

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

This thesis primary aim sets out to find answer and deeper understanding in “How the strategic narrative formation process of *Russkiy mir* was being implemented by Vladimir Putin in order to justify the 2022 Russia-Ukraine war?”. The formation process of *Russkiy mir* as a strategic narrative is determined by Vladimir Putin’s strategic goals for the domestic and international audience along with his preferred type of communication. However, as a socially-constructed ideology, the narrative of *Russkiy mir* must evolve following the socio-cultural and political circumstances that happened in Russia domestically and internationally (specifically concerning United States and its allies and to Ukraine). Vladimir Putin must utilize components in the dimensions of discourse found in both domestic and international contexts to form a text that serves strategic objectives in advancing his political and military goals in Ukraine in 2022. By analyzing specific excerpts in the Address by the President of the Russian Federation on February 24th, 2022, researcher then discovers how Vladimir Putin utilized discourse practices and socio-cultural practices from the timeline of the annexation of Crimea up to before the invasion of Ukraine in 2022 to construct narratives of *Russkiy mir* for strategic purposes in addressing the citizens of Russia, Ukraine, and United States and its allies.

First is to address Vladimir Putin’s strategic goals for domestic and international audience. In relations to the *Russkiy mir* ideology, Vladimir Putin has

set agendas on his speech that the military action towards Ukraine was needed as an the justifiable response in NATO's expansion in eastern European region, that demilitarization' and 'denazification' was his main purpose in occupying Ukraine, and that compatriots in Ukraine held a significant, irreplaceable role and must be protected under this military operation. To gain policy legitimation, he specifically utilizes the *Russkiy mir* concept that frames Russia's cultural and historical exceptionalism and anti-Western stance to the center stage of the speech in order to manipulate Russian audience and the Eastern Ukraine audience abroad that the Russian government's decision to invade Ukraine in 2022 is justifiable and doable. Second is to address the usage of representational force as Vladimir Putin's preferred type of communication, which is appropriately used in times of political crisis in Ukraine due to the constant advancement and enlargement of NATO in Eastern Europe and the independence movement of Russian separatist in Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic. Vladimir Putin has addressed the fragile ontological identity of Ukraine and the United States by showcasing contradictive events of history that undermine their pre-establish national identity values.

To summarize, this research has shown that *Russkiy mir* has become one of the most defining foreign policy ideologies when it comes to Russia's stance against Ukraine and the West. Originating from intellectual debates about Russia's national identity narrative back in the early 1990s, *Russkiy mir* has rapidly evolved under the presidency of Vladimir Putin into being a justifying narrative of the assertive and offensive action of the Russian Federation to Ukraine as a way to protect

Russian compatriots Near Abroad. Vladimir Putin's Presidential Address in February 24th, 2022 become the main evidence of how the ideology of *Russkiy mir* continuing to evolve following socio-cultural and political changes in the domestic and international landscape.

Regardless after finding a satisfactory and comprehensive answer about the formation Russia's strategic narrative under the *ideology of Russkiy mir* in the 2022 Russia-Ukraine war, the researcher can truly feel confident with the result of the research if the full coverage of the strategic narrative process (which includes projection and reception) can be achieved. Despite being limited by time, resources, and academic expertise, the researcher has served a degree of applaudable contribution in the academical analysis of the 2022 Russia-Ukraine war using a constructivist approach and strategic narrative theory, when the majority of academical research available with the same topic typically uses realist paradigm. It is recommended that future researcher contributes to the continuity of the study of Russia's strategic narrative of *Russkiy mir* to provide a better understanding of how an authoritarian political leader adapted their soft power tool of narrative in accordance with domestic and international circumstances to justify future violence and conflict.

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