

The online battle for the truth in a world infected by Silicon Valley's political lies



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US President Donald Trump has popularised the term 'fake news' and used it to attack the news media

False information is saturating political debate worldwide and undermining an already weak level of trust in the media and institutions, spreading further than ever on powerful social networks.

US President Donald Trump has popularised

the term "fake news", using it mainly as an accusation levelled at the media, and it is increasingly used by politicians from Spain to China, Myanmar or Russia.

"Fake news" has been generalised to mean anything from a mistake to a parody or a deliberate misinterpretation of facts.

At the same time, the proliferation of false online information is increasingly visible in attempts to manipulate elections, notoriously surrounding Trump's 2016 victory.

- Misinformation -

Nearly two years after Trump's shock win, debate is still raging on the impact of "fake news" on the presidential campaign.

The build-up saw numerous examples of hoaxes and false news stories -- one about Hillary Clinton's alleged links to a child sex ring, another about the Pope purportedly endorsing Trump -- which were shared massively and some believe could have swung votes to tip Trump to victory.