

# rt.com

The website of RT America, a 24/7 TV news channel and Russian government disinformation and propaganda effort. RT was previously known as Russia Today.

 **12.5 / 100**

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

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

Criteria are listed in order of importance. [Learn More.](#)

## Ownership and Financing

RT is owned by Moscow-based ANO TV-Novosti, described on RT.com’s About RT page as an “autonomous, non-profit organization that is publicly financed from the budget of the Russian Federation.”

According to TV Novosti’s filing with the Russian Ministry of Justice, RT has been 99 percent to 99.9 percent state funded.

T&R Productions LLC, a Washington-based corporation, is RT’s U.S. production unit. Mikhail Solodovnikov, RT’s U.S. news director, is the corporation’s sole member and general manager.

RT generates revenue from advertising and sponsored content.

## Content

RT uses the tagline “Question More,” which is consistent with the policies of the Russian government under President Vladimir Putin to raise doubts about other countries and their institutions. The website also states, “We are set to show you how any story can be another story altogether.” Coverage on RT.com focuses on U.S., U.K., and Russian politics, sports, and business news.

The network broadcasts seven channels — RT (the flagship, English-language channel aired from Moscow), RT Arabic, RT en Español, RT America, RT UK, RT Documentary, and RT en Français. Users can watch most of these broadcasts live on RT.com, although RT Deutsch can only be viewed online. RT publishes content in six languages.

RT produces special projects such as FakeCheck, an interactive tool that is designed to teach users to “separate fact from fake” and #1917LIVE, an interactive overview of the Russian Revolution. RT.com also features 21 podcasts covering topics similar to those in the site’s written content.

## Credibility

RT.com’s About RT section states that the website “covers stories overlooked by the mainstream media, provides alternative perspectives on current affairs, and acquaints international audiences

with a Russian viewpoint on major global events.”

However, RT.com’s news coverage regularly advances false claims and propaganda promoted by the Kremlin, and omits or refutes facts and positions that do not align with the Russian government, which owns and funds RT.

While RT.com accurately quotes Russian officials in its reports, NewsGuard has determined that RT.com, as a government-owned outlet publishing the government’s false claims, has repeatedly published false content that support the Kremlin’s interests.

RT.com presents a mix of tabloid-style journalism, human-interest stories, legitimate news, and propaganda promoted by the Russian government. This blend of content fits with the Kremlin's multi-pronged disinformation campaign to sow confusion and undermine trust in Western democracies, as described by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the European Council on Foreign Affairs.

As tensions escalated over Russia’s buildup of more than 100,000 troops on its border with Ukraine at the end of 2021 and in early 2022, Russia Today published numerous articles reiterating false and unsubstantiated claims about the 2014 conflict between Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists, as well as about the current actions of the Kiev government.

For example, a January 2022 article titled “An article in Tanks on European streets due to ‘Russian threat;’” referred to the 2014 Maidan revolution in Ukraine as a “Western-backed coup in Kiev.”

In fact, there is no evidence supporting the claim that the 2014 revolution that led to the ouster of then-President Viktor Yanukovich was a “coup” backed by the West, as frequently stated by Russian state-sponsored media.

In November 2013, thousands of Ukrainians flocked to Kyiv’s Independence Square (“Maidan Nezalezhnosti”) to protest then-President Yanukovich’s decision to suspend preparations for the signing of an association and free-trade agreement with the European Union, scheduled for the following week. Over the following months, the protests, often referred to as “Euromaidan” after the square where they took place, grew in size, and in February 2014, clashes between protesters and police became increasingly violent.

Negotiations between the Ukrainian government and the pro-European Union opposition, mediated by the foreign ministers of France, Germany, and Poland, led to an agreement signed on Feb. 21, 2014, giving more power to Ukraine's parliament and planning for a presidential election by the end of the year. However, angry protesters demanded Yanukovich's immediate resignation, and hundreds of police officers guarding government buildings abandoned their posts. Yanukovich fled the same day the agreement was signed, and protesters took control of several government buildings the next day.

These events — which contradict claims that the so-called “Maidan revolution” was in fact a Western-backed “coup” — were extensively covered by international media organizations with correspondents in Ukraine, including the BBC, the Associated Press, and The New York Times.

A December 2021 article, “Conflict in eastern Ukraine ‘looks like genocide,’” reported that “what is happening in Donbas” was “reminiscent of genocide,” quoting Putin. The Russia president added that “Russophobia” was the first step on the road to genocide.

The article did not provide any evidence to substantiate the claim of genocide, and reports by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Criminal Court found no evidence of genocide. A 2021 Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights report blamed the authorities of the Russia-backed Donetsk and Lugansk republics for various abuses, including severe restrictions on the freedom of movement, forcing Russian citizenship, refusing expert access to detainees, and arbitrary arrests. At the same time, the UN reported three cases of arbitrary detainment and ill-treatment carried out by Ukraine's SBU (secret service), and 13 such cases in the self-proclaimed republics, which the UN said were “usually” carried out by the ‘ministry of state security’ officers, known as MGB.

In December 2021, the site published an article, “Ukrainian ‘Nazis’ have taken control of Zelensky, Putin claims.” The article said, “Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky “fell under the influence of radical elements – as they say in Ukraine, Nazis.”

The article does not provide any evidence to substantiate this claim, which is frequently made by the Putin regime. In fact, far-right extremists have poor political representation in Ukraine and no plausible path to power. In the 2014 parliamentary elections, the far-right nationalist party Svoboda received 4.7 percent of the vote. In the 2019 presidential election, the Svoboda candidate, Ruslan

Koshulynskyy, won just 1.6 percent of the vote, and in the parliamentary elections, Svoboda won 2.2 percent of the vote.

A January 2022 report published by the U.S. Department of State's Global Engagement Center flatly rejected the claims about rampant Nazism in Ukraine. "This grossly exaggerated neo-Nazi narrative, which the Kremlin continues to peddle today, is designed to build public support at home and abroad that Russia's military intervention in Ukraine is justified," the report said.

The site could not be immediately reached for comment about these articles.

Russia Today has also published articles containing false and misleading claims related to COVID-19.

For example, a May 2021 opinion article titled, "Moderna's Covid-19 jab got the 'best vaccine' award — from a US-dominated Vaccine Congress staff with corporate goons," claimed that Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine has "a demonstrated superiority in terms of safety, distribution and storing, as well as in efficacy" compared to Moderna's vaccine.

However, according to government institutions and scientific research, the Sputnik V and Moderna vaccines have similar efficacy and safety records and similar distribution and storing methods. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), clinical trials have shown that the Moderna vaccine, which was tested on approximately 30,000 participants 18 to 95 years old, had a 94.1 percent efficacy rate in people who received both doses and had not been known to have been previously infected with COVID-19. The Sputnik V vaccine, according to a February 2021 report of a clinical trial, which was published in the medical journal *The Lancet*, had a 91.6 percent efficacy rate in people who had received both doses of the vaccine. At the time of *The Lancet's* report, approximately 20,000 people above 18 years old had received the Sputnik V vaccine.

*The Lancet* noted that Sputnik V's "most common adverse events were flu-like illness, injection site reactions, headache, and asthenia" (lack of energy). These side effects are nearly identical to those listed for Moderna's vaccine by the U.S. Federal Drug Administration, which include injection site reactions, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, nausea, and fever.

Regarding RT.com's claim about Sputnik V's storing methods, the liquid form of the Sputnik V vaccine can be stored at -18 degrees Celsius, while its freeze-dried form can be stored between 2

and 8 degrees Celsius, according to the Lancet report. The frozen form of Moderna's vaccine (in unpunctured vials) can be stored between -50 and -15 degrees Celsius, while its thawed form (also in unpunctured vials) can be stored between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius for up to 30 days, according to the CDC.

Cost, which can affect distribution, appears to be the only one of the four areas in which Sputnik V has an advantage over Moderna's vaccine. Sputnik V costs \$10 per dose, while Moderna's vaccine costs \$25 to \$37 per dose, according to a May 2021 article published by BioSpace.com, a biology and life sciences news website aimed at industry professionals.

In a February 2021 article titled "As more than a dozen foreign diplomats attend Navalny trial, West must resist temptation to interfere in Russian affairs — Kremlin," RT stated, in reference to the August 2020 poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny: "Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a press conference that he had serious doubts over the facts put forward by Navalny around his alleged poisoning with the nerve agent Novichok. 'We have no information that would actually prove the validity of the accusations against the Russian leadership, because it was not provided to us,' he said. 'If you accuse someone, then prove your guilt. But if you say you won't tell us anything, because it's secret, or because [Navalny] himself does not allow it, we have every reason to believe that it was staged.'"

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) stated in October 2020 that blood and urine samples taken from Navalny showed a Novichok-type nerve agent had been used in the attack. In a December 2020 letter to Alexander Vasilievich Shulgin, ambassador and permanent representative of the Russian Federation to the OPCW, Fernando Arias, the director-general of OPCW, explained that "a 'joint study' of biomedical samples...falls outside the scope of existing procedures and has not been conducted during any previous OPCW visit pursuant to a request for technical assistance." Arias also said that OPCW had "neither jointly studied, nor co-analysed samples on site" with the U.K. or Germany (both of which pledged to hold Russia accountable for the poisoning) and that "the Secretariat is thus applying the same approach to the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Russian Federation."

Navalny, investigative journalism outlet Bellingcat, and CNN reported in December 2020 that operatives from the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) had followed Navalny on his trips since 2017. Bellingcat's report said that some of the operatives were "in the vicinity" of Navalny at the time of his poisoning. Navalny released a recording of a telephone call that he said he made to a

state operative, who indicated that he had been sent to remove traces of the nerve agent from Navalny's clothes.

In a December 2020 article titled, "Trump's team presents CCTV VIDEO allegedly showing 'BLATANT' fraud in Georgia," RT advanced unsubstantiated claims of election fraud in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, which was won by Democrat Joe Biden. The article described a surveillance video that Rudy Giuliani, former President Trump's then-personal attorney, presented at a U.S. court hearing to demonstrate Trump's claims of election fraud in the U.S. state of Georgia during the 2020 presidential election. "The video footage, captured from CCTV cameras inside a counting center at State Farm Arena in Atlanta on, purportedly shows staff there retrieving suitcases of ballots from underneath a table and counting them, long after counting had officially been paused and poll workers sent home on election night," the RT article said.

The video referenced in this claim showed "normal ballot processing" procedures, Gabriel Sterling, Georgia's voting system implementation officer, tweeted the day after RT's article was published on Dec. 3, 2020. Sterling later said, "What you saw – the secret suitcase with magic ballots – were actually ballots that had been packed into those absentee ballot carriers by the workers in the plain view of the monitors and the press." Sterling also said that independent poll monitors were allowed to remain while votes were counted into the night. RT did not correct or update its article with any of these statements.

RT spokesperson Blair Dunbar did not respond to two June 2021 emails from NewsGuard inquiring about the false or unsubstantiated claims on RT.com regarding the Sputnik V vaccine, Navalny's poisoning, and the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Between May 2018 and April 2019, RT published multiple articles and videos falsely claiming that the 5G cellular telephone network can cause cancer. Other articles claimed that exposure to "radiations" from the towers could cause learning disabilities, and nosebleeds in children who attend school near them. In a March 2019 video segment, an RT correspondent said about cell phone radio wave signals, "The higher the frequency, the more dangerous it is to living organisms ...". Other stories on the topic include "'5G Wireless: A Dangerous 'Experiment on Humanity'" in January 2019, "Could 5G put more kids at risk for cancer?" in March 2019, and "'A global

catastrophe': Radiation activist warns that 5G networks are 'massive health experiment'" in February 2019.

Multiple studies have not conclusively proven that cell phone exposure causes cancer in people, and none has focused on the emerging 5G technology. RT.com has occasionally referenced those studies, while saying in a February 2019 article that “many within the scientific community remain skeptical that the benefits of 5G technology outweigh the potential harm to humans.”

Several RT.com articles referred to a 2018 National Toxicology Program study that described the effects of high levels of radio frequencies on mice and rats. However, that study found “little indication” that the cell phone frequencies caused tumors in the rodents, after exposing rodents’ bodies to levels up to four times higher than the legal limit of cell phone exposure. RT.com also frequently cited a 2011 report by the World Health Organization International Agency for Research on Cancer, which classified cell phones as a “Class 2B carcinogen”. RT.com did not mention that the agency also classified pickles and aloe vera as a “2B” cancer risk.

“Unlike many other media, we show the breadth of debate” on the 5G issue, Belkina told The New York Times, which reported on RT’s 5G stories in May 2019.

“Russia doesn’t have a 5G play, so it tries to undermine and discredit ours,” Ryan Fox, chief operating officer of a U.S. technology firm that tracks disinformation, told the Times in explaining the RT stories.

In multiple articles in 2018, RT.com advanced the Kremlin’s claim that the Russia-backed Syrian government did not use chemical weapons in April 2018 against its own citizens. Those claims have been contradicted for years by first-person accounts, photos, and videos documenting the victims, and reports from the United Nations and France.

The RT stories advanced Russian government officials’ assertions that activists’ accounts of the chemical attacks were invented to provide a reason for the U.S. and foreign governments to attack Syria. An April 2018 article stated, “Russia insists the incident was staged and said it reserves the right to counter any attack on Syria.” A September 2018 article declared, “Moscow has repeatedly warned that a false flag chemical weapon attack was being prepared in Idlib [Syria], giving the US and its allies justification to attack Syrian government forces.”

A U.N. commission report shared with The New York Times in 2018 also detailed Syria’s responsibility for the attacks. And in 2018, France released a declassified report stating that it had

assessed “with a high degree of confidence” that the April 2018 chemical attacks were carried out by the Syrian regime based on “testimonies, photos and videos that spontaneously appeared on specialized websites, in the press and on social media in the hours and days following the attack.”

In a May 2019 email response to NewsGuard’s questions about how RT characterized the Syrian chemical attacks, Anna Belkina, RT Deputy Editor-in-Chief/Head of Communications, Marketing, and Strategic Development, wrote, “Given the major role Russia plays in many of the world’s most significant geopolitical events, such as the conflict in Syria, to not include the official Russian perspective would not only be irresponsible, but would also make it impossible to provide a complete picture of the situation for our audience and the public at large.”

Between March and April 2019, RT published more than a dozen articles about the release of then-U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s report, following a two-year investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Coverage reflected the views expressed by Russian officials, including Putin, that Russia never attempted to influence the election in former President Trump’s favor by spreading disinformation.

RT.com stories include “ICYMI: Mueller’s collusion delusion: US media is furious their president isn’t a Russian spy” in March 2019; “‘One of the greatest hoaxes in US history’: Russiagate narrative’s peddlers to be held accountable?” in March 2019; and, in April 2019, a story titled “Mueller report takes ‘Russian meddling’ for granted, offers no actual evidence,” which states, that it “remains unproven” that “Russia somehow meddled in the 2016 election.”

Thirteen Russian nationals and three entities, including the Internet Research Agency, were indicted on charges that they hacked into Democratic computers and spread disinformation on social media to influence the election. The indictments said that the nationals were in communication with members of Trump’s campaign, although the Mueller report said that “the investigation did not establish that the campaign coordinated or conspired with the Russian government in its election-interference activities.”

Multiple RT videos and articles have continued to advance claims that Russia’s military agents were not responsible for the March 2018 poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal in Britain, claiming that it was part of a “false flag” orchestrated by the U.K. For example, a May 2021 RT article stated that “both former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter, who the British government claims were injured by a Russian chemical weapon attack in Salisbury, have recovered”

and that “Moscow expressed its deep concern about the incident, while firmly rejecting any allegations of involvement.” In January 2019, RT published an article titled, “Russian foreign intelligence chief accuses Britain of ‘destroying evidence’ in Skripal case,” which repeated the Russian official’s assertions that British authorities were provoking Russia by covering up “traces of the crime.”

In September 2018, the U.K. charged two men suspected of being Russian military agents with attempted murder in Skripal’s poisoning. British Prime Minister Theresa May said in a statement that “the two individuals named by the police and CPS [Crown Prosecution Service] are officers from the Russian military intelligence service.”

In response to NewsGuard’s inquiries about RT’s coverage of the poisoning, Belkina said, “... In line with our overall editorial line, we have brought to light different sides of the story by sharing the opinions of a wide variety of commentators. This includes frequently referring to the opinions of the British government, the Russian government, international experts and other parties across its coverage.”

RT’s Skripal coverage fits into the broadcaster’s mission of sowing “political dysfunction” in countries of special interest to the Russian government, according to a 2019 study published by the Policy Institute at King's College London. RT, as well as the Russian state-owned news agency Sputnik, accomplished this through many “separate – and often contradictory – narratives,” the study said, including by airing the theory that Skripal was never poisoned and the incident was a hoax, and that the U.K. government staged the attack to frame Russia.

The study also found that RT.com repeatedly referred to “political dysfunction” in its coverage of several European countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, and the Ukraine, in addition to the U.S.

In late 2018, U.K. media regulator Ofcom said RT had violated its impartiality rules, in part, for biased coverage of the Skripal poisoning. Belkina told NewsGuard that RT “firmly” believes that none of its programs breached Ofcom’s standards, adding: “we are in fact currently taking the only recourse we have to challenge the assertion made by Ofcom by seeking Judicial Review of the matter in the

UK courts. Ofcom has publicly acknowledged that, in spite of its December decision, our compliance record has not been materially out of line with other broadcasters.”

In July 2019, Ofcom sanctioned RT and fined the organization £200,000, citing RT's "serious and repeated failures" to report impartially on stories such as the Skripal poisoning and Syrian conflict.

In response to the sanction, an unnamed RT spokesperson told the British newspaper *Press Gazette*, "It is very wrong for Ofcom to have issued a sanction against RT on the basis of its breach findings that are currently under Judicial Review by the High Court in London." RT did not respond to one NewsGuard email in 2019 seeking further comment about Ofcom's determination.

The U.S. Department of Justice required RT America to register as an agent of the Russian government after the release of a 2017 U.S. intelligence report referring to RT as "Russia's state-run propaganda machine." The intelligence report said that the broadcaster had contributed to the Kremlin's interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, forcing RT to disclose its Russian government funding. In a September 2018 email, RT spokesperson Dunbar said of the requirement, "We believe that the registration demand for RT America — staffed by American journalists covering American news for American audiences — contradicts the ideals of both democracy and freedom of speech. It deprives us of fair competition with other international channels, which are not registered as foreign agents."

In 2014, Ukraine banned RT's channels from the country's cable network for "broadcasting propaganda of war and violence." This aligns with statements made by RT's Editor-in-Chief, Margarita Simonyan, who compared RT to the UK's Ministry of Defence, saying it was "waging an information war, and with the entire Western world."

Concerns about RT's lack of impartiality have also been expressed by former RT anchor Liz Wahl. In a 2016 column, Wahl said that "the experts we were meant to interview were selected based on his or her ability to deliver the chosen narrative of Western hypocrisy. Sometimes the News Director chose this guest directly. But with time and training, producers learned how to pick sources and interviewees that would gain the News Director's approval. There was a learning curve in which employees would learn how to self-censor and obtain the intuition of what to ask and, just as importantly, what not to ask."

Because RT.com has published false information and distorted coverage to support the views of the Russian government that owns it, and, through its reporting, serves a mission of

sowing dysfunction in other countries, NewsGuard has determined that the website also does not gather and present information responsibly, avoid the use of deceptive headlines, and does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

RT regularly updates articles and publishes corrections when an error has been made, typically as an editor's note at the bottom of the story. "RT is committed to facts-based reporting," Dunbar told NewsGuard. "If a good-faith error occurs, we always correct it and let our audience know."

However, because RT.com has not corrected multiple false claims reported on the site such as those cited above, that were advanced by the government that owns it and controls it, as well as false claims made by the website's authors, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet NewsGuard's standard for having effective corrections practices.

Dunbar did not respond to two June 2021 emails seeking comment on RT.com's corrections policy.

## **Transparency**

RT discloses on the About page of its website that it is "publicly financed from the budget of the Russian Federation." The site also mentions ANO TV-Novosti on its Contact Info page.

Most news articles on RT.com are not attributed to authors. Op-ed columns do have bylines and typically include a short biography for the writer, which sometimes includes contact information.

Asked about the lack of author attribution on articles, Dunbar told NewsGuard in 2018, "Many news stories are a collaborative effort, rather than the work of a single person — which is why this is a common practice within the international news space."

RT.com provides biographies of the network's on-air reporters, some of whom include links to their social media profiles. Biographies for RT's editorial leadership are listed on a Management page. General email addresses for many RT departments are listed on the site's Contact Info page. Russian phone numbers are also listed for some departments.

Display advertising on RT.com is generally distinguished from editorial content. However, the website also publishes sponsored articles in sections headed either "You May Like" and "From Our

Partners.” The “You May Like” section states that its stories are “promoted links by Taboola,” a native advertising platform. Articles published under the heading “From Our Partners,” provided by a separate native advertising platform, are not labeled as paid content, which is why NewsGuard has determined that RT.com does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for clearly labeling advertising.

Dunbar did not respond to an email in June 2021 seeking comment on RT.com’s unlabeled sponsored content.

## History

RT grew out of a decision in 2005 by the Russian government to extend its public opinion activities outside the country. Funded by the government, the broadcast channel launched as Russia Today in 2005. In 2009, it changed its name to RT (obscuring its status as an entity funded by the Russian government), later began paying U.S. cable companies to carry its channel, and launched a newsroom in Washington the following year.

The network focused on the internet as social media began to grow in popularity. In 2013, RT became the first news organization to gain more than 1 billion views on YouTube. In 2017, The Wall Street Journal reported that the English-language version of RT was close to CNN in having among the most views and subscribers for news channels on YouTube, with 2.1 billion views and 2.2 million subscribers.

There have been several incidents of RT correspondents resigning due to the requirements of propaganda. In 2014, Washington anchor Liz Wahl resigned when the network refused to air a reference she made to Russia’s intervention in Ukraine, Wahl explained in an article entitled, “I was Putin’s Pawn” published by Politico magazine. “I’d been a correspondent for RT — the English-language international cable network funded by the Russian government — for about two and a half years. I’d looked the other way as the network smeared America for the sake of making the Kremlin look better by comparison, while it sugarcoated atrocities by one brutal dictator after another.”

A London-based correspondent, Sara Firth, resigned in 2014 in protest of RT’s coverage of the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in Ukraine. RT.com stories backed the government’s contention that Russia or its allies were not involved in the plane crash.

Following concerns about Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election, Twitter reported that RT had paid to promote its tweets and stopped taking their ads. In addition, YouTube removed RT from

among the premium channels for which advertisers must pay higher prices. RT had been among the preferred advertising outlets on YouTube, a status for the top five percent of channels most popular among young viewers.

“Even though RT was removed from the program without any notice, Google has publically [sic] stated that it found no evidence that RT manipulated YouTube or violated its policies during the 2016 U.S. election campaign,” Dunbar told NewsGuard. “This speaks to the unprecedented political pressure increasingly applied to all RT partners and relationships in a concerted effort to push our channel out of the U.S. market entirely, and by any means possible.”

On Nov. 1, 2020, two days before the U.S. presidential election, an adviser on then-President Trump’s coronavirus task force publicly apologized for conducting a 27-minute interview with Russia Today. Scott Atlas, who falsely said in the Oct. 31 interview that lockdowns intended to avert spread of the virus were “killing people” and questioned the efficacy of face coverings, said on Twitter that he had not been aware that RT was “a registered foreign agent.”

Atlas, a radiologist, said, “I regret doing the interview and apologize for allowing myself to be taken advantage of. I especially apologize to the national security community who is working hard to defend us.”

A 2020 report produced by academics at the University of Oxford’s Oxford Internet Institute found that “RT is an opportunist channel that is used as an instrument of state defense policy to meddle in the politics of other states” and notes that the Russia-Georgia conflict in 2008 saw a key shift in the station’s attitude when it “worked to encourage doubts about the West, its media, agenda, and values”.

*Disclosure: NewsGuard’s former Managing Director for Europe, Anna-Sophie Harling now works for the UK’s communications regulator, Ofcom, and was previously a member of the organisation’s Content Board. Harling was not involved in NewsGuard’s ratings of Ofcom-regulated outlets after joining the Board.*

*Corrections: An earlier version of this Nutrition Label determined that RT.com met NewsGuard’s standard for regularly issuing corrections. Upon further review, NewsGuard has determined that RT.com’s uncorrected false claims do not meet NewsGuard’s standard. An earlier version of this label also erroneously reported that RT Deutsch was among RT’s broadcast channels. RT Deutsch*

*only publishes online content. An earlier version of the label also misidentified the name of Malaysia Airlines, and misstated the date that RT launched its Washington newsroom. An earlier version of the label also erroneously reported that RT was close to CNN in having the most views and subscribers on YouTube. In fact, while RT was close to CNN in popularity, the two networks were among the most popular channels on YouTube among news organizations, not all brands. An earlier version of this label also erroneously attributed a quote that referred to a “false flag attack in Syria” to articles about the Skripal poisoning. The Skripal articles did not refer to Syria. NewsGuard apologizes for these errors.*

*Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on Feb. 19, 2022, with new examples of the site’s content. It was previously updated on June 22, 2021, and on Nov. 3, 2020.*

Written by: [Gordon Crovitz](#), [Macaela Bennett](#)

Contributing: [Melissa Goldin](#), [Maddy Roache](#)

Edited by: [Anna-Sophie Harling](#), [Amy Westfeldt](#)

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## Sources

### Ownership and Financing

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## **Credibility**

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