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Aug 9, 2025 · 21 tweets · [vatniksoup_de/status/1954211403272745178](https://twitter.com/vatniksoup_de/status/1954211403272745178)

Diese Vatnik-Suppe bespricht das autokratische Konzept „Guter Zar, böse Bojaren“: die Annahme, dass der Herrscher weise & gerecht ist, aber von korrupten Beratern sabotiert wird. Dieses Narrativ schützt den Herrscher & wird sowohl von Putin als auch von Trump verwendet.
1/20



Der Ausdruck „Guter Zar, böse Bojaren“ (Царь хороший, бояре плохие), oder naiver Monarchismus, bezieht sich auf eine alte Idee in der  politischen Kultur: Der Herrscher ist gut & wohlwollend, aber seine Berater sind korrupt, inkompetent & für alle Fiaskos verantwortlich.
2/20



Alle positiven Maßnahmen der Regierung werden als Errungenschaften des wohlwollenden Herrschers angesehen, während alle negativen Maßnahmen als Folge des Handelns untergeordneter Beamter oder „Bojaren“ ohne Zustimmung des Herrschers konstruiert werden.

3/20



Die Idee schützt den Führer vor Kritik, indem sie Schuld auf seine Untergebenen abschiebt. Sie stammt ursprünglich aus dem  Reich, wurde aber auch von sowjetischen Führern (Chruschtschows geheime Rede war die schockierende Ausnahme) & heute von Wladimir Putin genutzt.

4/20



In der Sowjetunion war es „guter Führer mit schlechten Beratern“. Unter Stalins Großem Terror schrieben ihm die Opfer Briefe wie „Genosse Stalin, es ist ein schrecklicher Fehler passiert“, hoffend er würde etwas tun, wenn er davon wüsste. Aber er hatte es selbst angeordnet.

ROBERT W. THURSTON

Fear and Belief in the USSR's "Great Terror": Response to Arrest, 1935–1939

Numerous scholars and survivors of the USSR's "Great Terror," a common designation for the years 1935–1939, have described the period as one of sweeping or even total fear among the Soviet population.¹ To quote one memoirist, Anton Antonov-Ovseenko, himself arrested in 1940, after 1935 "only fear" served to motivate Soviet people.² Supporters of this position generally argue that the purges "affected everybody from the Politburo member down to the street cleaner," as one leading authority on Stalin put it.³ Another school of thought,

I would like to thank Stephen F. Cohen for comments on an earlier draft and Roberta T. Manning and Robert C. Tucker for conversations on this subject, the University of Texas at El Paso's Mini-grant and University Research Grant programs for financial help, and the Summer Research Laboratory of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for resource assistance and support.

1. For such assessments by scholars see, for example, Adam B. Ulam, *Stalin: The Man and his Era* (New York: Viking, 1973), p. 433; and Robert Conquest, *The Great Terror: Stalin's Purge of the Thirties*, rev. ed. (New York: Macmillan, 1973), pp. 375–376 and 429–430. For treatments of the Terror that take this view and set the USSR into the theoretical context of totalitarianism, see Carl J. Friedrich and Zbigniew K. Brzezinski, *Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1965), p. 169; and Alexander Dallin and George W. Breslauer, *Political Terror in Communist Systems* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1970), p. 5. Terror and fear are seen as integral parts, even the most essential characteristics, of totalitarian systems by Friedrich and Brzezinski, *Totalitarian Dictatorship*, p. 15 and passim; Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, new ed. (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1966), p. 344; and Zbigniew K. Brzezinski, *The Permanent Purge: Politics in Soviet Totalitarianism* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1956), pp. 17 and 27.

2. Anton Antonov-Ovseenko, *The Time of Stalin: Portrait of a Tyranny*, trans. George Saunders, with an Introduction by Stephen F. Cohen (New York: Harper & Row, 1981), p. 216. For similar assessments in the memoir literature see Nadezhda Mandel'shtam, *Hope against Hope: A Memoir*, trans. Max Hayward (New York: Scribner, 1970), p. 57; Viktor Kravchenko, *I Chose Justice* (New York: Atheneum, 1970), pp. 154–155; and D. Kramarev, "Kak zhivut russkie krest'iane v kolkhozakh," David Dalin [sic] papers, Bakmeteff Archive of Russian and East European History and Culture, Columbia University [hereafter BA], p. 8.

3. Ulam, *Stalin*, p. 409. See also Conquest, *Great Terror*, pp. 427–428. Earlier works that concluded that a "system of terror" existed were often based upon the Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System, in which thousands of former Soviet citizens took part. Of this sample, up to 80 percent (the figures vary from author to author) reported either their own arrest or that of a relative in the 1930s. See, for example, Barrington Moore, Jr., *Terror and Progress USSR: Some Sources of Change and Stability in the Soviet Dictatorship* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1954), pp. 155–156. However, "a very high proportion" of the sample consisted of people who were "well placed in Soviet life," Raymond A. Bauer, Alex Inkeles, and Clyde Kluckhohn, *How the Soviet System Works: Cultural, Psychological, and Social Themes* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1956), p. 13. As will be shown, highly placed people were much more likely to be arrested. Moreover, on the basis of the same sample Alex Inkeles and Raymond Bauer concluded in their *The Soviet Citizen: Daily Life in a Totalitarian Society* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1959), p. 37, that "although arrest affected one's hostility toward things specifically Soviet, prejudiced somewhat his

Seit Putin 1999 an die Macht kam, prägt die Idee vom „guten Zaren & den bösen Bojaren“ sein öffentliches Image. Er präsentiert sich als gerechter Führer, der von korrupten Beamten untergraben wird. Er demütigt diese oft öffentlich, um zu zeigen, dass er über ihnen steht.



Selbst die Wagner-Rebellion 2023 glaubte an den „guten Zaren & die bösen Bojaren“. Prigoschin behauptete, Putin sei zur Invasion der  verleitet worden. Er sah ihn als einen gutwilligen Führer, der von Oligarchen & inkompetenten Generälen wie Schoigu getäuscht wurde.

7/20

NEWS > DEFENSE

Wagner chief to Putin: Don't trust your top generals

Yevgeny Prigozhin renews feud with Kremlin's military chiefs.

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In den USA hat Trump auch seine Version. Seine Fans sehen ihn als einsamen Kämpfer, der von korrupten Insidern verraten wurde: Deep State, falsche Republikanern, Globalisten, etc. Der Slogan „Drain the swamp“ (Den Sumpf trockenlegen) stärkt das Bild des reinen Führers.
8/20





Wenn politische Aktionen scheitern oder Skandale bekannt werden, gibt Trump anderen die Schuld. Selbst enge Verbündete wie Mike Pence & William Barr wurden als Verräter abgestempelt. Trump bleibt „sauber & rein“, während andere als schwach & korrupt bezeichnet werden.

9/20

POLITICS | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Trump urges MAGA supporters to forget about Epstein files

Karl Sexton with AFP, AP, Reuters
07/13/2025

A US Department of Justice and the FBI memo concluded that Jeffrey Epstein did not maintain a client list involving high-profile associates. It frustrated Trump's supporters who criticized Attorney General Pam Bondi.



Trump has pushed back against his supporters who want Bondi to be fired

Image: Yuri Gripa/abaca/picture alliance

US President **Donald Trump** has urged his supporters to stop attacking his administration over files related to late disgraced financier and **sex offender Jeffrey Epstein**.

Who Was Subpoenaed Over Epstein Files?



LIVE

Aug 05, 2025 at 4:56 PM EDT

Bill and Hillary Clinton Subpoenaed Over Epstein Files

By Amanda Castro
Live Blog Editor

Newsweek Is A Trust Project Member

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Pence says Trump 'endangered my family' on Jan. 6



FILE - Former Vice President Mike Pence speaks at a Coolidge and the American Project luncheon in the Madison Building of the Library of Congress, Feb. 16, 2023, in Washington. On Saturday, March 11, Pence harshly criticized former President Donald Trump for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, furthering the rift between the two men as they prepare to battle over the Republican nomination in next year's election. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

BY **ZEKE MILLER AND CHRIS MEGERIAN**

Published 5:30 AM GMT+3, March 12, 2023

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☰ **CNN Politics** Trump Facts First CNN Polls 2025 Elections 👁 Watch

William Barr's stunning evolution from Trump loyalist to nemesis

 Analysis by Stephen Collinson, CNN
🕒 7 min read · Updated 8:03 AM EDT, Tue June 14, 2022



'The claims of fraud were bullst!': Former AG Barr slams Trump's election fraud claims**
02:34

Trump wendet sich oft gegen „böse Bojaren“, die er selbst ernannt hat. Er drohte den Vorsitzenden der Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell, zu entlassen, da dieser nicht seinen wirtschaftlichen Ideen zustimmte, obwohl er ihn 2017 nominiert & als „guten Mann“ bezeichnet hat.

10/20

Trump wechselte in seiner 1. Amtszeit schnell Mitarbeiter; bei 2018 war fast die 1/2 der Spitzenpositionen im Weißen Haus umbesetzt. Heute ist fast niemand mehr aus dem ursprünglichen Kreis übrig. Viele ehem. Verbündete distanzieren sich oder wurden Ziel seiner Angriffe.

11/20

Trump says he only hires the 'best people.' His record suggests otherwise.

Trump promised his Cabinet would resemble the boardrooms of “The Apprentice.” But what we ended up with was closer to an episode of “Survivor.”



Oct. 25, 2024, 1:00 PM GMT+3

By **Ali Velshi**

This is an adapted excerpt from the [Oct. 20](#) episode of "Velshi."

Donald Trump has said repeatedly that he only hires the “best people.” The claim started as a line on the campaign trail during his first presidential run.

In June 2015, far before he took over the Republican Party, **Trump told a crowd in South Carolina**: “I know the best people. I know the best managers. I know the best dealmakers. I know people who will make us so strong. I know guys that are so good.”

AA TÜRKİYE WORLD ECONOMY POLITICS ENERGY SPORTS INFOGRAPHICS OPINION VIDEO PHOTO

AMERICAS

'You're fired': Some of the ex-officials Trump sacked in his first term

During his first tenure, Trump frequently used social media to criticize and dismiss officials that he had appointed, often targeting those who disagreed with his policies

Muhammed Enes Calli | 14.11.2024 - Update : 22.11.2024



Donald Trump

ISTANBUL

During Donald Trump's first term as US president, many high-ranking officials came and went from his administration as disagreements over time led to their dismissal.

His unorthodox management style saw many of these dismissals announced on social media, generating widespread media attention and controversy.

World

China supports Brazil against 'arbitrary' US tariffs, says top diplomat Wang

OceanGate used 'intimidation tactics' to bypass regulation, US Coast Guard says

US arrests 2 Chinese for allegedly illegally selling sensitive microchips used in AI applications to China

US could pursue death penalty for man accused of fatally shooting 2 Israeli Embassy staffers

In seiner 2. Amtszeit umgibt sich Trump ausschließlich mit Ja-Sagern. MAGA-nahe Thinktanks wie die Heritage Foundation unterstützen dieses Modell und fordern Massenentlassungen, Loyalitätstests und die vollständige Kontrolle des Präsidenten über die Bundesbürokratie.

12/20

Trump's early second-term choices fuel fears of extremist agenda

Trump has chosen loyalists and hardliners to lead departments that will shape US policy on immigration, defense and more

Anna Betts

Wed 13 Nov 2024 22.09 CET

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Kristi Noem, Elise Stefanik and Stephen Miller are slated to have significant influence in Donald Trump's new administration. Composite: Reuters, Getty Images

Donald Trump may have won a second term in the White House just last week, but his recent administration appointments have already heightened fears among some who believe his return to the White House will lead to an extremist agenda.

Who is on Trump's top team?

26 February 2025

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The new team entrusted with delivering Donald Trump's agenda is in place, featuring several contentious picks.

Projekt 2025 umreißt diesen Plan glasklar: Ausbau der Machtbefugnisse des Präsidenten, Säuberung des öffentlichen Dienstes, & Austausch von Richtern, die Trumps Verordnungen blockieren. Das Ziel ist eine Regierung wo nur Loyalität zählt. Amerikas „zaristisches“ Modell.
13/20

The image shows a screenshot of a website header and article title. The header includes the CAP logo and navigation links for Tariffs, National Security, Medicaid, Climate Disasters, Disability, Issues, Experts, Events, Press, Take Action, and About Us. The article title is 'Project 2025 Would Destroy the U.S. System of Checks and Balances and Create an Imperial Presidency', dated OCT 1, 2024. A short summary follows: 'Far-right extremists have a plan to shatter democracy's guardrails, giving presidents almost unlimited power to implement policies that will hurt everyday Americans and strip them of fundamental rights.'

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REPORT OCT 1, 2024

Project 2025 Would Destroy the U.S. System of Checks and Balances and Create an Imperial Presidency

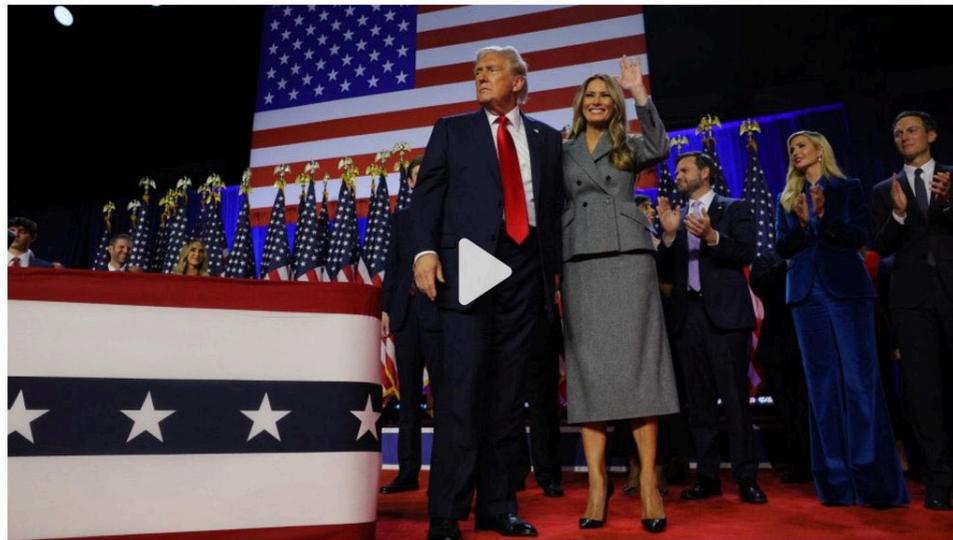
Far-right extremists have a plan to shatter democracy's guardrails, giving presidents almost unlimited power to implement policies that will hurt everyday Americans and strip them of fundamental rights.



Trump's master plan for a radical reformation of the US government



Analysis by Zachary B. Wolf, CNN
⌚ 6 min read · Updated 6:56 PM EST, Thu November 7, 2024



Trumps kultähnlicher Status unter MAGA-Anhängern sorgt dafür, dass jeder, den er entlässt oder verleugnet, als Verräter abgestempelt wird. Er selbst wird selten in Frage gestellt. Die Schuld trifft die „bösen Bojaren“, was sein Image als weiser & unfehlbarer Führer stärkt.

14/20



Wie in  will Trump ein führer-zentriertes System aufbauen, in dem der Präsident niemals die Schuld trägt. Wenn etwas schiefgeht, sind es die Bojaren – oft Podcaster, Pseudo-Experten, politische Verbündete oder junge Bürokraten mit wenig Erfahrung.

Der Zar ist immer gut.

15/20

Updated Aug 2, 2025 - Economy

Trump fires labor statistics chief after weak jobs report



Neil Irwin



President Trump this week. Photo: Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

President Trump said he has fired the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics after the independent government agency reported [weak jobs numbers](#) for July and the preceding month.

DEFENSE

'Who the f--k is this guy?': Defense world reacts to Trump's surprise Pentagon pick

"Hegseth is undoubtedly the least qualified nominee for SecDef in American history," one veterans' advocate said.



U.S. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. David Walsh (left), Commander of Marine Corps System Command, and Pete Hegseth, a Fox and Friends co-host, conduct a cake cutting ceremony live during a Fox and Friends morning broadcast in New York City, Nov. 10, 2023. | U.S. Marine Corps image by Staff Sgt. Theodore Bergan

By JOE GOULD, ROBBIE GRAMER, PAUL MCLEARY, CONNOR O'BRIEN and JACK DETSCH

11/12/2024 10:10 PM EST

Updated: 11/12/2024 10:35 PM EST



President-elect Donald Trump's Tuesday night surprise pick of a conservative commentator and television host as his Pentagon chief shocked Washington, which had expected the nominee to be a seasoned lawmaker or someone with defense policy experience.

POLITICS

Trump's Anti-Terror Gardener, 22, Humiliated by His Own Boss

| ROLE REVERSAL |

Kristi Noem's department flips its story on "leadership" role of young Trump superfan.

Tom Latchem
ReporterUpdated Jul. 22 2025 5:13PM EDT
Published Jul. 22 2025 1:28PM EDT

Unterdessen verlangt das System des „guten Zaren“ in  absolute Loyalität. Selbst Spitzenbeamte können nicht einfach zurücktreten. Elvira Nabiullina, Chefin der Zentralbank, soll nach der Invasion der  versucht haben, zurückzutreten, aber Putin zwang sie zu bleiben.

16/20

Russia central banker tried to quit over Ukraine; Putin said no

Much of Nabiullina's legacy came undone in a matter of hours after sanctions laid siege to Russia's economy.



Elvira Nabiullina, favoured by investors and hailed by publications as one of the world's best monetary policymakers, now faces a wartime economy isolated by international sanctions and starved for investment [File: Andrey Rudakov/Bloomberg]

By **Bloomberg News** | **Bloomberg**

23 Mar 2022



Putin verlangt bedingungslose Loyalität. Die, die versagen oder in Ungnade fallen, werden oft verhaftet oder sterben unter mysteriösen Umständen. Es gibt auch Gerüchte, dass Außenminister Sergei Lawrow mehrfach um seinen Rücktritt gebeten hat, was Putin ablehnte.
17/20



Is Sergei Lavrov looking for a way out?

BY BETHANY ELLIOTT



RUSSIA SERGEI LAVROV
UKRAINE VLADIMIR PUTIN

Newsroom JANUARY 16, 2023 - 10:30AM



Since the Ukraine invasion, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has been an ardent cheerleader for the Kremlin's 'special military operation'. In February, he likened talking with then-UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss to "speaking to a deaf person", while at the UN Security Council in September he called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky a "bastard" before departing early. With apparently no limits to his ambition, last month, Lavrov even sparred with the Pope, labelling him "un-Christian".

Die Bojaren haben keine Wahl, sie MÜSSEN bleiben & schlecht sein. Dies dient einem doppelten Zweck: Es lässt Putin moderater erscheinen & schützt alle, weil sie zu verstört sind, um eine ernsthafte Konkurrenz für den Zaren darzustellen. Handlanger wie Lawrow & Medwedew...

18/20

Putin sorry for Lavrov's claim Hitler was part Jewish - Israel PM

6 May 2022

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Mr Putin spoke to the Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has apologised after his foreign minister said that Nazi leader Adolf Hitler had "Jewish blood", Israel says.

Mr Putin made the apology in a call with Israeli PM Naftali Bennett, his office said in a statement.

Russia's account of the conversation did not mention an apology.

Sergei Lavrov made the initial comments to try to justify Russia's portrayal of Ukraine as "Nazi" despite the fact that its president is Jewish.

...stärken durch ihre Fehlritte Putins Status. Sie machen provokative Aussagen oder äußern absurde Drohungen, zB Atomkrieg oder Invasion Polens. Putin schreitet dann als Stimme der Vernunft ein, zügelt seine Bojaren & zwingt sie, sich zu entschuldigen.

Der Zar ist gut.

19/20



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

Did I hear Former President Medvedev, from Russia, casually throwing around the “N word” (Nuclear!), and saying that he and other Countries would supply Nuclear Warheads to Iran? Did he really say that or, is it just a figment of my imagination? If he did say that, and, if confirmed, please let me know, IMMEDIATELY. The “N word” should not be treated so casually. I guess that’s why Putin’s “THE BOSS.” By the way, if anyone thinks our “hardware” was great over the weekend, far and away the strongest and best equipment we have, 20 years advanced over the pack, is our Nuclear Submarines. They are the most powerful and lethal weapons ever built, and just launched the 30 Tomahawks — All 30 hit their mark perfectly. So, in addition to our Great Fighter Pilots, thank you to the Captain and Crew!

7.23k ReTruths 31.9k Likes

Jun 23, 2025, 11:27 AM



Dmitry Medvedev



@MedvedevRussiaE · Jun 24



Regarding President Trump's concerns: I condemn the US strike on Iran – it failed to achieve its objectives. However, Russia has no intention of supplying nuclear weapons to Iran because, unlike Israel, we are parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

I know quite well what this would entail, having overseen our nuclear forces as president. But other countries might – and that’s what was said.

And we definitely shouldn’t be arguing over who has more nukes. All the more so because the New START treaty, which I once signed with a US president, is still in force — for now. The question is: what comes next?



Rate proposed Community Notes



2.8K

7.3K

36K

3M





Donald J. Trump  

@realDonaldTrump

I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care. We have done very little business with India, their Tariffs are too high, among the highest in the World. Likewise, Russia and the USA do almost no business together. Let's keep it that way, and tell Medvedev, the failed former President of Russia, who thinks he's still President, to watch his words. He's entering very dangerous territory!

4 ReTruths 17 Likes

7/30/25, 9:00 PM



Donald J. Trump  

@realDonaldTrump

Based on the highly provocative statements of the Former President of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev, who is now the Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, I have ordered two Nuclear Submarines to be positioned in the appropriate regions, just in case these foolish and inflammatory statements are more than just that. Words are very important, and can often lead to unintended consequences, I hope this will not be one of those instances. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Fazit: Trump & Putin nutzen beide das Modell „Guter Zar, böse Bojaren“, um ein System aufzubauen, wo sie nie Schuld haben. Fiaskos werden Beratern, Bürokraten oder erfundenen Feinden angelastet. Erfolge, echt oder inszeniert, werden ihrer Stärke & Weisheit zugeschrieben.

20/20



Die 2. Auflage von „Vatnik Soup – The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation“ ist offiziell erschienen! Das Buch ist in englischer Sprache.

Sie können Ihr Exemplar hier bestellen:

The image shows the cover of the book "Vatnik Soup". The title is written in large, teal, serif font. Below the title, there is a white box containing the text "The Book | Vatnik Soup", a description "The most comprehensive resource on pro-Kremlin disinformation and propaganda.", and a URL "https://vatniksoup.com/en/books/".

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