



RUSSIAN MEDIA STUDIES PROJECT
RUSSIAN POLITICAL CARTOONS



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INTRODUCTION

Political cartoons can currently be found in only a few independent media outlets, such as Polit.ru and Svoboda.org, and in some pro-Kremlin websites and newspapers, such as RIA Novosti, Sputnik International, *Sharzh I Pero*, and *Studiya 13*. The main motif in cartoons on pro-Kremlin websites is the latent Russia-U.S. political-military conflict, and NATO as a U.S. tool for military expansion eastward.

The government-owned news agency RIA Novosti and its international branch Sputnik International publish cartoons by Russian cartoonist Vitaly Podvitsky, who became well-known to the public in 2014 after he released a series of pro-Kremlin cartoons on the annexation of Crimea. The pro-Kremlin free-of-charge magazine *Sharzh I Pero* (“Caricature and Pen”) features cartoons by members of the Russian and Moscow Union of Artists. The publication, defined as the Russian answer to the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* was launched in 2015 by a group of pro-Kremlin activists from the Russian veterans’ Combat Brotherhood, which belongs to Russia’s Anti-Maidan movement. *Studiya 13* is project run by young pro-Kremlin Russian artists.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANTI-U.S. CARTOONS

Russian Messages To The U.S. For The Fourth Of July
Special Dispatch - No. 6509 - July 5, 2016

Anti-U.S. Cartoons In Russia's Pro-Kremlin Media
Inquiry & Analysis Series Report - No. 1243 - April 25, 2016

Anti-American Cartoons In Russian Media On U.S. Foreign Policy, War On Terror
Special Dispatch - No. 6261 - January 13, 2016

CARTOONS ON NATO

Cartoons And Memes About NATO Summit In Warsaw In Russian Pro-Kremlin Media
Special Dispatch - No. 6521 - July 12, 2016

Anti-NATO Cartoons In Pro-Kremlin Russian Media
Inquiry & Analysis Series Report - No. 1250 - May 24, 2016

CARTOONS ON TURKEY

Russian Cartoons About Turkey's Apology To Russia For The Downing Of Russian Plane
Special Dispatch - No. 6511 - July 7, 2016

CARTOONS ON SYRIA

Cartoons In Gulf Press Criticize Russia's Military Intervention In Syria
Inquiry & Analysis Series Report - No. 1236 - March 15, 2016