

Statement from the Editorial Board of Fair Observer Subject

On the Publication and Value of Dr. Valery Engel's Historical Analysis

Fair Observer has published the work of Dr. Valery Engel with great satisfaction and intellectual commitment. We do so not to endorse a specific political faction, nor to advocate for the policies of the Russian state or any state or nation, but because his work represents a vital contribution to **historical grounding and sociological diagnosis** in a time of intense polarization.

In an era where news is often reduced to immediate reaction and political orthodoxy, Dr. Engel offers something rarer: a **clinical, structural analysis** of the forces driving the conflict between Russia and the West. We publish his articles because they provide the depth of context necessary for citizens to understand *why* events are unfolding as they are, rather than simply *what* is happening.

1. Historian, Not Propagandist

It is crucial to distinguish between **propaganda** and **historical diagnosis**.

- **Propaganda** seeks to manipulate emotion, simplify complex realities, and advocate for a specific political outcome.
- **Historical Diagnosis**, as practiced by Dr. Engel, seeks to identify recurring patterns, structural necessities, and unintended consequences.

In his 2022 analysis of Latvia, Engel did not argue that Latvia was "wrong" to defend its sovereignty. Instead, he applied the framework of "**Associative Xenophobia**" to demonstrate how the state was employing a historical mechanism of collective responsibility — a tool used against Jews in the past — to exclude the Russian-speaking minority. He was not defending the minority's politics; he was diagnosing the *method* of their exclusion.

In his 2024 and 2023 articles, he similarly avoids moralizing. He does not claim "Imperialism is good." He argues that the Russian state is **structurally trapped** in a survival loop where aggression is the only glue holding its diverse, fragmented society together. He does not say "Russia must invade"; he says, "The current system is incapable of peace because it relies on an external enemy to survive."

This is the work of a **specialized historian of Russian society and minority dynamics**, not a political activist. He is mapping the disease, not prescribing the cure for the regime.

2. The Value of the "Balanced Observer"

We believe that **objectivity is an ideal, not a human capacity**. Every observer brings a viewpoint. The value of journalism lies not in the illusion of neutrality, but in the **rigor, transparency, and balance** of the analysis.

Dr. Engel is a balanced observer in the truest sense:

- He is **critical of the Kremlin**: He exposes the "performative" nature of Russian traditional values, the lack of genuine religiosity among the populace, and the fragility of the regime's identity. He warns that the current trajectory leads to civil war and nuclear catastrophe.
- He is critical of the West: He warns that "lowering the Iron Curtain" through blanket sanctions and isolationism plays into Putin's hands, consolidates anti-Western sentiment, and cuts off the very channels of openness that historically led to democratization.

His viewpoint is distinct, but it is **grounded in data and historical precedent**. He distinguishes between *social trends* (the secular, individualistic nature of modern Russians) and *political trends* (the state's aggressive ideology). This nuance is often lost in political discourse, but it is essential for a realistic understanding of the conflict.

3. Why We Publish: The Necessity of Uncomfortable Truths

We understand that Dr. Engel's analysis may disturb political instances. Governments often prefer narratives that simplify the enemy and justify their own actions without self-reflection.

- When Engel points out that **collective punishment** of Russian speakers mirrors historical anti-Semitism, it challenges the moral high ground of the host nation.
- When he argues that **sanctions on ordinary citizens** are counter-productive, it questions the efficacy of current foreign policy.

We publish these articles precisely because they are uncomfortable. A free society must be able to withstand the expression of viewpoints that vary from the official orthodoxy. If we only publish what confirms our biases, we lose the ability to see the full picture. Dr. Engel's work forces us to ask: *Are we repeating historical mistakes? Are our security measures creating the very instability we fear?*

4. Our Commitment to Dialogue

Fair Observer is committed to the principle that **democracy thrives on contrasting viewpoints.**

- We do not ask our readers to agree with Dr. Engel.
- We ask them to **engage** with his analysis.
- We invite other observers to critique his interpretations, to offer alternative readings of the same data, and to engage in a public dialogue.

We believe that the best way to counter "disinformation" is not censorship, but **better, deeper journalism.** Dr. Engel's work is a testament to the power of historical grounding to cut through the noise of the moment.

Conclusion Dr. Valery Engel is a scholar who sees the patterns that others are too afraid or too biased to see. He is trying to save the world from a nuclear civil war by diagnosing the disease, not by cheering for one side.

- He warns the West that **xenophobia** is a strategic error.
- He warns Russia that **imperialism** is a symptom of identity crisis.

We are proud to publish his work. We stand by the integrity of his historical method. And we believe that in a world of binary choices, the voice of the **diagnostician** is the one we need most.

The Editorial Board Fair Observer



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