The Red Line – Blackwater vs. Wagner

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Wagner Element

* Mercenaries that operate on the behalf of Russian state
* Project power
* Contingents that work for state enterprises
* Extension of Russian state

Fall of Soviet Union

* Private companies were allowed to hire their own armies
  + Gazprom had an army of over 30,000 men.

Wagner group deals appear to be state-to-state

* 2013 Rebel forces overran gas plant at Al-Sheer
* Russian state through concord and everpolis that contracted Wagner to go and take it back
* That deal was part of a almost-treaty like relationship between Russia and Syria
* Loyalty is about social and economic pressures so they cannot be bought out.
* Come from marginalized backgrounds
* Also, trying to build back names from military shake-up in 2012
* Really only appears on the scene in 2013
  + First in Crimea and then in Lunhansk (Donbas region)
* Opportunity to promote a mythological handle for the revival of Russian military power

Most of the men who fight for wagner group are trained in deep reconisence

* Opperate as tourists
* Cropping up to do things like decapitate leadership etc.

No doubt that Wagner works with Concord Management Group - IRA (troll farm) to be more effective

* Well established paper trail
* Dasie center has done good work on this looking at CAR
* “Political technologists” are deployed on same flights as Wagner Group members

Business model

* We have a bunch of military technical equipment we want to give to you. We make agreement
* If you are interested in maintaining power we also have political advisors to help you win.
* Media group also follows them to gain local support – Cameras even follow

CAR

* Supporting mining operations
* State wants to protect the valuable materials (gold)
* Current theory: Part of the small networks of energy producing companies that hire Wagner group are interested in the mining basin.
* Seems that gold is a big interest and focus of the racket.
* Wagner protects
* Hit squads seen in Ukraine