

# Analytical Report:

## Russian Disinformation Overview

### Executive Summary

This report compiles Logically's January 2023 findings on the top Russian misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation (MDM) narratives detailing the frequency and dissemination of the top narratives across Russian Telegram channels. Logically has identified Ukraine as the target across all three narratives.

***Logically assesses with high confidence that Russian MDM narratives in January were directly related to Russia's strategic messaging targeting Ukraine. Logically identified pro-Russian messaging carrying the theme that Ukraine is the immoral actor in the war and that Russia's actions in Ukraine are justified.***

### Top Russian Disinformation Narratives

- 1.Ukraine is targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure - 89% of channels
- 2.Ukrainian forces are suffering from morale issues - 79% of channels
- 3.Ukraine is a puppet of the West - 74% of channels

### Methodology

Since November 2022 Logically has identified the top MDM narratives across multiple Russian Telegram channels, ranging from approximately 44 thousand to 3 million subscribers, presenting the findings in a weekly infographic. Logically identifies these narratives by examining daily posts from 19 Russian state-owned or state-aligned Telegram channels, selecting the top narratives based on their reach, both in terms of frequency of appearance and dissemination. Following the assessment of narratives on Telegram, Logically reviews VKontakte and Twitter for the same narratives to determine cross-platform dissemination of MDM narratives from posts by explicitly Russian state-owned or state-aligned accounts.

## Narrative 1

Logically identified a MDM narrative claiming that Ukraine was targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure across multiple regions. Our analysis shows this narrative appeared on 89% of the Russian Telegram channels Logically actively monitor and was disseminated at a higher level than any other narrative. During the month of January, Russian Telegram channels consistently claimed or suggested Ukraine targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure in various villages, settlements, cities, and/or regions. The most common allegation was the targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure in the city of Donetsk. This narrative has been persistent since Russia's first invasion of Ukraine in 2014 .

***Logically assesses with high confidence the primary strategic goal of this disinformation narrative is to portray Ukraine as the country committing war crimes in an attempt to distract from the investigation into Russia's alleged war crimes.***

## Narrative 2

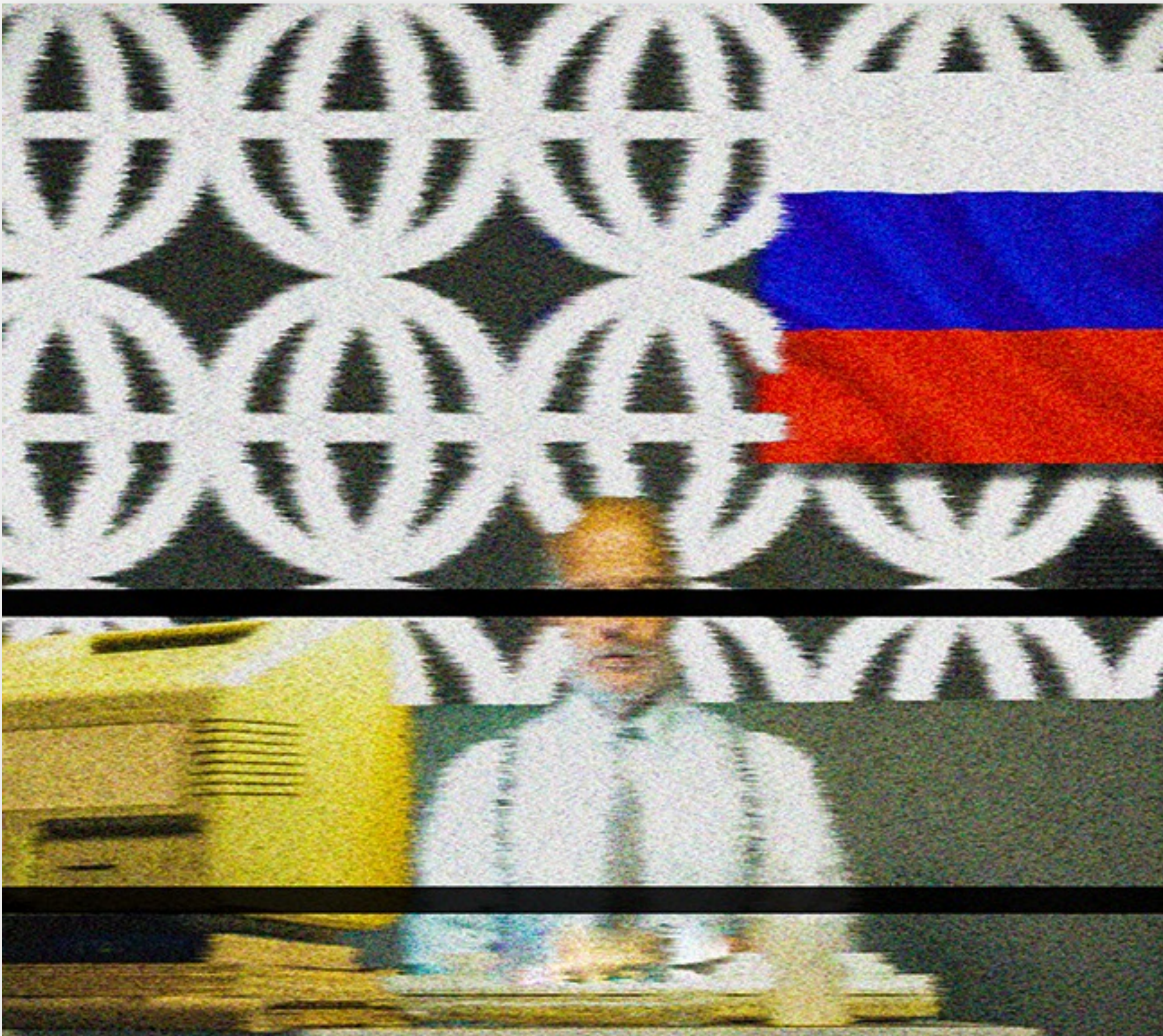
During this same time frame, Logically also identified a MDM narrative across 79% of actively monitored channels claiming Ukrainian forces were suffering from morale issues. Logically identified instances where this narrative was explicitly claimed as well as instances where this narrative was suggested. Channels not explicitly expressing this narrative suggested poor morale by claiming that Ukrainian soldiers were upset with their commanders who led them into battle unprepared and then abandoned them. Logically also observed one Russian Telegram channel that posted a video with alleged Ukrainian soldiers pleading to President Zelensky for better equipment.

***Logically assesses with high confidence the primary strategic goals of this disinformation narrative are to demoralize Ukrainian forces and portray them as unworthy or unfit recipients of Western aid packages.***

## Narrative 3

Logically identified a third MDM narrative on 74% of the actively monitored channels. This narrative claimed that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and/or Ukraine were puppets of the West. Logically found that 5 Telegram channels explicitly made this claim and 12 channels alluded to this narrative by claiming that the West was using Ukrainians as “cannon fodder” along with claims the West was using Ukraine as a testing ground for new weapons in their war against Russia. Logically has persistently seen this narrative being used since the build up to Russia’s first invasion of Ukraine in 2014.

***Logically assesses with high confidence the primary strategic goal of this disinformation narrative is to justify Russia’s war in Ukraine as an act of countering the West’s/ NATO’s alleged aggression towards Russia.***



## Analysis

The top three Russian MDM narratives on channels actively monitored by Logically during the month of January targeted Ukraine. 63% percent of these channels were involved in the dissemination of all three MDM narratives identified by Logically. In addition, narratives identified on these channels crossed platforms to broader domestic and international audiences on VKontakte and Twitter. Logically assesses with high confidence that these MDM narratives are being strategically used by Russia to deflect criticism of Russian forces both domestically and abroad.

***Logically also assesses with high confidence that MDM narratives in January played a role in Russia's overall strategic messaging that Ukraine is the immoral actor in the war and that Russia's actions in Ukraine are justified.***

Logically estimates that Russian Telegram channels are likely to continue the dissemination of MDM narratives as the need arises to justify major Russian losses in the event of a renewed offensive.

### About Logically

Logically combines advanced AI with human intelligence and expertise to tackle harmful and problematic online content at scale. The company's mission is to enhance civic discourse, protect democratic debate and process, and provide access to trustworthy information.

In 2021, Logically was named one of the world's most innovative artificial intelligence companies by Fast Company and won the Rising Star in Tech CogX Award. Logically has helped mitigate threats to elections in the United States, United Kingdom, and India since 2017.

Visit [Logically.AI](https://Logically.AI) for more information, or contact us at [info@logically.ai](mailto:info@logically.ai)

