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Matushka Rossiya: A Historical Overview of Russia's Relationship with its Neighbours

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Russia under Vladimir Putin has seen a resurgence of chauvinism that has not been witnessed since the Soviet Union's collapse. With this, the former KGB agent-turned President has led a crusade of Russian nationalism that has permeated through to its neighbours. Ukraine, being one of the foremost examples of this, has seen ethnic Russian/Russophone populations activated by the Kremlin to destabilize its growing relationship with the West. And with the annexation of Crimea completed and war in the Donbas raging, this incredibly fascinating and dynamic region is worth understanding. My research will emphasize the nature of the rhetoric being fed to the masses as well as the mediums perpetuating it. Covering a myriad of media reports, government documents, and archival records, this work will seek to better understand the media war Russia has been waging in neighbouring countries in order to re-establish its regional hegemony once again.