

Olympic games and Russian propaganda

Brief

Introduction

In this brief, we analyze the narratives pushed by Russia on the eve of the Olympic games. Sports, being one of the parts of the state policies, is crucial for Russian propaganda, and the Olympic games ban for Russian athletes is painfully perceived by the state.

This is why several tracks in the Russian narratives overlap and try to push the Russian agenda on the global stage.

We have scratched the surface of Russian propaganda regarding the Olympic Games, the IOC, and the International Games of Friendship (Russian substitute for the Olympic Games).

If you want to learn more, feel free to contact our team.

To spread these falsehoods, channels that are already known to us and have been compromised in other Russian information operations, and are affiliated with Russia, are often used. These include channels from the Node of Time network. You can read more about this network in an investigation here: [Networks of Pro-Kremlin Telegram Channels Spread Disinformation at a Global Scale](#).

Main Russian Narratives

1. Justification

The narrative was born after Putin's claim that all athletes depend on their country's policies.

"International sport—high achievement sport—is highly commercialized. Everything there, every step, depends on advertisers, on sponsors. Sponsors, in turn—big companies—depend on the political elites of their states. And thus, the circle is complete, that's all. All the problems stem from this," - TASS quotes Putin.

2. **This is followed up by the idea that World Sports will suffer because the IOC banned Russian athletes.**


"The ROC and the Ministry of Sports must finally decide on the issue of the participation of Russian athletes in the Olympics in conditions of discrimination, said Russian presidential candidate and current head of state Vladimir Putin.

Other statements by Vladimir Putin:

- ♦ *Any restrictions in sports are restrictions on human rights; the sport of great achievements is very commercialized;*
- ♦ *In world sports now, every step depends on sponsors, and they depend on the political elites of their countries; this is what causes all the problems;*
- ♦ *At WADA, officials are about to expire, and they are now doing everything to justify the trust of those who support them;*
- ♦ ***Without Russian athletes, many Olympic competitions become flawed and uninteresting;***

♦ *Russia will adhere to the principles of Olympism. Subscribe to REN TV - https://t.me/rentv_news/126953*

3. Russian athletes are disqualified as an act of discrimination. Especially, there is a narrative that European athletes pretend to be “sick” in order to get drugs, which they use as doping.

“Let’s see what “clean” athletes look like, for whom neither WADA nor the IOC have any questions. These are usually “severely ill” people who are allowed to take prohibited drugs under therapeutic exceptions. Look what our disqualified Maria Sharapova, Kamila Valieva and, for example, gymnast Simone Biles or basketball player Elena Donn look like. And Norwegian skiers once received 6,000 doses for asthma at the Olympics. That is, they all take doping under the guise of drugs. Why not organize separate Olympic Games - there are the Paralympic Games, and there are Games for patients: asthmatics, heart patients... Let them take their medications and run with each other. Watch a fragment from the episode  “Olympics. Oh sport, you are the world! Or war?” - <https://t.me/nikitabsq/1057>

4. The narrative that the neutral flag for the Russian athletes at the Olympic games is the analogy of the yellow Star of David for Jews.

“The flag under which Russian athletes must compete at the Olympic Games in Paris. This flag is an analog of the yellow Star of David, which the Nazis forced Jews to stick on themselves.” - <https://t.me/logikamarkova/10883>

5. Criticism of the International Olympic Committee.

“Meanwhile, IOC President Thomas Bach is wary of “more aggressive statements” from Russia ahead of the Paris Olympics. He says there are many conflicting messages coming from Russia, which he is not going to comment on. But the IOC fears that statements from Russia and the Russian government will be increasingly aggressive. He also said that “we set conditions,” and those ready to respect them are welcome in Paris - and vice versa. Well, if the IOC are waiting for statements from Russia, albeit with caution, then perhaps we should not disappoint their expectations. Otherwise, it won’t turn out well.

P.S. We won’t be surprised if Herr Bach and his entourage are looking forward to posts on the topic from the respected Dmitry Anatolyevich. Although they won’t admit it, of course” - <https://t.me/docpro/12019>

Another interesting topic is that Russians are trying to organize **the International Friendship Games**. They blame those who criticize the games for being racist and also blame IOC for not supporting its participation in the Games.



"The IOC's call to refuse to participate in the Friendship Games shows how far the committee has strayed from principles in favor of opportunism and slipped into racism, Zakharova said" - https://t.me/rian_ru/236622

Fake about Musa Evloev

"Olympic champion in Greco-Roman wrestling Musa Evloev was not allowed to qualify for the Games in Paris because of his photo in front of a poster with the words "No to Nazism." The head of the Russian Wrestling Federation, Mikhail Mamiashvili, told RIA Novosti about this. This is the main complaint that is made to Olympic champion Evloev" - that he is for a world without Nazism. There are no other complaints. - <https://t.me/docpro/12019>

РИА Новости



Олимпийского чемпиона по греко-римской борьбе Мусу Евлоева не допускают к квалификации на Игры в Париже из-за фото на фоне плаката со словами "Нет нацизму".

Об этом РИА Новости рассказал глава Федерации спортивной борьбы России Михаил Мамашвили.

Это основная претензия, которая предъявляется олимпийскому чемпиону Евлоеву, - то, что он за мир без нацизма. Других претензий нет.

660.5K 9:48


Fake about Musa Evloev

Here is the snapshot of the telegram channels that were compromised and started spreading the fake. For the bigger snapshot of sources - please contact our team.

STATE-AFFILIATED ACTORS			VIEW DETAILS		
Total actors	Split by affiliation country	Top state-affiliated actors			
12 Total audience: 7.12M	Russia	12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> РИА Новости <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Readovka <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RT на русском <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> СИГНАЛ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> АДЕКВАТ Z	State owned media Reportedly state affiliated State owned media Reportedly state affiliated Reportedly state affiliated	Russia Russia Russia Russia Russia
COMPROMISED ACTORS			VIEW DETAILS		
Total actors	Split by type	Top compromised actors			
14 Total audience: 7.22M	Disinformation	12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> РИА Новости <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Readovka <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RT на русском <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> СИГНАЛ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> АДЕКВАТ Z	Disinformation Disinformation Disinformation Disinformation Disinformation	
	Influence operations	2			

Fake with Nassim Taleb

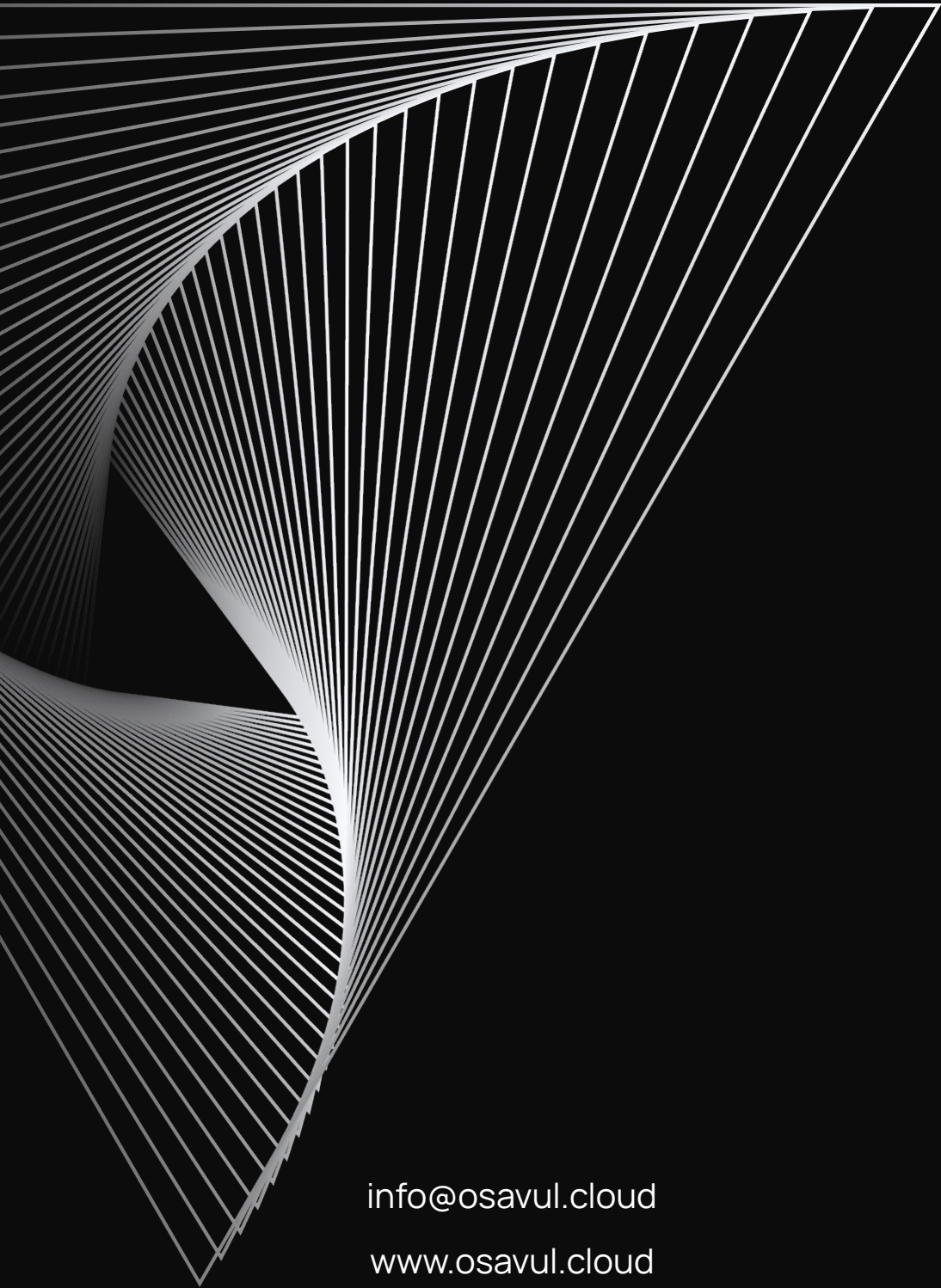
Another fake: “ Nassim Taleb (author of the book “Black Swan”) called the Friendship Games the end of the IOC monopoly on sports competitions.”

 From a subscriber. Nassim Taleb (author of the book “Black Swan”) called the Friendship Games the end of the IOC monopoly on sports competitions. And the IOC hysteria on the topic of the Friendship Games directly indicates that the leadership of the Olympic Committee is afraid of losing its influence. The philosopher and economist believes that due to the consolidation of traditional societies in the world, an international need has arisen to create an alternative to today’s Olympic Games. The Friendship Games offer traditional countries an alternative, where women compete only with real women, and politics does not interfere in the affairs of athletes.” - <https://t.me/belshkvarka/118069>



Conclusion

As the Olympic Games in Paris approach, the Russian hold on propaganda will be stronger. We will see more deep fakes, fake news and harmful narratives spread through Telegram, TikTok and other channels . Our team is open to show you a border picture of these narratives and help you understand how Russia undermines IOC authority and the concept of the Olympic games in general.



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