

Russian-Ukrainian Information War

Since the USSR dissolved, Russian politics has been on a mission to regain influence in the post-Soviet landscape. Ukraine, having played a significant role in the USSR's downfall, became their primary target. [\[1\]](#)

This drive can be traced back to the strong sense of empire that many Russians hold, focusing more on controlling their neighbors than building a strong nation of their own.

The game changed with the Euromaidan protests in 2013. Russian propaganda took a dark turn, launching an aggressive and deceptive campaign against Ukraine to boost Russia's power. This led to Ukraine shifting its alliances toward the West. [\[2\]](#)

Fast forward to February 24, 2022, and a new chapter of the Russian-Ukrainian information war began. Russian state-controlled media started spreading fake news, portraying Russia's extensive invasion of Ukraine as a "special military operation" with claims of "demilitarization" and "denazification." Pro-Russian propaganda often centers on the theme of neo-Nazism, with figures like Stepan Bandera in the spotlight.

Telegram channels have become hotbeds of false information about the war. They claim that Ukrainian leaders have fled or signed an unconditional surrender, all while fueling anti-Ukrainian sentiment and promoting questionable behavior.

To tighten their grip on the narrative, Russia has censored the term "war" when discussing their "special operation" in Ukraine. They've also cracked down on independent Russian media outlets like "Dozhd" and "Echo of Moscow." [\[3\]](#)

Despite pro-Kremlin efforts, Ukraine has emerged as the clear winner in this information war. While Russian propaganda found some success in 2013, this time around, Ukraine has undeniably prevailed in the battle for hearts and minds.