

We live in the age of disinformation—of organized deception. Spy agencies pour vast resources into hacking, leaking, and forging files, often with the goal of weakening the very foundation of liberal democracy: trust in facts. Thomas Rid, a renowned expert on technology and national security, was among the first to identify the threat and sound the alarm. More than four months before the United States' presidential election in 2016, Rid warned that the Russian military intelligence service was “carefully planning and timing a high-stakes political campaign” to disrupt the democratic process. But as crafty as such so-called active measures have become, they are not new.

The story of modern disinformation begins with the clash between communism and capitalism after the Russian Revolution, a conflict that would come to define the Cold War. In *Active Measures*, Rid reveals startling intelligence and security secrets gleaned from materials in more than ten languages, from fresh archival releases, and from interviews with current and former operatives. He exposes the colorful yet disturbing history of professional organized lying, uncovering for the first time some of the century's most significant—and astonishing—operations, many of them nearly beyond belief: a White Russian ploy that backfired and brought down a New York police commissioner; a KGB-engineered anti-Semitic hate campaign that crept back across the Iron Curtain; a CIA-backed fake publishing empire run by a former Wehrmacht U-boat commander. Rid tracks the rise in the practice of leaking confidential information and shows how intelligence agencies began to exploit the emerging internet culture many years before WikiLeaks. Finally, he sheds new light on the 2016 election, especially the role of the infamous “troll farm” in St. Petersburg, and describes a much more harmful attack that unfolded in the shadows.

*Active Measures* takes the reader deep into a vast hall of mirrors old and new, unmasking the insidious tricks used to undermine the truth. Looking toward a future certain to be fraught with engineered polarization that is even more active and less measured, Thomas Rid offers us the tools necessary to cut through the deception.

**THOMAS RID** is an information security professor at Johns Hopkins University. He testified about disinformation before the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

**READ BY DEREK PERKINS**



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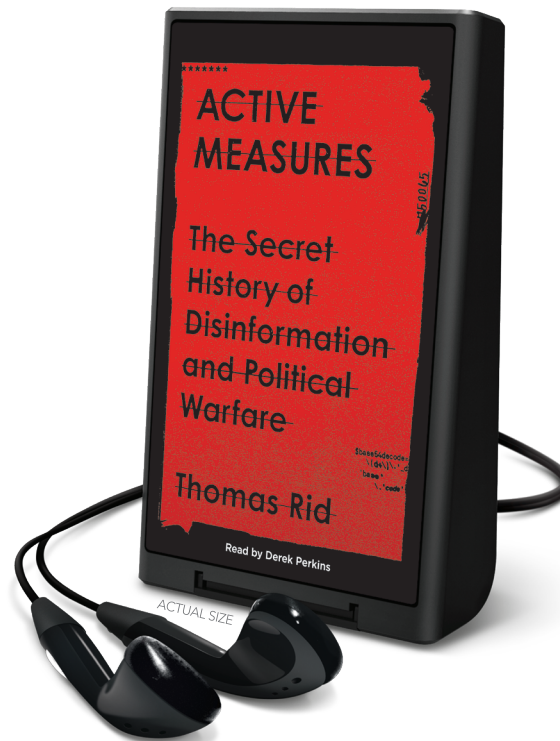


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