Putin's New Russia and the Ukrainian Revolution of 2014

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1. Russia Timeline and Rise of Putin

2. Ukraine Timeline and Rise of Civil Society

3. The 2014 Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity

4. Fighting Internal Corruption and War in the East
RUSSIA TIMELINE

1985-91 - Rise to power of Mikhail Gorbachev heralds serious efforts to reform moribund economy (perestroika), free up political debate (glasnost), and end crippling cost of continuing Cold War.

Gorbachev gradually loses control of reform processes at home and abroad, leading to the collapse of Communist rule in Eastern Europe and the eventual implosion of the Soviet Union itself.

1991 - Russia becomes independent as the Soviet Union collapses and, together with Ukraine and Belarus, forms the Commonwealth of Independent States, which is eventually joined by all former Soviet republics except the Baltic states.

Chechnya declares unilateral independence, beginning a decade of conflict with Moscow.


Acting Prime Yegor Gaidar launches controversial programme of lifting central controls on economy, seen by some as essential to prevent total collapse.

Others complain it is poorly managed and directly responsible for hyper-inflation and the rise of the 'oligarchs' - businessmen who benefit from crash privatization of massive state enterprises.

1993 December - Referendum approves new constitution giving president sweeping powers

1996 - Yeltsin re-elected despite concerns about his health.

Russia admitted to the G-7 group of industrialized countries

1999 December - Yeltsin resigns in favour of Vladimir Putin, who takes over buoyed by popularity over major military campaign against Chechen rebels.

Putin asserts control

2000 March - President Putin wins election.

2000 December - Putin begins steady process of rehabilitating Stalin era by re-instating 1944-1991 anthem with new words.

2002 May - Russia and the USA announce a new agreement on strategic nuclear weapons reduction.

Russian and Nato foreign ministers set up Nato-Russia Council with equal role in decision-making on terrorism and other security threats

2003 June - Government axes last remaining nationwide independent TV channel, TVS, citing financial reasons.

2003 October - Yukos oil boss and prominent liberal Mikhail Khodorkovsky arrested on charges of tax evasion and fraud, an early casualty of President Putin's campaign to drive Yeltsin-era 'oligarchs' out of politics. In 2005 he is sentenced to nine years imprisonment, and is pardoned and goes into exile in 2013.

2004 August - Authorities seize Yuganskneftegaz, Yukos's key production unit, over alleged tax debts, in move widely seen as punishment for Yukos boss Khodorkovsky's opposition to Putin. State formally purchases Yuganskneftegaz in December.
Putin scraps direct election of regional governors, who will henceforth be government appointees.

2005 June - State gains control of Gazprom gas giant by increasing its stake in the company to over 50%.

2006 January - Putin signs law giving authorities extensive new powers to monitor the activities of non-governmental organisations and suspend them if they are found to pose an alleged threat to national security.

2006 November - Former Russian security service officer Alexander Litvinenko, an outspoken critic of the Kremlin living in exile in London, dies of polonium poisoning.

2007 March - Dozens detained as riot police break up St Petersburg protest by demonstrators accusing President Putin of stifling democracy.

2007 December - President Putin's United Russia party wins landslide in parliamentary elections, which critics describe as neither free nor democratic.

2008 March - Putin ally Dmitry Medvedev wins presidential elections as Mr Putin cannot serve a third consecutive term.

War with Georgia

2008 May - President Medvedev appoints Vladimir Putin prime minister.

Russian, Georgian war

2008 August - Tensions with Georgia escalate into war after Georgian troops attack separatist forces in South Ossetia. Russia drives Georgian forces from South Ossetia and Abkhazia, then recognizes both as independent states.

2008 November - Parliament votes overwhelmingly in favor of a bill that would extend the next president's term of office from four to six years.

2009 October - Opposition parties accuse the authorities of rigging local elections, as the governing United Russia party wins every poll by a wide margin.

2010 April - President Medvedev signs a new strategic arms agreement with US committing both sides to cut arsenals of deployed nuclear warheads by about 30 percent.

2010 June - Presidents Medvedev and Obama mark warming in ties on the Russian leader's first visit to the White House. Obama says the US will back Russia's World Trade Organization accession, and Russia will allow the US to resume poultry exports.

Putin's second presidency

2012 March - Vladimir Putin wins presidential elections. Opponents take to the streets of several major cities to protest at the conduct of the election, and the police arrest hundreds.

2012 July - Law goes into force requiring non-governmental organizations receiving funds from abroad to be classed as "foreign agents", in what critics say is part of a wider crackdown on dissent.
2012 August - US, EU and human rights groups condemn jail sentences imposed on three members of punk band Pussy Riot over an anti-Putin protest in a Moscow cathedral. The women were sentenced to two years for hooliganism.

Russia formally joins the World Trade Organization (WTO) after 18 years of negotiations.

2012 December - Angered by a US bill blacklisting Russian officials in connection with the death in custody of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, Moscow bans Americans from adopting Russian children and stops US-funded non-governmental organizations from working in Russia.

Crackdown continues

2013 July - Anti-corruption blogger and leading opposition activist Alexei Navalny is sentenced to five years in prison after being found guilty of embezzlement in a trial he rejects as politically motivated.

2013 September - Mr Navalny comes second in the Moscow mayoral election after being released pending appeal, coming close to forcing the Kremlin's candidate into a run-off.

2013 October - Appeals court upholds Alexei Navalny's conviction but suspends his jail sentence, allowing him to go free while barring him from standing for elected office.

2013 December - The Kremlin announces that the state-owned news agency RIA Novosti and the Voice of Russia radio station are to be restructured and placed under the control of a pro-Kremlin figure known for his extreme anti-Western views.

Ukraine crisis

2014 February-May - After flight from Ukraine of pro-Moscow president Viktor Yanukovych, Russian forces take over Crimea, which then votes to join Russia in a referendum. This sparks biggest East-West showdown since Cold War, with the US and its European allies imposing sanctions and accusing Russia of stoking separatism in eastern Ukraine.
Putin's Russia

Vladimir Putin was elected president of the Russian Federation in 2000 as the hand-picked successor of Boris Yeltsin. A member of the KGB beginning in the mid-1970's, Putin spent years working primarily in East Germany, then left the service in 1991 and became active in the politics of St. Petersburg (Leningrad). He was brought to Moscow by Yeltsin in 1996 and served as an administrator in the Kremlin and an official for the security organizations which replaced the KGB.

In 1999, Putin became Yeltsin's fifth prime minister in 17 months, then became acting president when Yeltsin left office. He was officially elected to the office in 2000 and re-elected in 2004 in a landslide vote. He stepped down in 2008 (as required by term limits) and was replaced by his own hand-picked successor, Dmitry Medvedev. Medvedev installed Putin as prime minister, a move which left Putin, as The New York Times put it, as "the country's dominant politician, with a firm grip on power." In 2012, Putin was again elected President, but this time accompanied by widespread protests of election fraud (http://www.theguardian.com/world/russian-presidential-election-2012). During this latest Putin administration, the Russian government has become increasingly repressive by virtually eliminating dissent, from the arrest of members of the feminist punk rock protest group Pussy Riot to the dissolution and intimidation of news agencies and journalists who are critical of the government, as well as instituting policies against the LGBT community.

PUTIN'S KLEPTOCRACY BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Accessable version of document available upon request

KOLESNIKOV PALACE DOCUMENTS

REFORM OF PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION

EXPLORE KOLESNIKOV DOCUMENTS

(http://miamioh.edu/cas/acad-academic-resources/putinsrussia/kolesnikov-landing/index.html)

VIEW DOCUMENT

(http://miamioh.edu/cas/acad-academic-resources/putinsrussia/reform-presidential-admin-landing/index.html)

SAL'YE COMMISSION DOCUMENTS

ANDREY ZYKOV TESTIMONY

EXPLORE Sal'ye Documents

(http://miamioh.edu/cas/acad-academic-resources/putinsrussia/salve-commission-landing/index.html)

VIEW DOCUMENTS

(http://miamioh.edu/cas/acad-academic-resources/putinsrussia/statisti-landing/index.html)

(http://miamioh.edu/cas/acad-academic-resources/putinsrussia/zykov-landing/index.html)
UKRAINE TIMELINE

1986 - A reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power station explodes, sending a radioactive plume across Europe. Desperate efforts are made to contain the damaged reactor within a huge concrete cover. Many armed forces personnel die of radiation sickness.

1988 - Prominent writers and intellectuals set up Ukrainian People's Movement for Restructuring (Rukh).

1990 - Student protests and hunger strikes bring down government of Vitaliy Masol.

Independence

1991 - Ukraine declares independence following attempted coup in Moscow: 90% vote for independence in nationwide referendum in December.

Early to mid-1990s - About 250,000 Crimean Tatars and their descendants return to Crimea following collapse of Soviet Union.


Ukraine signs Budapest Memorandum surrendering all nuclear weapons with guarantee of secure borders.

1996 - New, democratic constitution adopted. New currency, the hryvna, introduced.


2001 April - Viktor Yushchenko government dismissed following no-confidence vote in parliament. Mr Yushchenko was respected in the West for fighting corruption, pushing ahead with economic reforms and working to attract investment, but was unpopular with powerful Ukrainian businessmen.

2002 May - Leadership announces decision to launch formal bid to join Nato.

2002 September - Opposition stages mass protests demanding resignation of President Kuchma whom they accuse of corruption and misrule.

2002 November - President Kuchma sacks Prime Minister Kinakh. Viktor Yanukovych, governor of Donetsk region, appointed to replace him. He promises to fight poverty and work for integration into Europe.

2003 March - Tens of thousands of people join Kiev demonstrations demanding that Kuchma resign.

2004 June - Consortium in which President Kuchma's son-in-law Viktor Pinchuk plays key role buys Krivorizhal, the country's largest steel mill, for a bargain price.

"Orange Revolution"

2004 November - Official count indicates presidential election victory for Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych. Western and other independent observers report widespread vote rigging. Opposition
candidate Viktor Yushchenko launches campaign of mass street protest and civil disobedience. Supreme Court later annuls result of poll.

Orange-clad opposition supporters took to Kiev's streets and forced a change of government

2004 December - Opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko tops poll in election re-run. Rival candidate Viktor Yanukovych challenges result but resigns as prime minister.

2005 January - Viktor Yushchenko sworn in as president after Supreme Court rejects challenge by losing candidate Mr Yanukovych.

2005 February - President's nominee Yulia Tymoshenko overwhelmingly approved as prime minister by parliament.

2006 June-July - After months of bargaining, the backers of the Orange Revolution - the Yushchenko and Tymoshenko blocs and the Socialists - agree on a coalition, but the deal collapses. The Socialists opt instead for a coalition with Viktor Yanukovych's Party of Regions and the Communists.

Yulia Tymoshenko

2006 August - Faced with a deadline to accept Viktor Yanukovych's nomination or call new elections, President Yushchenko agrees that his rival can become prime minister.

2007 February - Boris Tarasuky, a close ally of the president and a strong advocate of strong ties with Europe and Nato, resigns as foreign minister after a protracted row with parliament.

2010 February - Viktor Yanukovych is declared winner of second round of presidential election. His main rival, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, refuses to accept the result, alleging fraud.

2010 March - Yulia Tymoshenko steps down from the premiership after a number of her supporters in parliament switch sides and she loses a no-confidence vote. President Yanukovych appoints his long-standing ally Mykola Azarov to succeed her.

2010 July - International media freedom watchdogs criticize a Kiev court's decision to cancel the allocation of broadcasting frequencies to two privately-run TV channels

2010 October - Constitutional court overturns limits on presidential power introduced in 2004.

2010 November - President Yanukovych vetoes a tax reform that had prompted thousands of business owners and opposition activists to protest in city centres nationwide

011 October - A court jails former PM Tymoshenko after finding her guilty of abuse of power over a gas deal with Russia in 2009. EU warns Ukraine of "profound implications".

2013 April - European Court of Human Rights rules unanimously that the arrest and detention of Yulia Tymoshenko in 2011 was unlawful.

New revolution

2013 July - Russia halts imports of chocolate from one of Ukraine's main confectionary makers, Roshen, saying its products fall below safety standards, in what is seen as retaliation for Ukraine's efforts to integrate further with the EU.
2013 November - Tens of thousands of protesters take to the streets of central Kiev and other cities to protest at the government’s sudden decision to abandon plans to sign an association agreement with the EU. They accuse the government of bowing to Russian pressure, as well as being corrupt and unaccountable.

2013 December - Russia agrees to slash price of gas supplied to Ukraine and lend $15bn to mollify protesters.

2014 February - Security forces kill at least 77 protesters in Kiev. President Yanukovych flees to Russia, opposition takes control under interim president Olexander Turchynov and acting prime minister Arseny Yatseniuk. Russia refuses to recognize takeover.

Russia annexes Crimea

2014 March - Russian forces seize and then annex Crimea, prompting biggest East-West showdown since Cold War. US and European Union begin process of imposing ever-harder sanctions on Russia.

2014 May - Leading businessman Petro Poroshenko wins presidential election on pro-Western platform. Signs delayed EU association accord in July.

2014 July - A Malaysian airliner comes down in separatist-held territory, killing all 298 people on board, with all evidence suggesting that it was shot down.

2014 August - Russia sends first of several unauthorised convoys allegedly carrying aid to Donetsk and Luhansk, amid Western and Ukrainian suspicions that they serve an ulterior purpose.

2014 October - Parliamentary elections produce convincing majority for pro-Western parties, which begin process of forming a new coalition led by Prime Minister Arseny Yatseniuk.
Mustafa Nayem is a 33-year-old Afghan-born Ukrainian and one of the country's most popular bloggers and journalists. A Facebook post he published on Nov. 21, 2013, is credited with kicking off the protests in the Maidan, the central square of the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, that led to the ousting of president Viktor Yanukovych three months later. The party loyal to the new president, Petro Poroshenko, gave Nayem a spot high up on its list, guaranteeing his election to the Rada in the parliamentary election held on Oct. 26.

November 29 Ukraine didn't sign the Association Agreement at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius. The number of protesters in Kiev grew to 10,000 with the crowd yelling for the resignation of the government.

November 30 Protesters on Maidan were attacked during the night (at 4am) by the military police—known as Berkut troops. Most protesters were students.

December 1 despite court ban around 500,000 people came to protest to Maidan Nezalezhnosti and the neighbouring European Square.
CHESNO Civil Movement

- CHESNO Civil Movement was initiated by a group of interested activists together with representatives of the New Citizen partnership. The movement was founded on October 29, 2011, during the "Let's Filter the Parliament in 24 hours" campaign, exactly a year before the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

- Our initiative is open to both non-governmental organizations and individual members. CHESNO is not affiliated with any politician or political faction, and its representatives will not take part in the election. "Filter the Power!" Campaign:

  Duration: 4 years, I phase - 13 months;
  Start: March 2013;

- Objection: to establish a systematic control of civil society for transparency, accountability and accessibility for voters of each MP.

- Objectives: to make each MP of the VII convocation: vote personally; attend 90% of plenary meetings;

- increase personal attendance of committee meetings by 40%; publish full names of all assistants;

- prepare and publish at least 2 public reports of budget funds allocated for the implementation of parliamentary powers, work with the voters;

- publish financial statements; and expand channels of communication with voters.

- In addition, the movement will demand: disclosure of personal attendance statistics about deputies committee meetings, agenda and outcomes of committee meetings, transcripts of meetings or real-time (online) broadcast;

- publication of the list of MPs, who systematically abuse their status or position: that received MP's numbers for personal non-business purposes, received state apartments; irrationally used the budget to carry out their responsibilities, etc.;

- disclosure of 100% legal dynamics of all MP's.
Religious Pluralism
All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations

1. All-Ukrainian Union of Churches of Evangelical Christians - Baptists (Baptist Union) - Antonyuk Valeriy - Chairman of the Union, a senior Bishop
2. All-Ukrainian Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith - Pentecostals (UCC) (HUPF) - Panasiuk Michael S. - President of the Union, a senior bishop
3. Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Crimea (SDMC) - Abloev Emirali - Imam, Mufti
4. Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Ukraine (KAMU) - Tamim Ahmad - Head of the Duma, the Mufti of Ukraine
5. Transcarpathian Reformed Church (SRC) - Zan-Fabian Alexander - Chapter Consistory SRC Bishop
6. German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine (GELCU) - Sergey Mashiansky - Bishop GELCU
7. Union of Jewish Religious Organizations of Ukraine (UROU) - Yaakov Dov Bleich - President of the Association, Chief Rabbi Kyiv and Ukraine AROU
8. The Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine (RCC) - Peter Makuch - the head of the Commission on the relationship between state and church, Archbishop
9. Free Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith of Ukraine (FUCFU) - Raslynyvets Basil F. - Senior pastor FUCFU
10. Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UOC) - Makarivska (Maleti) - mitrophan of the preoblast Religious Department Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Metropolitan
11. Ukrainian Bible Society (UBS) - The commandant Grigory - president of UBS
12. Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) - Svitlodar (Stevichuk) - Archbishop UGCC
13. Ukrainian Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church (AAC UFE) - Grigory Runytsky - Archbishop AAC UFE
14. Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC) - Vyacheslav Hopynychuk - Bishop ULC
15. Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) - Onufry (Beroczkyi) - Metropolitan
16. Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kiev Patriarchate (UOC KP) - Filaret (Denishev) - Patriarch Filaret, Patriarch of Kyiv and All Rus-Ukraine
17. Ukrainian Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (UUK TVASD) - Aksyovychk Victor - President UUK TVASD (Chairman of 02/10/2013 p.)
18. Ukrainian Christian Evangelical Church (UCHETS) - Petren Leonid M. - Senior Bishop UCHETS
Human Rights – Democracy – Rule of Law

Council of Europe and European Union

- http://www.coe.int/en/
- Eurasian Economic Union
- http://eaeunion.org/?lang=en#about-countries
On March 22, the Russian conservative forum took place at a Holiday Inn in St. Petersburg. This year, the Russian political groups were joined by representatives of the European far-right. Among the participants were former leader of the German National Democratic Party Udo Voigt and members of the Greek neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn, which use a modified swastika as the party symbol. The European guests unanimously denounced the USA and the “Kiev junta,” while praising Vladimir Putin and the Russian law against “gay propaganda.”
Civil Society Initiative

2014 Post-Revolution Elections -

Movement participants developed a number of public integrity criteria for candidates, including:

- clean record on human rights and freedoms;
- firmness of the political stance based on the loyalty to the mandate;
- no involvement in corruption;
- transparency and consistency between income and asset declarations, and the lifestyle;
- personal voting in the parliament;
- participation in plenary meetings and committees of the parliament.

Together with journalists and civil society activists, participants of the campaign initially checked 450 MPs, and then - over 2500 candidates against these criteria.

Civic movement CHESNO found more than 900 offenders of the criteria among parliamentary candidates and publicly demanded that political parties not allow them to participate in the elections.

- The target of campaign "Filter the Power!" is:
- To make a comprehensive check of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of the VII convocation integrity and evaluate each MP for compliance with seven criteria of integrity:
- clean record on human rights and freedoms;
- firmness of the political stance based on the loyalty to the mandate;
- no involvement in corruption;
- transparency of activity and accountability;
- transparency and consistency between income and asset declarations, and the lifestyle;
- personal voting in the parliament;
- participation in plenary meetings and committees of the parliament.

By conducting all-Ukrainian information campaign, spread examination results among 50% of the voters, who participated in 2012 parliamentary elections, namely in 225 districts;

To promote self-organization at all-Ukrainian and local levels to conducting local campaigns on local authorities' transparency and accountability control and evaluation.

- The campaign welcomes both non-governmental organizations and individual members to join.
http://samopomich.ua/en/priorities/

• FIGHTING CORRUPTION

• Ukraine is a big, beautiful and rich country, but we live pathetically. We all ask ourselves why. The answer is that most of our officials are the world-class "professionals" in terms of plundering. Once we eliminate corruption to the level of developed countries – Ukraine will just thrive. In this regard it is necessary:

• 1. For each of us to refuse to participate in corruption.
• 2. To elect as the leaders of the state the people who hate corruption.
• 3. To introduce the e-government, in which there is no officer-citizen interaction.
• 4. To introduce the law-enforcement agencies that will put in jail for corruption.
• 5. To impose the effective control of tax assessments, incomes and fortunes of all the civil servants
Yanukovych's Private Mansion (Kiev, Ukraine): Address, Phone Num... https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g294474-d6781766-...
Some records are of poor quality or photos are of poor quality. These problems may be fixed in the next few weeks as documents are rescanned under better conditions.