



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Jan 20 · 12 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1616348108224598017](#)

In today's [#vatnik](#) soup I'll be introducing an Australian propagandist and ex-news reporter, Mary Kostakidis ([@MaryKostakidis](#)). She's best known for her storming out from the SBS newsroom in 2007, after which she's been mostly doing hot takes on the US & NATO, Russia & China.1/11



Mary was setting up the SBS Television in the early 80s, and presented World News on the channel until 2007. In Aug, 2007, she stormed out of the SBS newsroom, protesting the increase in advertising time during the program and never looked back.

2/11



She's a former Chair of the Sydney Peace Foundation, a non-profit that's associated with the University of Sydney. They present the annual "Sydney Peace Prize", and some of the winners of this trophy include John Pilger and Noam Chomsky.


3/11



On 20, Feb, 2022, she was one of the signees in an open letter to the Australian government, calling for "US de-escalation" on the situation in Ukraine. The letter stated that "for more than a month now we have been subjected to cries of 'an imminent invasion of ...

4/11

**POLITICS**  
**Australian and international voices call for de-escalation of Ukraine situation**  
By Bevan Ramsden  
Feb 20, 2022



An Open Letter to the U.S. government signed by more than 100 national and regional organizations urged President Biden "to end the U.S. role in escalating the extremely dangerous tensions with Russia over Ukraine." (Image: Flickr/Slingschaffer)

*In contrast to the voices and actions of the governments of U.S., U.K. and Australia inflaming the situation in Ukraine, voices from citizens and organisations for de-escalation and peaceful resolution are being raised around the world.*

Over the past few months, we have seen the voices and actions of the governments of the United States, the UK and Australia contributing to an escalation of the tensions in Ukraine and those voices and actions given

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... Ukraine by Russian forces' by the western press. We have been told that Putin has an invasion plan but no evidence of that has been given. Putin has consistently said that no invasion by Russia is planned or intended."

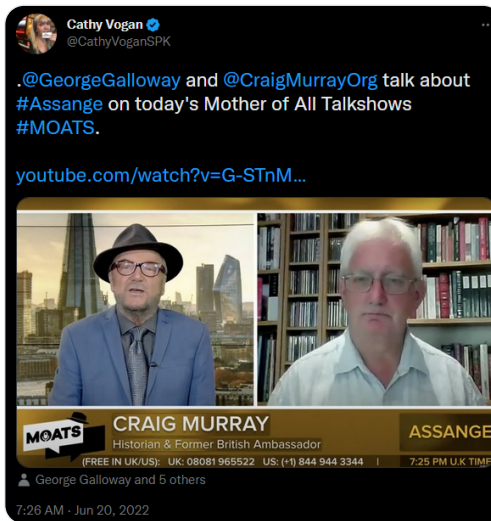
Russia invaded Ukraine four days later.

5/11



Her online presence is mostly on Twitter, where she retweets and comments on most prominent pro-Russian propagandists, including Caitlin Johnstone, Vanessa Beeley, Patrick Lancaster, George Galloway, Eva Bartlett, the Grayzone bloggers and Cameron Leckie.

6/11



I think that the most unbelievable thing about Kostakidis is that she worked almost thirty years in the newsroom, and today pretty much the only news she quotes come from fake news blogs and disinformation mills, or from paid pro-Russian propagandists.

7/11



But tweets speak louder than words, so here's some of the gems from her timeline (yes, I went through the thing and yes, it was painful):

8/11



**Mary Kostakidis** @MaryKostakidis

Replying to @GeorgeMonbiot @sacarlin48 and @pikobi1

There are too many reports with civilians and hospital staff saying the Ukrainians are responsible for much of the killing of civilians. If you are not seeing the mountain of video material - not only from Russian sources but independent journalists, and only following MSM..

3:39 PM · Jun 20, 2022

3 Likes

Tweet your reply

Reply

Replying to @MaryKostakidis @GeorgeMonbiot and 2 others

The censorship around the war in Ukraine, the denunciations, the single narrative that is permitted, the independent investigative journalists who have been banned by Twitter and Paypal, is worst than McCarthyism. More like Stalinist Russia. Extremely dangerous.



**Mary Kostakidis** @MaryKostakidis

Replying to @GeorgeMonbiot

How can you make this statement George? No other country has come anywhere near the US in reeking destruction, civilian deaths and millions of refugees in countless endless wars and coups.

1:36 PM · Jun 20, 2022

25 Retweets 455 Likes

Tweet your reply

Reply

**George Monbiot** @GeorgeMonbiot · Jun 20, 2022

Replying to @MaryKostakidis

Um, so that makes what Assad and Putin have done OK, does it?

38 Retweets 62 Likes

**Mary Kostakidis** @MaryKostakidis · Jun 20, 2022

Replying to @GeorgeMonbiot

Of course not but a matter of fact that they are not "the bloodiest rulers". You are highly respected - including by me. I don't think we should take the word of any regime in wartime & always listen to alternative views, particularly when there is evidence.

7 Retweets 5 Retweets 155 Likes

**Mary Kostakidis** @MaryKostakidis · Jun 20, 2022

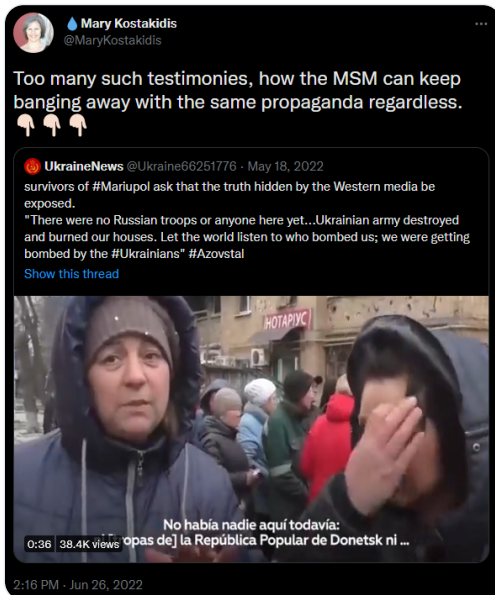
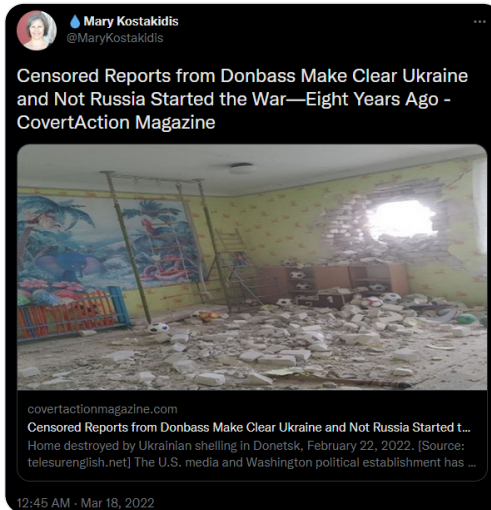
Replying to @MaryKostakidis and @GeorgeMonbiot

The climate culture wars showed us how disinformation is used to suppress truth. It took a long time for that to be turned around, by you and others, against those who portrayed it as inconclusive.

3 Retweets 3 Retweets 32 Likes

- Mary celebrates BRICS collaboration with Putin and friends
- Mary shares the made-up story of "genocide in Donbas", as reported by the fake news blog CovertAction Magazine
- Mary shares Russian disinformation with paid actors in Mariupol

9/11



Naturally she has also parroted the Russian revisionism of NATO expansion.

10/11

Mary Kostakidis  
@MaryKostakidis

After the US promise NATO will not move an inch further East if Russia supported the reunification of Germany #UkraineRussiaWar

Nato's expansion since 1997

Legend:  
■ Joined Nato before 1997  
■ Joined Nato since 1997

1 Estonia 2 Latvia 3 Lithuania 4 Poland 5 Czech Republic 6 Slovakia 7 Hungary 8 Romania 9 Slovenia 10 Croatia 11 Montenegro 12 Albania 13 North Macedonia 14 Bulgaria

\*Russia annexed Crimea in 2014

4:47 AM · Feb 28, 2022

Mary Kostakidis  
@MaryKostakidis

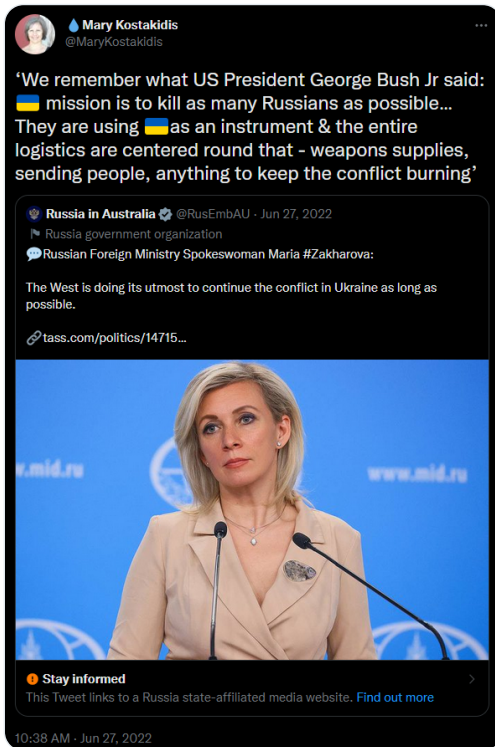
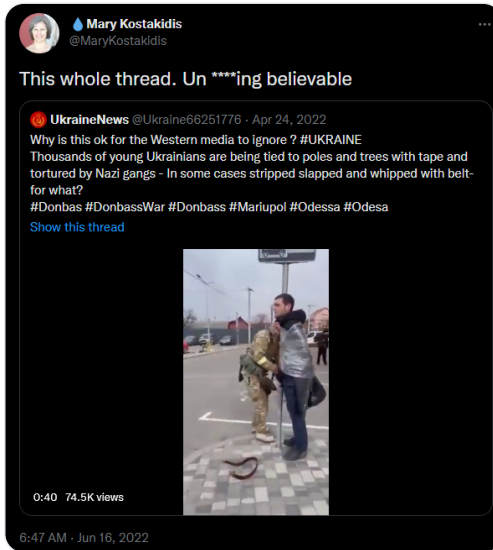
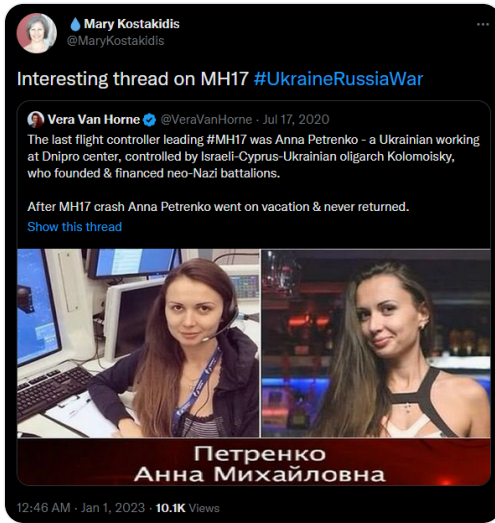
'If there had been no decision to move nato eastwd to include #Ukraine, Crimea & Donbass would be part of Ukraine today, & there would be no war in Ukraine' Putin: 'Whoever does not miss the Soviet Union has no heart, whoever wants it back has no brain.'

newyorker.com  
Why John Mearsheimer Blames the U.S. for the Crisis in Ukraine  
For years, the political scientist has claimed that Putin's aggression toward Ukraine is caused by Western intervention. Have recent events changed his ...

3:39 AM · Mar 3, 2022

Also, she's shared straight-up conspiracy theories about the MH17 plane shot down by the Russians, lies about "thousands of young Ukrainians" being tied to poles and tortured, and of course some high quality TASS propaganda.

11/11



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**Pekka Kallioniemi**

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@P\_Kallioniemi · Follow

In today's #vatnik soup, I'll introduce an American propagandist & a Youtuber, Patrick Lancaster. He's a former sailor turned pro-Russian disinfo spreader. Ironically, his videos from the Russia-occupied areas have exposed Russian war crimes and sensitive military information.

1/13



9:06 AM · Jan 18, 2023

2.5K Reply Copy link

Read 55 replies

The Grayzone:

 **Pekka Kallioniemi**  
@P\_Kallioniemi · Follow

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





George Galloway:



NATO expansion:





9:11 AM · Jan 19, 2023



 1.2K  Reply  Copy link

[Read 24 replies](#)

