

Aleksandr Dugin Interview:

'We have our special Russian truth'

(BBC Newsnight)

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0:00 - 0:20

Everything is relative, and in Russia we could use post modernity to explain to the West that truth is relative. So we have our special Russian truth that you need to accept as something that maybe is not your truth.

0:20

Even if it's not true?

0:20 - 0:35

But if the truth is relative, that doesn't mean that truth doesn't exist. That means that absolute truth, one for all, doesn't exist.

0:35 - 0:42

Let's take an example. If you watch Russian television today, you'd think that Russia and America we're about to go to war.

0:44 - 0:52

Yes, but it would be the same if we're if we are reading the American press. We have the same impression.

0:52 - 0:56

Not really. I've just come back from America, and you don't really get that impression. Do you think this is genuinely the case?

0:58 – 2:41

No. I think the situation in Syria for example, that the United States continues to consider itself as being a unipolar power. It says, no more Assad and the powers of Western Europe repeat after Washington, we do not want any more Assad. But Putin – which is another civilization – says stop, let us have Assad. And after that, there is our nuclear and military

power behind Assad. And that is serious. If you are the boss, you cannot let the other side decide if you really are the boss. Decide what you can do in your realm of responsibility. There is a conflict. Russia says no, you are not the boss, you are not the boss anymore. It's very serious. If we insist on multipolarity, and if behind us there is nuclear weapon, and the iron will to defend for example in the little case of Assad. Defending Assad is a principal. Not because we have so much interest there. It is the question of who rules the world. That is the problem. Only war could decide really who is the boss.

2:41

Do you think that is really a possibility?

2:43 - 3:56

If the United States doesn't want to start a war, the United States should recognize openly for all humanity to see that the United States is no longer the unique master. If the recognise that, there will be no war. But we understand our position is that we are going to fight up to the end. In order to show to everybody that United States is no longer the unique master. It's very serious. Because we are seriously going to show and to confirm that we are entering a multipolar world. And the situation in Syria, or Ukraine and anywhere else, that's only the case to prove that. We don't want that, but we understand that if we will be not ready to pay all the price for that, we cannot win.

3:56 - 3:58

So Ukraine and Syria are all about proving to America that they are not the boss.

4:01 - 4:03

Yes absolutely, that they are not unique boss.

4:03 - 4:11

Can I ask you a personal question? When you watch the news on Russian television do you believe what you see?

4:12

Absolutely, because...

4:12 - 4:15

Really? You're an intelligent man, surely you can't believe...

4:15

Yes, because...

4:15 - 4:18

Really? cause some of the more outlandish things.

4:20 - 4:51

No no, absolutely. Postmodernism teaches us to understand, as does sociology – I am a sociologist – what is total fact? According to Durkheim total fact (Durkheim was the founder of sociology) affirmed that the total fact, is the fact that society believes in.

4:51 - 4:57

So, if enough people believe it, it'll become true?

4:57 - 5:44

No no, the truth is the question of belief. And post modernity shows that every so-called truth is the matter of believing. So we believe in what we do. We believe in what we say. And that is the only way to define the truth. The truth is the matter of belief. And that is not only our position, because what I see of Western media, I ask myself how the people could lie in such a way. They lie about everything in the world. But after that I say to myself stop, that is not a lie, it is their truth. They are completely convinced.

5:47 - 5:51

I work in the Western media, I'm a reporter I go on the ground, I report what I see. Nobody tells me from on high...

5:53 - 6:26

No no, there is no such thing. The fact is, it's always interpretation. There is no such thing as a fact. Wittgenstein has proven that. There is no fact, there's only interpretation. You see because you interpret this, or so, or so. Our manner of thinking of any men of any culture of any civilization - it deals only with interpretation. You cannot see anything without interpretation. What you see is interpretation.

6:26 - 6:30

I see you can argue that philosophically, but...

6:30 - 6:37

It's not philosophical, it's practical.

6:30 - 6:37

...if somebody flies an airplane and drops a bomb on a building in Aleppo, somebody saw it somebody dropped a bomb...

6:37 – 7:36

Sorry, who's aeroplane? Who has fixed that? Who's airplane is it? What is the bomb? What is the quarter the bomb was falling on? Who are the people? And there begins our interpretation because it is war, it is very difficult to go in to see, and to prove. For you any bomb falling is a Russian bomb. Any person killed, by a Russian bomb is an innocent civilian. And any harm that is done in Aleppo or in Syria is Russian. From the beginning, you have no idea that could be different because you are a real normal Western man, Western reporter, Western journalist. It is your truth to see, to say, to presume, to be completely convinced that Russians are evil. So that are they want...

7:36 - 7:42

I spent many years studying Russian and learning to love Russia and all things Russian.

7:42 - 7:48

But nevertheless, it's our bombs that destroy civilians everywhere.

7:48 - 7:50

I'm not saying they all are, but sometimes they are right?

7:51

Never

7:51

Never?

7:51 - 8:03

Never no no only American and American marionettes of Isis and the other Al Nusra bombs are killing innocent civilians.

8:03

Those are the only ones?

8:05

That's our interpretation.

8:05 - 8:18

You can't really believe that? I mean I don't believe it. I don't believe that Russia is responsible for all the destruction. Neither do I believe it's responsible for none of the destruction. I mean it's just not credible.

8:18 - 9:03

No, but when we see Western media for example someone is a little bit on the other side, and tries to say that maybe it's not the Russian bombers that kill the civilians, their report is cut. So maybe personally there are people with a broader sense of understanding reality, but if we take the Western media we see that normal reporting, normal observation of what is going on in Syria is completely biased by these preconceived ideas.

9:03 - 9:16

I understand that I recognise that. But isn't it true that Russian television has some implicit bias? And they have taken it and multiplied it by 100.

9:16 - 9:19

Well, I could say we could speak on two levels

9:20

Yeah

9:20 - 9:36

If you affirm that the West says the truth and Russia tells lies, I would respond, that Russia says the truth. That this truth is absolute truth and the West and tells lies.

9:36 - 9:45

If I say to you Western journalists are often biased and mistaken but they try to tell the truth whereas Russian TV has gone long on the other side.

9:45 - 10:06

No no, and if you say that Western TV is sometimes biased, sometimes not, I would say Russian TV is sometimes biased, but sometimes not. If you say we are sometimes not biased but you are always biased, I would say exactly. You are sometime biased we are not biased.

10:09

We are exactly equal?

10:09 - 10:36

Absolutely, and that is multi-polarity. Nobody has monopoly on the truth. The truth is relative. I could accept that, but only if you accept that. If you say our truth is absolute, I would respond immediately, that our truth is absolute. I don't believe that, and you don't

believe it. Or maybe you do believe. If you believe that your truth is absolute, then you're a normal Western man. But normal Western man...

10:39

I don't believe anyone's truth is absolute.

10:39 - 10:42

Okay we could agree on that at least