

# Review of: "Rebuilding a 'Greater Russia' and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

It is worth noting the author's deep understanding of the political and economic situation in the CEE.

At the same time, I would like to deepen the author's thoughts even more. First of all, let me criticize the quoted suggestion about 1000 years of Russian history. Is this said in terms of the continuity of institutions (self-governance, judicial system, and others)? It is hardly so because we are talking about a territory with a completely pantheistic autocratic vision. At the same time, on the territory of Ukraine, such institutions, according to the European continental model, existed even before the Second World War (Western Ukraine). Is it said in the sense of the language? But the scientist of Danish-German origin, Johan Christian Dahl, from the Ukrainian Luhansk region (with the pseudonym Kozak Luhanskyi), wrote its first dictionary only somewhere in the 19th century. And the Rus'ky (Ukrainian) language was the official language of the judiciary on the territory of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Is it said in the sense of a single territory? In 1658, Ukraine concluded the Treaty of Hadyat with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, according to which Cossack Ukraine was transformed into the third federal component of the renewed Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. In 1708, Hetman Mazepa sided with the Swedish king, not with the mentally ill Peter the First. Let's add to this the period of existence of the Ukrainian People's Republic (beginning of the 20th century). And this is only with regard to Ukraine.

## So where did the 1,000 years come from?

The author once again cites, sorry, but without the author's doubt, theses about the spread of ethnic Russians on the territory of the former USSR ... . Allow me to remind that there is no ethnic Russian administrative entity on the territory of Russia. There are Bashkirs, Chuvash, even Jews, but there are no Russians (in the sense of a separated republic or at least administrative Russian region) there. Allow me to remind that according to the 1897 census, 18% of people considered Ukrainian their native language and lived in the territory of the Russian Empire. Especially in such regions as Kuban, Bryansk, Kursk, Far East. It's not only about within internationally recognized borders.

And then don't forget about the at least two genocides of Ukrainians.

You can find a breakdown of this information here:

*Литвак К. Б. Перепись населения 1897 года о крестьянстве России (Источниковедческий аспект) // История СССР. — 1990. — № 1;*

*Ананьева О. Первая всеобщая перепись в России.*

*Тройницкий Н.А. Первая всеобщая перепись населения Российской Империи, 1897 г.*

The term 'virtual wars' used by the author is not accepted. It is probably more appropriate to call them hybrid.

I want to thank the author for the understanding of Russia's further imperial steps. At the same time, in addition to stating the facts, I would like suggestions for correcting the situation.

I would like to propose an analysis of Ukraine's accession to NATO or (!) Ukraine's accession to the EU even under existing war conditions. It is logical that this will be resisted by some members of the EU/NATO, trade unions, and hidden beneficiaries of the resumption of gas and oil exports from Russia. But there is no research instrument for that. By choosing the strategies of the main players in the Axelrod tournament, one could predict the outcome of such moves.

Perhaps Europe simply has no other choice?

Best wishes to the author ...