

RUSSIA RELATED ANALYTICAL DIGEST ON MARCH 2025

“THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY IS COOLING SHARPLY, BUT PUTIN DOES NOT SEE RUSSIA OUT OF A STATE OF WAR”

The world needs a proactive strategy on Russia, taking the initiative by developing and communicating a clear strategic vision for Ukraine, along with a plan to contain and counter Russian influence.

The [NGO ANTS](#) conducts monitoring and research work on the state not only of the Ukrainian economy and society, but of the Russian economy and Russian society as well in order to have a true picture of the situation in this country, and not be satisfied with the bluff, hybrid aggression and desinformation that Vladimir Putin loves so much.

Fortunately, in today's world it is difficult to hide anything, and realistic conclusions can be drawn if information is analyzed in a timely and correct manner, having instant access to the Russian and international information field, and an excellent understanding of the context and social processes.

The head of our organization, Dr. Hanna Hopko, former head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, is making great efforts in the international arena to advocate for the cessation of appeasement of the aggressor, who should not be irrationally feared, because his economy and social processes are far from being in the best shape.



The Collapse of the “All-Powerful Russia” Myth: Why Its Weak Economy Opens New Opportunities for the World



We are living in a historic moment when myths disappear faster than the Kremlin can broadcast them. One of those myths is that of an “all-powerful Russia” – allegedly equipped with limitless resources, military dominance, and economic resilience. But by 2025, even the most cautious analysts are forced to admit: Russia is weakening. And this weakness is not tactical – it is systemic.

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Mosaic of Russian economic news for March 2025

Putin asked the government to act carefully so as not to collapse the country with a cooling economy

Tight monetary policy to curb high inflation and overheating of the economy, sanctions, growing war spending and resource depletion are doing their job and cooling the Russian economy.

We see signs of this cooling: a sharp decline in investment in the development of non-military enterprises, a decline in profitability and even a crisis in many industries, a drop in trade revenues, a strengthening of the ruble due to a drop in imports.

Despite optimistic hopes for negotiations to end the war, the easing or lifting of sanctions, and even the restoration of economic relations between Western countries and Russia, Vladimir Putin himself clearly warned business owners in Russia that the war and the sanctions and economic difficulties associated with it are long-term. And since it is Russia, as the initiator of the war and the attacking party, that decides whether to end it, this means that continuing the war is a conscious decision of the Russian president.

The current economic situation is pushing not towards an end, but towards a continuation of the war, since only it can explain why Russians are living worse and worse.

Washington now 'largely aligns' with Moscow's vision, Kremlin says

Tension between the United States and Ukraine, laid bare in the Oval Office meeting of Trump and Zelensky, is seen in Moscow as a "gift."

Yesterday at 5:30 p.m. EST

7 min



Nikolskaya Tower, the Historical Museum and the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow. (Yuri Kochetkov/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

By Francesca Ebel

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Mosaic of socio-political news from Russia for March 2025

A besieged fortress regime

Considering the enormous losses Russia has suffered in the three years of war with Ukraine (around 900,000 people killed and wounded), the Russian leadership and a certain part of its society cannot yet accept the results achieved in this war as satisfactory.

Therefore, Trump's favorable attitude towards Russia seems to them to be a window of opportunity not to stop the war, but on the contrary, to put pressure on Ukraine and achieve at least part of their desires and goals in the war they started.

The state of war has become a self-sustaining system for Russian society. Militarization of the population, tightening of information secrecy, curtailment of local self-government rights, a besieged fortress regime – this is what is understandable to the current regime and seems to be the only correct strategy for leading a large country, which, due to the deterioration of communications, basic social services and transport, is becoming less and less coherent and integral.



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We offer operational and high-quality monitoring, analytics, joint events, briefings and discussions.

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