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Apr 1 • 103 tweets • [kamilkazani/status/1509968359483445256](https://twitter.com/kamilkazani/status/1509968359483445256)

Imperial Reboot

In a previous thread I outlined three scenarios for the Russian future:

1. North Korea
2. Imperial Reboot
3. National Divorce

Last time I discussed North Korea (Putin stays in power). Now I'll reiterate its main points and then outline the Imperial Reboot



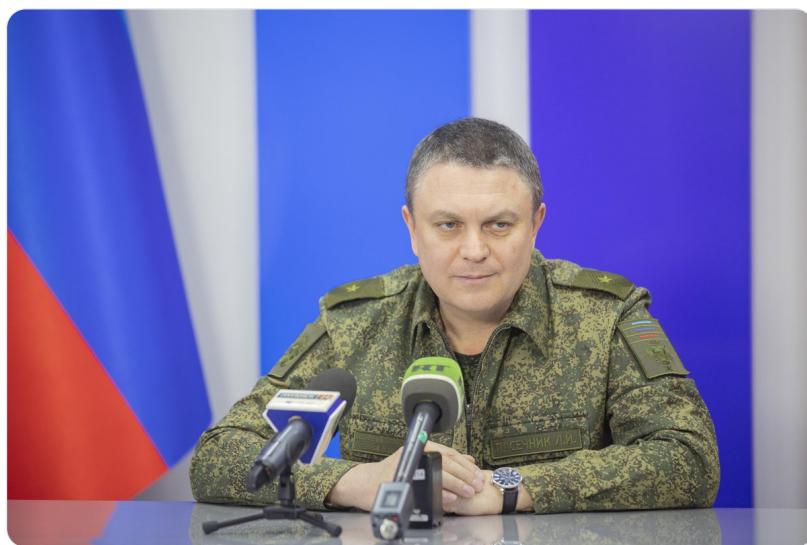
When I said that should Putin stay in power, Russia becomes North Korea I referred to its foreign policy. It'd be highly militarised, aggressive and isolationist nation that will have no other major partners but China. It will be obsessed with revenge against Ukraine and the West



However, domestic policy-wise it would be more accurate to say that Russia will turn into a huge Donbass. Donbass is a part of Ukraine that was misfortunate enough to fall under the Russian rule and became a laboratory for a Kremlin's gargantuan experiment in social engineering



In Donbass Kremlin's agents rule freely without any procedural constraints, including even the Russian law. And what society did they build there? Well, a hypermilitarised kleptocracy. Donbass experiment worked out so well that now it's likely to be scaled up in entire Russia



Donbass is now a fully militarised statist society. There's almost no private sector. Locals must either work for government enterprises (for food) or serve in Donbass army (for better wage). You have no choice but to toil for pro-Russian warlords or to shed your blood for them



There's no law in Donbass, people have no protection against the arbitrary rule of pro-Russian warlords. There's obviously no place for dissidence, those who object will just disappear. People are purposefully kept in poverty so they can be better used as workers or cannon fodder



Russian sources paint grim picture of the WWI-style war in East Ukraine. Z-forces do frontline attacks on fortified Ukrainian positions again and again. They suffer huge losses with almost no progress but commanders keep sending them in frontline assaults. As Strelkov points out:

Стрелков Игорь Иванович
По ситуации на фронте:

Донецкий регион: тяжелые бои в Мариуполе, в районе Углерада (на вчерашний вечер не взят, вопреки официальным сообщениям, на основании которых об ее занятии писал и говорил я сам), в Марьинке и вокруг нее, в районе Верхнеторецкого, в агломерации Северодонецк-Лисичанск, в районе Изюма и самом городе. За вчерашний день фронт противника нигде не был прорван или существенно отодвинут.

ВС ДНР везде понемногу продвигаются, однако и ВСУ регулярно контратакуют. И если так все пойдет дальше, - к середине апреля "кадровых" ВС ДНР (в меньшие степени - ВС ЛНР, но там ситуация тоже не сильно отличается) - просто не останется физически. А совершенно необученными мобилизованными резервистами (которых тоже бросают в бой - с соответствующими потерями) - много не навожешь. Понимают-ли это в российском командовании, продолжая бросать донецкую пехоту побоищ атаки изо дня в день - я затрудняюсь ответить. Противник тоже несет очень тяжелые потери, но и мобилизационный резерв у него гораздо более значительный - больше в разы. А ведь на очереди - не менее сильно укрепленные и крайне неудобные для штурма тыловые укротраны врага в Куряжово, Бахмуте, Соледаре, агломерации Славянск-Краматорск-Дружковка-Константиновка. И часть из них уже заняты гарнизонами врага, готовящимися к обороне.

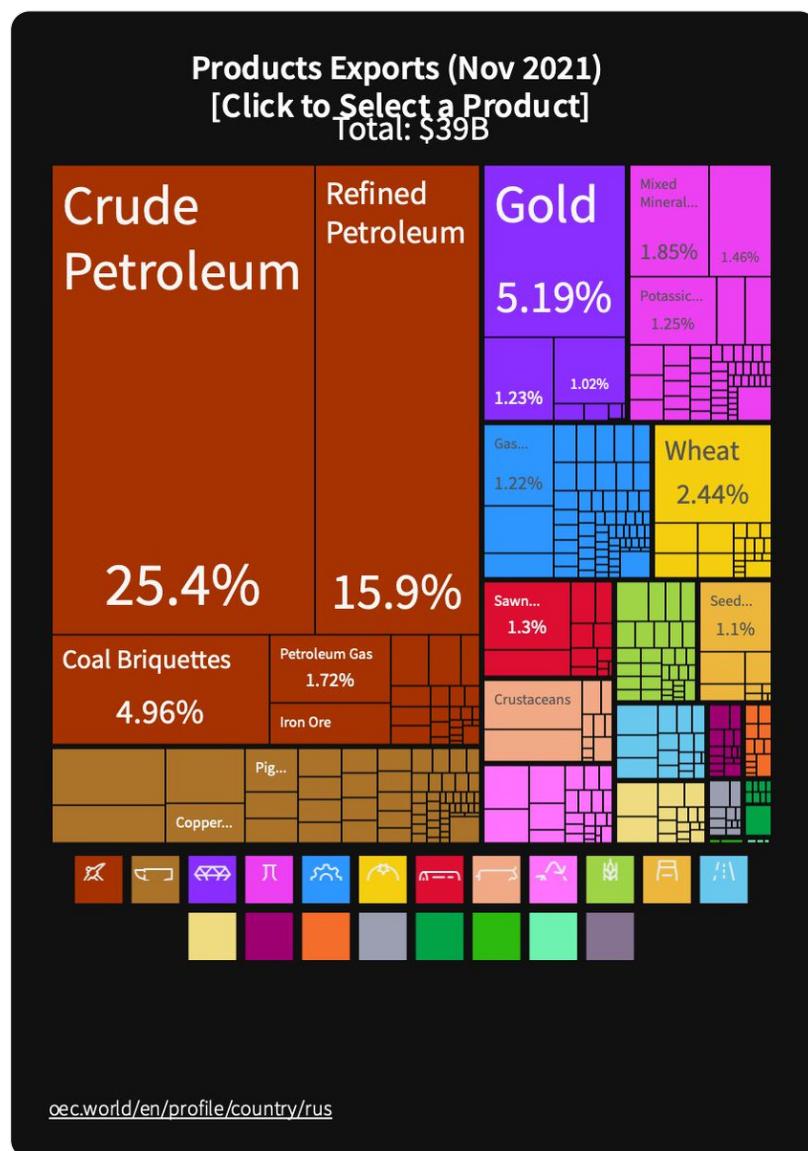
Напоминаю, что в имперское и в советское время мобилизованные военисплаужие перед отправкой на фронт проходили хотя бы краткосрочную подготовку-запасовки-частей. А гвардейцы, артиллеристы, саперы, санитары (и т.д.) - приходили на фронт уже обученными своей военной профессии в достаточной степени. Иначе они не смогли бы возвратиться. О создании такого рода частей и подразделений в ЛДНР - мне ничего не известно (проще говоря - их нет, если бы были - я бы знал). А война - надолго. И если лекотинца можно еще бросать в бой в надежде, что "сам всему за пару дней научится, если уцелеет", то кого будут сажать за рабочи бояевых машин, когда "выбют всех стариков" - мне не понятно. Тем более, что через границу ДОБРОВОЛЬЦЕВ ИЗ РФ НЕ ПРОПУСКАЮТ. Часто даже тех, у кого есть "вызовы" в конкретные воинские части. При чем - не пропускают именно "пограничные органы ЛДНР". Почему это делается и для чего - остается только гадать...

Под Николаевым и южнее Кривого Рога - также шли упорные бои, оперативного результата которых я не знаю. Судя по отсутствию победных реалий - особых успехов российские войска там не имеют. Такая же картина - под Киевом. От Чернигова до Харькова - бои и стычки местного значения. Линия фронта не изменилась.

Вполне возможно, что в ближайшие несколько недель будет "открыт новый фронт" западнее Киева. Об этом свидетельствует лихорадочная подготовка полками своего "экспедиционного корпуса" для участия в боевых действиях на западной Украине. О возможности такого шага со стороны "дорогих западных партнеров" в случае, если ВС РФ не удастся достичь решающих успехов в течение первых недель "специальной операции" - я предупреждал с самого начала. Решатся ли полки вмешаться в войну, или нет - узнаем скоро.

Now whom are Russians sending to these frontline attacks? Well, the Donbass people. They do "total mobilisation" in Donetsk and Luhansk and send these guys to frontline attacks. That's very smart. They're not Russian soldiers, so you can keep official casualty numbers low

Why would Russia itself turn into a Donbass? First, Russia has been lowkey drifting to the Donbass state for years. It's an oil exporter that is running out of cheap oil and wants to stay highly militarised. Thus it must reduce life standards and personal freedoms



Second, main arguments against sanctions are both true or false depending on whether we view them in a short term or in a long term. Yes, they may lead to Putin increasing his power in Russia. And they will lead to Russian rapprochment with China. But only if Putin stays in power



Anecdotally in 1999 a general close to then Prime Minister Putin approached a Moscow businessman. He asked him for investment: give us N dollars and join the club. We need cash right now. And when we take power "nobody in the country will have money but us". You can be one of us



This businessman didn't invest. He didn't have enough available cash. Neither did he really believe that yet another Yeltsin's PM would be able to consolidate power. And yet, Putin did consolidate it and soon nobody in Russia had (big) money except for his team. General was right



Independent money is always a threat to established order. Financial resources can and will be used for renegotiating the power balance. That's why independent fortunes shouldn't exist. Ideally people should have no sources of cash except for the government wage. As in Donbass



Paradoxically, destruction of Russian private sector as a result of sanctions can lead to Putin increasing his power within Russia (provided that he stays in power). If Russia can export resources, the government will have cash but normal people won't. That's very advantageous

Mar 7, 2022 at 9:46 am ET ★

Germany Says It Won't Stop Buying Russian Energy Despite Moscow's War in Ukraine

By Bojan Pancevski



Russian energy is essential for the daily lives of German citizens, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Monday.. PATRICK PLEUL/ZUMA PRESS

Furthermore, integration with China is possible. It just takes time. You can't reorient Russian technological import and resource exports from the West to China overnight, it gonna take years. Should Putin stay in power, Russia will have time to steadily progress in this direction



It'd be wrong to describe current Russian-Chinese relations as an alliance. Some Chinese intellectuals rather view Russia as an icebreaker that would clear a route for the Pax Sinica. This article may be representative of the mainstream Chinese discourse

Zheng Yongnian, Ukraine and the New World Order

Zheng Yongnian, "The War in Ukraine Blurs the Two Main Lines, But Many People Misunderstand China's Role" [1] Introduction and Translation by David Ownby
Introduction Zheng Yongnian (b....

<https://www.readingthechinadream.com/zheng-yongnian-ukraine-and-the-new-world-or...>

Putin's invasion of Ukraine could distract the US for 15-20 years. America being preoccupied with Russia, China will have time to grow stronger to "play a more important role in the construction of the new world order". Russia isn't a Chinese ally. It's a Chinese icebreaker

But now, Putin has shocked Europe, the United States, and the world by launching a full-scale war in Ukraine. It is unlikely that the U.S. will engage in this war by sending troops to Ukraine, but the U.S. truly recognizes its strategic misjudgment and realizes that Putin and Russia are still not to be underestimated. This will significantly slow down the shift of U.S. strategic energies from Europe to the Indo-Pacific region.

Moving forward, Putin expects to have another 15-20 years to further build and perfect his "mini-Soviet Union." For Americans, the assertion of the past few years that "China is the number one threat to the United States" may lose traction. This means that as long as we do not make any catastrophic strategic errors ourselves, not only will China's modernization process not be interrupted by the United States, but China can also play a more important role in the construction of the new world order.

China and the Emerging New World Order

The Scales of Geopolitics are once again Tilted in China's Favor

The behavior of NATO under U.S. leadership shows that the U.S. is no longer able to maintain the original world order of one superpower, and that the new world order is developing towards a complex pluralism. Today's world is dominated by not only Putin's Russia, but also Modi's India, Erdogan's Turkey, France and Germany in the European Union, and so on.

See the original publication here. This argument makes total sense and Putin will indeed serve as an icebreaker for the Pax Sinica, provided that Putin's regime survives Z-war and exists for yet another decade or two



Now the third reason for Russian turning into Donbass is that should Putin keep power, Russia will be obsessed by revenge and revanche. Russian public opinion absolutely will view peace with Ukraine as huge Putin's defeat. It already does



There will be lots of revanchist pressure. Consider this interview with a mother of a National Guardsman KIA. She admits she didn't think much about Ukraine before and operation went wrongly. But:

"If so many boys died, we can't stop now. We should continue, till the victory"

- Вы обсуждали с Женей тему Украины в последние восемь лет?

- Если честно, нет. Только когда по телевизору что-то увижу, всегда болезнавала, что такое творится [в Донбассе]. Стала вникать в конце января - начала копать, искать, куда же едет мой сын, какая заварушка там. С конца января я стала этим жить.

- Вы сама понимаете, почему началась эта война?

- Я понимаю это так, простыми словами: если бы не бомбили мы, то украинцы бомбили бы нас. Бомбить-то, наверное, надо было. Тут без вариантов. Но что-то пошло не так. Конечно, никто не ожидал такого. А сейчас, если уже столько парней полегло, то уже нельзя останавливаться. Нужно идти дальше. До победы.

- Вы понимаете, что делает Россия в Украине? За что воевал Женя?

- Я считаю, что мой сын воевал за нас, за Россию и русских. Чтобы мы могли с вами сейчас по телефону говорить, пить и кушать. Я думаю, он лег не зря там. А за нас. Чтобы мы жили долго и счастливо и чтобы у нас не было войны. Чтобы над нами не летали бомбы.

- В России запрещено называть этот конфликт войной. Вы сами воспринимаете это как войну или спецоперацию?

- Нет, я не воспринимаю это как специальную операцию. Это самая настоящая война. Я понимаю, что это признавать нельзя. Но это война. Там просто месиво.

She won't accept her son died in vain. Well technically he didn't. A grieving mother gets 7 441 000 rubles + monthly allowance. But she also needs clear consciousness (and social recognition). Will she ever admit her son died on a criminal war? You'll never manage to convince her

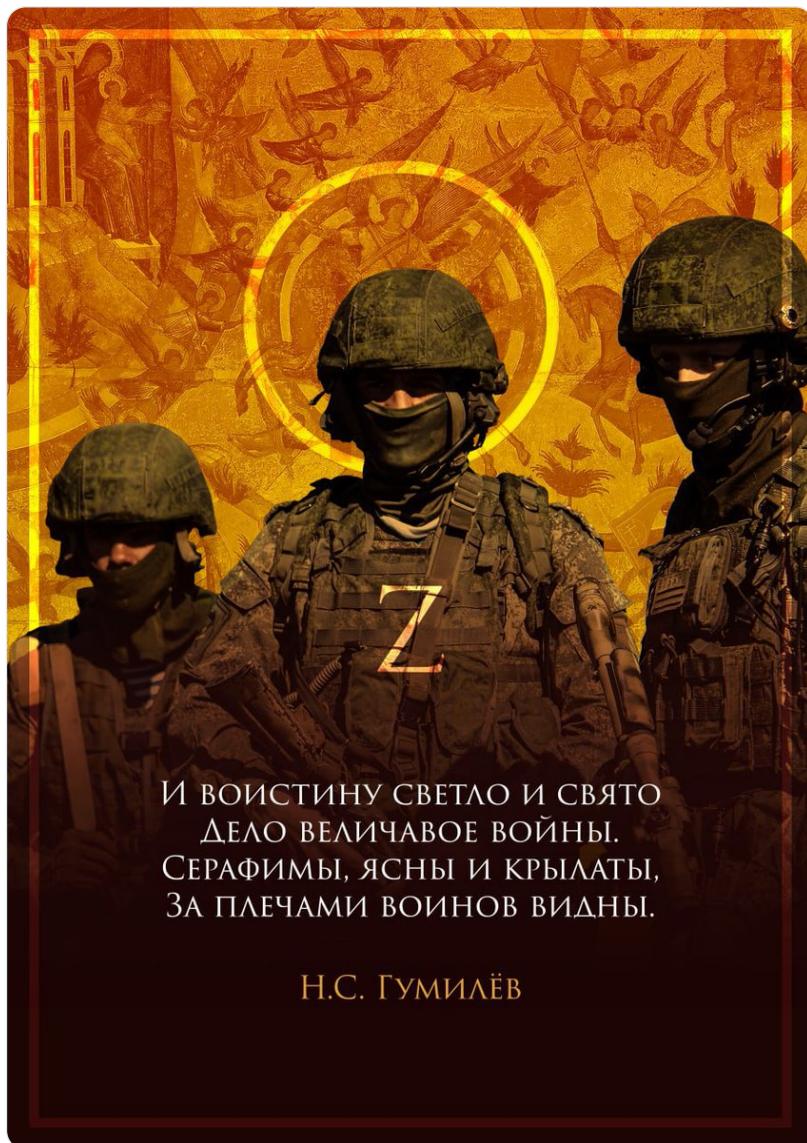


Russia suffered massive losses in Ukraine and will suffer more as the fighting keeps going. People will lose their relatives, friends neighbours. Their logic will work like this:

Our boys died -> They died for a good purpose -> We should regroup and complete what they started



Mass consciousness will choose a path of minimal suffering as it always does. And minimal suffering is secured through the glorification of vice. So Z-war will be glorious, Z-soldiers will be heroes and Russia will feel obliged to take revenge so that their death won't be in vain



There's no return to the status quo now. If Putin stays in power, he *must* regroup and attack again. Otherwise he gonna lose face and authority. In this revanche he will be supported by the majority of Russian society which shares the common imperial mythos and its values



If you think I'm exaggerating consider the Chechen Wars. In the First Chechen War Russia lost and signed a Khasavyurt Peace. Which was widely viewed as the national shame. So in a few years Russians regrouped and attacked again to restore their imperial honour and pride



Prime Minister Putin's invasion was widely supported by the political establishment. Chubays fully endorsed the war:

"I truly think that today in Chechnya we are solving not the Chechen question but an incomparably more important one: Russian army is being revived in Chechnya"



A revanchist war is a return to normal. It is a way to solve domestic problems and restore our mythos. We can't just accept we've been defeated by a former colony: we must return and finish what we've started. Russian mythos doesn't allow to accept defeats and demands a revanche



Putin could consolidate his power because he went with the flow. He acted in accordance with the Russian imperial mythos. That allowed him to quickly consolidate his power. A noname became a national leader in just 5 months because he took revenge for a Russian defeat



Like Chechnya, Ukraine is a former Russian colony which complicates everything. If Russia accepts a defeat, it will shatter Putin's mythos and undermine Russian imperial mythos as a whole. While victory is all redeeming, a defeat will have the opposite effect. That's unacceptable



Consider comments when Russia "decreased military activities on Kyiv and Chernihiv directions"

- That's ununderstandable
- Haha, they ran out of money for war. They'll retreat by May 9 to organise the Victory Parade
- America won. Putin's approval rate dropped
- No step back

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of a social media platform's comment section. Both screenshots have a header: "Минобороны сократит боевые действия на киевском и...".

Screenshot 1 (Left):

- Ivan Susannin:** Само нападение на 40 миллионную страну площадью в 2 ирака силами 200 000 солдат. Более того наши основные силы перебили в первые дни, это большая трагедия.
15:51 13 likes
- Andrey Andreev:** Что то как то совсем не понятно
15:51 1 like
- Roman Lisytsyn:** Ахаха, Деньги кончились на войну) как и было предсказано Лучковым, Путин сделает умную мину и уйдет из Украины. Как я предполагаю до 9 мая, чтобы символично провести парад.
15:51 10 likes
- Boris Lobov:** Сижу читаю, а самому стыдно, до печёнки, перед людьми которые нам поверили и за нашу страну, и за нашего президента, уровень злости, аж зашкаливает.
15:51 30 likes

Screenshot 2 (Right):

- Nikolay Frolov:** Америка добилась своего. Рейтинг власти рухнул.
16:14 26 likes
- Alexander Kirichenko:** Что за бред 🤦. Кому Они верят. Сейчас перегруппируются и опять орать начнут. Нельзя им слабину давать. Только вперёд назад не шагу.
16:15 16 likes
- Igor Petrov:** Но... Ведь есть другие направле...
16:16 15 likes
- Strauss R.:** Из парламентских выражений у меня только одно слово: "какого...?!"
16:16 16 likes

- No step back! What are you doing?!!! We pushed the Nazis a bit and that's it? In three years we'll need to fight again? Putin, blink if they have captured you!
- What for did we lose so many boys?
- So many broken lives. So many kids, women, elderly died. And it was all in vain?

Минобороны сократит боевые действия на киевском и...

D Дмитрий Тимошенко

Ни шагу назад! Вы что творите?!!!
Рассадник нацизма сместить на пару сотен км и всё? Через три года опять в бой? Путин В.В., моргните пожалуйста, если Вас взяли в плен!

15:53

16

KK Константин Козлов

За что ребят столько положили ??????????????????

15:53

17

Павел Герасимов

Сколько поломанных судеб.
Столько людей погибло, детей, стариков, женщин. И что, всё за зря?

15:53

11

luaz2004 luaz2141

Разве можно этим доверять за 8 лет
что не понятно было.

15:54

12

- That's it, Putin's power is over. That's a treason of our boys
- Shame. Everyone will reject you, negotiators...
- "Ukraine confirmed it's aspiration for neutral non-nuclear status". But it had same status before! What a crap! And now they have "aspiration"! Now that's a shame!

Минобороны сократит боевые действия на киевском и...

Сергей Новиков

ну все конец тогда власти путина ,предательство парней и людей погибших на донбассе

15:52

20

Nikola .

Позор все отвернуться от вас переговорщики

15:52

11

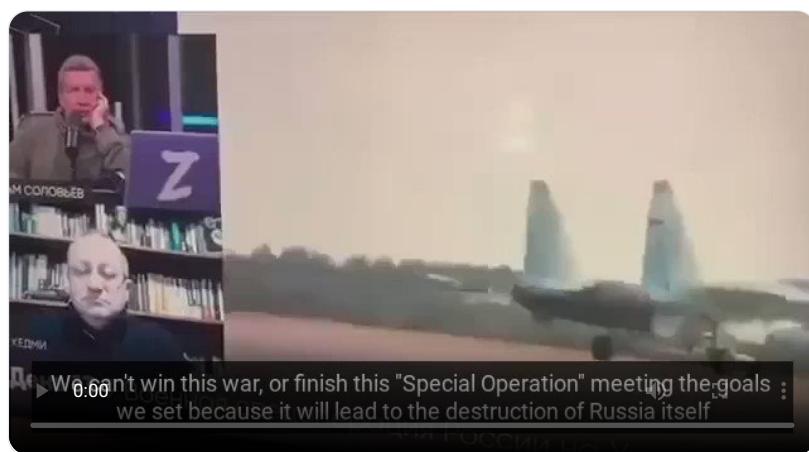
Константин 1

"РФ получила от Украины подтверждение ее стремления к нейтральному и безъядерному статусу", Так у нее этот статус и раньше был! Что за бред?! А теперь его у них "стремление"! Вот это позор!

15:52

20

That's how Putin's core supporters feel. They don't view results as a victory. They perceive it as a shame. Putin rose stakes too high and his demands for neutral non-nuclear status are viewed as a domestic policy tool. He needs to present a victory, but nobody believes he's won



► 0:00 We can't win this war, or finish this "Special Operation" meeting the goals : we set because it will lead to the destruction of Russia itself

Apart from people lamenting current results as a shame and a defeat and calls for continuing the war, we see here a very smart and realistic comment. One commenter mentioned that Putin will retreat by May 9. Why May 9? Because it's a Victory Parade commemorating the WWII



That doesn't mean that Putin *will* retreat by May 9. It means May 9 commemorating the end of the War with Germany is a benchmark. It's a deadline that exists in Putin's head and the heads of other Russians. Some sort of resolution must be achieved by that date



That makes total sense. Russian military operations have been often motivated by the need to meet symbolic deadlines. For example Russians suffered enormous casualties during the Siege of Plevna in 1877 because commanders wanted to take the fortress by the Alexander II's nameday



"There's a huge kurgan near Plevna
Corpses haven't decomposed there yet
To cheer the Tsar in his nameday
They killed many thousands of their own.
A nameday pie with the human meat
Is a gift to the emperor"

(Olhin's poem on the Siege of Plevna)



Back then Russian state cult was largely centered around the Emperor and his family. So military operations were planned in a way to achieve strategic success by some family holiday that was a symbolic deadline. That was suboptimal military-wise but very efficient state cult-wise



Now what constitutes Russian state cult now? I believe this Russian nationalist account summarizes it pretty well. It is the cult of WWII, which is called победобесие - "being possessed by the victory" in Russian. That's indeed a form of ancestral cult, cult of the dead

Russians With Attitude @RWApodcast · Mar 30

Replies to @RWApodcast

Much has been said about the “Cult of Victory” in modern Russia — the celebration of the Soviet victory in WW2 & its role in public memory, and state ideology. We’ve said this before, but for normal people this is basically secular ancestor worship.

7 108 1,218

Russians With Attitude @RWApodcast · Mar 30

Untold millions of Russians died in WW2, or the “Great Patriotic War”, as we call it. Every family in Russia and Ukraine has someone who fought and died. There are memorial actions like the “Immortal Regiment”, where families honor their ancestors who went through the hell of WW2



18 136 1,345

That's once used to be predominantly Christian. But then it was violently secularised by the Communists. So what do we have after this Bolshevik de-Abrahamization? Paradoxically, getting rid of Abrahamic values, Russia didn't move forward. It has fallen millennia back



Being violently de-Christianized Russia didn't enter the era of progress and reason. Instead it fall back to the Neolith. Russian cult of WWII is a form of a neolithic ancestral cult. It is thoroughly cleansed from any Abrahamic values and centered around the worship of the dead



WWII cult became Russian state religion for two reasons. First, people didn't believe in the bright future anymore. When Soviets were sincerely building Communism, WWII wasn't worshipped. But by the times of Brezhnev nobody believed we are building Communism or any future at all



If a country is building its future, people will be obsessed with it. But if we don't, then we'll be obsessed by the past. WWII cult is literally the past devouring the future. It's a form of ritual cannibalism interwoven into the ancestral cult

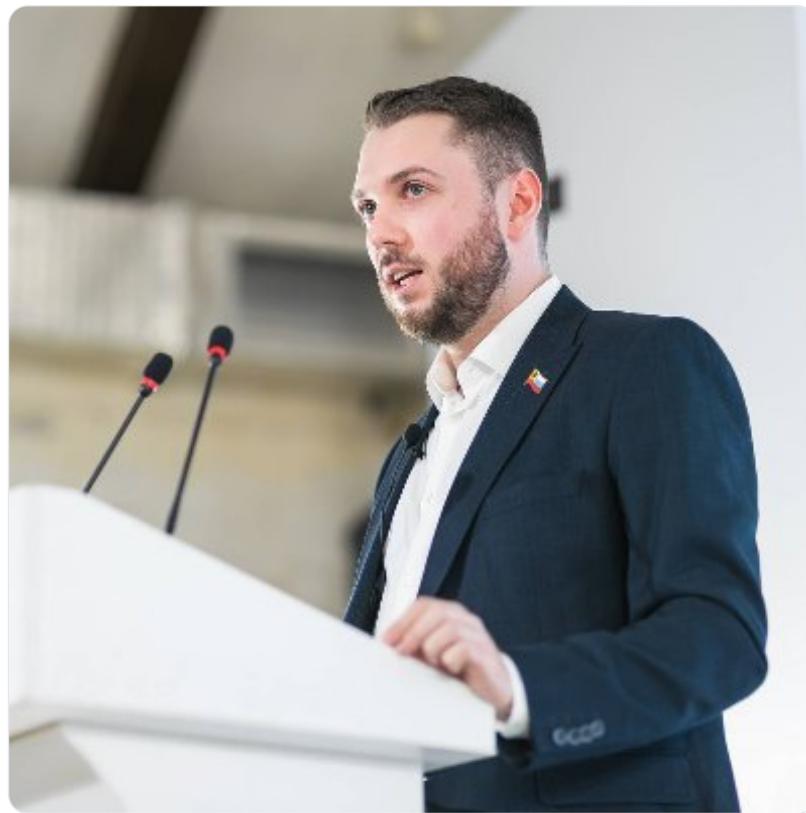


Russian society is indeed highly tolerant to war casualties in Z-context. That's not wrong. But who exactly is tolerant to casualties? The elderly. Fascist warmongering dead worshipping babushkas and dedushkas are more than willing to sacrifice their youngsters for the Victory

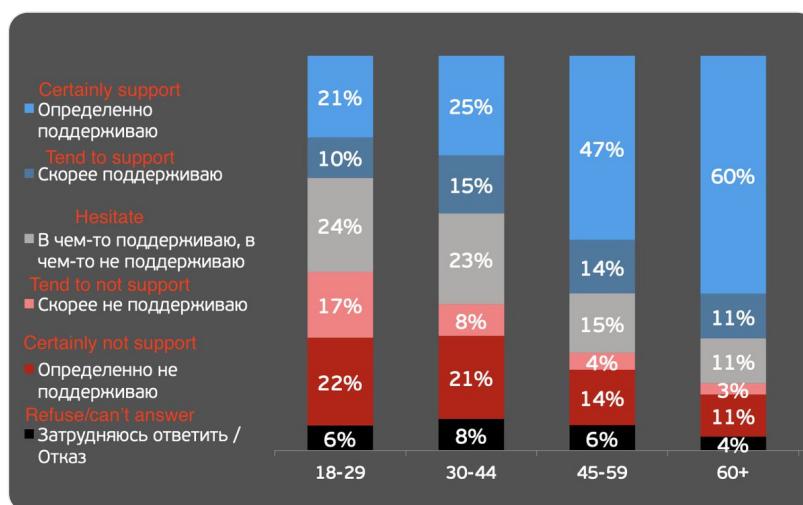


Polls support this view. What data we have on political preferences in Russian society? Analysts often refer to the Levada as the only independent sociological organisation in Russia. But "the only independent" sounds too much as a controlled opposition. Let's use something else

Consider this poll ordered from the Russian Field agency by a politician Roman Yuneman. Despite his German surname, he is a Russian ethnonationalist. He argues that decision to rush Z was a mistake but now Russia has no choice but to fight till the victory
dropmefiles.com/oNhnB

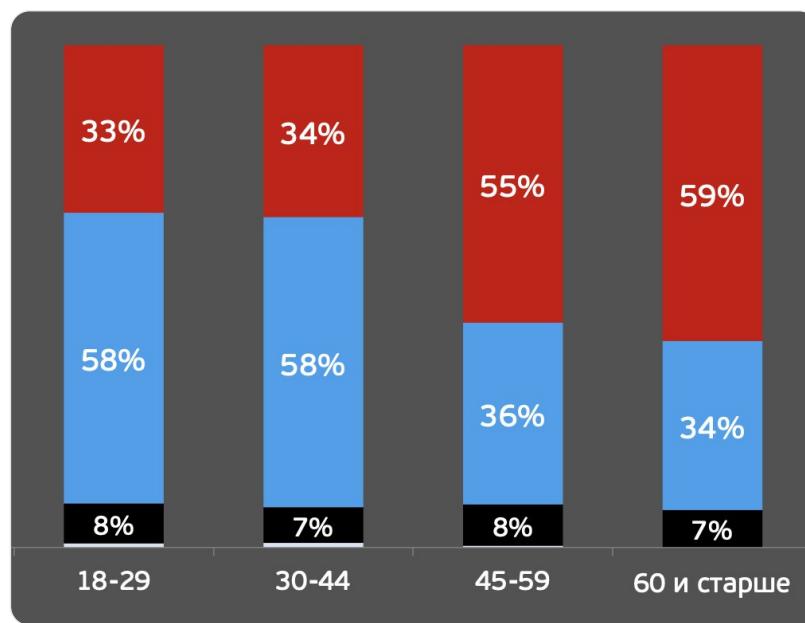


It's a small poll, 1000 Moscow respondents but its results are interesting. Question "Do you support Special Operation in Ukraine?" reveals age asymmetry. Elderly mostly stand for Z while youngsters 18-29 are divided. There are less youngsters who support Z than those who don't



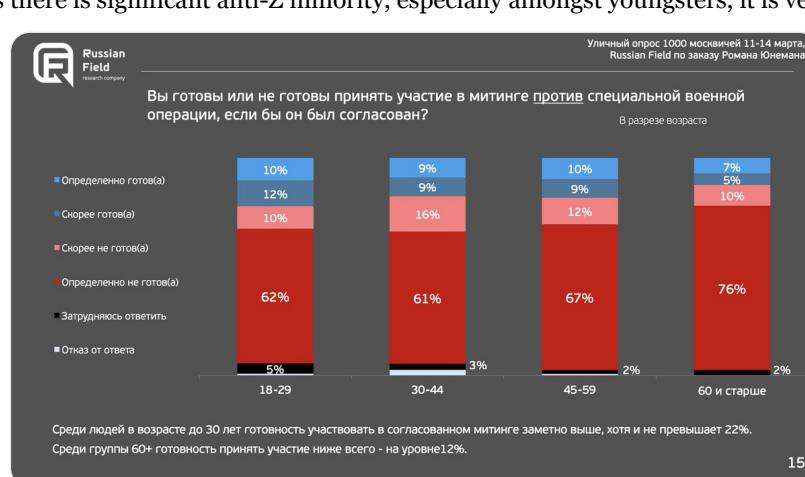
"Should we continue the Special Operation in Ukraine (red) or start the peace talk (blue)?".

Again, majority of youngsters stand for the peace negotiations while the elderly largely support continuing the war till the victory



"Would you participate in a demonstration *against* the Special Operation if it was allowed?" Blue - yes, red - no. Only a small majority would actually protest against the war.

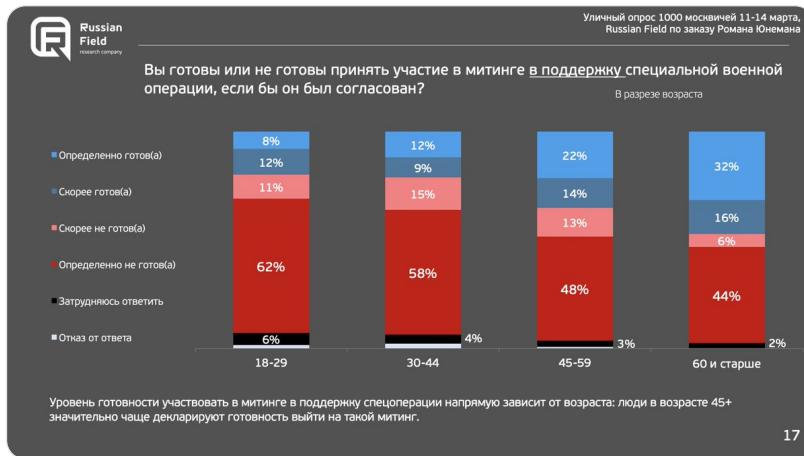
Whereas there is significant anti-Z minority, especially amongst youngsters, it is very passive



Среди людей в возрасте до 30 лет готовность участвовать в согласованном митинге заметно выше, хотя и не превышает 22%.

Среди группы 60+ готовность принять участие ниже всего - на уровне 12%.

"Would you participate in a demonstration *in support* of the Special Operation if it was allowed?" Blue - yes, red - no. Incredible, but pro-Putin's majority is also quite passive. That's amazing, because demonstrations in support of Z entail no risk at all to their participants



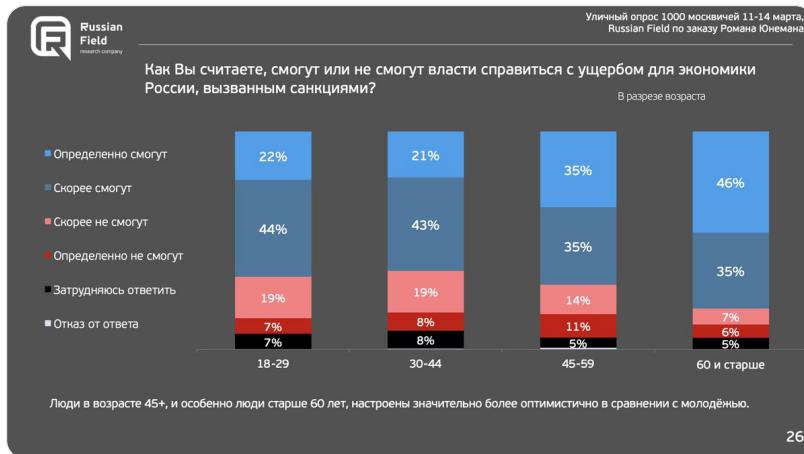
Z-opposers are reluctant to protest because of strong incentives against. They're afraid they can lose their jobs, can be beaten or potentially jailed. But those in favor of Z have nothing to fear. Considering this they're surprisingly passive, especially the pro-Z youngsters



"Will Special Operation increase probability of political upheavals in Russia: coup, revolution, etc?" Blue - yes, red - no. Youngsters believe that Z-war makes regime's fall more likely. Even young Z-supporters think regime is now more fragile. The elderly believe it's robust



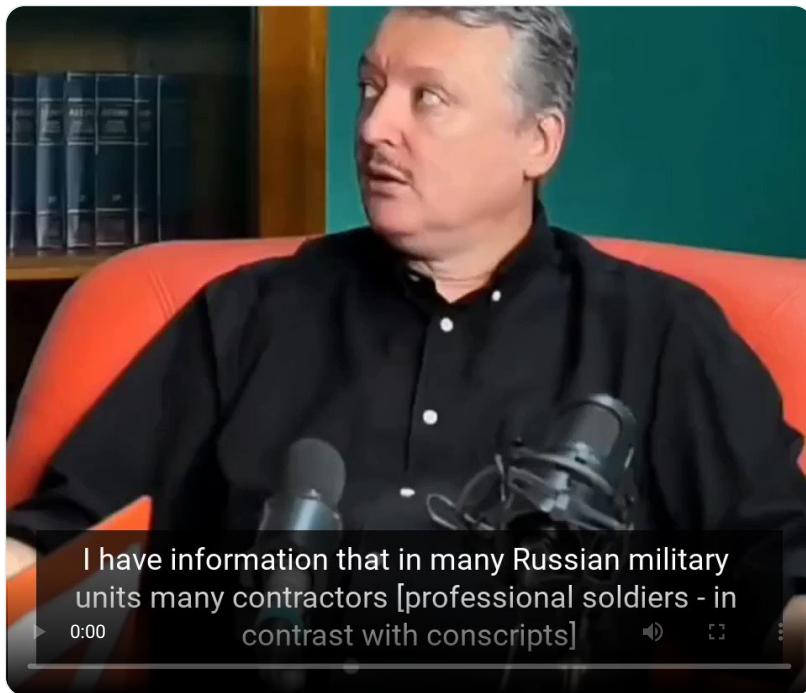
Btw: a point most agreed with across all age groups is that Kremlin will manage to neutralize the economic damage inflicted by sanctions (blue). Therefore, if Kremlin fails to do so, it will further delegitimize the regime. People gonna be disappointed if their life quality drops



As we see from this small yet revealing poll, it is the elderly who most unquestioningly trust Putin and support his Z-war. Youngsters are much less enthusiastic. Which creates a major problem, because it is the less enthusiastic youngsters who have to risk their lives in Ukraine



Strelkov talks about professional soldiers контрактники refusing to leave to Ukraine en masse. When ordered to war, they simply quit their job. And nobody can do anything, because there is no war declared. They just lose their benefits. On the bright side, they keep their legs



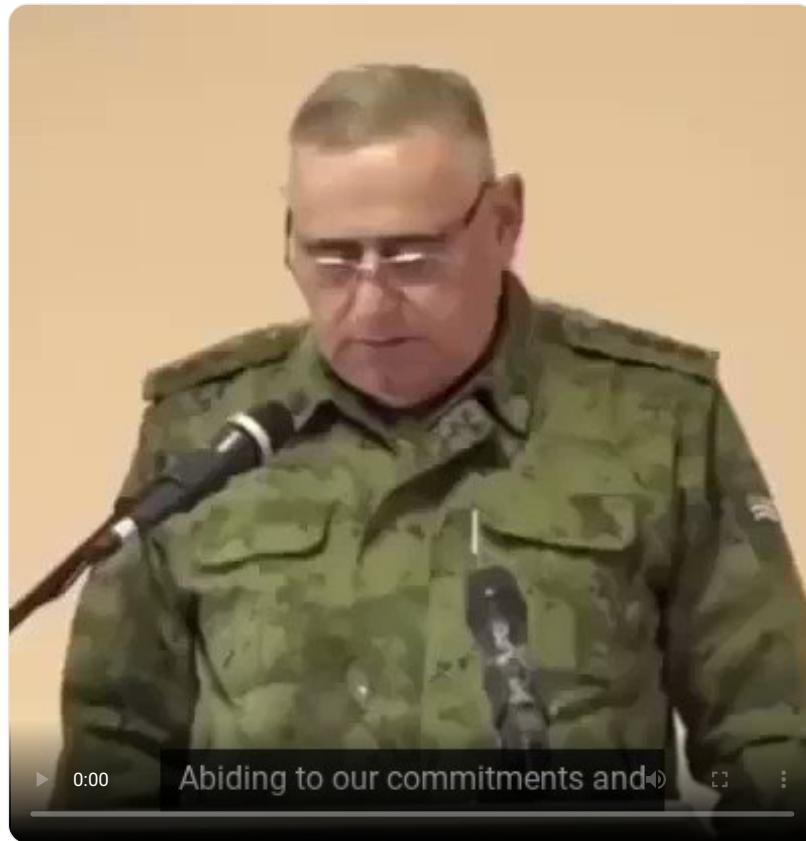
The elderly support rushing Z and sacrificing the youngsters for the sake of the ancestral cult. But youngsters would rather keep their legs. I like this video where Deputy Minister of Defense awards a soldier who just lost his leg and whishes him to "get on his feet again"



This unwillingness of Russian youngsters to fight explains the ethnic asymmetry in Russian army. Russian government not only sends minorities and pressganged Donbass people to frontline assaults on Mariupol. It even tries to mobilize population of its Caucasian satellite states



Watch this video. Ministry of defense of Abkhazia declares it gonna send military aid to Russian forces in Ukraine. Don't you find it weird? Because it absolutely is



Abkhazia and South Ossetia are two tiny unrecognised Russian satellite states in Caucasus. In 2008 Russia wage a war against Georgia on behalf of these separatist republics and then recognised them as sovereign states. Their population is tiny: 245 and 53 thousand respectively



Nevertheless, Russia mobilizes forces of these microscopic supposedly sovereign states for the war in Ukraine. They are less than enthusiastic though. Ex-President of South Ossetia just mentioned that many South Ossetian troops in Ukraine deserted and made it back home

Эдуард Кокойты
!! ВНИМАНИЕ !!

Мы все обеспокоены ситуацией вокруг наших воинов, которые вернулись домой в Осетию из зоны боевых действий. Никто не имеет права осуждать этих ребят или обвинять их в трусости. Следует разобраться в первоисточниках того, что произошло и выяснить, каким образом было организовано их участие. Этим мы займемся самым серьезным образом.

Просушу всех, а особенно родственников наших воинов сохранять спокойствие и воздерживаться от протестных акций, на которые вас провоцируют. Это может только навредить нашим воинам и осложнить обстановку, которая и так напряженная. Мы никому не дадим в обиду наших ребят и будем бороться за каждого из них.

Нужно помнить, что сотни наших бойцов сейчас находятся в зоне боевой операции и героически выполняют свой долг. Нельзя допустить, чтобы какие-либо обстоятельства подрывали их боевой дух.

Не сомневайтесь, что и те ребята, которые вернулись домой, ЕСЛИ СОЧИТУТ НУЖНЫМ, при обеспечении должной организации их участия, смогут вновь отправиться в зону спецоперации и помочь завершить освобождение Донбасса. Но подчеркну, что организация их участия должна быть максимально ответственной. Мы обязаны беречь каждую жизнь.

Эдуард Кокойты
Дорогие друзья!
В связи с появлением в комментариях огромного количества ботов и неадекватных персонажей, мы закрываем комментарии на некоторое время.

Join

Why Russia needs to use Abkhazians and South Ossetians in Z-war? Because it has too few youth. Russia grew old, it's pensionary country. The elderly are eager to fight, because they won't have to shed their lives. But the youngsters are much more reserved



All of these factors mean that Russia can't win Z-war with conventional means. It simply can't achieve a result that will be perceived as a victory by Putin's subjects via a conventional war. And Putin needs a victory by May 9 or he'll lose his face



Which makes me fear that before May 9 Russia may suddenly escalate. Many Westerners fear a nuclear war with Russia. I find it nearly impossible. Putin is not that crazy. There are of course a lot of mad chickenhawks - this MP Delyagin suggested nuking Azerbaijan oil industry



Delyagin was immediately rebutted by Putin's press secretary Peskov and made to apologise. This tough guy just called for nuclear strikes but started humiliating himself and crawling on his knees straight after being rebuked by the higher ups. Very typical



It shows that contrary to the somewhat popular beliefs Russian leadership is not aiming to raise the stakes indefinitely. They still want a positive outcome for themselves. But if they don't win by late April, they may escalate - to get some victory by a symbolic deadline



Russia won't dare to nuke NATO even if NATO attacks Russians in Ukraine. Putin wants to live. But I don't exclude possibility that Russia may use tactical nuclear or other MDW in Ukraine unless NATO makes clear it will retaliate on Russia itself (or hunts down everyone involved)



I've just discussed the North Korea/Donbass scenario when Putin stays in power and the symbolic benchmark of May 9 that will probably play a huge role in Russian military planning. It is the deadline by which an impressive victory must be achieved to save Putin's face and power.



Alternative scenario would be some liberal oppositionary taking the place of Putin. Such an oppositionary will be widely considered as a saviour or a redemptive figure. Some would consider this change of a Bad Tsar for a Good Tsar to be a sign of Russia's fundamental reform



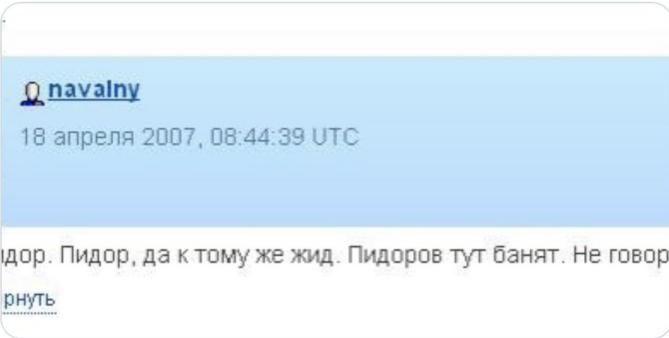
I disagree. This wouldn't mean any profound transformation of the imperial order. To the contrary, it would be an Imperial Reboot. Empire would be able to start anew with its reputation cleansed and its structure fundamentally unchanged. Same order, just new assabiyah at power



One issue with Navalny is his nationalist background. His chief of stuff [@leonidvolkov](#) accused me of publishing fake screenshots. I am absolutely ready to accept my responsibility and debunk my lies if they are really fake. But before that I'd ask Volkov to clarify his position

 **Kamil Galeev** @kamilkazani · Mar 14
Navalny's debate skills are quite impressive:

"Damn, you are a faggot. Faggot and also a Jew [he used slur жид instead of neutral еврей]. Faggots are being banned here. Not speaking about the Jews"



 **navalny**
18 апреля 2007, 08:44:39 UTC

идор. Пидор, да к тому же жид. Пидоров тут банят. Не говор
рнуть

40 225 1,196 ↑ ...

 **Leonid Volkov** 
@leonidvolkov

Replying to [@kamilkazani](#)

Wow, Katya Kazbek again. (This screenshot is a very old and disgusting fake, still once a year it appears in yet another “wow look who Navalny actually is”- thread).

I published three screenshots ascribed to Navalny:

1. On Georgians and "rodents"
2. On Jews and "faggots"
3. On Belarussian language and "khachi"

[@leonidvilkov](#) Could you please give your version, which of these three supposedly Navalny's quotes are authentic and which are fake?

The image contains two screenshots of tweets from the official Twitter account of Alexei Navalny (@navalny).
The top screenshot shows a photo of Navalny and another man, with the caption: "Фу, да вы же пидор. Пидор, да к тому же жд. Пидоров тут баният. Не говоря уже о жидах. Бан." and the timestamp "18 апреля 2007, 08:44:39 UTC".
The bottom screenshot shows a photo of Navalny, with the caption: "последний тиран Европы" and the timestamp "2008-02-20 17:09:00".
Both screenshots include a list of steps Russia should take, starting with "Россия должна предпринять следующие шаги (как минимум):".

Let me clarify my stance. The nationalist background of Navalny is not a problem. The problem is that he's striving for the supreme power in a country which has absolutely no checks on a supreme power. He might have totally changed. But that doesn't mean he should become a Tsar



But if Navalny is not good enough to become a Tsar, then who is? And the answer is - nobody. It's not the personality of a ruler that is a problem. It is the enormous concentration of power in Kremlin and "Kremlin" here stands for the Russian imperial egregore



Many think that problem is in the personality of Putin. Some even berate Yeltsin for choosing the "wrong" successor. That's stupid. All three last PMs of Yeltsin: Primakov, Stepashin and Putin were state security officers. Yeltsin knew exactly what he was doing



The problem lies in Russian institutions and in Russian culture. Let me show you an old interview with Putin's old boss Sobchak then St Petersburg mayor. Sobchak was a well known liberal politician, founder of the Movement for Democratic Reforms



That's liberal politician Sobchak discussing the Ukrainian problem in 1991. This interview shows a deep-rooted imperialist mindset under a liberal disguise. The metropoly will weaponize *any* ideology to assert its dominance over the colonies. Any rhetorics will serve the empire



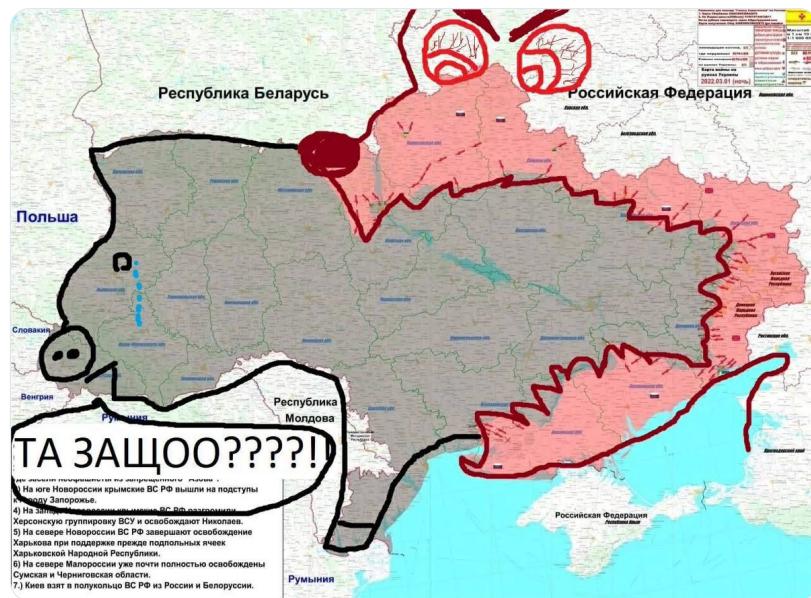
According to Sobchak Ukraine is governed by the alliance of "extreme nationalists" and "conservative Communist nomenklatura". Any minorities the refuse to abandon their identity are extreme nationalists. And they're closely connected to the Communists of course



Ukrainian leadership is annoying Sobchak by constantly talking of independence instead of the "human rights". That shows that every and any ideology (or rather phraseology) will be weaponized by the imperialists to justify their rule and deny agency to their colonies



Metropoly always portrays a colony as flawed and in need of intervention by the metropoly. Specific ideology doesn't matter, only the asymmetry of power does. If we believe in Communism, Ukraine isn't Communist, but if we believe in democracy, it suddenly becomes too Communist



I find the argumentation of Sobchak in this interview on Ukraine strikingly similar to Navalny's argumentation in his investigation on Tatarstan. It's the same logic and same mindset. Let me give you some quotes from Navalny's paper



Взятки. Дворцы. Самолеты. За что продали народ Татарстана

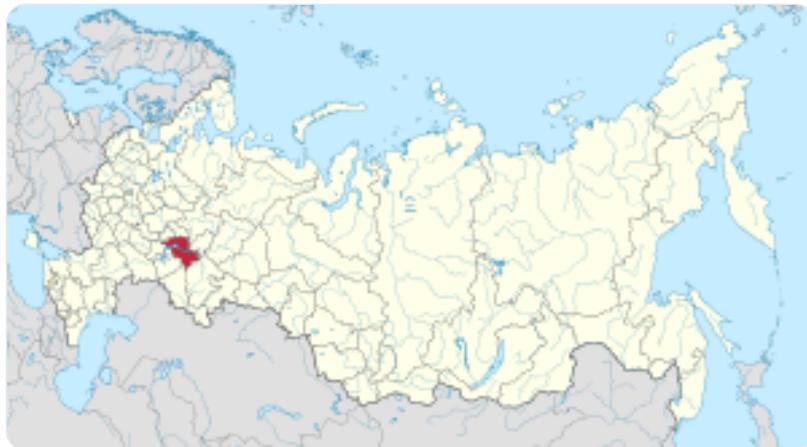
Каждый, кто бывал в Казани, согласится: прекрасный город. Все ухожено, благоустроено, развитая инфраструктура. Красота, да и только. Но на самом деле, все это только фасад, за которым скрывается огр...

<https://navalny.com/p/6427/>



"Tatarstan is a place where there emerged a real Sultanate, Khanate, Tsardom"

Notice their vocab. First they say "Sultanate" and "Khanate" and then use politically correct "Tsardom". The problem with Tatarstan is that it is an oasis on non-Russian statehood within Russia



Commenters see Navalny's messageL

"Tatarstan is Asiatic republic. They're ok with Khan swimming in gold, if the rest of the people get something (and they get). Republic is one few donor regions in Russia"

That's a great slip of the tongue. These Asiatics pay the Russian bills

 spiridonov 2020.09.09 09:22
Татарстан - азиатская республика. Здесь совершенно спокойно относятся к тому, что хан может купаться в золоте, если остальным жителям что-то перепадает (а им перепадает). Республика - один из немногих регионов-доноров РФ, местные элиты зарабатывают и тратят гораздо выше среднего (и получают больше возможностей, см. карьеру Марата Хуснуллина, например).

Подобные расследования предполагают, что народ будет возмущаться, но это ложное ожидание, имхо.

Reply +3

 Leo > spiridonov 2020.09.10 04:16
Всему своё время и как писал один поэт -
".... Россия вспрынет ото сна,
И на обломках самовластвия,
Напишут наши имена".

Reply +5

 Раифат Рахматуллин > spiridonov 2020.10.23 13:04
SPHINDONOV? вся Россия азиатская страна. Или ты не замечаешь вокруг себя людей, которые ведут себя, так, как тебе не нравится? Вокруг тебя полно людей, которые каждую минуту опустошают карманы тебя и твоих друзей. Ты думаешь, что это закончится?.... Увы скорее всего все рухнет, дошло уже до того. А президент очень маленькая личность, чтобы уделять ему внимание. Кукловоды сидят у вас и благодаря вашей неграмотности они все это делают. Не надо на мелких перекладывать то, что делаете или потворствуете сами... И ВАШИ КРУПНЫЕ БОССЫ Но вы к ним не имеете отношения. Они вас ненавидят.

Reply +4

It reflects the true structure of Russia. Asiatics are financial donors and pay the bills of the empire. They're however deeply flawed and need the constant supervision by the said empire. You feed Moscow and in return enjoy its wise guidance. See the map of donor regions, 2020



Navalny portrays a colony as much more flawed than the metropoly:

"...Putin allows Tatars elites to steal more than the most impudent United Russia members in Moscow could ever dream of"

That's a bold claim. [@fblkinfo](#) [@navalny](#) the burden of proof is on you as you made this claim

Ну а другая сторона сделки, то есть Путин, дает татарским элитам воровать так, как не снি�лось самым наглым московским единороссам. Воровать безнаказанно, бесконтрольно, в любых количествах и на чем угодно. Карт-бланш дан двум семьям — любимому дедушке, бабаю Шаймиеву и его преемнику, действующему президенту Рустаму Минниханову.



"[Tatarstan] ruling clan became the richest people of the country and may be even the world [sic!]"

That's a perfect smear. [@navalny](#) [@fbkinfo](#) make an obviously false claim [they may be the richest people of the world] but use "may be" to avoid responsibility. I'm quite impressed

Татарстан — это место, где образовался настоящий султанат, ханство, царство — можно называть как угодно, но суть не меняется. 30(!) лет (то есть дольше, чем даже Путин и Лукашенко) у власти находится один клан, члены которого ценой благополучия собственного народа стали богатейшими людьми страны, а может, и мира. Чтобы понять, как это произошло, мы с вами отправляемся в прошлое.

«Берите суверенитета столько, сколько сможете переварить,» — эту фразу Бориса Ельцина, произнесенную в Казани, знает и помнит, наверное, каждый россиянин старше 30. Ельцин сказал эти слова в 1990 году. Таким образом будущий первый президент новой постсоветской России пытался сохранить разрушающиеся страны, остановить «парад суверенитетов». Московская власть шла на беспрецедентные меры, чтобы успокоить «бунтующие» регионы и, в первую очередь, Татарстан. Берите, что хотите, будьте настолько независимы, насколько можете, — но только не выходите из состава России.

Татарстан хотел суверенитета и боролся за него. Символом и локомотивом этой борьбы стал местный чиновник от сельского хозяйства, секретарь обкома КПСС, будущий президент и «бабай» (то есть «дедушка») Татарстана — Минтимер Шаймиев.

It's a great smear tactic. You make a claim that you know to be false - that a ruling clan in a Russian region "may" belong to the richest people of the world. But since you don't *technically* assert that, you bear no burden of proof [@navalny](#) [@fbkinfo](#)



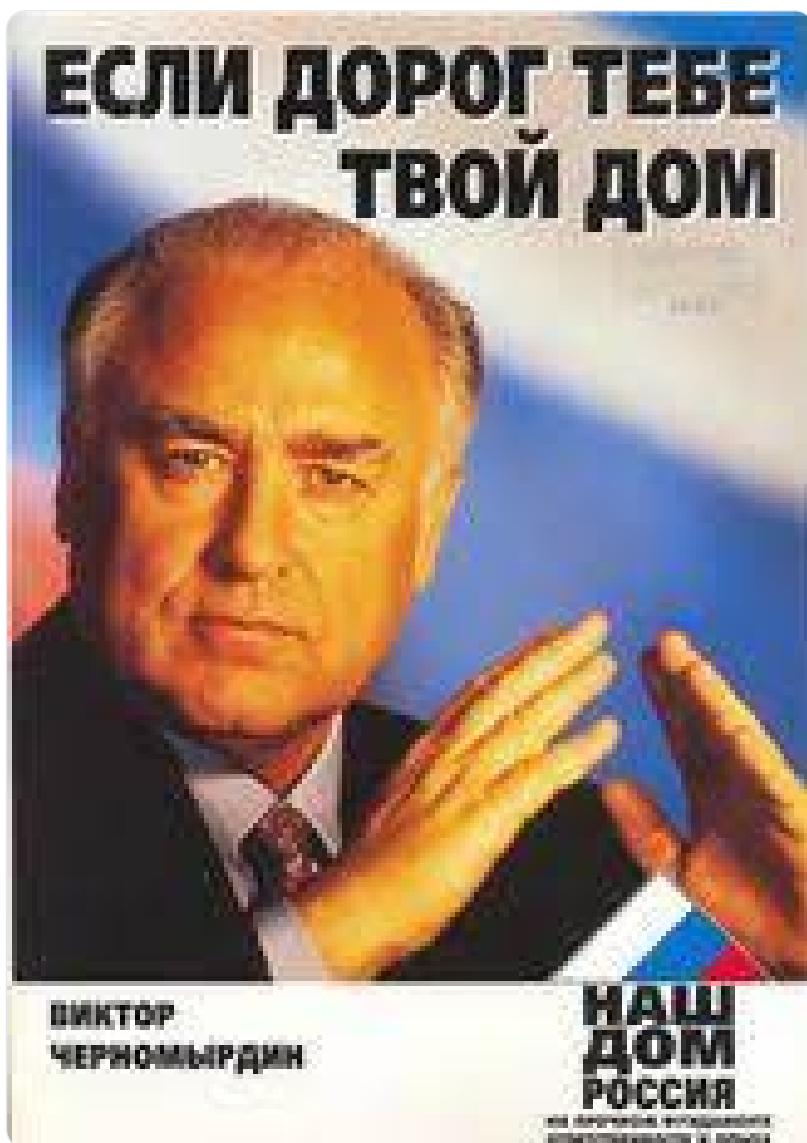
Navalny [@navalny](#) [@fbkinf](#) claims that Tatarstan president Shaimiev "stood at the origin of the United Russia party". That's a lie which sheds Navalny's strategy to blame minorities for Putinism. Which sheds a light on what he's gonna do once he gets absolute power

И кстати о Путине. У него с Шаймиевым отношения сложились сразу [великолепные](#). При знакомстве (тогда Путин был еще директором ФСБ) они зачем-то [обменялись](#) наручными часами. А вообще Шаймиев стоял у истоков партии «Единая Россия», он может считаться ее отцом на региональном уровне, ну а потом — одним из главных покровителей. Шаймиев — доверенное лицо Путина на всех выборах.

Shaimiev was indeed one of key figures of a certain political party. But it wasn't the United Russia. It was a party "Fatherland: All of Russia" which united most of regional elites. It was a party led by ex Prime Minister Primakov and 84/89 Russian governors supported it



In late 1990s three prime ministers founded their own parties *after* being appointed as a Prime Minister (well, technically Primakov did it after having been fired). Primakov created "Fatherland: All of Russia", Chernomyrdin - "Our Home Russia" and Putin founded "Unity"



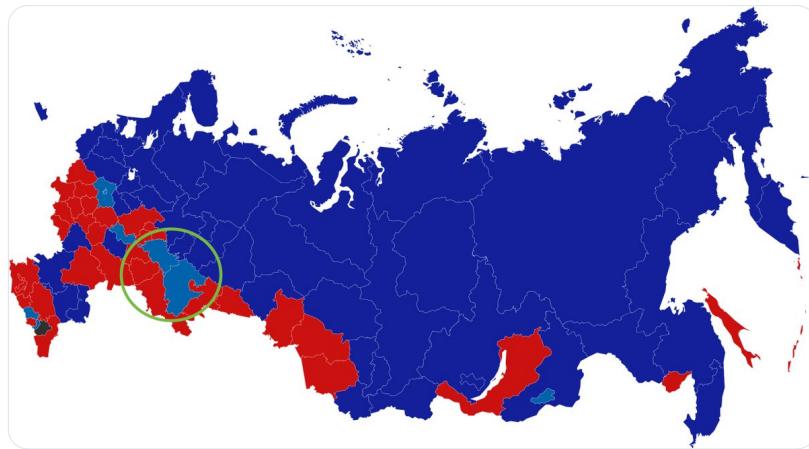
Putin's "Unity" didn't support of regional elites. It was led by little known Putin's pal Gryzlov and only popular minister Shoygu became its "face". It's Shoygu who borrowed much of his popularity and authority to Putin when the latter desperately needed it. He's a great courtier



Key role in boosting Putin's "Unity" out of nothing was played by Yeltsin's official Surkov. He would personally meet with governors and "persuade" them to leave Primakov and join Putin. Dossiers on the entire ruling class which Putin collected as the FSB Chief might be a factor



One by one governors joined Putin. But Tatarstan wasn't one of the first, it was one of the last. See parliamentary elections 1999: Dark blue - Putin's "Unity", Red - Communists, Light blue - Primakov's "Fatherland". Tatarstan and Bashkortostan stood against Putin till very late



Only in December 2001 long after Putin's victory, Putin's "Unity", Primakov's "Fatherland" and Chernomyrdin's "Home" merged into the United Russia. Thus remainders of regional elites were incorporated into the Putin's regime. Tatarstan wasn't the first, it was one of the last



Why do [@navalny](#) [@fbkinfo](#) so blatantly misrepresent the history of United Russia? Why do they portray staunch supporters of a party that opposed Putin and was absorbed by Putin's Unity so late, as founders of the United Russia? Because they preventively accuse colonies of Putinism



The dominance of metropoly over the colonies is secured not only by military, legal or economic instruments, but also via ideology. Colony is always flawed in comparison with the metropoly and is in dire need of leadership/being disciplined by the latter



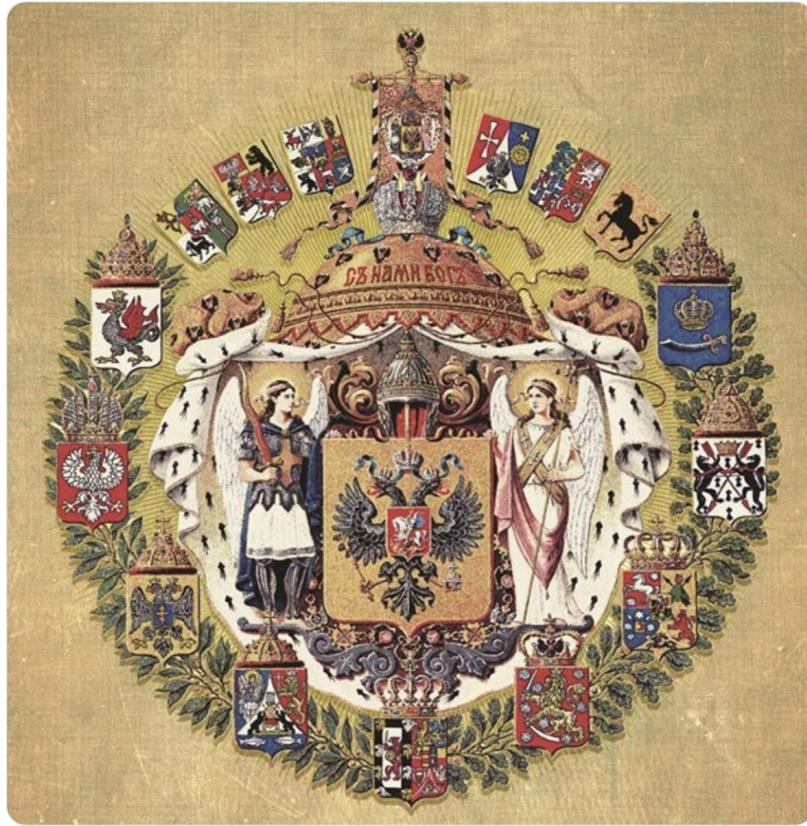
Consider Sobchak's interview. We in Russia stand for the current thing (Democracy). They in Ukraine stand for the former thing (Communism). Pseudoliberal language disguises imperial ambitions of the metropolis



They're playing the same trick now. Tatarstan didn't originally support Putin, its leaders supported another party till the very end. And yet now [@navalny](#) [@fbkinfo](#) misrepresent this story. They aim to destroy the rival non-Russian statehood by weaponizing anti Putinist rhetorics



I'll clarify: the problem is not in Putin. Neither it is in Navalny. The problem is in imperial structure of Russia and in its imperialist mindset. Any ideology be it Orthodoxy, Communism, Liberalism will be weaponised by the metropoly to dominate and discipline its colonies



We don't need a Good Tsar who'll replace a Bad Tsar. Good Tsar can become a Bad Tsar overnight. He can give whatever guarantees now, but nothing will stop him from breaking them later. Even if he doesn't break them, his successor will. There will be no checks on his power anyway



Omnis determinatio est negatio. Whatever determined by a statute, can and will be abolished by a statute. Whatever Moscow gave it can take back later. Whatever it created, it can later destroy. Thus freedom can't be given by Moscow. Even the best Tsar ever can't grant you freedom



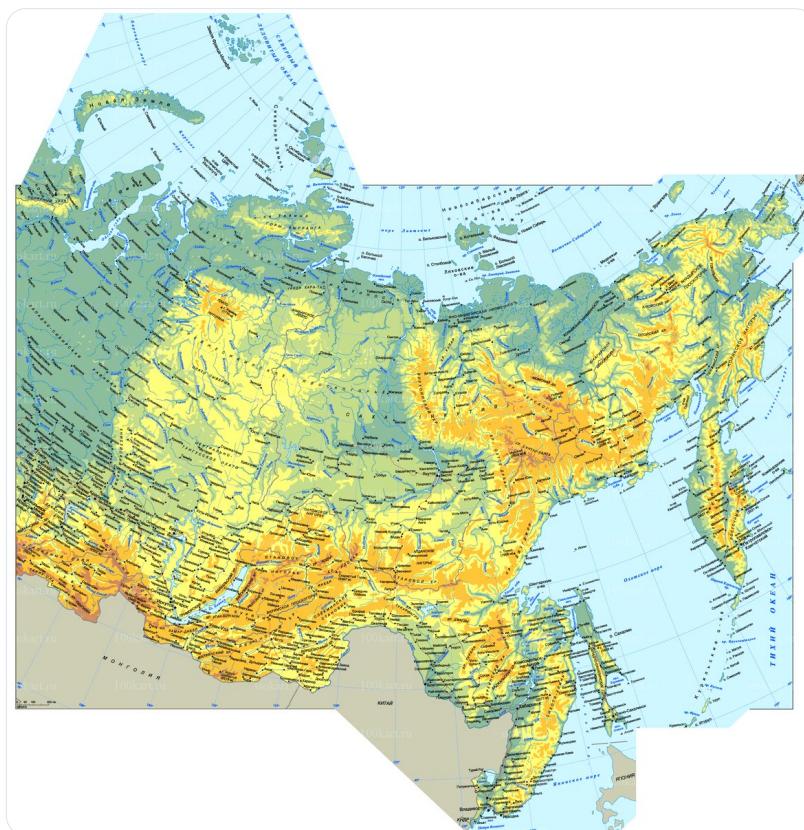
Russia doesn't need an Imperial Reboot. It needs a National Divorce. Moscow has absolute right on self determination, but I don't see why colonies should bound to its will, fund its imperial ambitions and shed their blood for the Russian World as they're doing it now



While discussing the prospect of National Divorce, analysts overconcentrate on ethnic tensions. And yet, tensions go far beyond the ethnic dimension. The problem of Locals vs Varyangs which is parallel to Creoles vs Peninsulares problem in Spanish America is at least as important



National Divorce in Russia will largely follow the same patterns as the one in Latin America. The weakest link in Russian imperial structure is neither Tatarstan, Yakutia, nor Chechnya. It's the Far East. End of



1