

# Giant Russian Passport Carried in Eastern Ukraine on Russia Day

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Screenshot gtrklr / Youtube

Activists in eastern Ukraine's separatist republic of Luhansk marked Russia Day by carrying a gigantic Russian passport through the streets.

Russian President Vladimir Putin in April [signed](#) a decree to expedite the process of naturalization for residents of separatist-controlled eastern Ukraine. The Kremlin said Putin enacted the measures to protect the rights of the area's 3.7 million residents, a majority of whom are Russian speakers.

Video footage from Wednesday's celebrations of Russia Day in Luhansk shows dozens of people parading the larger-than-life symbol of Russian citizenship through the city's main square. The 200-square-meter document represented Russia's fast-tracked passport offer, one activist was [quoted](#) by the state-run RIA Novosti news agency as saying.

**Embed:**

Soon after, the flash mob can be seen pulling the passport open to reveal the inner page stamped with the date May 12, 2014 — the day the self-proclaimed republic was established.

Russia Day is a public holiday that is celebrated every year on June 12 — the day Russia proclaimed sovereignty from the Soviet Union in 1990.

Earlier this week, an independent poll [said](#) a majority of Russian citizens support eastern Ukraine breaking away from Ukraine, either as an independent state or as part of Russia.

**Related article:** [Majority of Russians Support Donbass Breaking Away From Ukraine, Survey Says](#)

More than 13,000 people have been [killed](#) in the region since conflict broke out between Russia-backed separatists and Ukrainian forces in 2014.

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<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/06/13/giant-russian-passport-carried-eastern-ukraine-cebrate-russia-day-a65981>