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Feb 7, 2024 · 13 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1755155762853163033](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1755155762853163033)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce the troll farm/paid shill talking points on the Carlson-Putin interview.

These are the most common arguments that pop up in the comment section when people criticize the upcoming interview.

1/11



"It's good to hear the story from both sides"

In this case, the other side is a genocidal warmonger who even killed hundreds of his own people to justify a war in Chechnya. Putin can provide his perspective at the Hague.

2/11

Press Release: 17 March 2023 | Українська мова | Русский

Situation in Ukraine: ICC judges issue arrest warrants against Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova



"Tucker is a journalist, let him do his job"

Tucker is a propagandist who is also extremely biased: In 2019, he said that "We should probably take the side of Russia if we have to choose between Russia and Ukraine":



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In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an American political commentator and pro-Kremlin propagandist, Tucker Carlson (@TuckerCarlson). He's best-known for his outrageous lies and for his pro-Putin, anti-Ukrainian views while working for Fox News.

1/23



10:46 AM · May 2, 2023



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MEDIA

You Literally Can't Believe The Facts Tucker Carlson Tells You. So Say Fox's Lawyers

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 · 4:34 PM ET

 David Folkenflik



Tori Otten / April 27, 2023 / 5:58 p.m. ET

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Watch Tucker Carlson Admit That His Fox Show Was a Total Scam

Carlson has put out his first public statement since he was fired from Fox News—and it's a doozy.



JANOS KUMMER-GETTY IMAGES

"What about Gonzalo Lira?"

Lira was not a journalist, he was a dating coach who beat up his wife, kids and disabled nephew, who violated the Article 436-2 of Ukraine's Criminal Code and tried to flee the country while on bail:

4/11



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In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an opportunist, grifter and YouTuber Gonzalo Lira (@GonzaloLira1968). He's best-known for appearing as an expert and making money from controversial topics, such as the "Red Pill" movement, economics and of course the war in Ukraine.

1/21



11:43 AM · Apr 1, 2023 i

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4.4K

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"The US is not at war with Russia"

Then why does the Kremlin call it a NATO proxy war?

5/11



"Why aren't you talking about Biden/border crisis/corruption in Ukraine/Nazis/Hunter Biden and biolabs?"

Because we're talking about Tucker Carlson and you're avoiding the topic. Anyway, here's a thread on the Kremlin's main narratives:

6/11



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In today's #vatniksoup and another edition of "You pronounced this nonsense, not me", I'll go through some of the most common pro-Russian claims and tropes. I have discussed these in previous soups, but I feel like this type of general collection would be a helpful resource.
1/23



12:23 PM · Mar 10, 2023



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"Zelenskyy banned opposing media"

Ukraine banned Medvedchuk's - a personal friend of Putin's - TV channels that spread pro-Kremlin propaganda. He also banned Serhiy Liovochkin's website that was even worse than Medvedchuk's channels.

Also, Russia invaded Ukraine.

7/11

The major successor to ousted Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions, OPFL has become Ukraine's most sanctioned party. In February 2021, the NSDC banned three TV channels related to OPFL leader and Putin's personal friend, the MP Viktor Medvedchuk: the once influential NewsOne, 112 Ukraine, and ZIK news outlets, whose programming mainly consisted of political reporting and talk shows. Medvedchuk had devoted four years to building up his media empire, and by 2020 he was one of the [ten richest Ukrainians](#). Formally, the owners of the three TV channels were stalking horses, in one [instance](#) a [German seller of used cars](#), though Medvedchuk was [believed to control](#) all three. At the time the sanctions were imposed, most of Medvedchuk's media empire formally belonged to Taras Kozak, OPFL MP and Medvedchuk's close ally and frequent companion on trips to Moscow. In February 2021, both Kozak and Medvedchuk were [accused of treason](#). The former fled to Belarus and has not returned to Ukraine. In May 2021, Medvedchuk was placed under house arrest, which continues to this day. OPFL, which used to rank high in the polls, consistently second to the leading Servant of the People party, lost almost a third of its voters after the sanctions were introduced.

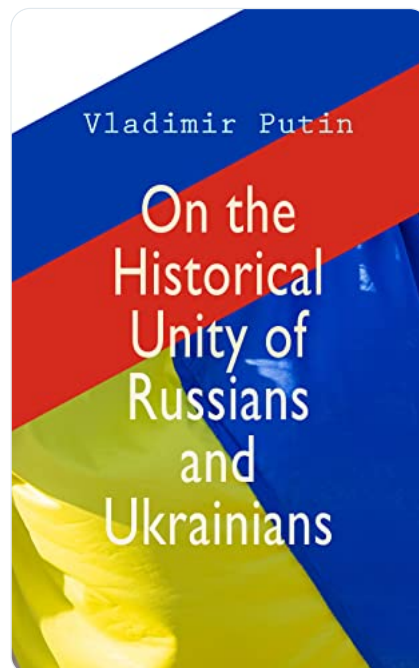
OPFL's support and name recognition have largely been based on its affiliated media empire, consisting of Medvedchuk's three TV channels with an audience in the millions. In trying to save his sanctioned property, Medvedchuk converted his TV channels into a new one, [Pershiy Nezalezhnyi \(First Independent\)](#). However, its satellite broadcasting was banned within the hour by Ukraine's security services, so it moved to YouTube. Yet another attempt to collaborate with Nezalezhni (Independents) [media](#) connected to ex-MP Andriy Derkach, under U.S. sanctions since August 2020 for allegedly interfering in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, has failed. Trying to circumvent the sanctions, Nestor Shufrych, OPFL MP and a former minister under Yanukovich, reregistered Medvedchuk's media property to himself—and both the NSDC and YouTube banned it again.

In August 2021, the NSDC went further and sanctioned a new target, the Strana.ua news website, affiliated with OPFL MP Serhiy Liovochkin. Strana.ua parroted the Kremlin's narratives even more strenuously than Medvedchuk's TV channels had. In addition, the NSDC banned the Sharij.net website, managed by Medvedchuk's political ally Anatoliy Shariy, leader of the OPFL B-team Party of Shariy. Shariy, who has lived abroad since 2012, has described himself as an [independent investigative blogger](#), but many feel he repeats Russian propaganda and amplifies the Kremlin's messaging.

"I want to hear what his [Putin's] interests are from his own mouth"

They're not a secret, you can read them from his 2021 revisionist and genocidal essay "On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians".

8/11



"I've always wanted to see a Putin interview because it never happens"

Putin has been interviewed many times. For example, by Larry King in 2000, Barbara Walters in 2001, his lapdog Oliver Stone in 2015-2017, Megyn Kelly and @ArminWolf in 2018, and Keir Simmons in 2021.

9/11



In all of them, Putin evades the difficult questions, rewrites history to fit the Kremlin's narrative, and instead blames the West for everything. Wolf was one of the few who actually challenged him, see the interview with English captions below.

10/11



Finally, there is absolutely no media freedom in Russia and their World Press Freedom Index is one of the worst in the whole world.

More on how Russia treats its own journalists:



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In today's [#vatniksoup](#) I'm going to be talking about the most dangerous profession in Russia: journalism. Many investigative journalists have sacrificed their lives to shed light into corruption, kleptocracy and war crimes committed in both Soviet Union and in Russia.

1/24



12:32 PM · Mar 14, 2023



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Russia Drops to Bottom 20 of World Press Freedom Index

May 3, 2023



Valery Tenevoy / unsplash

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The Soup Central

The Soup Central gives you in-depth knowledge on disinformation, bad actors and information operations.

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheSoupCentral/videos>

Tucker Carlson telling Ukrainians how they should hear Putin's side



APPENDIX:

I forgot the English captions from the Wolf interview - here they are.



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