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Jan 26, 2024 · 16 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1750875357698281720](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an American-born Russian mixed martial artist turned politician and propagandist, Jeff Monson (@JeffMonson). He's best-known for his career as a MMA fighter, and for his propaganda work for the Russian Federation.

1/15



Monson calls himself an anarcho-communist, and he's described himself as "someone who would like to do away with all class hierarchy in society and the institutions that promote this inequality". His worldview leans strongly towards radical left.

2/15

Ground & Pound: To do away with any prejudices right at the beginning: What are you exactly Mr. Monson? Anarchist, communist, terrorist, vandalist?

Jeff Monson: I am an anarchist, someone who would like to do away with all class hierarchy in society and the institutions that promote this inequality.



Monson's career in mixed martial arts was relatively successful - he's considered to be one of the world's top submission grapplers, and he has even fought in UFC and PRIDE. He also worked as a mental health professional as well as a child and family counselor.



In 2011, Jeff got to fight the Russian MMA legend, Fedor Emilianenko in Moscow, Russia. Jeff lost the match, after which Putin surprisingly decided to come up to the stage for a speech, but got unexpectedly boo'd by the crowd. The Kremlin later claimed the crowd boo'd Monson.

4/15

Vladimir Putin Surprised By Boos At Martial Arts Fight

Booted by fight fans in Moscow, is Vladimir Putin losing his base support, asked Owen Matthews.



Owen Matthews | Updated Jul. 13, 2017 11:22PM EDT / Published Nov. 22, 2011 4:46PM EST



Alexey Druzhinin, AFP / Getty Images

Putin climbed into the ring and took the microphone to congratulate Fedor, but the fired-up crowd seemed to take offense to the politician grabbing the spotlight. Boos and hisses rained down. It was reported around the world as the first time the Russian president had been jeered in public.

Monson was taken to a hospital, where doctors put a cast on his leg and stitched his lip. In the meantime, a Kremlin spokesman claimed the fans were not actually booing Putin, but Monson for leaving the ring before the decision was announced. This prompted an angry reaction from thousands of Russians, who took to Monson's public Facebook page to express their support:

Jeff, I respect you!

You are strong, hard fighter.

Putin - the coward and the liar who tries to be covered with you. He is - a country shame.

Yours faithfully, Martin.

St. Petersburg, Russia

After the fight, Jeff met Vladimir, who at this point was desperate at finding celebrities who could promote the Russian cause. Putin later called Monson and told him that he'd be "always welcome" in Russia, after calling Jeff a "real man".

5/15



The day after the fight, Monson laid in bed in his Moscow hotel room, his face swollen, leg broken, feeling sick that he had blown the biggest fight of his life. The phone rang but he let it go. A hotel security guard knocked at the door. *Pick it up next time*, he said.

It was Putin. He told Monson it was a good fight and he should be proud of his performance. Furthermore, he was always welcome in Russia. Repeating the phrase Monson would hear over and over in the country, Putin told him: "You are a real man."

This must've been a turning point in Jeff's life - in 2015, he stated that he had a "Russian soul" and that he felt solidarity with the Russian people, after which he applied for a Russian citizenship. Finally in 2018, Putin granted Monson a Russian passport.

6/15

Those who know me know that I never hold back when it comes to things I care about. I sure as hell don't plan to start now. But my critics will be sad to hear that my decision wasn't the result of my longtime dislike of America's aggressive foreign policy or imperialistic capitalist ambitions.

Rather, it was due to my solidarity with the Russian people, something I felt when I first visited Russia in 2011. I felt deep down right away that this is my home—the one place I feel at peace with myself and my surroundings. And it was as unexpected for me as it would be for nearly any American.



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Pic: UFC Veteran Jeff Monson 62 Hates America, Seeks Russian Citizenship

posted by *Jesse Holland* on Jun 15, 2015



Встретился с американским бойцом Джеффом Монсоном. Хочет получить гражданство России. Поможем!

Translated from Russian by bing


Wrong translation?

Met with the American fighter Jeff Monson. Wants to get Russian citizenship. Help!



Former UFC heavyweight contender Jeff Monson has apparently had his fill of the United States, and will now seek citizenship in Russia with a little help from leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy (via **Bloody Elbow**), despite the fact that its health care system **relies on smoke and chicken wire** to treat mortal wounds. "I feel Russian in spirit," **Monson told TV channel Dozhd**. I blame Obamacare.

American M.M.A. Fighter Granted Russian Citizenship

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Jeff Monson, known as the Snowman as a mixed-martial arts fighter, gained prominence in Russia in 2011. Sergey Ponomarev for The New York Times

By Oleg Matsnev

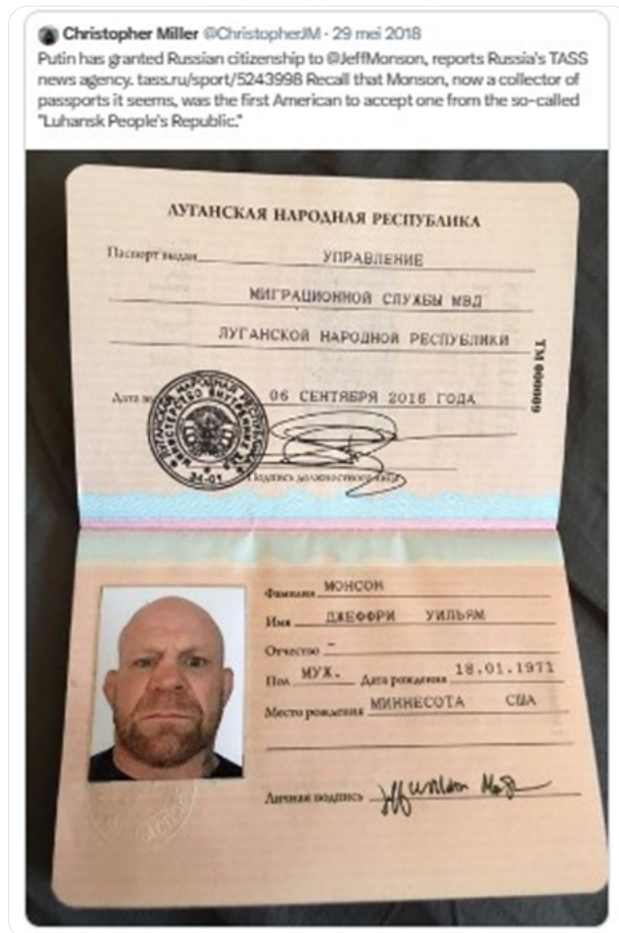
May 29, 2018

Interestingly, the made-up republics of Abkhazia and Luhansk granted Jeff citizenships already in 2016 and in 2017, so by 2018 he had accumulated a total of four passports. In May 2023, Monson officially renounced his American citizenship.

citizenship from a couple dubious states linked to Russia.

In 2016, Mr. Monson was named an honorary citizen of Abkhazia, a nominally independent enclave which broke away from Georgia and which few other nations outside Russia recognize.

Last year he also became a citizen of the Luhansk People's Republic, which even Russia still considers part of Ukraine despite its backing of the separatist forces fighting a war there.





Monson initially sided with Gennady Zyuganov's CCCP in 2016. Soon disappointment set in over the the lack of ideology "There are no communists in the communist party in Russia". He later ran as an independent representative and was elected to the city дума of Krasnogorsk.

Jeff Monson's journey from American MMA muscle to Russian propagandist



▶ Jeff Monson was a member of the Communist Party before changing allegiance to Vladimir Putin's United Russia. Photograph: Yuri Kadobnov/AFP/Getty Images
The one-time UFC title challenger has gone from helping children deal with trauma to a mouthpiece for Vladimir Putin's

“I was invited by United Russia party to run but I am independent. Unfortunately I learned there are no communists in Communist party in Russia,” Monson said on Monday.

Monson, a vocal critic of U.S. foreign policy, said in January 2016 he was applying for Russian citizenship because he had felt a solidarity with the Russian people since he first visited their country in 2011.

NEWS

'If I enter a competition, I expect to win' Russian citizenship in hand, mixed martial artist Jeff Monson is running for city council outside Moscow

7:39 pm, June 14, 2018 · Source: Meduza



Mikhail Pochuev / TASS / Scanpix / LETA

Mixed martial artist Jeff Monson is the proud winner of United Russia's primaries in Krasnogorsk, and now he can run for a seat on the city council. Monson even has the governor's endorsement. It's quite a feat for a man who only last month acquired Russian citizenship (and renounced his U.S. citizenship). Monson is known for his love of Russia (especially its Soviet past), and he recently opened a martial arts school in Krasnogorsk. In an interview with *Meduza*, he explained his turn to Russian politics.



Fighter Jeff Monson became a deputy in Russia

American fighter Jeff Monson, who recently received Russian citizenship, became a deputy of the Krasnogorsk City Duma. Igor Vostrikov, who lost his family in Winter Cherry, and Sergei Skripal's niece Victoria did not get into the regional councils



Jeff Monson (Photo: Mikhail Pochuev / TASS)

Monson has strongly supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine since 2014, and he's made many propaganda trips to Eastern Ukraine since then. He supports the Kremlin false narrative Ukraine being run by "fascists".



Jeff Monson
@JeffMonson

In Lugansk visiting front line of Ukraine conflict



11:45 PM · Jun 28, 2016

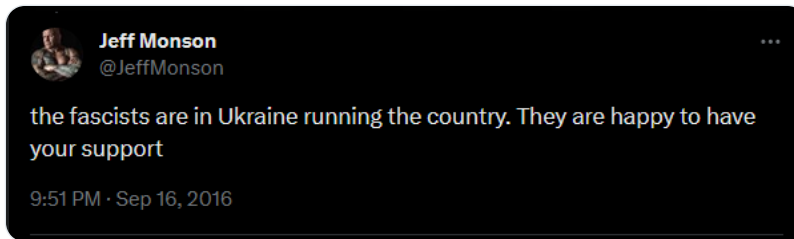


Jeff Monson
@JeffMonson

In Lugansk with Prokuror, the head of Night Wolves Donbass



9:45 AM · Jun 27, 2016



The Kremlin saw a valuable asset in Monson, and he was even given his own TV show on RT. Additionally he was handed the means to make a documentary "8 years before" to spread the false narrative that Ukraine and The West were responsible for the Donbass war since 2014.

10/15

BLOODY ELBOW

"America started this war by instigating the coup in 2014," Jeff Monson said in reference to Euromaidan before pushing a series of unverified conspiracy theories. "Since then, they have been supplying Ukraine with weapons to destabilize the country. Ukraine is going to become a colony of corporate America."

It remains unclear whether Jeff Monson has officially surrendered his U.S. passport yet. He continues to be referred to as an "American MMA fighter" in Russian media.



He would later become the face of several charities connected with the new regions, like opening "fighting schools" in Donbass and handing out medicines to soldiers in Luhansk. These "humanitarian missions" done by Westerners are staple of Kremlin propaganda.

11/15

23.03.2023 at 12:40

Volunteers, former MMA fighter Monson deliver medications for LPR servicemen

Society

[Read in Russian](#)



MMA fighter Jeff Monson to open schools in Russia's Donetsk People's Republic

By Joshua Manning - Published: 16 Sep 2022 - 14:25

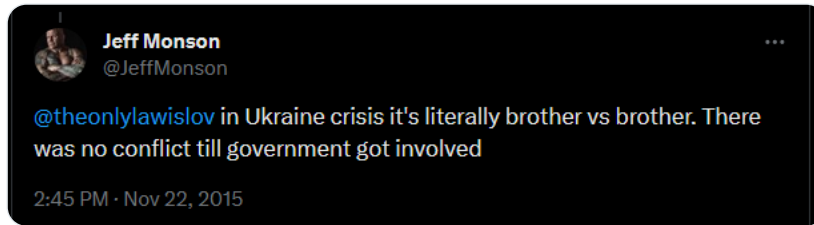


MMA fighter Jeff Monson to open schools in Russia's Donetsk People's Republic Credit: Sergey Bezgodov/Shutterstock.com

Jeff Monson, an American-Russian MMA fighter is planning to open schools in Russia's Donetsk People's Republic, a breakaway state located in Donetsk, Ukraine, as reported on Friday, September 16.



Monson's reasoning for the war follows closely the one of the Kremlin's - according to him, Russian didn't want to kill their "Ukrainian brothers and sisters" and "Russia had no desire to conquer the whole of Ukraine but was fighting Ukrainian Nazis in Donbass".



"This [conflict] benefits the big corporations of America, which benefits the leaders of America, the government leaders who get money from these corporations for the reelection campaigns, for their political parties," Monson told Sputnik. "So very, very few people benefit from this, the Congress people, the big businesses. And that's why America is in this conflict, not because ordinary Americans want this [proxy] war. No, because the media has sold this to ordinary Americans that they think they're supporting something good."



"Ukraine and Russia used to be one country, ... everyone wants this to end. No one wants it to continue. No one wants to take over Ukraine ... and have Russians and Ukrainians killed," Monson maintains.

"Russians are like, 'They're our brothers. Why are we shooting Ukrainians?' Even the people who, like most people, are supportive of the Russian military, who are supporting Putin ... don't want it. They would wish it would end tomorrow."

“I have friends in Europe who think Russia is the bad guy or Russia is the aggressor that is trying to attack Ukraine, take over Ukraine, occupy Ukraine, which is absolute nonsense. Russia doesn’t have the desire nor the economic or military capacity to hold a country that doesn’t want to be held. They are trying to help the people of Donbas and are trying to rid Ukraine of Nazis and fascism.”

In 2023, Monson made yet another political turn by joining Putin's United Russia, a party on the opposite spectrum of his communist beliefs. He solidified his support for Putin and the war by taking a big Z tattoo and stating Russia has more democracy than the US.

American-born mixed martial artist Jeff Monson has been **elected** to office in the regional parliament of Russia's republic of Bashkortostan, as the Central Election Commission on Wednesday officially recognized the results of this past weekend's vote.

Monson will now serve among the 87 ruling United Russia party members who were elected to Bashkortostan's 110-seat state assembly, known as Kurultai, according to the party's list of elected representatives.

President Vladimir Putin **granted** Russian citizenship to Monson in 2018, and earlier this year the athlete **renounced** his U.S. citizenship.

Over the weekend, Russia held elections across dozens of regions, including partially occupied Ukrainian regions that Russian forces captured following Moscow's full-scale invasion.

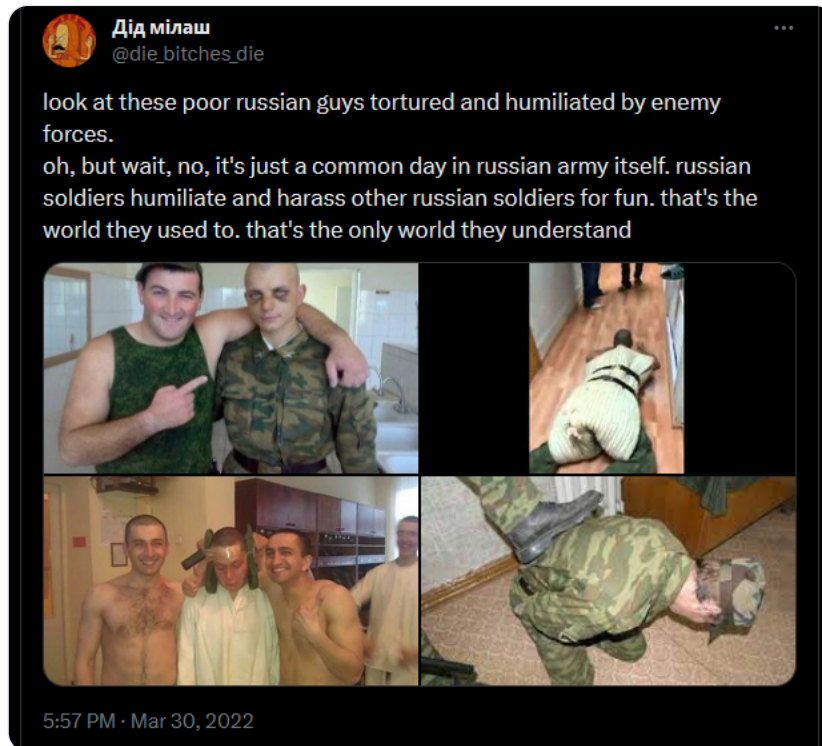


While being a clear advocate of the war in Ukraine, the idea of being sent to the front scares Jeff: "I hope I don't get drafted." He probably knows how well the Russian soldiers are treated and would rather stay in Russia as a propagandist.

After spending the last few months working on a propaganda documentary promoting Russia's war in Ukraine, Jeff Monson admitted he would rather not be sent to the frontlines.

Speaking to Russian news source Metaratings, the former UFC title challenger revealed that he does not want to get called up as part of Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent conscription drive.

"I hope I don't get drafted," Monson said. "I think everyone hopes that he will not be called up. I want Russia to win this confrontation as quickly as possible."



To conclude, Jeff Monson represents the far-left "tankie" group of Kremlin apologists whose view on Russia is not based on any reality. His "strongman" ego helped him gain attention of Putin's, and he's been heavily utilized as an anti-Western propagandist in Russia.

Tankie is a pejorative label generally applied to [communists](#) who express support for one-party communist regimes that are associated with [Marxism–Leninism](#), whether contemporary or historical. It is commonly used by [anti-authoritarian](#) leftists, including [anarchists](#), [libertarian socialists](#), [left communists](#), [democratic socialists](#), and [reformists](#) to criticise [Leninism](#), although the term has seen increasing use by [liberals](#) and [right-wing](#) factions as well.^{[5][6]}

The term "tankie" was originally used by dissident Marxist–Leninists to describe members of the [Communist Party of Great Britain](#) (CPGB) who followed the [party line](#) of the [Communist Party of the Soviet Union](#) (CPSU). Specifically, it was used to distinguish party members who spoke out in defense of the Soviet use of [tanks](#) to crush the [Hungarian Revolution of 1956](#) and the [1968 Prague Spring uprising](#), or who more broadly adhered to pro-Soviet positions.^{[7][8]}



This soup was done in collaboration with NAFO activist SLAVAUA2022.

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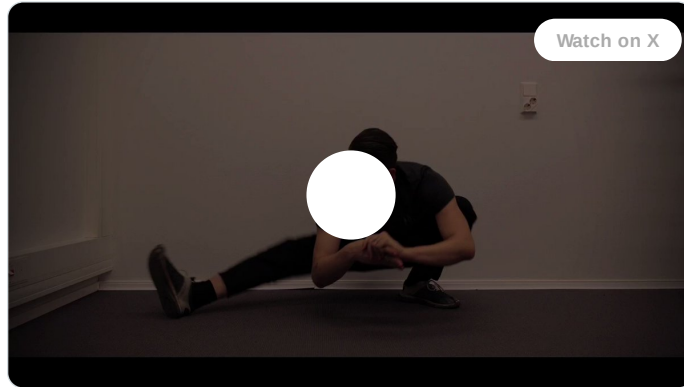


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4:31 PM · Nov 21, 2023



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