

How Wikimedia can counter the Balkanization of the International Body Politic

DavidMCEddy

spencer dot graves at effectivedefense dot org

The Threat

1. Hacking the Brexit vote and the 2016 US Presidential election

- It's not just Cambridge Analytica and "The Russian".
- It's for-profit media, esp. Facebook, and possibly cyberwarfare units of major military organization:
 - *Every media organization sells changes in audience behaviors to its funders.*
- This works, because **humans make most decisions based on what comes most readily to mind.**

2. This is "microsegmentation" (or Balkanization) of the international body politic,

which blocks progress on every substantive issue I can think of, including the threat of a nuclear war that would likely kill 98% of humanity -- and almost did during the 1961 Cuban Missile Crisis, according to then-US Secretary of Defense McNamara and Dan Ellsberg, who was a nuclear war planner for presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon before releasing the *Pentagon Papers*.

The Opportunity

- On Wikipedia, "the two sides actually engaged each other and negotiated a version of the [Wikipedia] article that both can more or less live with. This is a rare sight indeed in today's polarized political atmosphere, where most online forums are echo chambers for one side or the other."
- *For-profit media make money from this polarization.*
- I believe the Wikimedia Foundation can and should create Wikisocial, Wikianalytica, Wikiblogs, and expand Wikinews (or WikiTribune) into millions of local editions, plus an "international conflict observatory" to help each side in conflict understand what motivates their opposition.

Accomplishments so far

- Research published on [Wikiversity under "Category:Freedom and abundance"](#), esp. "[Everyone's favorite news site](#)"
- A Videoconference on "[Communication's Challenge to Democracy](#)" on Wikiversity
- I'm on the Board of [KKFI.org](#), Kansas City Community Radio, with a paid staff of 2.5 and local programming produced by a couple hundred volunteers, funded primarily by small dollar contributions.
- KKFI wants a regular news department, and I'm working to create such and build it into possibly the premier investigative journalism organization in Kansas and Missouri.
- I discussed this at Wikimania 2018 and now at WikiConference North America.