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Kyle Mizokami



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Trumpet Weekly



The Kremlin Cracks Down on Religious Liberty

Andrew Miiller | April 7

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



DURING THE SOVIET ERA, THOUSANDS OF CHURCHES WERE destroyed and millions of Christians were persecuted. Communist textbooks called religion “the opium of the people” and Christianity “a perverse reflection on the world.” In the 24 years since the fall of the Soviet Union, however, Orthodox Christianity has made an astonishing recovery. While only a third of Russians identified as Orthodox in 1991, over two thirds now identify as Russian Orthodox Christians.

Yet the rise of the Orthodox Church hasn’t brought religious liberty to Russia. It has simply replaced the Communist Party as the ideological state apparatus used to forcibly unite Russians!

In a court case under way in southern Russia, Viktor Krasnov is facing up to a year in prison for writing “There is no God” on VKontakte (a Russian social media network similar to Facebook).

now shares the same legal status as the Islamic National Socialist Society.

In 2002, Russia enacted an extremism law defining religious extremism as “incitement of discord” in connection with acts or threats of violence. Later, the law was amended to allow prosecution of religious discord even in the absence of any threat. Mormons, Scientologists and even Pentecostals are under increasing government pressure.

In return for public support from Russian President Vladimir Putin attends church services, he presents himself as a defender of “Christian values.” Like emperors and Russian czars before him, he is using state religion to unify his empire!

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