

News Item

Chinese internet chatter on the Ukraine war is a warped lens | Rest of World

By Yi-Ling Liu March 24, 2022

Days after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, eyes turned to the Chinese internet, scouring social media for clues. How would China — not only the state, but its people — respond to a war started by the nation's chief "strategic partner?" With no reliable polling, you'd imagine that social media might be a useful gauge for both. The reality is more complicated.

Social media provides a warped lens into public sentiment. This is no less true in China, where, over the past decade, the systematic suppression of liberal voices on social media — and the amplification of nationalist ones — has provided the oxygen for patriotic accounts to run rampant.

[...]

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