

GRASS Disinfo Brief: Putin's War of Choice

16 May – 22 May

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Ukraine War Disinfo Narratives in Georgia

16-22 May

During the monitoring period of 16-22 May, about 150 pieces of propaganda regarding the ongoing war against Ukraine have been identified.

GRASS recommends reading this newsletter against the background of this [music](#).

Russia's Crusade Against Nazism in Ukraine

To justify its brutal invasion of Ukraine, Russian propaganda portrays the Ukrainian government and its military as [Nazis/fascists](#) while Russia keeps being the saviour in liberating Ukrainians according to the Kremlin's disinformation script. During the period of 16-22 May, Alt-Info, infamous for organising the 5 July violence in Tbilisi and advocating for Georgia's alliance with Russia, as well as different Facebook pages, groups and accounts, have amplified Russia's effort in Georgia in order to present the unjustifiable and unprovoked war against Ukraine as Moscow's holy crusade. The main disinfo narrative continued to include false stories about Ukrainians committing massacres against civilians, including children, in Donbas for years. Among others, Alt-Info went ahead with this narrative, claiming that fascist forces and followers of Stepan [Bandera](#), who have been in power in Ukraine, have been actively fighting against the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine since the revolution in 2014, repeating the Kremlin's textbook message used by Moscow as the *casus belli* for launching its aggression against Ukraine.

Other pro-Russian sources have primarily focused on the [Azov Battalion](#) and the Presidential [Advisor, Oleksiy Arestovych](#), as the most fascist and [Nazi elements](#) in the Ukrainian [military](#) and the government. Moreover, the Former Deputy of the Tbilisi City Municipal Assembly, Erekle Kukhianidze, continued his Kremlin-supportive stance and this time repeated Moscow's falsehood that Ukraine was [preparing](#) for an attack on Donbas in 2021.

Russian mouthpieces also continue to [portray](#) the mass atrocities and the war crimes committed by the Russian forces in Bucha as a fake display orchestrated by the Ukrainian forces.

These messages, disseminated widely in Georgian social media by around 20 disinfo sources, aimed to *ex-post* create a *casus belli* for the Russian invasion that broke the basic rules and the norms of international law.

The Military Situation on the Ground through Kremlin Lenses

Russian propaganda continues to persuade not only the public but also its leadership that the "special military operation" is going according to plan. As the war of attrition started in Donbas, Russia has been making only minor gains at a colossal cost of manpower and military hardware. To conceal the fact that the Russian so-called "invincible army" (*непобедимая армия*) suffered terrible setbacks and lost the major battles for Kyiv, Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv, etc., and failed to occupy any large city other than Kherson and could not even fully "liberate" Donbas after three months into the war, Russian propagandists have been forced to work around the clock.

Pro-Russian sources operating in Georgia - News-Front, allegedly funded by the [FSB](#), Alt-Info, Georgia and the World, TV Obieqtivi and the Alliance of Patriots, Split Space News, Sezoni TV, Isari.ge and numerous Facebook groups, pages and accounts have been distorting the situation on the battlefield in Russia's favour in an attempt to maintain the myth of Russia's

military might because Moscow's strategic narrative of scrapping a pro-Western foreign policy in favour of a neutral or a pro-Russian course is otherwise doomed to fail.

In the timeframe of 16-22 May, [disinfo sources exploited](#) the [evacuation](#) of the [Azov Battalion](#) from [Mariupol](#) and [showcased](#) it as a major [Russian victory](#) and a strategic Ukrainian [defeat](#). Pro-Russian outlets also argued that the Ukrainian army is [demoralised](#) and lacks [weaponry](#) and hence, some units are [unable](#) to continue the war. According to Russian propaganda in Georgia, Ukraine is on the verge of collapse. They argued that the reason why the war is dragged out is that Russia is only using [15-18%](#) of its forces and is fighting with caution, not razing Ukraine to the ground, in order to [spare](#) the civilian population (whilst in reality, Russia has committed most of its forces, completely destroyed several cities, notably Mariupol, and executed war crimes by killing thousands of civilians). Some Facebook users also spread the information that the Ukrainian people are in a desperate situation and their leaders simply do not [care](#) about their fate.

Pro-Russian outlets also promoted videos showing how the Russian army [bombed](#) and destroyed Ukrainian equipment and [killed](#) soldiers.

Economic Consequences of Sanctions

Russian propaganda tried to convey the message that the "anti-Russian" sanctions are, on the one hand, ineffective against Russia and, on the other hand, have a creeping effect on Western economies:

- Facebook users [posted](#) that European governments enslaved by the US now have to plead to Russia to supply energy resources, grain and fuel for nuclear power stations. Despite the fact that Russia would also economically suffer to some extent, the Russians would not be frightened by the lack of luxurious commodities according to pro-

Kremlin accounts as they have immunity to such crises whilst Europe is accustomed to living in comfort and hence, European governments will face the wrath of their people.

- To exhibit that sanctions do not work, some Facebook accounts [reported](#) on a story of a French journalist who, alongside with the whole of France, considered Russian store shelves to be empty but was shocked by the revelation that everything, even Coca-Cola, is abundant in the markets.
- One of the leaders of Alt-Info, Shota Martinenko, [claimed](#) that fighting against Russia with sanctions has no perspective. According to him, the expectation that sanctions will make Russia kneel whilst the West cannot impose an embargo on Russian energy resources, the prices of which have doubled, is complete nonsense. This message aims to palliate the unprecedented level of Western sanctions levied against Russia, including the US and the UK's embargo on Russian energy resources, an EU-wide ban on Russian coal and separate sanctions of Poland and the Baltic states on Russian energy resources and the EU's partial embargo of Russian oil.
- To make their argument more solid, pro-Russian sources - Georgia and the World and [News-Front](#) - quoted Putin as saying that imposing sanctions on Russia constitutes an economic suicide for Europe. Another pro-Russian outlet, TV Obieqtivi, [cited](#) Medvedev who said that Russia is not disturbed by the Western sanctions.
- According to [News-Front](#), the West is starting to realise that Russia withstood the onslaught of the Western sanctions and the continuation of the war would not lead to bankruptcy as Russia owns vast natural resources and does not lag far behind the West in technological development. On the other hand, News-Front reasoned that the Nazi government of Ukraine would not be able to resist the prolonged war, neither in military nor in economic terms.

- Some Facebook users further [elaborated](#) the message regarding Ukraine's declining economy and claimed that Ukraine would not be able to meet its state debt obligations which are mounting as a result of Western financial aid. They concluded that this fact unmasked the truth that the West is not assisting Ukraine but rather trying to enslave it.

Apart from propaganda on the effectiveness of the global sanctions against Russia, several messages concerning Georgia's (non)participation in these sanctions have also been observed:

- [Geopress](#), [Blog News](#) and [Alt-Info](#) have circulated the open letter of Robert Sturua, a famous Georgian theatre director who is notorious for his derogatory comments on the US Ambassador to Georgia - Kelly Degnan. He often appears on TV Imedi which is unambiguously linked with the Georgian Dream. Sturua usually demonises the opposition as well as the West for their colonial [treatment](#). He accused the US of restricting Georgia's independence and pushing Georgia to commit suicidal mistakes, inter alia imposing sanctions on Russia and stopping Georgian fruit and wine exports to Russia.
- News-Front ran a [story](#) that the Russian rouble is one of the leading currencies despite "anti-Russian" sanctions. According to News-Front, this fact has enraged the "[morally-]ill part of Georgian society" and the Bank of Georgia has deliberately devalued the rouble and increased service fees on rouble accounts. News-Front intended to condemn the private bank and the absolute majority of Georgian society for their pro-Ukrainian stance. News-Front reiterated the message that Russia has proven that no one can make it fall to its knees with economic sanctions.
- [Split Space News](#) and some Facebook groups quoted Tina Kandelaki, a Russian celebrity and propagandist of Georgian origin, praising the Georgian government for not imposing sanctions on Russia despite pressure from the Ukrainian government. The

online newspaper, Saerto Gazeti (Common Newspaper), has also applauded the Georgian government for not joining the sanctions.

Disinformation and Propaganda in Ethnic Minorities and the Occupied Regions

Azerbaijani and Armenian ethnic minorities in Georgia are particularly vulnerable to Russian disinformation. Most of them lack Georgian language knowledge and consume Russian propagandistic media content. Several public opinion polls confirm that Russia is successfully exploiting this vulnerability and Russian malign influence operations have had repercussions on the ground. [Particularly](#), during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war disinformation messages said that Syrian fighters and weapons were transported to Azerbaijan through Georgia. These messages also called on ethnic Armenians to block the state border between Georgia and Turkey. As a result, on 29 September, 2020, ethnic Armenians blocked the highway connecting Turkey with Georgia and did not allow the passage of vehicles. Additionally, there were two incidents when an unidentified person(s) reportedly cut or damaged underground fibre-optic internet cables in the predominantly ethnic Azerbaijani-settlements that provided internet to Armenia. Moreover, apart from the exposure to Russian propagandistic media, minorities are also targeted by Armenian and Azerbaijani language disinformation. For instance, the following Kremlin messages have been parroted in the Armenian media (namely, Yerevan Today and Hayeli.am):

- Ukrainian soldiers [pretend](#) to be defending civilians but they are using civilians as living shields. This message aimed to vilify Ukrainian soldiers who heroically resist the Russian invasion.

- In an attempt to persuade the audience that public support for Ukraine is shrinking in the EU, stories were spread as if anti-Putin posters are being [destroyed](#) in the Czech Republic and Europeans are fed up with the issue of Ukraine.
- In order to depict the Ukrainian army as disorganised and corrupt, disinformers amplified an unverified story of Ukrainian soldiers [selling](#) their military hardware to the Donbas military.
- Manipulative evidence, as if Ukrainians are [greeting](#) Russian soldiers in Kharkiv, circulated and aimed at justifying the Russian invasion and concealing the fact that despite the Kremlin's expectation that the Ukrainians, especially in the eastern part with a large Russian-speaking community, would welcome the Russian army as “liberators,” the whole of the Ukrainian population is resisting the occupiers.

In the occupied regions of Georgia, Russian disinformation has been reiterating that the Ukrainian government and the military consist of Nazis who were conducting a genocide in Donbas and it was Ukraine that started the war. Kremlin propaganda is *ad nauseam* pushing the narratives that Russia is conducting a special operation, not a war, to de-Nazify Ukraine (see the disinfo examples [here](#), [here](#)).

Fearmongering Narratives of the War Expanding beyond Ukraine to Georgia

Propaganda outlets have kept capitalising on their messaging on the threat and the fear of war expanding into Georgia in parallel with the ruling party voicing the same narrative - that each of their critics is trying to plunge Georgia into the war with Russia - as an answer to every piece of criticism directed towards them.

The Alliance of Patriots (AoP), a Georgian political party well known for its Kremlin-sympathising policies, tried to take advantage of the penetration of this narrative in the

Georgian information ecosystem and [took the credit](#) for maintaining peace in Georgia, stating that their recent visit to Moscow in April played a role in avoiding a military confrontation with Russia. AoP leader, Irma Inashvili, also claimed that the ruling Georgian Dream (GD) party labelled them as traitors but they now have acknowledged the threat. She further warned that the risk of the war expanding into Georgia is still present and hence, Georgia should calm itself; that is, it should not take any significant supportive actions toward Ukraine. Another AoP leader, [David Tarkhan-Mouravi](#), [echoed](#) Inashvili and declared that there was a plan to drag Georgia into the war by organising provocations in the occupied regions. He insisted that such a plan has been in place this year and also in 2021 during the NATO military exercises in Georgia. Additionally, Tarkhan-Mouravi praised Prime Minister Gharibashvili for acting appropriately and saving Georgia from the war.

Pro-Russian and anti-Western sources were *en masse* engaged in fearmongering:

- Alt-Info and Tvalsazrisi (Viewpoint) [claimed](#) that the West is pressing Georgia to attack Russia with their assistance and armament. [According](#) to Alt-Info, the policy of the Georgian government to resist the pressure of being dragged into the war is very pragmatic. Alt-Info also [blamed](#) the US and its [embassy in Tbilisi](#), stating that the Americans do not spare any effort to pull Georgia into a military confrontation against Russia. Alt-Info [hailed](#) Prime Minister Gharibashvili for “healthy and pragmatic” statements and for not obeying the directives coming from the US.
- In his public address to the US ambassador, Robert Sturua also implied that the US is trying to open a "second front" in Georgia against Russia which would be fatal for Georgia.
- In the broadcast of Eri Media, established by infamous Georgian businessman and public figure, Levan Vasadze, a pro-Russian politician, Gigla Baramidze, [stated](#) that the biggest opposition party, the United National Movement (UNM), and the Ukrainian

government are trying to "open a second front" and use Georgian soldiers as cannon fodder. According to him, the UNM and its allied Ukrainian government are purposefully spreading lies about Russia's weakness to this end in order to turn Georgian public attitude in favour of opening up a second front vis-à-vis Russia.

- Anti-Western National Television Didgori TV [argued](#) that Georgia should abandon its aggressive policy toward Russia, imposed on Georgia by Ukraine, as it had already led to destruction in both Georgia and Ukraine; otherwise, foreign powers would make us "open a second front."
- Saerto Gazeti (Common Newspaper) [complimented](#) the government for not opening the "second front." Split Space News also [published](#) a Facebook post thanking the Prime Minister for avoiding the war expanding into Georgia.
- Saerto Gazeti also stated that the West had sent Saakashvili to Georgia to destabilise the country and [linked](#) this to the attempt to open the "second front in Georgia."
- According to Tina Kandelaki (quoted by Split Space News), Ukraine [urged](#) Georgia to "open a second front" in Abkhazia and Samachablo (referring to the occupied Tskhinvali region) and she stated to be surprisingly pleased with the stance of the Georgian government on this issue.
- Split Space News also [cited](#) Bishop Iakob stating that the Ukrainian government wants to pull Georgia into war and turn it into a military polygon.
- In a broadcast of Kartuli TV (Georgian TV), which has a track record of spreading disinformation about COVID-19, anchor Zaur Natchkebia, the Editor-in-Chief of the propaganda outlet Iverioni, and Beka Dumbadze, a member of the Nation and State public movement, which organised numerous rallies against COVID-19 vaccinations and is headed by a well-known propagandist, Zviad Tomaradze, discussed the war in

Ukraine. They [proclaimed](#) that the West is trying to entangle Georgia into the war and open a "second front."

- The ruling Georgian Dream party has been actively spreading the conspiracy message that Georgian opposition leaders are lobbying the EU institutions to deny the membership candidate status for Georgia. Some Facebook users exploited this message and [claimed](#) that the traitors were engaged in this activity because the Georgian Dream did not drag Georgia into the war.
- Pro-Russian blogger [Irakli Jankarashvili](#) has also joined a long sequence of people thankful to Prime Minister Gharibashvili for his pragmatic policy and for saving Georgia from being dragged into the war. His comment was disseminated via [News-Front](#), [InfoAnalytical](#) and different [Facebook groups](#). Jankarashvili also thanked Gharibashvili for ensuring that the party of "executioners and murderers" (referring to the UNM) would not get back in power. However, he stated that this still is not enough for a complete recovery - Jankarashvili called on the Prime Minister to ban "the party of war and death" (once again, referring to the UNM).

Apart from fearmongering by war expansion in Georgia:

- Alt-Info [argued](#) that the West is risking World War III by not negotiating with Russia and creating security threats to Russia by "fighting with the hands of Ukraine." Kartuli TV (Georgian TV) also [mentioned](#) the risk of World War III.
- [According](#) to Infoanalitika, the West is actively engaged in an attempt to expand the war beyond Ukraine, including in Georgia.
- Some Facebook users [posted](#) that Poland must not deploy nuclear weapons on its territory with the US's instruction or the whole world will witness the real war.

Military Aid to Ukraine

The US military aid to Ukraine, which is crucial in the fight against Russian invaders, has already reached USD 3.9 billion. On top of that, President Biden signed a landmark Ukraine Democracy Defence Lend-Lease Act of 2022, similar to one adopted in 1941 to confront Hitler and Nazi Germany. Plus, the US Senate approved a USD 40 billion aid package for Ukraine (more than the USD 33 billion requested by the Ukrainian president) of which USD 19 billion is envisaged for immediate military support to Ukraine. As the US steps up its military assistance to Ukraine, so do the Russian propaganda mouthpieces augment the dissemination of narratives denouncing or downplaying US military aid to Ukraine:

- Pro-Russian and anti-Western [Georgia and the World](#) and [Split Space News](#) and some Facebook [users](#) have duplicated the claim of a Georgian celebrity, Lali Moroshkina, infamous for spreading lies and conspiracies regarding COVID-19 and Russia's war in Ukraine, that the US has refused to provide Ukraine with large-scale aid.
- Kartuli TV (Georgian TV) aired a broadcast where speakers tried to downgrade US support, [stating](#) that the US has so far restrained from providing large-scale assistance to Ukraine as its and the active involvement of NATO member states in military operations would provoke World War III. They also noted that the last few days showcased that Ukraine was deceived and the Ukrainian people have been used as cannon fodder.
- [TV Free channel, affiliated with the pro-Kremlin political party Free Georgia chaired by Kakha Kukava](#), and the Russian-sponsored [News-Front](#) promoted the comment of Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) who tried to block the passage of a USD 40 billion support package for Ukraine. TV Free channel's headline cited Paul saying that the US cannot help Ukraine but is dooming its economy. Based on Paul's statement, News-Front concluded that the US public support toward Ukraine will weaken amid domestic

problems. To support the faulty generalisation of one senator, News-Front also quoted J. D. Vance, running for the Senate in Ohio, and far-right representative Marjorie Taylor Greene stating that (1) it does not matter to the US what is happening in Ukraine (Vance) and (2) that the US is giving USD 40 billion to Ukraine while US citizens do not have food for their children (Greene). News-Front added in the concluding part of its article that the opinions of these politicians do not correspond with the majority of the Republican party; however, the headline and the narrative of the whole article served to persuade the reader that US public support and US policy toward Ukraine is in the minority.

- Infoanalitika [reasoned](#) that the West is escalating and prolonging the conflict in Ukraine by providing weapons.
- Alt-Info [argued](#) that the PR campaign of the US and the West that they have are providing Ukraine with a vast amount of weaponry is pointless as Ukraine will soon run out of manpower. Moreover, Alt-Info asserted that the US recognises that Ukraine would not exist as a state in a few months and plans to exploit its natural resources without any consideration. Hence, Alt-Info stated that the [West](#) plans to take 20 million tonnes of grain from Ukraine and leave the population starving whilst in reality, the US, alongside with the EU, is helping Ukraine to surpass the Russian naval blockade which has stalled Ukrainian grain exports.

The Kremlin cannot stop the inflow of military equipment to Ukraine by bombing despite boasting doing so. Therefore, Russian propaganda sources, besides US military aid, targeted NATO and EU assistance to Ukraine as well:

- The Anti-Western and pro-Russian Alt-Info and Tvalsazrisi (Viewpoint) [articulated](#) that NATO member states, plus Sweden which has just applied for membership, are providing Ukraine with weaponry solely for their interest - to

fight against Russia with the hands of Ukraine. According to the founder of Alt-Info and the Conservative Movement (a political party established by the leaders of Alt-Info), Konstantine Morgoshia, NATO member states are ready to fight until the last Ukrainian soldier, some of whom are Nazis and some genuine Ukrainian soldiers defending their homeland.

- [Alt-Info](#), [eablog.ge](#) and affiliated Facebook [pages](#) distributed the quote of the Italian alt-right politician, Deputy Prime Minister of Italy and Minister of the Interior, Salvini, that the more weapons the EU sends to Ukraine, the more unlikely achieving peace becomes. Cherry-picking the statements of Western politicians and prioritising the alt-right voices in Europe and America, which speak against providing military aid to Ukraine, is a tactic of Georgian propaganda outlets to portray that public support for Ukraine is fading in the West.
- Infoanalitika.net [published](#) a story that Italian labour unions announced a 24-hour general strike against military aid to Ukraine. The article stressed that the strike illustrates the division in the coalition government and the negative public attitude toward the issue of military assistance to Ukraine. The author of the article called on the Georgian labour union to follow the example of its Italian counterparts and support the government to maintain a neutral position regarding the ongoing war. However, the article also argued that Georgian workers must strongly demand that labour union leaders be held accountable for their position which serves the militaristic interests of NATO and the West and is fundamentally against the needs of Georgian workers.

Alternatives to Pro-Western Foreign Policy for Georgia - Means to Fulfil Georgia's or the Kremlin's interests?

All of the previously mentioned narratives that Russia is winning the war, Russia successfully copes with the economic sanctions whilst the Western economies are in tatters, fearmongering by the threat of expansion of the war into Georgia and that military aid to Ukraine is insufficient or futile fit in the overarching goal of Russian propaganda in Georgia – to change its pro-Western foreign policy and European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations enshrined in the constitution.

As reported in the first issue of the GRASS Disinfo Brief, the policy of neutrality is the Kremlin's Trojan Horse in Georgia. This policy does not suggest allying with Russia which is quite unpopular in Georgia. It promises the false sense of security with less military expenditure - therefore, it is appealing to the segments of the population that are susceptible to manipulation and hence, cannot see through the ineffectiveness of the policy and Russia's interest behind it. The Alliance of Patriots, with its affiliated TV Obieqtivi and other minor sources, such as [InfoAnalytical](#), affiliated blogger [Irakli Jankarashvili](#), [Georgia and the World](#) and [Split Space News](#), continued exploiting the war in Ukraine and Ukraine's compromising position in negotiations with Russia to become a neutral state in order to advocate for false neutrality for Georgia. They stated that NATO is not a mechanism of security guarantees for Georgia and it will never defend our country as was witnessed during the 2008 war.

According to the AoP, Georgia and other non-member states have been lied to and [manipulated](#) by NATO for 30 years that it was a guarantor of peace but now society has seen the true face of NATO and is in favour of rejecting NATO and declaring neutrality. The AoP [claimed](#) that several states are expressing their readiness to become neutral (mentioning Ukraine and Moldova; the latter is already neutral). The AoP proclaimed that they are offering

a new foreign policy course to Georgia - neutrality - which will be a genuine security guarantee and is overwhelmingly favoured by society. Furthermore, the AoP leader, Irma Inashvili, [bragged](#) that soon even the Georgian Dream would strive for the policy of neutrality despite GD leaders labelling neutrality aspirations as treason and calling the AoP's Moscow trip an anti-state activity.

Whilst neutrality is a covert pro-Russian policy, Alt-Info and the Conservative Movement are lobbying for an openly pro-Russian foreign policy. One of its leaders, Konstantine Morgoshia, stated that Russia is morally right in the NATO-Russia dispute as NATO broke its promise and expanded eastward. He illustrated Russia as a victim whilst depicting NATO and Ukraine as aggressors and provocateurs. These messages aimed to dissuade the public from NATO integration. He then [claimed](#) that Russia had occupied 20% of Georgia but the keys to restoring territorial integrity lie in Moscow.

Another leader of Alt-Info and the Conservative Movement, Zurab Makharadze, [later](#) continued this narrative, [stating](#) that after 30 years of independence, Georgia should make a more rational analysis and change its geopolitical inclinations. He argued that in the case of a Russian victory in Ukraine, Georgia would have to start a dialogue with Russia. Makharadze contended that the whole mainstream political spectre is incapable of conducting a constructive dialogue with Russia and it is critical for the sake of national interests that a group such as them exists. He concluded by promising that the Conservative Movement would play a strategic role in guaranteeing security, economic stability and Georgia's very existence. Thus, the Conservative Movement made aligning with Russia its pivotal policy with which they aim to get in power.

Attention, Moscow is Speaking – Russian Disinformation on Facebook and Instagram: 16-22 May

As the illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine is continuing, Russia’s state sponsored media outlets [keep insisting](#) that the Kremlin is conducting a “[special military operation](#)” to “[liberate](#)” the oppressed Ukrainians and subsequently “[de-Nazify](#)” the country. Nevertheless, Russian disinformation narratives also seem to effectively adjust to the new developments on the ground with the fresh set of disinformation pieces now focusing on the challenges for the Ukrainian grain exports and the threat to global food shortage. Despite Russia’s naval blockade of key Ukrainian Black Sea ports making significant supplies of Ukrainian grain unable to be exported, Russian propaganda has been putting the blame on the West – according to one related false claim, UN Secretary-General Guterres said that the economic [sanctions policy](#) against Russia is the chief reason of grain shortages on global markets with another false claim accusing the West for creating a “[Holodomor 2.0](#)” in Ukraine. New pieces of disinformation have also focused on military developments with false claims such as the US deploying [ISIS terrorists in Ukraine](#) against the Russians or the Ukrainians’ [Western-delivered weapons](#) not being able to destroy Russia’s most advanced T-90M main battle tank being circulated on Facebook. Moreover, Russian propaganda continues its [tested strategy](#) of introducing “[unbiased Western journalists and experts](#)” who, in turn, echo the official Kremlin messaging with the Ministry of Defence (Minoborony) issuing [propaganda statements](#) claiming that the Ukrainian side is preparing “more provocations” such as the [Bucha Massacre](#).



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