



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

May 22, 2025 · 21 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1925531723233652773](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll introduce a Ukrainian-born former State Duma deputy, Vladimir Medinsky. He is best known as one of the ideologues of the "Russkiy Mir", for his close ties to Vladimir Putin, and for leading the "peace talks" in Turkey in 2022 and 2025.

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During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Medinsky interned as a correspondent on the international desk of the TASS news agency, learning the ways of propaganda at an early age. Some time later, he earned two PhDs – one in political science and the other in history.

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He also holds doctoral degrees in political science and history and is the author of several nonfiction books and school textbooks. His work is known to contain Russian propaganda narratives and has been characterized as pseudo-scientific.

"Many scientists and academics in [Russia](#) are actually engaged exclusively in propaganda and falsification," said Serhii Zhukov, an analyst at the Kyiv-based Center for Strategic Communications and Information Security. But with official academic titles, their "words have weight (in Russia)."

And "for Medinsky, history is not a science, but a tool for educating ideologically-driven citizens," Zhukov said.

One of the last books Medinsky worked on was a history textbook for 10th and 11th graders. Since 2023, Russian children, as well as [Ukrainians](#) living in the [Russian-occupied territories](#), have been using the textbook, which is aligned with [Russian propaganda](#) narratives about Ukrainian history.

In Medinsky's textbook, the [EuroMaidan Revolution](#), which began in response to former Ukrainian President [Viktor Yanukovych](#)'s refusal to sign the long-awaited Association Agreement with the European Union, is falsely portrayed as a "military coup."

Maria Lipman / May 24, 2014

Meet the Second-Rate Academic Who is Vladimir Putin's Culture Cop

Vladimir Medinsky is nationalist and anti-European, just like Putin



ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

As is tradition in Russia, Medinsky's academic work was largely pseudo-scientific and plagiarized. Dissnet found that 87 of 120 pages in his dissertation were copied from his supervisor's thesis. His second dissertation was also heavily plagiarized.

General information

Moscow

Medinsky Vladimir Rostislavovich

The Former Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation



Information about protection

Scientific Consultant / Scientific Director Proskurin Sergey Alekseevich

Opponents Yury Motin N.
B. Kapustin Mr.

The work is done in Russian Academy of Public Service under the President of the Russian Federation

Place of protection Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation

Thesis Council D 151.04.08 with RANEPa

Date of protection 13.11.1997

Academic degree Candidate of Political Sciences

Specialty 23.00.04

Table of borrowings

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Many Russian academics focus solely on spreading pro-Kremlin propaganda, and academic titles still carry weight in Russian society. That's why they also use Western academics like Glenn Diesen and Tuomas Malinen to amplify Kremlin's bullshit narratives.



*Glenn Diesen, who is opposed to Russia's war on Ukraine, believes that it is important to understand the opposing side, and so intends to continue writing.
Photo: Shutterstock/private*

Norwegian professor writes for Russian state channel: 'He ought to resign and apologise'

Av Forskerforum

Publisert 4. april 2022 kl. 13:52

The updates of the University of Helsinki University of Helsinki, Docent Tuomas Malinen, have been popular with Russian media.



Tuomas Malinen has written, among other things, a disadvantage from NATO, which seems to be pleasant to Russian media. OUT KUÄRVINEN



Sofia Hänninen

Thursday 29 August 024 at 7:01 a.m.

From his early days as a tobacco lobbyist to his current role as a presidential aide, Medinsky has consistently shown a knack for crafting narratives that serve the state. His political career began in the early 2000s, when he joined the State Duma...



...as a member of the United Russia party. He focused on tightening ad laws and pushing “conservative values.” In 2012, Putin made him Minister of Culture, signaling a shift toward a more controlled and ideologically driven cultural narrative in Russia.






As Minister from 2012 to 2020, he transformed the ministry into an ideological tool. One of Medinsky's most significant, and dangerous, contributions has been within Russia itself, where he spent years reshaping the cultural sector to serve nationalist goals.

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The plan was simple: produce films that glorify Tsarist Russia, and Soviet victories – while punishing anyone who dares to question Nazi collaboration, the gulags, Stalin-era purges, or the Chechen wars, branding them as enemies of the state.


**Pekka Kallioniemi** 
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In today's May 9th Vatnik Soup, we discuss the ambiguous relationship of the Kremlin with Nazism and explain why so many vatniks can be outright Nazis, and promote or excuse them while at the same time being so hysterical about alleged "Nazis in Ukraine".

1/23



2:37 PM · May 9, 2025 

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Medinsky essentially followed Goebbels' playbook: during his time as minister, he championed state-sponsored films that glorified Russian history and actively discouraged any works critical of the government, labeling dissenting voices as "unpatriotic".

28 GUARDSMEN 18 NAZI TANKS 70 ENEMY SOLDIERS

BATTLE FOR MOSCOW

AKA PANFILOV'S 28





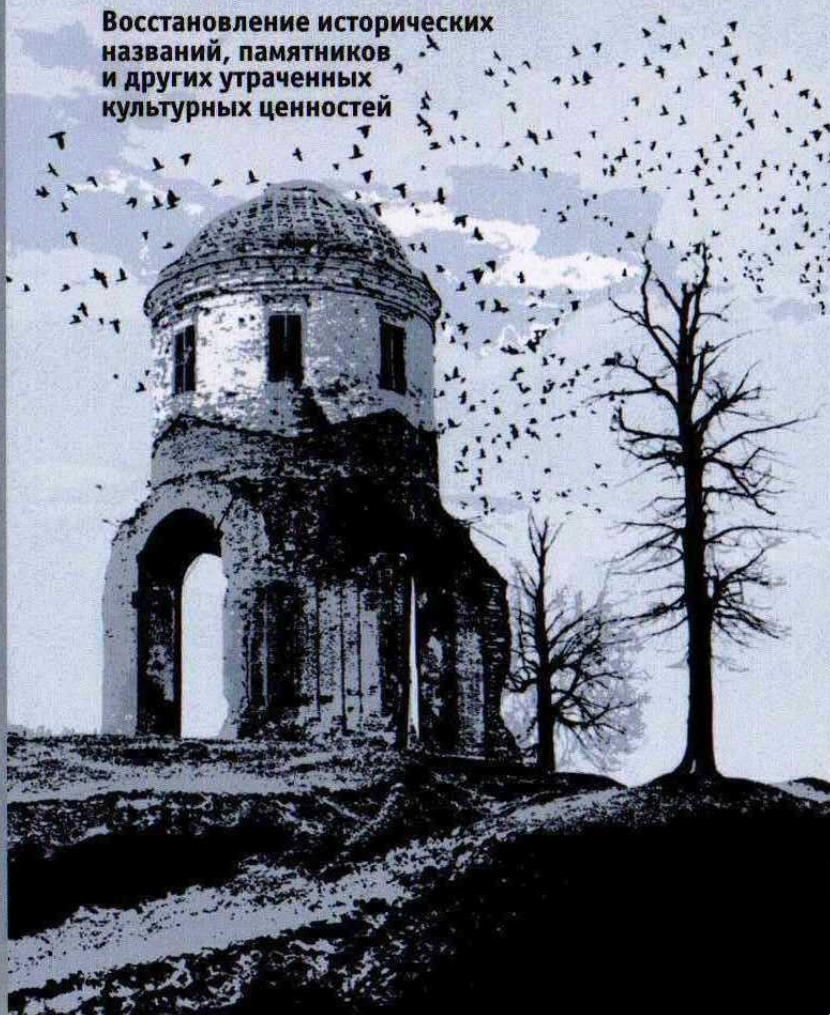
Medinsky's most significant impact has been in the realm of historical revisionism. He has authored several books intended to debunk what he sees as myths about Russia, often downplaying or outright ignoring inconvenient historical truths.

Восстановление исторических
названий, памятников и других утраченных
культурных ценностей

Возвращая Россию

Возвращая Россию

Восстановление исторических
названий, памятников
и других утраченных
культурных ценностей





His approach to history is less about academic accuracy and more about reinforcing a narrative that portrays Russia as a victim of Western aggression. One of his most controversial projects is the development of new history textbooks for schools.



Jürgen Nauditt   
@jurgen_nauditt · Follow



🔴 In Mariupol, the occupiers destroyed 180 thousand Ukrainian books

In temporarily occupied Mariupol, Russian terrorists took 9 tons of propaganda textbooks to schools.

The Center for Countering Disinformation writes about this.

According to preliminary estimates, the Russians [Show more](#)



5:24 PM · Dec 19, 2023



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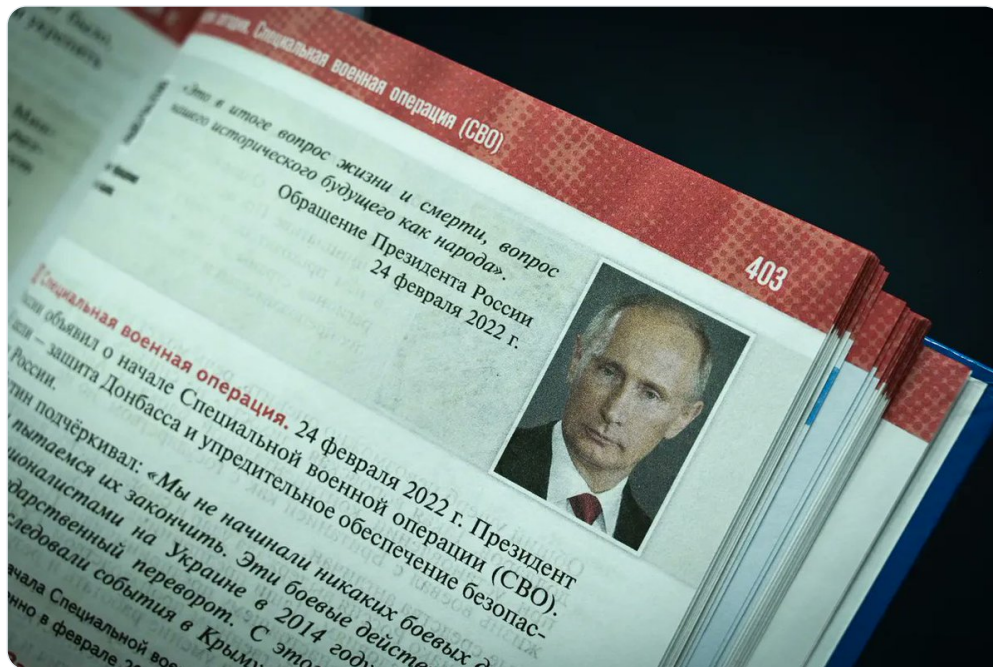


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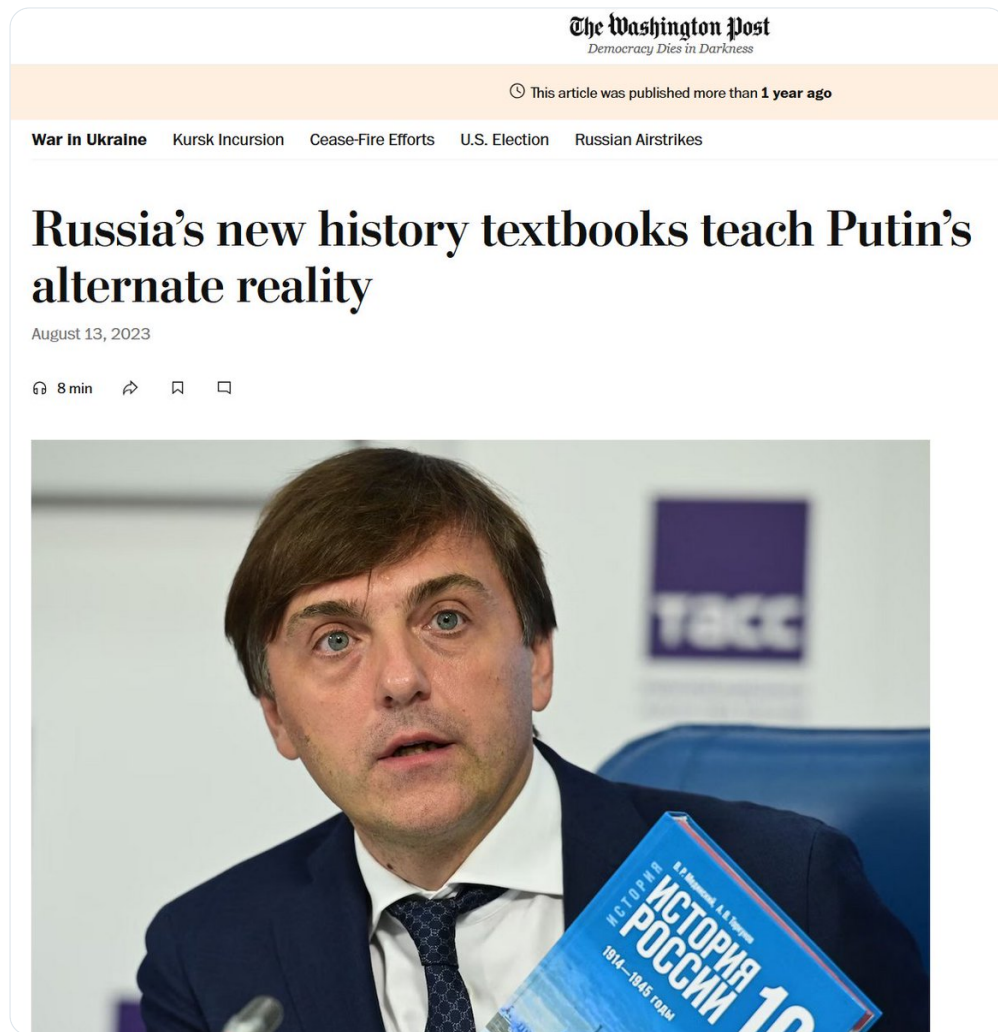
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These books promote a revisionist history that justifies Russia's aggression in Ukraine, framing the 2014 annexation of Crimea & the 2022 invasion as necessary steps to defend Russian interests. They also portray the West as a constant threat seeking to

destabilize Russia.

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After Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, Medinsky was recast as the Kremlin's chief negotiator in talks with Kyiv. His role wasn't to seek peace, but to stage political theatre, framing the Ukrainians as the "bad guys".

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At Istanbul talks Russia promises to scale down operations in northern Ukraine

Russia promised at peace talks on Tuesday (29 March) to scale down its military operations around Kyiv and northern Ukraine, while Ukraine proposed adopting a neutral status but with international guarantees that it would be protected from attack.



A handout photo made available by the Turkish President's Press Office shows Turkish President Erdogan (L) welcoming the Russian (R side) and Ukrainian (L side) delegations before their talks, at Dolmabahce Palace in Istanbul, Turkey, 29 March 2022. Delegations from Russia and Ukraine are due to resume face-to-face talks in Istanbul on the day. [Handout photo/EPA/ EFE]

Euractiv.com with Reuters

Mar 29, 2022

16:47

5 min. read

12:52

Most recent

Medinsky, who was born in Ukraine, claimed in an interview with RBC Russia in 2023 that he had no hatred for Ukrainians and that Russia had no conflict with Ukraine. Yet, in Mar 2022, he wrote on his Telegram channel that Ukraine was allegedly preparing an offensive...

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...in Donbas and that the Bucha massacre was staged by the Ukrainian government. He also claimed that “Russia wanted peace.” This has been Russia’s strategy all along: deny all wrongdoing, insist on peaceful intentions, and continue the barbaric invasion.

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In 2025, when Putin called for direct negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, but then failed to appear in Istanbul to meet with Zelenskyy, it was Medinsky and his team who were sent instead. Zelenskyy rightly dismissed the talks as a “sham.”

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Putin spurns Zelensky meeting but lower-level Ukraine-Russia talks are still on

AS IT HAPPENED EUROPE

Issued on: 15/05/2025 - 14:02

Modified: 15/05/2025 - 19:47

By: [FRANCE 24](#) / [FRANCE 24](#)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky talks during a press conference at the Ukrainian embassy in Ankara, Turkey, May 15, 2025. © Cagla Ourdogan, Reuters

Russia and Ukraine are set to hold their first direct peace talks in three years, both countries said Thursday, but hopes for a breakthrough remained dim after Russian President Vladimir Putin spurned an offer by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to meet face-to-face in Turkey. Read our liveblog to see how all the day's events unfolded.

According to The Economist correspondent Oliver Carroll, Medinsky stated during the negotiations: “We don’t want war, but we’re ready to fight for a year, two, three—however long it takes. We fought Sweden for 21 years. How long are you ready to fight?”

17/20

Oliver Carroll

@olliecarroll

Have an inside view into the Russia-UA talks from a well-placed source. This from Ru delegation head Medinsky says it all: “We don’t want war, but we’re ready to fight for a year, two, three—however long it takes. We fought Sweden for 21 years. How long are you ready to fight?”

3:40 PM · May 16, 2025 · 813.5K Views

Kremlin Negotiator Invokes Peter the Great's 21-Year War With Sweden in Ukraine Talks

May 16, 2025



Vladimir Medinsky addresses reporters in Istanbul.

Alexander Ryumin / TASS


Medinsky also allegedly said, “Maybe some of those sitting here at this table will lose more of their loved ones. Russia is prepared to fight forever.” The Russian negotiators further threatened to seize the Kharkiv and Sumy regions in northeastern Ukraine.

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The negotiations themselves were indeed a sham. Russia reportedly made “unrealistic” demands that went “far beyond anything ever discussed,” including the withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from their own territory as a condition for a ceasefire.




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Istanbul peace talks lay bare chasm between Ukraine and Russia

By Tom Balmforth

May 17, 2025 5:41 PM GMT+3 · Updated 5 days ago





The first direct peace talks between Russia and Ukraine in more than three years lasted well under two hours in Turkey, with no apparent sign of progress towards peace between the sides.

To conclude, Vladimir Medinsky is a prominent Russian political figure, historian, and a loyal workhorse within Putin’s inner circle. He plays a unique role: the Kremlin’s playwright, rewriting history to fit their narrative.

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The 2nd edition of “Vatnik Soup — The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation” is officially out!

You can order your copy here:



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