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PROJECT CASSANDRA
Early Crisis Detection
through Literary Analysis

October 2024

**C A S
S A N
D R A**



Susan Sontag – a true
Cassandra of the late 20th
century – amidst the ruins
of the destroyed National
Library of Sarajevo

ABBA:

Sorry Cassandra! (1981)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuY-sulCRjg>

[...]

Sorry Cassandra, I misunderstood

Now the last day is dawning

Some of us wanted, but none of us would

Listen to words of warning

[...]

And we were caught in our sleep

Sorry Cassandra, I didn't believe

You really had the power

[...]

Political misjudgments lead to humanitarian disasters



Rwanda
1994



Afghanistan
2021



Srebrenica
1995



Ukraine
2022

Every war is
preceded by a
war of words.



"Six centuries later, now, we are being again engaged in battles and are facing battles. They are not armed battles, although such things cannot be excluded yet. However, regardless of what kind of battles they are, they cannot be won without resolve, bravery, and sacrifice, without the noble qualities that were present here in the field of Kosovo in the days past."

Slobodan Milošević: Gazimestan Speech, 28 June
1989



#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

TOM CLANCY

with MARK GREANEY

A JACK RYAN NOVEL

COMMAND AUTHORITY

“If Tom Clancy knew, why not the EU?”

– Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Aha, says Vorodin, let's test what happens if we take back Crimea, which is historically Russian anyway, and let's see what happens if we destabilise the eastern parts of Ukraine and ultimately target Kiev directly.

The destabilisation of Ukraine is carried out with a great deal of propaganda and material promises and relies on an indecisive and hesitant Europe. Clancy's Vorodin wants to restore the old Soviet empire and thereby amass enormous wealth with his henchmen in the Kremlin.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

THE PLOT AGAINST AMERICA

A NOVEL



"A terrific political novel . . . sinister, vivid, dreamlike . . . creepily plausible . . . You turn the pages, astonished and frightened."
—The New York Times Book Review

PHILIP ROTH

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE

THE NOVEL THAT TELLS YOU WHAT WILL
HAPPEN TO YOUR FAMILY IF AMERICA
GETS A DICTATOR

SINCLAIR LEWIS



Why not develop (together with experienced authors deeply familiar with the region concerned) powerful counternarratives, able to destroy hate speech and historical nonsense?

advertisement campaign for Benetton by Oliviero Toscani, 1998

FEARS

THREATS

IDEAS

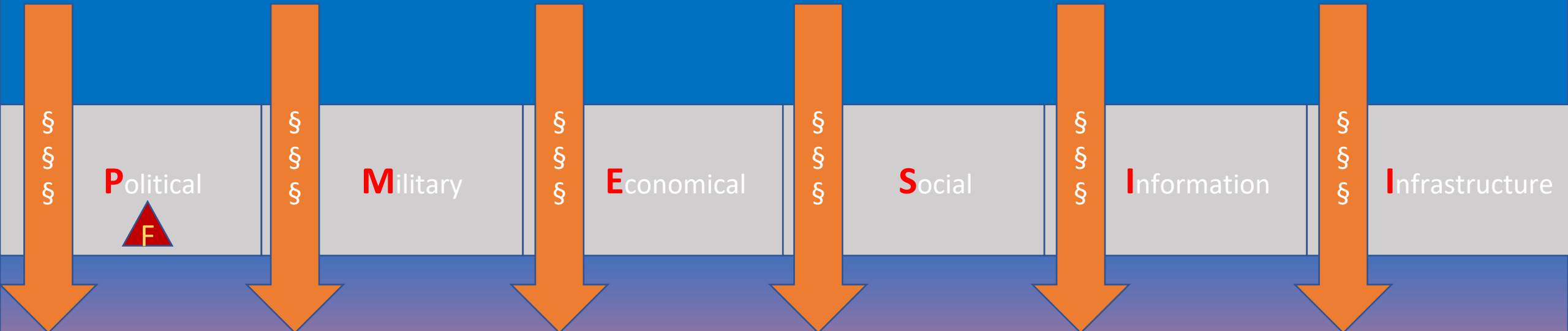
INTENTIONS

EMOTIONS

World of Interests

Analysis of text, also beyond judicial content:
narratives, reasoning, binding force of law, evaluations, science

World of Jurisdiction



Political



Military

Economical

Social

Information

Infrasturcture

OPTIONS

CAPABILITIES

PROSPERITY

COHESION

DOMINANCE

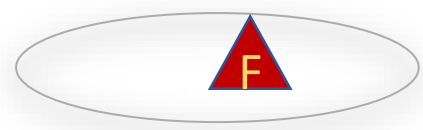
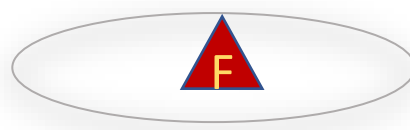
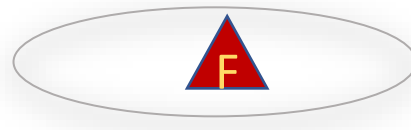
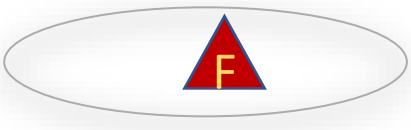
RESILIENCE

PREPAREDNESS

RESOURCES

INITIATIVE

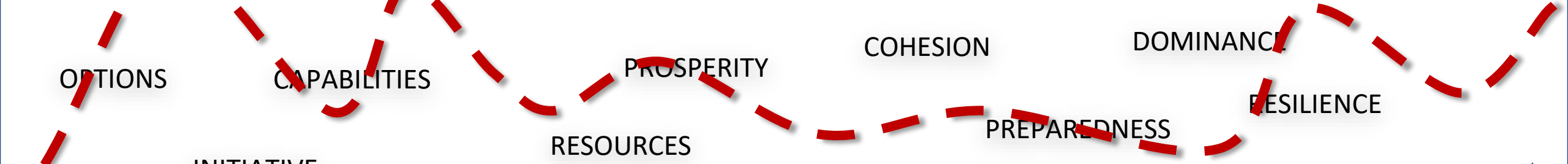
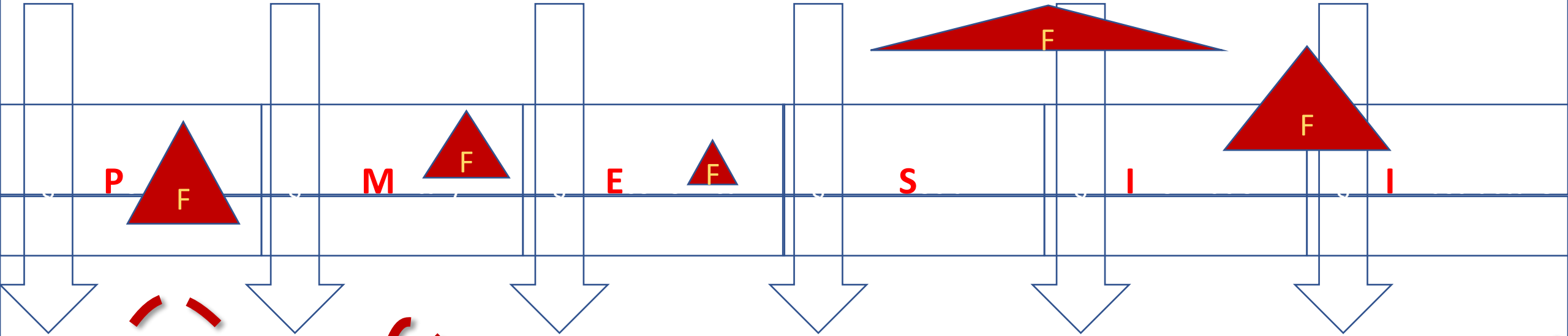
World of Societal Life



World of Interests

Analysis of text, also beyond judicial content:
narratives, reasoning, binding force of law, evaluations, science

World of Jurisdiction



World of Societal Life



CASSANDRA's fields of interest

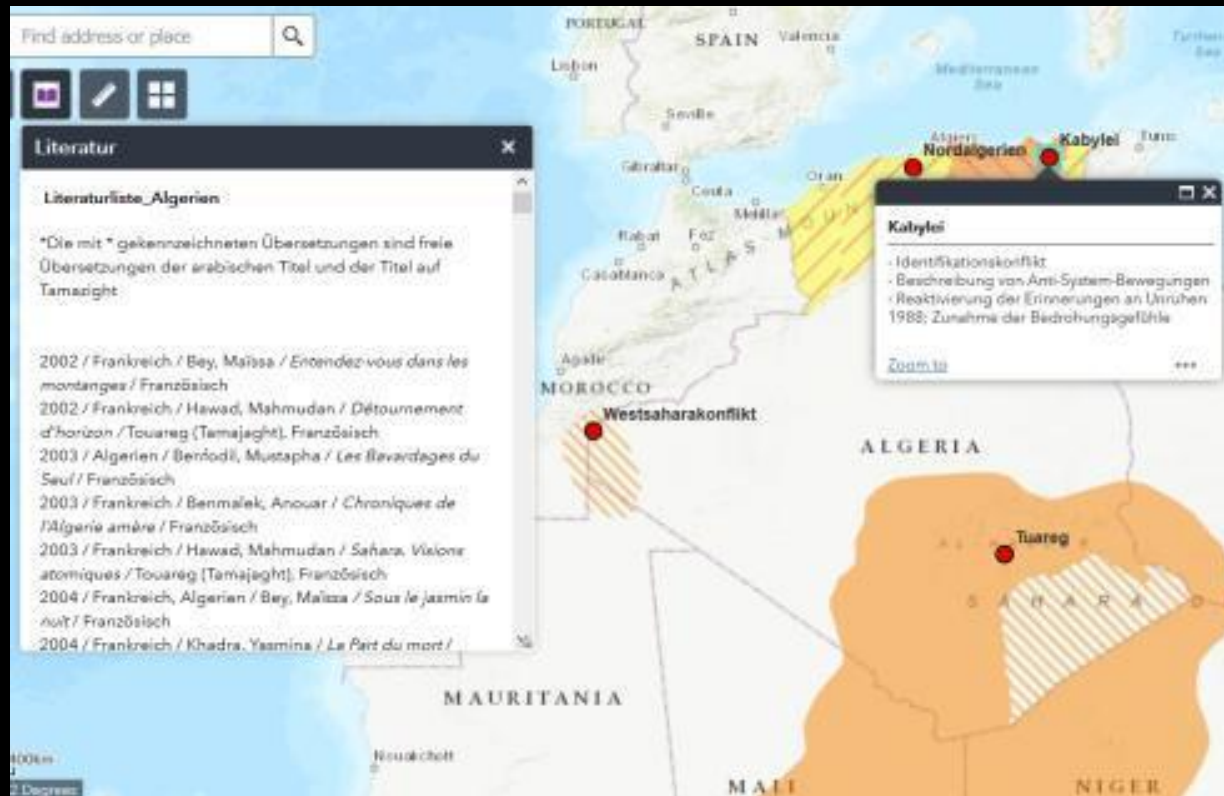
**international
security**

**transformation
of values**

**technology
assessment**

**impacts of
climate crisis**

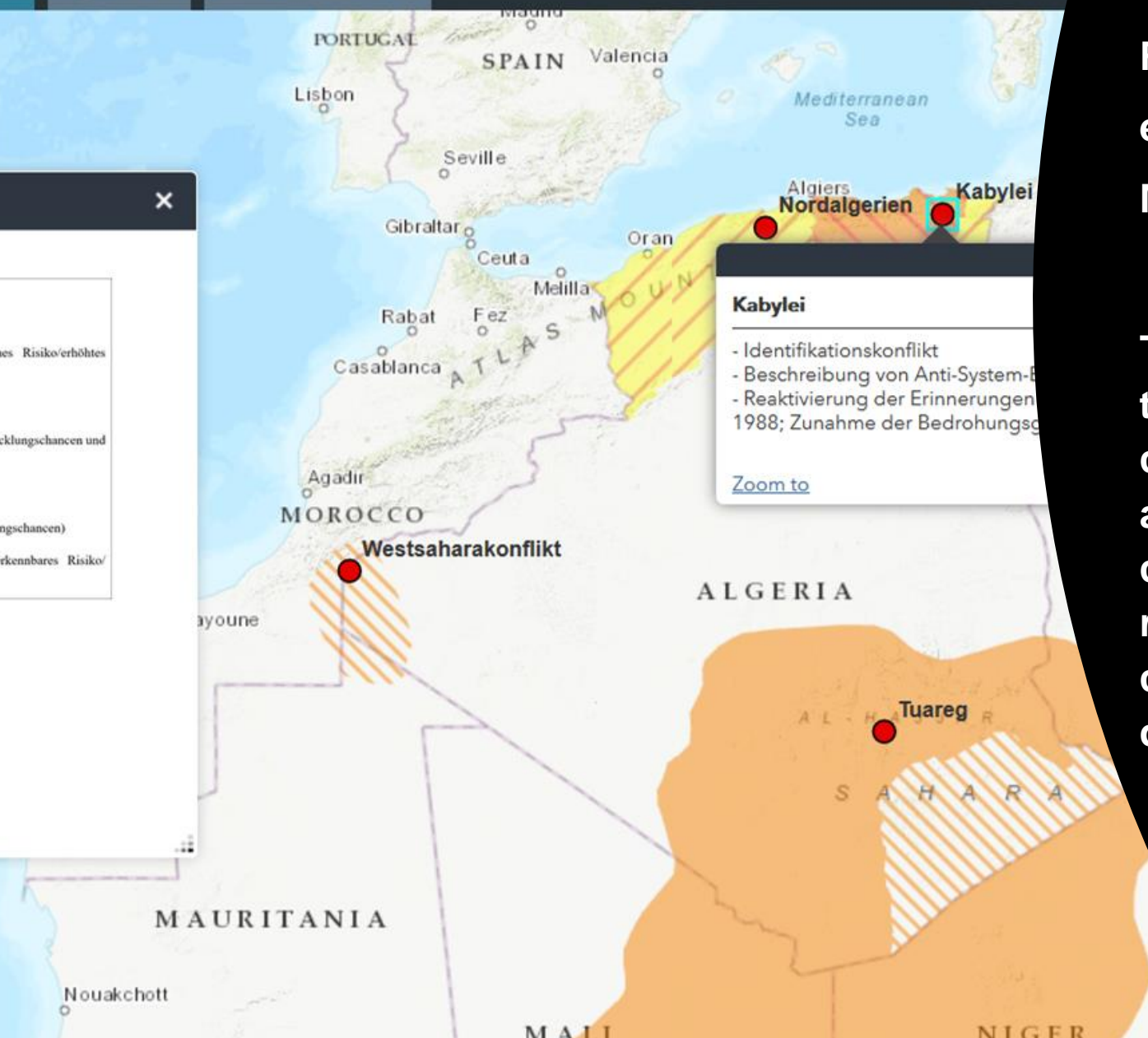
**social
vulnerabilities**



The Conflict and Emotion Map is intended to show which texts, ideas, feelings and narratives are circulating in a region. In this way, social and political upheavals become visible at an early stage - long before troop movements and explosions.

Literaturauswertung - Conflict and Emotion Map

n Sprachen 2006-2020/Trend



Recognize connections, patterns and emotional trends - The 'Conflict and Emotion Map' as a visualization tool

The map visually presents the results and trends - derived from the methodical combination of environmental analysis, text analysis/database and author conferences/interviews - and makes the results visible in a structured geographical context. Using a color scale, it provides decision-makers with a quick overview.

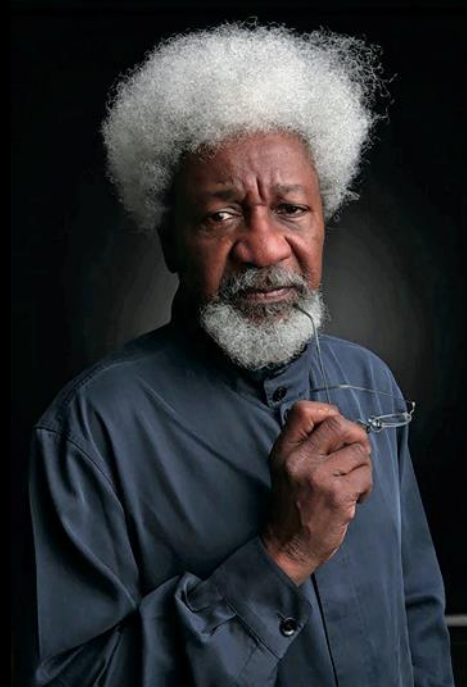
CASSANDRA networking



David
Grossman



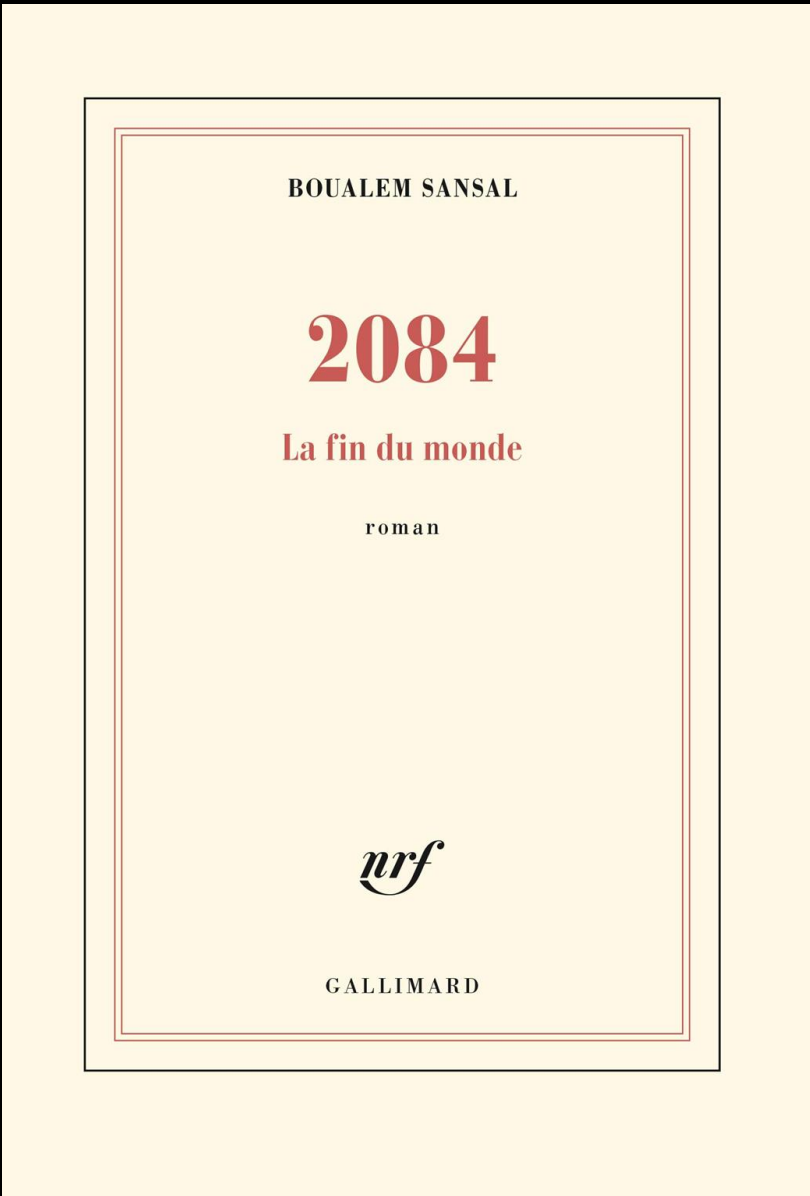
Boalem
Sansal



Wole
Soyinka



Herta
Müller



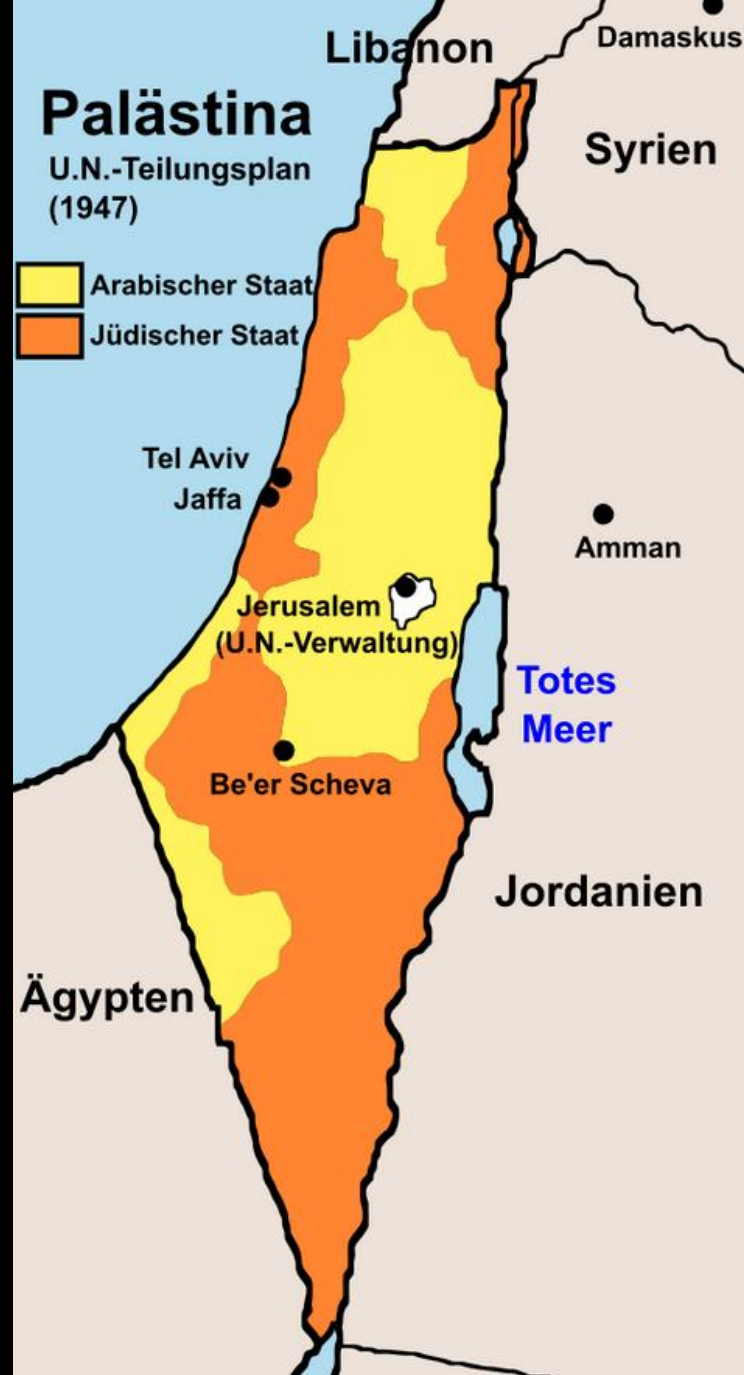
Boualem Sansal (*1949) is an Algerian author.

His dystopian novel, "2084" (2015) was inspired by George Orwell's Nineteen-Eighty Four and is set in an Islamist totalitarian world.



In December 2012, Azerbaijani writer Akram Aylisli published his novel "Stone Dreams," which focused on the 1989-90 anti-Armenian pogroms in Baku and the massacres committed by Turkish troops against the Armenians of his home village in 1918. As a result, he went overnight from being a celebrated national writer to an enemy of the state, accused of having "betrayed" his nation.







Dmytro Kuleba ✓

@DmytroKuleba

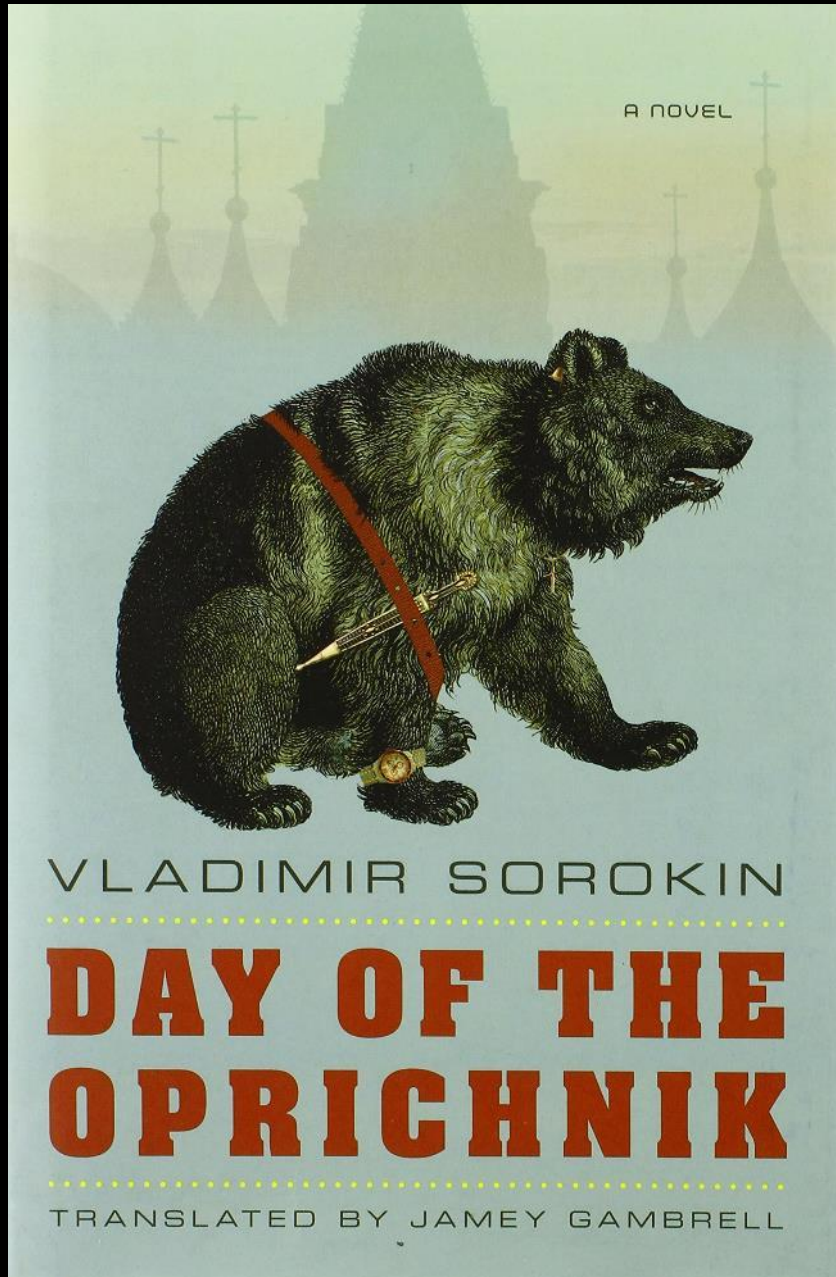
🇺🇦 Ukraine government official



Bucha did not happen in one day. For many years, Russian political elites and propaganda have been inciting hatred, dehumanizing Ukrainians, nurturing Russian superiority, and laying ground for these atrocities. I encourage scholars around the globe to research what led to Bucha.

11:03 vorm. · 10. Apr. 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

8.734 Retweets **311** Zitierte Tweets **32.015** „Gefällt mir“-Angaben



In his new novel, "The Day of the Oprichnik," anti-utopian Vladimir Sorokin describes a politically completely isolated Russia of 2027 and asks what distinguishes the country from actual democracies.

– Deutschlandfunk (2008)

Viktor
Jerofejew

Enzyklopädie
der
russischen
Seele

Roman



Aus dem
Russischen
von
Beate Rausch

""Is Russia going to collapse?"

'What are you, a journalist?" (...)

'Russia is good precisely because it is unpredictable. That's our basic law, and anyone who doesn't get that is an asshole. Russia can collapse at any time! Or not.'"

– from Viktor Jerfejew's "Encyclopedia of the Russian soul"



In "Elephantina's Moscow Years" (2016), Yulia Kissina shows that the imprints and mentalities of the past, such as Russian "cosmopolitanism," have ultimately lost none of their relevance.

■ Heutiges Russland
▨ Russland 1914



Puschkin: **To the Slanderers of Russia** (1831)



“Why rave ye, babblers, so — ye lords of popular wonder?
Why such anathemas 'gainst Russia do you thunder?
What moves your idle rage? Is 't Poland's fallen pride?
'T is but Slavonic kin among themselves contending,
An ancient household strife, oft judged but still unending,
[...]
Which shall stand fast in such commotion,
The haughty Pole, or faithful Russ?
And shall Slavonic streams meet in a Russian ocean —
Or that dry up? This is point for us.

Peace, peace! your eyes are all unable
To read our history's bloody table;
Strange in your sight and dark must be
Our springs of household enmity!
To you the Kreml and Praga's tower
Are voiceless all, — you mark the fate
And daring of the battle-hour, —
And understand us not, but hate — —
[...]

Engaging in the „battle of the words“

Every war is preceded by a war of words.

Let's not miss the time window where deadly stereotypes and narratives become entrenched.

Counter-narratives can be a effective intervention.

Step 1

**Lectures/
textual analysis**

**Collecting
observations**

Step 2

**Identification of
the crucial points**

**Scaling and
categorization of
the material**

**Preparation of the
emotion map**

Step 3

**Development of
counter-
narratives and
demystification,
truth**

Step 4

**Communicative
fight against fake
news and
dangerous
ideologies**

**Destruction of
totalitarian lie-
building**



Corée du Nord
 Ce pays, dont la population est très vulnérable et dépendante de l'aide humanitaire, figure parmi les moins financés en matière de ratio entre les besoins et les fonds alloués. Cette situation, aggravée par les sanctions de l'ONU de 2016, rend de plus en plus difficile le travail des organisations présentes.

Venezuela
 Caracas, qui refuse de reconnaître la gravité de la crise, interdit l'accès à la plupart des organisations humanitaires, empêchant l'évaluation des besoins réels*.

Difficultés d'accès aux zones de conflit :
 En raison du rejet puis de la criminalisation du combattant, la victime civile est privilégiée et secourue, parfois loin des combats. D'autre part, les djihadistes refusent les humanitaires hors de leur mouvance.

1 LES SITUATIONS DE CRISE HUMANITAIRE

- Crise humanitaire sévère
- Crise humanitaire
- Situation préoccupante

3 DES PAYS DIFFICILES D'ACCÈS

- Des zones de conflit**
- ... où l'aide arrive difficilement
 - ... où l'intervention est dangereuse

2 DES DÉFAUTES

CASSANDRA meets Ulysses



As soon as the potential danger has been recognized and localized in advance by "Cassandra", the work of "Ulysses" begins.

The special focus is on the timely isolation and neutralization of extremists and hardliners (e.g. by undermining their propaganda) as well as structural measures (e.g. reducing social tensions).

The earlier Cassandra locates threats, the more efficiently Odysseus' survival strategies can be implemented. In this respect, CASSANDRA and ULYSSES belong integrally together.





CASSANDRA meets AI

- **development and distribution of counternarratives**
- **access to broad databases of (collective) imaginations and emotions**