

rt.com

The website of a leading Russian government propaganda effort, which focuses on social media. In addition to its broadcasting channels, RT was previously known as Russia Today.

Ownership and Financing	ANO TV-Novosti, described as an “autonomous nonprofit organization” on RT.com, owns RT and is based in Moscow. The Russian government owns and finances ANO TV-Novosti. T&R Productions LLC, a Washington-based corporation, is RT’s U.S. production unit. Mikhail Solodovnikov, RT’s U.S. news director, is the LLC’s sole member and general manager. RT also runs advertising.
Content	<p>RT uses the tagline “Question More,” consistent with the policies of the Russian government under President Vladimir Putin to raise doubts about other countries and their institutions. Coverage on RT.com focuses on U.S., U.K., and Russian politics, sports, and business news. The site’s opinionated content is clearly labeled and appears in a section separate from news coverage.</p> <p>The network broadcasts eight channels — RT (the flagship, English-language channel aired from Moscow), RT Arabic, RT en Español, RT America, RT UK, RT Documentary, RT Deutsch, and RT en Français. Users can watch most of these broadcasts live on RT.com. RT publishes content in six languages.</p> <p>RT produces special projects such as FakeCheck, an interactive tool that helps teach users to “separate fact from fake” and #1917LIVE, a month-by-month overview of the Russian Revolution.</p>

Credibility	<p>There have been several incidents of RT anchors resigning due to the requirements of propaganda.</p> <p>In 2014, Washington anchor Liz Wahl resigned when the network refused to air a reference she made to Russia’s intervention in Ukraine, Wahl explained in an article entitled, “I was Putin’s Pawn” published by Politico magazine. “For about two and a half years, I’d looked the other way as the network smeared America for the sake of making the Kremlin look better by comparison, while it sugarcoated atrocities by one brutal dictator after another,” she wrote. A London-based correspondent, Sara Firth, resigned in 2014 in protest of RT’s coverage of the shooting down of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17; RT denied the involvement of Russia or its allies in Ukraine.</p> <p>RT has published articles and videos denying that the Russia-backed Syrian government had used chemical weapons in the country. Days before the U.S. election in 2016, RT posted videos on YouTube of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange commenting on the campaign, including a segment, “Trump Would not be Permitted to Win.”</p> <p>Following concerns about Russian interference in the U.S. election, Twitter reported that RT had paid to promote its tweets. In addition, YouTube removed RT from among the premium channels for which advertisers must pay higher prices. RT had been among the preferred advertising outlets on YouTube, a status for the top 5% of channels most popular among young viewers. The U.S. Department of Justice in 2017 required RT America to register as a foreign agent.</p> <p>RT regularly publishes corrections and updates articles.</p>
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Transparency	<p>Articles on RT.com do not name the author, which is why NewsGuard has determined that the site does not reveal information about its content creators. RT.com provides biographies of the network’s on-air reporters, some of whom include links to their social media profiles. General email addresses for many RT departments are listed on the site’s contact page. Russian phone numbers are also listed for some departments.</p> <p>RT discloses on the About page of its website that it is “publicly financed from the budget of the Russian Federation.” The site also discloses its relationship to ANO TV-Novosti. Elsewhere, the website says, “We are set to show you how any story can be another story altogether.”</p> <p>NewsGuard sent RT three emails seeking comment about the network’s relationship to the Russian government, as well as its corrections policy and editorial process, but did not receive a response.</p>
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History	<p>RT grew out of a decision in 2005 by the Russian government to extend its public-opinion activities outside the country. Funded by the government, the broadcast channel launched as Russia Today in 2005. In 2009, it changed its name to RT (obscuring its status as an entity funded by the Russian government), launched a newsroom in Washington, and began paying U.S. cable companies to carry its channel.</p> <p>The network focused on the internet as social media began to grow in popularity. In 2013, RT became the first news organization to gain more than one billion views on YouTube. In 2017, The Wall Street Journal reported that the English-language version of RT was close to CNN in having the most views and subscribers on YouTube, with 2.1 billion views and 2.2 million subscribers.</p> <p>Written by: Steven Brill Contributing: Melissa Goldin Edited by: Anna-Sophie Harling and Amy Westfeldt</p>
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Sources

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Content	https://www.rt.com/about-us/ https://1917.rt.com/#/en https://fakecheck.rt.com/en/stories https://www.rt.com/projects/ https://www.rt.com/on-air/ https://arabic.rt.com/ https://actualidad.rt.com/ https://russian.rt.com/ https://deutsch.rt.com/ https://francais.rt.com/
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Credibility	https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/03/liz-wahl-quit-russia-today-putins-pawn-104888 https://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/jul/18/mh17-russia-today-reporter-resigns-sara-firth-kremlin-malaysia https://www.rt.com/news/427739-russia-rejects-mh17-downing-claim/ https://www.rt.com/news/424047-russian-mod-syria-statement/ https://www.rt.com/news/423627-russian-military-checks-chemical-douma/ https://www.rt.com/news/423530-syria-douma-chemical-timing-reaction/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQ7lYRnF1F8 https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/oct/26/twitter-bans-ads-from-russia-today-and-sputnik-over-election-interference https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-03/google-pulls-russia-s-rt-network-from-premium-youtube-ad-program https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-usa-media-restrictions-rt/russias-rt-america-registers-as-foreign-agent-in-u-s-idUSKBN1DD25B https://www.rt.com/sport/431349-maradona-fifa-ban-argentina-world-cup/ https://www.rt.com/politics/423726-russia-syria-military-response/ https://www.rt.com/usa/414873-mcfaul-repost-fake-video/ https://www.rt.com/news/420555-gerasimov-doctrine-galeotti-apology/ https://www.rt.com/sport/429061-iran-nike-boots-trump-sanctions/ https://www.rt.com/news/417751-turkey-greece-islands-dispute/ https://www.rt.com/usa/417232-senate-russia-social-media-answers/
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This website generally fails to maintain basic standards of accuracy and accountability.

- Doesn't repeatedly publish false content
- Gathers and presents information responsibly
- Regularly corrects or clarifies errors
- Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly
- Avoids deceptive headlines
- Website discloses ownership and financing
- Clearly labels advertising
- Reveals who's in charge
- Provides information about content creators

Criteria are listed in order of importance. [More information.](#)