

STOP RUscism: Present Future

The Venetian Manifesto

- 1. We desire not simply the termination of this war, but the complete victory of Ukraine and the total defeat of the Russian Federation. We desire the the restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty over its entire territory, and the provision of international guarantees for its security. We desire an international trial for for Russian military criminals and the payment of reparations. Any peace must be made on Ukraine's terms and with the consent of the Ukrainian people. Only a peace brought about on those terms can be strong and just.
- 2. This may be an absolutely necessary condition for today, but it is not a sufficient one for tomorrow. We desire a real future, not a fake one. We believe that only cessation of the existence of Russia (the Russian Federation) as an empire and its demilitarization, including the removal of all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, could be a real step to a safe future that would prevent similar acts of further aggression
- 3. We want analysis, deconstruction and eradication of Ruscism in all its forms. We understand Ruscism as a distinct ideology and practices, established in the 21st century by the regime of the Russian Federation – a regime that is cynical, aggressive, misanthropic, and dangerous to the planet.
- 4. We see Ruscism as being deeply rooted in historical Russian imperialism, which has persisted and has even intensified in the expansionist policies of the USSR and the Russian Federation. It has become a fundamental and constitutive element of the official ideology and the basis of the unofficial consensus within Russia. Today's Ruscism relies on the traditional political practices of the Russian Empire / USSR, including the policy of exercising absolute control of special services in all spheres of Russian society, inherited from communist totalitarianism, as well as systematic organization of subversions and terrorism abroad.
- 5. We are convinced that though there are certain similarities, Ruscism differs from fascism. Fascism is amoral, while Ruscism is immoral: it is built on fundamental nihilism. Fascism relies on inhumane ideological convictions, while Ruscism is ideologically cynical: its officially declared ideological foundations are nothing more than formal declarations, whereas in truth it feeds on the absence of any internal values and thrives on civic passivity. Ruscism parasitises on achievements of world civilization, including the most advanced technologies. It has no historical precedents, so that radically new methods are needed to combat it. Despite its aggressive archaism, Ruscism is a contemporary phenomenon.

- 6. We consider it necessary to actively resist Ruscism today and work towards its total dismantling in the future. We intend to work on a system of identification and analysis of Ruscist narratives and their dissemination via global media, on Ruscist manipulations of cultural narratives, global intellectual and political resources, as well as on decolonisation of Russian studies.
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- 7. RUscism brings death and suffering to the people of Ukraine. It threatens the very existence of the Ukrainian nation and state. It creates an immediate threat to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of countries neighbouring Russia. Ruscism destabilises the global situation too, igniting internal conflicts in European, Asian, African, and Middle Eastern countries. It exacerbates migration issues, interferes in elections, and stops at nothing in its attempts to influence world politics. It seeks to corrupt politicians and political parties in throughout Europe and North America – and it persistently seeks to undermine the European Union from within.
- 8. Ruscism is also dangerous to Russians themselves. It systematically neglects human rights, represses dissidents, destroys civil activism and participation in political life, deeply corrupts the population of Russia. Ruscism has infiltrated the consciousness of Russians of various social statuses and political preferences, including those living outside the Russian Federation. It infects many representatives of the so-called "titular nation" with Russian ideological and day-to-day chauvinism, normalises discrimination against ethnic minorities, homophobia and misogyny, makes Russians participants in the criminal war. We call on Russians to acknowledge their responsibility for this war and its consequences and do everything in their power to combat Ruscism and Russian imperialism.
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- 9. We see our task not only as influencing political decisions related to the development of a new architecture of international security. We also seek to work at the everyday level, using existing and developing new instruments of information technologies, journalism and social media, as well as various educational programs in order to demonstrate the complete unacceptability of Ruscism in all its manifestations: from culture to ideology, from justification to normalisation, from behavioural patterns to speech clichés.
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- 10. Who are we? We are a free horizontal international community committed to resisting Ruscism today, working to prevent its repetition, revival and diffusion in the future. We invite everyone who supports Ukraine today to join us now and participate in our work. We welcome everyone who understands that today is the proper time to create the guaranties of responsibility and non-repetition of all numerous historical precedents of Russian aggression and threat to the world at large.
- We have a simple and very difficult goal: to make this future present.

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