

# Why Stalin Is Making a Comeback. And Russia's Fast-Growing 'Youth Army'

[From Russia With News \(Discontinued\)](#)

April 18, 2019



A record 70 percent of Russians approve of Soviet leader Josef Stalin's role in Russian history, according to a recent poll. We speak to Denis Volkov from the Levada Center that conducted the poll about why the Soviet dictator is more popular than ever in Russia.

In 2015, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the foundation of *Yunarmia* — or Youth Army — a “youth military-patriotic movement” backed by Russia's Defense Ministry. But what exactly does the Kremlin want with nearly half a million children and teenagers steeped in military and patriotic sentiment? We speak with Moscow Times reporter [Evan Gershkovich](#) who recently met some of its members and its critics.

From Russia With News is hosted by [Jonathan Brown](#) and produced by [Pjotr Sauer](#). The episode was recorded and edited at [CM Records Studio](#) in central Moscow.

Go Deeper:

[Stalin's Approval Rating Among Russians Hits Record High – Poll](#)

[Russia's Fast-Growing 'Youth Army' Aims to Breed Loyalty to the Fatherland](#)

This week's meanwhile: [Fake Robot Fools Football Audience in Russia](#)

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/04/18/why-stalin-is-making-a-comeback-and-russias-fast-growing-youth-army-a65301>