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May 28, 2025 · 21 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1927680309216092518](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll introduce a Russian movie director, propagandist, and former priest: Ivan Okhlobystin. He's best known for his strong support for the war on Ukraine and for his radical views, which are often used as a testbed for the domestic Russian audience.

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Ivan was born in 1966 from a short-lived marriage between a 62-year-old chief physician and a 19-year-old engineering student. She later remarried, and the family moved from Kaluga province to Moscow. Ivan kept the surname Okhlobystin from his biological father.

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Early life [\[edit\]](#)

Okhlobystin was born on 22 July 1966 in the recreation center "[Polenovo](#)" ([Zaoksky District](#), [Tula Oblast](#), [Russian SFSR](#), [Soviet Union](#)), where his father, Ivan Ivanovich Okhlobystin,^{[4][5]} was a military doctor, and a participant in [World War II](#). He was then 62 years old, and worked as the head physician at Polenovo. His mother, Albina Ivanovna Stavitskaya,^{[4][5]} (Okhlobystina by her first marriage) (maiden name Belyaeva), was an engineer-economist. She was then a 19-year-old student. His mother remarried to Anatoly Stavitsky, and Ivan had a half-brother Stanislav Stavitsky.^{[4][5]} For some time the family lived in a village near [Maloyaroslavets](#) in the [Kaluga Oblast](#), afterwards they all moved to Moscow.^{[4][5]}

After moving to Moscow, Ivan began studying at VGIK film school. He soon became a playwright for theatre productions and also wrote for Stolitsa magazine, which he later left because, as he put it, “it had become a brothel.”

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After graduation, he entered the directorial faculty of VGIK (the workshop of Igor Talankina), which he graduated in 1992.

During his studies, he was drafted into the army, where he served in the missile forces in Rostov-on-Don.

In the movie as an actor, Okhlobystin made his debut in the 1983 film about teenagers “I promise to be”.

In 2000, he directed Demobbed, a film inspired by his brief stint in the army. Ivan then chose a religious path, becoming a ROC priest. But then something serious must have happened, as in 2010 Patriarch Kirill expelled him, forbidding him from wearing the robe again.

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RUSSIA

WHAT KOMSOMOLSKAYA GAZETA WROTE ABOUT THAT DAY

PHOTO VIDEO SPECIAL OPERATION POLITICS SOCIETY ECONOMICS IN THE WORLD STARS HEALTH SOCIAL SUPPORT SCIENCE SPORTS

9 February 2010 11:30

Patriarch Kirill forbade actor and priest Ivan Okhlobystin to serve in the church

The sex of filming in the film "King" of the priest was deprived of the right to perform divine services

Source: [kp.ru](#)

"With all due respect to our society, including representatives of the Church, to the contribution made by the actors to the cultural life of the people, should adhere to the church canons, according to which priesthood and lynching are incompatible," the patriarch said in a statement.

From this official statement, quoted by the press service of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, it follows that the reason for the suspension from the services in the church of Father John Okhlobystin in that, he combined the service of God and the museum of cinema. Despite the long-standing negative attitude of the church to acting (the Lyceums were once even buried not in cemeteries, but near, as the most terrible sinners), Ivan Okhlobystin managed to realize both vocations of his soul - he also became an 'active' priest, and in the cinema did not stop acting.



Okhlobystin then became one of the main actors in the TV series Interns, best described as a rip-off of the American sitcom House. It gained some popularity and made him a public figure. A little later, he was even named Actor of the Year.



In 2011, Ivan turned to politics, announcing a presidential run. His nationalistic, far-right beliefs were radical even by Russia's nationalistic, far-right political standards. He envisioned a new isolationism with an “Iron Wall” around Russia.

Ivan Okhlobystin is running for president

SEPT 12 2011 NIYAZ KARIM



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Last week Russian actor and writer Ivan Okhlobystin has announced his intention to run for the presidency next year.

Okhlobystin, a well-known actor, TV personality and ex-Orthodox priest, said he had made the decision after "much consideration."

One of his most famous roles is in the TV series "Interns", Russian version of "Scrubbs"



When Russia started its war on Ukraine in 2014, Ivan voiced full support. As a result, his events in Ukraine were cancelled, and he was later banned from entering Ukraine altogether. The Donetsk People's Republic, however, welcomed him, even granting him a passport.

Ukraine has launched investigations against Russian actor Ivan Okhlobystin on suspicion of terrorism.

A spokeswoman for Ukraine's Security Service (SBU), Olena Hitlyanska, wrote on Facebook on December 2 that the probe was launched after he obtained a "passport" from Russia-backed separatists in the eastern region of Donetsk.

Russian media reports said on November 30 that Okhlobystin received the passport from separatist leader Aleksandr Zakharchenko.

The reports quoted Okhlobystin as calling the separatist-controlled territory "a fortress of the Russian world" and openly expressing support to the separatists and Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in March 2014.

On December 1, Ukraine's Interior Ministry called on Western countries to impose sanctions against Okhlobystin.

In 2015, the SBU barred him from entering Ukraine, and more than 70 movies and TV shows featuring him were banned in the country.

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Ukraine Bans Films Featuring a Russian Actor Who Supported Separatists

Over 70 films featuring Ivan Okhlobystin were banned following his visit to the Donbass region

BY VLADIMIR KOZLOV  DECEMBER 10, 2014 11:36AM



Ivan Okhlobystin - P 2014

SHOPPING WITH THR



WNBA Power Couple Courtney Vandersloot and Allie Quigley Team With Nike on Shoes for Pride
BY ERIN LASSNER

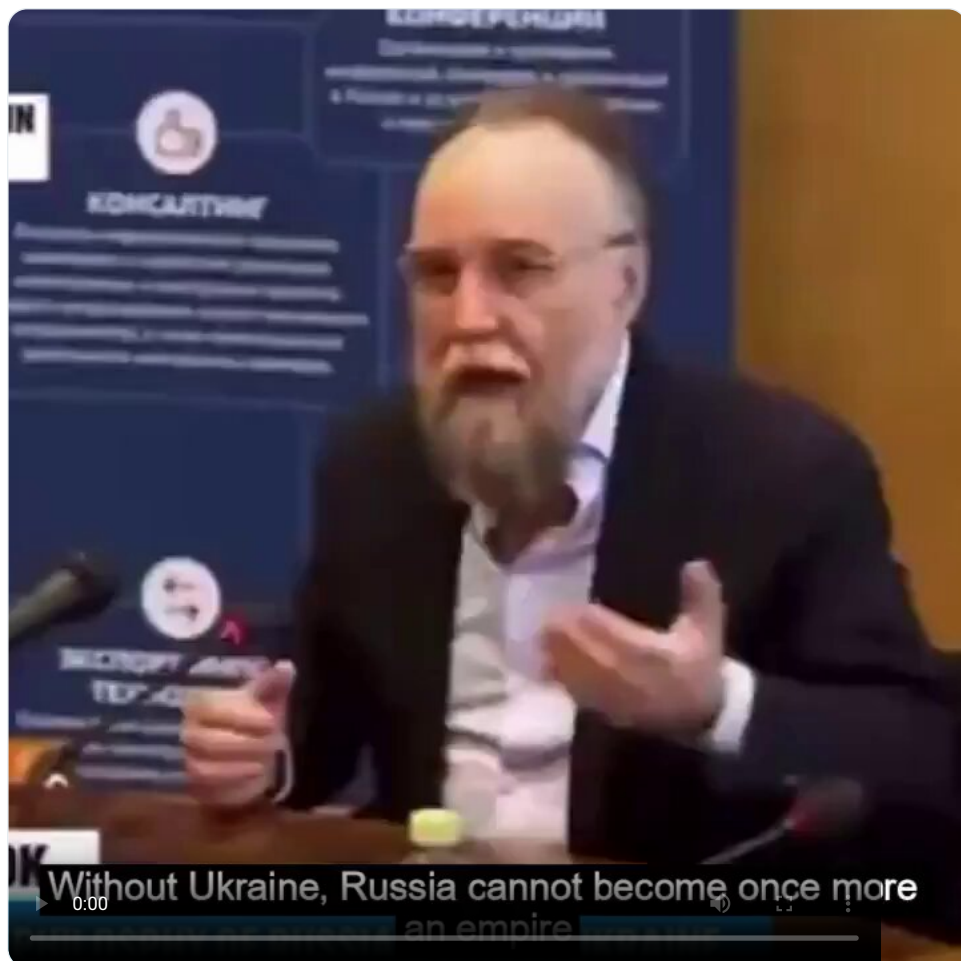


One of JFK Jr.'s Favorite Watches Is Under \$200 — Here's Where to Shop the Sold-Out Timepiece Ahead of Father's Day
BY DANIELLE DIRECTO-MESTON



Lacoste's Exclusive Free People Sneaker Drop Hits the French Open Courts
BY ERIN LASSNER

In Donetsk, Okhlobystin promoted Novorossiia — the idea of uniting former Tsarist territories in Ukraine. Popularized by Aleksandr Dugin and echoed by Putin, it briefly served as the Kremlin's main domestic narrative to justify aggression against Ukraine.





As is tradition in Russia, Ivan was constantly drunk. In his alcohol-induced delirium, he frantically called friends to declare he would join the war — just after he got some dental work done, so that if he returned wounded, he could still chew his own food.

9/20



When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Okhlobystin quickly went to the Luhansk People's Republic to donate helmets to Storm-Z troops. During this time, Russian celebrities who didn't support the war effort were branded traitors.

10/20



r/UkraineCrisis2022 • 2 yr. ago
MardukSyria

Okhlobystin supplied LPR attack aircraft with helmets and thermal imagers. Today, together with representatives of the ONF, a famous Russian film actor, director and screenwriter conveyed <https://t.me/donbassr/26832> military equipment for the special purpose battalion "Storm" on the front line.

Okhlobystin's radical rants serve several strategic purposes for the Kremlin: they act as test cases for extreme rhetoric, they help seed future propaganda and, most importantly, they make Putin appear more moderate and reasonable by contrast. A bit like Drunk Dima.

11/20

"Sooner or later what everyone expects will happen. Sooner or later we will win. Now there is an opinion that soon the special military operation will be renamed to the anti-terrorist operation, some say that it will even be the Patriotic War, but I think that this is also not enough. It is rightly called the Holy War. Holy war! There is such an old Russian interjection "goyda", meaning a call to immediate action. Ah, how we miss such battle calls now. Goyda, brothers and sisters. Come on! Fear, Old World, devoid of true beauty, true faith, true wisdom, ruled by madmen, perverts and Satanists. Fear, we are coming! Goyaaada! Goyaaada!"



For example in 2022, Okhlobystin delivered a menacing speech at a Kremlin-organized propaganda rally in Moscow, calling for a “holy war” against the West. Drawing on his acting background, he appeared to channel Hitler, mimicking his tone, rhetoric, and theatrical gestures.

12/20





The “holy war” Okhlobystin shrieked for seemed to be testing the waters on behalf of the Kremlin. By Mar 2024, the idea had spread and the Russian Orthodox Church’s Patriarch Kirill officially called the SMO a “holy war” to conquer all of Ukraine.

Russian Orthodox Church calls invasion of Ukraine "holy war", Ukrainian church reacts

TETIANA OLIYNYK — THURSDAY, 28 MARCH 2024, 22:48



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PATRIARCH KIRILL, THE HEAD OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (ROC). PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

The World Russian People's Council led by Patriarch Kirill of Moscow has adopted an "order" that refers to the Russian invasion of Ukraine as a "holy war" and states that "the entire territory of present-day Ukraine should be included in the area of Russia's exclusive influence". The Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), which has historically been linked to the Moscow Patriarchate, has dissociated itself from such statements.

[Главная](#) / Программы и документы конференций и форумов

Наказ XXV Всемирного русского народного собора «Настоящее и будущее Русского мира»

27 марта 2024 г. 18:00 [Версия для печати](#)

В ходе соборного съезда, который состоялся 27 марта 2024 года в Зале церковных соборов Храма Христа Спасителя в Москве под председательством главы ВРНС Святейшего Патриарха Московского и всея Руси Кирилла, был утвержден Наказ XXV Всемирного русского народного собора «Настоящее и будущее Русского мира» (Москва, 27-28 ноября 2023 года).

Всемирного Русского Нар...
России.

Специальная военная оп...
преступного киевского ре...
ходе СВО русский народ...
национальную и культур...
государства. С духовно-нравственной точки зрения специальная военная операция является Священной войной, в которой Россия и ее народ, защищая единое духовное пространство Святой Руси, выполняют миссию «Удерживающего», защищающего мир от натиска глобализма и победы впавшего в сатанизм Запада.

После завершения СВО вся территория современной Украины должна войти в зону исключительного влияния России. Возможность существования на данной территории русофобского, враждебного России и ее народу политического режима, а равно политического режима, управляемого из враждебной России внешнего центра, должна быть полностью исключена.

2. Русский мир

Россия является создателем, опорой и защитником Русского мира. Границы Русского мира как духовного и культурно-цивилизационного феномена существенно шире государственных границ как нынешней Российской Федерации, так и большой исторической России. Наряду с рассеянными по всему миру представителями русской ойкумены, Русский мир включает в себя всех, для кого русская традиция, святыни русской цивилизации и великая русская культура являются высшей ценностью и смыслом жизни.

Высший смысл существования России и созданного ею Русского мира — их духовная миссия — заключается в том, чтобы быть всемирным «Удерживающим», защищающим мир от зла. Историческая миссия заключается в том, чтобы раз за разом обрушивать попытки установления в мире универсальной гегемонии — попытки подчинить человечество единому злему началу.

Построение тысячелетней российской государственности является высшей формой политического творчества русских как нации. Разделение и ослабление русского народа, лишение его духовных и жизненных сил всегда приводило к ослаблению и кризису Российского государства. Поэтому восстановление единства русского народа, а также его духовного и жизненного потенциала являются ключевыми условиями выживания и успешного развития России и Русского мира в XXI веке.

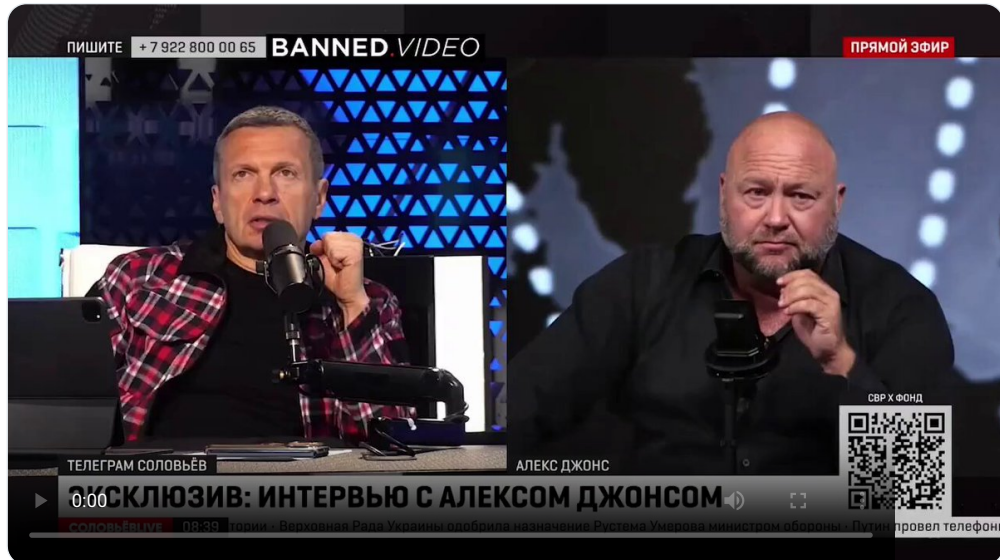
Семья — это основа русской национальной жизни и внутренний оплот традиции Русского мира. Это самый устойчивый, консервативный институт общества, отвечающий за передачу от поколения к поколению базовых представлений о мире и о человеке, за привитие важнейших социальных навыков и ролей (мужчины и женщины, отца и матери, гражданина и т.д.), за сохранение и передачу цивилизационного мировоззрения, национальной идеи, а также традиционных духовно-нравственных ценностей. Будучи самой главной школой воспитания личности, семья не только помогает человеку познавать окружающий мир, но и научает его любви, доброте и состраданию, дает важнейшие нравственные представления и ориентиры.

Ivan also urged women to have as many children as possible and compared them to “mycelium”. Stalin and Hitler (Mother’s Cross award for 8 or more children) had made similar appeals and Putin himself reinstated the “Mother Heroine” award in 2022 for women with 10 children.





Ivan's rhetoric resembles that of his fellow over-the-top propagandist Solovyov. The West — referred to as the “Old World” — is full of satanic perverts and crazy Nazi drug addicts. Stirring up hatred is a calculated strategy to prepare the public for war and sacrifices.



Okhlobystin also produced a cartoon titled “The ABC of the SMO”, warning soldiers not to get killed. In a Tom & Jerry/Nu, pogodi!-style animation, Russians kill Ukrainians, even featuring a knockoff of The Mask. It’s another effort to normalize the war through pop culture.

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It’s clear that Okhlobystin is fascist in his views—but there’s also literal proof: photos of him giving the Nazi salute, skull tattoos resembling the SS symbols & outfits disturbingly similar to those worn by the SS officers during the reign of the failed Austrian painter.

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Like Dugin, Ivan is also extremely homophobic and has a deep hatred towards Ukrainians: He's called for gays to be "put in ovens" and for genocide of Ukrainians — Nazi traditions. And of course none of that has stopped him for calling Ukrainians nazis.

MOSCOW – Popular Russian actor **Ivan Okhlobystin**, known for his intention to run for president two years ago, made scathing homophobic statements at a “spiritual talk” that he gave in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk

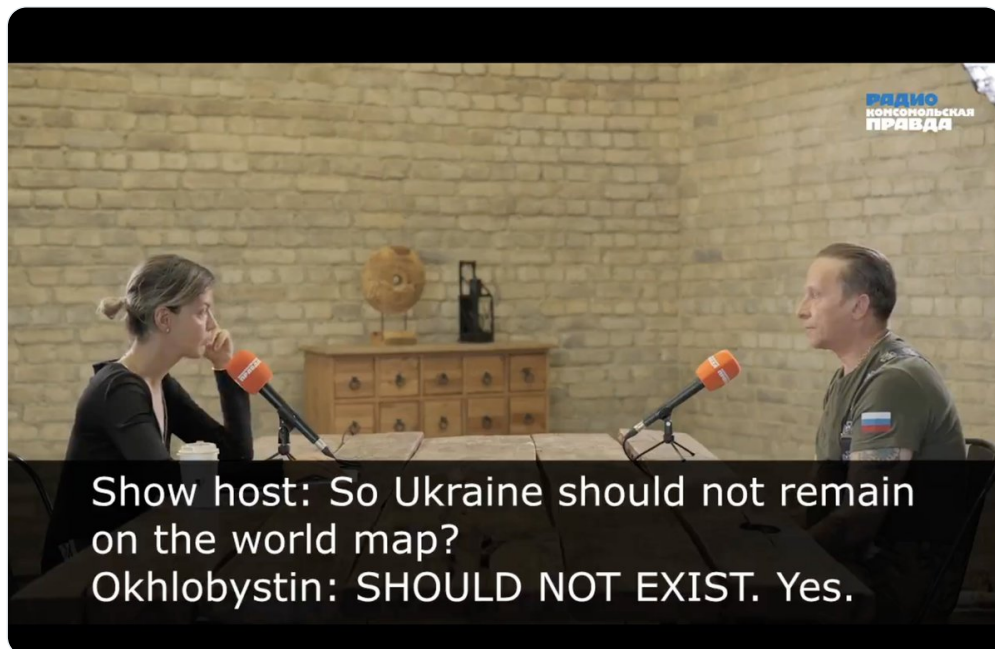
Addressing the audience, he said that homosexuals should be burned alive, the newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported.

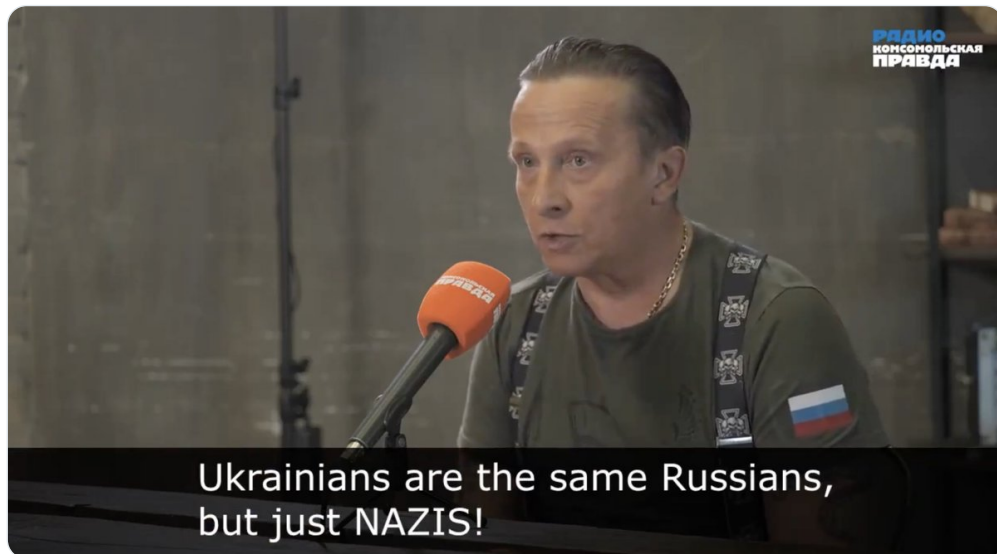
PHOTOS: Gay Marriage, or Not, in Global Cinema

“I would put all the gays alive into an oven,” Okhlobystin, formerly an Orthodox priest, was quoted as saying. “This is Sodom and Gomorrah! As a religious person, I cannot be indifferent about it because it is a real threat to my children!”

He also compared homosexuality with fascism and added obscenities to his comments.

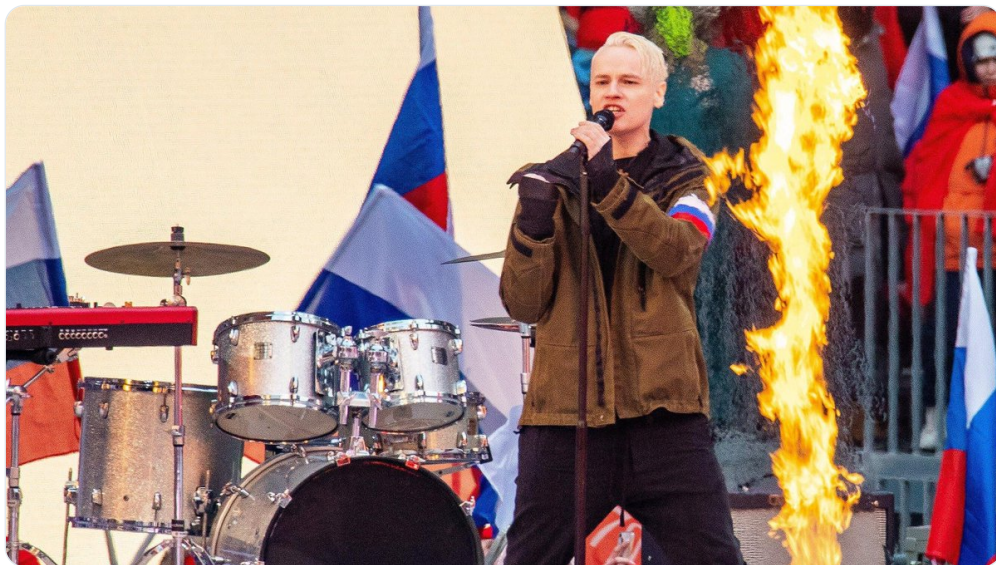
Okhlobystin later confirmed the press report on his Twitter account. “It sounded much more simply, but the meaning was rendered correctly,” he said. “Everyone has the right to express their opinions.”





Ivan is also a great example of how in Russia the imperialistic mindset penetrates the whole society — one day you can be a celebrated actor in a House rip-off, and the next you are calling for a “holy war” and the genocide of another country. Comply or die.

19/20



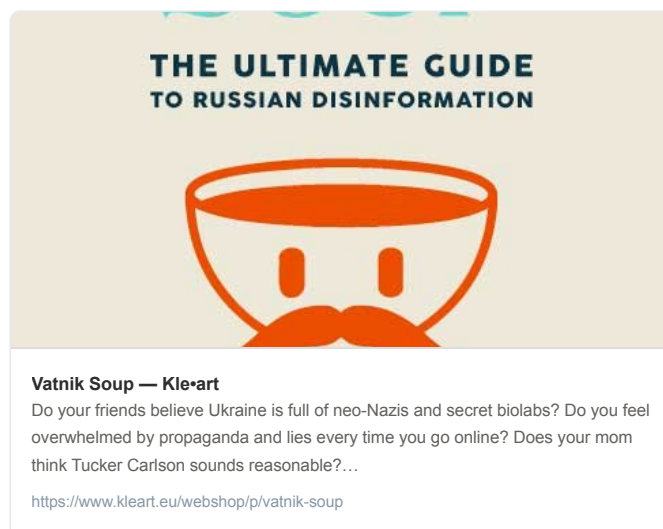
To conclude, Ivan is a propagandist who tests the limits of public tolerance in Russia — pushing how much obscenity or cruelty can be said before backlash occurs. He serves as both a propaganda testbed and the Kremlin’s canary in the coal mine.

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

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