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For international comrades on the banning of parties in Ukraine

Tuesday 22 March 2022, by [BILIOUS Taras](#) (Date first published: 20 March 2022).

Unfortunately, the war intensifies authoritarian and nationalist tendencies in Ukraine. But while this move needs to be criticized, one should bear in mind the essence of these parties. They were banned not because they were left-wing, but because they were pro-Putin. Left parties that are not pro-Russian have not been banned. At the same time, all these parties are fragments of the Communist party of Soviet Union, and after the collapse of the USSR they became more conservative and even racist. They exploited Soviet nostalgia, but did not engage in social struggle. For the past seven years, they have had no political influence and no threat to the government. It is not clear why they were banned (in some of these parties there were probably only a few members).

At the same time, the list of banned parties not limited to pro-Russian “left-wing” parties. It also includes some of the more influential oligarchic parties that are the successors to the Party of Regions.

Another interesting point: among the banned parties is the OPZZh, the largest pro-Russian party in Ukraine. One of its leaders is Viktor Medvedchuk. And most likely the Kremlin hoped to rely on them in the formation of the occupation regime. But many members of the party have condemned Russia’s aggression and refused to cooperate with Russians in the occupied cities. And in occupied Kherson, the OPZZh faction even disbanded itself so that the Russians would not try to use it.

Taras Bilous

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Taras Bilous

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