

New York State Senate
Capitol Building
Empire State Plaza, Albany
New York, 12224

September 12, 2018

Dear Senators,

This letter is in response to a passing of New York State Senate Resolution J4960, commemorating the 4th Annual New York Immortal Regiment March organized by the Russian Youth of America on May 5, 2018.

We, the undersigned, American citizens and residents are profoundly concerned by Resolution J4960 passed on May 8, 2018 by the New York State Senate, that commemorates the 4th Annual New York Immortal Regiment March and the Russian Youth of America that organizes this event in New York City.

We have all reasons to think that the Immortal Regiment March in the U.S. is backed by the Russian government via financial and informational support. Moreover, it serves as an instrument of the Kremlin's "soft power" - economic and cultural influence to promote Putin's agenda in the United States.

While the Immortal Regiment March began as a nonpolitical private grassroots initiative in Russia in 2011, it was soon hijacked by the Russian government to serve official propaganda efforts that praises Russian military victories. The aggressiveness and ideological orientation of the marches manifest themselves through effective visual symbols, most recognizably the St. George ribbon. This ribbon has recently become a symbol of Russian backed troops in Eastern Ukraine. As well as pro-Kremlin organizations, such as AntiMaidan, NOD and SERB that attack pro-democracy activists in Russia. Thereafter, the Immortal Regiment March was effectively transplanted abroad via organizations like the Russian Youth of America, and gained popularity in many parts of the U.S., including cities in N.Y. State. Russian Youth of America has direct connections to the Russian embassy in the U.S. and Russian Foreign Ministry. It is being used by Kremlin as an enlistment vehicle for Russian-language diaspora in their propaganda efforts against the West in order to mask aggressive Russian expansionism.

The Immortal Regiment March manifests its true nature by using flags and banners representing the Russian Federation as an exclusive participant in the fight against Nazism. It neglects the important role of its Western allies as well as many other nationalities of the former Soviet Union, which participated in the WWII, and perpetuates the image of WWII as "The Great Patriotic War." The endorsement of the Senate's Resolution J4960 helps legitimize these myths, disallowing the true history of the WWII.

The Senate's Resolution J4960 was passed in the midst of debates about the massive interference of the Russian Federation in America's elections and political life. Recognition by the New York State Senate of the Kremlin-financed Russian Youth of America and the Annual Immortal Regiment March offers unambiguous and inexplicable support of the hybrid war against the United States. The Senate thereby, unknowingly and unintentionally, played a role in the effort to spread Russian propaganda message.

We believe that the senators have been misinformed when adopted the resolution J4960. Therefore, we are kindly requesting to stop supporting Russian government's initiatives in the United States. This includes any initiative connected with Immortal Regiment that uses offensive, militaristic, and chauvinistic symbols. Symbols, which are forbidden in some NATO countries as well as in Ukraine, and Georgia.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Alexander Ivanov, on behalf of the following signatories:

Irina Abarinova, Journalist, New York, NY
Joseph Adelsky, PhD in polymer chemistry, retired, New York, NY
Igor Aizenberg, Professor and Department Chair, Manhattan College, Bronx, NY
Irina Akc, Russian poet and journalist, NY
Alisher Aliev, HVAC installer, helper, Philadelphia PA
Leonid Aptekar, Senior IT professional at major financial companies, retired, Staten Island, NY
Oleg Asaulenko, Chief Cameraman at RTN Channel, documentary filmmaker, photographer, Brooklyn, NY
Karina Avanesian-Weinstein, pianist, Instructor AT Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, IN
Michael Berg, Center Associative scientist at Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, MA
Michael Bernadsky, NYPD officer. Brooklyn, NY
Lilia Bilyaletdinova, Homestay mom, Wilmington, DE
Rustem Bilyaletdinov, Courier, packer, driver, Wilmington, DE
Yakov Brayer, Senior IT professional at major Financial organization, New York, NY
Vladimir Davidenko, Artist, Brooklyn, NY
Serge Davydov, PhD of Chemical Engineering, Retired, Rockville MD
Regina Davydova, Travel consultant, Brooklyn, NY
Lev Deych, PhD. Professor of Physics at Queens College of CUNY, New York, NY
Eugenia Dimant, Library Assistant, Widener Library, Harvard University. Boston, MA.
Ksenia Doliakova, Self-employed, Philadelphia, PA
Andrey Dolyakov, Tower Technician, Philadelphia, PA
Nina Doliakova, Music teacher, Violinist, Honored Musician of Russia, Philadelphia, PA
Katherine Dovlatov, Translator, editor, manager of the Dovlatov estate, Forest Hills, NY
Elena Dubinets, VP at Seattle Symphony, Bellevue, WA
Sergey Dubinets, Senior software engineer at Microsoft, Bellevue, WA
Konstantin Dubinets, Senior Software Engineer, New York, NY
Yuri Elson, IT Security Consultant, NJ
Alex Ferenets, Self-employed businessman, Boca Raton FL
Valeriia Ferenets, Self-employed businessperson, Boca Raton FL
Anzhelina Fesun (Zeppieri), Travel consultant, Queens, NY
Alexander J Flint, Blogger, columnist, NY
Vladlen Fridman The author of "HEM Nanoconcrete" technology, retiree, Blakeslee, PA
Igor Frolov, IT Professional, Lead Developer, Ivyland, PA
Yevgenia Frumin, Real Estate Specialist, Miami Beach, FL
Tatiana Gaines, ESL Instructor, Bethel Board of education, CT
Tetyana Galushka, Housewife, Philadelphia, PA
Dmitry Garanin, Professor of Physics at Lehman College of the CUNY, Russian poet and essayist, NY
Alim Gelyastanov, Data analyst, Austin, TX
Anna Georgiyan, Brooklyn, NY
Irina Genseruk, Home Certified Professional inspector CPI, Live On Air Radio host, Philadelphia, PA
Vitaliy Genseruk, Independent registered Contractor HVAC, Philadelphia, PA
Olga Gilpatrick, Speech-Language Pathologist, M.S., CCC-SLP, Brooklyn, NY
Lyosha Gorshkov, PhD, Co-President, RUSA LGBT, New York, NY
Natalya Granovskaya, Sommelier, Philadelphia, PA
Helen Groysman, IT professional, NJ
Tamara Gruzbar, Big Data Specialist, Head of Industry Insights at ActionIQ, New York, NY
Vladimir Gurin, Professor, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Co-Founder and President of Russian-American Music Association, Boston, MA

Alexander Ivanov, MBA in Finance and Investment, Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College, Senior Accountant, New York, NY
Pavel Ivlev, Executive director of KRES Poliskola Russian-Speaking School, New-York, NY
Yury Kalinin, Freight Forwarding, Clark, NJ
Rustam Karimov, The Head of sales, Philadelphia, PA
Alexander Kashapov, Musician, journalist, observer at Radio Philadelphia 106,5 FM, Philadelphia, PA
Ivan Khlopchyshyn, Construction professional, Philadelphia, PA
Alexandra Khristitch. Office manager, Philadelphia, PA
Boris Khurgin, Fencing Coach, US National Cadet and Junior Coach at World Championship 2008, NY
Eugene Koblents, Self employed tour guide, St Louis, MO
Rodion Kolesnikov, PhD, MBA, Business Improvement Expert, Brooklyn, NY
Victoria Kolesnikova, PhD, DVM, Veterinary Doctor, Brooklyn, NY
Andrii Kolesnyk, Real estate agent, contractor, Bayonne, NJ
Nelia Kolesnyk, Teacher, Bayonne, NJ
Vitaliy Konnov, Asst. Vice President in Barclays Capital, PhD in Mech. Engineering, retired, New York, NY
Andrey Kostyul, IT professional, Staten Island, NY
Svetlana Kostyuk, Doctor physician, Staten Island, NY
Alex Kuzmin, Member of the Anti-Putin movement, Staten Island, NY
Valeriya Kuzmina, Businesswoman, Staten Island, NY
Elena Larchenko, VNSNY, HCC business development, Home Care Consultant, Brooklyn, NY
Dora Lauren, Senior Business Analyst and Data Analyst, Express Scripts, Fair Lawn, NJ
Igor Lauren, Senior quantitative analyst, DTCC, Fair Lawn, NJ
Alisa Lavrentyeva, Office & Facilities Manager, Boston, MA
Miron Leznik, Senior IT Professional, West Milford, NJ
Eugene Linetsky, Blogger, columnist, Staten Island, NY
Pavel Litvinov, Member of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, veteran of Soviet human rights movement, NY
Yury Loginov, Registered nurse, Brooklyn, NY
Dordzhi Mandzhiev, Sale manager in Petrovsky Market, Philadelphia, PA
Yelena Makhnin. Brooklyn NY
Alexander Malygin, Self-employed sales person, Philadelphia, PA
Leonid S. Martynyuk, Author, investigative journalist, co-author with Boris Nemtsov, NY
Alexander Mikishev, Professor at Sam Houston State University and at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Houston, TX
Gretta Miller. Fashion designer, Brooklyn, NY
Anna Nayfeld, Lawyer, Morganville, NJ
Natasha Novitskaia-Adams, Award winning opera singer, dramatic mezzo, New York, NY
Evgeny Novozhilov, QA engineer, North Hollywood, CA
Julia Novozhilova, QA analyst, North Hollywood, CA
Alexandra Odesska, Brooklyn, NY
Mikhail Oganov, CAMS technician, WA
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Natalia Pervukhin, Professor at the University of Tennessee, PhD, author, Knoxville, TN
Alexandre Peshansky, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Lead Bioinformatics Analyst, Emerson, NJ
Liudmila Poliakoff, Manager, Business Development Manager at IT ERP-Projects, retired, New York, NY
Elena Prigova, Journalist, owner of advertising agency, Staten Island, NY
Valeriy Privis, Entrepreneur, Miami, FL
Yuri Rashkin, Blogger, broadcaster, instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Rock County Supervisor, interpreter, WI
Vladimir Raskin, Senior Environmental Engineer, Philadelphia, PA
Vitaly Rozenshain, Sr. Construction Cost Consultant/Civil Engineer, retired, Brooklyn, NY
Evgeny Salnikov, Principal Robotics Engineer, Amazon, Seattle WA
Nikolay Sergeevykh, psychotherapist in private practice, Baltimore, MD
Nina Serova, Musician and Piano Teacher, Los Angeles, CA
Boris Shapiro, Ph.D. in Electric Power, Executive Consultant in Energy Economics, Boston, MA
Alena Sharenda, Self employed handmade stuff teacher Philadelphia, PA
Eugeny Sheer, Emergency care doctor, retired, Brooklyn. NY
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Larissa Shenker, Research Scientist, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
Svetlana Shestopal, Psychologist, Los Angeles, CA
Yulia Shilnova, Sales representative, NY
Katia Shraga, Philologist, museum and exhibit content developer, archivist, Columbia University, New York, NY
Tetyana Sirman, Preschool director, Brooklyn, NY
Helen Skorodinsky, Client Service Associate, New York, NY

Serge Skorodinsky, Software/hardware engineer, Brooklyn, NY
Sofya Slavina, Senior Database Analyst, Enterprise Data Architect, New York, NY
Irina Smirnova, Senior Software Engineer, Houston, TX
Leonid Soroka, Retired Engineer, Stanford University, Sunnyvale, CA
Lora Soroka, Assistant Archivist, Hoover Institution Archives, Stanford University, Sunnyvale, CA
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Tatyana Stolyarova, Manager, Psychologist, Accountant-economist, Philadelphia, PA
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Igor Yevmenenko, Manager at the New York City Transit Authority, NY
Dmitrii Zagornyi, Manager in Carolina Logistic Company, Asheville, NC
Alexander Zaporozhtsev, Sports trainer, human rights activist, Brooklyn, NY
Yulia Zaporozhtseva, Science teacher, Brooklyn, NY
Ilya Zaslavskiy, Head of Research, Free Russia Foundation, Washington, DC
Alla Zeide, Cultural historian of Post-Revolutionary Russian emigration, New York, NY
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Eugene Savitski, Programmer, Briarwood, NY
Oleg Svechkov, Business Consultant, Brooklyn, NY
Boris Koltsov, Journalist, Palisades Park, NJ
Roman Bogatkov, Mathematics teacher, Milford, CT
Anna Meschansky, Attorney, Boston, MA
Arthur Tkachenko, Finance, Staten Island, NY
Igor Korelov, LLC, Pittsburg, CA
Dmitrii Sorokin, Radio host, New York, NY
Isabelle Gusev, Scientist, Boston, MA
Ruban Apkaryan, Self employed, Brooklyn. NY
Natalia Ukrainska, Waitress, Singer, conductor, Oakland, CA
Boris Khurgin, Coach, Roslyn Heights, NY
Alexander Guretsky, Business, Bellevue WA
Anatoliy Ryvkin, Producer, Manhattan Business TV, NY
Ludmilla Kashutskaya, Freelancer, Las Vegas, NV
Elena Sklyar, Notary public, Richboro, PA
Olga Zabelina, Asylum, Guam
Nina Arshavsky, Researcher, Chapel Hill, NC

Valery Tydykov, Principal Software Architect, Newton, MA
Tatyana Shapiro, Sr. Business Systems Analyst, Ph.D, PMP, CBAP, Boston, MA
Maya Brodetskaya, classical musician, Chicago, IL
Maria Mafter, Teacher, Brooklyn, NY
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Elena Malimenkova, Lead Revenue Analyst, New York, NY
Peter Goldberg, Director, computer programming, New York, NY
Anatoly Zayaruzny, Retired, Cheshire, CT
Viktor Stolyarov, operator, Verona, NJ
Leonid Brodskiy, test technician, Germantown, MD
Alona Yantunen, Cosmetologist, Brooklyn, NY
Igor Kuznetsov, Attorney, New York, NY
Tamila Savitskaya, RN, Staten Island, NY
Alexandra Odesska, Optician, Brooklyn, NY
Boris Gmiryansky, Engineer, Huntingdon Valley, PA
Vadim Baranovsky, Computer Technician, Brooklyn, NY
Edward Sorsher, web developer, New York, NY
Alex Kruze, Professional Driver, DE
Nikoloz Chkheidze, Medical Doctor, CEO, New York, NY
Tatyana Chernetskay, Business Analyst, Fair Lawn, NJ
Ethel Blumenthal, computer programmer, New York, NY
Aleksandr Koltunov, teacher, Valley Stream, NY
Dmytro Topchii, Banking, Brooklyn, NY
Alex Klekovkin, Engineer, Johnstown, PA
Jacob Glozman, Engineer, Saint Paul, MN
Yury Loginov, Registered Nurse, Brooklyn, NY
Pavel Roshenets, Sculptor, Fairfield CTNY, NY
Roman Shipkevich, HAA, Brooklyn New York
Gleb Latnik, RUSA LGBT DC: President, Magnitsky Act Initiative: program director, Washington, DC
Serge Butovsky, Self-employed, Baltimore, MD
Dennis Bushmitch, Engineer, Somerset, NJ
Michael Levitian, Information Technology, Partner, Delray Beach, FL
Lyuba Serednyak, Graphic Designer, Journalist, Bronx, NY
Oleg Tomilin, Teacher, Washington, DC
Artur Bakhtriger, Senior, Philadelphia, PA
Yakov Nenaydykh, Professional Engineer, Executive VP, Milwaukee, WI

Appendix: "Hybrid Was Strike. Russian Militarism in Your City"

Based on the report by Zarina Zabrisky, American investigative journalist

Information and analysis of the latest Russian hybrid war campaign.

Reporting on May 5–9, 2018 events in the US: The demonstration of military might in combination with the soft power campaigns raises concerns about the Russian expanding aggression against the West.

- A Russian tank in Ohio.
- The hammer and sickle in front of the White House.
- A car sticker in Moscow: "Made it to Berlin — will make it to Washington."
- The symbol of Russian imperial ambitions over the Statue of Liberty.
- 8,000 marching in Russian military uniform and carrying Soviet flags in 20 American cities.
- American daycare centers teaching history by the USSR textbook.
- The New York State Senators approve it.
- The Kremlin funds it.

Journalist and historian Garrett Graff:

- Understanding just how extensive and coordinated Russia's operations against the West are represents the first step in confronting — and defeating — Putin's increased aggression, particularly as it becomes clear that the 2016 election interference was just a starting point.

Former director of national intelligence James Clapper:

- If there has ever been a clarion call for vigilance and action against a threat to the very foundation of our democratic political system, this episode is it. I hope the American people recognize the severity of this threat and that we collectively counter it before it further erodes the fabric of our democracy.

1. "IMMORTAL REGIMENT" EVENTS in the USA, MAY 5–9, 2018

In 2018, about 8,000 people took part in the "Immortal Regiment" in twenty US cities, including New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, Miami. New cities joined the action this year: Kansas City, Birmingham, Houston, Vancouver and Phoenix.



San Francisco, 2018. "Every year more and more ordinary Americans show interest in the Immortal Regiment despite the fact that we do not engage in mass advertising and loud propaganda," said Igor Kochan, a head of the Russian Youth of America. "We just talk with colleagues at work and our children talk about the action to their classmates, explaining what the Immortal Regiment is and Americans are happy to join."

WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.,

Over 700 people in Russian military uniform gather in front of the White House, with a Russian Ambassador to the United States in attendance.



Left: The Russian Ambassador Anatoly Antonov with Russian youth in military uniform in Washington D.C.

Right: "Immortal Regiment" in front of the White House.

OHIO

A Russian tank T-34 takes part in the re-enactment of the Stalingrad battle in Ohio.



Screenshots from a Youtube video of Russian TV channels show.

Putin's favorite broadcaster, the main anchor of the Russia Channel One, "the voice of Kremlin," infamous for once threatening to reduce the US to the radioactive ashes, reports on the story.

SEATTLE

In 2018, the festival costs came up to 14,000 dollars of which 5,000 dollars was paid by the Russian consulate.

In 2017, the FBI agents visited the offices of the Russian-American Initiative for Cooperation in Seattle.



The Immortal Regiment in Seattle, 2016. The organizer of Seattle event, Sergey Gladyshev, the head of **the Russian-American Initiative for Cooperation**, an organization that covered the expenses in connection with the city authorities, police and park department said that events held by the Russian-American Initiative are sponsored by "local businessmen."

NEW YORK

A light-engine aircraft flies a 98 feet ribbon symbolizing Russian military power along the Hudson and around the Statue of Liberty.

About 6,000 participants — immigrants from the former USSR as well as English-speaking Americans — march along the Hudson.



Left: St. George's Ribbon over the Statue of Liberty.

Right: Statue of Liberty giving away free ribbons symbolizing Russian imperial ambitions.

2,000 eco-friendly white balloons are released into the sky.

1,900 signs are pre-fabricated.

This is the third year of celebrations.

- In 2017 and 2018, a childcare center in Brooklyn distributed St. George's ribbons to children and, reportedly, teachers read history from the USSR textbooks.
- In 2017, after the march, a party with shooting, vodka, bombs and machine guns, prayer and fireworks took place at the Church of All Saints, in Pine Bush, NY, at the estate purchased with the money donated by the Moscow Patriarchate in the early 1960s and owned by the Russian Orthodox Church. The priests are sent to serve from Moscow and report back to headquarters there. The Russian Orthodox Church is known to have close ties to Putin and, in the past, working with the KGB.



The combination of the Soviet flags, Russian Orthodox icons and garb and NKVD (Stalin secret police) uniform in the state of New York is borderline surreal.

Religious organizations do not pay taxes in the US and are unlikely to be audited since Congress imposed special restrictions on the possibility of conducting church audits. This means that donations to religious organizations are largely unregulated.

There is a long tradition of running pro-Russian and Russian Orthodox paramilitary “boot camps” in California, Washington and Oregon. In California, a “sports-patriotic camp dedicated to the Paratrooper’s Day, a Russian military holiday” had been organized from 2012 to 2015.



Left: 10th annual Russian paramilitary bootcamp held on the day of Russian airborne troops. Oregon.

Right: A Russian Cossack paramilitary youth group at the Community Outreach Academy in Sacramento, CA

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

May, 2017. With Russian mercenaries killed in Ukraine set to be honored at the Moscow “Immortal Regiment” event, Putin and Stalin fit right in at the same event in Boston. In just over a month organizers of the “Immortal Regiment” project in Boston managed to raise about \$800 on GoFundMe. Most of that amount was furnished by several anonymous donors who chose not to disclose their names.



A man dressed as Putin carries portrait of Stalin at the “Immortal Regiment” procession in Boston.

2. FACTS ABOUT THE “IMMORTAL REGIMENT”

The “Immortal Regiment” is a grassroots initiative of Russian people hijacked by The Kremlin to carry out a hybrid war operation in 50 countries:

- In 2011, three journalists conceived the idea of honoring the family members who fought and died in the World War II by marching with their portraits.
- By 2013, politicians and government officials recognizing the genuine and spontaneous outburst as an opportunity to exploit nationalistic feelings and the Kremlin appropriated the cause.
- The Kremlin pumped oil and gas money stolen from the Russian people into the campaign.
- In 2015, the Moscow city authorities spent \$135,714 (7,600,000 roubles) on “Immortal Regiment.”
- By the end of May 2015, the original founders published an open letter to Putin, asking him to stop replacing grassroots activists with the government-appointed officials. There was no response from the presidential administration.
- In 2015, a deputy of the State Duma supported by Putin registered a new organization and organized the march in the Red Square with Putin in attendance.



Left, Center: Nicolay Zemtsov with Putin. 2016, 2015.



Right: Zemtsov and Dmitry Kiselyov with St. George's Ribbons.

- As of 2018, the “Immortal Regiment” is supported by the federal agencies and co-organized by an organization funded by the Russian government.
- On the orders of the Russian Ministry of the Foreign Affairs, immigrants from the former USSR and Russians living abroad carry out the “Immortal Regiment” to promote Russian militarism and nationalism and the idea of an authoritarian leader amongst Russian diaspora.
- Dmitry Kiselev, the official state channel anchor, made a statement shared at the “Immortal Regiment of Russia” website, talking about the descendants of the soldiers living in Russia and abroad forming “their own symbolic divisions, regiments, battalions and companies.”
- The employees of the Russian embassies help to organize these events.
- Specially-trained propagandists use mass events, theatrical effects and symbolism as well as the US tradition of war re-enactment to manipulate and exploit the personal tragedies suffered by the USSR population in World War II, the loss of 26,000,000 lives and anti-Nazi sentiment to provoke sympathy in the West.

“The brilliance of this new type of authoritarianism is that instead of simply oppressing opposition, as had been the case with 20th-century strains, it climbs inside all ideologies and movements, exploiting and rendering them absurd,” writes Peter Pomerantsev, the author of brilliant analysis *Nothing Is True and Everything Is Possible*.

FACTS ABOUT “ST. GEORGE’S RIBBON”



Left: A family wearing St. George's ribbons, 2018.



Right: Distribution of St. George's ribbons by a priest in Yaroslavl. 2015.

- In 2005, a state-owned agency news channel RIA launched a campaign, promoting a “St. George's Ribbon,” the symbol of the Russian Victory over Nazi Germany and imbuing it with a new meaning of Russian military might.
- St. George, depicted on the Russian coat of arms, is one of the most prominent military saints in the Christian tradition and also the symbol of Moscow as The Third Rome — or, in other words, the imperial ambitions of the Kremlin.

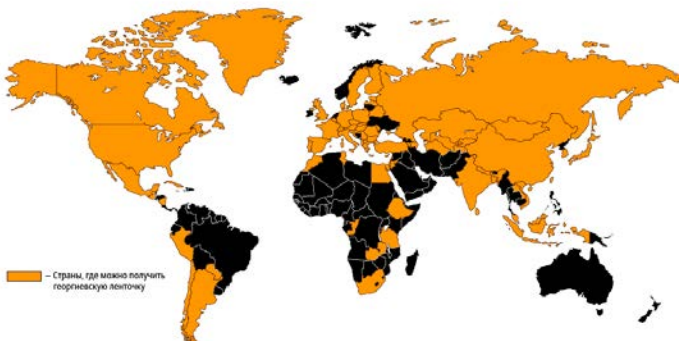


Left: A gun with the sticker of "Donestk Republic" and St. George's Ribbon signifying Russian aggression in Eastern Ukraine.



Right: “Fire and Ice are a strong union. Again the Russia of olden days is a-rising.” A car sticker.

- By 2011, about 50,000,000 free ribbons were distributed throughout the world.



The map of free distribution of St. George's Ribbon around the world in 2017. Orange is the color of places where you can get the ribbons.

- In May 2018, Russian state-run agencies funded production, shipment and distribution of the ribbons around the world:
New York — 12,000 (Pravda.ru)
USA — 25,000 (source)
Worldwide, over 50 countries — 70,000 (source)

AGENCIES AND PEOPLE BEHIND THE EVENTS

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATORS

On May 5, the Senate of the State of New York adopted a resolution J4960 on the action “Immortal Regiment” organized by the Russian Youth of America and Coordinational Council of Organizations of Russian Compatriots of the USA (KSORS.)
 BRONX NY SENATOR LUIS SEPÚLVEDA

Assemblyman Luis Sepúlveda, a key sponsor to the Russian American History Month and Immortal Regiment resolutions, was recently elected to the Senate of NY State.

Luis Sepúlveda’s chief of staff is Anton Konev.

ANTON KONEV, CHIEF OF STAFF

Anton Konev is an active participant of the **Russian government-sponsored forums, conferences and events.**



Anton Konev at a panel of Youth Forum at the Russian Consulate.

OLGA ZATSEPINA, VP OF KSORS

Olga Zatsepina is a Vice President of KSORS (the Coordinational Council of Compatriots in the USA, the organization running the “Immortal Regiment” in the US).

Zatsepina is also the head of the cultural center “Heritage” that works in the USA with the support of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rossotrudnichestvo, the Consulate General and the Embassy of the Russian Federation, the Russkiy Mir Foundation and is sponsored by the Administration of the President of Russian Federation, among other state-run agencies and entities.

On September 7, 2016, Olga Zatsepina, presenting in the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation along with the other heads of the organizations of Russian “compatriots,” confirmed receiving grants from Rossotrudnichestvo and identified as the part of the Russian strategy of “soft power.”

Zatsepina reported on promoting the Russian language, history and culture “in the conditions of the sanctions war:” more than 3,000 participants of the “Immortal Regiment” in the US in 20017; “Americans put on Soviet military uniforms”; and distributed in the streets 14,000 St. George’s ribbons, pamphlets about the “Immortal Regiment” and the role of the USSR in the World War II, received from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Zatsepina mentioned that the state authorities of New York had excused “Heritage” — a receiver of grants from the Russian government — from paying taxes.

The Head of the Commission for the Development of Public Diplomacy and Support of Compatriots thanked the “compatriots” for the work well done and added, “You work with the American society, with senators — it’s very important; they should be used.”

NY LEGISLATORS — PUBLIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

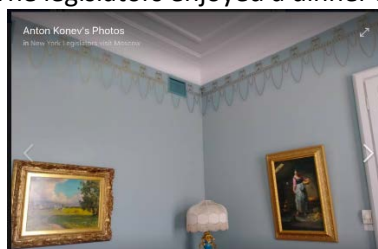
In September 2017, twenty six members of the Legislative Assembly of the State of New York. Legislators visited Moscow, St. Petersburg and Tatarstan. Anton Konev and Olga Zatsepina arranged the trip.

During their visit, the New York legislators met with the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation. Assemblywoman from Brooklyn Pamela Williams-Harris said: “I am convinced that in the state of New York you need to establish something like this.”

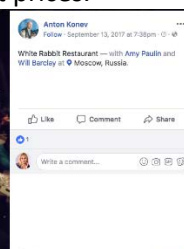
LUXURY HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

In his FB photo album “New York Legislators visit Moscow,” Anton Konev shared photos of his Moscow stay at the National Hotel, right next to the Kremlin, in a suite 107 famous for having hosted Lenin (Junior Suite rates start at \$400 per night, with the Kremlin and the Presidential suite rates going up to \$700 and \$900 per night.)

The legislators enjoyed a dinner at the **White Rabbit**, known for its exuberant prices.



Left: National Hotel, Lenin’s Suite #107.



Right: The White Rabbit, a luxury restaurant in Moscow.

Senators also enjoyed fine dining and sightseeing in Kazan.

NY LEGISLATORS — RT AND SPUTNIK

Legislators spoke to RT (Russia Today), registered as a foreign agent in the US and considered a propaganda outlet for the Kremlin by the US government.

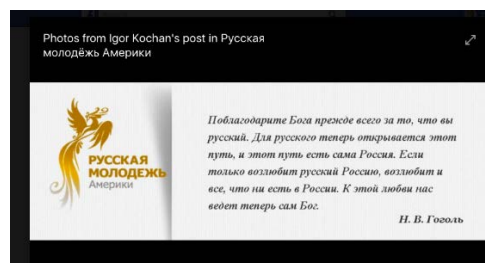
Diane Savino, a Democratic lawmaker representing parts of Staten Island and Brooklyn, was quoted by *Sputnik*, the Russian-state funded mass media channel also registered as a foreign agent in the

US, “...we are hoping that we can learn some stuff and bring it back to NYC and maybe implement some of really smart stuff that they have done here in the past few years.”

RUSSIAN AGENCIES

“...Putin’s Russia cares very much about ideas — funding and engaging with intellectual influencers, think tanks, political parties, and religious and social movements across the world. However, its aim is less to further cultural understanding across borders, one of the pillars of liberal democracy, and more to use culture and ideas as tools to divide and rule, incite, corrupt and co-opt,” write Peter Pomerantsev and Michael Weiss in their report *“The Menace of Unreality: How the Kremlin Weaponizes Information, Culture and Money,”* a project of the *Institute of Modern Russia*.

RUSSIAN YOUTH OF AMERICA



Left: Russian Youth of America FB group cover page.

Right: Translation. *Personal note: Gogol was a much better writer than this and also a Ukrainian.

Give thanks to God you are Russian, first and foremost. For a Russian this path is now opening, and this path is Russia itself. If only a Russian loves Russia, he would love everything that exists in Russia. To this love, the God himself is leading you. – Nikolay Gogol

Russian Youth of America (aka “Russian Youth in America,” the “Youth Russian Society” and the “Young Russian Society”) is often referred to as the sponsor of the “Immortal Regiment.”

Its mission as stated on the group’s website is: “Creation of a major network of Russian youth in the USA.”

In 2016, Russian Youth of America distributed free T-shirts “I am Putin’s Friend” and some participants wore the uniform of the NKVD, Stalin’s secret police, responsible for millions of death and the predecessor of the KGB.

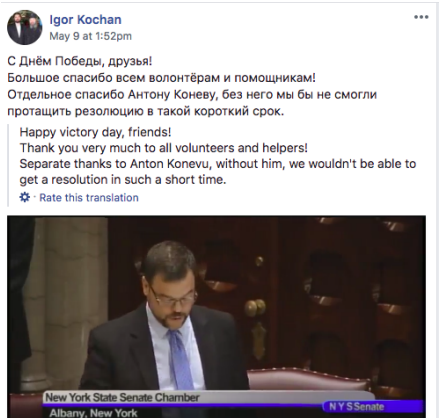
VIOLENT SUPPRESSION OF THE YOUTH IN RUSSIA

On May 5, 2018, thousands of Russians, predominantly young people, protested against Putin’s inauguration in Russia in 90 cities. Russian police detained and brutally assaulted 1600 participants, including many children and teens. Cossack-clad militia paid by the government beat up protesters with whips.

IGOR KOCHAN

Igor Kochan is the President of the “Russian Youth of America” and a representative of KSORS.

- On the group FB page, Kochan officially thanked Anton Konev for “squeezing in” the resolution in such a short term.
- Kochan helped to obtain a New York State Senate resolution declaring that every April would be celebrated as a *Russian-American History Month* and co-sponsored by Luis R. Sepúlveda



Left: Kochan speaks in the New York State Senate Chamber



Right: Anton Konev (left) and Igor Kochan (center), with NY State legislators, 2018.

- Kochan, who grew up in St. Petersburg and has moved to New York as an adult, previously has worked for the representation of the Moscow Patriarchate as the Chairman of the Department for Work with Youth of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA.



Left: Igor Kochan with a Soviet banner at an event.



Right: Kochan's business card: "The representation of the Moscow Patriarchate in the USA."

- Kochan is known to support Putin in several actions in New York.



Left: Kochan is on the left. Pro-Russia piquet at the Time Square in New York



Right: With La Rouché group.

In 2014, he organized "The Day of Russia in New York:" people with Russian flags marched over the Brooklyn Bridge singing the anthem of the USSR.

In June 2016, Kochan coordinated campaign "I Love Russia" for KSORS.

In 2017, Kochan organized national and patriotic events like The Day of National Unity at the Times Square in New York on the eve of the Russian Bolshevik Revolution, November 7; Fathers Frosts' parades, with over 200 Russian version of Santa Claus marching in several U.S. cities, including New York.

KSORS — THE WORLD COORDINATIONAL COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATIONS OF RUSSIAN COMPATRIOTS OF THE USA

In 2006, the Russian government established KSORS, responsible for coordinating the activities of Russian organizations abroad and their communications with the Kremlin, following a series of “color revolutions” in former Soviet Union republics like Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, according to the “Putin’s Asymmetric Assault on Democracy in Russia and Europe: Implications for U.S. National Security,” a minority staff report prepared for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate on January, 2018.

KSORS website lists the following “information partners:”

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, headed by Sergey Lavrov, Putin’s closest ally.
- Rossotrudnichestvo (see below)
- Russkiy Mir (see below)
- Embassy of Russia and Consulates General of the RF in the US
- Foundation for Support and Protection of the Rights of Compatriots Living Abroad
- Fund for the Support of Public Diplomacy named after A.M. Gorchakov
- Moscow House of the Compatriot

ROSSOTRUDNICHESTVO

Rossotrudnichestvo is a Russian federal government agency under the jurisdiction of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, opened in 2008 by Dmitry Medvedev, the Prime Minister at the time.

Rossotrudnichestvo and its representations abroad actively support the “Immortal Regiment.” Its employees abroad function as coordinators of the actions.

FUNDING

- Based on conservative estimates from publicly available data, the Kremlin spends about \$130 million a year through foundations like Rossotrudnichestvo and the Gorchakov fund.
- In 2015, it channeled another \$103 million in presidential grants to NGOs; after including support from state enterprises and private companies, however, actual funding levels may be much higher.
- Putin has pledged to increase the budget of Rossotrudnichestvo to \$300 million by 2020.

“...the Russian government’s political influence operations have moved from the shade directly into the public square,” comments Grant Stern, a Miami based columnist, radio broadcaster, an investigative journalist, expert on the Russian soft power and an author of an excellent detailed expose on Ed Lozansky, whom Stern believes to lead the said operations.

3. HYBRID WAR STRATEGIES

“Russia’s active-measures playbook, according to public and private-sector investigators, dates back to Czarist Russia and the beginning of the Soviet Union. It has been honed and deployed over decades to advance Russian interests both at home and abroad — and has long been driven by a consistent geopolitical worldview, executed in distinct ways, and guided by a unique tradecraft philosophy at odds with the approach of Western intelligence services,” writes Garrett M. Graff, a national security writer for WIRED.

“In the 21st century...wars are no longer declared and, having begun, proceed according to an unfamiliar template,” Russia’s first deputy defense minister and chief of the general staff of the Russian Armed Forces, General Valery Gerasimov, explained in a February 2013 article in the Russian journal, *Military-Industrial Courier*. Later, he outlined a coordinated and multi-pronged approach to warfare that relies on asymmetric tools to open up “a permanently operating front through the entire territory of the enemy state.”

In other words, writes *Wired*, times have changed. “The focus of applied methods of conflict has altered in the direction of the broad use of political, economic, informational, humanitarian, and other nonmilitary measures — applied in coordination with the protest potential of the population.” Only in the final stage of a conflict would the uniformed military be deployed, usually “under the guise of peacekeeping and crisis regulation.”

HIJACKING A MOVEMENT

Hijacking grassroots movements is one of the Kremlin’s strategies in the hybrid war.

- The message and platform of such movements become obsolete and meaningless.
- In 2016, the Kremlin infiltrated and used the March Against Monsanto, a movement against American chemical/biotech industrial complex usage of GMO organized in 2013 by a mother from Utah, reports George Inashvili, a former member of the movement.
- Many leaders shared posts about Putin’s Russia banning all GMOs, followed by an instant praise for Putin and comparisons to “the evil American government.”
- RT (formerly *Russia Today*) produced a number of high-quality detailed and truthful coverage reports about the movement.
- According to our source, in the US, LaRouche movement gets paid by the Russian government funds. Sergey Glazyev, advisor to Putin on regional economic integration, allegedly brought cash to LaRouche.

“VODKA DIPLOMACY”

It is an old KGB strategy. During the USSR times, the Russian mission to the UN showed films about the World War II at a Soviet Film Club in New York to manipulate emotions and start recruit and handle agents.

POLITICIZING HISTORY

The “Immortal Regiment” version of the World War II misrepresents history by neglecting and silencing shameful periods and events in the USSR history, like **the collaboration between Stalin and Hitler in 1939**

(Molotov — Ribbentrop pact), Katyn, rape of German women by the Red Army, deaths of the prisoners of war returning to Russia and their consequent entrapment in labor camps under the similar conditions as the Nazi concentration camps, is a part of politicizing history in the interest of the Kremlin.

“In USSR, prisoners were never liberated. Prisoners were let out, made their way home, told not to bring it up again. Then it all collapsed and everyone moved on. There was never the moral clarity of victor over the oppressor. It has allowed Putin to rewrite history,” said Molly McCew, the narrative architect at New Media Frontier, a social media intelligence company.

Worldwide, people carry portraits of Lenin, Stalin, Molotov, Beria and other communist leaders guilty for tens of millions of death during the Bolshevik reign, Great Purges and atrocities performed against the people of the USSR.

Normalizing Stalin’s mass murders and glorifying 70 years of communist terror in the USSR endanger the values of the Western liberal democracy.

“The regime claims to be the direct successor of all Russia’s glorious victories, chief among them the defeat of Nazism in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945, and thereby makes itself immune to criticism,” wrote Moscow Carnegie Center expert Andrei Kolesnikov.

INCITING HOSTILITY AND HATRED TOWARDS THE US IN RUSSIA

While promoting cooperation and understanding between Russia and the US, the Kremlin propaganda machine depicts the US as the enemy #1.



“Official [Russian] propaganda identifies the 1945 triumph with Russia’s current struggles — and the West as a modern-day incarnation of Nazis, with no mention of Nazi-Soviet cooperation to divide Poland and other parts of eastern Europe in 1939–1940,” — Washington Post.

“We Can Repeat.” A car sticker in honor of the first anniversary of the capture of Crimea

INCITING PSEUDO-PATRIOTIC HYSTERIA IN RUSSIA AND AMONGST THE RUSSIANS LIVING ABROAD

The Kremlin uses the vulnerability of people reliving tragedy to introduce the ideas of the Russian supremacy and loyalty to the Russian state and government as well as pseudo-patriotic and militaristic moods to create new patterns in the collective mind and shift the political narrative.

This is psychological war: the ideas, language and the whole reality are weaponized.



A young man carries a portrait of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin during the Immortal Regiment march in Sevastopol, Crimea. May 2018.



Putin's friend biker "The Surgeon" (left) at the Immortal Regiment march. May 2015. Behind him: a portrait of the Stalin people's Commissar of internal Affairs and the ideologist of mass repressions Lavrenty Beria.

CONCLUSION

- Disguised by a noble cause, the Kremlin propagandists get into the collective mind of the adversary unnoticed and then slowly release the engineered verbal and non-verbal messages.
- Words and images evoke real and create fake memories in individuals.
- The memories turn into emotions.
- The emotions turn into actions.
- This process gradually annihilates the original views of the victims, replacing them with the new set of ideas and paralyzing the ability to think critically.
- The ideas vary depending on the target. Russians are indoctrinated with the concepts "Sacrifice for the Motherland," "Superiority of Russia," "America is Our Enemy" etc. The Westerners are targeted with the messages like "Putin is My Friend," "Russia is Our Friend," "Liberal Democracy Is Dead" etc. There are ideas for radical liberals, conservatives, neo-Nazis, Socialists, Communists and most political groups.
- The victims become willing hosts for the invader.

"Hybrid warfare is aiming at eroding our will to fight, our psychological defenses. It alters perception of ourselves," said Molly McCew.

The individual and collective behavioral patterns and the political narrative change.

As a result, the Russian government acquires brainwashed active troops, fighting in the hybrid war against the West from inside and spreading its power.

Thus, in the case of the "Immortal Regiment," the Army of Dead turns into an international military force loyal to Putin's Russia and the celebration of the end of war turns into the celebration of war.