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Russia Slams Canada in Twitter War Over Geography

By The Moscow Times

August 29, 2014



Russia has responded to a geography lesson from Canada's NATO delegation by tweeting a map of its own and accusing the country of hypocrisy in a diplomatic sparring match unfolding on Twitter.

On Wednesday, as Russia's Defense Ministry said 10 captured servicemen had wandered over the Ukrainian border "by accident," Canada's NATO delegation condescendingly tweeted a map to help Russians get oriented.

"Geography can be tough. Here's a guide for Russian soldiers who keep getting lost & 'accidentally' entering Ukraine," the tweet read.

A map included in the message showed Russian territory highlighted in red and titled "Russia," and Ukraine, in blue, labeled "Not Russia."

The Russian exclave of Kaliningrad, and the recently annexed peninsula of Crimea as well as

the city of Sevastopol were not marked as belonging to Russia, however.

The tweet quickly gained momentum and was retweeted nearly 30,000 times, apparently prompting Russia to respond with its own geography lesson a day later.

> Helping our Canadian colleagues to catch up with contemporary geography of #Europe @CanadaNATO pic.twitter.com/MjzRxpFFfN
>
> — Russians at NATO (@natomission_ru) 28 августа 2014

On Thursday, Russia's NATO delegation posted its own map on Twitter, showing Crimea as Russian territory.

"Helping our Canadian colleagues to catch up with contemporary geography of Europe," the message read.

Another message posted by the Russian delegation seemed to accuse Canada of hypocrisy for its stance on the Ukraine crisis.

"BTW why not share Canadian experience of 'asymmetrical federalism' with Kiev's authorities," the message read, in a reference to Canada's own political system, whereby some states in a federation have more autonomy than others.

Moscow had earlier suggested introducing federalism in Ukraine as an option for resolving the crisis.

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