



# Komentarz KBN

Nr 9 (98) / 2022

19 kwietnia 2022 r.



Niniejsza publikacja ukazuje się na warunkach międzynarodowej licencji publicznej  
Creative Commons 4.0 – uznanie autorstwa – na tych samych warunkach – użycie niekomercyjne.

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution – NonCommercial – ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

## Why Is Russia Dying?

Grigol Julukhidze<sup>1</sup>

Imagine a country that has 14 (!) neighbouring states but only three friends among them.

Imagine a territorial unit stretching on one sixth of the earth (!! ) with 11 time zones and a constant appetite to conquer new lands.

Imagine a country with a 4,209.3-kilometer (!!!) disputed border with China and unexplained phobia towards Poland, Lithuania, or Georgia.

Imagine this country and its 'Tsar' who has been enslaving almost 145 million people for 23 (!!!!) years.

Imagine an Orthodox country that is suffering from necrophilia – adoration of the corpse of a person (since 1924) who destroyed, smashed to the ground, and demolished thousands of Christian temples.

Imagine a space in which state television is so toxic that it has turned a fraternal nation into a 'terrific Nazi Empire' in the public perception.

---

<sup>1</sup> PhD in Political Science, director of The Foreign Policy Council in Tbilisi, professor at East European University and Ilia State University. He was the Coimbra Group fellow at the Department of National Security of the Jagiellonian University in October and November 2021.

Imagine a state that spends more money on intelligence services than on education and science.

This is Russia. A country where you can get absolutely everything you want with 'necessary contacts' and a lot of money: avoid jail, get a construction permit, release a sex offender from prison, send your son/daughter to a prestigious university, release a relative from military service, trade illegally, oppress, kill.

This tremendous territorial area does not offer anything useful to the world anymore. It is technologically retarded, it has an old and inefficient education system, its scientific progress is fading, and is deeply sunk into corruption. People close to Vladimir Putin, their vassals and relatives, have gained so much wealth over the past two decades that they need ten lives to squander this fortune. The modern Russian elite has become an exclusive club deprived of moral values and principles, isolated from reality. And in return for their slavish obedience to the 'Tsar', they get exclusive rights to purchase huge villas in the West, collect luxury cars, have 30-years younger lovers, fulfil unbridled fantasies, send their kids to Harvard, hide billions of dollars in offshore zones, and be untouchables throughout the country.

Let's mention others too. Millions of 'less fortunate' Russian families live in the same country but in different circumstances. These people are going through a great ordeal today – their 18-19-year-old sons are being brought to Ukraine as cannon fodder. These boys from the distant Russian provinces either finish their physical existence in common graves in Ukraine or become mentally disturbed, sadistic war criminals. All this is happening only because, after 23 years of reign, one man repeated the obsessive idea of the inevitability of the restoration of the great Russian Empire so many times that he finally believed in it.

Russia is dying. Not only because its brilliant minds are fleeing to the West, China, Japan, UAE, or Qatar, but also because slavish obedience has become part of its identity and lifestyle.

Russia is dying because there the idea of restoration of the long-dead Soviet Union has become attractive again. With the same success we can raise the dead from the grave. Attempts to revive a collapsed system are already forsaken.

Another fatal mistake of the Kremlin was its tireless attempt not to resemble the 'morally bankrupt' West. But today Russia is as attached to the Western economy as never before. That is why the impending deficit and financial hunger are already bringing apocalyptic results to the Kremlin. Will an ordinary citizen withstand all this? Yes, but ongoing/upcoming sanctions will unprecedentedly reduce the effectiveness of the Russian state in the medium and long term.

The disintegration of this country began many years ago: When territorial expansion became the goal, rather than the effective use of innumerable resources; When the entire ruling elite started to transfer and hide an incredible amount of stolen wealth to the West; When Russia undermined territorial integrity of Georgia, Moldova, and Azerbaijan; When Russians began to invest more money in propaganda than in modern technology; And so on and so forth.

Another Putin's wrong assumption was the idea of the Russian Empire. Modern Russia has never been an empire (it is impossible when your economy accounts for only 2% of the world economy, the armed forces cannot cope with the army of Ukraine, and the money spent on propaganda exceeds the federal budget for education). To cut a long story short, the state of California is much richer than the Russian Federation. Putin's ambitions and the capabilities of the Russian Empire never have coincided.

While walking in Moscow or St. Petersburg, you will see lots of people sitting in a car, park, or café, reading a book. But, I cannot understand the essence or purpose of this action. What is the goal of exploring the world if it is not oriented on the liberation from slavery or focused on freedom?

And what does modern Russia offer us? Religious brotherhood and patronage? To us? To Georgians? A nation that has the holy temple of Urbnisi (4th century) or Nekresi (5th century)? People who had autocephaly and liturgy in the Georgian language many centuries before the emergence of the Russian soul? A society in which even atheists mock religion loudly, yet silently pray to God in the face of life-threatening danger?

Finally, the genocide that is being committed by the Kremlin in Ukraine is accelerating Russia's inevitable death. Moscow has long been unable to offer anything new, attractive, or at least interesting to the world. Just instilling fear, replicating old glory, quoting the genius Pushkin, and blackmailing the world with nuclear weapons, will not work in the long-standing game. The only 'advantage' of the Kremlin is to appeal to the vices of the West. How long it might work? Can any state with imperial ambitions maintain its power with these tactics?

The death of Russia is only a matter of time, but not of decades ... nor even of a decade.

Citation: Grigol Julukhidze, 'Why Is Russia Dying?', *KBN Commentary* 2022, no. 9 (98), 19 April.