The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia to Use 'Truth as Weapon' in World War II Video Campaign

April 21, 2017

Members of historical military clubs wearing Soviet army and Nazi German uniform participate in the World War II battle reconstruction during a military show near Novgorod, Russia. **Dmitri Lovetsky / AP**

Russia is set to launch a viral video campaign in a bid to memorialize the sacrifices of Soviet soldiers in World War Two.

Meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday, politicians pledged to use the "truth as their weapon" to discredit Western governments who wished to wage a "full-scale information war" on Russia's past.

Putin said that Moscow would "preserve and protect historical fact," but stressed that the truth should "bring people together,"
the Lenta news outlet reported.

"Our position is that history, no matter how difficult and contradictory it may be, should not divide people. It should warn us against past mistakes and strengthen relations," Putin said.

The president also backed a viral video campaign to bring the story of the Soviet victory to young people, warning that other nations were already attempting to turn the past into a "political or ideological weapon."

Related article: To Be Great Again, Russia Resurrects Soviet Legends

Margarita Simonyan, head of Kremlin-backed media outlet Russia Today, pointed to her channel's Twitter-based 1917 Live project as a potential inspiration for the campaign.

She said the project had succeeded in reaching people who would usually dismiss RT as biased or unreliable. "People who usually hate us, spit, call us Kremlin propaganda - [they] signed up," Simonyan said.

Embed:

> Just checked in at the Port of #Trelleborg. We have to hurry up now to get to Malmo. And it looks like we're running out of money #1917LIVE pic.twitter.com/h2n1eDsNX1
>
> — Vladimir Lenin (@VLenin_1917) April 12, 2017

An example tweet from RT's 1917 Live project.

Established in 2000, the Russian Victory Committee brings together ministers, civil society leaders and religious figures once a year to discuss preserving the memory of World War II.

This year's conference focused on "educating young people" on Russia's heritage.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2017/04/21/russia-pledges-to-use-truth-as-weapon-in-world-war-two-viral-campaign-a57780