



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Apr 24, 2025 · 21 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1915365157083001001](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll introduce an Estonian lawyer, social activist, politician, and useful idiot for the Kremlin, Varro Vooglaid (@varrovooglaid). He's best-known for promoting pro-Kremlin viewpoints under the guise of "traditional family values."

1/20



Vooglaid has an academic background, which usually gives people plenty of credibility in the eyes of the Kremlin. Most of his academic career was spent at the University of Tartu, but he was also a researcher between 2007 and 2011 at the University of Helsinki.

2/20

### Service trip

01.01.2016–31.08.2017	University of Tartu, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Law comparative law lecturer (1.00)
01.09.2014–31.12.2015	University of Tartu, Faculty of Law, Institute of Public Law comparative law lecturer (1.00)
01.09.2011–31.08.2014	University of Tartu, Faculty of Law, Institute of Public Law comparative law lecturer (1.00)
2007–2011	University of Helsinki  University of Helsinki, Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights, Center of Excellence for Global Governance Studies, researcher (1.00)
01.10.2006–22.08.2007	University of Tartu, Faculty of Law, Institute of Public Law extraordinary assistant of international law (0.25)
2006–2007	University of Tartu, Faculty of Law, Institute of Law, University of Tartu, Chair of Maritime Law extraordinary assistant of international law (0.25)

Varro is likely the most influential vatnik in Estonia. His academic credentials provide him credibility, while his religious image appeals to “traditionalists” - many of whom oddly admire Russia and its imperialistic nature.

3/20



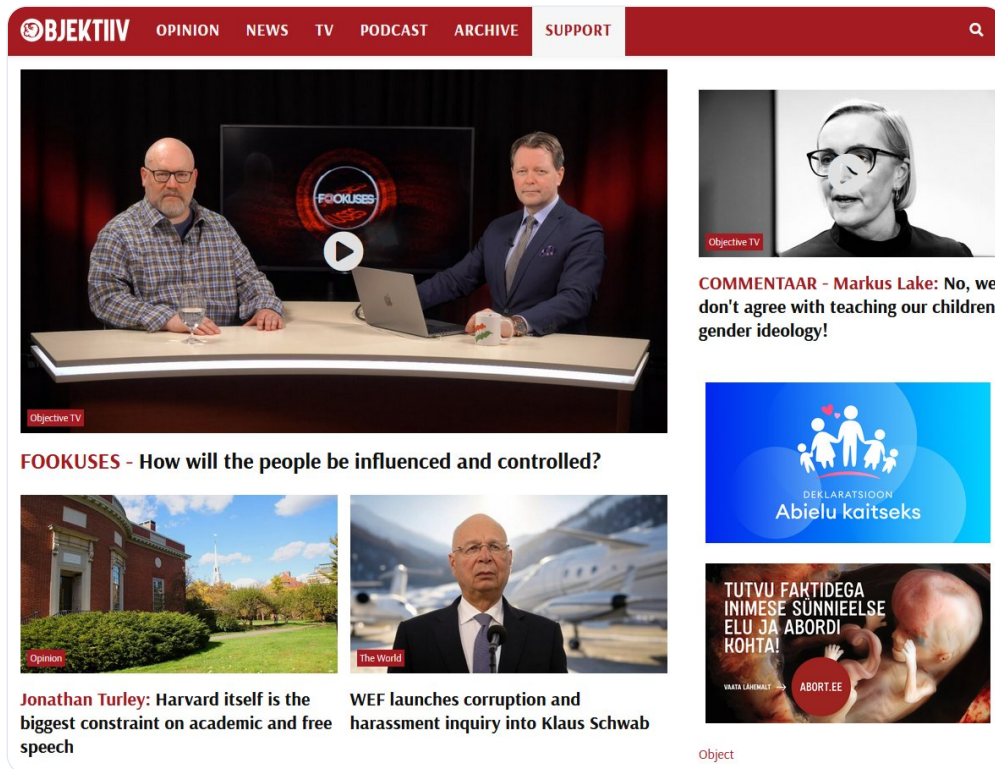
In 2011, Varro established the Foundation for the Protection of Family and Tradition (SAPTK), with an ideology allegedly “based on Christian teaching,” basically opposing Estonian progressive legislation (“Kooseluseadus”) which allowed same sex marriage.

4/20



As the chairman of the board of SAPTK, Vooglaid is no stranger to pushing narratives that align with Kremlin interests. His main channel for propaganda is Objektiiv - a media outlet run by SAPTK. Basically, it's like any other “independent” fake news blog out there.

5/20



Objektiiv pushes anti-NATO, anti-EU, and pro-“traditional values” messaging fully aligned with Moscow’s interests. For example, there’s plenty of attacks against Klaus Schwab from the World Economic Forum, and von der Leyen from the EU Commission.

6/20



**Pakistani paedophile will not be sent home from UK because he is an alcoholic**



**Czech army soldiers leave en masse for fear of war with Russia**



**READ MORE: Malle Pärn: Wise drivers won't sell the nation for silver sequins**

Objektiiv's narratives come wrapped in cozy conservative packaging promoting family, faith, sovereignty. But as you scratch the surface, you'll quickly notice that it's a soft glove covering the iron fist of Russian-style authoritarianism.



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FOOKUSES | Eesti poliitilise ladviku vaim on väiklane, kiuslik ja arg

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15 apr. 2025 Markus Järvi, Varro Hõne

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WEF launches corruption and harassment inquiry into Klaus Schwab

In 2023, Vooglaid was elected as an independent candidate to the Riigikogu on EKRE's list. He's been publicly advocating for Estonia to "improve" ties with Russia. His main go-to line is "we must not irritate Russia, or else it will attack."

8/20

EESTI

08.11.2022, 13:00

## Varro Vooglaid ja Markus Järvi kandideerivad EKRE nimekirjas riigikokku (365)



Varro Vooglaid ja Markus Järvi

FOTO: DELFI MEDIA

**Sihtasutuse Perekonna ja Traditsiooni Kaitseks eestvedajad Varro Vooglaid ja Markus Järvi kandideerivad parteitute kandidaatidena, ent Eesti Konservatiivse Rahvaerakonna (EKRE) nimekirjas riigikokku.**

**Varro Vooglaid**

8 December 2022 · 🌐



Today, all propaganda channels are trumpeting that by bringing additional US army units, including its missile systems, to our territory, a big step forward has been taken in ensuring Estonia's security. It is possible that I have some kind of disability, but my intuition-based cognition is the exact opposite. However, a peaceful public discussion on this topic cannot be held, because mechanisms have also been put in place to stamp out all those who dare to express doubts about the veracity of the official narrative (pro-Russian, of course). The fact is, however, that I have a decidedly fainter, not a firmer, feeling on the surface of today's news. And I know a lot of people feel the same. As if the shadows were getting darker and longer...



Varro Vooglaid

4 September 2022 · 🌐



I was asked how I evaluate the activities of the Estonian political leadership in relation to the events in Ukraine and Russia in general. My short answer was as follows: "What our ruling elite has decided to do in Russia's direction to ensure Estonia's security (definitely ordered from the outside) seems to be an attempt to put all the cards on the maximum escalation of tensions and the escalation of the confrontation between the Western countries and Russia - ultimately to the fact that the Western countries will succeed in leading a major military conflict with Russia, as a result of which Russia will be destroyed or at least brought to its knees and rendered harmless. This is not considered a plan. to put their own people in a very difficult situation economically. If this plan fails and Russia is not only destroyed, but Moscow emerges as a winner, with a confirmed understanding that it can do a lot to realize its interests, it is very likely that at some point it will also settle scores with Estonia, which has raised tensions and tried to escalate the conflict. And if our so-called allies quietly disappear behind us in such a situation, not wanting to enter into a military conflict with the world's largest nuclear power over a small country, then Estonia's tie is over. This is a brief summary of the picture that I see when I look at what is happening now. The stakes are very high, and unfortunately, the latter scenario seems far more likely to happen than the former. Undoubtedly, it is reasonable to make efforts to improve Estonia's defense capability, but for the previously explained reasons, it is risky and irresponsible to constantly make hostile statements towards Russia and position yourself as the loudest screamer in this camp. The well-being of Ukraine is important, but the government of the Republic of Estonia cannot consider the well-being of Ukraine more important than the well-being of Estonia.

An example for pursuing a reasonable policy actually exists - that's what Hungary is for. Like it or not, that's my understanding of the matter."



1.1K

143 comments 109 shares



Varro Vooglaid

19 November 2022 · 🌐



Prime Minister Kaja Kallas said on Thursday in the program "First Studio" that "Ukraine is at war with our enemy, IN THE DIRECT SENSE OF THE WORD". Insofar as he said this as the head of the government of the Republic of Estonia (in which capacity he participated in the program), he obviously meant the Republic of Estonia by "we".

Such statements carry a great deal of weight and potentially far-reaching consequences. Therefore, they should not be treated indifferently or lightly. On the contrary, they must be taken seriously.

In my opinion, it is absolutely unacceptable that the head of the government of the Republic of Estonia consistently makes statements according to which the Republic of Estonia is at war - as if the Republic of Estonia and Ukraine are not two different countries. Such declarations are of great importance politically and also in terms of international law, because in a sense they are acts of national self-determination.

Previously, Kallas has directly said that Estonia is at war (see, for example, here <https://bit.ly/3UOVKU9>). But the statement made in the "First Studio" also points to this very conclusion, because according to my best understanding, the political leaders of the Republic of Estonia can only name the countries with which the Republic of Estonia is actually at war as enemies (especially if it is said that the enemies are not figuratively or figuratively, but literally).

THE MAIN QUESTION here is what goal is actually being guided in the foreign and defense policy of the Republic of Estonia - is it the goal that the war does not reach Estonia, or the opposite goal, that the war comes to Estonia? This is not a rhetorical question, because more and more it seems as if a certain group is working for the expansion of the war and for it to reach Estonia (see <https://bit.ly/3UQbmXL>).

If our goal is that the war in Ukraine does not expand and does not reach Estonia, then the leading politicians of our country must consistently emphasize that the Republic of Estonia is not at war, does not treat any country as being at war with itself, and does not agree with the interpretation by anyone else of any step taken by the Republic of Estonia (e.g. giving arms to Ukraine) as being at war or going to war.

In Varro's delusional world, the 2014 Euromaidan protests were part of the "color revolution" series "organized by the CIA." He also promoted a bizarre, unsourced story claiming that Turkey and former Ukrainian president Poroshenko attempted to take Crimea "with Jihad."

9/20

## Senator McCain is pleading a CIA-inspired color revolution for Ukraine

February 12 2014



On December 15, 2013, Republican Senator John McCain told thousands of protesters in Kyiv that the United States would take "concrete steps" to sanction the Ukrainian government if it decided to crack down on the demonstrators. McCain said imposing punitive measures





Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (right) and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, November 30, 2015. Photo: Yasin Bulbul, AP/Scanpix

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his Ukrainian counterpart, Petro Poroshenko, have launched a campaign to retake the Crimean peninsula through jihad, activating the Crimean Tatar Battalion and preparing to Islamize the Kherson region that borders Crimea.



## Who needs jihad in Crimea

07/18/2016, 08:01 Society



Funding Crimean Tatar radicals is exclusively in the interests of Turkey

As we already wrote in the last issue of the Crimean Telegraph, foreign media have disclosed information about the plans of Ukraine and Turkey to escalate the confrontation with Russia through sponsoring jihadism in Crimea. But the secret jihad that Poroshenko agreed on with Erdogan will only lead to an even greater separation of Crimea from Ukraine. Most

analysts think so.

"Islamic province" as a springboard for jihadists

The World Tribune published an article from which it follows that Turkey and Ukraine are planning a "secret jihad" to seize Crimea from Russia. "Turkish President Recep Erdogan and Ukrainian President [Petro Poroshenko](#) at the end of June began to further escalate their confrontation with Russia through sponsoring jihadism on the Crimean Peninsula. This process threatens to become irreversible due to the activation of the Crimean Tatar battalion and the Turkish-Ukrainian comprehensive program for the Islamization of the regions of Ukraine bordering Crimea," the publication writes. World Tribune journalists are also confident that the Turkish military is seeking to provide radicals in the Kherson region, on the border with Crimea, with weapons and other military equipment. "Crimean Tatar soldiers strive for the liberation and Islamization of Crimea,"

Another gem from Varro: NATO forces are more dangerous to Estonia than what they might fear from Russia. He's also criticized Estonia's support for Ukraine, claiming military aid depletes defense and escalates tensions.

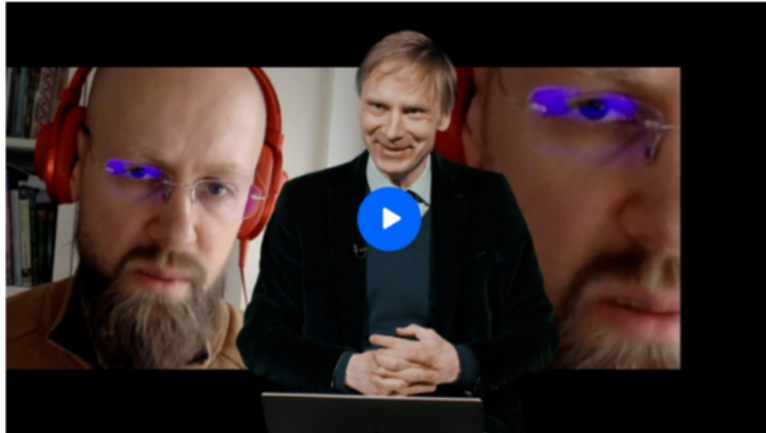


## ON THE FRONT LINE› Varro Vooglaid presents Kremlin talking points (61)



Sander Punamäe, Andres Haabu

January 28, 2022, 11:19 am



Frontline: Varro's talking points — Photo: Andres Haabu

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Last week, Varro Vooglaid announced in the program "Lobjakas vs Vooglaid" that, in his opinion, the NATO forces here are more dangerous to Estonia than what we could fear from Russia. The same story is being told in Russian propaganda channels.

However, Vooglaid confirms that he does not even follow the Russian media.



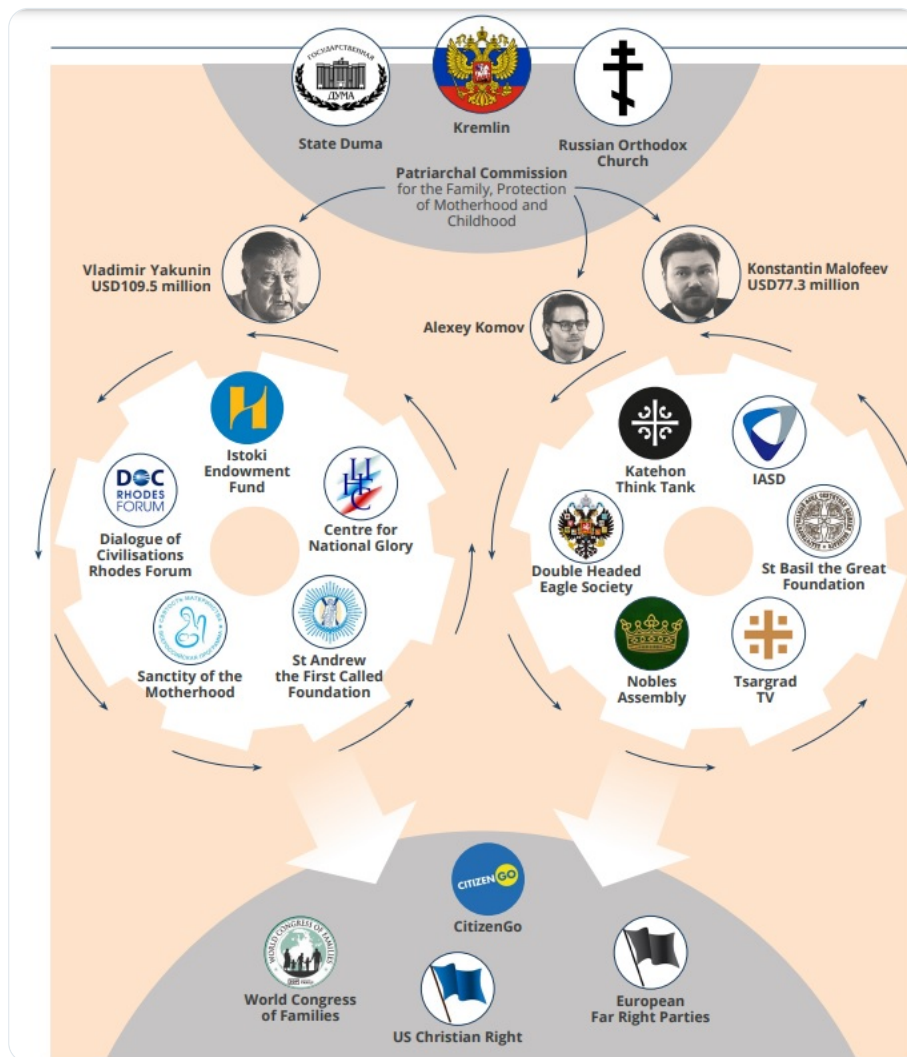
Varro Vooglaid

8 December 2022 · 🌐

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Vooglaid's SAPTK is loosely connected to Russian "conservative" organizations like Konstantin Malofeev's and Vladimir Yakunin's Congress of World Families. No financial ties between the two have been confirmed, but this wouldn't be the first club these oligarchs support.





Fundamentalist organisations are developing their networks and branches all over the world. Among them are CitizenGo, El Yunque, Tradition, Family, Property (TFP), World Congress of Families, and Agenda Europe. They are very active in Europe. In 2013, Russian President Putin joined the game and after forming an alliance with the church, he became the “Lion of Christianity”. Can you briefly map these movements and their role in this struggle for power over half the world?

The first thing we need to keep in mind is that entities promoting conservative values have been largely infiltrated by the Kremlin since around 2012. Its traces are everywhere, whether in the Polish Ordo Iuris or the French La Manif Pour Tous. At first they organised spontaneous protests against same-sex marriage, and soon after they started to be taken over by people connected to the Kremlin, such as the head of the World Congress of Families (WCF), Brian Brown.

Vooglaïd also has an unhealthy, borderline romantic fascination with Putin. For example in 2017, he shared to his followers a message claiming that “President Putin presented orders of parental honor to large families.”



Varro Vooglaid

29 July 2018 · 🌐

...

During the celebration of the 1030th anniversary of the baptism of Kievan Rus in Moscow on Saturday, Russian President Vladimir Putin called baptism the starting point of Russian statehood and the definition of identity. Every country and nation must define its absolutes as a central part of its self-perception and set its goals in the form of ideals. The Russian state and people do it this way, while the Estonian state and people align themselves with the so-called European values, i.e. the left-liberal ideological program that went bankrupt long ago. Like it or not, Russians base their self-definition on a much more permanent and solid foundation. Let the nomenclature call the people who state this fact Putin's useful idiots or agents of influence - it doesn't matter, because reality doesn't change in the slightest and history judges peoples and countries completely independently of it.



OBJEKTIV.EE

Putin: baptism is the starting point of Russian statehood and the basis of identity - Lens  
Russian President Vladimir Putin called the christening of Kiev Rus in Moscow on Saturday 1...



Varro Vooglaid

4 June 2017 · 🌐



It is worth considering the fact that our political leadership has NEVER (as far as I know) promoted childbearing as a social ideal, let alone done so to the extent that childbearing is awarded a national medal. It is not possible to buy child wealth by increasing social assistance - no amount of aid compensates for the fact that the ideal of child wealth is not respectable and when families with many children are viewed as anti-social in society. This is a very serious thought.



OBJEKTIV.EE

President Putin awarded large families with the Order of Parental Honor Objektiv



👍 106

19 comments 8 shares

In 2018 he praised Putin again—“Russians are building their self-determination on a much more permanent basis.” He's also praised Lavrov & other Russian politicians as more capable than Estonian ones.

Naturally, he denied the invasion would happen in 2022.



**Varro Vooglaide**

8 h · 🌐



I summarized the most important points from Sergey Lavrov's interview with Tucker Carlson regarding the fact that the world is now closer to nuclear war than it was at any time during the Cold War. I added an excerpt from an interview given by Kaja Kallas to the BBC in May, to show, as a contrast, the mentality and level of the people in power in our country. It can be assumed that among others, Lavrov was referring to Kallas... Woe to our country, where foreign policy is practiced by people with a Barbie mentality.



I like it



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Take care



269





Varro Vooglaid

28 June 2019 · 🌐



The truth is the truth, even if Putin says it. I recommend reading and thinking along, without convulsions. Also, watching the video included in the news, it is good to see how a professional works interviewing - the interviewer is not an opponent, an interrogator or a judge, but a person whose task is to ask important questions in order to highlight the views of the interviewee, whether he likes them or not.



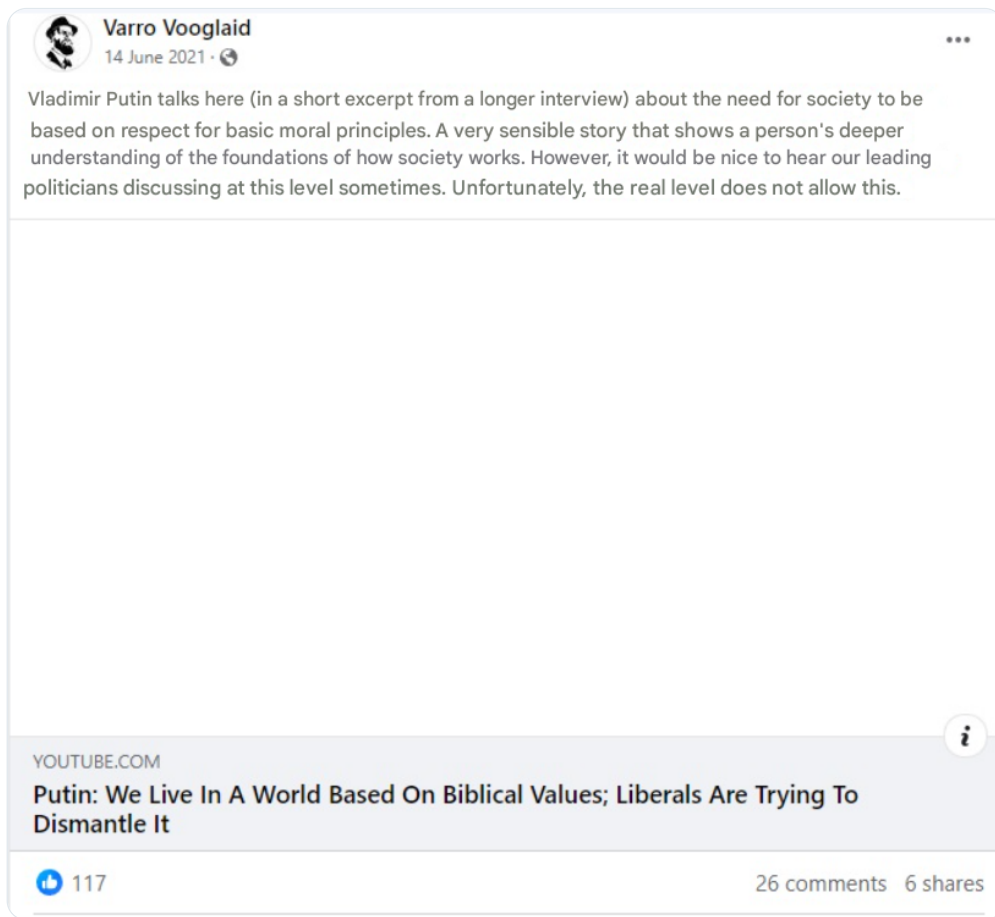
OBJEKTIV.EE

Putin: liberalism has outlived its time - Objective

According to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the liberal idea has outlived its time because it...

👍 260

11 comments 75 shares



During COVID mandates, Varro admired the Russian policy over Estonian, and suggested that if Russia's policy was better and more freedom loving and with less restrictions he would rather live under Russian rule. Yet, he's still trying to backpedal from this statement.

## Varro Vooglaid is ready to accept Russian occupation: one cannot argue endlessly with an emotional argument that the tower must have blue and white (1740)

— Watch the video and see for yourself!



Herman Kelomees  
Politics Editor



4210



"I have said it before, and I am not ashamed to say it again, that if Russia acted in such a way as to guarantee people real constitutional rights, did not force vaccines, did not implement apartheid, gave people the opportunity to live and raise their children according to their beliefs, did not start threatening you with imprisonment, did not want to disarm you, did not want to limit your parental rights, did not want to inject your children behind your back - then a very serious question would arise very quickly: "I don't know, at the end of the day I want to live a normal life. Call it the Republic of Estonia or the Governorate of Estonia or something else. Whoever guarantees people the opportunity to live normally here, people will stick to it. You can't endlessly (claim) with some kind of emotional argument that we must have blue and white in this tower, what if under this blue and white you are harassing and bullying and suppressing people."

For Varro, the reason for Russian invasion (he previously denied would even happen) was clear - it was of course that pesky NATO for daring to accept countries begging to join, afraid Russia would invade them again! And as always, there's zero blame on Russia.



Varro Vooglaid

However one interprets these facts, those are the facts.



I like it

Only

5 days ago



Of course, this is also a gloomy statement from the point of view of Estonian defense policy. Especially in the knowledge that Russia has now clearly proven that its long-expressed talk about the inadmissibility of NATO expansion under Russia's borders has not been spoken in vain; as well as in the knowledge that Estonia has a dime compared to Ukraine on the geopolitical table.

Nothing good is on the horizon in all of this. However, there are a lot of gloomy clouds.



Vooglaid is ready to throw Estonia under the bus in order to get some good boy points from the Kremlin. For example, after the Ukrainian drone assault against Pskov airbase, Russian propaganda claimed the drones came from Estonia. Varro didn't rule this out.





Varro Vooglaid

30 August 2023 · 🌐



Tonight's drone attack on the Pskov airbase makes us wonder how easily the war in Ukraine can spill over to our border. If the drones or missiles used in the attack had been launched from Estonian territory, which, according to Kaja Kallas, should also be at war with Russia, then all hell would probably break loose pretty quickly. I do not dare to rule out that if the corresponding order was given to our deputy administrators, it would be carried out - accompanied by stories that all this is being done to support Ukraine and in the interest of Estonian security. The fact that a certain group would be happy to see the expansion of the front from Ukraine to the Baltic states cannot be considered beyond doubt either.

## Ukraine attacked Pskov and Moscow with drones



Varro doesn't hide his admiration for other dictators either. He's praised Assad, denied the Syrian chemical attacks, and even edited an interview with Assad himself. He's also quoted biased Russian outlets like the New East Outlook.

# Syrian government: US pretexts for attack based on lies



3. sept. 2013





According to the confirmation of the source of the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the materials released by the US Secretary of State John Kerry as "irrefutable evidence" in the mass media (to prove that the recent chemical weapons attack was carried out by the Syrian government forces) are based on exactly the same lies and fabrications that were first published more than a week ago by the terrorist groups fighting in Syria themselves.


According to the source of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the planned attack outside the norms of international law does not serve the political interests of the people, but only the US, thus undermining the understanding of the international order and faith in the validity of the UN Charter.


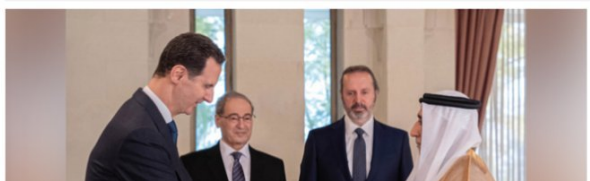
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President al-Assad accepts the credentials of Hassan A. 



# The Big Interview: According to Bashar al-Assad, the war in Syria is a microcosm of World War III

16. Dec. 2019



Syrian President al-Assad has not given interviews for a year and a half, but recently he thought it would be a good time to do so again, as the public's attitude towards the war in Syria has changed significantly in the last few years, and thanks to certain events, Syria is back in the spotlight.

Lens mediates the interview in order to provide the Estonian information space with the opportunity to see more closely how the country's president interprets what is happening in Syria. Highlighting the perspective of the other side is important, as no other publication in Estonia has done this.

If anyone has a problem with the Russian TV channel RT, which mediated the interview, it should be mentioned that al-Asad recently gave an interview with similar content and in a similar format to the Italian national TV channel RAI.



Assad in a video interview: accusations that the Syrian government carried out a chemical attack in the city of Douma are fabricated

14. May 2018

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IN FOCUS) The country which idealizes slavery, does not last



Varro Vooglaid: the government

He's backed legislation like Russia's "foreign agents" law. Varro questioned criticism of such laws, hinting they "could be beneficial." I think we all already know who benefits from them, and why they were so aggressively pushed by the Kremlin in Russia & Georgia.

NEWS FEED, RUSSIA, VLADIMIR PUTIN, FOREIGN AGENTS LAW, MOSCOW

## Putin expands 'foreign agent' label to include all who work with foreign organizations, governments

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by Tim Zadorozhnyy • April 21, 2025 5:00 PM • 2 min read



Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting on the economic issues via a video link at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow, Russia on April 11, 2023. (Gavriil Grigorov / Sputnik / AFP)

Back in 2018, Varro strongly opposed the sanctions imposed against Russia after the Skripal poisonings. He said the sanctions were set “without ensuring whether the accusations under which sanctions are being applied are true.”



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In focus: So far, the Skripal case is dominated by propaganda over facts

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IN FOCUS > So far, the Skripal case is dominated by propaganda instead of facts

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Scott Adams:

there is no corrupt country

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In order not to be the object of manipulation, or at least to reduce the likelihood of it, you must first of all learn to distinguish between statements and facts. In this particular case, this means that if the British secret services BELIEVE that Russian special services carried out the nerve agent attack in Salisbury, it says nothing about whether Russian special services did it or not - just as the Russian authorities' belief that the Russian armed forces were not behind it says nothing about the annexation of Crimea.

The same mentality was expressed in the performance of President Kaljulaid. The persuasiveness of factual claims is judged on faith, not evidence.

To conclude, Varro is a classic “traditionalist” vatnik promoting the Kremlin under the guise of family values- you know, “won’t someone think of the children?” type of approach. His academic background makes him a valuable asset for Moscow & the pro-Kremlin bloc in Estonia.






The 2nd edition of “Vatnik Soup — The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation” is officially out!

You can order your copy here:

**THE ULTIMATE GUIDE  
TO RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION**



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