**Patrick Henningsen on Ukraine 1 March 2022**

"ATTENTION (please share widely): In their effort to prepare for what looks like a wider war, YouTube in partnership with the EU, has now initiated what can only be described as information warfare measures on behalf of NATO - by blocking ALL videos from Russia’s RT channels (one of YT’s largest content producers in the history of that platform) in Europe and in UK too (who were supposedly ‘out of Europe’ aka Brexit), as well as an EU order blocking RT and Sputnik content across Europe, although they never once identified a single piece of alleged false information on RT’s channels, not one. They just flicked that switch. Hundreds of thousands of videos & documentaries going back to 2007 are now blocked. Their rationale is that this needs to be done in order to “stop Russia from influencing the public.” Translated: western ‘democratic’ Governments & their corporativist monopoly partners have decreed that you are too stupid to decipher what is true and what is false, and not mature enough to engage in critical analysis of competing narratives, and therefore have decided to make that choice for you - from now on (and because our MSM’s stellar record of previous war coverage, I jest) you will only be allowed to consume a steady diet of western corporate mainstream media political & war reportage, commentary & opinion. Nothing else is permitted going forward.

The hard truth is this: the Ukraine and Russia story is complex, and the US and NATO nations have a direct hand in making the current conflagration happen. They are now deeply involved in the war too, through sanctions (an act of war in itself) and US & NATO also have openly declared their interest in escalating the hostilities too - evidenced by Western calls to flood Ukraine with weapons & foreign fighters just as they’ve done before in Syria - a US-UK & NATO-backed ten year-long dirty proxy war of aggression which, by the way, Russia opposed and ultimately won with the Syrian people and their government. We need to have that conversation - and RT should also be allowed to have that conversation too. Failing to do so invites a wider war. Nor is it a time for peace activists to be moralising that “all war is wrong, so we must punish Russia.” All parties must come to the table and come clean regarding their imperial plans, including the US, UK governments & NATO member states. This is not a political game, and there are no partisan points to accrue here. None at all.

People in Britain and Europe may not be aware, but right now across US media, pundits are now calling for all out war with Russia, including US-NATO imposed No Fly Zones over Ukraine and also Europe, and they are even gaming out tactical nuclear strikes on national TV. Yes, they are deluded. But if you think that’s all a big joke and you can laugh it off and sip your latte, then you are also deluded, and you cannot claim you are taking your life seriously.

So based on this new arbitrary standard of allowable ‘official information’ and state-sanctioned thought, where exactly does this system of censorship end? They already activated this very same system of mass-censoring the entire global Covid & vaccine conversation across all media and online, in their supposed “war on Covid misinformation” - an information war which is still ongoing. Many of you saw this unfold over the last 2 years and you said absolutely nothing, or worse - you cheered on the rampant censorship & deplatforming because you thought it was going to “keep you safe” or maybe you just were happy to eliminate the voices of “antivaxxers” whose speech & opinions you found uncomfortable or believed was ‘dangerous to public health.’ If you did, then you were wrong, and now you can see why. Free speech, especially political speech (and especially personal medical & war conversations), is not some bourgeois a la carte menu you can pick and choose from to suit your emotional state or political viewpoint de jour. Now the state & its corporate arm has just taken that totalitarian program to a whole new level.

By definition, this is real fascism - forced conformity and dictating how society will be allowed to communicate and study information going forward. I believe they want this to be the permanent state of affairs. They mean forever - or until this regressive censorship regime can be overturned by people who care about actually living in a free society, and not merely existing in a hypocritical, deluded digital plantation.

So what YouTube’s action means is that… the iron curtain just fell…. on you.

If this is a new cold war, then 'democracy' has already lost. If you believe in free speech, expression and assembly - then you can wave your white flag now.

This could be just the first phase. Then what next? Are you going to stay quiet again? Hope it all goes away?

Do so at the peril of yourself, your sanity, and that of the next generations. This is not hyperbole. It’s real.

Take a moment and have a good think about that."

Patrick Henningsen