How Wikimedia can counter the Balkanization of the International Body Politic

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The Threat

- **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.*

- **This is "microsegmentation" (or Balkanization) of the international body politic. If it is not stopped, it will likely contribute to World War III with a resulting nuclear winter during which 98% of humanity starves.**
  - This 1961 Cuban Missile almost generated this disaster, according to key players in that crisis (Robert McNamara and Daniels Ellsberg).
  - Even a minor nuclear war between India and Pakistan, as almost occurred in 1999 and 2001, would likely lead to the starvation of hundreds of millions of people not directly impacted by the war.
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

- A Videoconference on "Communication’s Challenge to Democracy" on Wikiversity
- I'm on the Board of [KKFI.org](https://www.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 with a team connecting to journalism profs at the Universities of Missouri and Kansas with a vision of creating the premier investigative journalism organization in Kansas and Missouri.
- I'm here.