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# Russians find new biggest enemy to replace US – survey

America has lost the top spot in the list for the first time in 13 years, according to a poll



FILE PHOTO: People walking on Nikolskaya street in Moscow. © Sputnik / Vladimir Vyatkin

Russians do not consider the US *“the most unfriendly country”* anymore, and the title now goes to Germany, according to a survey by the Levada Center, a Western-funded organization which has been designated as a *“foreign agent”* in Russia.

The US has lost the top spot for the first time in 13 years, dropping to fourth place in the poll, which was published on Thursday.

Only 40% of those surveyed

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mentioned the US among Russia's primary enemies, with the number dropping by 36% compared to last year, it said.

Attitudes towards America shifted with the return of US President Donald Trump. Since his inauguration, the White House has been making efforts to broker a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine conflict, the pollster noted.

According to the study, Germany is now in first place, with 56% of respondents describing it as an *"unfriendly country"* towards Russia, followed by the UK at 49% and Ukraine at 43%.



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without range limitations. He claimed that would be *"possible"* to provide Kiev with German Taurus missiles, which have a range of over 500 kilometers and are capable of reaching targets deep within Russian territory, including Moscow. The new chancellor also pledged to assist the government of Vladimir Zelensky with the production of long-range weapons inside Ukraine.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reacted to the statements by Merz by stressing that Berlin's *"direct involvement in the war is now obvious."*

*"Germany is sliding down the same slippery slope it already followed a couple of times in the last century – down toward its own collapse,"* Lavrov said, referring to the defeats suffered by the country in the First and Second World Wars.

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Before the escalation of the Ukraine conflict in February 2022, only 16% of the Russians considered Berlin an enemy, the Levada Center's data suggests.

German chancellor Friedrich Merz, who assumed office in early May, has intensified aggressive rhetoric towards Russia, while also making steps to boost military aid provided to Kiev by Berlin during the conflict with Moscow.

Last month, Merz said that Ukraine would be allowed to use Western-supplied weapons against Russia

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The Levada Center also asked the respondents about the countries they consider Russia's "closest friends." Belarus (80%), China (64%), Kazakhstan (36%), India (32%) and North Korea (30%) were the top five.

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