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Apr 3 · 23 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1642836638257537024](#)

In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll introduce a German lobbyist, lawyer(!) and former politician, Gerhard Schröder. He's best-known for being the chancellor of Germany, for being BFF's with Putin, and for lobbying for Nord Stream AG, Rosneft and Gazprom.

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Schröder worked as a lawyer between 1976 and 1990 before he moved to full-time politics. His most famous and controversial case was in 1980 when he helped Horst Mahler of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist group to be released early from prison.

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Mahler then returned back to practicing law with the help of Schröder. In Apr 2017, Mahler was again sentenced to prison for 3½ years.

Gerhard joined the Social Democratic Party in 1963. Then comes the decades of boring politics and policy stuff, power struggles inside...

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...and outside the party, the whole circus. Then, in 2005 his party lost the 2005 federal election, after which Schröder showed his true colors. The election was extremely tight, but CDU's Angela Merkel finally took the chancellor position and on 23 Nov 2005, Schröder...

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...resigned his Bundestag seat. Only a few days after this, Gerhard joined the board of directors of the joint venture for the Nord Stream - it was time to make some (dirty) money!

But Schröder's bromance with Putin had started years before, and in Jun 2000, the NYT...




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...reported on the warm relationship of these two "brothers from another mother" extensively. They had met four times in a span of three days, and Putin jokingly commented on their relationship: "What do you want us to say - that we're in love?".

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The New York Times

Putin Discovers A New Rapport With Germany

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By Roger Cohen
June 17, 2000

See the article in its original context from June 17, 2000, Section A, Page 1 | [Buy Reprints](#)

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"What do you want us to say," President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia asked today after his fourth meeting in three days with Chancellor Gerhard Schroder of Germany, "that we're in love?"

He was joking, of course. But there was no mistake that the summit meeting that ended today produced a vigorous rapprochement between Russia and Germany. Mr. Putin seemed entirely serious when he added, "Germany is Russia's leading partner in Europe and the world."

The meeting led to agreements on German investments in Russia worth \$1.7 billion, cautious German backing for a Russian plan to involve itself in the defense of Europe against missile attack, and the establishment of an apparently excellent rapport between Mr.

He then continued: "Germany is Russia's leading partner in Europe and the world". Schröder stated that he and his wife had accepted an invitation to spend the Christmas with the Putins.

This also marked the beginning of close economic relations between Germany and...

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...Russia - the same relations that bit Germany up the arse after Russia's full-scale invasion. These meeting also took place two months after Russia had capitulated Chechnya, ending the 2nd Chechen War.

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In 2004 he called Putin a "flawless democrat". Few days later Putin congratulated his puppet leader Viktor Yanukovich for winning the Ukrainian presidential elections. Few months prior the Russians had allegedly poisoned Yanukovich's opponent, Viktor Yushchenko.

9/22



Gerhard visited Russia five times while in office, but he wasn't close with just Russia: he also visited China six times. He was one of the few who pressured the EU lift their arms embargo on China.

In 2007, when Estonia removed a Soviet-era war memorial from Tallinn...

10/22



...& Russia conducted a devastating cyberattack on Estonian infrastructure, Gerhard came & defended the Kremlin perspective. He claimed that Estonia had contradicted "every form of civilised behaviour", referring to the 🇪🇺 efforts to remove a statue of their former oppressor.11/22

6th June 2019

Hybrid Threats: 2007 cyber attacks on Estonia

By: James Pamment Vladimir Sazonov Francesca Granelli Sean Aday Māris Andžāns Una Bērziņa-Čerenkova John-Paul Gravelines Mils Hills Miranda Holmstrom Adam Klus Irene Martinez-Sanchez Mariita Mattiisen Holger Molder Yeganeh Morakabati Aurel Sari Gregory Simons Jonathan Terra

Related topics: Hybrid Warfare



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This is one of the Case Studies from the report "Hybrid Threats. A Strategic Communications Perspective".

You can access the full report here.

Executive Summary

In April and May 2007, Estonia became the target of a coordinated cyber attack. Over a three-week period, government and parliamentary portals, ministries, news outlets, internet service providers, major banks, and small businesses were all targeted, predominantly by a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS). The cyber attack coincided with the Estonian government's decision to relocate the 'Bronze Soldier Memorial' in Tallinn, which led to significant civil disturbance in both Estonia and Russia.

In 2008, during the South-Ossetia War, Schröder laid the blame solely on Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili and "the West", hinting that they provoked the war.

He likened the annexation of Crimea to NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, stating that both cases violated...

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...the international law and the UN charter. He said that Putin had justifiable "fears about being encircled", referring to the age-old "NATO expansion" trope. Schröder celebrated his 70th birthday with Putin in St. Petersburg a month after the annexation.

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The Telegraph News Sport Business Opinion Ukraine Money Life Style Travel Culture Puzzles

Gerhard Schroeder's birthday party with Vladimir Putin angers Germany

Germany distances itself from Gerhard Schroeder, the former Chancellor, after pictures of 70th birthday celebrations with President Vladimir Putin of Russia in St Petersburg

By Tony Paterson in Berlin
29 April 2014 - 1:30pm

Twitter Facebook Instagram Email


A photograph showing Gerhard Schröder and Vladimir Putin at a birthday party. Schröder is in the center, smiling and looking towards Putin. Putin is on the right, wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie. They are standing near a blue car. Other people in suits are visible in the background.

In his memoirs, Schröder wrote that "It would be wrong to place excessive demands on Russia when it comes to the rate of domestic political reform and democratic development,

...

14/22

Frankfurter Allgemeine Mor



EVENTS AND CHARACTERS

The Moscow Connection

Bild: Daniel Pilar

After his chancellorship, Gerhard Schroeder continued to have a say in the Federal Republic's policy towards Russia. The key to this was his networks in politics and business as well as the SPD myth of *détente*.

By Reinhard Bingener, Markus Wehner

...or to judge it solely on the basis of the Chechnya conflict", basically saying that we should let Russia continue their genocidal imperialism as long as they keep sending him money.

15/22



Schröder's involvement in Nord Stream AG was criticized by many, including his political opposition and the countries over whose territory these gas pipes would be built. US Democrat Tom Lantos went as far as calling Gerhard a "political prostitute".

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The screenshot shows a news article from DW (Deutsche Welle) with the following content:

Verbal Attack on Schröder
DW staff with wire reports (als)
06/13/2007

The German government has defended former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder against a harsh verbal attack from a prominent US congressman, calling his comparison of Schröder to a prostitute "unseemly."

US Democratic Congressman Tom Lantos, who chairs the House of Representatives foreign relations committee, made the remarks at the dedication of a memorial to victims of communism in Washington, DC.

He charged that former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's close business ties to Russia's energy sector amounted to "political prostitution" that would even offend people who sell their bodies for money.

German government spokesman Ulrich Wilhelm rejected the remark "clearly and decisively."

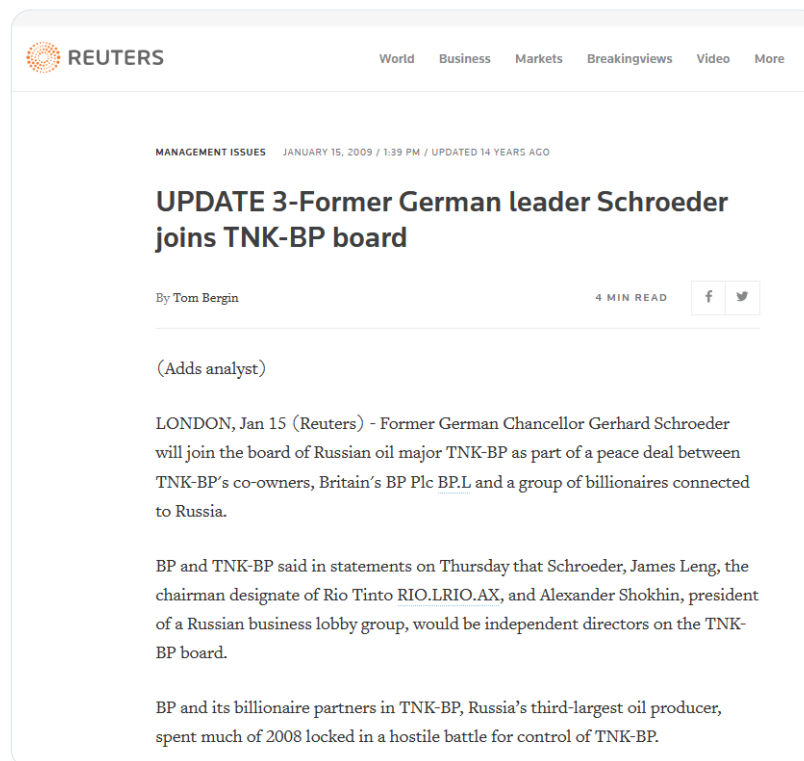
"This is an unseemly level of discourse with a former chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany," Wilhelm told the German press agency dpa in Berlin.

Schröder's party, the Social Democrats (SPD), also jumped to the former chancellor's defense.

SPD general secretary Hubertus Heil said that if the remarks were correct, they were simply a "sign of political stupidity and tastelessness."

In 2009 Schröder increased involvement in Russian dirty money by joining the board of a British-Russian joint venture TNK-BP. In 2016 he became the Manager of Nord Stream 2, an expansion of the first pipeline, solely owned by Russian Gazprom.

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The screenshot shows a news article from Reuters with the following content:

REUTERS World Business Markets Breakingviews Video More

MANAGEMENT ISSUES JANUARY 15, 2009 / 1:39 PM / UPDATED 14 YEARS AGO

UPDATE 3-Former German leader Schroeder joins TNK-BP board

By Tom Bergin 4 MIN READ

(Adds analyst)

LONDON, Jan 15 (Reuters) - Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder will join the board of Russian oil major TNK-BP as part of a peace deal between TNK-BP's co-owners, Britain's BP Plc [BP.L](#) and a group of billionaires connected to Russia.

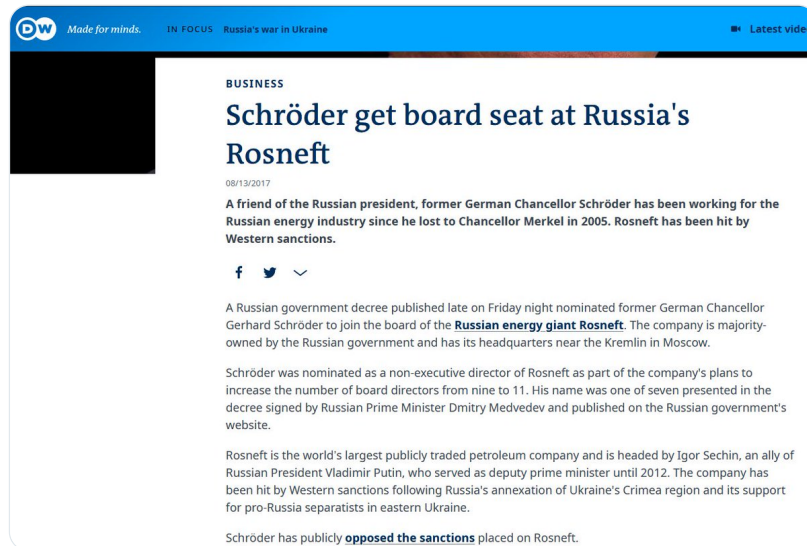
BP and TNK-BP said in statements on Thursday that Schroeder, James Leng, the chairman designate of Rio Tinto [RIO.LRIO.AX](#), and Alexander Shokhin, president of a Russian business lobby group, would be independent directors on the TNK-BP board.

BP and its billionaire partners in TNK-BP, Russia's third-largest oil producer, spent much of 2008 locked in a hostile battle for control of TNK-BP.

In 2017, Russia nominated him to serve as an independent director of Russian Rosneft. During the nomination, Rosneft was under Western sanctions over the Ukraine conflict. But for Gerhard this didn't matter, as the gig paid 350 000 USD annually.

But wait, that's not all!

18/22



The screenshot shows a news article from DW (Deutsche Welle) with the following content:

BUSINESS

Schröder get board seat at Russia's Rosneft

08/13/2017

A friend of the Russian president, former German Chancellor Schröder has been working for the Russian energy industry since he lost to Chancellor Merkel in 2005. Rosneft has been hit by Western sanctions.

f t v

A Russian government decree published late on Friday night nominated former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder to join the board of the **Russian energy giant Rosneft**. The company is majority-owned by the Russian government and has its headquarters near the Kremlin in Moscow.

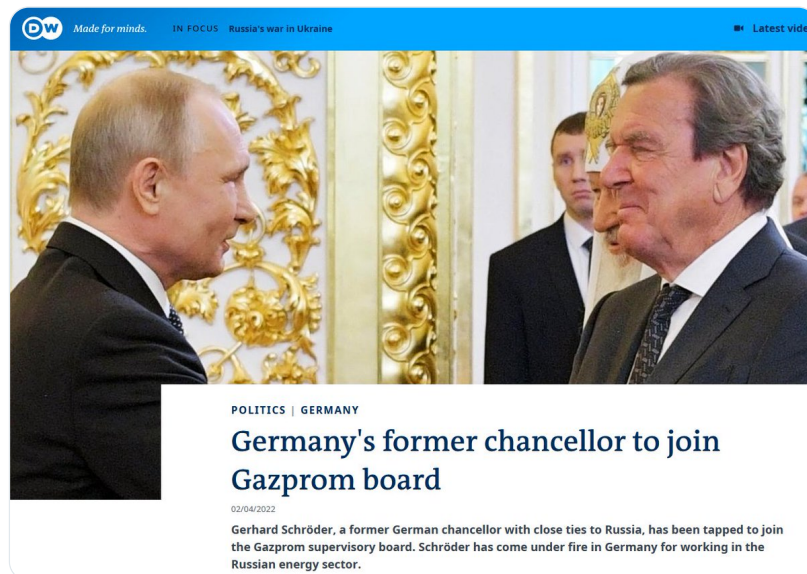
Schröder was nominated as a non-executive director of Rosneft as part of the company's plans to increase the number of board directors from nine to 11. His name was one of seven presented in the decree signed by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and published on the Russian government's website.

Rosneft is the world's largest publicly traded petroleum company and is headed by Igor Sechin, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who served as deputy prime minister until 2012. The company has been hit by Western sanctions following Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and its support for pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Schröder has publicly **opposed the sanctions** placed on Rosneft.

In 2022, three weeks before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Schröder was invited to the board of directors of Gazprom. During this time he was heavily criticized by both national and international press.

19/22



The screenshot shows a news article from DW (Deutsche Welle) with the following content:

POLITICS | GERMANY

Germany's former chancellor to join Gazprom board

02/04/2022

Gerhard Schröder, a former German chancellor with close ties to Russia, has been tapped to join the Gazprom supervisory board. Schröder has come under fire in Germany for working in the Russian energy sector.

He didn't believe that Russia would invade Ukraine, calling it Western "saber rattling". By this time, he was receiving nearly 1 million USD annually from Russian energy companies.

20/22



To conclude: Schröder and his pals Heino Wiese and a former Stasi-agent and Putin confidant, Matthias Warnig, have been involved in dirty Russian energy deals since the early 2000s, without showing a hint of remorse.

21/22



In Gerhard's own words: "Why should I apologize?"

To honor Putin and the "traditional family values" he so often refers to, Gerhard has been married only five times.

22/22

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Gerhard Schröder's wives at war over 'adultery'

David Crossland, Berlin

Friday April 12 2019, 12:01am, The Times

Soyeon Schröder-Kim, the fifth wife of Gerhard Schröder, is suing her predecessor
KAI-UWE WARNER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The fourth and fifth wives of Gerhard Schröder, the former German chancellor, are embroiled in a legal battle after publicly accusing each other of lying and slander.

Doris Schröder-Köpf, 55, has filed a lawsuit with the Hamburg regional court to force Mr Schröder's present wife, Soyeon Schröder-Kim, 51, a Korean, to stop claiming that his fourth marriage was over before she met him.

Ms Schröder-Kim has responded with a suit to stop Ms Schröder-Köpf claiming that she had been the

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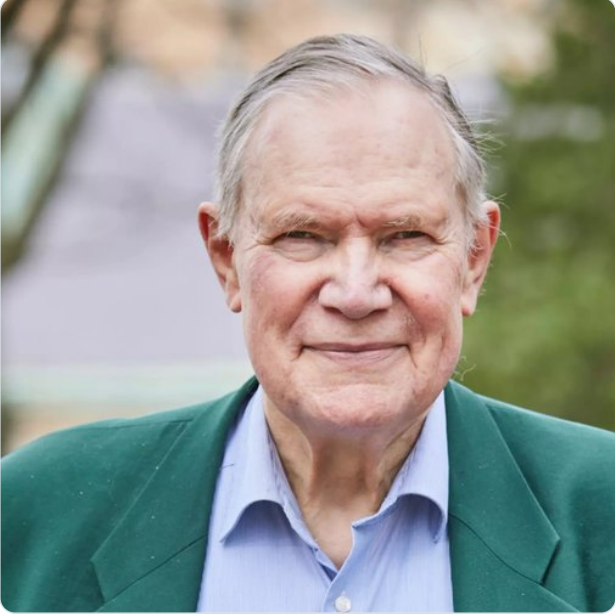
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Today's Finnish #vatnik report may ruffle some feathers. It's a story about how love... sorry, business conquers all. Our main character (for once) is someone who has immense influence in the 🇫🇮 politics. His name is Paavo Lipponen, a former, two-term Prime Minister of 🇫🇮 1/7



6:53 AM · Oct 27, 2022 

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Putin's Web:

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In today's #vatnik soup I'll discuss how Russia and Putin influenced politics and attitudes in European countries since (at least) 2007 by investing into the energy, financing and the real estate sectors.

1/18





7:45 AM · Jan 16, 2023



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