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Jan 27 · 17 tweets · [OstapYarysh/status/1619028907445092352](https://twitter.com/OstapYarysh/status/1619028907445092352)

Many in the West praise Russian opposition leader [#Navalny](https://twitter.com/Navalny) and the Oscar-nominated documentary about him. But there's something else to remember: Being anti-Putin doesn't negate Navalny's imperialist and chauvinist views. Let's take a look at specific examples in this thread 🧵



When Russia attacked Georgia in 2008, Navalny supported the invasion and wrote in his blog that he'd "really like to hit Georgian General Staff with a cruise missile." He called Georgian people by slur "rodents" and called to deport them from Russia.



**(no title)**

Утром потратил целый час на то, что полностью посмотрел прямую трансляцию с Совбеза ООН. Смотреть было неприятно - Россию просто водили мордой об стол. Единственные, кто сказал хотя бы ритуальные сло...

<https://navalny.livejournal.com/274456.html>

In his next posts, Navalny compared the then-president of Georgia Saakashvili to Hitler (Where else have I seen this rhetoric?) and said that despite this, Georgians were not that bad compared to others because "they're Christians, after all."

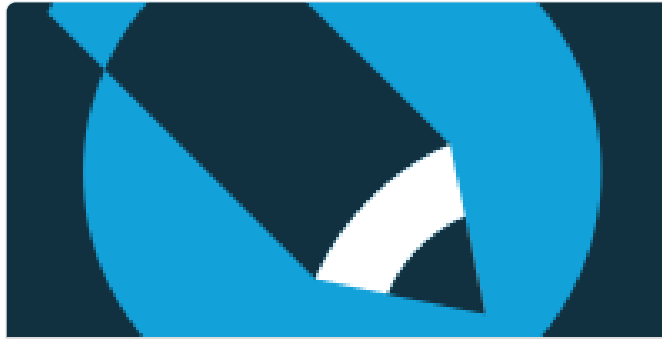


**Дайте Грузии шанс!**

Послушайте, ну не такая она и плохая эта Грузия. Не самая ведь ужасная страна на свете. Ну да, есть отвратный Саакашвили, но в целом грузины достаточно неплохо смотрятся на фоне остального Кавказа и ...

<https://navalny.livejournal.com/277835.html>

Later Navalny got mad about the UN security council meeting on Georgia. He didn't like the Costa Rica ambassador's remarks. "When we're done bombing Georgia - Navalny wrote - we should deal with Costa Rica," suggesting bombing the country too.



**Совбез**

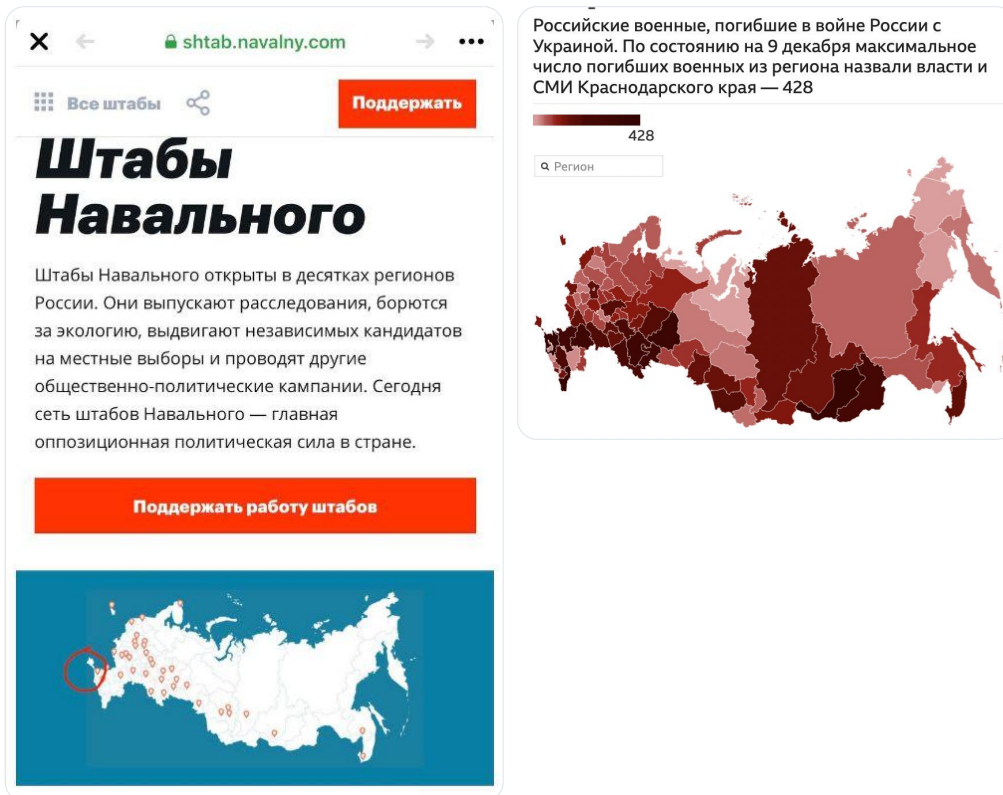
Американец сказал, что в телефонном разговоре с Кондолизой Лавров заявил

<https://navalny.livejournal.com/276028.html>

You might say that it was a long time ago. But in an interview with Xenia Sobchak in 2017, Navalny stood by his words about attacking Georgia and hitting it with cruise missiles. In 2021, on Navalny's website, RUS-controlled Georgian territories were marked as separate states.

The screenshot displays the mobile interface of the website 'Я выйду на митинг' (I will go to a rally). At the top, there is a hamburger menu icon, a share icon, and a red button with the text 'Я ВЫЙДУ НА МИТИНГ'. Below this is a white box with a red border containing the text: 'Каждая точка на карте — смелый человек, выступающий против путинской власти. Когда вы зарегистрируетесь, на карте появится и ваша отметка.' Below the text is another red button with the text 'Я ВЫЙДУ НА МИТИНГ'. The main part of the interface is a map of Russia and surrounding regions, with several blue circular markers indicating the number of registered protesters in different areas. The markers show the following counts: 663 (near Kharkiv), 92 (near Donetsk), 183 (near Rostov-on-Don), 8416 (near Rostov-on-Don), 370 (near Sevastopol), 3612 (near Stavropol), and 2 (near Grozny). The map also shows labels for 'УКРАИНА', 'Чёрное море', 'АБХАЗИЯ', 'ЮЖНАЯ ОСЕТИЯ', and 'ГРУЗИЯ'. At the bottom of the interface, there is a white box with the text: 'Нас на самом деле очень много — тех, кто хочет жить в свободной России и готов за это бороться.'

Let's talk about Ukraine now. In the same screenshot from Navalny's web page 🖱️, Crimea is marked as Russia. Ukrainians directly asked to change it, but Navalny's team refused. On the other Navalny team maps, Crimea is also marked Russian. (Most recent one is Dec 2022).

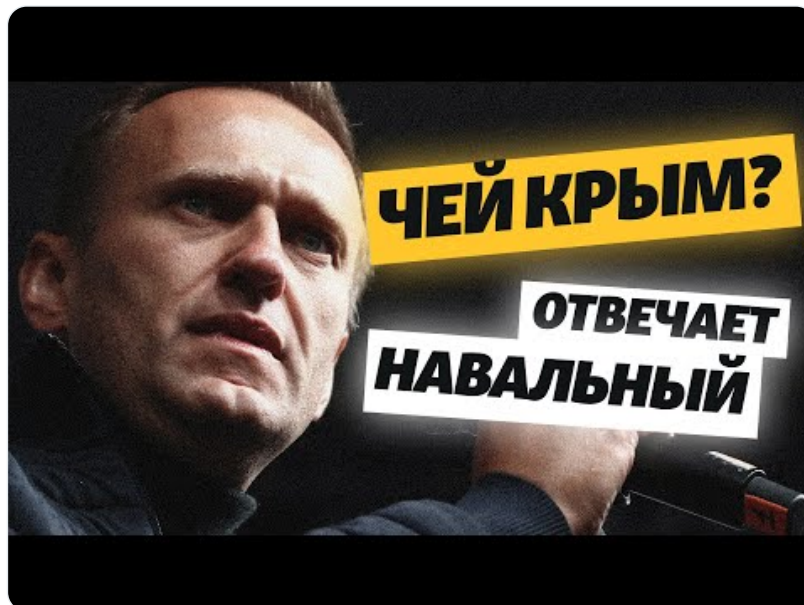


The screenshot shows the website [shtab.navalny.com](https://shtab.navalny.com). The main heading is "Штабы Навального" (Navalny's Offices). Below it, there is a paragraph in Russian: "Штабы Навального открыты в десятках регионов России. Они выпускают расследования, борются за экологию, выдвигают независимых кандидатов на местные выборы и проводят другие общественно-политические кампании. Сегодня сеть штабов Навального — главная оппозиционная политическая сила в стране." Below this is a red button that says "Поддержать работу штабов".

On the right side, there is a map of Russia with a red overlay on Crimea. Above the map, there is a text box: "Российские военные, погибшие в войне России с Украиной. По состоянию на 9 декабря максимальное число погибших военных из региона назвали власти и СМИ Краснодарского края — 428". Below this text is a red color scale legend with the number "428" and a search bar labeled "Регион".

At the bottom left of the screenshot, there is another map of Russia with a red circle around Crimea, indicating its status as part of Russia.

What's Navalny's personal position regarding Crimea? In 2014, he stated that "Crimea will remain a part of Russia and never in the foreseeable future will be a part of Ukraine."



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/xi3VjM9najl>

In the same interview, Navalny added that Crimea was annexed with violations, but when asked whether he'd return it, responded: "Is it a sandwich to give it back and forth?" Later he admitted the phrasing wasn't good but never agreed with the idea of returning Crimea to Ukraine.

Over time, Navalny has repeatedly made statements that don't differ much from Kremlin talking points about Ukraine. For example, he said that Ukrainians and Russians were the same nation, but naturally, Russia should dominate.

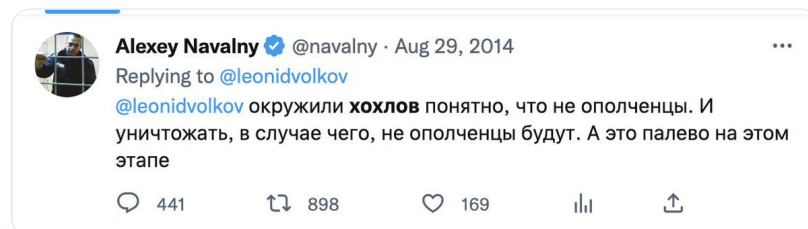
[https://censor.net/ru/news/197005/navalnyyi\\_ukrainsy\\_i\\_russkie\\_odin\\_i\\_tot\\_je\\_narod](https://censor.net/ru/news/197005/navalnyyi_ukrainsy_i_russkie_odin_i_tot_je_narod)

When in 2018 the Ukrainian Orthodox church was finally granted autonomy by Constantinople (a historic step towards religious independence from Moscow), Navalny complained that it would be a disaster for "Russkiy Mir", a colonial concept of Russian culture's superiority.



Seems that Navalny doesn't see "Russkiy Mir" as anything bad. On the contrary, he criticized Putin for ruining it. He didn't blame Putin for trying to subjugate other nations and erase their cultural identity. But for undermining Russia's authority and influence. Feel the difference?

Using ethnic or racial slurs does not appear to be a problem for Navalny either. He called Ukrainians by the ethnic slur "khokhols" (that tweet is still available btw) and used derogatory names towards non-Slavic ethnicities in Russia as well.



In Central Asia, for instance, Navalny is known for his solid anti-immigrant views. Time and again, he said that migrants from this region posed a threat to Russia. He called them criminals and drug dealers. Sound familiar?



**Alexey Navalny's views on migrants run counter to his pro-democracy ...**

Alexey Navalny has emerged as a rallying figure for liberal Russians and a symbol of Russian opposition, but his image among Central Asians – including Russia's migrant workers – is more contentious.

<https://globalvoices.org/2021/02/09/alexey-navalnys-views-on-migrants-run-counter-to-...>

During his presidential campaign in 2017, Navalny promised to impose a visa regime for "beautiful citizens" of Central Asian countries while saying that Germany should establish a visa-free entrance for Russians.



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/0Tn7oFir9rk>

In this thread, I focused mainly on Navalny's views about Georgia, Ukraine, and Central Asia, but you can find similar examples about Baltic states, Moldova, Belarus, and other places that Russia considers its "sphere of influence."

Some of these facts probably don't fit in "the story of one man and his struggle with an authoritarian regime," as the movie describes. For many in the West who see Navalny as a new Russian hero and a democratic alternative to Putin, that might be uncomfortable to accept.

Is Navalny anti-Putin? Yes. Was he wrongfully imprisoned by Kremlin for this? Absolutely. Is he anti-war? He says so. But does he reject the colonial approach and the idea of Russian superiority/dominance over other nations? Definitely not. And this is something to keep in mind.

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