



Neil Abrams @neil_abrams

Nov 18 · 26 tweets · [neil_abrams/status/1593604628603715587](https://twitter.com/neil_abrams/status/1593604628603715587)

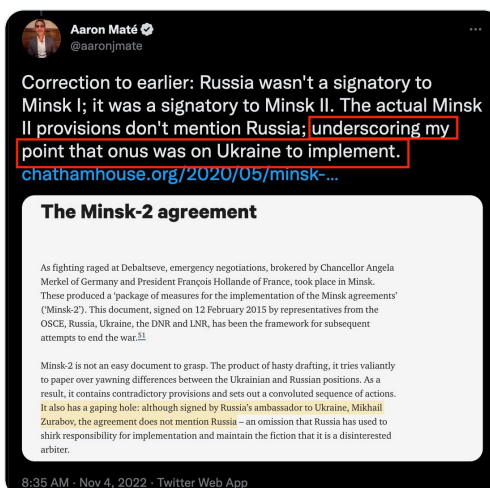
Dumb or dishonest?

For Putin apologists trying to deflect onto other parties Russia's obvious culpability for the war, these are the only two options the evidentiary record permits.

Aaron Maté isn't dumb. That leaves us with dishonest.

How [@aaronjmate](https://twitter.com/aaronjmate) is full of shit: A 🧵

[@aaronjmate](https://twitter.com/aaronjmate) Since Russia's February invasion, Maté's animating purpose has been to shift the blame for the war onto others. Among the devices he draws upon in this pursuit are the Minsk accords. "If only Ukraine had abided by Minsk," he claims, "this whole situation could have been avoided."



[@aaronjmate](#) For the past week or so, Maté and I have been going back and forth about Minsk. It all began with this thread I wrote.



Neil Abrams 
@neil_abrams · [Follow](#)



A common Twitter exchange:

Tankie: Stop arming Ukraine!

Reasonable person: What exactly do you suggest instead?

Tankie: Pressure Ukraine to implement the Minsk accords!

So what are the Minsk accords, and why is the tankie line on Minsk ridiculous?

A thread.

2:05 PM · Oct 21, 2022 

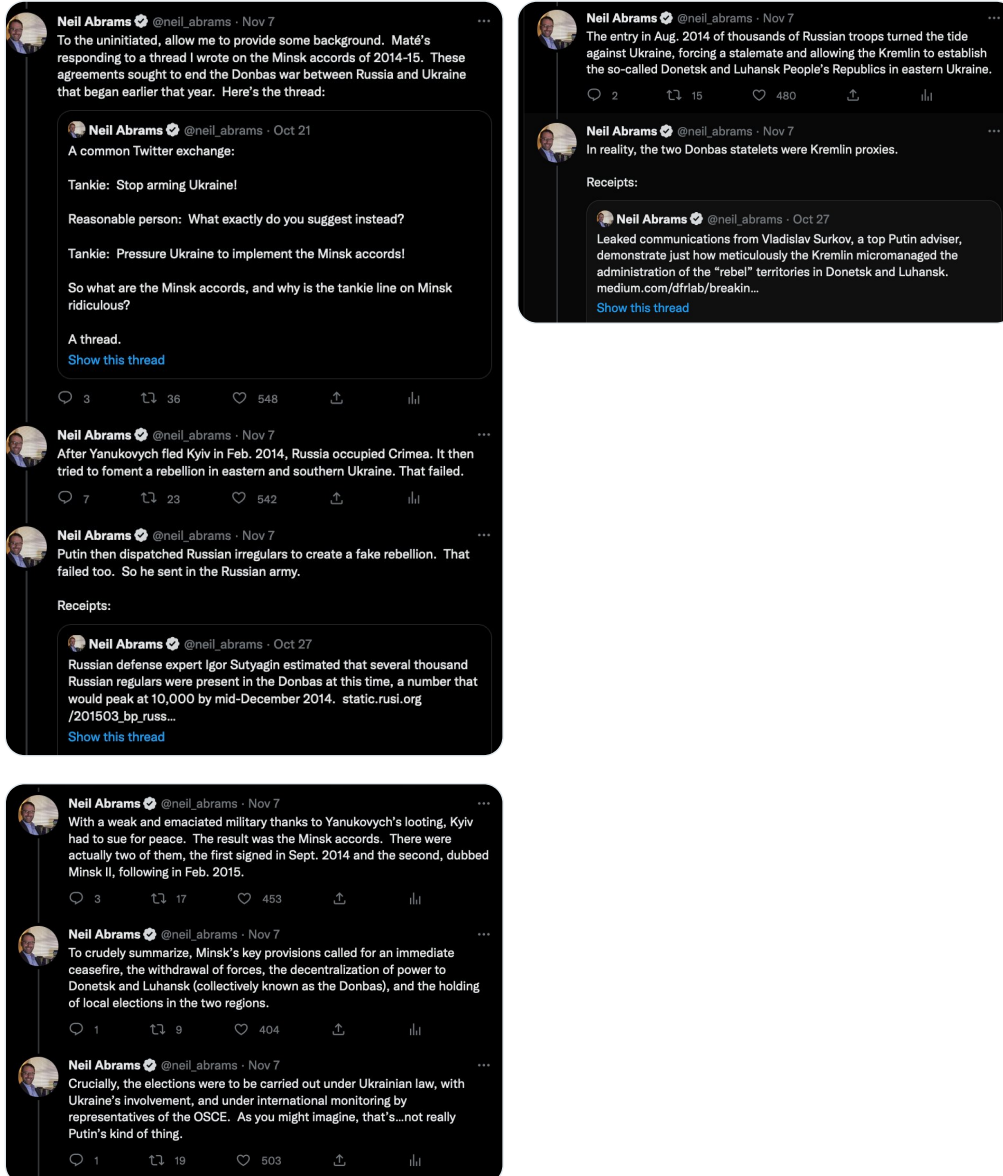


[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

 10.1K  Reply  Copy link

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[@aaronjmate](#) For those who don't want to read all that, here's a brief summary of what the Minsk agreements are and how they came into being.




[@aaronjmate](#) The thread above is one of several I've written over the past few months debunking Maté's Ukraine nonsense. You can find a compilation here:




[@aaronjmate](#) For the most part, Maté's ignored me. Only after I started making fun of him for that did he finally respond. It was the thread above, on Minsk, which he chose to reply to, thus commencing our recent exchange.




Aaron Maté 
@aaronjmate · [Follow](#)

This from [@neil_abrams](#) comes as part of an endless thread arguing that Ukraine is not at fault for failure of the Minsk accords.

Here he highlights 3 failed provisions that he blames on Russia. But Russia wasn't a signatory. And, as I'll show, more failures are Ukraine's fault:



Neil Abrams 
@neil_abrams


Replying to @neil_abrams


But it's silly to argue, as tankies like @caitoz and @aaronjmate do, that Ukraine is the only side standing in the way of Minsk's implementation. Look at this breakdown of the Minsk provisions as of 2020 and note how many labeled "not implemented" depend exclusively on Russia.




The 'Steinmeier Formula'

Table 1. Overview of the implementation of the Minsk II

Overview of the implementation of the Minsk II (European Parliament, 2018)	Agreement Status
1. Immediate, full bilateral ceasefire	Not implemented
2. Withdrawal of all heavy weapons by both sides, establishment of a security zone	Partially implemented
3. Monitoring of ceasefire by the OSCE	Partially implemented
4. Modalities for local elections under Ukrainian law on special status of the Donbas	Partially implemented
5. Pardon and amnesty of figures involved in the conflict	Not implemented
6. Release and exchange of all hostages and other illegally detained people	Partially implemented
7. Safe delivery of humanitarian aid to those in need, based on an international mechanism	Not implemented
8. Restoration of full social and economic links with affected areas	Partially implemented
9. Full Ukrainian control over its border with Russia throughout the conflict zone	Not implemented
10. Withdrawal of foreign armed groups, weapons and mercenaries from Ukrainian territory	Not implemented
11. Constitutional reform including decentralisation, special status for the separatist regions	Partially implemented
12. Local elections in Donetsk and Luhansk regions according to OSCE standards.	Not implemented
13. Trilateral working groups between the Ukrainian government, the separatists and Russia	Yes, but limited results

1:58 PM · Nov 4, 2022 

 [Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

 915  Reply  Copy link




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[@aaronjmate](#) Now, considering how often Maté invokes the Minsk accords as a prop for his Russia apologiae, one would think he'd have an elemental grasp of the basics facts.

But if one thought so, one would be mistaken.

[@aaronjmate](#) Look, my point here is not to harp on Maté's astonishing ignorance of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Nor is it to suggest that his breathtaking ineptitude should disqualify him from even talking about the subject. For I am not one to kick a man when he's down, no sir I am not.

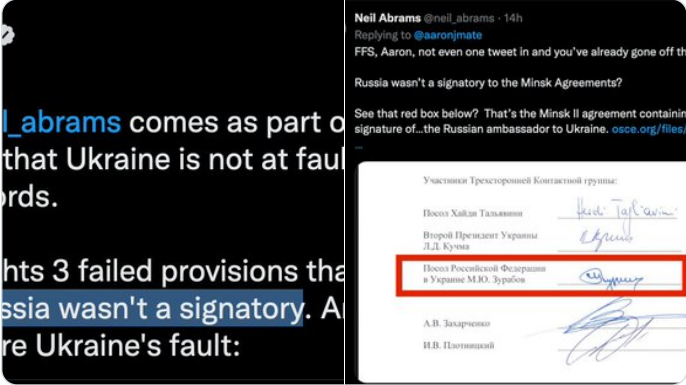
[@aaronjmate](#) That's why I won't direct my dignified readers to my last thread in which I embarrassed Maté with a screenshot of the Russian ambassador's signature on the Minsk II agreement after he wrongly insisted that Russia wasn't a signatory.

 **Neil Abrams** 
@neil_abrams · Follow 

Replying to @neil_abrams and @aaronjmate

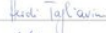
With that out of the way, let's get to [@aaronjmate's](#) response. It starts with the absolute howler (left) that Russia wasn't a signatory to Minsk.


I kindly replied with a screenshot of the Minsk II agreement revealing...the signature of the Russian ambassador to Ukraine (right)





Neil Abrams @neil_abrams · 14h
Replying to @aaronjmate
FFS, Aaron, not even one tweet in and you've already gone off the rails.
Russia wasn't a signatory to the Minsk Agreements?
See that red box below? That's the Minsk II agreement containing the signature of...the Russian ambassador to Ukraine. osce.org/files


Участники Трёхсторонней Контактной группы:


Посол Хайди Тахьявини 




Второй Президент Украины
Л.Д. Кучма 

Посол Российской Федерации
в Украине М.Ю. Зурбов 

А.В. Захарченко 

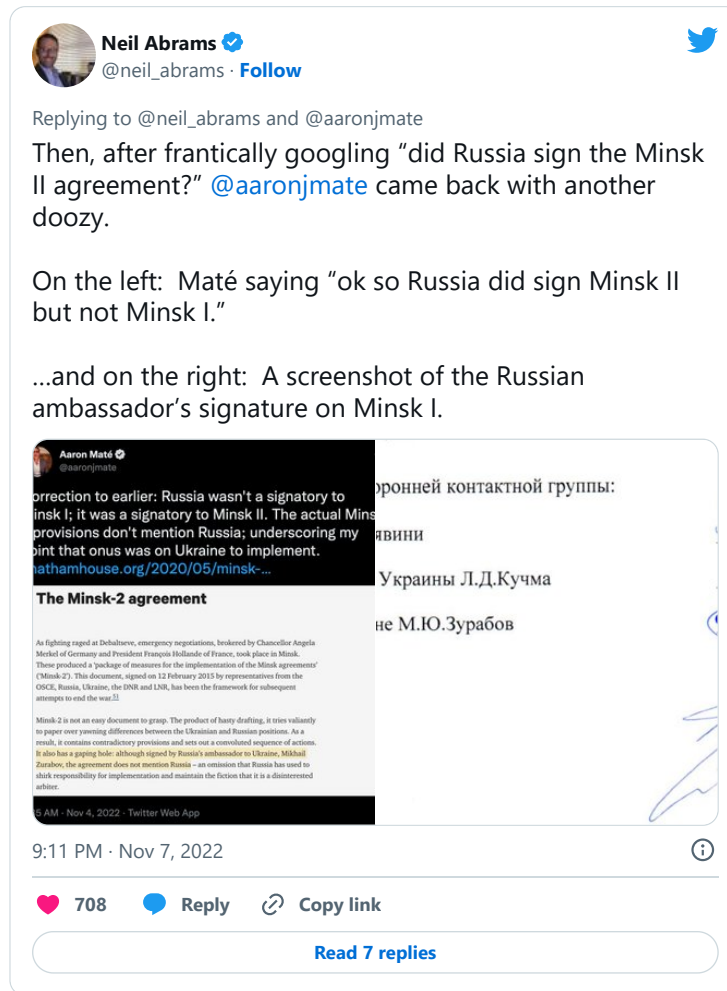
И.В. Плотнишовой 

9:10 PM · Nov 7, 2022 

 665  Reply  Copy link

[Read 4 replies](#)

[@aaronjmate](#) And if you came here just to gawk at Maté for compounding that first humiliating error with another, only for me to publicly shame him yet again, I afraid I cannot provide a direct link to it. I'm a bigger man than to indulge such crude predilections.



[@aaronjmate](#) My mother would hardly approve if her son persistently mocked the comical disconnect between the massive volume of Maté's commentary on the Russo-Ukrainian war and his embarrassing unfamiliarity with its rudimentary details. She didn't raise me that way.

[@aaronjmate](#) What I intend to demonstrate here is not the staggering deficiencies in Maté's factual understanding of the war but rather the basic dishonesty that informs his entire Ukraine shtick, as illustrated by his position on the Minsk accords.

[@aaronjmate](#) My own position on Minsk has remained unchanged from the start: First, tankies like Maté are wrong to suggest that the blame for Minsk's failure rests solely with Ukraine. Rather, both Ukraine and Russia share responsibility.



Neil Abrams
@neil_abrams · Follow



Replying to @neil_abrams

But it's silly to argue, as tankies like [@caitoz](#) and [@aaronjmate](#) do, that Ukraine is the only side standing in the way of Minsk's implementation. Look at this breakdown of the Minsk provisions as of 2020 and note how many labeled "not implemented" depend exclusively on Russia.

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2:27 PM · Oct 21, 2022



1.3K Reply Copy link

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[@aaronjmate](#) Second, even if Ukraine were solely to blame, it is under no moral obligation to comply. The only reason Minsk exists in the first place is that Russia, by invading Ukraine in 2014, broke its own past pledges to respect Ukraine's territorial sovereignty.



[@aaronjmate](#) Simple enough, right? Not if you've staked your credibility on a fable about Minsk that's factually baseless and morally bankrupt. Not if your only hope for emerging from this quagmire is by manufacturing a strawman. Not if, in other words, you're Aaron Maté.

[@aaronjmate](#) Can you distinguish between the following statements?

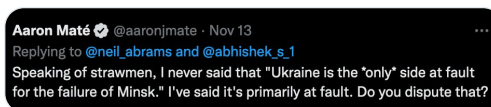
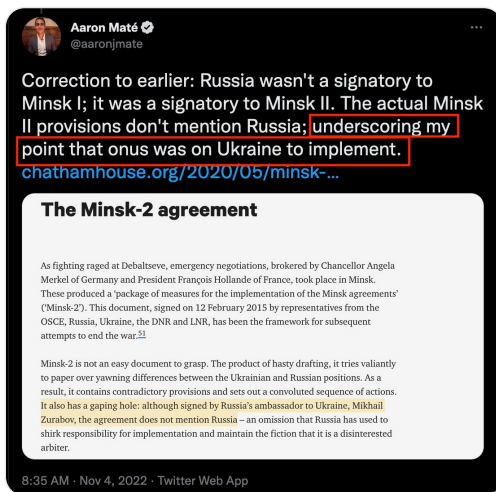
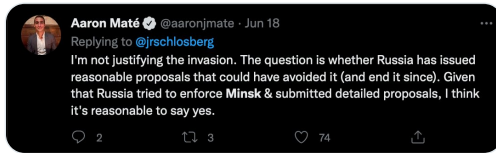
- 1) Ukraine isn't the only side to blame for Minsk's failure.
- 2) Ukraine isn't to blame for Minsk's failure.

I say there's a difference; Maté pretends otherwise. It is this—very stupid—point of contention that divides us.

@aaronjmate Behold the rank dishonesty in the following exchanges.

First three screenshots: Maté blaming Ukraine for Minsk's failure while not so much as intimating that any party besides Ukraine might share some of the blame.

Fourth screenshot: Maté denying he ever said such a thing.

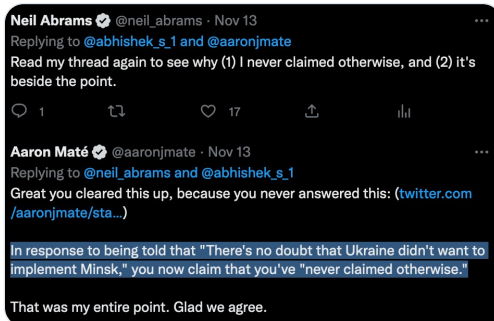


[@aaronjmate](#) Me on Oct. 21st: Ukraine didn't want to implement Minsk.

Me on Nov. 7th: Ukraine didn't want to implement Minsk.

Me on Nov. 13th: Ukraine didn't want to implement Minsk.

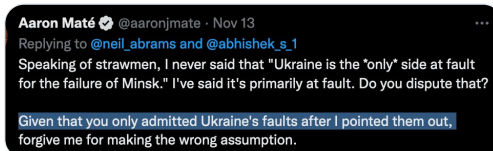
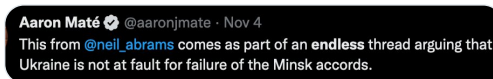
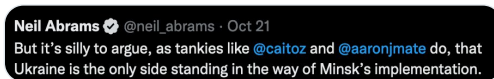
Maté on Nov. 13th: Well, I'll be! Neil finally admits that Ukraine didn't want to implement Minsk!



[@aaronjmate](#) Me, 10/21: Maté is wrong; Ukraine isn't the only side to blame for Minsk's failure.

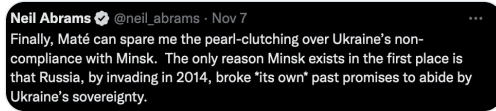
Maté, 11/4: Neil claims Ukraine isn't to blame for Minsk's failure!

Maté, 11/7 & 11/13: Neil finally concedes that Ukraine shares some of the blame—but only after *I* pointed it out to him!



[@aaronjmate](#) Me on Nov. 7th: That Ukraine shares any blame at all for Minsk's failure is irrelevant from a moral standpoint.

Maté, a few minutes later: Well then answer THIS: by what percentages would you apportion blame to opposing sides? Checkmate, NATO shill!



Neil Abrams [@neil_abrams](#) · Nov 7
Finally, Maté can spare me the pearl-clutching over Ukraine's non-compliance with Minsk. The only reason Minsk exists in the first place is that Russia, by invading in 2014, broke "its own" past promises to abide by Ukraine's sovereignty.



Aaron Maté [@aaronjmate](#) · Nov 7
Replying to [@neil_abrams](#)
Here's a rebuttal to your latest endless rant that no one will actually read. Q for you: since you now admit that Kiev failed to implement multiple Minsk provisions, how do you assign fault for Minsk's failure? Are you asserting it's mostly Russia-rebels' fault, or 50-50?

[@aaronjmate](#) So there you have it: The moronic crux of my exchanges on the Minsk accords with a totally intellectually honest Aaron Maté.

If you managed to get through all that without shooting yourself in the head, I salute you. If not, well, I understand.

[@aaronjmate](#) Again, Maté isn't dumb. He knows exactly what he's doing. He's adopted a position that's morally indefensible: That the West should compel Ukraine to negotiate a peace agreement against its will. And since he knows it's indefensible, his only option is to deny and deflect.

[@aaronjmate](#) You see, if Russia shares responsibility for Minsk's failure, that would mean it's not a reliable negotiating partner. And if Russia's not a reliable negotiating partner, then it would be unreasonable to do as Maté proposes and push Ukraine to negotiate an agreement.

[@aaronjmate](#) But let us not lose sight of the bigger picture. Maté's whole point is to shift the moral stigma for the war away from Russia and onto Ukraine, and he'll pull anything out of his ass, however baseless, to do so. One day it's atrocity-denial; the next, Minsk.

[@aaronjmate](#) In the past, Maté could rely on grains of truth to support his narratives. Russiagate featured lots of atrocious reporting. Douma had the whistleblowers. But Ukraine-Russia lacks such ambiguity, and so any attempt to insert it must inevitably rest on layer upon layer of stupid.

[@aaronjmate](#) Aaron Maté has found his calling: Apologizing for dictators and imperialists and deflecting on their behalf. Why does he do it? Fuck if I know. But *that* he does so is perfectly obvious, and anything he says must be interpreted through this lens.

/End

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