

Demystifying the Use of Ethnic Racism and “Nazi” Smear Campaigns to Legitimize War Atrocities

“Hate and Dehumanization in Russia's Narrative on Ukraine”

Source: [RAND Corporation](#)

“Russia's invasion of Ukraine was an act of naked aggression. To justify its unjust war, Russia cloaked itself in propaganda and disinformation. Russian narratives included claims that Ukraine had been overrun by Nazis and needed to be ‘denazified,’ a justification presented by Russian President Vladimir Putin on the day of the invasion. These narratives also included ethnic slurs and other dehumanizing language intended to justify and promote violence against Ukrainians. But how successful were these narratives in mainstreaming their messages and reaching broad audiences?”

[Americans Beware]