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THE ROLE OF FAKE NEWS AND VIRAL CONTENT IN SHAPING RESPONSES TO INTERNATIONAL CRISES

This article examines the role of fake news and viral content in shaping responses to international crises in the context of the digitalization of global politics. The aim of the study is to identify and analyze the mechanisms through which disinformation and viral media content in the digital environment influence the perception of international crises. The research is based on the constructivist approach, comparative analysis and the case study method. The empirical basis of the research includes an analysis of two international cases, the COVID-19 pandemic and the European migration crisis of 2015-2016, as well as data from international organizations and research centers. The scientific novelty of the study is determined by a comprehensive approach that enabled an in-depth analysis of the digital information space and the identification of key mechanisms trough which fake news influences crises perception. The study's findings demonstrate that the digital information environment, through the identified interrelated mechanisms, acts as an independent factor in shaping responses to international crises. Accordingly, it is concluded that disinformation has become a significant element of the contemporary informational space of international politics and influences both the nature and the coherence of international crisis responses.

Keywords: fake news, viral content, international crises, disinformation.

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Халықаралық дағдарыстарға реакцияны қалыптастырудағы жалған жаңалықтар мен вирустық басылымдардың рөлі

Мақалада әлемдік саясатты цифрландыру жағдайында халықаралық дағдарыстарға реакцияны қалыптастырудағы жалған жаңалықтар мен вирустық жарияланымдардың рөлі қарастырылады. Зерттеудің мақсаты-сандық ақпараттық ортадағы жалған ақпарат пен вирустық медиа мазмұны халықаралық дағдарыстарды қабылдауға әсер ететін механизмдерді анықтау және талдау болып табылады. Зерттеудің теориялық және әдістемелік негізі – ақпараттық түсінік берудің саяси шешімдердің қалыптасуына әсерін талдауға мүмкіндік беретін құрылымдық тәсіл. Жұмыста салыстырмалы талдау және кейс-стади әдістері қолданылады. Зерттеудің эмпирикалық негізі екі халықаралық жағдайларды – COVID-19 пандемиясын және 2015-2016 жылдардағы еуропалық көші-қон дағдарысын, сондай-ақ халықаралық ұйымдар мен зерттеу орталықтарының деректерін талдау болып табылады. Зерттеу нәтижелері цифрлық ақпараттық орта анықталған өзара байланысты механизмдері арқылы халықаралық дағдарыстарға реакцияны қалыптастырудың дербес факторы. Зерттеудің ғылыми жаңалығы цифрлық ақпараттық кеңістікті жан-жақты талдауға мүмкіндік берген кешенді тәсілмен анықталады, ол фейк жаңалықтардың дағдарысты қабылдауға әсер ететін негізгі тетіктерін айқындауға жағдай жасады. Сандық ақпараттық орта өзара байланысты механизмдер жүйесі арқылы әрекет ете отырып, халықаралық дағдарыстарға реакцияны қалыптастырудың дербес факторы ретінде әрекет ететінін зерттеу нәтижелері көрсетеп отыр. Жалған ақпарат халықаралық саясаттың қазіргі ақпараттық ортасының маңызды элементіне айналады және дағдарыстарға Халықаралық жауап берудің сипаты мен дәйектілігіне әсер етеді деген қорытындыға келді.

Түйін сөздер: жалған жаңалықтар, вирустық басылымдар, халықаралық дағдарыстар, жалған ақпарат.

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Роль фейковых новостей и вирусных публикаций в формировании реакции на международные кризисы

В статье рассматривается роль фейковых новостей и вирусных публикаций в формировании реакции на международные кризисы в условиях цифровизации мировой политики. Цель исследования состоит в выявлении и анализе механизмов, посредством которых дезинформационный и вирусный медиаконтент в цифровой информационной среде влияют на восприятие международных кризисов. Теоретико-методологическую основу исследования составляет конструктивистский подход, позволяющий анализировать влияние информационных интерпретаций на формирование политических решений. В работе применяются методы сравнительного анализа и кейс-стади. Эмпирическую основу исследования составляет анализ двух международных кейсов – пандемии COVID-19 и европейского миграционного кризиса 2015–2016 гг., а также данные международных организаций и исследовательских центров. Научная новизна исследования обусловлена комплексным подходом, позволивший осуществить всесторонний анализ цифрового информационного пространства и выявить ключевые инструменты влияние фейковых новостей на восприятие кризиса. Результаты исследования показывают, что цифровая информационная среда, посредством выявленных взаимосвязанных механизмов, выступает самостоятельным фактором формирования реакции на международные кризисы. Сделан вывод о том, что дезинформация становится значимым элементом современной информационной среды международной политики и влияет на характер и согласованность международного реагирования на кризисы.

Ключевые слова: фейковые новости, вирусные публикации, международные кризисы, дезинформация.

Introduction

The digitalization of global politics has changed the way international crises are perceived, discussed and politically interpreted. A crisis no longer reaches the public mainly through official statements or traditional media reports. It is almost immediately surrounded by social media reactions, visual content, rumors and expert comments. As a result, public interpretations of crisis events may begin to form before governments and international organizations have developed a coordinated position.

This transformation is linked to broader shifts in the global communication environment. Network-based forms of information exchange are increasingly replacing traditional channels of diplomatic communication. Simultaneously with the increased speed of information dissemination and the expansion of audience reach, the information environment has become susceptible to manipulation and strategic distortion. Consequently, false information coexists within a unified media space in which mechanisms of verification and filtering remain limited. In academic scholarship, this phenomenon is conceptualized as "informational disorder", which contributes to the proliferation of conflicting interpretations of events and to the growing uncertainty of the information environment (Morse & Pratt, 2025).

Moreover, the growing digital interconnectedness of the international system generates additional vulnerabilities for international actors. On the one hand, enhanced information openness facilitates new forms of international cooperation and communication. On the other hand, it intensifies political competition and creates opportunities for information-based pressure, which may significantly complicate processes of international coordination and agreement between states (Farrell & Newman, 2021).

Despite the increasing number of studies on disinformation, many of them focus mainly on domestic political consequences of fake news or on the technological aspects of algorithm-driven content dissemination. However, the role of fake news and viral content in shaping responses specifically to international crises, including diplomatic decision-making, institutional coordination, and levels of trust among international actors, remains insufficiently theorized and systematized.

The relevance of the present study is determined by the fact that responses to international crises are becoming increasingly dependent on the dynamics of the informational space as digitalization of the international information space advances. The acceleration of information flows, the growth of public polarization and the increasing volume

of contradictory information directly affect the effectiveness of international coordination and the stability of institutional decision-making. Therefore, particular attention must be paid to identifying and analyzing the mechanisms through which disinformation shapes international reactions, as such analysis is essential for the development of adaptive strategies and for strengthening the resilience of international institutions.

The object of this research is the formation of responses to international crises within the digital information environment.

The subject of the research comprises the mechanisms through which fake news and viral content influence the processes of shaping responses to international crises.

The aim of the study is to identify and systematically analyze the mechanisms by which disinformation and viral media content within the digital environment shape the perception of international crises.

To achieve this aim, the study addresses the following objectives:

- To examine the mechanisms through which fake news shapes levels of trust in international institutions and official sources of information;
- To identify the role of viral content dissemination in the construction of crisis narratives within the digital environment;
- To assess the extent to which disinformation affects processes of international coordination and institutional decision-making;
- To illustrate the operation of these mechanisms through selected case studies of global and international political crises.

The research hypothesis is that in the context of the digitalization of international relations, fake news and viral content potentially function as controllable instruments. When the identified mechanisms of their influence are taken into account, these instruments allow states and international institutions to deliberately regulate levels of trust, shape public perceptions of crisis events, and influence the dynamics of international coordination.

The scientific novelty of the present article lies in its systematic analysis of such phenomena as the role and impact of fake news and viral content, demonstrated through the examination of global crisis case studies. The study of COVID-19 and the European migration crisis is conducted through an exploration of the role and influence of disinformation on public trust and on the effectiveness of state institutions and international organizations.

At the same time, the originality of the article is determined by its comprehensive methodological approach, combining constructivist, comparative and case study methods, which enabled a multidimensional analysis of the digital information environment and the identification of the key mechanisms through which fake news shapes perceptions of crises. Furthermore, this research approach made it possible to formulate a number of theoretical conclusions and practical recommendations.

Literature review

Several recent studies are of particular importance for this research, as they provide insights into the role of the information environment in shaping responses to crisis events.

For instance, D. Morse and T. Pratt (2025) examine the phenomenon of informational disorder as a factor that significantly transforms contemporary global politics. According to the authors, the rapid spread of disinformation and the increasing dominance of emotionally charged content undermine the shared factual basis necessary for effective diplomatic interaction. As a result, trust in international institutions weakens, while the risk of conflict escalation increases. This approach suggests that the digital environment can be considered an important factor, influencing international interaction and coordination processes during crises.

E. Humprecht, F. Esser, and P. Van Aelst (2020) address the issue of the resilience of political systems to online disinformation. Their research demonstrates that the vulnerability of states to false content depends on the characteristics of the media environment and the level of public trust. These differences, in turn, affect the ability of institutions to respond effectively to crises and maintain coordination under conditions of informational pressure.

A number of studies focus on how diplomacy adapts to information-related threats. In particular, the work of E. Hedling (2021) examines counter-disinformation practices within European Union diplomacy, which are gradually transforming from ad hoc crisis responses into routine professional activities. In contemporary crises, practices such as monitoring, public communication strategies (including the construction of "positive narratives"), and rapid rebuttals ("debunking") have become integral elements of international response. At the same time, the focus of diplomatic efforts is increasingly shifting toward the protection of domestic audiences and internal informational resilience.

An important extension of this approach is presented in the joint work of E. Hedling and H. Ördén (2025), which addresses the issue of attribution

politics. The study analyzes how international actors identify and publicly assign responsibility for information attacks. Attribution is viewed as a strategic and political choice that can increase pressure and function as a tool of deterrence. This is particularly significant in the context of international crises, as assigning responsibility and publicly identifying a "culpable party" becomes part of the response itself.

The work of L. Hagström and K. Gustafsson (2021) focuses on strategic narratives in international crises. The COVID-19 pandemic is used as an example of a global crisis in which states attempted to promote favorable interpretations of events. The struggle over meaning directly affects international interaction and the formation of political positions. Fake news and viral content contribute to the divergence of narratives and complicate coordination processes, thereby slowing down and fragmenting crisis responses.

A separate line of research examines the role of visual content in international crises. Viral images and emotionally charged publications can shape moral interpretations of events and influence their perception. Scholars such as R. Adler-Nissen, K. Andersen, and L. Hansen (2020) demonstrate that such content is not confined to public reaction but becomes embedded within foreign policy discourse. Using the example of the migration crisis, they illustrate the mechanism of "emotional bundling," whereby individual emotional responses are aggregated into collective calls for political action. This suggests that visual content can influence international decision-making. As a result, viral publications become a tool through which public perception can affect both the nature and the pace of international responses.

The academic significance of the reviewed studies lies in their ability to reveal the impact of disinformation and viral media content on the formation of responses, primarily in the political dimension. However, the combined effect of fake news and viral publications on the mechanisms of international political response in crisis situations remains insufficiently systematized. Clarifying these relationships allows for a deeper understanding of the dynamics and coherence of crisis response in contemporary international politics.

Methods and methodology

The study relies on a constructivist approach, comparative analysis, and the case study method. Together, these methods make it possible to examine how fake news and viral content influence the perception of international crises and the formation of responses to them in the digital information environment.

The study of international crises through the identification of discourses, information flows and media interpretations was conducted using a constructivist approach. In this context, fake news is presented as tools for shaping the nature and perception of crises. The digital information environment from a constructivist perspective is analyzed as a space where multiple frames of crises and conflicts interpretation are constructed and contested.

The two selected case studies of international crises enable the identification of mechanisms through which the international community responds to disinformation and viral content. The choice of the cases – the COVID-19 pandemic and the European migration crisis of 2015-2016 – was determined by their political significance and the intensity of associated information flows.

The case of study method allowed for an in-depth analysis of the key components of each crisis. In the case of pandemic, the main focus is placed on the emergence and escalation of the infodemic phenomenon, its impact on public perception and the scale of disinformation dissemination. At the same time, in the European migration crisis, the role of viral content in shaping crisis interpretations and influencing the position of European Union member states and institutions is examined.

The empirical basis of the study consists of secondary statistical and analytical materials. The study draws on data from the Reuters Institute Digital News Report (2020-2025), reports of the European External Action Service, Eurostat statistics on migration flows, and materials from civil society organizations on viral content in digital networks. These data were used to examine trends in public trust in news, levels of concern about disinformation and the spread of viral content. Additionally, the mechanisms of their influence on public perception and international responses were identified.

Results

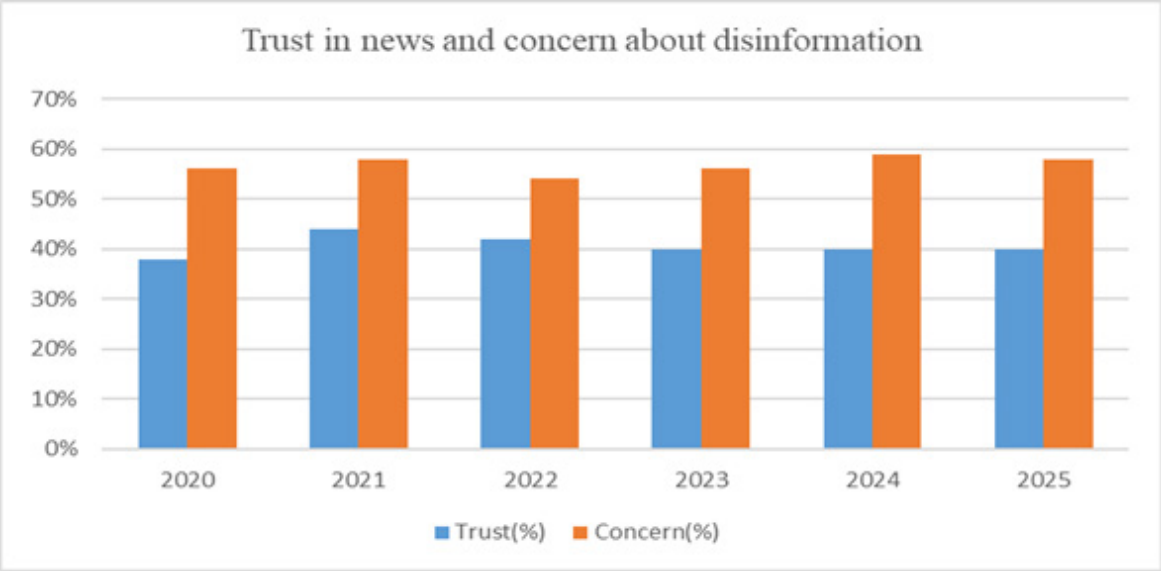
The results suggest that contemporary international crises unfold in both material and informational dimensions. Alongside material events, the digital environment shapes their interpretation and political assessment. In many cases, this information space is filled with fake news and various forms of viral content that influence public perception and

the coordination of political decisions. Thus, the systematic spread of distorted and fabricated narratives plays a significant role in shaping responses to crisis situations.

The contemporary digital environment is characterized by a combination of relatively low levels of trust in news and a high degree of concern about misinformation, as illustrated in Figure 1. According to data from the Reuters Institute Digital News Report, global trust in news fluctuated between 38% and 44% over the period from 2020 to 2025. In 2020, it stood at 38% (Newman et al., 2020), increased to 44% in 2021 (Newman et al., 2021), and then declined to 42% in 2022 (Newman et al., 2022). At the same time, the proportion of respondents reporting difficulties in distinguishing between reliable and false information online has remained consistently high. This figure was 56% in 2020 (Newman et al., 2020), rose to 58% in 2021 (Newman et al., 2021), and fell slightly to 54% in 2022 (Newman et al., 2022), before increasing again to 56% in 2023 (Newman et al., 2023). In 2024, it reached a peak of 59% (Newman et al., 2024), followed by a slight decline to 58% in 2025 (Newman et al., 2025). These trends point to a persistent state of informational tension. Under such conditions, the perception of crisis events becomes particularly sensitive to emotionally charged and viral content. Even individual publications can significantly influence public discourse and shape perceptions of unfolding events.

Figure 1

Global levels of trust in news and concern about disinformation (2020-2025) Compiled by using data from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford.



Note: Compiled by the author

The data presented in Figure 1 indicate the conditions under which disinformation can gain political significance. Relatively low trust in news weakens confidence in official explanations, while persistent concern about misinformation makes audience more receptive to alternative narratives. In crisis situations, this combination may increase the influence of emotional digital content on public perception and institutional communication.

The study identifies several key interrelated mechanisms through which fake news and viral content influence the formation of responses to international crises.

First, the mechanism of undermining institutional trust. The spread of unreliable information reduces trust in official sources and international organizations. In crisis conditions, this increases doubts about the legitimacy of decisions and makes it more difficult to build public support for international response measures.

Second, the mechanism of emotional mobilization through viral content. Digital platforms ac-

celerate the dissemination of emotionally charged messages and visual materials. Such content attracts public attention and intensifies emotional perceptions of crises, thereby increasing public pressure on political actors.

Third, the mechanism of polarization of interpretations. Disinformation contributes to the spread of alternative and conflicting narratives about the causes and consequences of crises. This leads to increased public polarization and complicates the development of coordinated political decisions at both national and international levels.

Finally, the mechanism of informational pressure on international coordination. The active spread of viral content generates intense public discussions in the digital environment. Under such conditions, states and international organizations are forced to take into account information dynamics when shaping their positions.

The identified mechanisms are empirically confirmed in the analyzed cases of international crises, which allows the information environment to be considered as a significant factor in shaping responses. In this regard, further analysis focuses on the cases of the COVID-19 pandemic and the European migration crisis, which illustrate how these mechanisms operate in different types of crisis situations.

The analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic shows that the extensive spread of disinformation leads to a decline in institutional trust and an increase in public polarization, which significantly complicates the coordination of international decisions. The pandemic was accompanied by the phenomenon described by the World Health Organization as an "infodemic" referring to an excessive volume of information, including unreliable, contradictory, and unverified content (WHO, 2025). The infodemic complicated both policy-making and individual decision-making processes, increasing uncertainty and reducing trust in official sources, thereby reflecting the mechanism of declining institutional trust. In studies of political communication, disinformation is considered a mechanism for constructing and reinforcing alternative interpretations of events (Freelon & Wells, 2020). The widespread dissemination of conspiracy theories about the origin of the virus, including interpretations of it as the result of deliberate actions such as the development of biological weapons, significantly influenced public perceptions of the crisis. Trust in official sources declined and was accompanied by increased public polarization (Pavlovich, 2022).

According to data from the public organization Avaaz (2020), false viral content on Facebook alone generated more than 117 million views and 1.7 million shares. These figures demonstrate both the scale and speed of information circulation, as well as the high level of audience engagement in the digital environment.

The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic clearly shows that crisis responses were shaped by a combination of medical, political, and institutional factors. The level of institutional trust and the effectiveness of intergovernmental and interagency coordination played a key role. Insufficient coordination increased the politicization of the crisis and made it more difficult to develop consistent responses (Davies & Wenham, 2020).

Official reports of the European External Action Service for 2020-2021 confirm the widespread dissemination of disinformation related to the pandemic. These reports identify narratives aimed at discrediting international institutions and organizations involved in vaccine production (EEAS, 2021). Such narratives had a transnational character and influenced public debates within European Union member states.

As a result, the pandemic prompted a reconsideration of approaches to responding to information threats. States and international institutions began to develop new mechanisms to counter disinformation, including the strengthening of strategic communication and monitoring of the digital environment (Kolotaev, 2021). The spread of fake news and viral content revealed institutional vulnerabilities, increased uncertainty, and complicated international coordination.

The European migration crisis of 2015-2016 provides another example of how responses to international crises are shaped within a context of multiple interpretations in the digital environment. According to Eurostat, more than 1.25 million first-time asylum applications were registered in European Union countries in 2015, representing a record level (Eurostat, 2016). However, the nature of political responses was determined not only by the scale of migration flows, but also by how the crisis was represented and interpreted in the digital space. Under conditions of high media coverage, events quickly acquired symbolic meaning, while viral content shaped dominant frames of perception.

A strong impact on public perception was produced by the widely circulated image of the Syrian boy Alan Kurdi in September 2015. The photograph spread rapidly through social media and interna-

tional media, becoming a symbol of the humanitarian dimension of the crisis. Visual mobilization can concentrate emotional reactions and transform them into collective political demands, strengthening moral arguments in public discourse (Adler-Nissen, Andersen & Hansen, 2020). In the European context, this dynamic contributed to increased public pressure on EU institutions in favor of humanitarian responses and temporarily increased support for more open policies.

At the same time, opposing interpretations were also reinforced in the digital environment. Migration was frequently framed in terms of security threats, economic burden, and cultural destabilization. Such narratives were disseminated through emotionally charged content and contributed to increased public polarization. Analytical reports of the European Commission on misinformation and disinformation in the field of migration highlight the persistence of narratives presenting migration as a source of risk and instability, as well as their influence on public perceptions of migration policy (European Commission, 2025). The spread of such interpretations was accompanied by growing public demand for stricter migration policies and adjustments in the positions of political actors in several countries.

At the institutional level, countering disinformation has gradually been incorporated into governance strategies and strategic communication at both the EU and international levels. This reflects efforts to improve coordination and strengthen the resilience of policy decisions in the field of migration (Björk, 2022).

The migration crisis therefore demonstrates another form of informational influence. In this case, misleading content affected political debate mainly through moral and security-based interpretations. Humanitarian images strengthened emotional pressure in favor of protection, while threat-oriented narratives supported demands for stricter migration policies.

Taken together, the two cases show that fake news and viral content do not produce identical effects in different crisis contexts. During COVID-19 pandemic, disinformation primarily affected trust in expertise and official communication. During the migration crisis, viral content had a stronger influence on moral evaluation and public pressure on political actors.

Discussion

The analyzed cases clarify why the informational dimension of crisis response has become politically important. The main issue is the weakening of a shared factual basis during crisis situations. When different actors rely on opposing views of the same event, diplomatic interaction becomes more difficult and institutional responses lose part of their coherence. This observation is consistent with earlier findings on informational disorder (Morse & Pratt 2025).

The COVID-19 case is significant because it shows that disinformation becomes especially influential when official institutions struggle to maintain control over the interpretation of a crisis. During the pandemic, the main difficulty was the existence of competing explanations that challenged expert knowledge and official communication. Conspiracy narratives and emotionally persuasive claims offered audiences alternative ways of understanding the crisis. These conditions created a favorable environment for the spread of disinformation (Kirk, 2024).

Furthermore, the findings are consistent with existing research on the varying resilience of political systems to online disinformation. As the analysis shows, the level of public trust and the structure of the media environment indeed influence the nature of crisis responses. However, the cases also demonstrate that interpretations of crises, constructed by different actors ranging from states to international organizations, play a significant role (Humprecht, Esser & Van Aelst, 2020). Thus, informational pressure does not operate in isolation but interacts with existing institutional and cultural characteristics of political systems.

An additional dimension of the problem concerns how fake news is defined and framed at the international level. In this regard, different actors interpret its meaning and perceived threat in different ways, which is reflected in the measures they adopt (Neo, 2021). As a result, the analyzed cases reveal the absence of a unified interpretative framework, which complicates coordination and reduces the coherence of international responses.

The findings also help explain why emotionally charged content becomes especially influential during crises. Negative or conflict-oriented messages are more likely to attract attention when audiences already distrust official information or doubt its completeness. This corresponds with research on the role of negativity in political communication and explains why viral publications may influence public reactions faster that official communication (Soroka & Wlezien, 2026).

Finally, the digital environment is becoming increasingly integrated into diplomatic practice. On-

line communication is no longer a supplementary tool but has become an integral part of the everyday activities of international actors (Adler-Nissen & Eggeling, 2022). Therefore, information flows exert a direct influence the formation of positions and public statements. In other words, crisis responses today unfold simultaneously in both political and digital spaces.

Overall, the findings suggest that disinformation and viral content do not operate in isolation but within a unified logic. Their influence extends both to public perception and to institutional mechanisms of decision-making. Thus, the transformation of international responses in the digital era is shaped not only by technological changes but also by evolving conditions of trust, interpretation, and the public legitimation of decisions.

Conclusion

The present study was aimed at identifying the role of fake news and viral content in shaping responses to international crises in the context of the digitalization of international relations. The analysis has shown that the digital information environment has become an important factor influencing the perception of crisis events, public discourse and processes of international coordination.

The findings confirm the proposed hypothesis that fake news and viral content function as controllable instruments of informational influence. In particular, disinformation affects not only the interpretation of events in public consciousness but also influences the processes of coordination among international actors, as well as the levels of trust in official sources of information and international organizations.

Based on the results obtained, the following key conclusions can be drawn:

- The digital environment acts as an independent factor in shaping responses to international crises, structuring interpretations of events and influencing key parameters of political decision-making.

- The mechanisms identified in the study demonstrate that disinformation affects crisis response simultaneously at several levels, including cognitive, emotional, institutional and diplomatic ones.

- The comparative analysis demonstrates that the influence of fake news and viral content depends on the specific political and informational context of a crisis. Therefore, disinformation should not be viewed as a uniform factor, since its effects may differ depending on the nature of the crisis, the level of public trust and the dominant narratives in the digital space.

Accordingly, fake news and viral content should be considered an essential element of the contemporary information environment of international politics. Their influence manifests both at the level of public perception of crisis events and within institutional processes of decision-making and international coordination.

The practical significance of the research findings lies in the development of the following recommendations:

- There is a need to introduce instruments for the early prevention of disinformation through the monitoring of fake news and viral media content, as well as the identification of their emotional components. This would enable the timely and effective mitigation of the influence of fake news and reduce its emotional intensity;

- To develop preventive strategies aimed at shaping interpretations of crisis phenomena in accordance with the required narratives, which would substantially reduce social polarization and contribute to a more objective perception of crises;

- To enhance institutional trust through the use of digital platforms for public engagement and through the development of unified and prompt responses from official information sources;

- To recognize the information space as an integral factor in both domestic and foreign policy coordination, including the formation of a digital agenda that takes into account public sentiment during periods of crisis and supports the development of appropriate political decisions.

The proposed practical recommendations are expected to contribute to improving the effectiveness of state and international institutions in countering the influence of fake information and viral media content during periods of crisis.

The prospects for further research on this topic are associated with achieving broader comparative research results through the inclusion of additional significant crisis events in the analysis. Further research is necessary in order to identify mechanisms for strengthening the resilience of political institutions against the influence of disinformation and viral media content at both the national and international levels.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Author Contributions

A.K. Kurmangali – conceptualization of the research, scientific supervision and review;

Saad Twaiss – methodology and scientific editing;

A.T. Tazhibekova – data visualization, drafting of the original manuscript and formal analysis;

Abu Shawer Omar Ahmad – methodology, project coordination and data analysis.

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