



Vatnik Soup Italia @Vatniksoup_it

Oct 10, 2026 · 25 tweets · [Vatniksoup_it/status/2108816084619145671](#)

Nella Zuppa Vatnik di oggi, spieghiamo perché l'Ucraina è così importante e perché smascherare i vatnik e confutare le loro narrazioni propagandistiche è fondamentale per contrastare le guerre di aggressione della Russia e raggiungere una pace autentica.

1/25



La guerra è costosa e la Russia non è un paese ricco che possa permettersela. Ospedali? Strade? Reti idriche? No: tutto è destinato al terrore e alla distruzione.

Ma c'è dell'altro: oltre alle spese militari, esiste un'altra voce fondamentale nel bilancio statale russo.

2/25

Indoor Plumbing Still a Pipe Dream for 20% of Russian Households, Reports Say

April 2, 2019



Youtube

More than one-fifth of Russian households do not have access to indoor plumbing, according to official statistics obtained by the RBC news website on Tuesday.

Russia leads the developed world with the worst sanitation record, [according](#) to the London-based WaterAid NGO. A 2012 estimate citing official data placed the number of Russians whose households are only equipped with outhouses at 35 million, or roughly a [quarter](#) of the population.

Another 3.338 trillion rubles, according to the budget law, the government will spend under the "national security" item, which includes the budgets of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Russian National Guard, special services and the Federal Penitentiary Service. Compared to the current year, these expenses will increase by 163 billion rubles. Thus, almost 40% of the budget will be spent on security agencies in total.

To make ends meet, the government will cut spending on supporting the national economy: it will be reduced from 4.125 to 3.889 trillion rubles. Financing for education and medicine — 1.6 trillion rubles each — will be "frozen," and in real terms — taking inflation into account — will be reduced.

Expenditures on the national project "Healthcare" are planned to be cut by 10%, from 321.3 to 289.9 billion rubles, and the sequestration will affect almost all of its subprograms. Expenditures on the federal project "Modernization of Primary Healthcare" will be reduced by 14%, to 81.64 billion rubles. The federal project "Fight Against Cancer" will shrink by 8%, to 147.4 billion rubles. Expenditures on the development of children's healthcare will be reduced by almost half - from 19.5 to 10.2 billion rubles; on the development of primary medical care - by 20%, to 7.677 billion rubles.

The national project to support small businesses will lose almost 20% of its funding (67.7 billion rubles); expenses for the federal project "Development of Infrastructure for Scientific Research" will be cut by 25% - to 47 billion rubles. Allocations for the state program "Development of the Aviation Industry" will be cut by 28% - 37.3 billion rubles. In addition, the government plans to save on supporting the regions: transfers to them from the federal budget will decrease by 4% - 1.474 trillion rubles.

Financing of state propaganda will remain at record levels: state media will receive 121.3 billion rubles from the budget against 122 billion this year. Expenditures under the item "culture and cinematography", which includes budgets for the creation of pro-war propaganda films, will increase by 11%, to 234 billion rubles.

"Everything for the front, everything for victory," said Finance Minister Anton Siluanov in September, commenting on the document. He urged not to worry that the treasury will not have enough money. "But there is enough for what is planned. A normal, healthy budget," the minister emphasized.

Si tratta di creare consenso a sostegno di quel terrore e di quella distruzione attraverso la propaganda. Ecco i suoi alfieri: i vatnik, i blogger di viaggio «innocenti», i giornalisti «indipendenti», i politici «patrioti».

Russia's Federal Budget Puts Economy on War Footing

By Dodge Billingsley
OE Watch Commentary

On 27 November 2023, Russian President Putin signed the federal budget for 2024-2026. The budget dedicates a dramatic 30 percent of total expenditures to the Armed Forces and military industrial complex. According to the excerpted article from the Russian and English-language independent online newspaper *The Moscow Times*, the increase in funds dedicated to the military establishment is "2.3 times more than [was appropriated] in 2022." For comparison, funds dedicated to the military represented only 17 percent of the federal budget in 2022 and 19 percent in 2023. That percentage will increase to 29.5 percent in 2024. The Russian government will also spend "another 3.338 trillion rubles under the heading 'national security,' which includes the budgets of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Guard, the special services and the FSIN³ system. Thus, in total, nearly "40 percent of the [federal] budget will be spent on law enforcement agencies."

To make this happen, Russia will



The new Russian budget, 2024-2026, will throw a lifeline to the Russian defense industry as well as the war in Ukraine. Russian pavilion at a previous International Defence Exhibition & Conference (IDEX) held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Source: Combat Films and Research; Attribution: By permission

have to pull funds from other parts of its economy including healthcare (which will be cut by 10 percent), aid to small businesses (which will lose 20 percent), and the "development of Infrastructure for Scientific Research," (which will be reduced by 25 percent). Notably, "funding for state propaganda," a line item of Russia's federal budget and a critical part of its war in Ukraine, would remain the same as in the last budget. The signing into law of the new budget comes in conjunction with multiple other significant financial changes, including the Russian

reintroduction of capital controls² to stabilize the ruble against the dollar and other global currencies.³ Taken together, the signaling demonstrates Russia's determination to see the war to a positive outcome—at a time when funding for Ukraine in the U.S. and among other Western powers is under scrutiny.

**"Everything for the front,
everything for victory."**

- Head of the Ministry of
Finance, Anton Siluanov

La Russia spende centinaia di miliardi di rubli all'anno (più di 4 miliardi di euro) per questo e con tutti quei soldi si possono comprare un mucchio di stronzate.

4/25

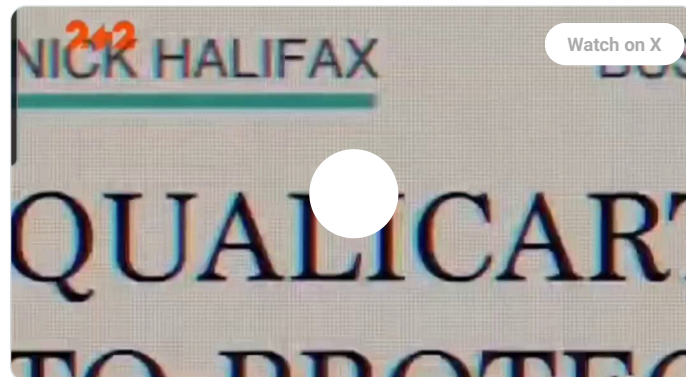


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Russia is now spending around \$5 billion/year on information operations, troll and bot farms, paid influencers, aimed at sowing instability globally and diminishing support for Ukraine.



10:27 AM · Jan 31, 2026



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Russia is now spending around \$5 billion/year on information operations, troll and bot farms, paid influencers, aimed at sowing instability globally and diminishing support for Ukraine.



11:27 AM · Jan 31, 2026 · **164.5K** Views



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Under the influence

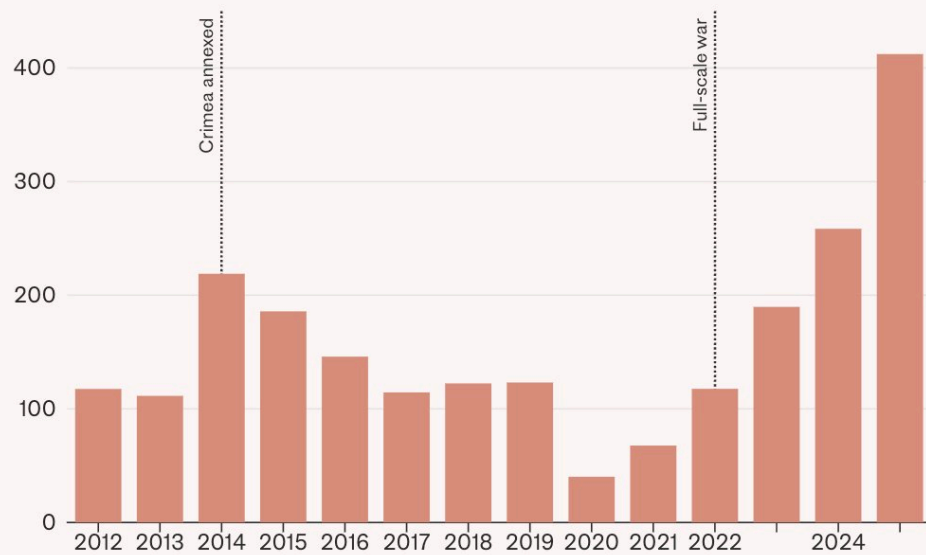
How foreign bloggers are stealthily promoting the image of a 'free and safe' Russia on the Kremlin's dime

12:17 PM, 22 February 2025, [Yulia Akhmedova](#), Novaya Gazeta Europe correspondent



The Kremlin is spending more and more money on programs for foreign youth and the media

Rossotrudnichestvo's expenses on programs for foreign youth, bloggers, and journalists, million rubles



Source: Public Procurement Portal (zakupki.gov.ru) • *January-August 2025

Despite Jost scoffing at the notion that any Russian-related content amounted to Kremlin propaganda in one of her videos, her 2023 tax return shows that she was in fact on the payroll of TV Novosti, a legal entity used by Russian propaganda outlet RT, at least in that year, Novaya Gazeta Europe has learned.

Videos of foreign influencers praising Russia's "traditional values" have appeared with ever greater frequency on social media over the past year.

RT, one of Russia's biggest propaganda outlets and one that has been banned in the EU and the US, received over 55 billion rubles (€585 million) in funding from the Russian government in 2023–2024.

Nel lungo periodo, la Russia stessa ne sarà distrutta. I criminali vengono rilasciati dopo il loro periodo di «gloria» come criminali di guerra in Ucraina, per commettere altri crimini in Russia.

• WAR CRIMES

Halya Coynash, 03 January 2024

Convicted killers that Putin pardoned and glorifies for fighting Russia's war against Ukraine teach children about 'courage'

Russia's attempts to justify its war of aggression against Ukraine are not helped by the convicted killers and rapists, and likely war criminals that Putin is labelling Russian 'heroes'



Wagner mercenary in Bakhmut Photo Valentin Sprinchak, TASS

In his New Year address on 31 December 2023, Russian leader Vladimir Putin [addressed](#) not only Russian soldiers but all those whom he claimed to be “on the front line of the struggle for truth and justice” and “our heroes”. Those whose “courage” the Russian people are purportedly proud of include around 50 thousand convicted criminals, released from prisons and pardoned in exchange for six months of ‘service’ in the notorious Wagner unit, fighting and killing in Ukraine. The ‘package’ offered such individuals included not only a presidential pardon and freedom, but also substantial pay, by Russian standards. No mention is, of course, ever made of Russia’s legislation that prohibits being a mercenary. Nor, at least by the authorities, of the murders, rapes and other crimes that such pardoned criminals have already committed back home in Russia. The current regime is reportedly ‘encouraging’ silence about such crimes, with courts also clearly understanding to go easy on at least those criminals who have not committed multiple murders.

Russian rapist pardoned by Putin so he could fight in Ukraine is detained again after 'sexually assaulting 14-year-old girl'

- Nikolai Nechaev, 38, was released last year so he could fight in Putin's war
- He allegedly offended again only three months after coming out of the army
- Russian news reports say he is hoping to be released from prison again to fight

By [JAMIE SHAPIRO](#) and [WILL STEWART](#)

PUBLISHED: 09:57 GMT, 28 February 2024 | UPDATED: 11:38 GMT, 28 February 2024



73
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A rapist freed from an eight year jail sentence and pardoned by Vladimir [Putin](#) so he could fight in Ukraine has been detained again after allegedly sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl.

Nikolai Nechaev, 38, from the city of Perm, is the latest of dozens of prisoners, including murderers and rapists, freed by Putin, to have committed new offences after serving in his forces and having their jail terms personally annulled by the dictator.

Nachaev was previously convicted of a 2019 rape, among other crimes.

He fought for [Russia](#) in Ukraine for six months ending in November, when he was fully pardoned from his previous [crime](#).

Only three months later, in February, he is believed to have targeted his next victim.

I bambini vengono indottrinati in vista delle prossime guerre e l'intera società russa viene militarizzata, mentre le infrastrutture del paese cadono in rovina.



Sergej Sumlenny, LL.M. 
@sumlenny · [Follow](#)



OTD four years ago, in a small town of Sibay, Russia-occupied Bashkortostan, I saw these hundreds of perfectly drilled school kids marching in perfect groups, and said: "in top 5 years, many will return home in body bags, but before they will kill a lot of civilians". /1



1:00 PM · Apr 30, 2023



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NEWS iz Putin: We need to pull people out of the slums The Housing and Utilities Reform Fund will work to eliminate dilapidated housing 11 апреля 2012, 14:38	11.04.2012
TACC 31 MAR 2013, 15:36 Vladimir Putin: First of all, it is necessary to pull people out of the slums	31.05.2013
RIA NOVOSTI 16:44 05/30/2013 updated: 12:29 05/01/20212223 Putin: We need to pull people out of the slums, not dump everything in one cart	01.03.2020
Real estate 14:52 23/12/2020 updated: 17:25 23/12/202028967 Putin demanded to solve the problem of dilapidated housing and pull people out of the slums	23.12.2020
RIA NOVOSTI 17:22 05.10.2021 updated: 12:55 05.01.2022 01:56196 Putin called for "pulling people out of the slums"	05.01.2021



 **Sergej Sumlenny, LL.M** 
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OTD four years ago, in a small town of Sibay, Russia-occupied Bashkortostan, I saw these hundreds of perfectly drilled school kids marching in perfect groups, and said: "in top 5 years, many will return home in body bags, but before they will kill a lot of civilians". /1



3:00 PM · Apr 30, 2023 · 201.9K Views

La guerra costa MOLTISSIMO. Missili, bombe, proiettili, droni: persino le truppe costano caro, per quanto siano sacrificabili. E se la difesa è efficace, se i missili vengono intercettati, le truppe respinte e i droni abbattuti, è tutto inutile: tanto valeva non invadere.

Heavy Losses Make Russia Unlikely to Launch Major New Offensive – Bloomberg

Feb. 25, 2026



Alexei Kononov / TASS

Heavy battlefield losses are likely to prevent Russia from launching a major new offensive in Ukraine in the coming months, Western officials and military analysts [told](#) Bloomberg as the war entered its fifth year.

Russia's battlefield losses have exceeded its monthly recruitment of 30,000 to 35,000 new contract soldiers for three consecutive months, Western officials told Bloomberg on condition of anonymity, raising the possibility of the country's first mobilization [since](#) fall 2022.

That trend is likely to undermine Moscow's capacity to launch a major new offensive in the coming months, the officials said.

"We've seen a casualty uptick which is disproportionate in scale and some of the economic situation in Russia is starting to become quite precarious, especially as we move into summer," Bloomberg quoted British Armed Forces Minister Al Carns as saying.

≡ EL PAÍS 50

Russia on the edge of economic collapse after 40 months of war

The Russian economic engine is showing clear signs of exhaustion — a reality the Kremlin is beginning to acknowledge. The military-driven boom of 2023 and 2024 is now in the past

In effetti, la Russia non avrebbe invaso l'Ucraina se non avesse creduto di poter vincere facilmente. Pur pianificando la guerra fin dal 2003, nel 2014 non era ancora pronta per un'invasione su vasta scala. Ha aspettato il momento che riteneva più adatto, cioè...


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24 Nov 2011
Rheinmetall wins major order in Russia
[Russian Army orders state-of-the-art training centre](#)

The Defence Ministry of the Russian Federation has contracted with the Düsseldorf-based Rheinmetall Group and its Russian partner JSCo Oboronservis to build a major army training centre in Mulino, Russia. Located in the Volga region, by 2014 this simulation-supported training centre – the most advanced system of its kind worldwide – will be able to train 30,000 troops a year. For Rheinmetall the order is worth well over €100 million including further options.

This contract has special strategic significance for the Rheinmetall Group, representing the German defence industry's first significant foothold in the Russian market. In light of plans to modernize the equipment of the Russian armed forces, the opportunities for follow-on orders from the Russian Federation are considerable.

Rheinmetall is one of the world's leading suppliers and operators of simulation and training systems for ground, air and naval applications.

The Group already operates the Bundeswehr's Gefechtsübungszentrum Heer, or GÜZ, a high-tech army training centre located in the Altmark in central Germany, on which the new facility in Russia will be modelled. A further customer from the Middle

Rheinmetall AG
Head of Press and Public Relations
Oliver Hoffmann
Rheinmetall Platz 1
40476 Düsseldorf
Germany
Phone: +49 211 473-4748
Fax: +49 211 473-4157

Russian insider says Putin openly planned invasion of Ukraine since 2003

BY MAT BABIAK · 25/11/2014



A former Russian insider says he was there when Putin began openly planning the present invasion of Ukraine back in 2003.

At a conference in Brussels this week, Andrey Illarionov, a Russian economist and former economic advisor to Vladimir Putin **informed** that the invasion of Ukraine has been in official planning since at least 2003.

"Since 2003. I can say that certain questions relating to the future war with Ukraine were discussed in my presence. I didn't think the talks would really lead to a real war," he said.

In an anguished response to the Orange Revolution a year later which brought about an ostensibly pro-Western government, Russian officials then began discussing the potential for launching a military occupation of Crimea and its subsequent annexation. Illarionov also discussed leaked documents which detail the operation of Russia's future war with Ukraine.

Lack of hypersonic weapons did not allow Russia to invade Ukraine in 2014 – Russia's President

BY SERGE HAVRYLETS · 19/03/2023



Russia was not ready to invade Ukraine following the Russian annexation of Crimea back in 2014 due to several reasons, Russia's President Vladimir Putin [said](#) in an interview with the Russian state-owned TV broadcaster Rossiya-1.

The full-scale invasion of Ukraine was not possible nine years ago due to the situation in the economy of the Russian Federation and the lack of the necessary weaponry, Vladimir Putin said.

"We had no hypersonic weapons back then, but now we do have them," Putin replied to a Russian propagandist Pavel Zarubin who asked why Russia did not start the so-called special military operation in Ukraine earlier. "Now we have other modern systems, apart from the hypersonic weapons. But there was nothing like that in 2014," Putin added.

...quando pensava di poter vincere. Ma ha sottovalutato l'eroismo ucraino e sopravvalutato l'efficacia della sua propaganda: non abbastanza per vincere, ma abbastanza da permettere alla Russia di restare impunita dopo aver distrutto tante città e causato tantissime morti.



Vatnik Soup

March 16, 2022, Mariupol, Ukraine

Hundreds of civilians had taken refuge in the Mariupol Drama Theatre, including children, with "children" written in Russian on the pavement. Russia bombed it anyway, killing an estimated 600 civilians. After occupying the city, Russia rebuilt the theatre and reopened it on December 28, 2025, to perform Russian plays as part of their "Russification": genocidal erasure of Ukrainian people, state and culture. An actor who had been performing at the theatre since 2000 described it as "performing a play on the bones of the dead".

Photo: Pavel Klimov/Reuters



Vatnik Soup

July 8, 2024, Kyiv, Ukraine

A Russian missile struck Okhmatdyt children's hospital in Kyiv, the country's largest, damaging several wards including oncology and intensive care. Two people were killed and dozens injured, including children. Other Russian strikes that same day killed another 40 civilians, including five children.

Photo: Oleksandr Ratushniak/Reuters

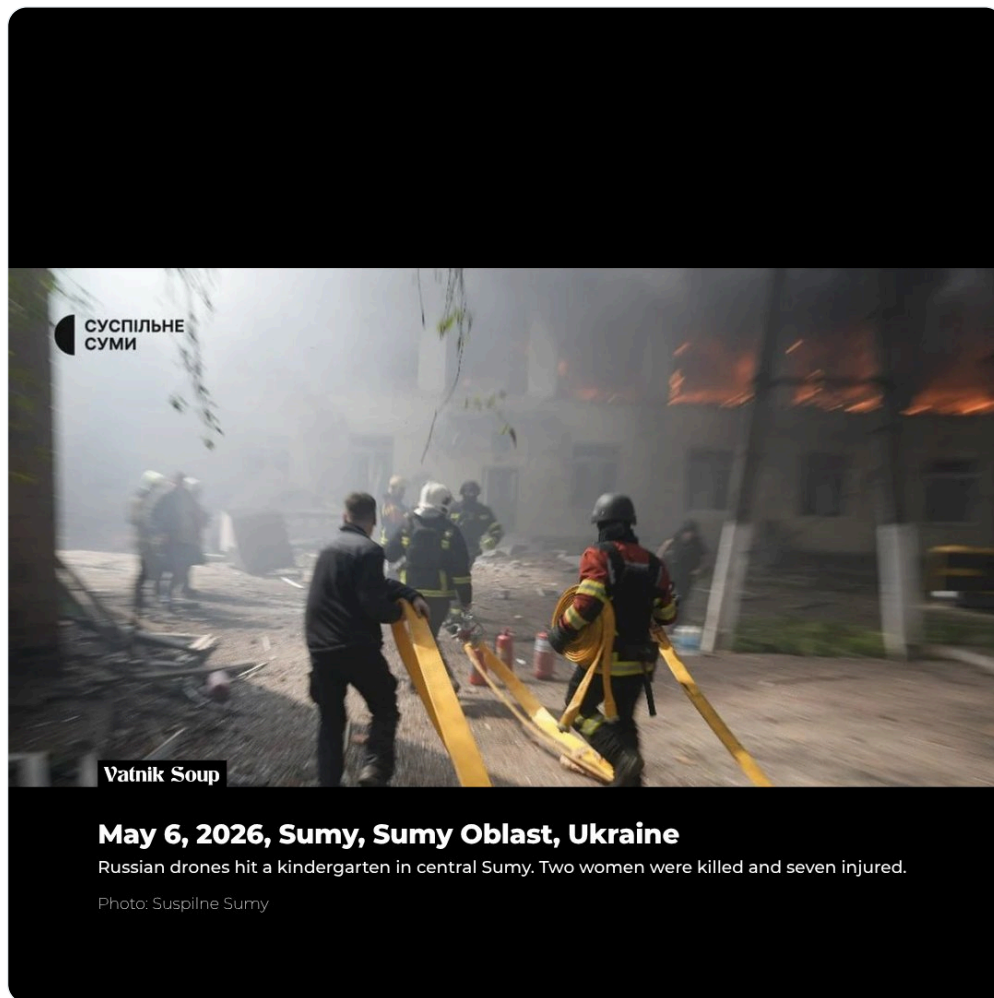


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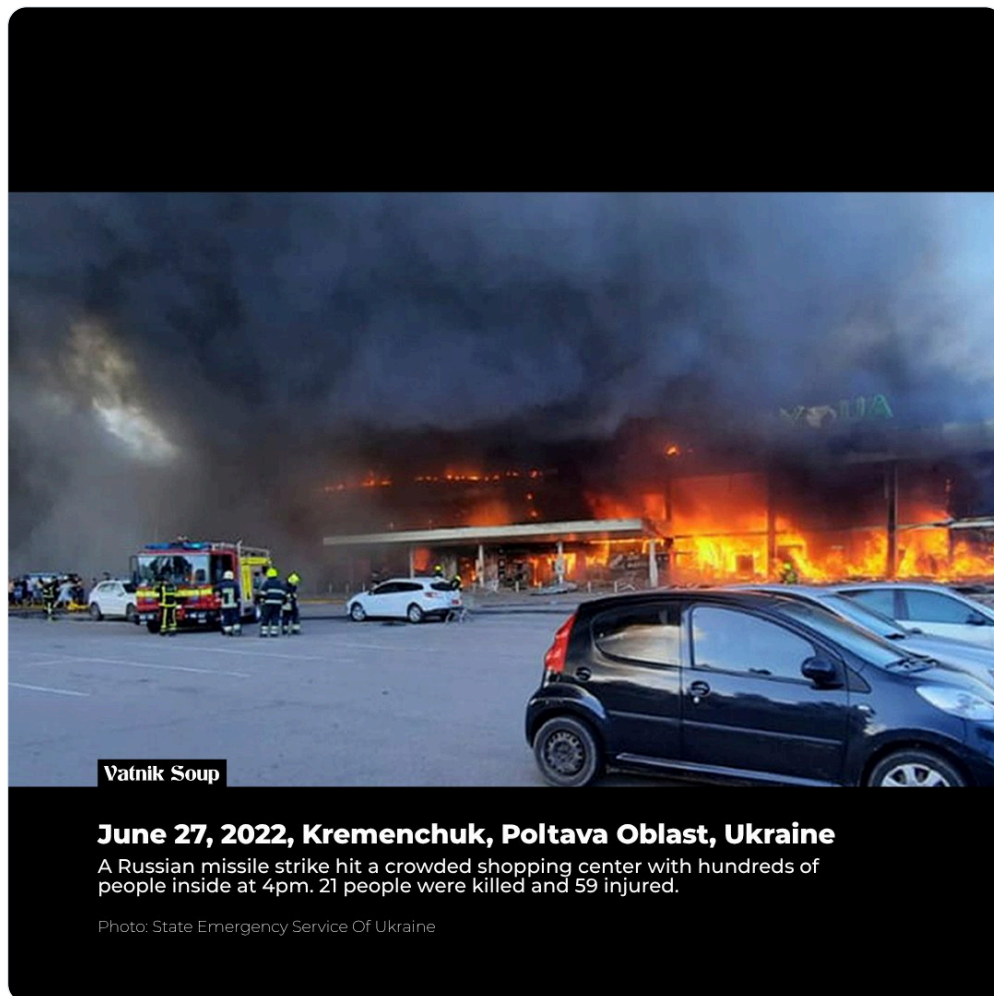
May 14, 2026, Kyiv, Ukraine

A Russian Kh-101 cruise missile struck a nine-story apartment building in a residential neighborhood in Kyiv, killing 24 people, including three children.

Photo: State Emergency Service of Ukraine



La guerra costa cara, ma la propaganda costa poco: spendere qualcosa in più oltre ai quattro milioni di euro di un missile Kinzhal, per convincere il mondo a permettere che quel missile uccida i civili che il Cremlino ha deciso di uccidere, purtroppo fa la differenza.

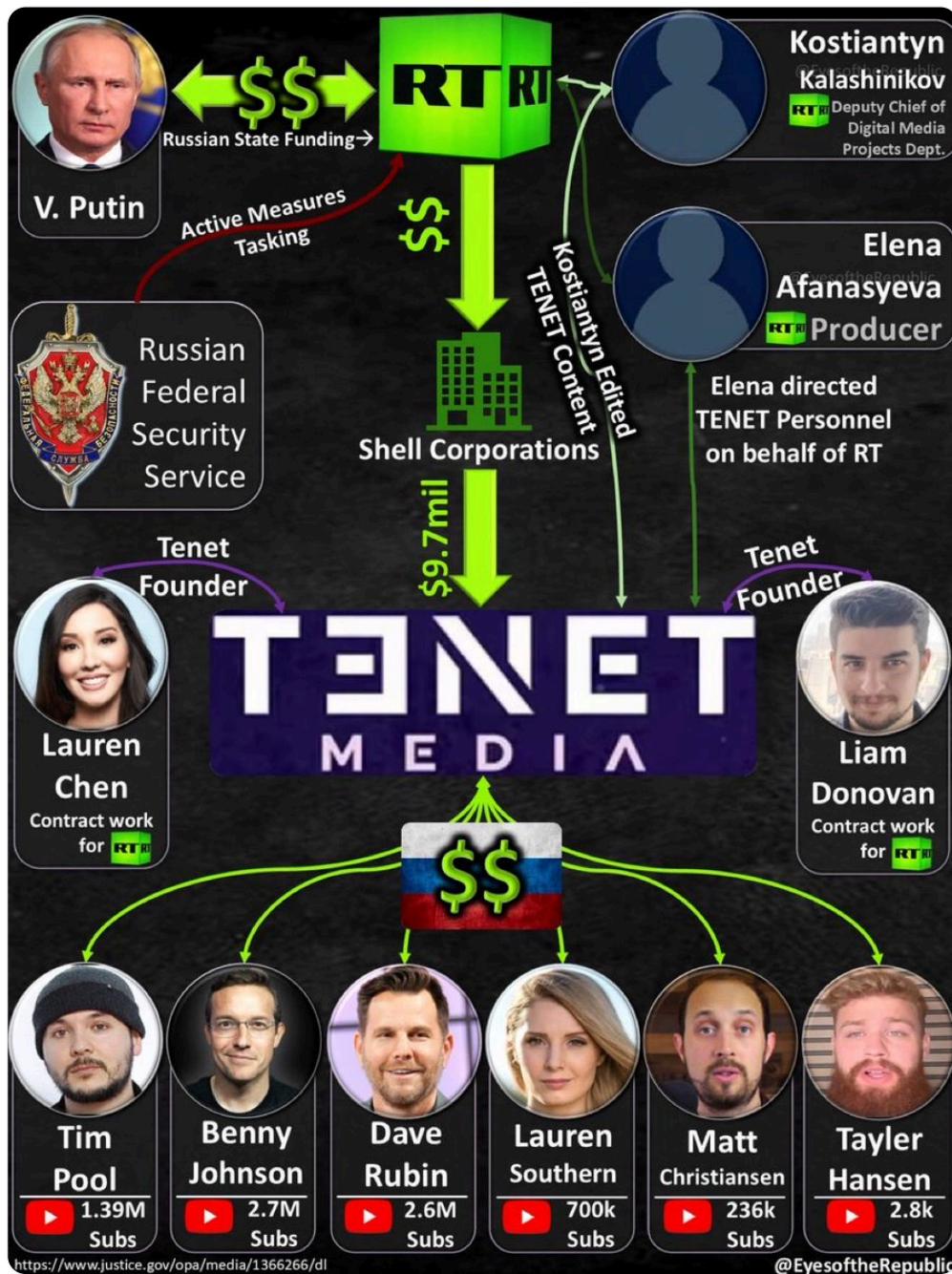


A volte si fanno spese folli anche per la propaganda. Tim Pool e Benny Johnson, ad esempio, sono arrivati a ottenere 100.000 dollari alla settimana. Il Cremlino ha forse deciso che il piccolo Tim, scagliandosi contro l'Ucraina, vale davvero tutti quei soldi?

11/25



<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/2108816218886996222>



v.

KOSTIANTYN KALASHNIKOV,
a/k/a "Kostya," and
ELENA AFANASYEVA,
a/k/a "Lena,"

Defendants.

24 Cr.

24 CRIM 519

The Grand Jury charges:

INTRODUCTION

1. RT, formerly known as "Russia Today," is a state-controlled media outlet funded and directed by the Government of Russia. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, RT was sanctioned, dropped by distributors, and ultimately forced to cease formal operations in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. In response, RT created, in the words of its editor-in-chief, an "entire empire of covert projects" designed to shape public opinion in "Western audiences." One of RT's "covert projects," as described herein, is its funding and direction of a Tennessee-based online content creation company ("U.S. Company-1").

2. Over at least the past year, RT and its employees, including KOSTIANTYN KALASHNIKOV, a/k/a "Kostya," and ELENA AFANASYEVA, a/k/a "Lena," the defendants, have deployed nearly \$10 million, laundered through a network of foreign shell entities, to covertly fund and direct U.S. Company-1. U.S. Company-1 publishes English-language videos on multiple social media channels, including TikTok, Instagram, X, and YouTube. Using multiple fake



Magari al Cremlino ragionano sul lungo periodo: seminare il caos per destabilizzare l'Occidente, incitare alla guerra civile e incoraggiare i movimenti secessionisti. Intanto la Wagner imperversa in Africa, provocando guerre e crisi migratorie.

Tim Pool @Timcast · 26m ... You are in a civil war	Tim P... @Timc... · Jan 3, 2022 ... At what point is it not "cold" civil war?
Tim Pool @Timcast · 1h ... Civil war	Tim P... @Timc... · Jun 2, 2021 ... The responses to this tweet are great
Tim Pool @Timcast · Aug 3 ... it all depends on what happens next, but should this escalate then history will regard everything happening now as "the 2nd civil war period"	Tim P... @Timc... · Dec 8, 2020 ... The rule of law has been breaking down for quite some time
Tim Pool @Timcast · Aug 1 ... You are in a civil war	Tim P... @Timc... · Sep 25, 2020 ... This is political civil war
Tim Pool @Timcast · Jul 23 ... You are in a civil war	Tim P... @Timc... · Aug 30, 2020 ... I'm feeling a bit bullish on Civil War
Tim Pool @Timcast · Jun 14 ... 5 years ago I was worried that rising tribalism and political street fights could be a precursor to civil war	Tim P... @Timc... · Aug 3, 2020 ... Soooo... civil war?
Tim Pool @Timcast · Mar 31 ... You're in a cold civil war	Tim P... @Timc... · Jul 23, 2020 ... We get it, they want civil war
Tim Pool @Timcast · Mar 20 ... American Civil War 2: Pedophiles vs. Nazis	Tim P... @Timc... · Jun 6, 2020 ... There is going to be a civil war
Tim P... @Timc... · Oct 26, 2022 ... come on	Tim P... @Timc... · Jan 22, 2019 ... Yup thats it, civil war.
Tim P... @Timc... · Sep 26, 2022 ... after that?	Tim P... @Timc... · Sep 2, 2022 ... They refuse to back down.
Tim P... @Timc... · Sep 26, 2022 ... how can y'all tell me we arent heading for a civil war	Tim P... @Timc... · Sep 2, 2022 ... They are actually insane.
Tim P... @Timc... · Sep 26, 2022 ... Civil war	
Tim P... @Timc... · Sep 2, 2022 ... Civil war	



Putin's Plot to Get Texas to Secede

For Moscow's right-wingers, payback means teaming up with a band of Texas secessionists.

By CASEY MICHEL | June 22, 2015

Casey Michel is a recent Master's graduate from Columbia University's Harriman Institute. His writing has appeared in the Atlantic, Foreign Policy, and Slate, and he can be followed on Twitter at @cjemichel.

Nathan Smith, who styles himself the “foreign minister” for the Texas Nationalist Movement, appeared last Spring at a [far-right confab](#) in St. Petersburg, Russia. Despite roaming around in his cowboy hat, Smith managed to keep a low-key presence at the conference, which was dominated by fascists and neo-Nazis railing against Western decadence. But at least one Russian newspaper, *Vzglyad*, [caught up with the American](#), noted that TNM is “hardly a marginal group,” and quoted Smith liberally on the excellent prospects for a partial breakup of the United States. Smith declared that the Texas National Movement has 250,000 supporters—including all the Texans currently serving in the U.S. Army—and they all “identify themselves first and foremost as Texans” but are being forced to remain Americans. The United States, he added, “is not a democracy, but a dictatorship.” The Kremlin’s famed [troll farms](#) took the interview and ran with it, with dozens of bots instantly [tweeting](#) about a “Free Texas.”

"The impact of Russian malign foreign influence cannot be overstated," said Assistant Director Luis Quesada of the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division. "The FBI will aggressively pursue any foreign government that attempts to divide American citizens and poison our democratic process."

Ionov used his control over U.S. Political Group 1 leaders to foster discord within the United States, to spread pro-Russian propaganda under the guise of a domestic political organization, and to interfere in local elections. For example, in January 2016, Ionov guaranteed financing for — and ultimately funded — a four-city protest tour undertaken by U.S. Political Group 1 in support of a "Petition on Crime of Genocide against African People in the United States," which it had previously submitted to the United Nations at Ionov's direction. Later, in 2017 and 2019, Ionov monitored and supported the St. Petersburg, Florida, political campaigns of UIC-3 and UIC-4. In 2019, before the primary election, Ionov wrote to a Russian official that he had been "consulting every week" on the campaign. After UIC-4 advanced to the general election, FSB Officer 1 wrote to Ionov that "our election campaign is kind of unique," and asked, "are we the first in history?" Ionov later sent FSB Officer 1 additional details about the election, referring to UIC-4 as the candidate "whom we supervise."

According to the indictment, Ionov's relationship with U.S. Political Group 1 continued until at least March 2022. Specifically, in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, U.S. Political Group 1 repeatedly hosted Ionov via video conference to discuss the war, during which Ionov falsely stated that anyone who supported Ukraine also supported Nazism and white supremacy. In a report to the FSB, Ionov explained that he had enlisted U.S. Political Group 1 to support Russia in the "information war unleashed" by the West.

Alongside his malign foreign influence efforts with U.S. Political Group 1, Ionov also exercised direction and control over U.S. Political Group 3, an organization based in California whose primary goal was to [promote California's secession from the United States](#). In January and February of 2018, Ionov supported U.S. Political Group 3's efforts — led by the organization's founder (UIC-6) — to orchestrate a protest demonstration at the California Capitol building in Sacramento. Ionov partially funded the efforts and attempted to direct UIC-6 to physically enter the governor's office. Later, Ionov sent various media reports covering the demonstration and U.S. Political Group 3's broader efforts to FSB Officer 1, writing that FSB Officer 1 had asked for "turmoil" and stating, "there you go."

According to the indictment, Ionov also directed the efforts of U.S. Political Group 2, based in Atlanta. For example, as recently as March 2022, Ionov paid for members of U.S. Political Group 2 — including its founder (UIC-5) — to travel from Atlanta to San Francisco to protest at the headquarters of a social media company that had placed content restrictions on posts supporting Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Ionov sent UIC-5 designs for signs used at the protest and funded cross-country travel for UIC-5 and other members of U.S. Political Group 2. After the protest, Ionov sent UIC-5 a picture of a Russian news website's social media page, which displayed a Russian-language news story about the protest.

Ionov is charged with conspiring to have U.S. citizens act as illegal agents of the Russian government. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Daniel J. Marcet and Risha Asokan, Trial Attorney Menno Goedman of the Justice Department's Counterintelligence and Export Control Section, and Trial Attorney Demetrius Sumner of the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section are prosecuting the case.

The FBI Tampa Field Office is investigating the case.

An indictment is merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

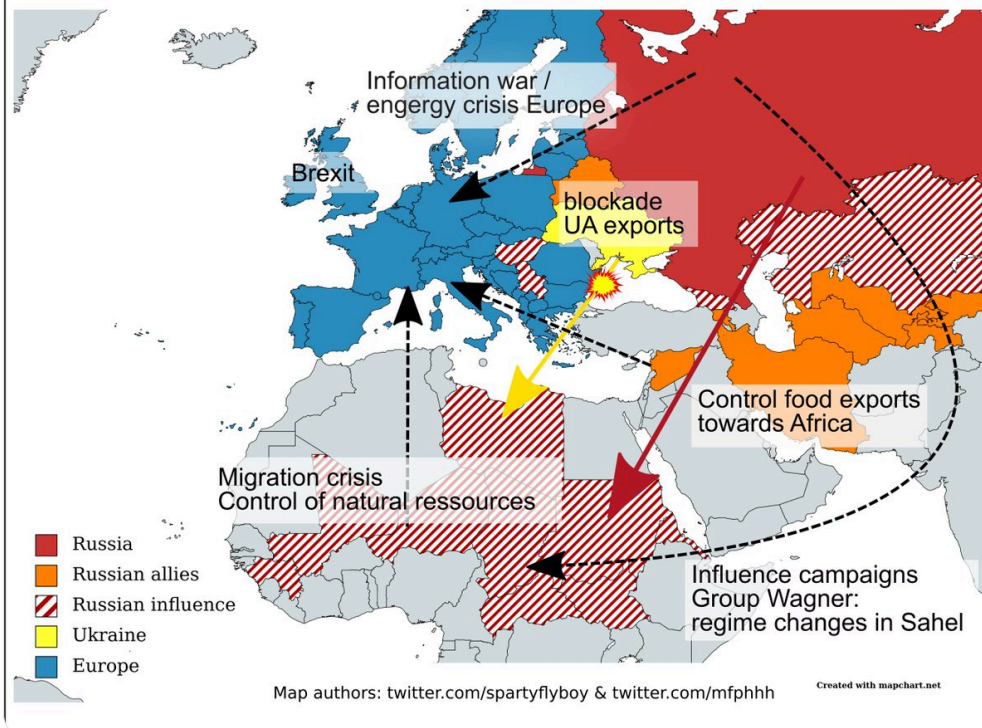
- **Elon Musk**   @elonmusk · Nov 13, 2023 ...
Replying to @RadioGenoa
Europe appears to be headed for **civil war**
 1.8K  3.3K  13K  1.5M  
- **Elon Musk**   @elonmusk · Nov 1, 2023 ...
Replying to @zerohedge
Civil war is brewing
 222  301  1.8K  207K  
- **Elon Musk**    @elonmusk · Oct 27, 2023 ...
Replying to @WallStreetMav and @WallStreetSilv
Europe is trending towards **civil war**
 856  1.2K  7.2K  373K  
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Europe is trending towards **civil war**
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La Russia alimenta poi in Occidente reazioni populiste a questi eventi (in Italia la Lega e Futuro Nazionale, in Francia il RN, in Germania l'AfD), giocando su entrambi i fronti delle tensioni sociali.

How Russia creates a polycrisis in Europe



Influencer, giornalisti e politici comprati vengono regolarmente smascherati in tutto il mondo. Quanti altri ce ne saranno? L'obiettivo non cambia: scoraggiare gli aiuti all'Ucraina seminando dubbi e confusione, perché la Russia possa bombardare e uccidere impunemente.

Former Welsh Reform leader jailed for pro-Russia bribery

13 hours ago

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David Deans, Wales political reporter and Ben Sumner, BBC Wales Investigates



James Mann

Nathan Gill, the former leader of Reform UK in Wales, arrives at the Old Bailey

The former leader of Reform UK in Wales has been sentenced to 10-and-a-half years in prison after admitting taking bribes for pro-Russia interviews and speeches.

Nathan Gill, 52, from Llangefni, Anglesey, is thought to have received up to £40,000 to help pro-Russian politicians in Ukraine.

He was a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) when he accepted money from Oleg Voloshyn, 44, a man once described by the US government as a "pawn" of Russian secret services.

At the Old Bailey, Judge Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb said Gill had abused his position and eroded "public confidence in democracy".

Voloshyn was acting on behalf of a "close friend" of Vladimir Putin - Viktor Medvedchuk, 71, a former oligarch who was the source of the requests and the cash.

Bulgarian secret services: Russia pays public figures to spread propaganda

Krassen Nikolov  EURACTIV.bg



The government lost a no-confidence vote but will stay in power until a new one is formed or, if that is impossible until the president dissolves parliament. [Shutterstock/Zhenya Voevodina]

The Bulgarian secret services have data showing that Russia pays about €2000 (BGN 4,000) per month to public figures, journalists, and politicians to spread its propaganda in the country, a government spokesperson and head of the prime minister's office, Lena Borislavova told Darik radio over the weekend.

The government lost a no-confidence vote but will stay in power until a new one is formed or, if that is impossible until the president dissolves parliament.

Borislavova **explained** that the money was given to Bulgarian politicians, famous journalists, analysts, political scientists and other persons appearing in the public media. The Russian state paid them to shape public opinion.

"To all of you who spit on the EU and NATO for free, as well as support Putin's actions in Ukraine, you should know. You are screwed up. Those who inspire you to do so are paid. Monthly," she added.

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POLITICS

Exclusive: Latvian Member of European Parliament is an agent of Russian intelligence, leaked emails confirm

Christo Grozev, Michael Weiss, Roman Dobrokhoto

29 January 2024

CONTENT

1. Their woman in Strasbourg

2. But her emails...

3. The second handler

Tatjana Ždanoka MEP has spent decades openly advocating for Moscow from both Riga and Strasbourg. *The Insider* can today reveal that Ždanoka was working on behalf of the FSB's Fifth Service, reporting to two different handlers from at least 2004 to 2017.

THE INSIDER

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POLITICS

The far-right Bundestag aide and his rapping FSB case officer

Roman Dobrokhoto, Michael Weiss, Christo Grozev

1 February 2024

A pro-Russian aide to a far-right German legislator who attempted to scuttle Berlin's shipment of main battle tanks to Ukraine is an agent of Russian intelligence, *The Insider* can now reveal. Also, his handler is a rapper.

La guerra è di per sé orribile, e ciò che la Russia fa agli ucraini – come le violenze sui soldati catturati, i bombardamenti terroristici e gli abusi sui civili sotto occupazione – è indescrivibile e va assolutamente fermato, a prescindere da ogni altra considerazione.

15/25

Russia is systematically torturing Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) and civilians held in Russian detention. The Ukrainian Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR) published a report on April 29 detailing how Russia has used Soviet-era torture practices, including beatings, humiliation, electric shocks, and dog attacks, against Ukrainian POWs and civilian prisoners.[9] MIHR based the report on the testimonies of 138 freed Ukrainian POWs who the Russians detained in 2022-2025. The report notably coheres with a UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (UN OHCHR) assessment from October 2024 that assessed that Russian authorities have subjected Ukrainian POWs to torture, ill-treatment, and inhumane conditions “in a widespread and systematic manner.”[10] The UN OHCHR report also noted that it is highly likely that the Russian military command is aware of the treatment of Ukrainian POWs and that Russian state entities may be coordinating the use of torture. UN High Commissioner on Human Rights Volker Türk noted that there is significant coordination on the poor treatment of the POWs and prisoners among various Russian entities, specifically the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) and the Russian Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN).[11] Russia’s abuse of Ukrainians in detention is notably not exclusive to POWs. The Ukrainian Ombudsman’s Office confirmed on April 28 that Russia is illegally detaining almost 16,000 civilians in occupied territories and at least 1,800 civilians in Russia, and it is likely that Russian agents are torturing many of these detainees.[12] Russia recently returned the body of Ukrainian journalist Viktoriya Roshchyna, whom Russia detained while she was investigating Russian detention centers in occupied Ukraine, with “extensive damage to the coronary arteries” and missing organs, a sign that Russian authorities were trying to obfuscate evidence of torture.[13]

Ma per chi non ritiene questo sufficiente, ci sono altri motivi per preoccuparsi. Lasciare la Russia libera di fare ciò che fa la incoraggia a operare in Georgia e a compiere operazioni ibride contro il resto d’Europa. I Paesi baltici potrebbero essere i prossimi bersagli.

WORLD > EUROPE • 4 MIN READ

NATO intercepts three Russian jets over Estonia's airspace

UPDATED SEP 24, 2025 ▾

By  Sophie Tanno



Estonia's Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna, pictured in May, said Friday's violation was "unprecedentedly brazen." (*Ozan Kose/AFP/Getty Images*)



NATO intercepted three Russian jets that violated Estonia's airspace on Friday, the country's foreign ministry and an alliance spokesperson said.

Three Russian MiG-31 fighter jets entered Estonian airspace over the Gulf of Finland without permission and remained there for a total of 12 minutes, the Estonian foreign ministry said.

Poland says it shot down Russian drones after airspace violation

10 September 2025

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Adam Easton in Warsaw and Jaroslav Lukiv



Poland closest to open conflict since World War Two, warns PM

At least three Russian drones were shot down by Polish and other Nato aircraft in Poland's airspace during overnight attacks on Ukraine, the Polish prime minister has said.

Donald Tusk said Poland had recorded 19 drone incursions, with some flying deep enough to temporarily close four airports, including Warsaw's main hub Chopin.



The Economist 🟡 @TheEconomist · 18 oct. 2024

...

Vladimir Putin is waging a covert war in Europe. Assassination attempts, cyber attacks and arson. There's been a sudden increase in suspicious incidents across Europe—all linked to Russia.

We've mapped them for the first time and found a pattern econ.st/3YeTYL



💬 40

↻ 165

❤️ 231

📊 65 mil

🔖 ⬆

E la Cina osserva: finanzia la Russia e valuta come va la guerra per decidere se anche lei potrebbe invadere impunemente un paese sovrano vicino — un'altra possibile guerra in cui milioni potrebbero morire o finire sotto occupazione, col rischio di un conflitto più ampio.

How Russia is Helping China Prepare to Seize Taiwan

Oleksandr V Danylyuk and Dr Jack Watling

26 September 2025 7 Minute Read



Russia has agreed to equip and train the PLA to air-drop armoured vehicles and special reconnaissance capabilities.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has directed the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to be ready to militarily seize Taiwan by 2027. A large-scale amphibious operation is highly risky, with the sites suitable for landing craft to deliver troops and equipment ashore constrained by the gradient and load bearing capacity of the beaches. Seizing airfields could allow troops to flow in by air, but as Russia discovered during its invasion of Ukraine, runways can be quickly denied. The PLA is therefore eager to identify ways of diversifying both the methods and locations at which it can move units onto Taiwan.

Further Russian and Chinese collaboration: Russian and Chinese flags fly during a field review of troops after Exercise Vostok-2018. Image: President of the Russian Federation, www.kremlin.ru/ / Wikimedia Commons

WRITTEN BY

Oleksandr V Danylyuk

RUSI Associate Fellow,
Military Sciences

[View profile >](#)



Dr Jack Watling

Senior Research Fellow, Land
Warfare
Military Sciences

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China bankrolling Putin's war to gain advantage over West, MPs told

Beijing's huge support for Russian aggression against Ukraine part of larger threatening posture, air marshal tells Commons committee



A British Challenger 2 tank in Estonia where UK forces are taking part in Operation Cabrit Credit: Ben Birchall/PA

Tom Cotterill
Defence Editor

03 February 2026 5:46pm GMT

China has become the main financial backer for Russia's war against Ukraine, MPs have been told.

Air Marshal Ed Stringer, a former head of RAF intelligence, said Beijing was "covertly" ramping up its support for Moscow as it sought to gain an economic advantage over the West.

"China has discretely built supply lines going to drone factories in Russia," he told the Commons defence committee on Tuesday.

"Open source suggests 60 per cent of the Russian war effort is being covertly bankrolled by China... so there's a huge amount of support from China."

The retired officer added: "Russia can only maintain this war because China is essentially bankrolling it."

Observers fear China poses an increasing threat to the UK, with Beijing-backed hackers having targeted the phones of aides to former prime ministers Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak in an effort to steal government secrets.

At the same time, concerns have been raised after the Government chose to approve plans for a Chinese super-embassy in London, which The Telegraph revealed would be located alongside some of the City's most sensitive communications cables.

On Tuesday, MPs were warned Beijing was seeking economic dominance over the West and could use its influence over Moscow to "distract" Nato while it builds up its own military.

Tutto questo è reso possibile dalla passività dell'opinione pubblica mondiale, dalla mancanza di sanzioni severe contro la Russia e dal fatto che i politici al potere non vengono fischianti ogni volta che diffondono menzogne propagandistiche sull'Ucraina o lodano Putin.

Trump insists Putin wants peace. Civilian deaths are rising



Olexandr Korniyakov/Global Images Ukraine/Getty Images

Moscow is launching deadly attacks in Ukraine on a daily basis, as Putin shows no signs of stopping the fighting

Il Cremlino non sta nemmeno cercando di convincerci che loro siano i buoni. Il loro obiettivo è demoralizzarci, farci perdere fiducia nella verità, nella moralità, nei valori occidentali, in qualsiasi valore.

19/25

"Russia is not squeaky clean. Russia is what it is. And we are not ashamed of showing who we are."



Farci dubitare di tutto, per far credere che le due parti abbiano le proprie ragioni, benché sia chiarissimo chi è l'aggressore e chi è l'agredito. Eppure, su altre questioni l'opinione pubblica prende posizione con decisione, mentre su questa guerra troppo spesso esita.

20/25

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

Qualche altro «utile idiota» particolarmente credulone si schiererà apertamente dalla parte della Russia; qualcuno andrà addirittura in Russia, anche se per loro non finisce mai bene.

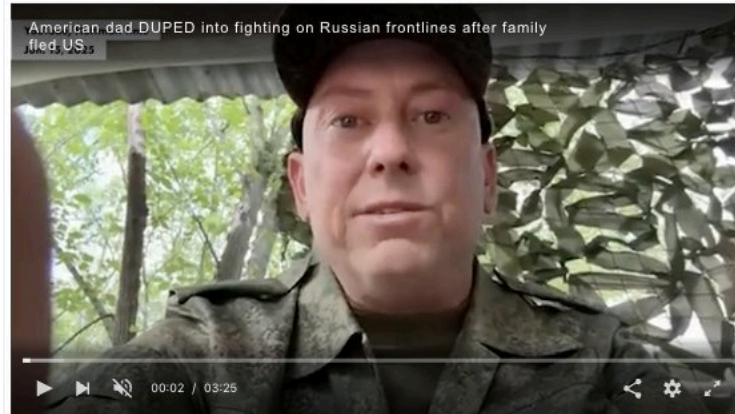
21/25

American father of three who joined Russian army to escape 'woke' US has been sent to the frontlines, wife says

By Ronny Reyes

Published July 22, 2025, 6:20 p.m. ET

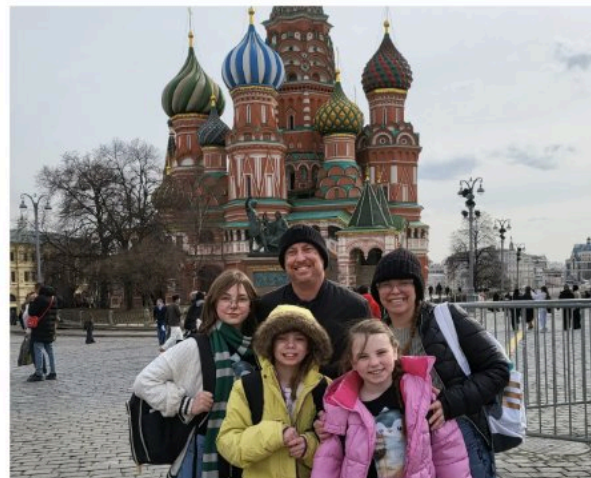
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A Texas father of three who moved his family to Russia and joined the military to escape "wokeness" in the US has been sent to the frontlines of **Moscow's meat grinder**, his wife said.

Derek Huffman, 46, claimed he was being tossed under the bus after being deployed to the frontlines in Ukraine despite assurances from **the Russian military** that he would be serving in a non-combat role, his wife DeAnna said in a now deleted YouTube page, **according to the Telegraph**.

"He feels like he's being thrown to the wolves right now, and he's kind of having to lean on faith, and that's what we're all doing," she said of her husband's situation.



WAR IN UKRAINE

The Russian Concentration Camp Behind Russell Bentley's Death

Russell Bentley, an American defector was detained, tortured, and killed in a concentration camp in Donetsk, a new report reveals. The camp, operating under Russian military command, is known for the brutal treatment of prisoners, including Russian soldiers.

Nov 15, 2024 17:18 Updated Jul 02, 2025 00:26 8 min read



AUDREY MACALPINE
Correspondent

The last time Lyudmila saw her husband, Russell Bentley—an American defector to Russia who gained notoriety as a pro-Kremlin internet personality—was on April 8 at 4:15 PM at the administration building in Donetsk.

That day, Bentley and Lyudmila traveled to the city's Petrovsky district, where they heard the explosions, she said. Bentley, who struggled to make a living by selling war footage and photographs to the Russian propaganda outlet Sputnik, went to photograph the aftermath of incoming shelling. He never returned.

For months, his wife and the broader online community speculated about his death. A formal investigation was launched, and on September 20, 2024, Russia's Investigative Committee concluded that Bentley had been murdered by Russian soldiers [Vitaly Vansyatsky](#), [Vladislav Agaltsev](#), [Vladimir Bazhin](#), and [Andrei Iordanov](#).

While the initial investigation concluded that Bentley's car was detonated with his body inside, a new [report](#) by ASTRA press, a Russian independent news media launched at the beginning of the full-scale invasion, suggests something more sinister. Astra press has found Bentley was in fact taken to a nearby concentration camp operated by Russia's 5th Brigade, where he was tortured to death.

Ma molti altri si limiteranno a dichiarare la propria indifferenza nei confronti di un conflitto reso confuso dalla propaganda, rifiutandosi così di agire — il che basterà a rendere la guerra molto più facile per Putin.



Contrastiamo quella propaganda per combattere l'impunità della Russia nel lungo periodo. Confutiamo e smascheriamo le menzogne dei «vatnik»: narrazioni che, quando vengono diffuse e accettate, creano il sostegno attivo o passivo su cui si basa l'operazione russa.

23/25

A trove of leaked records from a Russian disinformation campaign reveals how Moscow sought to discredit Ukraine and Western governments that support it while also trying to boost support for far-right political parties in the European Union.

The documents obtained by a consortium of European media outlets and **shared with Schemes**, the investigative unit of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, highlight the internal operations of the Social Design Agency, a Moscow-based company that **the United States says** has led the propaganda campaign at the Kremlin's behest.

The campaign included a diverse mix of memes, falsified videos and government documents, and a network of websites impersonating legitimate news outlets across Europe to disseminate fake stories aimed at undermining Western support for Ukraine after Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

The records state that one meme denigrating Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky **that was shared on X by its billionaire owner, Elon Musk**, and garnered 86,000 reshares was a creation of the Social Design Agency.

Per questo creiamo le nostre «zuppe»: post, articoli, video e podcast, tutti raccolti e ricercabili gratis sul nostro sito. Più impatto abbiamo, più possiamo fare la differenza.

Per porre fine a questa guerra il prima possibile. Per evitare che ne scoppino altre.

24/25



Combattiamo la disinformazione dal 2022

Ci sono molti modi per aiutare l'Ucraina. La guerra dura purtroppo dal 2014 e l'invasione su vasta scala dal 2022. Oltre alle urgenti necessità militari e umanitarie, occorre contrastare anche la propaganda.

Per favore, sostenete il nostro lavoro:

25/25

Vatnik SOUP

Combatta la disinformazione insieme a noi: sostenga il nostro lavoro | Zupp...

#vatniksoup è una serie di thread su Twitter (e un hashtag!) in cui presenterò attori e propagandisti pro-russi provenienti da tutto il mondo, che siano cosiddetti 'giornalisti indipendenti', politic...

<https://vatniksoup.com/it/support-our-work/>

...