



## Russian Religious Patriotism

**OE Watch Commentary:** Last December, President Putin remarked that “patriotism is the only possible ideology in the modern democratic society,” as noted in the first excerpt. The contours of Russian patriotism are still developing, but as the second excerpt suggests, religious faith, along with military power, will likely comprise key components. The article notes “the Cathedral in honor of the Resurrection of Christ... has the status of the main temple of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.” The cathedral’s consecration date was moved to 22 June 2020, postponed from the original consecration date of 9 May due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The military’s huge, new cathedral is not the only evidence of uniting religion and military power in Russia’s patriotic formula. As the third and fourth excerpts indicate (from a series of two long articles in the military weekly *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer*), the religious factor within patriotism has also become more apparent in recent writings about military strategy. After first describing and defining the nature of war throughout history, the author asserts that “we have entered the fourth world war today. Geo-religious.”

The author begins by criticizing “modern Russian military science,” claiming that “current doctrinaires have simplified modern warfare, lowering its understanding to the level of guns, tanks, ships and planes and covering this shame with a bloom of something ‘cybernetic.’” According to the author, this shallow understanding of war ignores the “hybrid war [which] is raging around and inside Russia... to undermine the spiritual, intellectual, biological and economic potential of Russia with a view to its subsequent dismemberment...” He goes on to identify Russia’s primary enemy in this “geo-religious” conflict, claiming that once Russia fully restores its national state power, “the threat of a major war between Russia and the forces of world Evil led by the United States will become inevitable.”

Had these latter two articles regarding a religious component in Russian strategy not been published in a well-respected military periodical, it would be easy to dismiss such radical views as belonging to the fringe of Russian military thought. Their publication, along with the consecration of the new military cathedral, suggest that militant religious belief may become an integral component of the new Russian patriotism, or as the author put it: “Russia must restore its significance to the world religious and spiritual center of truth and justice on Earth. Moscow - The Third Rome!” **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**

***“We have entered the fourth world war today. Geo-religious....”***

**Source:** “Russian President Vladimir Putin considers patriotism the only possible ideology in modern society,” TASS, 19 December 2019. <https://tass.com/politics/1101043>

*“In my opinion, patriotism is the only possible ideology in the modern democratic society. Patriotism in the broadest and best sense,” the Russian leader said on Thursday during his annual news conference. “It must be depoliticized and aimed to strengthen the inner framework of the Russian state,” he stressed....*

**Source:** “Главный храм Вооруженных сил РФ откроют в Подмосковье 22 июня (The main temple of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation will open in the Moscow suburbs on 22 June),” TASS, 2 June 2020. <https://tass.ru/armiya-i-opk/8625865>

*The main temple of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation will open on June 22 in the Patriot park near Moscow, Russian Defense Minister General of the Army Sergei Shoigu said on Tuesday. ...Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill will consecrate the Cathedral in honor of the Resurrection of Christ in Patriot Park in Kubinka, Moscow Region, which has the status of the main temple of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation....*



## Continued: Russian Religious Patriotism

**Source:** AVladimir Kvachkov, “Третий Рим, Сатана и мегатонны (Third Rome, Satan and Megatons),” *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer*, 18 May 2020. <https://vpk-news.ru/articles/56987>

*The general theory of war and military construction in the era of World War IV... We have entered the fourth world war today. Geo-religious. ...Modern Russian military science not only shied away from solving this systemically important problem of military affairs, but in understanding the essence of the war sank even lower than the former Soviet military partocrats. Current doctrinaires have simplified modern warfare, lowering its understanding to the level of guns, tanks, ships and planes and covering this shame with a bloom of something “cybernetic.” ...They did not understand anything and did not learn anything. A hybrid war is raging around and inside Russia (we will use this term for now) to undermine the spiritual, intellectual, biological and economic potential of Russia with a view to its subsequent dismemberment, and the state and the army again, as in 1941, they are preparing for an armed attack on us. And the enemy is already here.... The first and main global theater of war is in the spiritual and religious sphere.*

*Now, before our eyes, the first geo-religious battle in human history is unfolding, which has become the beginning of the first geo-religious psychobiological war on Earth. ...Without God, by our human powers alone, we will not conquer this world evil.*

*...Russia must restore its significance to the world religious and spiritual center of truth and justice on Earth. Moscow - The Third Rome!*

**Source:** Vladimir Kvachkov, “Боевая служба как привилегия (Combat service as a privilege),” *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer*, 26 May 2020. <https://vpk-news.ru/articles/57104>

*It is obvious that after the restoration of national state power independent of the World behind the scenes in Russia, the threat of a major war between Russia and the forces of world Evil led by the United States will become inevitable.*



*Military Professionals Appointed as Assistant Commanders for Religious Workers in Two Strategic Missile Forces Units.*

Source: Russian Federation Defence Ministry, <http://mil.ru/et/news/more.htm?id=10797951@egNews>, CCA 4.0