



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Mar 18, 2024 · 16 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1769701529013960962](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll iterate on the Kremlin's main narratives and how they're currently being used to legitimize Russia's sham election, protest military aid to Ukraine, and confuse people with "whataboutism" ("What about the US/Gaza/Iraq/Israel/Ukraine?").

1/15



Of course none of this is new, it's just that the scale is much more massive than we've ever seen before. Russia's "Firehose of Falsehood" strategy attempts to flood us with a huge volume of emotional and biased content to confuse us and distract us from the topic at hand.

## The Firehose of Falsehood: the Russian style of propaganda for an age of information abundance.

- High volume and multi-channel approach
- Shameless in its willingness to broadcast lies
- No commitment to, or requirement for consistency
- Rapid, continuous and repetitive messaging
- Point is not to persuade but to confuse and overwhelm
- Assumes a low trust environment *and lowers it further*
- Number of arguments matters more than their quality
- Drown out competing messages through sheer volume

I'll use few of my recent posts about the Russian sham elections as an example. In the second photo, you see the massive amount of comments compared to likes/shares of the post - a ratio of 1:4 is actually very rare and suggests that the post was found by trolls and bots.





This type of posts are also great for discovering the Kremlin troll factory talking points - there aren't that many and they often like to spread the same lies they've done since 2014. Let's take a look at some of them and also see why they're wrong.

4/15



**djtruthbomb**

@djtruthbom22674

Naaaaaaa you liar 😏 democrat

**WE'RE DEMOCRATS!**

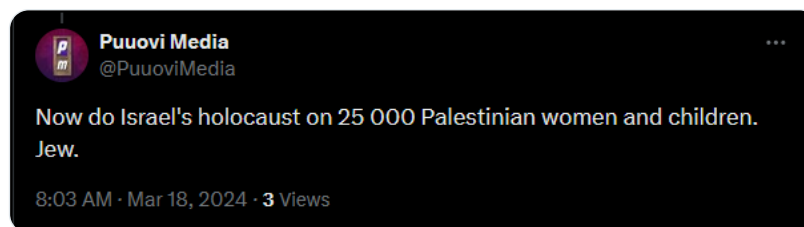
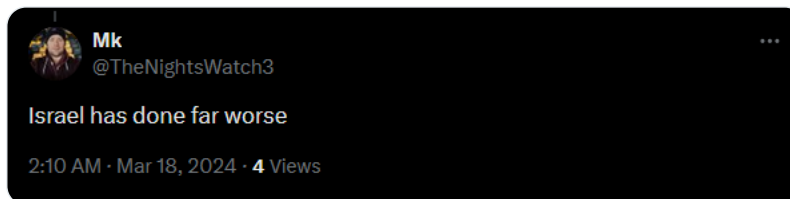
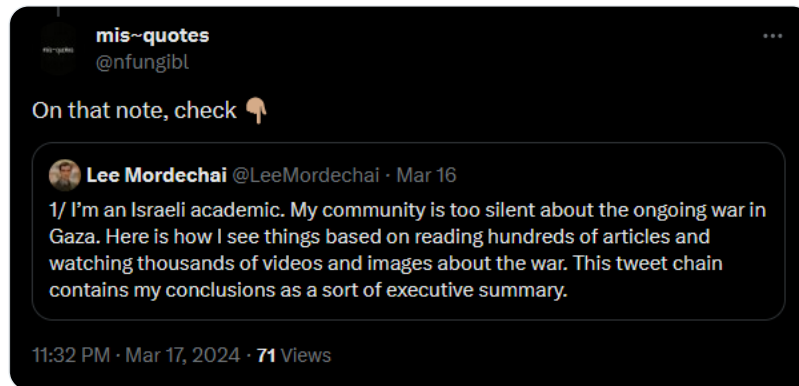
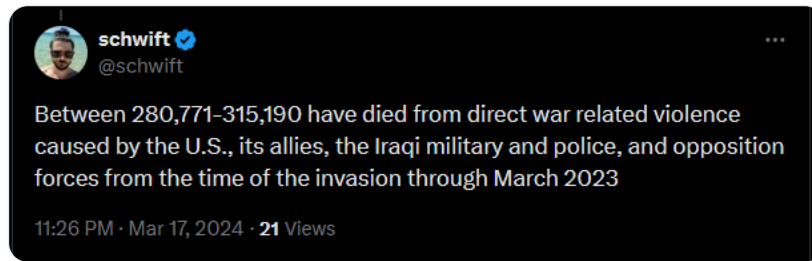


**WE KILL BABIES, TRAFFIC  
CHILDREN, RIG ELECTIONS,  
ACCUSE OUR OPPONENTS OF THE  
CRIMES THAT WE ARE  
COMMITTING, AND BEST OF ALL  
WE USE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
TO DESTROY OUR COMPETITORS!**

3:39 AM · Mar 18, 2024 · 4 Views



Let's start with the most classic strategy called "whataboutism". It's not a new tactic, as it was already used by the Soviet propagandists to divert any criticism towards their country. "What about US invasion of Iraq" & "What about Gaza" are typical examples of whataboutism.5/15



Then there's the deflection tactic of referring to the cancelled elections in Ukraine. It's actually written in the Ukrainian Constitution that elections are not being held during war time, because voting in the middle of an invasion is close to impossible.



**Trollonthebridge**  
@Top troll22



At least Russia had an election! 😊



11:54 PM · Mar 17, 2024 · 13 Views



**Nasty G**  
@EGrant4151



When are the Ukraine elections?

2:48 AM · Mar 18, 2024 · 28 Views

**ARGUMENT** *An expert's point of view on a current event.*

## Wartime Elections in Ukraine Are Impossible

Voting in the middle of the Russian invasion is legally and practically unworkable.

By [Lee Reaney](#), a journalist and editor in Lviv, Ukraine, and [Joel Wasserman](#), an analyst and editor in Lviv.



A woman casts her ballot at a polling station in Kyiv during local elections in Ukraine on Oct. 25, 2020. SERGEI SUPINSKY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

JULY 11, 2023, 1:12 PM

These regularly scheduled elections were disrupted by the state of martial law declared in 2022, at the start of the full-scale Russian invasion. This can be expected from a country fighting for its very existence, where significant portions of its territory are occupied. Martial law is established as a concept in the Ukrainian Constitution and last updated by the national legislature in 2015, before Zelensky entered politics.


Article 83 of the Ukrainian Constitution states that if the term of the Verkhovna Rada expires under martial law, it shall automatically be extended until a new Rada is seated following the end of martial law. Article 19 of Ukraine's martial law legislation specifically forbids conducting national elections. Thus, for Ukraine to conduct elections while under martial law would be a violation of legal norms that predate Zelensky and the full-scale Russian invasion.

Now, let's compare Ukrainian presidents to Russian and Belarusian presidents since 2000 - Russia has had 2 (technically 1), and Belarus has had one. It's very easy to see which regimes have limited free speech and taken control over their societies.





Whenever you bring up the war crimes done by the Russians in Ukraine, Kremlin trolls can't stop talking about the "genocide in Donbas". According to the story, Ukraine "shelled Donbas for 8 years", killing civilians and children in the process.


 **I said yes**  
@Star\_gazer888

That is a tragedy

But i have question.

Arent you sorry for 14.000 ethnic Russians living in Ukraine, being ukraine citizens, being bombed by their own govt?

11:35 PM · Mar 17, 2024 · 7 Views

 **freddie639**  
@arlox639


Now do the 14,000+ in Donbass

2:44 AM · Mar 18, 2024 · 18 Views

 **Kinkajou51 #IStandWithDonbass & Palestine**  
@Kinkajou5123

Definitely sad. Have you seen the dead children in Doneskt City? Ukraine has been killing them for 10 years.

2:54 AM · Mar 18, 2024 · 11 Views

 **Arturas**  
@Arturas68221169

Have you ever reported and showed any pictures off dead or injured Donetsk children?

11:07 PM · Mar 17, 2024 · 22 Views

This of course never happened, and even Prigozhin's employees admitted that the people interviewed were actually crisis actors. The unrest was funded by the Kremlin and mercenaries/FSB agents like Igor Girkin. Full debunk here:



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



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.

1/12



6:56 AM · Jan 8, 2023



3.2K Reply Copy link

Read 87 replies

All articles > Russian Aggression > Hybrid War > Victims of "Donbas genocide" were paid actors, Prigozhin's fired trolls reveal

HYBRID WAR

# Victims of "Donbas genocide" were paid actors, Prigozhin's fired trolls reveal

BY IRYNA VOICHUK · 14/07/2023 · 3 SHARES · 5 MINUTE READ



Screenshot of report by Russia's state Pervyi Kanal aired on 12 July 2014, showing an actress claiming to be a Donbas local witnessing "crimes" of the Ukrainian Army

Then there's an example that's a bit more obscure, but it's more popular among the Russian-speaking population - the 2014 Odesa clashes.

This false narrative claims that "Ukrainian neo-Nazis" burned Russian-speaking Ukrainians alive.

Debunk here:



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



In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll discuss about one of the less-known events of the Russo-Ukrainian War: the 2014 Odessa clashes.

It's often used by pro-Kremlin propagandists to prove that the "neo-Nazis" in Ukraine were "persecuting" the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine.

1/22

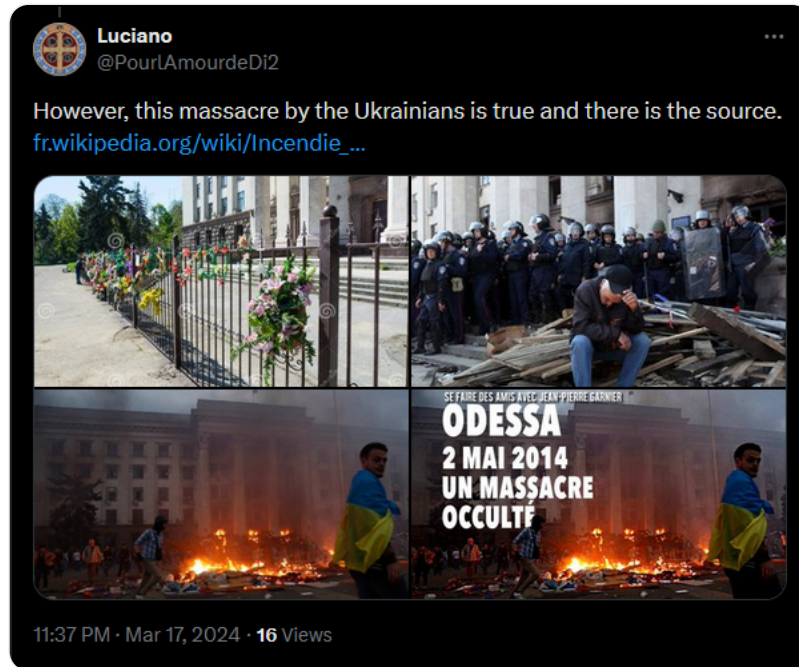
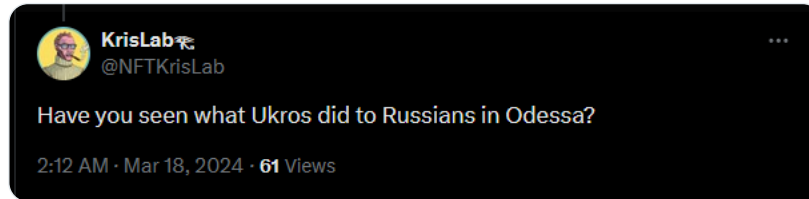


9:03 AM · Sep 19, 2023



❤️ 6.6K    💬 Reply    🔗 Copy link

[Read 188 replies](#)



Another classic is the "Ukrainian neo-Nazis" BS. Ukrainian far-right parties had 2,2% support in the 2019 elections. It's actually Russia that has a massive neo-Nazi problem, and their armies are actually infested with them:



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@P\_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#)



In today's #vatnik soup I'll discuss nazis. I'll introduce some famous 🇷🇺 neo-nazi movements and figures and also discuss why the "de-nazification" project of Ukraine is simply absurd.

First, let's discuss the similarities between Russian regime and Hitler's nazi Germany. 1/12



8:58 AM · Nov 28, 2022



♥ 2.4K    💬 Reply    🔗 Copy link

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In today's [#vatniksoup](#) I'll talk about Russian Nazis and introduce Russian neo-Nazi movements and paramilitary groups like Rusich and PMC Wagner. They're best-known for being funded by the Kremlin and being responsible for the "denazification" in Ukraine.

1/24



11:35 AM · Jul 25, 2023



9.6K Reply Copy link

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Moscow X  
@tonyfockyou



@GabeZZOZZ




11:07 PM · Mar 17, 2024 · 19 Views

**name**  
@name69721647611

liberation from neo-Nazis was worth it

**SIMPLICIUS Ψ** @simpatico771 · Mar 12  
No, it was the Nazi Bandera thugs who came to peaceful Mariupol and enslaved it with their terror regime until it was liberated by heroic Russian forces [x.com/IAPonomarenko/...](https://x.com/IAPonomarenko/)



2:47

10:40 PM · Mar 17, 2024 · 26 Views

**Prometheus \***  
@PrometheusPm

Care to mention that Azov first blocked all evacuation of civilians from Mariupol, then took 50+ civilian hostages with them into Azovstal bunker, and traded them for food?

6:34 AM · Mar 18, 2024 · 11 Views

Another narrative related to this is the "Azov uses civilians as human shields". Throughout the war, Russia has conducted war crimes against civilians, by for example shooting fleeing vehicles and ambulances. They have also targeted hospitals and rescue workers.

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# Russian Authorities Using Own Citizens as Human Shields: Kyiv

Published Mar 14, 2024 at 9:54 PM EDT

Putin Defectors Vow To 'Liberate Russia' As Tanks Roll In From Ukraine

By [Aila Slisco](#)  
Writer

[FOLLOW](#)

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154 comments

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Russian authorities are using their own citizens as a "human shield" while resisting calls by pro-Ukraine forces to evacuate the Belgorod and Kursk border regions, according to Ukrainian military intelligence.

Three units of [Russian defectors](#) who have switched their allegiances to fight for Ukraine [urged](#) Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) to order an evacuation for the cities of Belgorod and Kursk earlier this week as they prepared to shell the positions of Putin's troops in the area.

"We are forced to inflict a strike on the military positions," the groups said in a joint statement on Wednesday. "To avoid civilian casualties, we urge everyone to leave the cities immediately. We urge the local authorities to save people's lives and start evacuating the cities of Kursk and Belgorod."

**Ukraine**

This article is more than 1 year old

## Ukraine charges Russian soldiers alleged to have shot at civilian cars

Investigators say CCTV footage shows Russian units shooting at cars as people fled Hostomel day after invasion

[Russia-Ukraine war - live updates](#)

**Isobel Koshiw** in Kyiv

Wed 28 Sep 2022 16:53 CEST

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A damaged car is seen in Hostomel, Kyiv region, Ukraine, in April. Photograph: Future Publishing/Getty Images

ODESA WAR IN UKRAINE

## Russian 'Double-Tap' Strike Kills 20 in Odesa

Many of the wounded are emergency workers attending the scene of the first explosion, a deliberate attack strategy often used by Moscow's forces known as a "double-tap."

by Kyiv Post | March 15, 2024, 9:13 pm | Comments (4)



Then there's the "peaceniks", or accounts that are constantly calling for Ukraine to negotiate for peace, even though Putin himself said recently that "It would be ridiculous for us to start negotiating with Ukraine".

Debunk:

13/15



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



In today's #vatniksoup, I'll talk about peace negotiations. There's a common misconception that only Russia wants peace and Ukraine wants to keep on fighting "until the last man", but of course this is far from the truth.

1/18



1:03 PM · Nov 1, 2023



♥ 6.9K    💬 Reply    🔗 Copy link

[Read 127 replies](#)



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@P\_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#)



In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll talk about what happens if Russia succeeds in their invasion and permanently holds the regions they now control. If this happens, there will be much more pain and suffering - without peace - for the Ukrainians in the future.

1/18

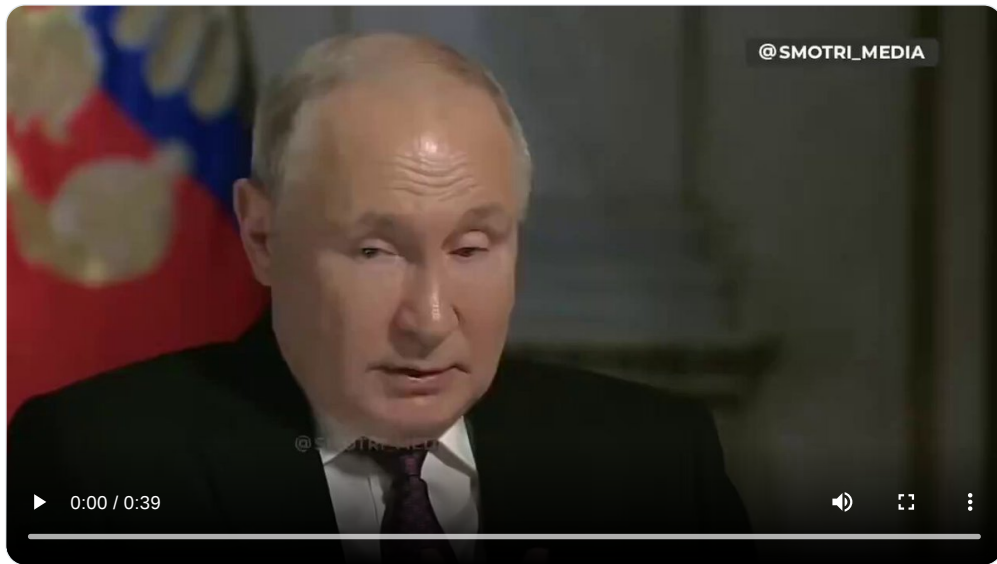


9:21 AM · Feb 13, 2024



♥ 10.7K    💬 Reply    🔗 Copy link

[Read 182 replies](#)




 **W. Poe White**   
@white\_poe

Ukraine needs to sit down with Putin and make peace. They need to agree not to join NATO or the EU.

That's the only solution. Putin can't allow Ukraine to join NATO and the EU and have nuclear ballistic missiles a couple hundred miles from Moscow.

Get real.

12:17 AM · Mar 18, 2024 · 442 Views

 **Financial Freedom**   
@FutureISBrightG

Maybe Ukraine and US + EU (NATO) should negotiate peace rather than send troops and weapons to continue to sponsor war and escalate it.

Sad that innocent people pay the price while politicians and corrupt leaders of EU+US+Ukraine refuse to talk peace but wants to escalate war.

Try having productive talks and seize fire and I bet less people will die over sending more weapons and not talking.

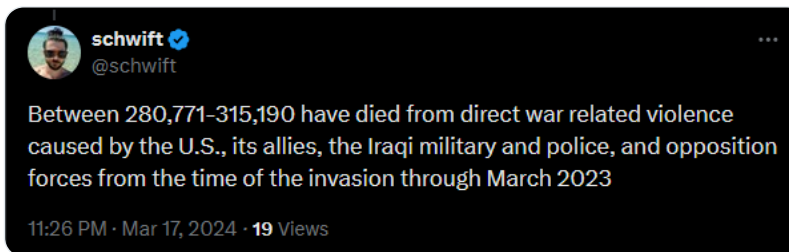
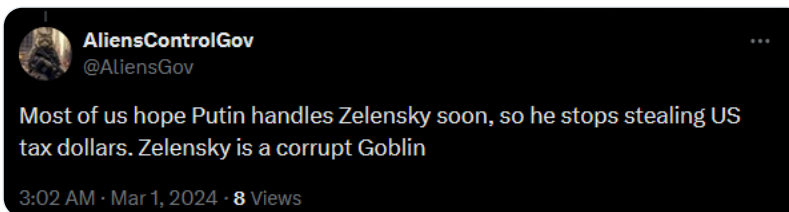
Sad for innocent people.

I vote 4 Peace!

11:13 PM · Mar 17, 2024 · 663 Views

Expect to see a lot of similar posts in the near future, as they'll be used to attack any pro-Ukrainian stances on X. Also, there will be many more related to the US military aid to Ukraine and to support Donald Trump for the presidency.

14/15



It's worth noting, that before NAFO came along, all this was happening uncontested. Actually, these narratives still have very little resistance on social media sites like TikTok and Facebook. So, thanks NAFO!



 **Pekka Kallioniemi**   
@P\_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#) 

In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll talk about [#NAFO](#) and its achievements. Pro-Kremlin accounts and Russian opposition often claim that NAFO is nothing but a harassment movement, but this statement couldn't be further from the truth.

1/18



10:17 AM · Jul 29, 2023 

 5.2K  Reply  Copy link

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The Soup Central gives you in-depth knowledge on disinformation, bad actors and information operations.  
<https://www.youtube.com/@TheSoupCentral/videos>



**Drew Andrew**  
@DrewAndrew\_\_

Listen to Russia? Did Ukraine listen to its people? Obviously not. The small part of Ukrainians that dislike everyone including their own people were simply given authority over everyone else and if they did not fall in line well look at lughansk and dumbus.

8:17 AM · Jan 10, 2024 · **1,894** Views

...