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Dec 30, 2022 · 39 tweets · [joseph__place/status/1608869689836597250](https://twitter.com/joseph__place/status/1608869689836597250)

Right so, let's talk debunking russian nonsense. This thread will be long but I hope you stick with it. I will go through propaganda claims and debunk them and explain how best to do so. In following threads I'll explain how better to bonk and argue. Have to walk before you run.



If you've been following Ukraine for a while, are an expert, or are Ukrainian you most likely won't learn much, this is mostly aimed at those who feel they have gaps in their knowledge.

Number one, "Nazis in Ukraine". The big one. A few things to know. First, for Russians, Nazis is used to mean, a lot of the time, "anti russian". Here is a link which explains this.



Russia says it's fighting Nazis in Ukraine. It doesn't mean what you thi...

Why do Russians seem to believe the Kremlin that Ukraine needs to be "denazified"? It may turn on the post-Soviet understanding of what a "Nazi" is.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2022/0420/Russia-says-it-s-fighting-Nazis-in...>

So for one, it means something very different. But, there are a few particular cases they like to throw out. Let's start with the one that's gone out of favour a bit. Right Sector. Right Sector are a political party with their own paramilitary.

A lot was discussed about their ideology, but they're definitely nationalist with a mix of some quite extreme people and those less so. They were present at Maidan, along with anarchists, liberals, leftists, regular folks etc.

Here's a good paper about their overstated role:

https://shron1.chtyvo.org.ua/William_Risch/What_the_Far_Right_Does_Not_Tell_Us_about_the_Maidan_anhl.pdf?PHPSESSID=99vdj1pfpoiv7s4uar8l136n40

We've also got the favourite Azov. Azov started back when russia first invaded in 2014. A paramilitary group assisting in fighting back russians, comprised of football hooligans and others who were quite capable of fighting, as the AFU was in a dire position in 2014



Certainly, in the early days, there were many hard right people involved. Its allegedly somewhat changed now, and it comprises of Jewish members and all sort, that is true (look at these members dancing with Jewish people, for example)

Kai Vidali

@KaiVidali · [Follow](#)

This clip of members of the Azov battalion joyfully dancing with Jews in Israel is causing outrage among Z-Russians, who are expressing their hatred and bigotry with vile Anti-Semitic tirades. [#Ukraine](#) [#Israel](#)

The media could not be played.

Reload

9:07 PM · Dec 29, 2022 ⓘ

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When these groups are brought up, it's more accurate to focus on their size than get into debates about what ideology they are. Don't fall into the trap of saying that nazis don't exist, that's factually untrue, there's at least 1 nazi. Look at Azov's size vs the AFU

Ukrainian Ground Forces		Active	
Size	~186,000 (2022) [1]	Country	Ukraine
Part of	Armed Forces of Ukraine	Branch	Special Tasks Patrol Police (2014) National Guard of Ukraine
Headquarters	Kyiv	Type	Infantry
Anniversaries	Army Day (6 December)	Role	Gendarmerie, national security.
13 more rows		Size	900–2,500 members ^{[1][2][3]}
		Part of	Ministry of Internal Affairs
		Nickname(s)	"Men in Black", "Little Black Men" ^{[4][5]}
		Colours	Blue and gold
		Anniversaries	5 May

What's more important is that they have no political presence with any influence, and compared to the hundreds of thousands of men and women fighting for Ukraine, they are a drop in the ocean. In addition, the far-right parties in Ukraine, do terribly.

In the 2019 Ukrainian parliamentary election the coalition of Svoboda and the other extreme-right political parties in Ukraine—National Corps, the Governmental Initiative of Yarosh, and the Right Sector—won only 2.15% of the vote combined and failed to pass the 5% threshold.^{[5][6]} No far-right parties gained seats in the Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine's parliament), as they all failed to win any single-mandate constituency seat.^[6]

More importantly, focus on actions. Russia, their hard right units (Rusich), and people like Girkin (definitely fascistic) have routinely committed far more atrocities and espoused very dangerous ideologies.



Rusich: Russia's neo-Nazi militia with broader ambitions

As his forces began rolling on Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed that he wanted to “demilitarise and denazify” the country — by which he was referring to ultranationalist elements in ...

<https://unherd.com/thepost/rusich-russias-neo-nazi-militia-with-broader-ambitions/>

If any country were invaded, of course, the far right would play a role in its defence. Give me any army and you can find far-right people. And what countries have a bigger far right in Europe than Ukraine? Damn near all of them.

 **Anastasiya Paraskevova**
@UkrainianAna · Follow

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Also... Looking at this I can totally understand worrying about the rise of far-right in the Western world. Just... Does not seem to be a Ukraine problem 😊🙄



In many countries nationalists got higher scores in European Parliament elections and opinion polls

1	Hungary Fidesz 49% Jobbik 19%	11	France National Rally 13%
2	Austria Freedom Party 26%	12	Netherlands Freedom Party 13%
3	Switzerland Swiss People's Party 25.8%	13	Germany Alternative for Germany 12.6%
4	Denmark Danish People's Party 21%	14	Czech Republic Freedom & Direct Democracy 11%
5	Belgium New Flemish Alliance 20.4%	15	Bulgaria United Patriots 9%
6	Estonia Conservative People's Party 17.8%	16	Slovakia Our Slovakia 8%
7	Finland The Finns 17.7%	17	Poland Confederation 6.8%
8	Sweden Sweden Democrats 17.6%	18	Greece Greek Solution 3.7%
9	Italy The League 17.4%	19	Cyprus ELAM 3.7%
10	Spain Vox 15%		

Last updated: May 2019 

11:59 AM · Dec 30, 2022 

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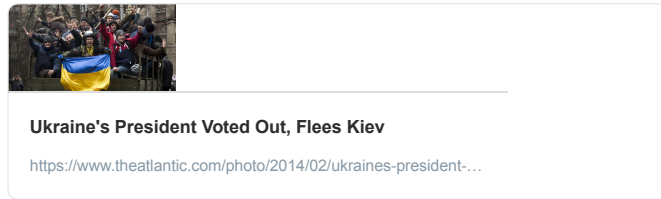
So, when Russians say “NAZIS” point out they are a minority, and that the russians do actions fitting nazis, unlike the Ukrainians. Right, NEXT!

MAIDAN COUPPPPPP

NAZI COUP! US BACKED NAZIS!

Maidan revolution, or revolution of dignity, was far from a coup. The people protested en masse, of all political persuasions, against russian wannabe dictator Yanukovich. Who had a mansion with a gold toilet, hardly a man of the people.

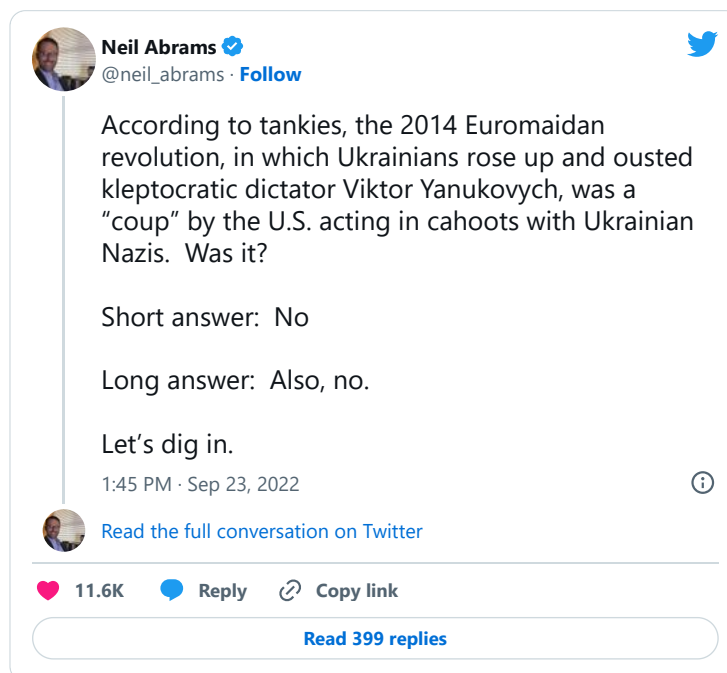
His support was in the east of Ukraine, mostly from his reputation there. Many of the same people who voted for him, and his party, were happy to see him go. Why did it start?



He didn't agree to the European association act, leading to protests. Protestors were ordered to be beaten, and protests grew. Local thugs and riot police killed 100 protestors. Many who fled justice. He was declared a criminal, and fled to Rostov.



BUT AMERICA PHONECALL! Yes there was a famous leaked call which people think is evidence of US plotting who came to power. This is better debunked here:



The reality is, after Yanukovich fled, a government formed of all parties took over before one of the most free and fair elections in Ukraine where Poroshenko became president.

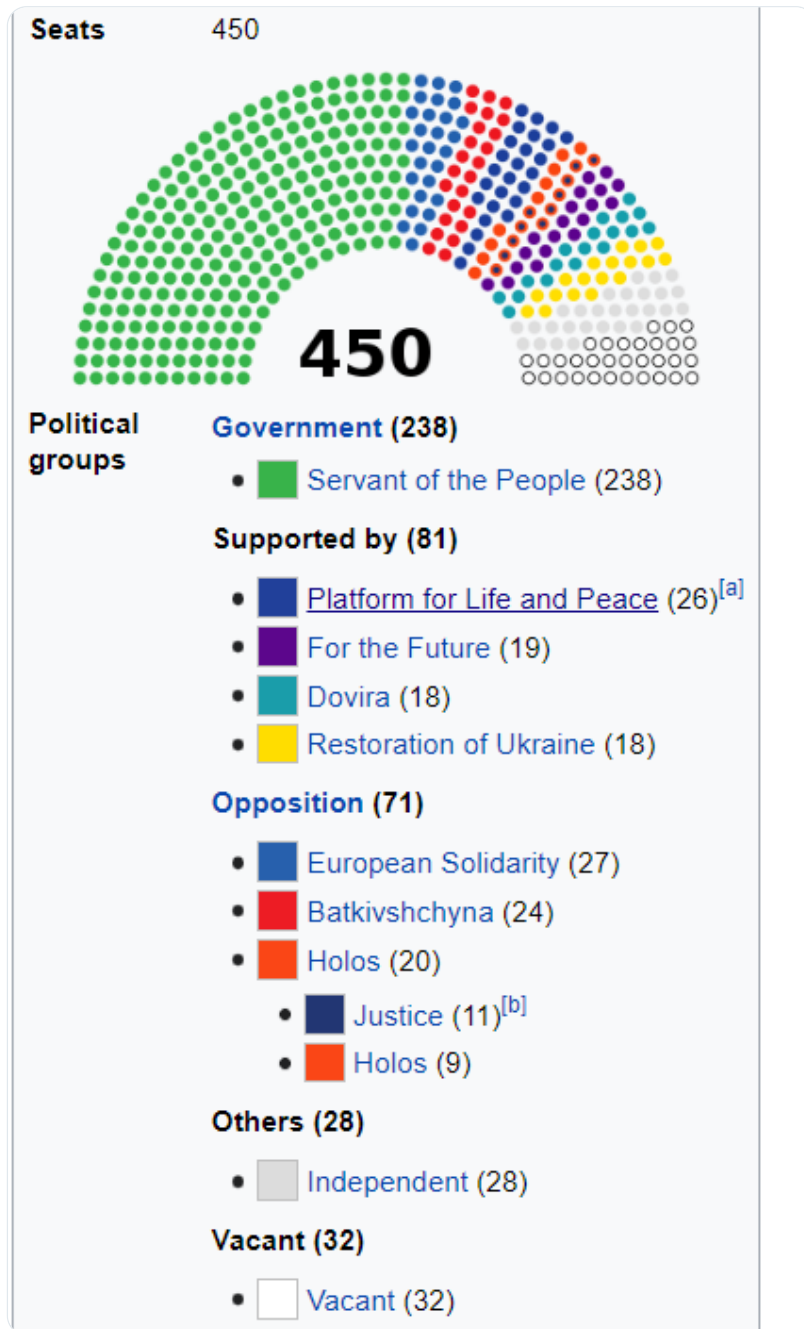
So when people say coup, point out that Yanukovich was declared a criminal, and a free and fair election took place after he ordered civilians to be murdered and turned Kyiv into an oppressive warzone.

ZELENSKY BANNED OPPOSITION

This one crops up a lot and woefully misunderstands Ukrainian politics. The party was restricted then banned when evidence showed many members were actively collaborating. During a war. Of course they were banned.



Many parties still exist and will continue to do so. Remind them of this, and ask “was it wrong for the UK to ban nazi parties in ww2?” of course it wasn't. The opposition actually exist in ukraine, unlike in Russia too.



BTW 'Platform for life and peace INCLUDES members for the formerly banned party, who arent collaborators. So there.

BANNED CHURCH

Again, collaborators. The Ukrainian own branch of the orthodox church still operates. The Russian tied church have been shown to collaborate. Just remind people that plenty of churches still operate

<https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/12/2/7378985/>

8 YEARS IN DONBAS

This is one of the more insidious forms of propaganda because it serves to create a “both sides bad” narrative. But, the idea of 8 years of shelling (or even genocide) is a lie.

How many civilians died? Let's look at the UN data. After the initial war, the civilian deaths were very minor, and almost all from mines. Not shelling.

https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Conflict-related%20civilian%20casualties%20as%20of%2031%20December%202021%20%28rev%2027%20January%202022%29%20corr%20EN_o.pdf

In Donbas, way more have died with russian aggression. Many deported. So bonk them with the UN stats and comparisons of Donbas prior to 2022 to now.

“Killing ethnic russians/russian speakers”

This is nonsense. One, the distinction between ethnicities is a blurry one when we're dealing with countries that have been under imperial rule and population deported. Two, there's never been a genocide from Ukrainian side. See above

Three, russian speakers are ALL OVER UKRAINE. Even in Lviv or wherever people can speak russian. People prefer Ukrainian, but the identity does not equal language. Some of the most patriotic Ukrainians i know actually ONLY speak Russian.

What about Minsk?

Minsk is the trickiest. Because we are dealing with a lot of hypotheticals. What was Minsk and Minsk 2? Tentative peace agreements.

Ru likes to claim that Ukraine didn't honour the requirement to let the people of Donetsk and Luhansk vote. However, Russia didn't withdraw its troops to ever even give Ukraine the chance to!



Ukraine-Russia crisis: What is the Minsk agreement?

France's Macron says the 2015 ceasefire deal between Kyiv and Moscow offers a 'path' to peace.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/9/what-is-the-minsk-agreement-and-why-is-it-r...>

Merkel recently said Minsk 2 was just to buy time, I actually don't think that's true, I think she's trying to salvage her legacy, as otherwise, they wouldn't have proceeded with Nord Stream.

So when this is brought up, remind people that Russia never withdrew their forces nor took responsibility for their “separatists” to allow for Minsk to work. Perhaps Minsk was never going to work, I don't think this is farfetched, but shifting blame to Ukraine is just unfair.

NATO! EXPANSION! BETRAYED AGREEMENTS! MISSILES POINTED AT RUSSIA!

Ukraine didn't join NATO at all. They had no NATO assistance when Russia annexed Crimea or Donbas. The world really didn't do much at this stage.

Yes, countries did JOIN NATO in eastern Europe, but that's their right as sovereign countries. There was never any agreement that NATO wouldn't expand. Yet Russia did invade Georgia in 2008, and also had a presence in Moldova. So why would countries want to join NATO perhaps?



What else do we have

Biolabs! FTX! Errrrrrm.....JUDEO LIZARD PEOPLE

IGNORE this. This is actual insanity.

How to argue against propoganda?

I will discuss in the future how to argue properly. For now, consider this. Use visual memes which represent these facts. Or create your own. Get the facts down to a nice, clear visual, and bonk them.

Don't waste time going back and forth talking, just show theyre lying. Then mock, and block. Keep your sanity. Did I miss anything? Let me know and i'll try my best!

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