

In today's <u>#vatniksoup</u>, I'll introduce a Swiss politician and journalist, Roger Köppel (<u>@KoeppelRoger</u>). He's best-known for his weekly magazine, die Weltwoche, and for his pro-Kremlin commentary on social and Russia-sponsored media, as well as on his magazine.



Köppel has been the editor-in-chief at the Swiss weekly magazine Die Weltwoche since 2006. Before that he worked as the editor-in-chief at Die Welt. After his stint at Die Welt, he suddenly returned to Die Weltwoche and took over the majority of the shares that owned...

2/22

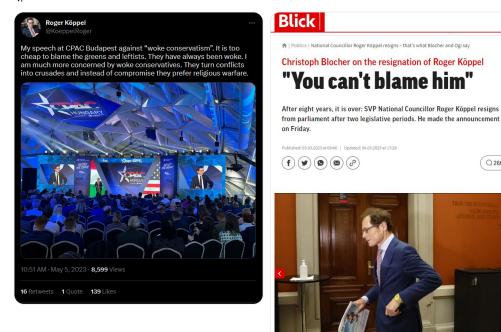


the paper, never disclosing where the money for this purchase came from. Köppel's also been the member of the Swiss National Council since 2015, receiving a record of 178 090 votes. His political stance has been described as "right-wing conservative" - recently he spoke...



at CPAC Budapest about the dangers of "woke conservatism". The event featured many prominent right-wing figures, including Viktor Orbán, Kari Lake, Paul Gosar & Jack Posobiec. Köppel has announced that he's leaving politics at the end of 2023, focusing more on his magazine.

4/22



Q 266

On the day that Russia launched its full-scale invasion in Ukraine, Köppel's Weltwoche published a cover with Putin's face and text "The Misunderstood". In the article, he suggested that both journalists and intellectuals hate Putin because "he stands for everything that...

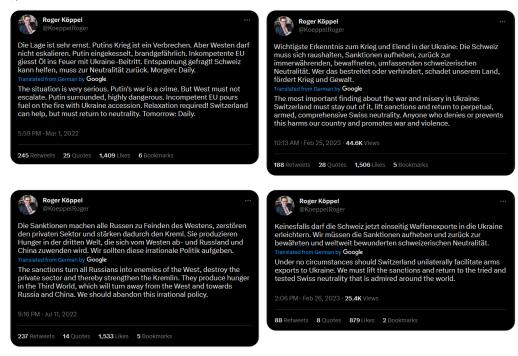
5/22



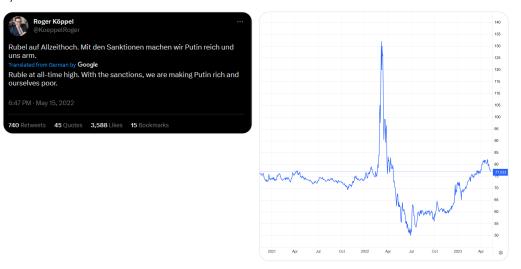
...they reject, demonize and therefore must not be: tradition, family, patriotism, war, religion, masculinity, military, power politics and national interests". He continues that Putin exposes the "decadence of the West" and that he's "our potential partner".

A week after Russia invaded Ukraine, Köppel called for "de-escalation" from the EU, stating that it shouldn't pour "fuel on the fire". Köppel's been calling for the lift of sanctions on Russia so many times, that you'd think that he has some vested interested in all this.

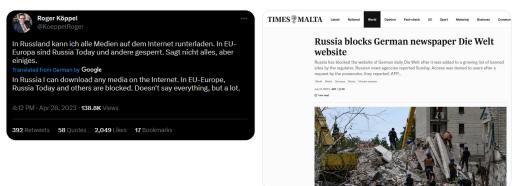
7/22

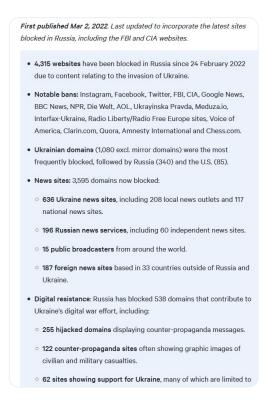


In May 2022, he tweeted about ruble being at "all-time high", continuing that the sanctions make "Putin rich and ourselves poor". Ruble's value was highest (but not all-time high) after the tight restrictions Russia had put on it & its value has dropped drastically since.



In Apr 2023, he tweeted about media freedom in Russia, stating that "In Russia I can download any media on the Internet". As of today, Russia's censorship organization Roskomnadzor blocks a small number of 4315 websites, including Instagram and Roger's old employer, Die Welt.





In addition to blocking thousands of websites, Russia also murders and imprisons journalists and opposition politicians. Maybe, as a journalist, Köppel has heard of Vladimir Kara-Murza, Anna Politkovskaya and Maksim Borodin?



He's also appeared as a commentator on RT DE,a German version of the Kremlin-funded propaganda channel,where he warned the West about interfering in Russia's brutal invasion. He's often declared that journalists should "stay neutral",but apparently this doesn't apply to him.11/22

Köppel makes himself Putin's mouthpiece on "RT DE"

10.01.2022



Roger Köppel has often been a guest and flatterer on Putin's propaganda channel in the West... (Screenshot from June 27, 2021)

In an interview on the Russian propaganda channel "RT DE", Roger Köppel put the troop movements near the Ukrainian border into perspective

As the "NZZ am Sonntag" made public on January 9, the SVP National Councillor and editor-in-chief of the "Weltwoche" criticized the condemnations from the West of Russia's troop movements.

"It's almost impossible to say that anymore," Köppel said in a statement on the broadcaster, which is loyal to Vladimir Putin. "But: There are many Ukrainians who would rather belong to Russia." Köppel warns the West: "The US should not interfere with this. If the Russians were to interfere with Mexico or Cuba, that wouldn't work either."

Köppel calls on US President Joe Biden, who has warned Putin against invading Ukraine, to "disarm rhetoric". Köppel also gives advice to other governments. He criticized the new German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock for her "moralistic behavior". He pleaded "that you get along well with the Russians", with the Chinese "the conversation is sought".

This interference of the "Weltwoche" editor-in-chief from Switzerland in the big world politics does not go down well in Bern. After all, the SVP National Council is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Council of States, center politician **Pirmin Bischof**, says that "Russia Today" is a state propaganda channel of an authoritarian regime. "It is highly questionable if Mr. Köppel allows himself to be harnessed by a foreign power in this delicate context of an impending war. He will thus become Putin's henchman."

According to the newspaper, FDP foreign policy expert Hans-Peter Portmann also criticizes the duplicity: "Roger Köppel upholds neutrality and prescribes to other politicians that they do not have to comment on the conflicts worldwide. This does not seem to apply to him."

Green politician **Céline Vara** finds it "highly problematic" when asked by the "NZZ am Sonntag" that Köppel relativizes Russian behavior in a context in which the lives of thousands of people are threatened.

Köppel himself said that he wanted to make "a contribution to better understanding". "I don't think much of the refusal to talk and the exclusion of foreign television stations," said the journalist, publisher and SVP politician.



Roger claims that there's a "proxy war" going on in Ukraine,and he blames the West & NATO's expansion for the whole incident,thus removing any sovereignty from those countries that want to join a defense alliance that would protect them from Russia's imperialistic invasions.12/22

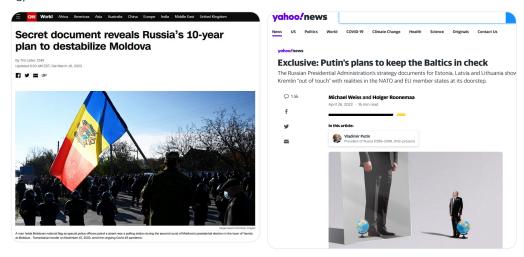






It's fairly safe to say, that he has probably not read the articles about the plans that Russia had for the Baltics, Ukraine and for Moldova.

13/22



During the same month he also went to Russia and interviewed Russia's Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights, Maria Lvova-Belova. She's been heavily involved in the abduction of children from Ukraine to Russia, and in Mar 2023, ICC issued an arrest warrant for...

14/22



...unlawful deportation of children. The interview provides a rosy picture of both Lvova-Belova and of Russia, promoting Russia's "traditional values" and bashing the "Decadent West" and its liberalism. Throughout the interview, Lvova-Belova parrots the classic Russian...

15/22

World Week: Ms. Lvova-Belova, you are actually a musician and a conductor. What made you decide to take care of children full-time?

Maria Alexeyevna Lvova-Belova: After a short career as a musician, I had children. After that, foster children were added. I began to deal with family policy issues and became a senator, that is, a member of the upper house of the Russian parliament. I am a practitioner. I know everyday life.

World Week: They have an unbelievable extended family, we read. You could be described as a kind of embodiment of "Mother Russia". How many children, biological and foster children, do you have?

Lvova-Belova: There are ten, five of them biological and five foster children. In addition, there are thirteen young people with intellectual disabilities who are in my care. They don't live in my family, they don't live in my house, but I take care of them. They live in a center that I founded.

World Week: How do you organize your everyday life between family and politics?

Lvova-Belova: Of course, I want to spend as much time as possible with my children. But now the circumstances are such that I have to work a lot. I serve my country, my president. My children understand that. They share their mother with the country.

World Week: What is your most important parenting principle?

Lvova-Belova: I want my children to know that I love them. I hug them, talk to them warmly and try to understand what's on their minds.

...narratives like the Ukrainians using "children as shields" in Mariupol, or that Ukraine refused to evacuate children from Bakhmut. Of course the real truth is that Russia is trying to fix its demographic nightmare by kidnapping Ukrainian children.

16/22

World Week: Reporting in the West paints a completely different picture. Nightmare scenarios are conjured up with brutal Russian soldiers tearing their children out of the arms of screaming mothers in order to reprogram them into Russian robots in totalitarian concentration camps.

Lvova-Belova: This reporting is dominated by Ukrainian propaganda. They want to portray us as monsters in order to get even more weapons from the West. We see it quite differently: the Ukrainians project their own deeds onto us Russians. In Mariupol, they have been proven to use children as shields. Those who tried to flee were shot. Or take Bakhmut, where these heavy battles took place: the Ukrainians hesitated for an incomprehensibly long time before finally taking the children out of the city. Do not believe everything that the Ukrainians tell. I have cared for children whose feet have been torn away by Ukrainian mines. After we equipped these children with prostheses and brought them back, they were paraded by the Ukrainians to blame Russia.

World Week: Can you really rule out the possibility that children from Ukraine were forcibly abducted to Russia?

Lvova-Belova: I am not aware of any such cases. Nor is it in line with our policy. We do not want to make an enemy of a fraternal people. We are fundamentally open. If you want to go to the West, please do so. If you want to live in Ukraine, no problem. We do not rule anything out, but we call for solutions to be sought and the facts to be examined. Many Ukrainian families received humanitarian aid in Russia and then went on to Poland and Georgia. That's not a problem at all.

I'm sure that the lives of these abducted children will be peachy and rosy and all that, since Russia is well-known for taking such a good care of its own.





While in Moscow, Köppel also met with Putin's "chief propagandist", Vladimir Solovyov. In his absurd Weltwoche propaganda piece, Solovyov repeats the lies about the "Ukrainian Nazis" and "genocide in Donbas", while Roger refers to him as "Russia's Woody Allen".

18/22



A visit to the devil

< >

They call him "Putin's agitator". He threatened Britain with a radioactively contaminated monster wave. Is Vladimir Solovyov, brilliant, funny, superstar of Russian talk television, a criminal? A madman? Or Russia's Woody Allen?

The article ends with Köppel's thoughts: "why does one person, including our country, end up on a sanctions list just because he expresses opinions that do not suit our governments?".

19/22



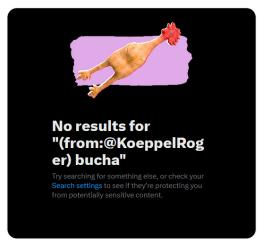
"Well," sighs the devil. Or is a Russian Woody Allen sitting across from me? "I'm a Jew, I'm against Nazis, and the Europeans are taking away my property. Nothing new under the sun." Against Nazis? Of course, the Ukrainian regime is controlled by Nazis, he continues, if we don't have eyes in our heads. "Have you ever heard the name Bandera? They cheer for war criminals, oppress minorities, murder Russians." The West, the Germans, the Americans had looked the other way for years, promoting these ultranationalists. "Did you know that two weeks before Putin's invasion, Ukrainian artillery massively intensified its shelling of Luhansk and Donetsk?" True, but almost no one printed the Reuters report at the time.

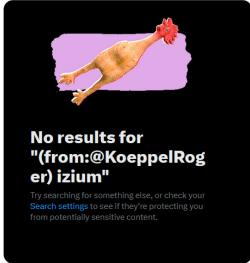
Freedom, diversity, traditions

What Russia has taken upon itself in Ukraine is not a war of aggression, says Solovyov, but a liberation, "the long overdue help for our brothers in Donbass, who were systematically murdered by the criminals in Kiev. But the West is not ready to listen to the Russian point of view, because you despise the Russians, look down on them, consider yourselves so tremendously superior morally and civilizationally, and you are destroying the basic values of the West, freedom, diversity, traditions, family, economy and science with your gender madness."

"We haven't even started yet. For us, this is a police operation."

Köppel's worldview seems to be, that he simply does not care about the civilian bombings, war crimes, abductions of children, rape, and other atrocities conducted by the Russians, in Ukraine, and on a daily basis. Instead he declares the genocidal maniac who's running the.. 20/22









...whole show as "misunderstood", goes to Russia to interview his favorite propagandists like Solovyov, and even interviews Putin's partner-in-crime, fellow child abductor Maria Lvova-Belova.







Lately, several journalists who've worked for die Weltwoche have decided that enough's enough - for example veteran journalist Henryk M. Broder has decided to leave the sinking ship. Others have followed suit, one of them calling the paper a "central organ of stupidity".

22/22

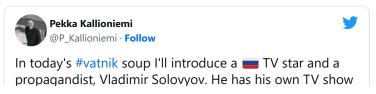


Support my work:



Past soups: vatniksoup.com

Related soups: Vladimir Solovyov:





Genocide in Ukraine:



NATO expansion:



Children in Russia:



• • •