

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

The infiltration threat

So-called insider threats are a popular topic, and of course insiders combined with outsiders have been responsible for about 2/3 of historical losses in cyber-related events according to long-time statistics. But that's not what this is about.

This is about infiltration. That's when someone intentionally becomes an insider in one form or another for the purpose of subversion. I intend to differentiate it from those who merely break in and exploit their access to expand access and exploit it over a relatively short time frame. I am talking about those who gain an internal position and maintain it with the appearance of legitimate presence even though it is their intent from the get go to cause harm.

From our ~1999 database available at all.net, this includes actors like foreign agents and spies, industrial espionage experts, and police (as part of under cover investigations). But increasingly, we see opportunities for others to become part of the destruction from within, and in particular, of...

Western civilization

The target today on a global basis is what the world calls "the west". Western Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand, India, parts of Africa, and other nation states that tend to side with them. This infiltration is highly active today, and by all reasonable accounts, the relatively open borders are being widely exploited to bring in at least thousands of these folks per year.

I am not talking about the legitimate refugees and immigrants merely seeking a better life. I am talking about people who are here intentionally and trained and funded for the purpose of infiltrating societies and undermining them.

Some examples

Let's start with the funding of universities from foreign nation states, where they create things like funded chairs and support professors and students, ultimately gaining increased access for students from their countries who are in fact members of their governmental bodies and planted over time with the intent of exploitation. We see this emerging today in the Palestinian issue, but China does this in very high volume, and has for scores of years.

Then we have the legal and illegal border crossings by refugees and others claiming enough status to be released within the country. In the US we have an obviously huge problem with this that neither side of the political spectrum sees willing to fix apparently because it hurts the other side to complain more than it helps their side to fix it. But in Europe, Canada, and other regions of the world where refugees are brought, these refugees, who are there legally, are forming large groups that are heavily influencing societies, and apparently creating increasing havoc in the West. The Palestinian issue has brought this out in an intensified way, but this sort of infiltration tactic has been going on for a long time, and is part of a strategic effort by nation states and other intentional groups. The so-called land and expand strategy that works so well in so many areas is working well today for social influence.

Russia is continuing its long-term strategy of planting spies over the long term, called Illegals with legends created to look like citizens of the countries they embed themselves in. Of course these are high class attempts, but simply sending in folks who come illegally across a border allows them to hide in the group of millions of others who are present illegally, and in some cases, may become citizens after a time due to amnesty programs of one form or another. They have programs in countries throughout the world, and sometimes create legends in foreign locations en route to the target country. These tend historically to be focused intelligence operatives with years of training before entering in to the target county, and are usually found by accident or as a result of an insider from Russia turning.

Not the first time

Rachel Maddow seems to do a really good job of writing books on historical events that are reflected in what is happening today. One example is her detailed efforts to document the infiltration of the Nazis leading up to World War II, and how it was used in the war to attempt to subvert the US war effort.¹ From there she goes forward ultimately to the underlying issue of “a clandestine network flooded the country with disinformation aimed at sapping the strength of the U.S. war effort and persuading Americans that our natural alliance was with the Axis, not against it. It was a sophisticated and shockingly well-funded campaign to undermine democratic institutions, promote antisemitism, and destroy citizens’ confidence in their elected leaders, with the ultimate goal of overthrowing the U.S. government and installing authoritarian rule.”

The enemy within

Then there is the enemy within. Western nations tend to be focused on capitalism, a religion of money. As such, money often holds sway in gaining insider access. But even more to the point, money in small amounts can buy the raw materials used to create the legends for professional operatives. For a few hundred dollars you can likely buy a drivers license and some related identity cards from government officials who will put you in the official systems. From there, you have all of the documentation needed to act as if you are a real citizen of the country, and there is no obvious way to detect the difference. This is especially true in war torn or violent places where nobody is available to check with in order to do an in-depth background check even if you should decide to do so. From there, enter the US and get a Green card, and move your way up.

Get a job

Once you are legally present and assuming you have some marketable skills, you can likely get a job working for a target company or company type, public institution at an appropriate level of government, or what have you. Become an election official, a city counsel member, or a mayor or governor. Or get a job doing maintenance with lots of access on off hours. The world is your oyster. Do it in volume, and you have a strategic asymmetric capability.

It's the nature of the societies

The unification of the European Union, the diversification of the United States, and much of the rest of the Western world has led to the widespread adoption of a social norm currently being challenged that holds that strength lies in diversity. But diversity also limits the ability to differentiate based on all sorts of criteria the used to be easy tells. A Russian accent is a hint.

¹ Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism

Except its Averse to Western Civilization

Hopefully you are starting to see the problem here. If you want a diverse society that does not discriminate based on appearance, behavior, or background, you remove the social clues that make infiltration hard to do well. Unlike computers where you can simply copy the bits, people who are going to show up will be different in ways that are readily detected by other people because that's how we evolved. If everyone is equivalent to everyone else, how do you tell the infiltrator? They have the same rights to their point of view as anyone else. Indeed if you are going to have a democracy, when the majority comes to the conclusion that they want an autocracy, you get one. Except when they later change their mind, you don't get to go back without a revolution.

The social fabric

If you want a society, the society has to be held together by some sort of common viewpoint or perspective. Otherwise you have anarchy and chaos. Now of course some folks, especially young folks, have a tendency to believe that anarchy is preferred. That is until they start to live in an environment that is anarchistic. Then they start to realize that without a social fabric; you have crime, except it's not crime because there are no laws; mob rule, which is not so great when the mob decides you are not one of them; a breakdown in social services and ultimately critical infrastructures, which translates into widespread starvation, death, disease, etc.; and so forth.

And that's the goal

Infiltration at the level of nation states is, when executed in large scale, designed to break down the social fabric, create internal dissent and fragmentation, and ultimately divide and conquer the society.

So how do you fight against it?

The classic approach is to get involved in a war or two, that create an us against them internal alliance. Of course rather than a shooting war, you can go for a war on drugs or something similar, as long as it creates an us and them viewpoint. Part of the problem here is that in Western societies today, it's generally hard to look at someone else and tell whether they are one of us or one of them. Unlike the historical segregated societies you cannot look at skin color, facial shape, height, accent, or any of the outward appearances and tell us vs. them. And of course while the technology is being developed, we cannot, at least yet, look inside to see what they are thinking. And if they are trained at what they do, you cannot tell by their behavioral characteristics, because all sorts of behaviors are deemed normal.

Indeed, in Western societies, it is inherent that the marketplace of ideas is available for all and the determining factor in decision-making. If you can convince enough people one time that you should be in charge, and if you can then take charge and exploit power for personal gain, you win. And if you get a big enough group doing it, you can take over.

Conclusions

It's a sticky problem. Divide and conquer works when the social fabric is destroyed through lies. The glue that holds the society together melts away, and gets replaced with a new fabric of lies. If the truth shall set you free, we are becoming slaves of the lies we live within. The one thing that holds hope, in my view, is enforcing facts, evidence, and truthful discourse.