

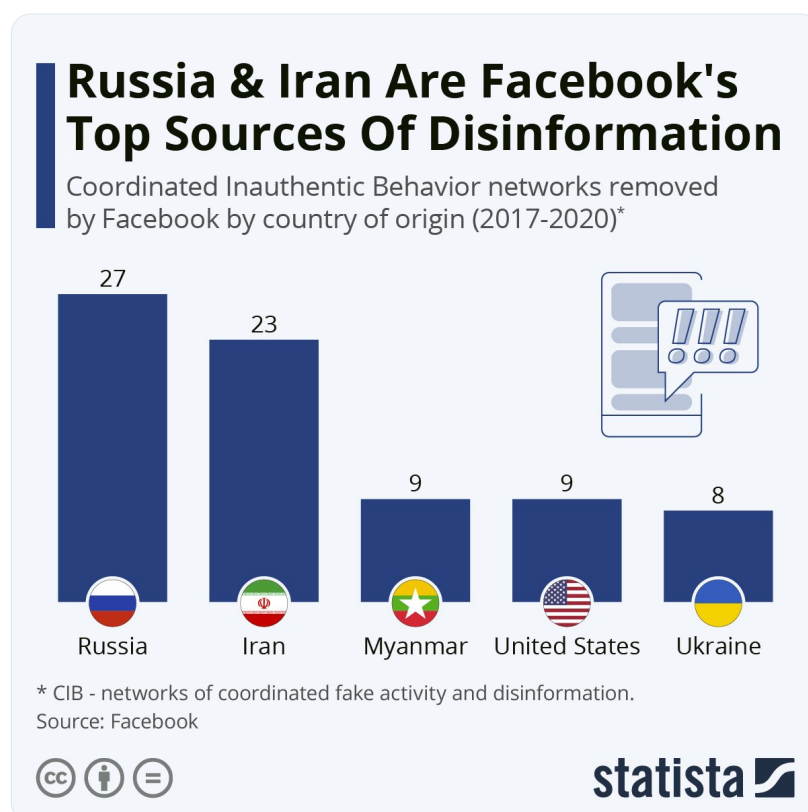


Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Jan 7 · 13 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1611810791744995330](#)

In today's [#vatnik](#) soup I'll discuss Russia's disinformation and propaganda campaigning in more detail, and go through four of the main "big" themes around which most of their propaganda is based on.

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The first theme is historical revisionism. Russia LOVES to distort historical narratives so that they favor themselves. They have conveniently "forgotten" the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939 between the USSR and Nazi Germany, and Putin even published a refurbished version...

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...which blamed other countries for WW2. Even though the US reinforcements played a huge part in the downfall of Hitler, Russians love to portray themselves as the heroes who beat the evil Nazis. They even have another name for WW2 (during 1941-1945): The Great Patriotic War.3/13



They also tend to forget the Gulags and Holodomor when asked about these events. Russia also likes to perform brainwashing around the newly invaded areas: in Ukraine, they paid big money for Russian school teachers to teach the "real" history to the Ukrainians.

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Few Pupils, Fewer Teachers: Russia Struggles To Set Up 'Potemkin' Schools In Occupied Ukraine



The 2nd theme is "Russia is the victim". In Russian propaganda, they never are at fault or make mistakes. especially when talking about "Tsar" Putin. When Russia invades another country, they are actually "defending" a Russian minority inside that country.

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UKRAINE WAR

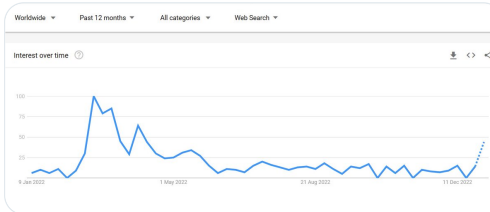
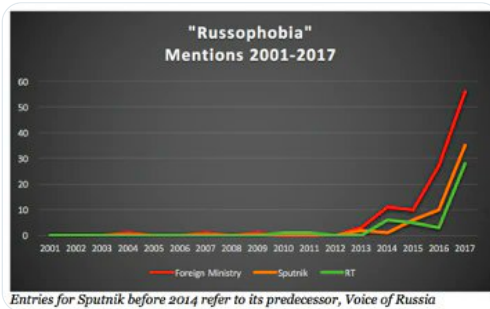
Putin blames West for 'most dangerous' decade since World War II

Russian leader shows no regrets on Ukraine, says U.S. must treat rivals as equals

Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers a speech during the 19th annual meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in Moscow on Oct. 27. (Sputnik via Reuters)

When the West is aiding Ukraine or ordering sanctions on Russian kleptocrats, they are "waging war" against Russia because they are "Russophobes". After 2014, they've accused anyone criticizing Russian actions of russophobia, ...

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... a made up propaganda word that's been spread through their disinformation channels. The word is mostly used in Russia and in Serbia, Russia's close ally.

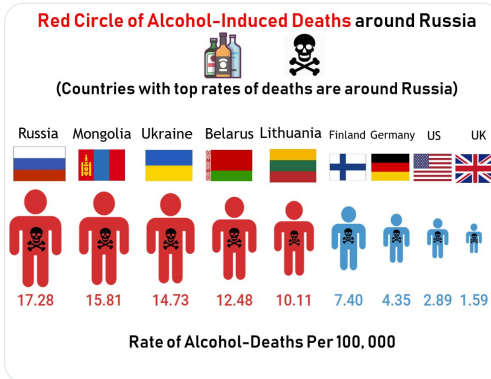
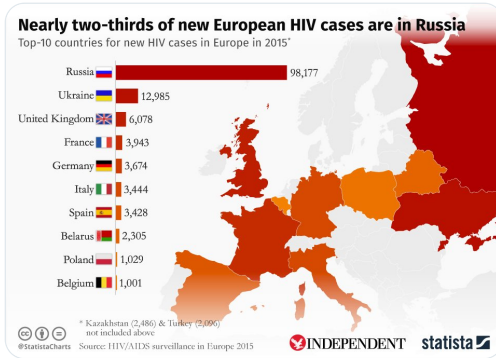
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The 3rd theme is "the decadent West". Russian propaganda loves to talk about the collapse of the West due to their straying away from "traditional values" such as family, religion and monoculture. It's an old trope, going back to 19th century, but it's still utilized a lot.

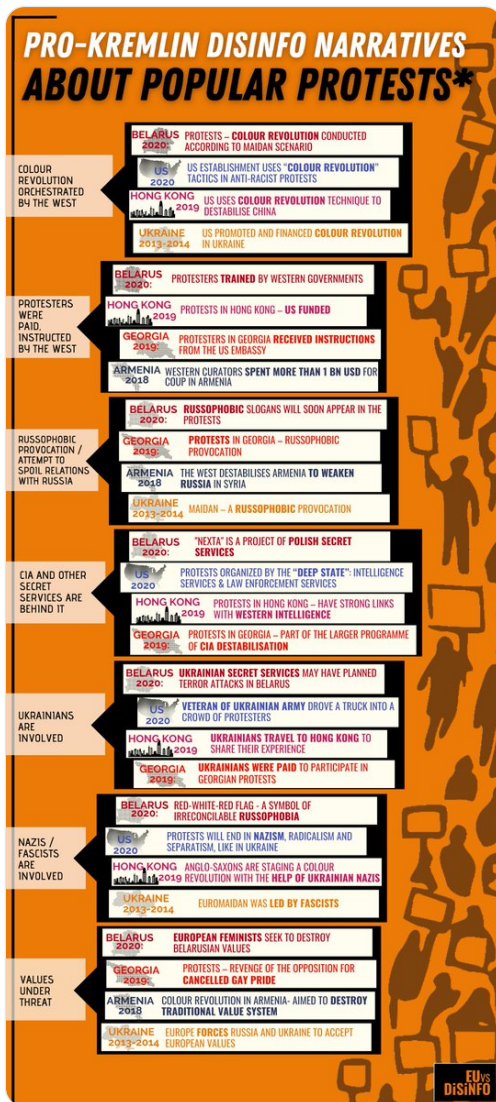
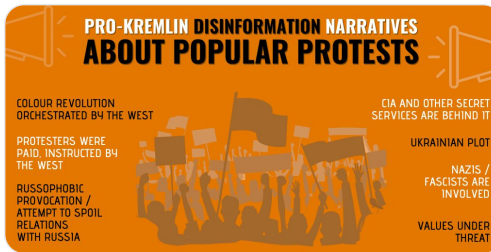
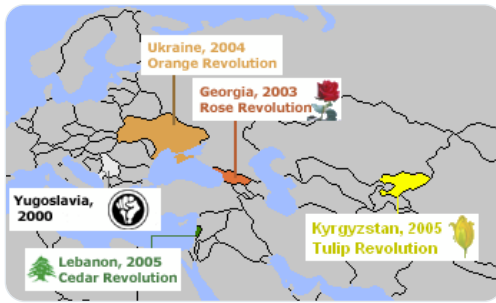
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Ironically, Russia's "religious leader" patriarch Kirill is actually an old KGB agent, their divorce rates are one of the highest in the world and they're at the top of the charts in prevalence of AIDS, alcohol consumption and drug use statistics.

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The 4th theme is the "CIA/US sponsors revolutions around the world". This is a very complex one, and it's mostly spread by the "intellectual type". If there's a democratic movement somewhere around the world and it's not in Russia's geopolitical interests, they claim that...10/13



... it's being funded by the US. They often accuse civil society & human rights organizations such as the White Helmets being corrupt. It's an imperialistic attitude where the folk in these countries don't have any agency or independent aspirations to advocate for themselves. 11/13

Russian trolls attack Syrian humanitarians to cover up war crimes

- New research reveals violent disinformation campaign against the White Helmets
- Conspiracy-theorist bloggers threaten to legitimise killing of frontline volunteers

A new report reveals how bots and trolls linked to Russia have reached an estimated 56 million people with tweets attacking Syria's search and rescue organisation, the Syria Civil Defence – also known as the The White Helmets – during ten key moments of 2016 and 2017.

Media analysts found that half of the Twitter accounts most active in conversations about the White Helmets appear in at least one other Russian disinformation campaign.

They also blame anyone who debunks their criminal activities as funded by foreign actors. For example, Kremlin mouthpiece and propaganda mill Grayzone (@TheGrayzoneNews) often blames investigative journalism group Bellingcat (@bellingcat) ...

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Bellingcat funded by U.S. and UK intelligence contractors that aided extremists in Syria

... for being funded by the CIA, trying to undermine all the great work they've done.

Russian info ops:



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In today's #vatnik soup, I'll start an introduction about the Russian information operations (an activity that tries to affect the public opinion and behavior of a society), disinformation and propaganda.

This topic is a broad issue and I'll do it over several threads.

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7:20 AM · Dec 8, 2022



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560



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The Grayzone:



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In today's #vatnik soup I'll introduce one of the biggest disinformation and propaganda blogs on the web: The Grayzone (@TheGrayzoneNews). It's best known for misleading reporting, disinformation and love of authoritarian regimes and dictators.

1/13



2:41 PM · Jan 1, 2023



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