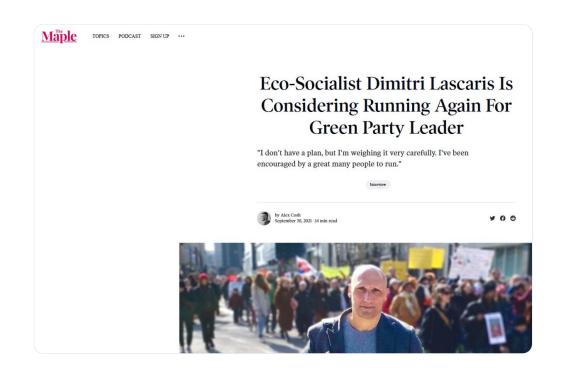


In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a Canadian lawyer and politician, Dimitri Lascaris (@dimitrilascaris). He's best-known for parroting the Kremlin propaganda regarding NATO expansion and the 2014 Revolution of Dignity, and for traveling to Russia amidst the war.

1/24



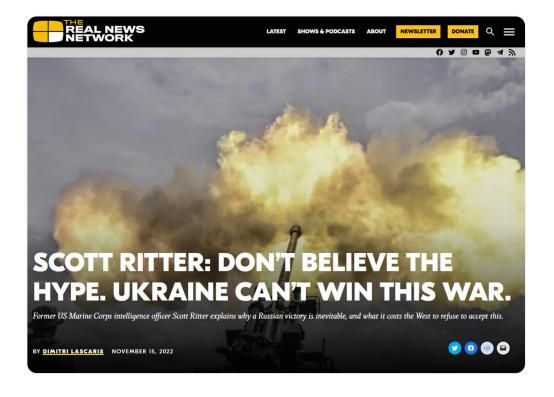
Dimitri refers to himself as an "ecosocialist" and has been previously active in the Canadian Green Party. In 2020 he was a candidate for leading the group, but lost the final vote 50-42%. One of his campaign people was @RadDesai, whose known for organizing conferences.. 2/24





...that promote the interests of both the Russian and Chinese governments. Before this, Dima was working for the Real News, a pro-Kremlin blog that platforms people like Scott Ritter and Lawrence Wilkerson. Wilkerson is best-known for his anti-Semitism and calling the...

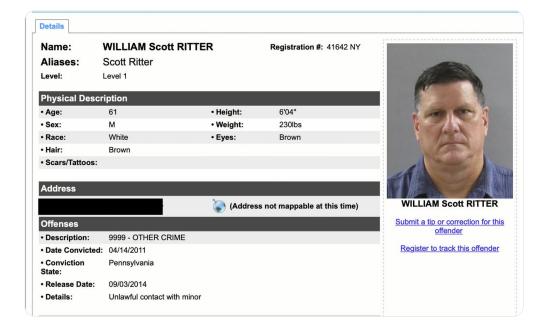




..Ghouta chemical attack a "false flag operation" orchestrated by Israel. Ritter, on the other hand, is best-known for exposing his genitals to a police officer he thought was a 15-year-old girl.

On 19 Mar 2022, a month after Russia started their brutal attack in Ukraine,.. 4/24





...Lascaris suggested that Ukraine shouldn't defend themselves as it'll probably result in the "destruction of one's country," and that the rational course would actually "pursue compromise" with Russia.

His takes on history could come directly from the Kremlin...

5/24

Yesterday, I was interviewed by a German media outlet, AcTVism Munich, about the Ukraine war. After I argued that Ukraine should enter immediately into negotiations with the Russian Federation, the interviewer put to me this question: "many argue that Ukraine has a right to defend itself. How do you respond to that argument?"

My answer to him was this:



Of course, Ukraine has a right to defend itself, as do all sovereign states, but having a lawful right to pursue a certain course of action does not necessarily mean that pursuing that course of action is in one's interests. If the exercise of a right is likely to result in the destruction of one's country, then the humane and rational course of action is to pursue compromise with the enemy rather than insist upon the full exercise of one's lawful right.

His takes on history could come directly from the Kremlin. First of all, he states in one of his blog posts that in 2014 Crimea "merged" with Russia - no mention of the illegal annexation, little green men, none of that. Then he refers to a news article from TASS that...

6/24



.."97% of voters reportedly supported Crimea's reunification with Russia," a sham vote that was condemned by basically everyone other than Russia.

Dima's reasoning for Russia's genocidal war in Ukraine is based on two of the most used

Tass

RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY

prosecutor's office, security service, security department, customs and other agencies independent from the authorities in Kiev.

On March 11 the legislatures of Crimea and Sevastopol voted for a declaration on the independence of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and of the city of Sevastopol.

The two questions put to the electorate in the referendum were:

- 1. Are you for the reunification of Crimea with Russia as a constituent territory of the Russian Federation?
- 2. Are you for the restoration of Crimea's Constitution of 1992 and for Crimea's status as a region of Ukraine?

Support from more than 50% of those who cast their ballots was declared enough for the approval of either decision. The ballot papers were printed in three languages — Russian, Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar. In the end, 96.77% of the voters (1.233 million) in Crimea and 95.6% (262,000 in Sevastopol) backed reunification with Russia. In Crimea, the turnout reached 83.1% and in Sevastopol, 89.5%. The referendum was monitored by a group of 50 observers from 21 countries, including Israel, France and Italy. Most of the UN memberstates refused to recognize the plebiscite.

Second, as a condition to agreeing to the reunification of Germany when the Berlin Wall fell, Mikhail Gorbachev received assurances from Western governments that NATO would not expand 'one inch eastward' – an assurance that NATO has violated repeatedly.

Third, in 2014, Western governments facilitated a coup in Ukraine which resulted in the violent ouster of a democratically elected, pro-Russian president, followed by the installation of a right-wing, anti-Russian regime. As explained in a recent article by veteran foreign affairs journalist, Joe Lauria:

...and the broken promise to Gorbachev (which, based on Gorbachev, was never even made), and 2) the "US-facilitated coup" and the infiltration of "neo-Nazis" in Ukraine in 2014.But with the latter he goes a few steps further: he states that what followed was a "right-wing,... 8/24

 $BROOKINGS \qquad \hbox{\it u.s. Economy} \quad \hbox{\it Russia} \quad \hbox{\it Technology \& Information} \quad \hbox{\it Climate Change} \quad \hbox{\it Race in Public Policy} \quad \hbox{\it Topics} \quad \hbox{\it Regions}$

COMMENTARY

Did NATO Promise Not to Enlarge? Gorbachev Says "No"

Steven Pifer November 6, 2014







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Military Review • News

Victoria Nuland: I did not bring cookies to Kiev, but sandwiches

Assistant US Secretary of State Victoria Nuland filed accusations of misinformation against the Russian media. According to her, in Kiev she distributed not cookies, but sandwiches, not only to the protesters, but also to the Berkut fighters.





Follow

According to supporters of NATO's proxy war in Ukraine, the claim that the U.S. assured Gorbachev that NATO would not expand eastward is merely a 'Putin talking point'.

Interestingly, this 'Putin talking point' appears in declassified U.S. documents from the early 1990s.

You're unable to view this Tweet because this account owner limits who can view their Tweets. Learn more

17:31 · 02 Jul 23 from Fredericton, New Brunswick · **54.5K** Views

326 Retweets 9 Quotes 685 Likes

..anti-Russian regime," providing absolutely no further explanation.

Lascaris' final conclusion immediately after Russia's full-scale invasion started was that: "An objective and fair-minded review of the historical record leads inexorably to the conclusion that Russia...

9/24

...has legitimate grievances in this conflict," and later he declared that the evidence for the US and British governments actively provoking war in Ukraine is "overwhelming."

In Apr 2023, Dima traveled to Russia, where he had meetings with officials of the Russian...



Today, while in Moscow, I visited the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation and had a candid conversation with two Foreign Ministry officials about what it's going to take to end the existentially dangerous war in Ukraine. I'll have more to say about this in the weeks ahead.

#Ukraine #UkraineRussiaWar



0:21 · 05 Apr 23 · **34.4K** Views

46 Retweets 14 Quotes 322 Likes



Follow

As the photographs on this wall of the Russian Foreign Ministry demonstrate, there was a time when Western and Russian leaders were able to engage in dialogue. For the sake of peace and the future of our children, we desperately need a return to the era of dialogue.

#russia #UkraineRussiaWar #peace
#Ukraine #cdnpoli



0:24 · 05 Apr 23 · 7,435 Views

35 Retweets 6 Quotes 188 Likes

...Ministry of Foreign Affairs and gave a speech at the Valdai Conference. As a staunch supporter of peace between Russia and Ukraine, surely Lascaris spoke about the peace negotiations? Well, no - his speech was about the destabilization of the dollar and how Russia...

DE-DOLLARIZATION: A DISCUSSION AT THE VALDAI CLUB IN MOSCOW

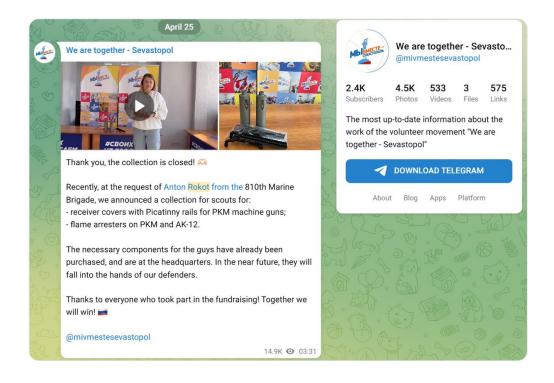


...could compete with the dollar. Later, he admitted that some of his meetings during the trip were organized with the Russian Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, and his old fiend Desai and campaign worker also joined the Valdai meeting.

12/24



While in Russia, he visited various Kremlin-funded "NGO's" that provide nonlethal equipment and firearms accessories to the Russian troops. One of these organizations, We Are Together – Sevastopol, is presented to the Westerners as an NGO that "helps refugees".





Follow

This morning, I left Moscow for Crimea. My train is expected to arrive in Crimea tomorrow morning. The sun is now setting to the West of us as the train heads southward.





18:34 · 10 Apr 23 · **52.8K** Views

20 Retweets 6 Quotes 272 Likes



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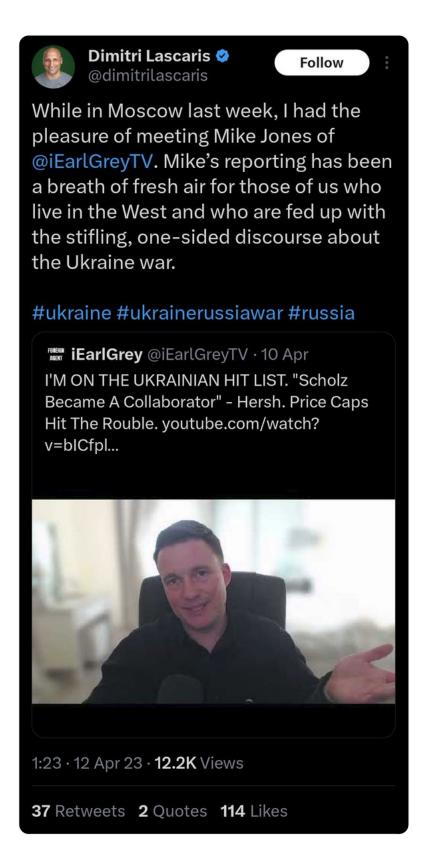
This week, I was interviewed by RT in Moscow. On my way into the RT studio, I came across this sign quoting Canada's @GlobeandMail:

"In the near future, it could happen that correspondents of Xinhua and RT, and not the correspondents of AP and the BBC, will be the only journalists at the epicenter of the next international crisis. And that means the world will see events through the eyes of Moscow & Beijing."



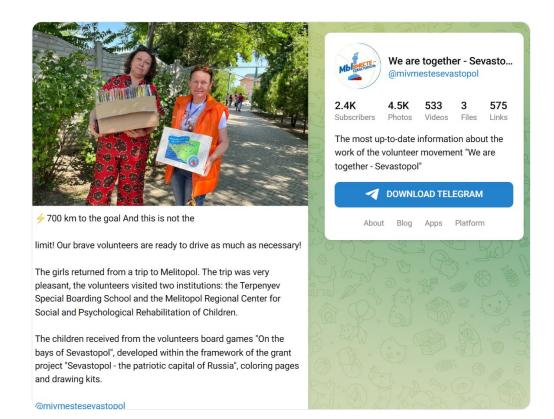
1:56 · 30 Apr 23 · **7,436** Views

29 Retweets 1 Quote 106 Likes



The group's leader, Victoria Kashlyakova, admits that they also provide the invaded areas with propaganda materials such as board games praising Mother Russia.

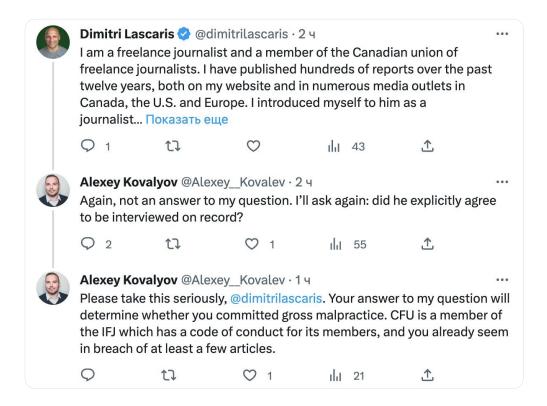
On his way to Crimea, Lascaris also interviewed a PMC Wagner sniper called "Sokol". Ironically, his hate for...



Hmm, @di bad," you s under *Rus	mitrilascaris. seem to have	key_Kovalev · 6 v In your Kremlin's omitted one crue vs* (see articles 2	favorite pivot cial fact: that \	Vagner is very	illegal
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The soldier told us that his call sign was "Sokol." He said he was a sniper in the Wagner PMC and that he had joined Wagner about seven months ago. At that time, he was serving a 16-year prison sentence. He said that he had once been a hit-man for the Russian mafia in Georgia. He was six years into his prison sentence when Yevgeny Prigozhin, the titular head of Wagner, came to Sokol's prison last year and invited convicts like Sokol to join Wagner. Sokol accepted Prighozin's invitation.					
Q 1	€J	♡ 2	ıl _ı ı 103	1	
I interview		imitrilascaris · 3 not "hang out" w lism is.		ntly, you have	n't
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Okay, let's address that. Did you introduce yourself to him — not to the woman translator — as a journalist? Did you say which publication you represented? And, more importantly, did he explicitly agree to be interviewed on the record for that publication?



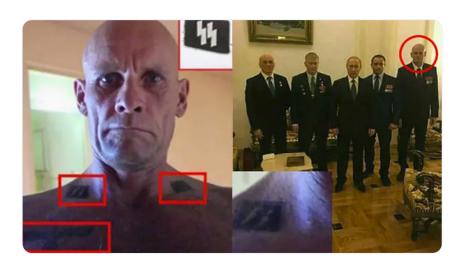
.."neo-Nazis" doesn't extend to the Russian ones, as he doesn't offer a single shred of criticism towards the mercenary group and its affiliations and history of literal neo-Nazis like Alexei Milchakov and Dmitry Utkin.

15/24 https://t.co/4QIzopWreS

①

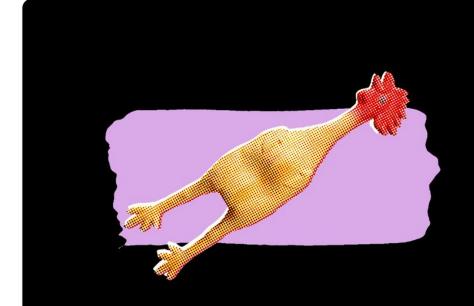
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https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1589145838869434370



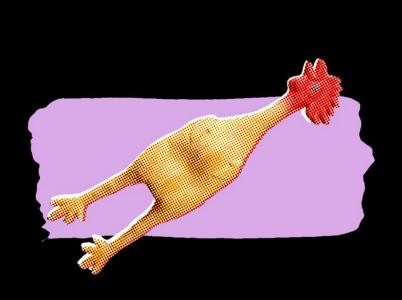


As a human rights activists, Dima speaks very little of actual human rights violations in Ukraine. I couldn't find any of his commentary on the Bucha massacre, mass graves, torture and castration in Izium or the FSB-run children's torture chambers in Kherson.



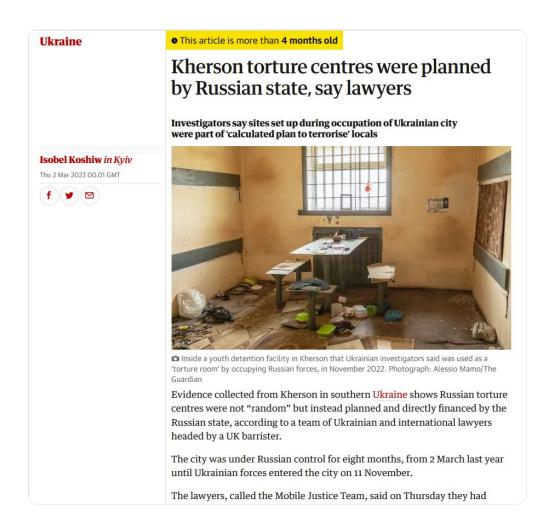
No results for "(fro m:@dimitrilascaris) bucha"

Try searching for something else, or check your Search settings to see if they're protecting you from potentially sensitive content.



No results for "(fro m:@dimitrilascaris) izium"

Try searching for something else, or check your Search settings to see if they're protecting you from potentially sensitive content.

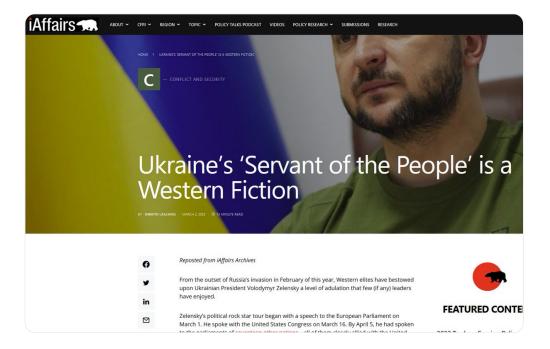


He hasn't mentioned the 700 000 Ukrainian children abducted by the Russians, which by international law constitutes as a genocide. @dimitrilascaris, you must have written about these topics, maybe you can point me to the tweets and/or articles?



Lascaris has also been very critical of Ukraine's Zelensky. In Jul 2022, he posted an article criticizing the Ukrainian president, calling him an "anti-hero" who has "degraded whatever democracy existed in Ukraine." He also blames Zelensky for his ties to oligarch...

18/24





Dimitri Lascaris @dimitrilascaris

Follow

Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's "lion of democracy", has banned 3 TV stations and 11 political parties, charged his main political rival with "high treason" and failed to end torture by #Ukraine's security forces. #Zelensky also has deep ties to an oligarch accused of a huge fraud.



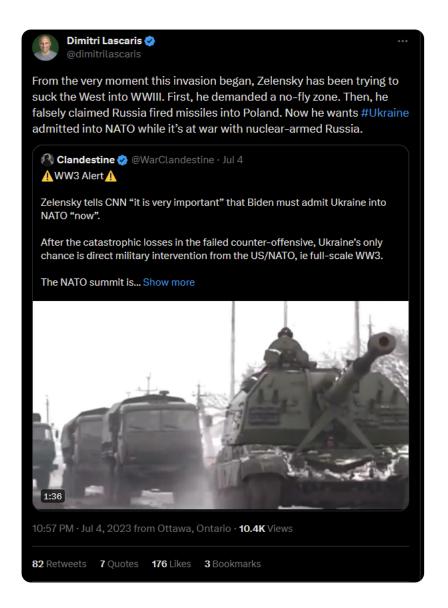
🚇 Dimitri Lascaris 🤣 @dimitril... • 04 Jul 22

My latest:

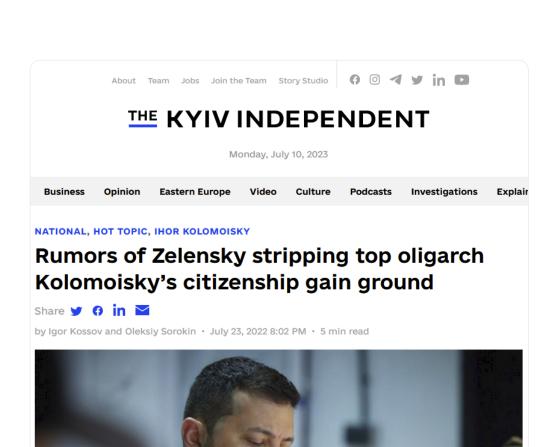
There are far better ways to support the Ukrainian people than glorifying and propping up the fraudulent Zelensky....

16:31 · 05 Jul 22

59 Retweets 3 Quotes 165 Likes



...Ihor Kolomoyskyi, whose Ukrainian citizenship Zelensky later stripped, and whose assets the Ukrainian state has also nationalized. He preaches about the corruption in Ukraine, and how Zelensky has been unable to prevent it. This corruption is a remnant of the...





Zelensky shakes up Ukrainian government amid growing corruption scandal



By Ivana Kottasová, Kostan Nechyporenko and Jo Shelley, CNN Updated 12:09 PM EST, Tue January 24, 2023





President Zelensky's long road to the White House

03:22 - Source: <u>CNN</u>



Follow

If Putin had banned, in one fell swoop, 11 opposition parties - including the largest opposition party in the Duma imagine the howls of indignation from Western corporate media. But when that supposed champion of democracy Volodymyr Zelensky does it, we hear crickets.

#Ukraine



🗶 Dimitri Lascaris 🤣 @dimitri... •23 Mar 22

Ukrainian President Volodomyr Zelensky has banned 11 opposition parties and nationalized Ukrainian media. One of the banned parties, Platform For Life, is #Ukraine's largest opposition party and cur...

22:55 · 23 Mar 22

33 Retweets 5 Quotes 106 Likes

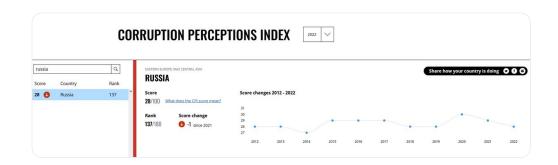
.. Soviet history, and Zelensky has taken impressive measures to reduce it. Actively fighting corruption while you're being attacked by a genocidal maniac is probably quite challenging, so we can probably judge Ukraine's battle against corruption only after Russia has been.. 20/24



..driven away from the country. Now, how about the country that Dima has praised and recently visited? In the 2022 Corruption Index, Russia was at the 137th place.

As an "ecosocialist", Dimitri is a staunch supporter of Russia, one of the biggest exporter of fossil fuels.

21/24





He also hasn't said a word of Russia's ecocide in Ukraine, resulting in the destruction of Ukraine's flora and fauna and also its cultural heritage sites.

To conclude, Dima is a classic Kremlin propagandist touting the "not one inch eastward" and "US-orchestrated coup" BS.

22/24

unesco

Article >

Damaged cultural sites in Ukraine verified by UNESCO

As of 19 June 2023, UNESCO has verified damage to 260 sites since 24 February 2022 - 112 religious sites, 22 museums, 94 buildings of historical and/or artistic interest, 19 monuments, 12 libraries ,1 Archive...



19 June 2023 - Last update:21 June 2023



Ukrainians Are Accusing Russia of Ecocide. What Does That Mean?

The dam blast rekindled a concept with Vietnam War roots but no place in international law-yet.



He seems to openly support Russia's genocidal war in Ukraine, and hasn't criticized it after the initial days of the invasion. His prospects to do anything meaningful in Canada are





Follow

Joe Lauria:

"Thirty years from now historians will write of the context of the Ukraine war: the coup, the attack on Donbass, NATO expansion, rejection of Russian treaty proposals — without being called Putin puppets. It will be the same way historians write of the Versailles Treaty as a cause of Nazism and WWII, but aren't called Nazi-sympathizers."

consortiumnews.com/2023/06/30/ukr... @unjoe #Ukraine

4:59 · 03 Jul 23 · 7,033 Views

50 Retweets 3 Quotes 167 Likes

And yes, I know I said I'd stop #vatniksoup, but the vatniks spring up like mushrooms, and these networks need to be exposed.

So, as long as there are vatniks and people who read my silly threads, I'll continue doing this work.



Sources:

https://t.co/VVwE69kIT2

Ping: @Alexey___Kovalev

Support my work: https://t.co/QgUl6jpNNe

Subscribe for my YouTube channel: https://t.co/1gnCOdcGoa

Past soups:

 $https://t.co/9k5rQx4cgb \\ \underline{https://canadianinfluencewatchdog.blogspot.com/2023/07/why-are-ukrainian-canadians-protesting.html}$



Dimitri Lascaris is a fraud and a tankie | Medium

The Canadian-Greek activist Dimitri Lascaris claims to be a progressive "ecosocialist." He's nothing of the sort — here's why

https://medium.com/@alexey__kovalev/lascaris-is-a-tankie-2b54c72c8de



Pekka Kallioniemi

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https://buymeacoffee.com/PKallioniemi



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The Soup Central gives you in-depth knowledge on disinformation, bad actors and information operations.

https://youtube.com/@TheSoupCentral

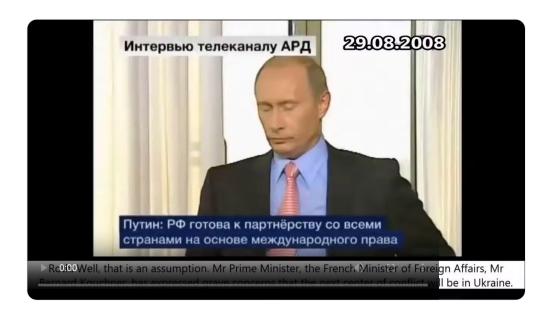


Vatnik Soup

#vatniksoup is a Twitter thread series (and a hashtag!) where I'll introduce pro-Russian actors and propagandists from around the world, be they so-called "independent journalists", politicians, mili...

http://vatniksoup.com

And Dima,let me ask one more thing: If James Baker's verbal promise to "not expand NATO eastwards" (that referred to East Germany, by the way) should be respected,what about Putin's statement that Crimea is Ukraine? I mean, if not, then we can probably agree that Putin is a liar?



• • •