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Research Article

Kremlinism: Russia's Malign Civilizational Force

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Abstract: This article considers Russian aggression against Ukraine within the context of a global clash between malign anti-civilizational forces and civilization. It posits that today's world situation should be understood as one positioned on a civilizational fault line. The conflict between these two dynamics is a key feature of the 21st century. The contemporary global terror stemming from the genocide of the Ukrainian people is linked to the growing phenomenon of the "new enemies of totalitarian Russia." This situation puts individuals and states worldwide at risk. Moscow's ambitions are not limited locally, regionally, or geographically; they are already impacting the peaceful future of the planet and its existence.

The terms Kremlinism, Ruscism, and Putinism are introduced as manifestations of the Kremlin's traditional fascism, which is central to Moscow's anti-civilizational force. The authors analyze Russia's internal and international use of rhetoric and lawfare. While the Kremlin may be effective in frightening or fooling leaders of democracies, its own citizens are the primary targets of its terrorist efforts. The objective is to demonstrate that a global response is required from civilized citizens and states. This response must outline a favorable vision of a future world where civilization thrives and confidently overcomes the forces of autocracy, authoritarianism, and corruption.

Keywords: Kremlinism, Ruscism, Putinism, Muskovy, Putin's regime, totalitarianism, global hybrid terrorism, hybrid-messianic aggression, communication-content capabilities, creative law.

It was not us who "took" this land: plain, open, and defenseless – it came to us; it made us possess it...
– Ivan Ilyin

Introduction

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the Kremlin veiled its barbaric imperialist nature with elaborate political and diplomatic ruses, mainly directed towards the democratic West. Today, Putin's Russian Federation no longer disguises its intention to carry on the legacy of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union; it glorifies it. Despite rhetoric to the contrary, it is virtually impossible to conceal its aggressive policy of military interventions within foreign countries, as well as the nominal federation. Moscow's full-scale war of aggression launched against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, testifies to this fact.

By now, it should be clear that the Kremlin's insatiable appetite will not be satisfied with Ukraine.¹ Dreaming of a reconstructed world where all key decisions align with Moscow's wishes, the Kremlin's dictatorial regime is laying a claim for geostrategic dominance. Consequently, all efforts of the Kremlin regime should be viewed not as mere attempts to return to their "glorious past" but as attempts to shape their own future and that of the entire planet according to the Kremlin's death-cult vision of empire.²

Contrasting civilization with malign civilizational forces is key to understanding the global environment of the 21st century. For civilized citizens and states to provide an adequate global response, they must recognize the current situation as one in which the Kremlin is at the helm, leading the malign civilizational forces of autocracy, authoritarianism, and corruption. The expansion of Russia's dominance is a form of "black-matter imperialism" because it destroys rather than nurtures what it absorbs. As Russia expands its control over foreign territories and citizens, it pillages everything. Its scorched earth policy continues to cause unsurpassed damage to Ukraine's cultural heritage, environment, and life.³

The purpose of this article is to facilitate the development of an adequate global response towards Russia. To this end, it posits that the primary conflict of modern history should be viewed as one between civilization on the one hand and "malign civilizational" forces on the other. This perspective is based on the premise that the entire world population constitutes a single civilization, albeit

¹ Fiona Hill and Angela Stent, "The Kremlin's Grand Delusions: What the War in Ukraine Has Revealed About Putin's Regime," *Foreign Affairs*, February 15, 2023, www.foreignaffairs.com/ukraine/kremlins-grand-delusions.

² "Kremlin's Never-Ending Thirst for Death and Devastation," *European Security*, July 7, 2022, <https://european-security.com/kremlins-never-ending-thirst-for-death-and-devastation/>.

³ Council of Europe Register of Damage for Ukraine, <https://rd4u.coe.int/en/about-the-register>.

divided by historical, cultural, or territorial specificities.⁴ Furthermore, this conflict is represented by Ukraine and its supporters on the side of civilization and by Russia alongside malign civilizational forces such as rogue states recognized as state sponsors of terrorism, including Iran, North Korea, Cuba, and Syria.

Second, the Kremlin's game-like simulation of anti-fascism represents a continuation of fascism from the previous century. It is necessary to consider the historical relationship with fascism to understand how claims of anti-fascism are employed to justify and whitewash the most heinous acts it is committing against Ukraine and its population.

Third, Moscow uses corruption as a statecraft and combines it with its extensive communication capabilities to subject its citizens and citizens globally to Machiavellian information and psychological warfare. Both are integral parts of the governance system manifested by the Russian Federation. The phenomenon of Kremlinism is presented as a complex of technological, resource-based systems and stylistic approaches designed to upend and destroy the peaceful realm of law and order. Ruscism and Putinism are presented as constituent parts of Kremlinism, which has successfully discredited the foundation of post-World War II civilized existence. Finally, the article outlines ways in which Kremlinism appears to be becoming the impetus for the collapse of the Russian Federation itself.

Civilization and Malign Civilizational Forces

From the onset, it is important to stress that the focal point of communication here is "civilization," not "empire." Civilization is intricately intertwined with the fight for the future. At the start of the 21st century, state-driven terrorism is a prominent manifestation of malign civilizational forces. While global historiography points to the Principality of Moscow (henceforth, Muscovy⁵) as the birthplace of terrorism,⁶ all elements of modern history's global hybrid terrorism highlight Muscovy's traditional role in world processes.

What raises the most concern about this multi-faceted evil is its spreading access to the advanced military-industrial complex and nuclear weapons. It has gradually evolved from a localized issue to an isolated regional phenomenon and is now a global occurrence. The European Parliament's identification of the Russian Federation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism indicates Russia's direct

⁴ In this case, the authors, familiar with Samuel P. Huntington's thesis, *The Clash of Civilizations*, and his theory of nine civilizations and the divisions between them, as well as the role of Ukraine in these processes, will not engage in polemics on the topic.

⁵ The term Muscovy is used here as an indicator that the Russian Federation itself is a federation of captured nations who have fallen under the helm of the Principality of Moscow.

⁶ Stanislav V. Kulchytskyi and Yana L. Prymachenko, "Terror and Terrorism," *Encyclopedia History of Ukraine*, <http://www.history.org.ua/?termin=Teroryzm>.

involvement in state-condoned organized terrorism, which has also gained profitable malign affiliations in the process.⁷

Malign civilizational forces have constituted serious threats in the past, but never before have they played such a decisive role in global processes. Today, the Kremlin's designation as a terrorist state and a state sponsor of terrorism, with deep ties to the Russian mafia (a constituent part of which are its so-called private military corporations), further exposes its global and informal reach.⁸

Expanding its potential, Moscow's so-called Russian Federation has become a source generating the stylistics of a malign civilizational force. The fact that the Kremlin is now posing as the leader of an entirely distinct "civilization" highlights the malign civilizational nature of the Muscovite neo-empire, or black matter imperialism.⁹ While displaying the obvious attributes of an empire resurrected from the past, the modern Kremlin employs up-to-date technology to manipulate government institutions, local populations, elites, and the populations of other states. This emphasizes its communication-content capabilities, particularly its game-like simulation of anti-fascism.

Game-like Simulation of Anti-fascism

Fascism does not give us new ideas, but only new attempts to implement this Christian, Russian, national idea in our given conditions following our views.

– Ivan Ilyin

The Kremlin continues to single out Russia (formerly the USSR) as the sole victor against fascism. The global population, particularly the Russian one, has been immersed in an almost game-like simulation of the anti-fascist, anti-Hitler coalition defeating Germany in 1945. Little is said about the atrocities committed by the Soviet-Communist leadership against hundreds of thousands of people, and Moscow has never been held accountable for them.

At some point, the Russian and German offshoots of basic socialism (the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party, the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and the National Socialist

⁷ Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, "European Parliament Declares Russia to Be a State Sponsor of Terrorism," November 23, 2022, www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/european-parliament-declares-russia-be-state-sponsor-terrorism_en.

⁸ Veronika Lutska, "Russia Is a Terrorist State and Should Be Recognized as One Internationally," *Official Website of Ukraine*, September 21, 2022, <https://war.ukraine.ua/articles/russia-is-a-terrorist-state-and-should-be-recognized-as-one-internationally/>; see also "European Parliament Declares Russia to Be a State Sponsor of Terrorism," *European Parliament News Release*, November 23, 2022, www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20221118IPR55707/european-parliament-declares-russia-to-be-a-state-sponsor-of-terrorism.

⁹ "Russia – a State and a Civilization. What Vladimir Putin Talked about at the Valdai Club Meeting," *TASS*, October 3, 2019, <https://tass.ru/politika/6960522>; "Putin Claimed Russia to Be a Separate Civilization," *Interfax*, May 17, 2020, www.interfax.ru/russia/709039.

German Workers' Party) diverged in their understandings of global supremacy and the regime characteristics of the "greater good" for humanity. If it were not for the divergence in nuanced opinions between Hitler and Stalin regarding the implementation of these ideals, the idea of fascism could have come to fruition and obtained global capabilities a century ago.¹⁰

As a result of this divergence, the term "fascism" and its entire accompanying philosophical and mental superstructure acquired negative connotations in Russia and was temporarily rejected from public discourse. While the Nazi element became an international taboo and was somewhat subdued over time, the Muscovy communist element continued to accumulate its negative potential and prepare for revenge.

Yale University Professor of History Timothy Snyder, a scholar of nationalism, totalitarianism, and the Holocaust, defines the Kremlin's current political regime as fascist. In Putin's modern Russian Federation, one can observe various displays of Russian fascism and a multitude of other phenomena that accompany the xenophobic policies of different powers within the "modern" Muscovite empire. Snyder draws parallels between Putin's Russia and Hitler's Germany, concluding that a Kremlin victory would lead to decades of darkness.¹¹

Ben Wallace, the British Secretary of State for Defense, shares this sentiment. In a speech at the National Army Museum on May 9, 2022, he stated: "Through their invasion of Ukraine, Putin, his inner circle and generals are now mirroring the fascism and tyranny of 77 years ago, repeating the errors of last century's totalitarian regimes."¹²

The communist element finally achieved its revenge when, with the complicit consent of the international community, the Kremlin's regime wiped Grozny off the face of the Earth, tore Chechnya apart, attacked Georgia, occupied parts of Moldova, and destroyed Syria. The invasion of Ukraine was supposed to be the pinnacle of this impunity. The violent, barbaric actions committed by the Kremlin's invaders in Ukraine served as a wake-up call for the global community and a chance for a reality check.

Kremlinism

After a decade of war against Ukraine (2014 – present), geostrategic aggressions against global democracy are flourishing. Today, alongside Ukraine, the rest of the world is being subjected to the Kremlin's ordinal capabilities of aggression, i.e., Kremlinism. Kremlinism is a boundless source of contemporary transnational

¹⁰ Laurence Rees, *World War II: Behind Closed Doors: Stalin, The Nazis and The West* (BBC Books, 2009).

¹¹ Timothy Snyder, "We Should Say It. Russia is Fascist," *The New York Times*, May 19, 2022, www.nytimes.com/2022/05/19/opinion/russia-fascism-ukraine-putin.html.

¹² "Ben Wallace: Russia 'Mirroring' WW2 Fascism in Ukraine Invasion," *BBC*, May 9, 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61376463>.

crime, including genocidal wars, terrorist attacks, and hybrid-messianic aggression. Ruscism and Putinism are the constituent elements of this malign civilizational force. These terms are important to understand and differentiate: Ruscism depicts the geostrategic aspect of Moscow's imperial ambitions, while Putinism points to the dictator or institutional leadership. Together, they combine to form Kremlinism as a geostrategic threat.

Ruscism

Ruscism—Russian fascism—is based on imperialistic state ideology and the uniquely Muscovite concept of “Russkiy Mir” (The Russian World). Importantly, it should not be examined solely through the lens of its ethnic component (the distinction between “Russkiye” and “Rossiyane” is significant). Instead, it represents a corporate manifestation of the Kremlin's imperialistic statehood. It is a central mental narrative that defines “Russian” by political affiliation rather than ethnicity.

20th-century Russian philosopher and writer Ivan Ilyin, an uncompromising opponent of communism, was a key figure in Russian messianism and fascism. Vladimir Putin frequently relies on Ilyin's works. Many of Putin's speeches and the Kremlin's pseudo-scientific research on Ruscist ideas about “the great state” draw clear inspiration from fascism. Ilyin, one of the prominent figures of the so-called White movement, is also cited by the President of Russia, former President Dmitry Medvedev, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Russian governors, Patriarch Kirill, various leaders of the United Russia Party, and many others.¹³

As shown above, Russian fascism is not new. Mimicking various ideological forms, it has been expertly cultivated into Ruscism, creating suitable conditions for the “Russian World” ideology.¹⁴ This represents a continuation of the historical ideological line of “Great State” chauvinism and xenophobia, which form the foundation of the Kremlin's global hybrid terrorism. Importantly, this phenomenon has been and continues to be strongly supported by Russian scientific and philosophical discourse.

The Kremlin shapes public opinions in targeted communities or countries by employing communication-content aggression to realize its policies. A good example of this is the ongoing double-edged sword approach to the genocide of the Ukrainian people: destroying “defiant people” while intimidating the world into submission. Journalists, linguists, scientists, engineers, and others unite under a vertical hierarchy to fulfill specific tasks assigned by the Kremlin. They work as a single mechanism to produce Kremlin-desired narratives. Essentially, they constitute Putin's paramilitary propaganda task force, constantly on standby and

¹³ Anton Barbashin, “Ivan Ilyin: A Fashionable Fascist,” *Riddle*, April 20, 2018, <https://ridl.io/ivan-ilyin-a-fashionable-fascist/>.

¹⁴ John O'Loughlin, Gerard Toal, and Vladimir Kolosov, “Who Identifies with the ‘Russian World’? Geopolitical Attitudes in Southeastern Ukraine, Crimea, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Transnistria,” *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 57, no. 6 (2016): 745-778, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15387216.2017.1295275>.

not hindered by issues of morals or civilizational responsibility. What is often overlooked, however, is the “Lenin–Stalin–Putin” chain that attempts to mask communist totalitarianism with notes of fascism.

Globally, it has also become an effective Machiavellian fear-mongering weapon. This chain and its implications, termed “Ruscism,” warrant further study. The basic existential trend in establishing “Putin’s new statehood” involved reconstructing a reality dominated by the belief in Russian chosen-ness, its invincibility, hatred towards Kremlin-selected enemies, and a willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for the state’s future (a traditional historical narrative). The total immersion of the Russian population in the Kremlin’s communication-content unreality is a tragic historical experiment on the peoples within the Kremlin’s federation. Notably, Putin’s own informational bubble has often been cited as the cause of his loss of touch with reality.¹⁵

Putinism

Russian political scientist and publicist Stanislav Belkovskiy asserts, “Putin, just like Stalin, bets on the boundless patience of the Russian people.”¹⁶ Over the years, Russian tsars, general secretaries, and presidents have all taken advantage of this. Looking back, the apparent insensitivity to their own suffering—both from a medical and socio-political standpoint—is quite dangerous and often lethal. Why do Russians and other peoples of the nominal federation silently tolerate the endless abuse by their Kremlin leaders?

The game-like simulation of anti-fascism is increasingly cult-like. In line with the Kremlin’s traditions is the myth of a past golden age of imperial greatness, to be restored through a murderous war on Ukraine. There is also a cult of the dead, centered around World War II, and a cult around a single leader – this time, Vladimir Putin, hence Putinism.¹⁷

Ivan Okhlobystin, a former priest, actor, and political activist, delivered a surreal speech immediately after Putin’s September 30 annexation speech. Speaking on Red Square, dressed like a comic book villain from a Nazi Germany play-book, he called for a Holy War, rallying the audience with the little-known word “Goida.” This term is not innocuous; it is a battle cry associated with Ivan the Terrible, invoking calls for killing, blood, and attack.¹⁸ His speech exemplifies Kremlinism, a combination of Russkiy Mir and Putinism.

¹⁵ Gordon Corera, “Ukraine War: Western Agents Seek to Get Inside Putin’s Head,” *BBC*, March 20, 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60807134>.

¹⁶ “Putin Bets on the Boundless Patience of the Russian People.” Belkovskiy Talks about How Long the War Will Last and What Will Happen to the Soldiers from Azovstal,” *Current Time TV*, May 23, 2022, www.currenttime.tv/a/belkovskiy/31858618.html.

¹⁷ Snyder, “We Should Say It. Russia Is Fascist.”

¹⁸ Michele A. Berdy, “Гойда! They Shouted. Say What? What Were They Shouting on Red Square and Should We Worry?” *The Moscow Times*, November 10, 2022, www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/10/07/goida-they-shouted-say-what-a79021.

Transcript of Ivan Okhlobystin Speech on Red Square, September 30, 2022 ¹⁹

Finally, I will not be ashamed to look into the eyes of the people of Novorossiia! Finally, Donbas has returned home. And with it, the real Russian Ukraine returned. Alas, not all. But this is just the beginning. I am sure that in the near future, just give this time, Odessa, Nikolaev, Kharkov, and other Russian cities will be with us. Thank God we have nowhere to retreat. And it is wrong to assume that a confrontation is taking place between the united West and Russia. NO, everything is much more serious. It's a battle between good and evil. Between light and darkness. Between God and the devil. Sooner or later, what everyone expects will happen. Eventually, we will win. There is an opinion that what is called the "Special Military Operation" will be renamed to a "Counter-terrorist operation." Some say it will be a "Patriotic War." But I believe that even this is not enough. It would be correct to call it a "Holy War." "HOLY WAR!" Because Muslims have such a concept as "Jihad." This is not only a holy battle on the battlefield with the enemy. First of all, it is a struggle with your sins inside your heart. And, our main battle in our "Holy War" will take place in our souls. And if we win it, we will win every other battle.

There is such an old Russian interjection: "Goida!" It means a call for immediate action. We really miss such battle cries now. "Goida" brothers and sisters "Goida!" Tremble Old World! Which is devoid of true beauty, true faith, true wisdom! And ruled by madmen, perverts, Satanists! Tremble! We are coming! "Goida! Goida!!!"

Those serving Putin and the Kremlin's vertical structure are well aware that their victory in this modern global conflict will not be defined by the quantity of informational-content impact points but by the quality of the impact their messaging has on various dimensions of human existence. Here, quality refers to the strength of the mental and cultural influence generated by the Kremlin. Modern Putinism, with its aggression and atrocious crimes, continues to rattle the entire world and poses a real threat to civilizational peace and prosperity. This is the key to understanding the true nature of this regime and its subsequent actions. Therefore, even if attempts to "factor in Russia's interests" in the current war cease, without providing Ukraine with the necessary support, primarily in weapons and consolidated efforts, time will work in the Kremlin's favor.

Collective Putinism is a geostrategic phenomenon with currently undefined potential for negativity. Until very recently, many representatives of the global establishment hoped to help Putin "save face" and encouraged others to do the same.²⁰ Had their calls been heeded, it would have delivered a significant, if not crushing, defeat to sustainable democracy.

¹⁹ "Speech by a Former Priest on Red Square, after Putin's Speech," September 30, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E60A8fiB5DM>.

²⁰ Irina Drabok, "Where Do 'Initiatives with a Russian Twist' Come from and How to Deal with Them," *Ukrinform*, May 20, 2022, <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-world/3487958-sud-mn17-dokaziv-dostatno-risenna-ocikuetsa-do-15-grudna.html>.

Putin's unwillingness to accept the compromises offered by the European community further confirms this assumption.²¹ It becomes clear that Putinism is a dictatorship with genocidal intentions, not content with merely waging war or supporting terrorism on continental testing fields. As a modern manifestation of Russian totalitarianism, Putinism wages a sophisticated offensive against the civilizational potential of society, declaring anyone who rejects the Kremlin's narratives to be an enemy of the system.

Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer, who met with the Kremlin's dictator in April 2022, claimed that the Russian President only uses "war logic."²² Over the years, Putin has used his minions to transform civil societal characteristics in the Russian Federation into government and corporate characteristics, later turning the state into a base of combined messianism, total cynicism, and global hybrid terrorism. Putinism is a dictatorship with genocidal intentions, not just a perpetrator of war or terrorist aggressions on continental testing fields. Kremlinism sets a precedent by using the technologically creative potentials of the modern age to assist "profound Putinism" in modeling the future through the annihilation of civilization and the consecration of the past. Hence, it is neo-barbaric.

Putinism is simultaneously a geostrategic phenomenon, an ideology, and a complex of technological and resource-based systems, along with stylistic approaches, designed to undermine the realms of peace, international law, and civilized existence.

Kremlinism and the International Community

Whereas Ruscism and Putinism are independent phenomena of modern reality in which Putin and his supporters materialize the continuation of the Kremlin's oppression (Kremlinism), what makes Kremlinism unique is that it is not based purely on an ethnic or national component. Like its Soviet predecessor, it transcends state borders. Unlike Stalinism, which was tied to a single individual, Kremlinism is not confined to one person. Instead, it functions like a club-like corporation whose members seek to dominate the world. Notably, in the global public space, they have almost succeeded.

Kremlinism in action involves more than just physical aggression. Primarily, the Kremlin leverages a new generation of technological capabilities to achieve diplomatic and geostrategic dominance. A significant aspect of its strategy is directing a flow of communication-content disinformation to shape global perceptions and define Russia's presence on the international stage. A 2022 study by the Bratislava-based think tank GLOBSEC, covering nine European countries,

²¹ "Putin Is Not Ready for Any Real Negotiations with Ukraine – Slovakian PM," *European Pravda*, June 2, 2022, www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2022/06/2/7140533/.

²² "The Chancellor of Austria Stated that He 'Doesn't Feel Optimistic' after Meeting Putin," *Radio Svoboda (Freedom)*, April 12, 2022, <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-nehammer-putin/31798492.html>.

highlighted the effectiveness of this approach. A month into the full-scale invasion, approximately half of those interviewed in Hungary, Bulgaria, and Slovakia did not view Russia as the aggressor in the war with Ukraine.²³ In the ongoing struggle between civilizational and malign civilizational forces, those who view Putin's Russia as a civilizational state and Putin as its legitimate leader are fundamentally mistaken.

The Kremlin pursues an aggressive public policy to shape desired opinions in nearly every country worldwide. It employs a range of technological and communication capabilities to spread its narratives. Consequently, the international community faces the following key challenges:

- Finding ways to neutralize the impact of Kremlin disinformation effectively
- Developing a unified strategy for physically deterring the global hybrid aggressor
- Preventing the Russian Federation from reverting to or exporting its dictatorial totalitarianism on a global scale.

Kremlin's operatives have transformed terror and genocide from static facts into a technological, intellectual, and verbal process. The world is already experiencing the consequences of this aggression. By portraying the West as satanic, the Kremlin is pushing the Middle East, the Global South (where African countries face famine as a direct consequence), and Asia further into turmoil. The EU and North America are experiencing destabilization due to political radicalization, often linked to Russian influence. This situation is particularly alarming in an unprecedented election year.

The Kremlin seeks to distort reality by convincing the global population, particularly African nations, that the EU and Ukraine, rather than Russia, are to blame for this tragedy. Additionally, the continued activities of the Wagner Group and other so-called private military corporations signal Moscow's neo-imperial ambitions.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Kremlinism employs transformational technology to undermine international civilization, aiming to dismantle the current civilizational system and replace it with one that secures the geostrategic dominance of malign forces. This technology targets not just specific regions or locations but the entire world, including the Russian Federation itself.

Today, the Kremlin's operatives, including Putin, hold content and technological superiority in the global distribution of suitable information. They interpret global events according to their own agenda, manipulating formats and targeting

²³ Dominika Hajdu et al., *GLOBSEC Trends 2022: Central and Eastern Europe amid the War in Ukraine* (GLOBSEC, May 2022), <https://www.globsec.org/publications/globsec-trends-2022-central-and-eastern-europe-amid-the-war-in-ukraine/>.

through advanced technological and design methods. Consequently, international communal truth is filtered through this information “sieve,” becoming an elaborate lie.

A prompt, widespread, and convincing narrative explaining a country's actions on the international stage is crucial in shaping public opinion and the official stance of governments, particularly benefiting a third state or a conspiring group of states. For the past ten years, the global communication-content realm has been distorted by Russia's widespread misinformation about the realities of fighting global fascism, particularly through the war in Ukraine. This has significantly impacted the world and the agenda of the global community. Within the framework of information security, governments should prioritize providing accurate translations of key events and processes into the most common languages. This is essential for all states interested in ensuring a peaceful future for the civilization.

Having appropriated the victory in WWII, the Kremlin has used this victorious narrative as a foundational building block to create a new Russian reality. Simultaneously, the dogmatic interpretation of the war events, as propagated by the Kremlin and its agents, prohibits any criticism of the USSR and its public figures, as stipulated by Russia's laws. This is how Putin's Russia entered a state of Ruscism—Russian fascism—a corporate cluster manifestation of imperialistic statehood. This classification gives grounds to label the modern form of government in the Russian Federation as Kremlinism, a contemporary phenomenon. It is unique because it is not based purely on an ethnic component and can thus operate within various communities abroad. It has evolved into a club-like corporation whose members seek global domination. Collective Kremlinism is a geostrategic phenomenon with an as-yet unidentified potential for negativity, posing a real, albeit not fully comprehended, threat to democracy.

The destruction of Ukraine and its identity, live-streamed for the entire world to see, represents a technological aspiration and innovation of Putin's regime. It serves as a “test run” for global hybrid terrorism, with the lessons learned from this attempt likely to be employed later against other countries and regions, including the Baltics, the Middle East, and beyond.

In order for civilized citizens and states to provide an adequate global response, they must understand the current situation as one where the Kremlin is at the helm, leading the malign civilizational forces of autocracy, authoritarianism, and corruption.

Analyzing the impact of the Russian Federation on global affairs, it becomes clear that, alongside using political and diplomatic leverage, the regime invariably utilizes an arsenal of informational and media tools to influence specific states and regions. By closely examining the communication-content network deployed by the Kremlin's political regime globally, it is evident that all content transmission channels are engaged, including multiple means of immediate (sometimes even simultaneous) translation, tools for amplification, geostrategic event creation, and manipulation.

To further expose the anti-civilizational effects of Moscow's geostrategic policies and defend against them, civilized states must consider the following:

- The monopolization of the regime's cynical diplomatic style of post-state territorial management, where electoral or international and public laws do not constrain the government. Respectively, the need to counter Russia's lawfare by enforcing international legal standards and maintaining vigilance against Russia's manipulative tactics.
- The totalitarian and seductive power of criminal-economic traditions and the need to identify and eradicate Russia's corrupt networks within, holding the actors accountable through robust legal frameworks and international cooperation to dismantle these networks.
- The geostrategic variability of aggressive acts aimed at destroying the remaining institutions of democratic civilization within existing statehoods. It is necessary, therefore, to understand that Russia weaponizes democratic values and principles to undermine civil societies and, hence, develop public policies that balance the protection of national security with the prevention of the abuse of freedoms by foreign agents, ensuring that democratic institutions remain resilient against such tactics.

Throughout history, the Kremlin has designed a system of public communication that has impacted national communities worldwide. Under Putin's reign, this system has evolved into a key element of domestic governance, shaping public opinion to align with Moscow's interests. It also serves as a mechanism for political and diplomatic coercion on the international stage. This is how Putin's Russia has been influencing global information trends and narratives.

Key ways to combat Kremlinism are through creative law and unbiased historical analysis. The following facts must be considered when developing pro-civilizational strategies:

1. Despite its various forms throughout history—Grand Duchy of Moscow, Tsarism, Bolshevism, or pseudo-democratic federation—the state has consistently been rooted in totalitarianism. The present-day Russian Federation is a logical product of the historical development of the Muscovite Empire in terms of its political structure and societal evolution.
2. The Russian Federation is a multinational state where the central regime has historically had to either consider the interests of national minorities or harshly repress them. Putin's regime has launched a mechanism of creating the concept of "Russians by political affiliation," designed to eradicate ethnic distinctiveness and "rewire" mentalities to fit Kremlin interests. One of the most effective ways to rewire the mentality includes canceling classes taught in national languages and deliberately ignoring national (indigenous) cultural heritage.

3. Multi-faceted communication content and physical aggression against Kremlin-identified enemies are historically commonplace. Isolation of civil societies, inhibition of economic and societal growth within the federation, and denial of horizontal partnerships and autonomous capacities of each federal entity have all added to the regime's mobilization potential to maintain usurped power.
4. The Kremlin's tyrannical despotism is manifested through economic totalitarian traditions, cynical diplomatic styles of the monopolized regime independent of electoral, international, and civil law, geostrategic aggressions aimed at dismantling remnants of civilized democracy within the framework of present statehood, and global transformative changes to traditional terrorism and practical neo-barbarism.
5. Public attributions indicating the success of the Kremlin's aggressions on the global stage have developed into claims of global hegemony, complete disregard for international law, and destruction of the global security system. This has pulled the political regime of the Russian Federation out of the civilizational orbit into the status of a malign civilizational force representing absolute evil.
6. Russia's nuclear weapons, the Kremlin's strategic consolidation of certain states supporting Moscow's policies, and some political authoritarian regimes aligning with Russia have led to the emergence of a new civilizational faultline.
7. In contrast to the bipolar world of the 20th century, the 21st century has seen a dramatic increase in the significance of individual states driven by technological advances, global infrastructure, and service dependencies. Nowadays, "small" states with robust technological potential have a say in the international community's final decisions, which is something the major global players must consider.

By observing the aforementioned points and the situation in Ukraine, the global community should become acutely aware of the potential losses it will face if the Kremlin remains unaccountable. The Kremlin's regime sets a dangerous precedent, as it absorbs the technologically creative potential of the modern age to further its malign objectives.

Bringing an end to Kremlinism is the key mission for securing victory for global democracy and stability. This can be achieved by turning Russia back to its true roots and removing the cloak of historical fallacy obscuring the vision of Russians and those internationally seduced by Kremlinism. The legacy of humanity must not be destroyed by global hybrid terrorism on the Kremlin's whim.

Disclaimer

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