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Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Russian history-rewriting genre of "battle fantastic" has its name "popadantsy" (time-travellers, literally: "appearers"). Inspired by the Twain's "A Connecticut Yankee" and Harrison's "The Ethical Engineer", Russians opened a golden mine of stories how to make Russia GREEEAT /12

14 406 3,000

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

The basic Russian trauma is that RU was treated unfair and taken its power and place as the only world super power. This is what you learn at school. Russians were conquered by Mongols and lost 300 years of development. Queen Elisabeth denied marriage to Ivan the Terrible /13

17 410 3,134

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Look at this final scene of a cult Russian movie "Forward, Gardemarines!" Brave Russian officers know, that the battle at Groß-Jägersdorf (1757) is won by Russians, they can capture Friedrich of Prussia and win the war. But a stupid general orders retreat:

youtube.com

Гардемарины

Я прошу вас: умоляю вас, отмените приказ, это позор, вы позорите честь русского оружия... Вы же России присягали, вы предали ее, где же ваша честь... Эх, гар...

14 271 2,556

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

This is the culmination of the 1995 movie, which was one of the most popular in Russia back than. The narrator's voice says, the victory was "stolen", and even Russians took Berlin later, that victory "was stolen again". Effectively, this was one of "back-stab-theory" movies. /13

13 301 2,845

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

There are tons of myths of "stolen victories" and "betrayed Russia". My school teacher told us, Alaska was not sold to the US, but rented out for 100 yrs, and the US broke the contract. Nazis in 1920s told about one "betrayal" in 1914, Russians were fed with tons of such lies /14

29 557 3,445

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

So, back to our books case. How do you want to serve this fundamental hate towards the treacherous West, and help Russia win? Easy! Send you partiots to the past to correct it and to win the future! Yes, in Russia they have this book genre, and it goes very good: "Popadantsy" /15

12 324 2,800

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Let us start with easy reading
"Tsar from the future": a guy wakes up in a body of Russian Nicolas II emperor, prevents Russian revolution, defeats Great Britain, and conquers Istanbul with modern weapons.
"Russia Arise!" Popadantsy in bodies of Nicolas II and Alexander III /16

27 507 2,945

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

While digging into this genre, we see one interesting pattern. The biggest enemy is the UK (and a lesser one the US) Compare:
"The Guard of Popadantsy: Sink the Britanny!"
"London must be destroyed! Russian landing in England" (Note Russian SpecOps storming the Nelson's ship) /17

26 429 2,745

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Compare further: "Russian America Corporation". A guy jumps into 18th century, conquers the American colonies, destroys British empire "and stops genocide of Indians" (so sweet). But you ask maybe: and what is with Germany and Nazis? Just wait... /18

5 287 2,544

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

One of the greatest Western misunderstandings about Russia is that the West believes, Russia is anti-German-Nazis. Russia is not. Russia's trauma is that Hitler had broken Stalin-Hitler alliance and started to kill Soviets, instead of to kill other nations with the Soviets /19

41 1,323 4,879

Sergej Sumlenny
@sumlenny

Enjoy Russian dream. "Comrade Hitler. Execute Churchill!" Description: "Popadanets gets into Adolf Hitler' body. Will he manage to execute Churchill for war crimes, create an alliance with the USSR? Will comrades Hitler and Stalin defeat the US and get a nuke before the US?" /20

12:53 PM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App

611 Retweets **118** Quote Tweets **3,266** Likes

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Replying to @sumlenny

The "Comrade Hitler" is the 2nd book by the same author, after his "Comrade Führer. Blitzkrieg Triumph". Info: "It hits all records of political un-correctness! Will (Hitler) crash Britain with successful landing operation? Will Führer prevent fratricide war against the USSR?"/21

16 436 2,742

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Or look here: "Assault for the Future!" (note burning London + US tank on the cover). Info:"(Nazi)Germany joins Eurasian Union. Atlantic Democratic Union starts WW3. USSR is against the HELL! Russian-German brotherhood against the star-striped plague and for world liberation!"/22

15 405 2,528

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

I promised you nasty staff? "The Son of the Reich". Info: "The USSR must again defeat a treacherous attack by The Entente. Red Army and Wehrmacht fight together against the New World Order. British pilots bomb cities and refugees". Well, this is not quite Popadantsy but tasty /23

21 344 2,546

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

One cannot mention even 1% of all these books, so many were published. Sometimes they mixed genres: like here: a "Novorossiya pilot" awakes in a body of Josef Stalin's son Vassily, a war pilot, and wins the war, revealing a Western agent Khrushchov, saving Stalinism /24

17 299 2,409

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Or here: "Lieutenant from the Future: GRU against Banderites", a Popadanets with a face of RU MoD Shoigu burns down Lwiw and arrests Ukrainian politicians Turchinov and Yatseniuk.
Or "For Motherland! For Putin!" - Russian modern tanks storm Berlin in 1945. /25

10 282 2,268

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Effectively, each of these books is about revanchism wet dreams. Like this "Medal for the City named Washington". It is actually an interesting title. Those who are not familiar with Soviet and Russian revanchism, will not identify it, but it is a great story, read further /26

11 304 2,273

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

In 1945-46, Soviet composer Blanter and poet Isakovsky wrote a song "Enemies have burnt down his hut", describing a terror of a Soviet soldier who has lost his family, and his medal "For taking Budapest" cannot help him in his suffering /27

en.wikipedia.org
Enemies burnt the dear house down - Wikipedia

3 202 1,992

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

The song was semi-banned because of its anti-war narrative and later known under "Medal for Budapest" name, but in the later Soviet Union it was transformed in a revanchist song "Medal for Washington", praising future defeat of the US, and it suited Putin:

youtube.com
Фильм - клип Медаль за город Вашингтон песня В Татарского
Всем патриотам России Новая художественная обработка песни Медаль за город Вашингтон Оригинальные кадры пленных америкосов Либера-----ов просим не смотреть ...

7 251 2,024

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

The latest version was modified with verses of humiliation of Barack and Michele Obama, and ended with the words "Now we need to go to liberate Alaska". Note the picture from the US produced computer game World in Conflict, Russians love so much. /29

43 340 2,359

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Well, now you may tell me "ok, but it is just some jokes on social networks". No, it is the state-run propaganda, from books to TV. They just played all registers: from academia to jokes and anecdotes /30

8 266 1,888

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Already in 2010, a mocking song about nuclear + chemical attack on the US ("the earth is still scorching where Washington used to be") was performed on Russian TV. Look at the happy audience reaction. The song (with other words) comes from a child cartoon

youtube.com
МЕДЛЕННО РАКЕТА УПЛЫВАЕТ ВДАЛЬ Гавань

9 291 1,570

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

"ICBMs are slowly flying away, don't expect to see them again. We are sorry about (your fate) the US, and Europe is the next" - is the start of this song. You may see the full text under the link (there are different versions, longer and shorter): /32

teksty-pesenok.ru/rus-cheburashk …

8 185 1,436

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

The design of the "World in Conflict" PC game has fascinated Russians so much, that they stole it for example for this book "Nuclear Tankers", compare: /33

6 168 1,436

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

The whole idea of destroying the US and the West, with symbols of Western political power humiliated, is the basis of Russian revanchism. Compare these book covers (the second one is a "non-fiction" and "analysis", the first one is about a Popadanets) /34

9 231 1,533

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11
Well, after all these examples of Russian state-run preparation for a global war, militarisation of people, spreading all possible weird violence fantasies, one may ask a question: how the hell did Western embassies ignore this? It was so obvious, right? /35

13 283 1,818

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11
It was not hidden at all. Revanchist books were sold everywhere, revanchist movies were blockbasters, they literally formed Russian culture after 1990s. Compare with the history of "Brat-2" movie I wrote about for @cepa Literally nothing was hidden! /36

cepa.org
'We are Russians, the Truth is With Us' | CEPA
Russia's foreign outlook is flavored by officially approved far-right and anti-Western ingredients. And it's not only Vladimir Putin savoring the taste.

7 231 1,586

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11
My take is, it was a danger mixture of ignorance, Russia-fascination, laziness and corruption. One need indeed to have a special mood to dig into local culture while working abroad. You know, learn language, know cultural codes, read a lot of shit (like these books) /37

8 229 1,760

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11
Many of those who went to Russia read Tolstoyevsky, and believed they knew Russia. Instead, they had to spend a couple of years on LiveJournal and read Krylov, Holmogorov, Galkovsky, Kenigtiger, Legatus_Minor (ever heard, heh?) and others to understand what is going on. /38

16 262 1,809

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11
Warning signs were ignored because they spoiled the whole picture of economic cooperation and Wandel durch Handel. Some shitty books? We have them too - they said. Yes, but not of this number, concentrated focus on one topic, and the level of hate /39

8 255 1,852

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11
The warnings like this were ignored as "nerdy", "too detailed", "focusing on abnormalities and missing the global perspective", "over-exaggerating" or even "russophobic" - I have experiences all such reactions. /40

8 215 1,742

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Maybe the very idea that a nation in 21st century, which has got all possible cooperation offers: G8, G20, Nato-Russia-Council, Partnership for Peace, WTO etc. - can willingly and gladly chose a path of war was too scary for too many. /41

4 306 1,917

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Anyway we have what we have. I will probably stop here, the thread is already long enough. Maybe I will add some illustrative tweets later, but for now it is the end of the thread. /END

50 139 1,708

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Like imagine the reaction in Berlin or Washington: "You are really saying that Russia will start a global WW3 because... they have published a book about a guy teleported into Hitler's mind, and another one about Nicolas II preventing the revolution with AGS-17 grenade launcher?"

4 129 1,359

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

"You want us what? Sanction NordStream2 because of these two pulp fiction books?" And same time "Russia experts" married to Russian women and living in Moscow for decades without any problem were keeping reporting on importance of dialogue, and cooperation, and understanding.

8 150 1,457

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Oh, I have completely forgotten. There were also state-funded movies about Popadantsy. The first one (maybe) was "We are from the future", produced in 2008 by state-owned TV channel Rossiya. A group o 4 not patriotic Russians get to 1941 and get patriotic:

youtube.com
Мы из будущего
Действие картины разворачивается в двух временных пластах: в наши дни и в годы войны, во время тяжелых оборонительных боев августа 1942-го. Главные герои лен...

7 132 1,199

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

In 2010, "We are from the Future 2" followed: the same guys go to a music festival in Lviv, Ukraine, and find out Ukrainian nationalists wear Nazi uniforms there. They all get teleported to 1941, where Ukrainians reborn, fight UPA and start to love Russia
youtube.com/watch?v=tcCY7H …

5 140 1,130

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

Same 2010, "The Fog" movie was produced: a unit of Russian conscripts insult WW2 vets and get teleported to 1941, where they have to fight for their life against Wehrmacht. (You know the pattern: they reborn, start to love Russia and return as good boys): youtube.com/watch?v=nF2t0M …

4 127 1,122

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

In 2012, "The Fog 2" was produced, with the same principle: Russian not-so-patriotic youngsters celebrate May 9 Victory Day with a costume party, insult the history, get teleported, blahblahblah
youtube.com/watch?v=Bq4eTM …

4 115 1,106

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

You see the pattern: movies were produced by state media companies with state money in 2008-2012. It was a state-run program of creating a hyper-militarised mood and forcing young generation to feel the WW2 has never ended, and this generation HAS TO FIGHT IT TO THE BLOODY END.

10 262 1,617

Sergej Sumlenny @sumlenny · Jun 11

It was not about a "fun adventure" anymore, it was about a dirty duty you owe your country. This was a state-run program of indoctrination under the slogan "you will have to fight a world war like your ancestors, and if you don't you die".

95 217 1,689