

Vatnik Soup @P_Kallioniemi

Feb 13, 2026 · 16 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/2022281514239574315](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, we'll introduce the International Olympic Committee (IOC) @Olympics . It's mostly known for organizing sporting events, and for being supposed to foster the Olympic ideal while actually submitting to dictators.

1/15



The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was founded in 1894 in Paris by Pierre de Coubertin with a noble goal: promote peace through sports. Politics out, sportsmanship in: sounds great in theory.

2/15

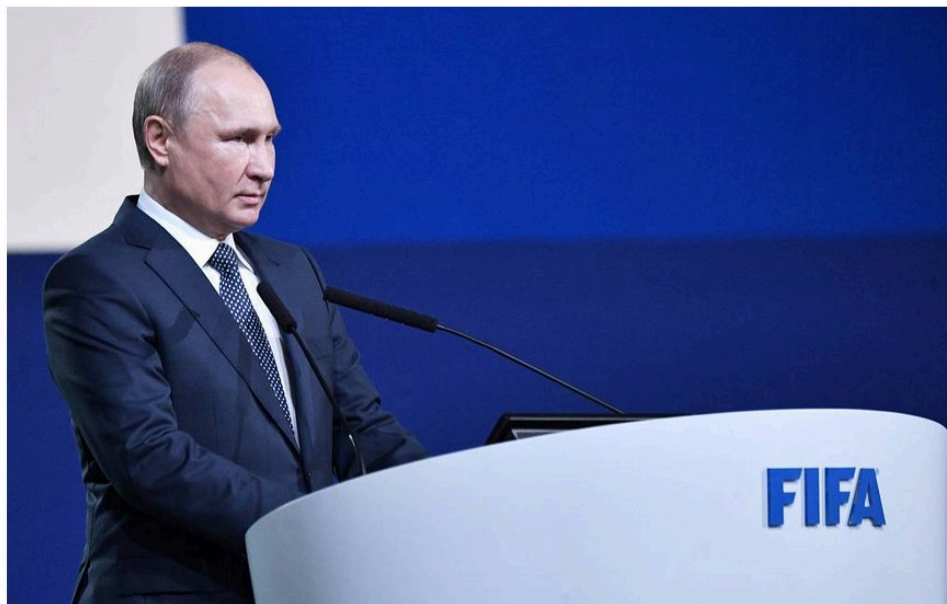


But in practice, the IOC has a long history of accommodating authoritarian regimes, always in the name of “neutrality,” “dialogue,” and “keeping sports separate from politics”, usually not in a particularly consistent or moral way.

13 JUN 2018, 12:25

Putin says Russia committed to principle of 'politics and sports don't mix'

Speaking about the importance of the World Cup, Putin said that several generations of Russian fans had been dreaming of this





The most infamous example is the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The IOC allowed Hitler to use the Games as a propaganda showcase for Nazi Germany, which already had anti-Jewish laws, concentration camps, and swastikas and Nazi salutes everywhere.

They still sell the t-shirt.





The Games helped legitimize Hitler's regime on the global stage. It was among the first major spectacles extensively filmed and broadcast live internationally. Black athletes achieved remarkable success, yet Hitler did not shake their hands nor question his race theories.



During the 1972 Munich Olympics, Palestinian terrorists murdered 11 Israeli athletes. The IOC declared, "the Games must go on," a phrase that became symbolic of how preserving the spectacle often took priority over confronting political reality.

6/15



The 1980 Moscow Olympics took place just months after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. More than 60 countries boycotted the Games in protest of the aggression. The invasion was devastating for Afghanistan but ultimately became a defeat for Moscow.

7/15



Stephan Jensen ✓

@StephanAJensen · Follow



THREAD:

Afghanistan was not destroyed by post-9/11 war, or even (first and foremost) by civil war in the 1990s.

Afghanistan was destroyed by the Soviet intervention of the 1980s.

More Afghans died **every year** from 1979-89 than in all the 20 years after 2001 **combined.**

1/4



3:13 PM · Sep 26, 2023



619



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Then there's Taiwan: the IOC forced Taiwanese athletes to compete as "Chinese Taipei" under a special flag.

Just because the People's Republic of China has expressed a desire to invade and occupy their sovereign country.



Vatnik Soup ✓
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Replying to @P_Kallioniemi

3 - Taiwan is a country

Taiwan was never part of the People's Republic of China, so no, it can't be "separatist" from it nor a "renegade province." China wants to conquer it through a murderous process called "war". But they'll call you a warmonger if you're against that.

5/20



12:10 PM · Feb 11, 2026



♥ 649

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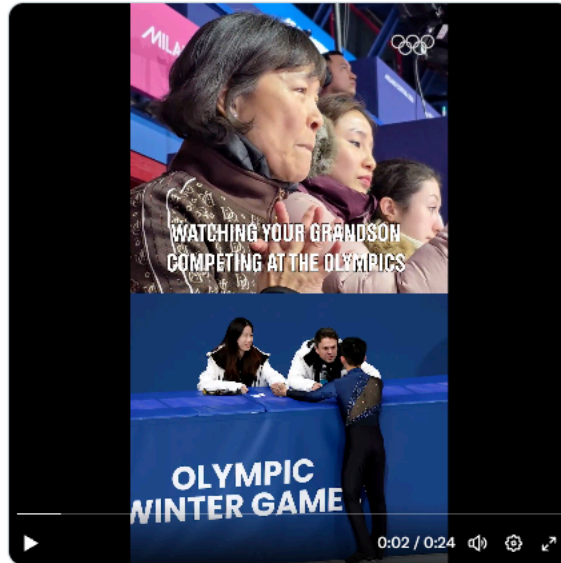


The Olympic Games 🏅
@Olympics



We aren't crying, you're crying! 😭

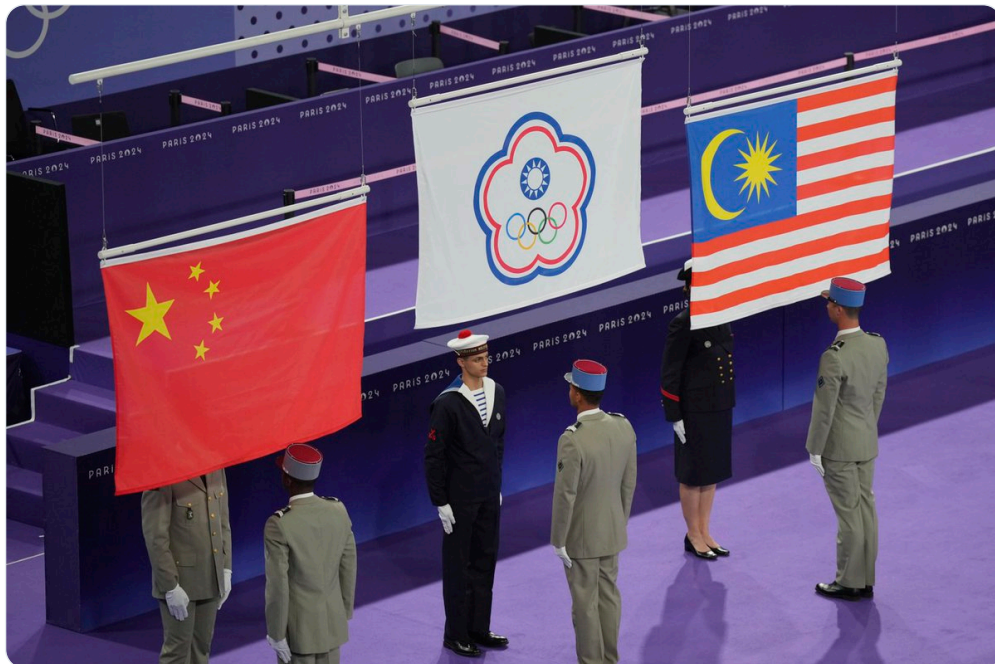
Li Yu-hsiang from Chinese Taipei is the first figure skater to qualify for the Olympic Games since 1998. And his grandma is in the stands to cheer for him! ❤️



👤 Readers added context they thought people might want to know

*Taiwan

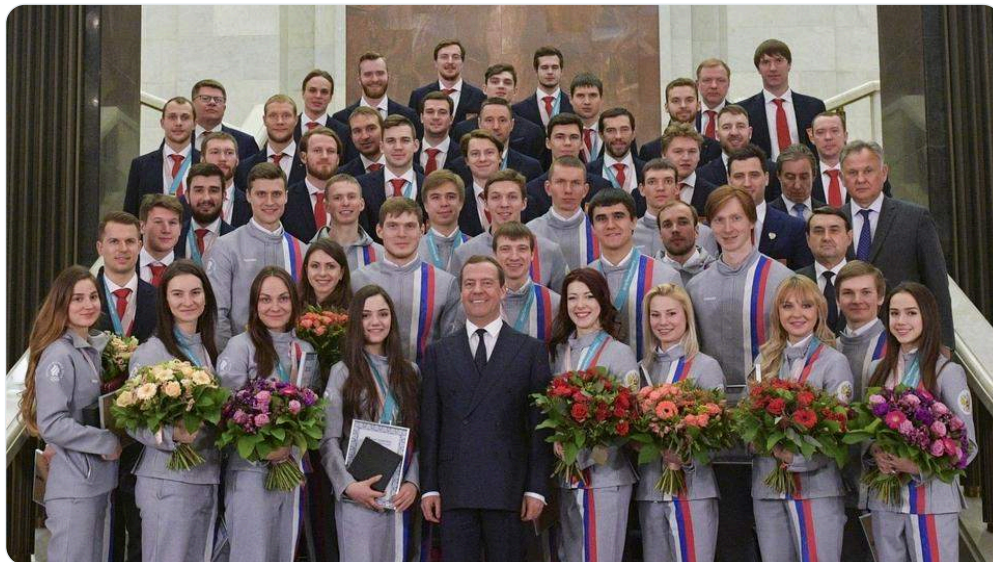
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwan





Russia had many athletes banned from the 2016 Rio Olympics, but not due to its invasions: due to its massive state-run doping program. Its athletes later competed as “neutrals” in PyeongChang 2018, Tokyo 2020, and Beijing 2022 instead of under the Russian flag.

9/15



Russia has a long and infamous tradition of using sports as a political means since Soviet times, with Putin's employer, the KGB, directly involved in a doping program on an industrial scale.

10/15



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In today's #vatnik soup I'll be talking about sport and politics. With the upcoming 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, there's been a lot of debate on whether Russia and Belarus should be able to compete or not. In this soup I'll explain why they - in my opinion - shouldn't.

1/17

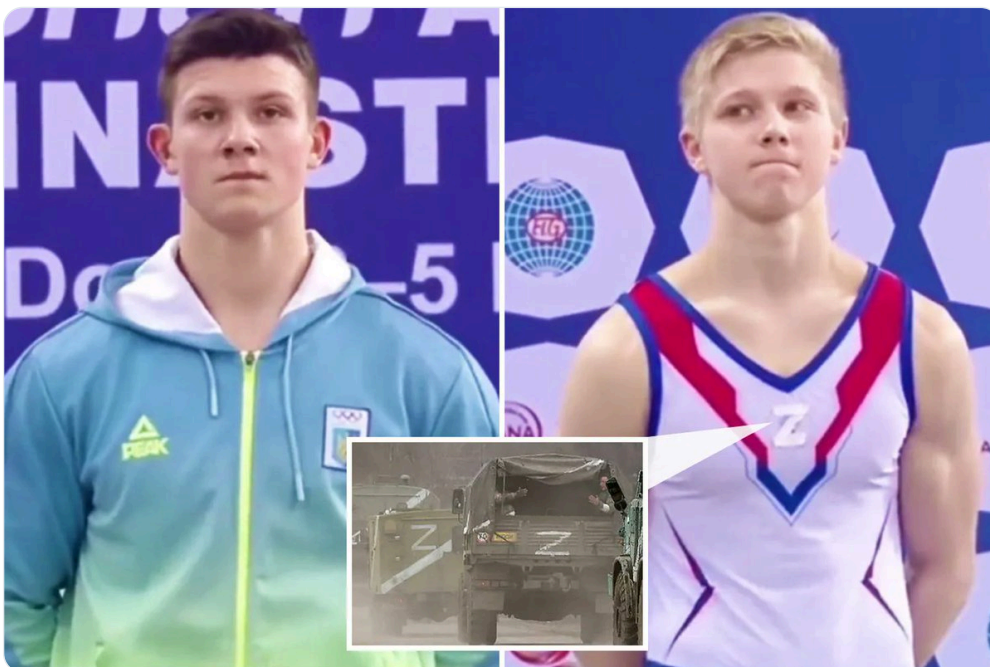


11:53 AM · Feb 15, 2023



 1.2K  Reply  Copy link

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Due to Russia's genocidal war of aggression and terrorist bombings, Ukrainian athletes train under air-raid sirens and the constant threat of missiles and drone attacks.

660 Ukrainian athletes and coaches have already been killed by Russia.

11/15

**Volodymyr Zelenskyy / Володимир Зеленський** 
[@ZelenskyyUa](#) · [Follow](#)



Sport shouldn't mean amnesia, and the Olympic movement should help stop wars, not play into the hands of aggressors. Unfortunately, the decision of the International Olympic Committee to disqualify Ukrainian skeleton racer Vladyslav Heraskevych says otherwise. This is certainly [Show more](#)



12:05 PM · Feb 12, 2026 

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OWEN SLOT

IOC's bid to silence Ukrainian racer has only amplified his message

• NEW



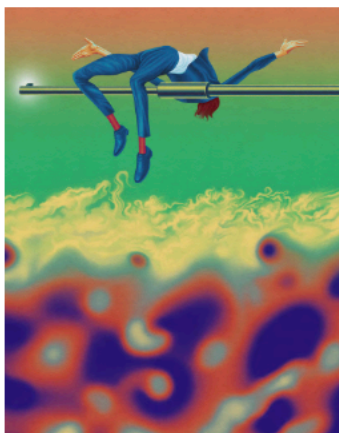
Despite this, Russians are currently in Italy competing at the Olympics. Sport has always been a political tool in Russia: big sports events are a way to divert the people's attention from the regime's failures while promoting it abroad.

12/15



And the IOC collaborates with them by re-electing Russians like Shamil Tarpishev as members. Tarpishev is a former tennis professional who is very close to the Kremlin – Putin even awarded him the Order “For Merit to the Fatherland” in July 2022.

13/15



Putin's Russian cronies still hold top Olympic roles

Outrage builds ahead of Paris 2024 Games over senior Russians in prominent positions.

By **DARIA MESHCHERIAKOVA**

Illustration by Jakov Jakovljević for POLITICO

JULY 3, 2024 10:22 PM CET

This article is part of the Future of the Olympics special report.

The International Olympic Committee has a major problem. Literally.

At a time when the sports world is banning Russian athletes because of Moscow's war on Ukraine, one of the IOC's members holds the rank of major in the Russian army.

Yelena Isinbaeva — the major and a former pole vault world-record holder — is one of two Russian members of the IOC. The other, tennis chief Shamil Tarpishev, has actively supported mobilizing Russian athletes to fight against Ukraine.



But when Ukrainian skeleton rider Vladyslav Heraskevych @heraskevych honored the memory of his fellow athletes murdered by Russia on his helmet, he was disqualified. In the twisted logic of the IOC, the burden of “keeping politics out of sport” falls only on the victims.

14/15

Winter Olympics 2026

'It's emptiness': banned Ukrainian athlete accuses IOC of fuelling Russia's propaganda

- Vladyslav Heraskevych: decision 'a terrible mistake'
- Skeleton racer told of ban minutes before competition



📷 Ukraine skeleton racer Vladyslav Heraskevych holds his helmet, which depicts his country's war dead. Photograph: Tom Jenkins/The Guardian

Sean Ingle in Milan

Thu 12 Feb 2026 18.41 CET

Vladyslav Heraskevych has accused the [International Olympic Committee](#) of doing Russia's propaganda for them after he was barred from racing in the Winter Games because he wanted to wear a “helmet of memory” in honour of Ukraine's war dead.

In one of the most controversial decisions in recent Olympic history, the Ukrainian skeleton racer was informed only minutes before he was due to compete that his accreditation had been rescinded.



Olympics should stand for peace and sportsmanship. Instead, from promoting Nazi Germany to "neutral" Russians, from "Chinese Taipei" to disqualifying Ukrainians, the pattern is the same: the IOC chooses victim-blaming and accommodating dictatorships over Olympic ethics.



Russia spends \$5 billion a year on propaganda and corruption to manufacture support for its invasions, including by tainting sports in the worst Soviet tradition. Fact-based research to counter it takes time and effort — please support our work:

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