

# politaia.org

A right-wing news and health site that regularly publishes false and misleading information, including about the COVID-19 virus.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

## Ownership and Financing

The website is owned by privately held Alternative Media Publishing, which is registered through a service that conceals its real location. Along with Alternative Media Publishing, Politaia.org lists “Volker Hahn” as the person legally responsible for the website.

However, an investigation by Swiss online news site Watson revealed that the photograph of Volker Hahn that is posted on the Capitol Post and Watergate websites is a “stock image that can be purchased and downloaded from various image databases.” NewsGuard could not find any information about anyone named Volker Hahn in Germany, in connection with the site.

From 2012 through 2017, Politaia.org identified its owner as Hermann Breit from Kolbermoor, Bavaria. It is not clear whether he still is involved with the site.

Alternative Media Publishing also owns other right-wing outlets, including the newspaper Capitol Post, news aggregation site Krisenfrei.de; and news sites Watergate.tv and NeoPresse.com.

The site derives revenue from advertising.

## Content

Politaia.org describes itself on its About Us (Über Uns) page as “an investigative, alternative and enlightening health portal.” Since February 2020, the site’s main focus has been the COVID-19 pandemic. (Previously, the site provided content in sections titled Chemtrails, Financial Terror, and New World Order.)

Content on the site is organized into sections including Alternative Medicine, Medicinal Plants, Health Policy, Nutrients, and Environment. Articles are often critical of left-wing politics, the European Union, and what the site calls “conventional medicine.” Typical articles have run under headlines including “Corona-Vaccine: New multi-billion business” (“Corona-Impfstoff: Neues Milliardenengeschäft”); “Incomprehensible: Next flop with

Score: 0/100

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ 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.](#)

Corona-App” (“Unfassbar: Nächste Pleite bei Corona-App”); and “Homeopathy – Enemy of the money-medicine” (Homöopathie – Feind der Geld-Medizin”).

#### Credibility

The site publishes both original content and content republished from other sites, including its sister site Watergate.tv — which NewsGuard has found to be unreliable. Politaia.org itself frequently has published false and misleading information.

For example, a May 2020 article titled “Study confirms correlation between 5G and coronavirus” (“Studie belegt Korrelation zwischen 5G und Coronavirus”), claimed that a study by “Spanish biologist” Bartomeu Payeras at Barcelona University “proves the link between 'coronavirus' outbreaks and the presence of 5G networks.” According to the article, “The microbiologist's research clearly shows that 5G has a role to play in this pandemic. It must be assumed that government researchers also know about the effects of 5G on the human body.”

There is no evidence that health effects from the COVID-19 virus are connected to 5G, according to fact-checking articles published in 2020 by FullFact.org and Reuters. A March 2020 report from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, a Germany-based organization that studies the health effects of non-ionizing radiation such as radio waves, found no evidence that 5G exposure posed a risk to human health. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says on its website that “to date, there is no consistent or credible scientific evidence of health problems caused by the exposure to radio frequency energy emitted by cell phones.”

Moreover, an investigation by the nonprofit investigative newsroom Correctiv found that no scientist named Bartomeu Payeras works at Barcelona University. In fact, Payeras is a painter who published a “study” on his personal website, according to Correctiv.

A February 2020 article, titled “Update Coronavirus: Cause for outbreak found?” (“Update Corona-Virus: Ursache für Ausbruch gefunden?”) claimed that “[t]he coronavirus is not a 'natural' virus but, like many other viruses (HIV, Ebola etc.), originated from a laboratory in which the virus was bred — there are numerous observers who interpret different studies as if this were

a biological weapon.” The article also stated that “Apparently the corona virus was produced in a Chinese laboratory in Wuhan.” The article did not cite any sources for these claims.

Although there is a laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology that works with dangerous pathogens, there is no evidence that the new strain of coronavirus was created or manipulated in a lab. A March 2020 study published in the journal Nature Medicine concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal Nature, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.” In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. intelligence community said it “concur[s] with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.” There is also no evidence that the HIV or Ebola viruses were created in a lab.

Older articles on the site often promote bogus health remedies and conspiracy theories. A December 2019 article, titled “Natural antibiotic colloidal silver” (“Natürliches Antibiotikum Kolloidales Silber”), claimed that “Long before antibiotics were invented by orthodox medicine, there was a natural and highly effective remedy against bacteria, viruses and fungi: colloidal silver.” It claimed that the silver’s “effect has been proven for hundreds of pathogens” and that it was used in the treatment of HIV.

The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, states on its website that “scientific evidence doesn’t support the use of colloidal silver dietary supplements for any disease or condition.” The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an advisory in October 2009 warning that consuming colloidal silver can cause a condition called argyria, a permanent bluish-gray discoloration of the skin, nails, and gums. According to a September 2017 article on the website of the Mayo Clinic, in some rare cases, “excessive doses of colloidal silver can cause possibly irreversible serious health problems, including kidney damage and neurological problems such as seizures.”

A September 2019 article, titled “Still not officially cleared up: Who is responsible for 9/11?” (“Noch immer nicht offiziell aufgeklärt: Wer ist für 9/11

verantwortlich?") claimed that "There have long been doubts about the official version" of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. "Who is actually behind the attacks can only be suspected so far," the article said. "However, it is likely that it is a widely spread and presumably globally organized network by secret services, high finance, politicians and cabal. The goal: The enslavement and financial exploitation of humanity."

There is no evidence that the attacks were carried out by some secret network. The 9/11 Commission and multiple other investigations concluded that the al-Qaeda terror network and Osama bin Laden masterminded the 2001 terror attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

An April 2019 article, titled "Ex-Architect of Notre Dame: This was no accident" ("Ex-Architekt von Notre Dame: Das war kein Unfall"), suggested that the Notre Dame fire was an act of arson. It cited a TV appearance by architect Benjamin Mouton, who worked on Notre-Dame from 2000 and 2013, on the French TV channel LCI, during which the site claims he said that it is "completely impossible that this fire was caused by an accident and spread so quickly." (The article presented this as a paraphrase.)

The article continued: "So who ordered the Notre Dame fire? Who has an interest in setting this church on fire during Easter week and why. It will be very difficult to answer these questions and to find evidence. Because, as with 9/11, the masterminds will do everything possible to ensure that the truth will never come to light."

However, a video recording of Mouton's segment on LCI reviewed by NewsGuard shows that Mouton did not make any such claim at any point during the interview. In fact, there is no evidence that the fire was intentionally set. Officials have not pinpointed the cause of the blaze, but suspect an electric malfunction or a worker's burning cigarette.

Because Politaia.org has repeatedly published false or misleading claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site has repeatedly published false content, that it does not gather and present information responsibly, and that it does not avoid deceptive headlines.

The site does not disclose a political perspective, and does not have a dedicated opinion section or label any articles as opinion. However, NewsGuard found that the site frequently publishes opinionated statements in news articles.

For example, a July 2020 article titled “Gates plain text: Will have a more deadly pandemic” (“Gates-Klartext: Werden eine tödlichere Pandemie haben”), stated about Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, “The vaccine grandmaster wants the vaccines to reach people who 'need them most'. Not the highest bidder. A villain who thinks evil.”

Another July 2020 article, titled “Corona vaccine: new billion-dollar business” (“Corona-Impfstoff: Neues Milliardengeschäft”), stated, “Bill Gates and Co., who have just invested again in the [vaccine] industry in the last few days, are obviously successful in making the corona pandemic a business - the warning of the ‘second wave’ will probably do its job.”

A February 2020 article titled “Corona virus now also in Germany: Don't trust politics” (“Corona-Virus jetzt auch in Deutschland: Misstrauen Sie der Politik”) said that a CDU politician who claimed the virus was under control was spouting “hot air.”

Because Politaia.org does not disclose its agenda and frequently includes opinionated claims in articles that are not labeled opinion, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet the standard for handling news and opinion responsibly.

Politaia.org does not state a corrections policy and NewsGuard did not find any corrections on the site.

The site did not respond to two NewsGuard emails inquiring about the articles cited above, the site’s handling of news and opinion, and its approach to corrections.

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#### Transparency

The Imprint page discloses the site’s ownership by Alternative Media Publishing and provides a general email address. It names “Volker Hahn” as the person in charge.

However, because the site does not provide any further information about the publishing company or the owner, Volker Hahn — which is likely a pseudonym —

NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet its standard for clearly disclosing ownership information and for identifying editorial leadership.

Politaia.org does not disclose any information about its content creators.

Banner advertisements are distinguishable from editorial content. However, the site frequently includes links at the bottom of articles — labeled “Read more about it here” or something similar — that in fact send readers to an online store. This does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for labeling advertising.

The site did not respond to two NewsGuard emails inquiring about the lack of disclosure regarding its ownership, editorial leadership, content creators, and advertising.

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## History

Politaia.org was registered in 2010 by the financial publishing service provider Yes Investmedia GmbH, located in Bonn.

In May 2013, the apartment of Hermann Breit, the former and possibly current owner of the site, was searched by the Criminal Investigation Department of Rosenheim on the “suspicion of incitement of the people.” In October 2013, Breit was fined 5,400 euro by the County Court of Rosenheim in the matter.

The penalty order referred to two videos published on the website that included the false claim that Jewish prisoners in the concentration camp Auschwitz were actually German prisoners of war. In an article published on the site after the search of his apartment, Breit wrote: “On the website politaia.org, there is no anti-semitic content. This accusation is a lie!”

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

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Ownership and  
Financing

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