

# Review of: "Russian Military Renaissance: An Unnecessary War"

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This essay opens interesting perspectives on the motives and the possible scenario of the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine. The assumption that Alexander Dugin's neo-Eurasian theory determines the apparent irrationality of Russian foreign policy is certainly worth considering. However, the influence of philosopher Ivan Ilyin (1883-1954) on Putin seems to me much greater. Putin received Ilyin long before the invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Consequently, it is apodictic and monocausal to claim that Dugin is the spiritus rector of current Russian foreign policy. Also missing from this essay is an analysis of the Russians' historical consciousness. In this regard, it would be methodologically better to trace the evolution of the Ukraine image in Russia between 2014 and 2022. In this period, there are some ruptures and contingencies. Calling Putin "an anti-systemic leader" does not correspond to the facts, because Putin's career developed within the framework of "System Yeltsin." Also, the stereotyping of Russia as a bear is polemical. A more factual tone would be more appropriate.