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**Types of Fake News about COVID by country**

• The Middle East and North Africa: Misinformation in the Middle East and North

Africa frequently highlighted national exceptionalism. Rumors centered around state

responses to the pandemic and false traditional cures were also common across the

region.

• Sub-Saharan Africa: Misinformation in Sub-Saharan Africa focused on false news

regarding government responses and included praises of African responses, while raising

suspicion about the West. False narratives primarily surfaced in regional media sources

and played into the already existing political, ethnic, or religious tensions in the region.

• Europe: Misinformation in Europe commonly centered around false rumors of gov-

ernment and non-governmental responses to the pandemic. Stories about the nature

of the virus and false cures, and anti-vaccination narratives were also rampant in the

region.

• Latin America: Misinformation in Latin America primarily politically-focused. Sto-

ries either sought to discredit politicians and spread fear about government responses,

or attempted to praise political officials and national institutions.

• South Asia: Misinformation in South Asia differed between Muslim-minority and

majority countries. In the former, rumors that targeted Muslims spread widely. In the

latter, stories about how Islam conferred immunity were prominent. Across the region,

politicians and traditional medical practitioners also extensively promoted false cures.

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• Southeast Asia: Misinformation in Southeast Asia primarily responded to regional

politics. False narratives played on the existing religious and ethnic diversity in the

region, while frequently adopting racial and anti-immigrant undertones as well.

• China and Taiwan: Misinformation in China largely focused on the COVID-19 status

of individuals rather than the country’s pandemic response, as a result of the state’s use

of a government-affiliated fact-checking outlet. In Taiwan, the government effectively

limited the spread of COVID-19 misinformation through various policy measures.

• Russia: Misinformation in Russia primarily took the form of anti-Western narratives

seeking to undermine the United States and European Union, accompanied by false

stories praising Russia’s response to the pandemic. Rumors overwhelmingly originated

from state-sponsored media, as individually-sponsored misinformation is censored.

• Turkey: Misinformation in Turkey commonly centered around false cures for the virus

and government responses. Many fake stories had travelled to Turkey after originating

in Europe and the United States. Despite the high level of polarization in the country,

there were relatively few misinformation stories that targeted the domestics politics of

the country.

• United Kingdom: Misinformation in the United Kingdom frequently targeted the

government’s response to COVID-19, or sought to understate the severity of the pan-

demic. False stories primarily spread via social media, and included a number of scams.

• United States: Misinformation in the United States was distinguished by the extreme

political polarization surrounding COVID-19. Public figures and media outlets in the

country frequently perpetuated false information, and a significant share of the stories

promoted false cures for the virus or expressed anti-vaccination sentiments.