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Jan 8 · 12 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1611980244252258304](#)

In today's [#vatnik](#) soup and another edition of "You pronounced this nonsense, not me". Today we're going to talk about the "genocide in Donbas" disinformation and propaganda trope, that's been debunked many times but just refuses to die in the social media sphere.

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First, let's talk a bit about what Donbas is: it's an area in the Eastern Ukraine and today refers to two Ukrainian oblasts: Donetsk and Luhansk. The area was mostly depopulated during WW2, after which Stalin brought in a ton of Russian immigrant workers, ...

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... restricted the use of Ukrainian language and forced most schools to use Russian. With this move, the demographic shifted towards Russian: in 1989 census, 55% were Ukrainian and 45% Russian.

After Ukraine gained its independence in 1991, Russians started campaigning ...

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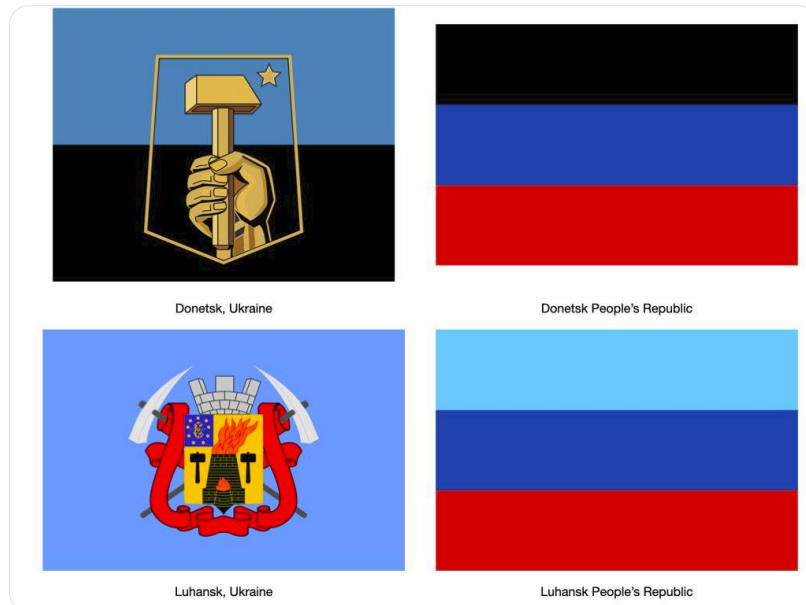


... that Donbas is actually part of Russia. Eventually the dispute was solved with the Memorandum of Budapest in 1994, where Ukraine gave Russia its remaining nuclear weapons and Russia agreed to respect Ukraine's 1991 borders that included Donbas and Crimea.

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In 2014, after president Yanukovych's fall, Putin spat on the Memorandum by invading Crimea and supporting pro-Russian revolt in Donbas. This led to a creation of two puppet states, Donetsk and Luhansk, which were governed and planned by Russian propagandists and soldiers,...5/12



... including Vladislav Surkov, Konstantin Malofeyev and Igor Girkin. Russia later sent their own troops, the "little green men" to reinforce the troops of these made up republics. This low-intensity war has been going on in Donbas since 2014.

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The fake genocide was touted as one of the main reason for Russia's war during the early stages of the invasion. Putin spoke about "14 000 civilian deaths in Donbas" and that they were "exterminated by Ukrainian nationalists".

7/12

TASS RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY


UKRAINE CRISIS 13 MAY 2021, 08:48

About 14,000 people killed during conflict in Donbass, top Ukrainian diplomat says

This number includes servicemen and civilian casualties, according to the country's foreign minister

PRAGUE, May 13. /TASS/. The conflict in Donbass has claimed about 14,000 lives, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba said during his working visit to Slovakia.

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Number of Donbass residents with Russian citizenship in 2021 may reach 1 mln



"To date, about 14,000 people have been killed in Donbass. This number includes [Ukrainian armed forces] servicemen and civilian casualties. We regularly update this data," he said. Kuleba's speech has been posted on the Slovak Foreign Ministry's website.

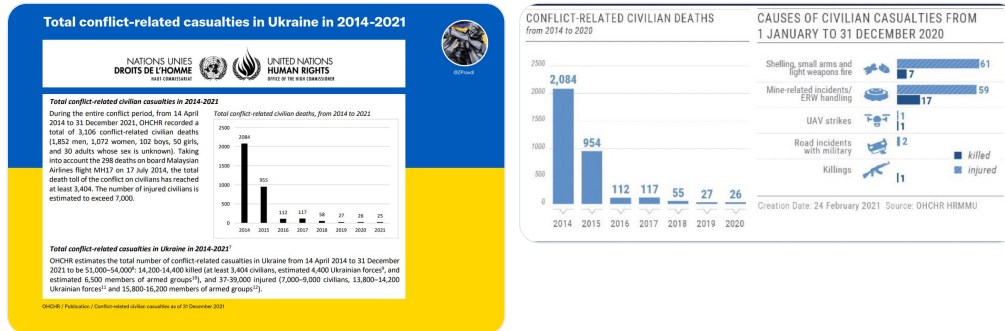
The Ukrainian foreign minister also noted that Kiev was determined to achieve NATO membership, adding that support for Ukraine's accession to NATO and the European Union among Ukrainians was growing.

Mass protests sparked in eastern Ukraine, which has a predominantly Russian-speaking population, in 2014 after President Viktor Yanukovich had been removed from power. In response, the Kiev authorities announced the beginning of a military operation in Donbass in mid-April. Massive shelling of residential areas, even with the use of aircraft, resulted in a humanitarian disaster in the region. Attempts to achieve a complete ceasefire made by the Contact Group on the settlement in eastern Ukraine have so far yielded no results.

Russia has stressed more than once that it is not a party to the intra-Ukrainian conflict in Donbass and that it is in favor of the full implementation of the Minsk agreements, which it signed as a mediator in the peaceful settlement process.

This number is based on data gathered by the UN, & 10 900 the deaths were actually soldiers (4400 Ukrainian, 6500 pro-Russian). Civilian victims were estimated to be 3400-3500, & many of them died in attacks by pro-Russian separatists to areas controlled by the Ukrainians.

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Also, 9% of these civilian deaths came from the MH17 airplane, shot down by pro-Russian militia. et this "genocide" is reported constantly by Russia's official channels and by the fake journalists, like Eva Bartlett (@EvaKBartlett) they employ.

9/12

MILITARY OPERATION IN UKRAINE 17 DEC 2022, 22:03

Ukraine commits genocide in Donbass, says Canadian journalist

"This is purely continued Ukrainian terrorism and Ukrainian war crimes," Eva Bartlett said

NEW YORK, December 17. /TASS/. The Kiev authorities are committing genocide against Donbass civilians and should be brought to justice for war crimes, Canadian journalist Eva Bartlett, who is currently visiting the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), said on Saturday.

"My colleagues and I document Ukraine's crimes against Donbas civilians, <...> so that eventually ideally, Ukraine will be held accountable for those manifold war crimes," she said at a video conference organized by the Schiller Institute.

Three men given life sentences for shooting down flight MH17 over Ukraine in 2014

By Reuters with AP, AFP • Updated: 16/12/2022

Australian and Dutch investigators examine a piece of the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 plane, near the village of Hrabove in Donetsk, 1 August 2014 - Copyright: AP Photo/Dmitry Lovykin

Two Russians and a Ukrainian were sentenced to life in prison for causing the MH17 crash above the Ukrainian region of Donetsk in 2014, killing all 298 on board, The Hague District Court decided on Thursday.

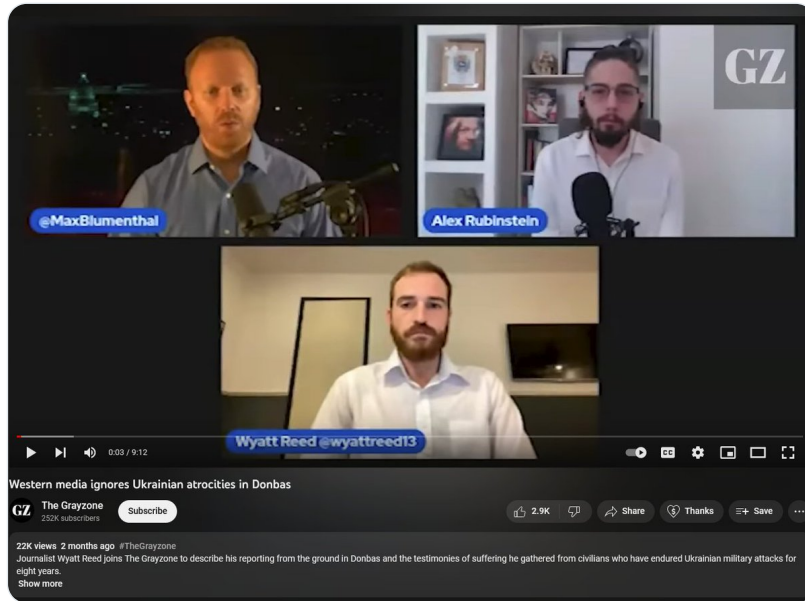
Russians Igor Girkin, Sergey Dubinsky and Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko were found responsible for the disaster, Presiding Judge Hendrik Steenhuis said.

Another Russian national, Oleg Platonov, was acquitted of the charges.

The court declared that Girkin, Dubinsky and Kharchenko must also compensate the relatives of the victims a total of €60 million. Prosecutors and the defendants have two weeks to file an appeal.

Yet this "genocide" is reported constantly by Russia's official channels and by the fake journalists they employ. They managed to change the number of civilian deaths from 14 000 to 4500, though. I guess even the pro-Russian bloggers have their limits on bullshit.

10/12



Putin claimed in a televised address that "The so-called civilized world... would rather ignore it as if the horrific genocide that nearly 4 million people are suffering from had never happened."

Here's a tip, Mr. Putin: leave Ukraine and the "genocide" will stop.


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In today's #vatnik soup, I'll introduce an oligarch and a propagandist Konstantin Malofeyev (or Malofeev). He's a prominent figure in both organizing and funding illegal paramilitary groups and fringe political groups.

1/15



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Igor Girkin:

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In today's #vatnik soup I'll introduce a mercenary, military blogger and a mass murderer, Igor Girkin (AKA Strelkov). Girkin used to be a FSB officer and he's been involved in many Russian wars from Chechnya and Transnistria to 2022 Russo-Ukrainian War.

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