



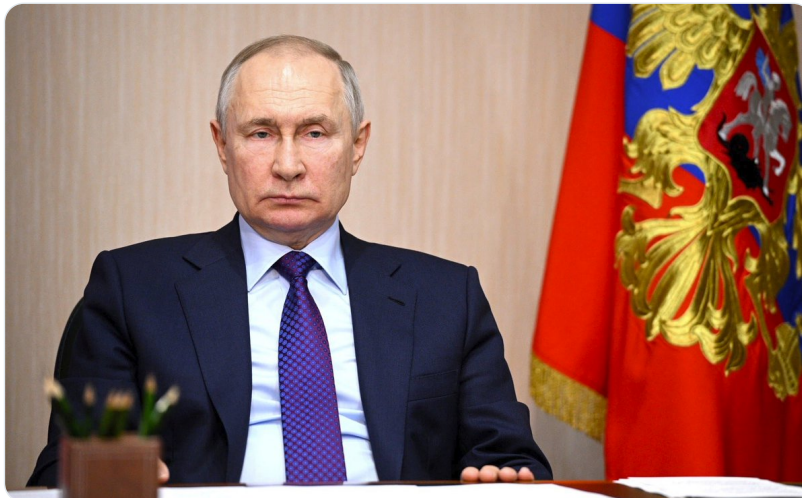
Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Jun 21 · 38 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1671536055214825477](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1671536055214825477)

In today's [#vatniksoup](#), voted by you, I'll introduce a Russian politician and president, Vladimir Putin. He's best-known for turning Russia into a totalitarian state, and for waging war in Chechnya, Georgia, Syria and Ukraine.

Grab a coffee, this one's long.

1/



Putin's family was molded and devastated by WW2 (or The Great Patriotic War as they call it in Russia) - his younger brother died of starvation in 1942, during the siege of Leningrad, his father served in the destruction battalion of the NKVD.

2/



His grandmother was killed by the Germans in 1941 and two of his uncles disappeared on the Eastern Front. Georgian Woman called Vera Putina claimed that she Vladimir was her son, but this was denied by the Kremlin. Putina died on 31 May 2023.

3/



Putin joined the KGB in 1975. His first job was in counterintelligence, where he monitored foreigners in Leningrad. Multiple reports suggest that at some point Putin worked as a spy in New Zealand under the guise of a shoe salesman.

4/

When 'shoe salesman' Vladimir Putin visited New Zealand

From *Sunday Morning*, 11:42 am on 13 March 2022

Listen 14:31
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When former Waitakere City Mayor Sir Bob Harvey was 17, he joined the pro-Soviet Socialist Unity Party. Sir Bob's interest in Mother Russia eventually drifted away, but it was rekindled in 2000 - while working as the Labour Party president - when he was handed an envelope containing 10 pages of gallery goods of a yet-to-be-published book about future Russian president Vladimir Putin's visit to New Zealand in the 1980s. The visit occurred while Putin, who was on his way to rising through the KGB ranks, was based in Germany and Singapore and part of his brief was to report on New Zealand, Australia and Fiji. Sir Bob later found out that Putin had actually travelled to New Zealand at least two times, visiting under aliases - one of those being as a Bata shoe salesman. He's with us to look back on what he was able to learn about Putin's visits to Aotearoa.

Did Putin visit NZ for the KGB?

By *Stuart Dye*, Stuart Dye and NZPA

2 Aug, 2007 08:00 PM | 4 mins to read

Cræma Hunt's book deals with the history of espionage.

From 1985 he worked in Dresden, East Germany. His work there is a topic of controversy: [@mashagessen](#) wrote in their biography of Putin that he was mostly collecting useless information, whereas [@CatherineBelton](#) suggested in 2020 that this was merely a smokescreen, and that..

5/

Ministerrat der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik
Ministerium für Staatssicherheit
Bezirksverwaltung
Dresden

Nur gültig mit Quartalsstempel

1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
I	I	I	I	I
II	II	II	II	II
III	III	III	III	III
IV	IV	IV	IV	IV

B 217590

Veränderung: Unterschrift, Siegel
Name: *Putin* / Vorname: *Vladimir*
Geb. am: *03.10.1952* / Geb.-Ort: *Leningrad*
Dienstgrad: *Major*
Dresden, den *11.11.1985*
Unterschrift: *Vladimir Putin*

B 217590

...he was actually involved in coordinating support for the anti-Western, far-left and terrorist Baader-Meinhof Group.

In 1990, Vladimir Vladimirovich started working for his old buddy and mayor of Leningrad, Anatoly Sobchak. A year later, he was investigated by the...

6/



...city legislative council for exporting metals worth 93 million USD in exchange for food aid that never arrived. The investigation was led by Marina Salye, but was eventually stopped by Putin's buddy, Sobchak. Salye was then forced to leave St. Petersburg.

7/

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PUTIN AND THE \$100 MILLION DEAL THAT DISAPPEARED

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The run-up to the recent Russian presidential elections was fraught with controversy. Several papers reported election-rigging, while protesters complained of repression of political opponents. But questions of corruption are nothing new for President-elect Vladimir Putin.

Putin started his career in the KGB, the secret police service that has since become the FSB. After working for several years in Germany, Putin moved to St Petersburg in 1990. There he left the KGB to enter the world of politics, taking up a number of positions within the city hall.

It was not long before questions began to swirl around Putin.

Food for oil

In 1992, Putin was investigated for a deal he oversaw while an official in the mayor's office. The deal involved the export of \$100m worth of raw materials in exchange for food for the citizens of St Petersburg. The materials were exported, but the food never arrived.

In 1996, Putin moved to Moscow where he was quickly employed by Boris Yeltsin. He also finalized his dissertation - something that every young rising official in Russia traditionally does. The thesis was plagiarized & 15 pages of it were copied directly from an American textbook.8/

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

This article was published more than 9 years ago

ANSWER SHEET

Russia's plagiarism problem: Even Putin has done it!

By Valerie Strauss

March 18, 2014 at 11:41 a.m. EDT

MOST REAL

In 1999, Yeltsin's health had been deteriorating for a while, and the oligarchs and Yeltsin family started looking for his successor who would agree not to prosecute them for corruption.

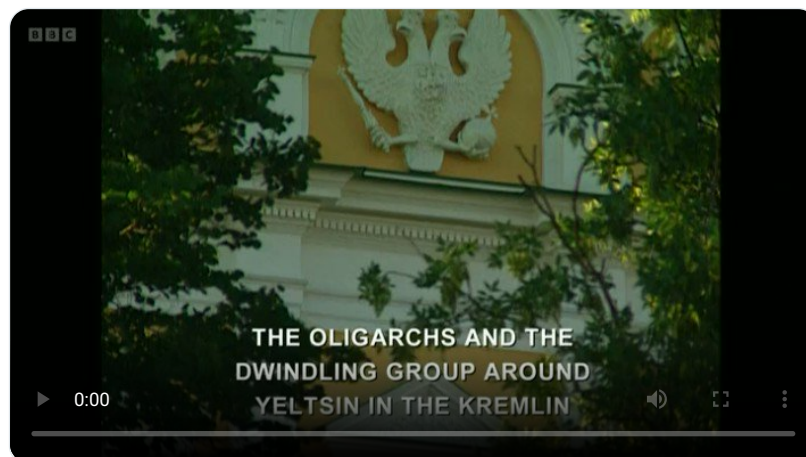
Putin was an anonymous bureaucrat who had spotless reputation and experience in ...

9/



...tradecraft, so they chose him. First Yeltsin appointed Putin to lead FSB, Russia's primary intelligence organization and the successor of KGB, and later he made him the prime minister. Soon after the Yeltsin loyalist and the oligarchs started heavily funding Putin's...

10/



...campaign for presidency, and in Dec 1999 he replaced Yeltsin. Few months before, FSB had allegedly orchestrated a false flag attack where they bombed apartment blocks around Russia, killing 300.

 **Pekka Kallioniemi**
@P_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#)

In today's 100th edition of [#vatnik](#) soup I'll talk about false flags and casus belli. Russia has utilized false flag tactics to justify their aggression in various conflicts in the past, and they will probably try to use them in the future, too.

1/15



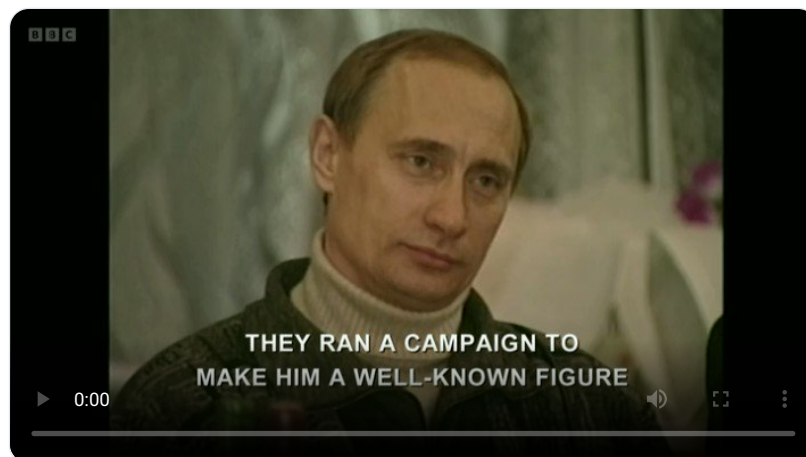
7:31 PM · Feb 12, 2023

 [Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

 2.9K  Reply  Copy link

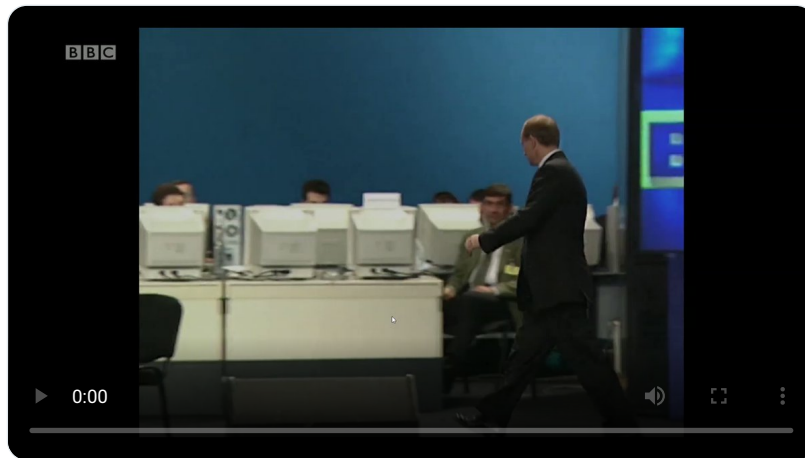
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11/



Putin's campaign was organized by "political technologists", who turned Russian politics into avant-garde theater, where no one was sure what was real and what was fake. This same strategy was later replicated on social media by organizations like Yevgeny Prigozhin's IRA.

12/



Putin's first major challenge came in Aug 2000, when he was criticized for mishandling the Kursk submarine disaster. As is tradition, Russians blamed NATO for the incident, but the families of the crew were skeptical about this. Russian authorities had also initially...

13/



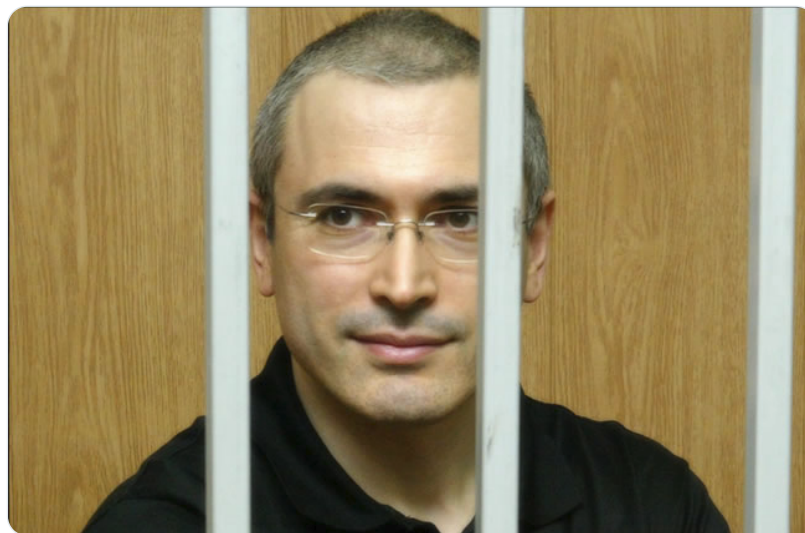
...denied any help from Western countries. Putin later met with these family members, who attacked Putin relentlessly, and one of the mothers, Nadezhda Tylik was sedated and carried out from the event.

14/



Putin soon realized that waging war and being aggressive makes you popular in Russia, so he did just that. During his second presidential term, he also prosecuted his political enemies like the oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who spent almost a decade behind bars, and...

15/



..murdered and imprisoned journalists who looked too closely into his politics. Some of these include Anna Politkovskaya, who reported about the Chechen War and was a harsh critic of Putin and FSB.

 **Pekka Kallioniemi**
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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

 [Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

 2.4K  Reply  Copy link

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16/



During the same year, former FSB officer and defector Alexander Litvinenko was poisoned to death in the UK with radioactive polonium-210. Litvinenko had attacked Putin, even going as far as claiming he was a pedophile, and fled to the West in 2000.

17/



In 2007, at the Munich Security Conference, Putin complained about NATO expansion and warned the West about the consequences. Political scientist Andrew A. Michta, Western leaders failed to recognize the speech as "a declaration of war on the West."

18/



The speech also marked the beginning of Putin's "economic war" on the West:



Russian Economic War: How Putin's Dirty Money Corrupted the West ...
Pekka Kallioniemi assesses the Kremlin's effective use of energy and financial dependency as part of its playbook shaping European politics
<https://bylinetimes.com/2023/01/20/russian-economic-war-how-putins-dirty-money-corr...>

Russo-Georgian relations began to deteriorate around 2003 after Georgia elected a pro-Western government. In Apr 2008, NATO promised to consider Georgia's bid for...

19/

membership, and some months later the Russian-backed South Ossetian forces started shelling Georgian villages. Russia falsely accused Georgia of "genocide" and launched their "peace enforcement" operation. Some years later they used similar tactics in Eastern Ukraine...

20/

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Evidence in Georgia Belies Russia's Claims of 'Genocide'
By Andrew Osborn in Tskhinvali, Georgia, and Jeanne Whalen in Moscow
Aug 15, 2008 12:01 am ET
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...with their "genocide in Donbas" accusations, funding of pro-Russian separatists, deploying mercenaries like Igor Girkin in Ukraine, and finally conducting their "special military operation" in Ukraine.

 **Pekka Kallioniemi**
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In today's #vatnik soup and another edition of "You pronounced this nonsense, not me". Today we're going to talk about the "genocide in Donbas" disinformation and propaganda trope, that's been debunked many times but just refuses to die in the social media sphere.

1/12



6:56 AM · Jan 8, 2023

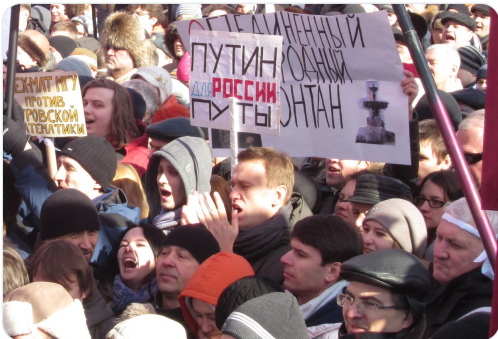
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Between 2011 and 2013, Putin faced countrywide protests and accusations of election fraud. Up to 20 000 protesters took over the streets of Moscow, with the Russian feminist group Pussy Riot and opposition leaders like Nemtsov and Navalny leading the group.

22/



REUTERS World Business Markets Breakingviews Video More

WORLD NEWS DECEMBER 21, 2017 / 3:07 AM / UPDATED 12 YEARS AGO

Navalny challenges Putin after leaving Russian jail

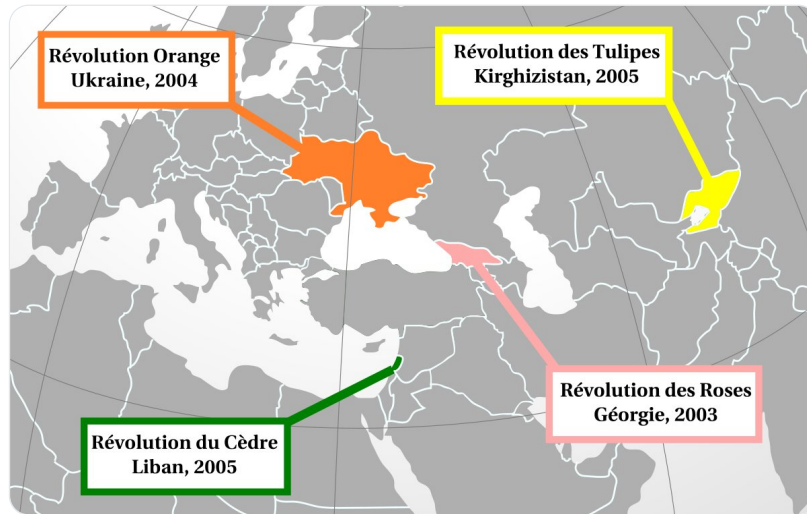
By Guy Fazio/bridge 4 MIN READ

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Opposition leader Alexei Navalny used his release from jail on Wednesday to call on Russians to unite against Vladimir Putin whom he said would try to snatch victory in a March 4 presidential election that was sure to be unfair.



For a long time, Kremlin had been worried about the "color revolutions" that had been taking place around the world, and because of this, Putin organized his own "anti-Orange" rally with around 130 000 supporters. Many of them were allegedly paid or forced to take part,...

23/



...and some of them thought they were participating in "folk concert". Around the same time, Russia started its online propaganda operations, attacking the Russian opposition and later Ukraine and the West. Putin also got rid of the main opposition figures, murdering...

24/




Nemtsov in 2015, and poisoning and later imprisoning Navalny in 2021.

Then in 2013 the Revolution of Dignity happened, after which Putin lost control of Ukrainian political power. Russia had been funneling money to support the separatist movement and its favorite...

25/




...pro-Kremlin politicians in Ukraine, but the people had grown tired of the corruption and wanted Ukraine to become closer to the West.

 **Pekka Kallioniemi**
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In today's [#vatniksoup](#) and another edition of "You pronounced this nonsense, not me", I'll talk about an event called the Revolution of Dignity AKA Maidan Revolution. It was a wave of demonstrations in Ukraine that took place in 2013 and 2014.

1/24



9:29 AM · Mar 13, 2023 

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 2.8K  Reply  Copy link

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This quickly led to the annexation of Crimea. At the time most of this was ignored by the Western audiences,...

26/



...as Russia was organizing the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. It was later discovered that Russia had a state-ran doping program and basically all of their athletes were involved.



You Can't Keep Politics Out of Sports – Especially in Russia – Byline T...

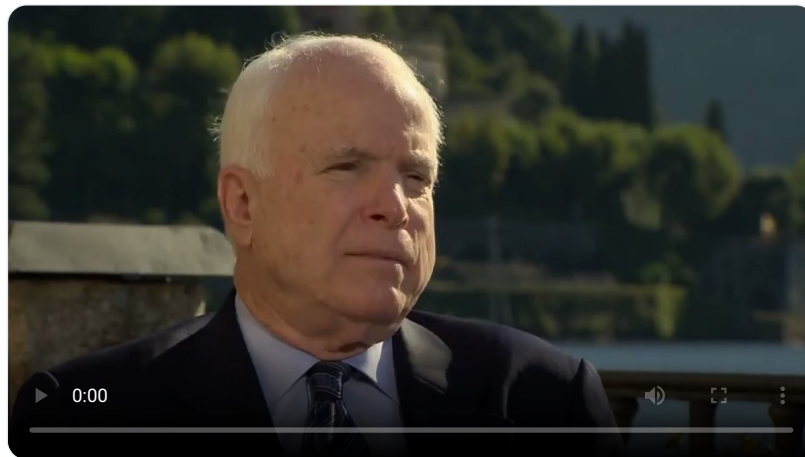
Pekka Kallioniemi says Russia should be excluded from the 2024 Olympics even as neutrals, for their presence will be manipulated yet again in Russian propaganda

<https://bylinetimes.com/2023/06/08/you-cant-keep-politics-out-of-sports-especially-in-r...>

27/

The late Senator John McCain was one of the few, who actually predicted what Vladimir Vladimirovich was up to. This BBC HARDTalk interview is from Sep 2014.

28/



In Oct 2015, Russia started deploying its troops into Syria, where they fought on the side of al-Assad. Russians were known for their brutality, using illegal, so-called doubletap tactic in which they targeted civilians and humanitarian aid workers.

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Replying to @P_Kallioniemi

According to White Helmets, an NGO helping civilians in war-ridden Syria, Russia used a barbaric strategy in Idlib and other areas: while bombing civilian targets, Surovikin's forces applied so called "double-tap strikes": After hitting civilian targets once, they did ...

6/10



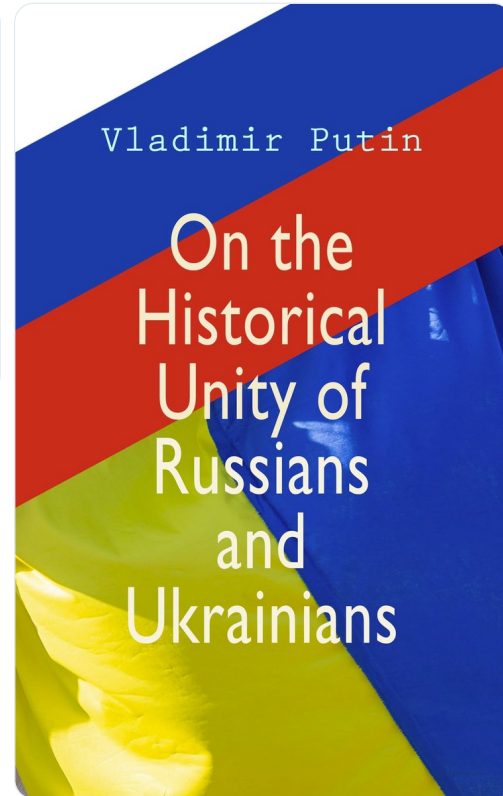
6:17 AM · Dec 15, 2022

 248  Reply  Copy link

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Putin's fourth presidential term started in 2018, and after COVID-19 had swept over Russia, he started preparing to invade Ukraine. In Jul 2021, he published an essay called "On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians", in which he argues that Ukrainians...

30/



...and Russians (along with Belarussians) are one nation that share a common destiny. [unity] In the essay, he writes that "Kiev (sic) simply does not need Donbas", the crisis is an anti-Russian conspiracy, and Ukrainian government has been taken over by "Banderites".

31/

This narrative was later replicated by in a op-ed written by Timofey Sergeytsev and published by Kremlin-controlled RIA Novosti:





6:55 AM · Nov 7, 2022



[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)



3.3K



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Russia is still desperately trying to fix its demographic problem by abducting Ukrainian children into Russia.

32/

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ANALYSIS

Russia's Ukraine Propaganda Has Turned Fully Genocidal

Egged on by the language of annihilation and extermination, Russian soldiers have become willing executioners.

By [Alexey Kovalev](#), a Berlin-based investigative journalist.

A photograph showing a man in a brown jacket covering his face with his hands in a gesture of despair or grief. He is standing in front of a large, white church with golden domes. The sky is overcast and grey.

As a prelude to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russia made a 20-year trade deal with Iran in Jan 2022, probably to buy the Shahed 136 kamikaze drones that are now used to attack civilian targets in Ukraine.

33/

The screenshot shows the Express website's homepage. The main headline reads "Biden humiliated as Russia and Iran strikes major 20-year energy deal". Below the headline, it says "US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has been left red-faced after Russia struck a major energy deal with Iran." The article is by ANTONY ASHKENAZ, dated 09:36, Fri, Jun 3, 2022. There are social media sharing icons and a "BOOKMARK" button. To the right, there is a "Most read in Science" section with three items: 1. "Blood cell cancer chemical released when using gas stoves and hobs, study warns", 2. "Shark that devoured 9ft great white exposed after hunt", and 3. "World's healthiest crisp? created - and it's all about the potato's maturity".

The screenshot shows the Ukrainian Pravda 23 website. The main headline reads "Russians attack Odesa using Shahed drones, 3 civilians killed, more than 26 injured". The article is by OLGA HLUSHCHENKO, dated SATURDAY, 10 JUNE 2023, 02:40. There are social media sharing icons and a copyright notice "© 54220". Below the headline is a video thumbnail showing a night-time fire at a building. The caption below the video reads "DURING FIRE EXTINGUISHING IN ODESA, VIDEO SCREENSHOT". The text below the video states: "Ukrainian air defences have destroyed all Shahed-131/136s used during a Russian UAV attack at Odesa Oblast. Due to falling debris, a fire broke out, 3 civilians were killed, and more than 26 were injured." The source is cited as "Operational Command Pivden (South)". A quote at the bottom reads: "Quote: 'During a nighttime drone attack on Odesa, all Shahed-131/136s were destroyed by air defence forces.'"

Even at this point most Western analysts were skeptical about Russia's invasion and pro-Kremlin propagandists taunted anyone who said so, but on 24 Feb 2022, after a buildup of Russian troops around Ukrainian borders, Russia's genocidal invasion began.

34/

The screenshot shows a tweet from George Galloway (@georgegalloway). The tweet text reads: "Y'all said #Russia was about to invade #Ukraine. I told you it wasn't. You were wrong. I was right. Again. Show some bloody humility. Especially if they're not even paying you to act like an idiot." The tweet was posted at 7:54 PM on Feb 14, 2022. It has 322 Retweets, 479 Quote Tweets, and 1,592 Likes. The user's bio includes "Russia state-affiliated media".

In Mar 2023, International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova for the large-scale kidnapping of Ukrainian children, basically barring them from entering any Western country.

35/



Putin and Russia will no doubt lose their war in Ukraine. In the process, they've destroyed their economy, lost their brightest in the mass exodus, and turned themselves into totalitarian military state. And Vladimir Vladimirovich will die as a secluded and paranoid old man.

36/36



Support my work:



A blue banner with white text and icons. The name 'Pekka Kallioniemi' is written in large white letters. To the right is a circular illustration of a chef in a kitchen. Below the name is a small coffee cup icon and the URL 'buymeacoffee.com/PKallioniemi'. The background features faint icons of a bird, a play button, a musical note, and a gift.

Pekka Kallioniemi
Support me in creating daily vatnik soups! All donations will be spent on research and production of vatnik soup or in the creation of web portal (vatniksoup.com)...
<https://buymeacoffee.com/PKallioniemi>

Subscribe for my upcoming YouTube channel:



An illustration of a chef in a white uniform and hat, stirring a pot of red soup with a wooden spoon. The scene is set within a circular frame with a textured background.

The Soup Central
The Soup Central gives you in-depth knowledge on disinformation, bad actors and information operations.
<https://youtube.com/@TheSoupCentral>

Past soups: vatniksoup.com

CORRECTION: It was of course Putin's older brother Viktor who died during the siege of Leningrad.

...