

Crimea and Donbass Fade From Russian Screens

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Information about the annexed Crimean peninsula and war-torn eastern Ukraine is appearing less frequently on Russian state-backed news channels, as interest [gradually wanes](#) four years after the events.

Russia annexed Crimea in the spring of 2014, and has been providing support to rebels in the Donbass region of Ukraine. Moscow calls the seizure of the Black Sea peninsula a reunification with its historical territory, and denies that there are any Russian troops in the Donbass.

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Russia's four major state-run television stations now primarily mention Crimea and the Donbass when there is a relevant anniversary date, according to the Medialogia firm's analysis published by the *Kommersant* business daily.

The “Crimean spring,” for example, was mentioned 141 times in March 2016, then only 76 times in March 2017, and fell even further to 27 in March 2018.

“Apparently, budgets for the promotion of these topics have not yet been completely cut off,” political scientist Abbas Gallyamov told *Kommersant*.

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