."

In fact, a 2008 investigation by the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology about the collapse of 7 World Trade Center concluded that flying debris from the Twin Towers sparked an intense fire in 7 World Trade that "caused a critical support column to fail, initiating a fire-induced progressive collapse that brought the building down."

In October 2018, the site published a translation of an English-language article from the anti-Israel site The Unz Review, titled "9/11 Was an Israeli Job," ("Le 11 septembre était une opération israélienne") which claimed that Israel planned the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. The article stated that "Osama Bin Laden was innocent, as he has repeatedly stated in the Afghan and Pakistani newspapers and on Al Jazeera" ("Oussama Ben Laden était innocent, ainsi qu'il l'a déclaré à plusieurs reprises dans les journaux afghans et pakistanais et sur Al Jazeera") and that "9/11 was made possible by an alliance between secret worshippers of Israel and corrupted American elements." ("Le 11 septembre a été rendu possible par une alliance entre des adorateurs secrets d'Israël et des éléments américains corrompus").

There is no evidence that Israel was involved in the attacks, and numerous government inquiries have concluded that Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda were responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

In April 2019, the site reposted another Unz Review story, which denied the occurrence of the 1969 moon landing by U.S. astronauts. Titled "The Moon Landings: A giant hoax for mankind?" ("L'alunissage : Un canular

géant pour l'humanité ?"), the article asserted that "we have found evidence that [the moon landing was] not real." ("nous avons trouvé des preuves (que l'alunissage) n'étaient (sic) pas réels (sic)"). According to the article, "NASA engineers themselves tell us they were impossible, for the simple reason that the astronauts would have to travel through the Van Allen Radiation Belt, which would kill them, and damage the electronic equipment as well." ("les ingénieurs de la NASA eux-mêmes nous disent que cela est impossible, pour la simple raison que les astronautes devaient traverser la ceinture de rayonnement Van Allen, ce qui les aurait tués et aurait endommagé également l'équipement électronique").

Claims about space's radiation risks — particularly about the Van Allen radiation belts, which the Apollo spacecraft passed through on its trip to the moon — have long fueled conspiracy theories about the moon landing. According to a NASA research document, radiation shielding inside the Apollo spacecraft reduced the astronauts' possible exposure to radiation, making the astronauts' passage through the belts "completely harmless."

In September 2019, the site published an article about the July 1995 Srebrenica massacre of the Bosnian War, in which more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys were killed by Bosnian Serb troops in the town of Srebrenica. Headlined "Srebrenica: How Western countries have increased the number of victims to have us believe in genocide" ("Srebrenica: Comment les pays occidentaux ont multiplié les chiffres des victimes pour faire croire à un génocide"), the article implied that the massacre was a "hoax" ("canular"). The story was adapted from an English-language post headlined "More Evidence on the Srebrenica 'Numbers Game,'" which ran in July 2019 on GlobalResearch.ca, a Canadian-based site that NewsGuard has found to repeatedly publish false content.

In 2004, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia unanimously found that "genocide was committed in Srebrenica in 1995." In 2007, the

International Court of Justice ruled that Serbia violated its obligation to prevent genocide in Srebrenica.

Because Réseau International frequently spreads hoaxes and misinformation from unreliable sources, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

Although ReseauInternational.net features an Opinions section, many articles hosted in other sections of the site contain opinions.

For example, a March 2020 article, titled "Why is no one listening to the world expert on viruses, who is saying that a simple treatment against the Covid-19 exists?" ("Pourquoi personne n'écoute l'expert mondial des virus qui dit qu'un traitement simple contre le Covid-19 existe?"), stated: "The goal of the health system is not really to treat people, but, through doctors, to enable pharmaceutical labs to benefit." ("Le but du système de santé n'est pas vraiment de soigner les gens mais, à travers les médecins, de permettre aux laboratoires d'engranger des bénéfices").

In September 2019, the site posted a French translation of an RT.com column about the anti-government protests in Hong Kong, titled "Western media portrays Hong Kong hooligans as heroes. But are they?" ("Les médias occidentaux présentent les hooligans de Hong Kong comme des héros. Mais le sont-ils?"). The article stated, "These hooligans are going against the interests of their own people, and their own people are now cursing them." Réseau international ran the article in the International section, not in Opinions.

The same month, another translated column from RT, titled "Europe's full-blown Stockholm Syndrome in face of US bullying," was posted on the site in the News Facts section ("Les dirigeants européens sont atteints du syndrome de Stockholm face aux intimidations états-uniennes"). The article stated that "the

Europeans are pushed around and hectored in a way that shows their true status as mere vassals to Washington.”

The site has also published many articles criticizing the “brutal policies of Israel” and comparing them to those of South Africa’s Apartheid, without being labelled opinion. An article from April 2019 published in the Racism section of the site was titled “Israel has become the role model for racists and islamophobic people around the world.” (“Israël est devenu le modèle à suivre pour les racistes et les islamophobes du monde entier”).

Because ReseauInternational.net frequently runs unlabeled opinion content outside its Opinions section, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

ReseauInternational.net does not publish a corrections policy, and NewsGuard found only two corrections posted on the site in 2019. Moreover, none of the false articles cited above has been corrected. Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that ReseauInternational.net does not meet its standard for regularly correcting errors.

Réseau International did not respond to three NewsGuard messages sent through its contact form inquiring about its editorial practices, including the articles cited above, its handling of opinion content, and its approach to corrections.

In 2017, ReseauInternational.net issued a statement in response to questions from Radio Canada about its reliance on propaganda sites, stating: “We are aware that Russian or Chinese newspapers work closely with their governments. So we screen the topics that we relay. For example, some Russian sites have maintained a type of propaganda from another time, which is not the case of RT and Sputnik, which were created precisely to get rid of the Russian press’ bad reputation.” (“Nous avons conscience que les journaux russes ou chinois travaillent étroitement avec leurs gouvernements. Nous faisons donc un tri des sujets

que nous reprenons. Par exemple, certains sites russes ont gardé un style de propagande d'un autre temps, ce qui n'est pas le cas de RT et Sputnik qui ont été créés précisément pour débarrasser la presse russe de sa sale réputation.”)

Transparency

ReseauInternational.net does not disclose its ownership.

Although a statement on the website’s About (À propos) page indicates that the site is managed by someone identified with the pseudonym “Avic,” the site does not provide this person’s full name or clearly identify who is in charge of content.

Articles generally include author names. A list of writers is available at the bottom of the homepage, and names sometimes link to a page with biographical information, but the site does so inconsistently— which falls short of NewsGuard’s standard for disclosing information about content creators.

Advertising is distinguished from editorial content.

History

ReseauInternational.net was registered in October 2013.

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on March 5, 2020.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

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