

# RUSSIA RELATED ANALYTICAL DIGEST ON APRIL 2025

**“If Russia wants peace, then who is it going to fight with, planning to build up its military potential and hunting down conscripts?”**

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.



Analytical column:

## China's Growing Footprint in Ukraine



China leverages the Ukraine conflict to advance its economic and strategic interests while maintaining official neutrality, complicating Western efforts to counter Russia and reshape post-war Eurasia.

China's engagement in Ukraine over the past decade reveals a complex mix of economic ambition, geopolitical maneuvering, and tacit support for Russia's military ventures. While Beijing officially maintains a neutral stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, a closer look at its activities shows a pattern of actions that often align with Moscow's interests, both economically and strategically.

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## Mosaic of Russian economic news for April 2025

### Russia's Economic Crossroads: Structural Strain, Fiscal Pressure, and Strategic Uncertainty

#### The Russian Economy Is Entering a Deep Structural Crisis

Multiple sectors – agriculture, energy, construction, finance, and consumer goods – are simultaneously under strain. This reflects not just cyclical challenges but a systemic weakening rooted in outdated infrastructure, sanctions, and over-centralized economic control.

## **Sanctions and Global Isolation Are Taking a Heavy Toll**

Russia's inability to access global technologies, capital, and markets is accelerating industrial decay. Capital flight and the collapse of foreign investment highlight the growing international disengagement from the Russian economy.

## **Consumer Sectors Are Being Squeezed**

Households are facing rising prices, shrinking product variety, falling purchasing power, and disappearing credit access – all while real wages and employment in key sectors decline.

## **Fiscal Pressure Is Mounting Rapidly**

The depletion of the National Welfare Fund, a sharp drop in energy revenues, and a growing budget deficit signal an approaching fiscal cliff. The government's ability to finance public services, social programs, and infrastructure is in jeopardy.

## **Energy Dependence Has Become a Vulnerability**

The collapse in oil prices and production challenges due to depleted fields and sanctions on critical equipment have turned what was once Russia's strongest asset into a growing liability.

## **Public Discontent and Social Risks Are Rising**

Wage arrears, failing services like Russian Post, and high-profile labor unrest suggest mounting dissatisfaction. If economic deterioration continues, broader social instability could follow.

## **The Government Is Aware but Unprepared**

Internal reports acknowledge the need for structural reform and a new economic model but stop short of offering a viable roadmap. Planned austerity may worsen the situation without addressing root causes.

## **Short-Term Fixes Are Replacing Long-Term Solutions**

Measures such as dipping into sovereign reserves, imposing price controls, and bailing out failing industries with artificial mechanisms are indicative of crisis management rather than sustainable economic policy.

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# Mosaic of socio-political news from Russia in April 2025

## Militarization, Repression and Crisis of Faith

### Military Priorities and Continued War Effort

Despite looming budgetary issues, Russia is prioritizing military spending, focusing on modernizing its armed forces with advanced technologies like AI, drones, and laser weapons. NATO intelligence reports no signs of Russia preparing for a ceasefire in Ukraine. Losses are high, but Russia continues replenishing troops through incentives and mass recruitment. The Russian government is increasing pressure on conscripts, including travel restrictions and forced enlistment raids, signaling deeper militarization.

### Demographic Crisis

Meanwhile Russia faces a historic low in birth rates, the worst in over two centuries, with natural population decline accelerating despite government efforts to promote traditional family values.

### Foreign Interference Suspicion and Sabotage Allegations in Europe

Digital footprints suggest possible prior knowledge in Russia of attacks in Germany, though not confirmed. Similar patterns have emerged before other incidents, raising concerns of covert operations. Investigations link Russian military intelligence to sabotage efforts in European countries, using low-level agents to create disruption and display reach.

### Political Repression and a Potential Political Symbolism

General Ivan Popov, who criticized defense leadership, was sentenced to prison—highlighting internal dissent suppression and potential friction within military ranks. Popov is gaining symbolic status as a heroic figure, possibly indicating the rise of alternative narratives or dissent within the patriotic-military segment of Russian society.

### Religious Identity vs. Practice

While Orthodox Christianity is heavily promoted, actual religiosity remains low, especially among youth. Faith in the church is more declarative and tied to state ideology than spiritual belief.

[\*\*Read more\*\*](#)



## **ANTS is open to cooperation! The most accurate information on your desk before anyone else!**

NGO National Interests Advocacy Network ANTS is a non-governmental organization, a powerful analytical center working to develop a strategy for countering the threat from Russia and its allies. We are open to proposals for cooperation in this direction for a deeper awareness of our partners and allies about socio-political and economic processes in Russia and Ukraine, and therefore a more profitable strategy for dealing with threats.

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

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