

## TIBOR PURGER

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### **Reveling in Evil: Kings and Jesters in the Global Village**

It has been proven that Facebook's do-no-harm-to-profits approach helped foment or at least facilitate nationalist persecution of ethnic minorities in Southern Asia. It has also been shown that YouTube's algorithm lures unsuspecting visitors into watching videos with ever more feverish hate speech and outrageous conspiracy theories. People have died as a consequence of social media negligence or lack of care by haughty tech moguls while legislators seem to be unable to regulate carriers or content.

While the globalization of the information space had originally promised to contribute to international, interethnic, interracial understanding, what happened over the past two decades seems to have had the opposite effect as autocrats and dictators are finding ever more efficient ways to stop information that might undercut their messages to society and reveal their true intentions. What is more, opponents of globalization are actually using globalized methods to interfere with other societies to achieve dominance in specific areas.

An overview of tried-and-failed approaches should help us understand the current situation and leading trends, based on which we may be able to envision at least some solutions to prevent a global informational meltdown, which might lead to unforeseen and unmitigable consequences. The presentation will draw on theories and existing as well as projected research to help detect the perils and generate democratic ideas for finding better ways forward.