



Connecting Slavic Brotherhood and the Russian Army

OE Watch Commentary: The accompanying excerpted article from the principal, professional journal for Russian tactical-level officers, *Armeski Sbornik*, typifies recent historical interpretation inculcated into Russian military education. The author Horeshko broadly demonizes the West and specifically takes aim at the US and NATO. While not unexpected in the current environment, the article develops a shared persecution culture presented at the recent All-Slavonic Congress and from a hundred years ago. The author makes a compelling comparison between the 1800s poetry of Czech Jan Kollar (“Unite we all without exception: Serbs, Russians, Czechs, Bulgarians, Poles...”) and Russian F.I. Tyutchev (“the crusaders angry regiments want to get rid of the Slavic race”) with current speeches at the Moscow event, which included “The West against the Slavs” and “NATO is the main threat to the Slavic world.” The author laments that “ineradicable Russophobia... comes from time immemorial” and in multiple pages outlines the argument “that the Yankees are obsessed with the idea of a global dictate,” Western immorality, and the situation of current Slavic nations becoming “vassals to the West.” His argument is vitriolic but not shrill. He states “You can polemicize for a long time, who takes away whom from whom. Anti-Russian rhetoric tries to minimize the role and importance of Russia in European history.” The author’s interpretation assesses that Russia saved the Western world three times in modern history (Napoleonic period, WWI, and WWII). Connecting this history to the cultural concept of Slavic brotherhood resonates with the current Russian military identity as the military of an historic global power not just one born at the end of the Cold War, or since Putin became president. **End OE Watch Commentary (Wilhelm, Vainer)**



SlavicBrotherhood2016 joint exercise.
 Source: Russian MoD, <http://eng.mil.ru/en/multimedia/video/search.htm?objInBlock=50&f=1651&blk=12056111>, CC BY-SA

Source: B. Horeshko, “Агрессор – НАТО, а велят все на Русского Солдата (The aggressor – NATO, and they bring it all down on the Russian soldier),” *Armeski Sbornik*, June 2018, pp. 32-39.

CALLING ON ALL BROTHER-SLAVS

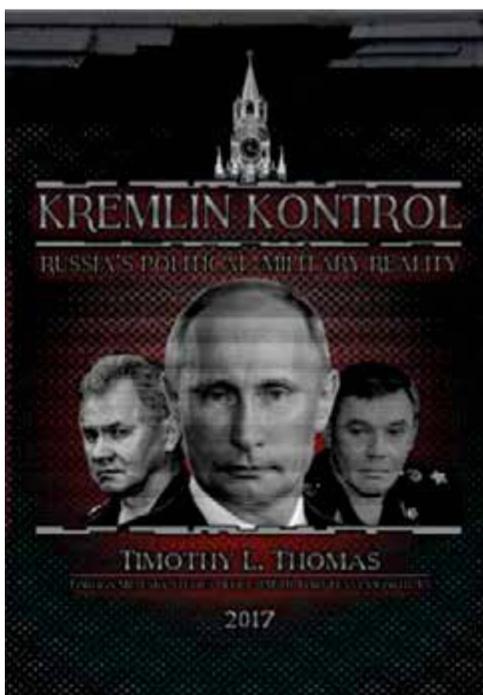
Outstanding poet of Slovakia and the Czech Republic, Jan Kollar (1793-1852), in dozens of enormously persuasive sonnets expressed the idea of Slavic reciprocity:

*“Slavs, dear brothers
 Slavs! You love bloody disputes and battle - tell me:
 what kind of barbarity is that? ..
 Unite we all without an exception: Serbs,
 Russians, Czechs, Bulgarians, Poles, one
 to another we throw ourselves into embraces -
 under one banner, under one flag;
 forget all that was, let us be brothers
 - and we will shake the opposing enemy!”*

The fact that the Yankees are obsessed with the idea of a global dictate is undeniably true. Hardly anyone would like to be a nation-pawn, at the behest of the United States obediently moving around the board of geopolitics. This is a problem of those who have reconciled themselves to the necessity of forgetting about such obsolete concepts as sovereignty, humanism, morality, etc.

...The West idealizes itself and purposefully demonizes Russia. Europe is held together by a shaky alliance on the anti-Russian platform; there is no other way to end the crisis, and they simply do not see it.

“What they succeed in is the rhetoric of obscuring eternal truths. Playing the game of bridging modern Russia with the past, they say that it is a barbaric country possessed by demons of an endless expansion of its borders inherited from Russian royal rulers.”



KREMLIN KONTROL by TIMOTHY L. THOMAS

In 2016 Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov instituted sweeping changes that have reorganized the country’s security forces and reestablished the nation’s military prowess. This study, *Kremlin Kontrol*, aims to describe how control over the security services and the military have hastened those changes.

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