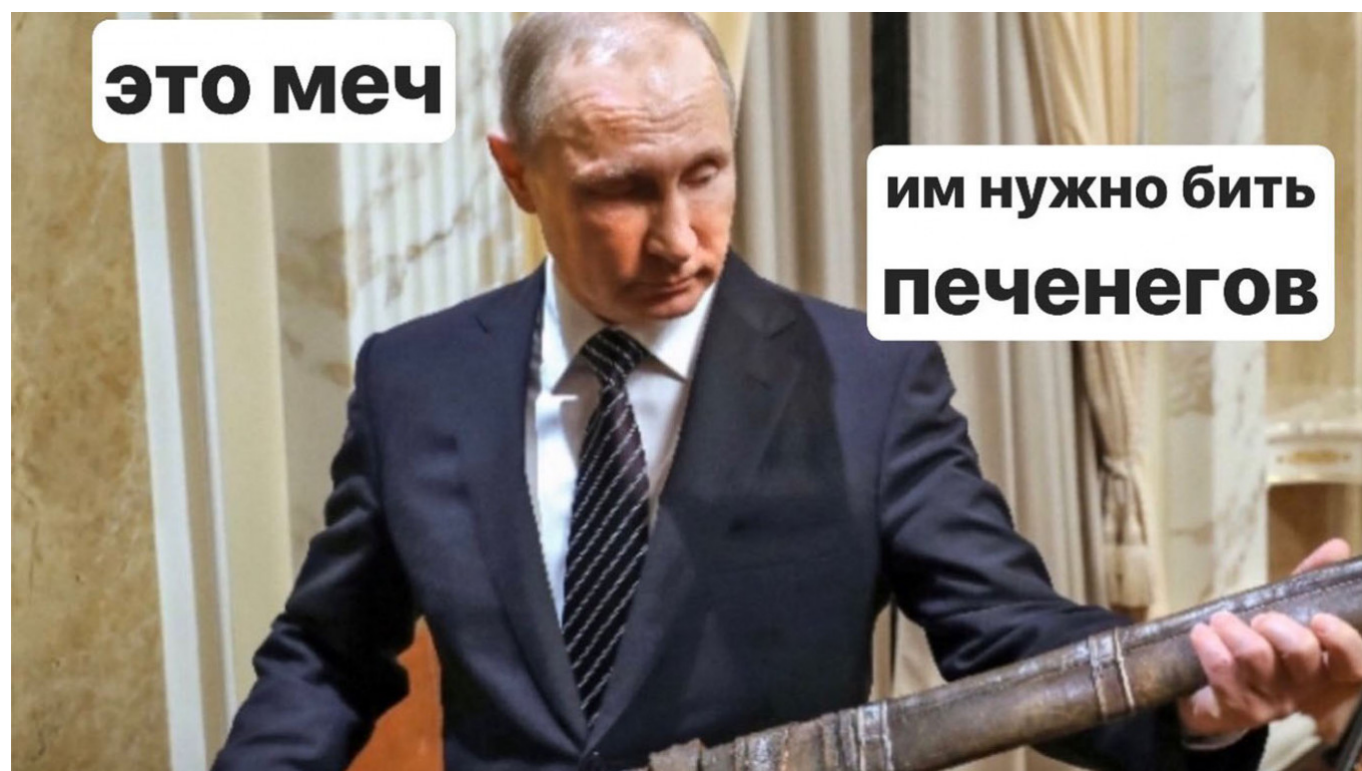


Putin Sets Off Meme Storm By Comparing Medieval Invaders to Coronavirus Quarantine

April 09, 2020



"This is a sword. With this sword I beat the Pechenegs." [tasyahg / Twitter](#)

During a televised meeting Wednesday, Putin called on his fellow Russians to wait out the nationwide “non-working” month in self-isolation to avoid the further spread of coronavirus — and did so by invoking Russia’s past victories against medieval invaders.

“Everything passes and this will pass. Our country has gone through many serious challenges: When tormented by the Pechenegs and the Cumans, Russia has handled them all. We will defeat this coronavirus contagion,” he said.

The remarks instantly sparked bewilderment — and, as always, lots of memes.

Some of them drew punchlines from the similarity between Pecheneg and *pechen’ye*, the Russian word for a cookie. Others noted the similarity between *Polovtsy*, the Russian name for the Cumans, and *plov*, the popular rice dish.

Many poked fun at Putin's apparent view of the Pechenegs and Cumans — nomadic tribes that raided parts of Russia in the 10th and 11th centuries — as one of the greatest challenges Russia has ever faced. Greater, even, than World War II.

Here's a look at some of the top contenders:

Embed:

Коронавирус VS Печенеги и Половцы pic.twitter.com/9b9YN7YdRJ

— мать русского инди (@JaneAlien) [April 8, 2020](#)

— We have overcome much worse.

— We defeated the Pechenegs.

— And the *Polovtsy*?

— And the *Polovtsy*.

Embed:

путин до карантина vs путин после карантина pic.twitter.com/qJj9CZFZQS

— голубева (@greenlightoff) [April 8, 2020](#)

Putin before the quarantine: "Constitution!"

Putin after the quarantine: "Pechenegs!"

"This is a sword. With this sword I beat the Pechenegs. Stupid Pechenegs I f---ing hate you"

Embed:

Путин: у меня в последнее время появился навязчивый страх печенегов

Психотерапевт: не волнуйтесь мы давно их победили никаких печенегов больше нет

Печенеги: pic.twitter.com/wSTnq4jkX8

— ❏Вова Чернов❏ (@chern_ov) [April 8, 2020](#)

Putin: "In the past week I've had an obsessive fear of the Pechenegs."

Psychotherapist: "Don't worry, we defeated them long ago. There are no Pechenegs anymore."

Pechenegs:

Embed:

Печенеги и Половцы обсуждают как будут делить Россию
pic.twitter.com/CLjgvdOBbH

— анатолий ноготочки (@A_Kapustin) [April 8, 2020](#)

The Pechenegs and Cumans discuss how they'll divide Russia:

- "We'll take the oil, and you'll take the gas?"
- "Okay!"
- "Natasha, are you asleep?"
- "The *Polovtsy* have tormented us."
- "And the Pechenegs have tormented us, Natash."
- "And the coronavirus infection, Natash, frankly."

The Pechenegs:

- "So, are we on Google Trends?"
- "No, the *Polovtsy* are there!"

Embed:

Я: Надеюсь, Путин перестанет постоянно вспоминать про Великую Отечественную и найдёт, чем ещё Россия может гордиться.

Путин: Печенеги.

— Денис Чужой просит вас не выходить на улицу (@fe_city_boy) [April 8, 2020](#)

Me: "I hope Putin will stop constantly bringing up the Great Patriotic War and find something else for Russia to be proud of."

Putin: "Pechenegs."

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