Putin: Democratic President or Authoritarian Ruler

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Thesis

After fifteen years of oppressive political strategies, Vladimir Putin has distinguished himself as the authoritarian ruler of Russia—not the president.
Putin’s Extension of Executive Power

- Constitutional amendment in 2008
  President can serve 6 year term
- Putin stands to be in power until 2024
- Loophole in Constitution using Medvedev as a stand in 2008-2012 while Putin served as prime minister
Dilution of the Legislative Branch

- Since 2003 United Russia has held the majority of seats in state Duma
- Putin’s restructuring of the Federal Council into 7 federal districts
- Dilutes the power of the democratically elected governors
- Putin controls the courts through appointment of judges and the federal prosecutor
Duma Elections 2003

http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/03/russias_aggression_is_really_a.html
Duma Election Results 2007, 2011

Percent of votes in 2007 State Duma:
- United Russia: 64.30%
- Communists: 11.57%
- Zhirinovsky's LDPR: 8.14%
- Just Russia: 7.74%
- Agrarian Party: 2.30%
- 1.59%

Percent of votes in 2011 State Duma elections:
- United Russia: 49.32%
- Communists: 19.19%
- Zhirinovsky's LDPR: 13.24%
- A Just Russia: 11.67%
- Patriots of Russia: 3.43%
- Yabloko: 0.97%
- Right Cause: 0.60%

Russia’s Federal Districts

[Map of Russia's federal districts]

http://sitemaker.umich.edu/seminar.497.2010.russia/putin_s_reforms
State Censorship of the Media

- State ownership of 3 primary television channels in Russia
- State owns Channel 1
- Gazprom a state run oil company owns Rossiya and NTV
- State can decide on what information is presented to the Russian people
State Monopoly of Television

Average Audience Share

- Channel One
- Rossiya 1
- NTV
- CTC
- TNT
- REN-TV
- Domashny
- Peretz

http://studentofvalue.com/russian-tv-ctc-media-ctcm/
State Ownership of the Oil Industry

- Russia is a “Petrocracy”
- 57% is privately owned, but state still controls the oil industry
- State owns Gazprom (largest extractor of natural gas), Rosneft (oil/natural gas refinery), and Transeft (oil/ natural gas pipeline)
Economic Data: Oil and Natural Gas Industry

- $515 billion results from total exports
- 75% of all Russian exports come from oil and natural gas
- State controls the economy if they command the oil and natural gas industry
Natural Gas in Russia

Largest proven natural gas reserves holders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Reserves (trillion cubic feet)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States*</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The United States reserves are wet gas reserves as of December 2011.
Source: United States: U.S. Energy Information Administration; Other Countries: Oil and Gas Journal 2013
Quashing Political Opposition

- Putin instructed oligarchs not to be involved in politics
- Boris Berezovksy exile and death
- Forfeiture of Channel 1
- Mikhail Khodorkovsky imprisonment
- Bankruptcy and sale of Yukos
Deaths of Anti-Putin Voices

- Mysterious death of journalist Yuri Shchekochikhun
- Murder of author Anna Politskovskaya
- Poisoning of former KGB agent Andre Litvenenko
Freedom in Crimea

- Putin annexes Crimea
- Sevastopol Russia’s only warm water port
- Large number of ethnic Russians live there
- Large offshore oil drilling in Black Sea
Sevastopol

http://www.ezmapfinder.com/kr/map-121138.html
Russian Gas Market

Dependence on Russian gas

About a quarter of the European Union's natural gas supply comes from Russia. Nearly all of it passes through Ukraine.

Note: Figures for Ukraine include gas from Central Asia imported via Russia.

http://sites.uci.edu/energyobserver/
Ethnicity in Crimea

Regardless of your passport, what do you consider yourself?

28
Status of Crimea

In your opinion, what should the status of Crimea be?

- Autonomy in Ukraine (as today)
- Crimean Tatar autonomy within Ukraine
- Common oblast of Ukraine
- Crimea should be separated and given to Russia

May 2013:
- 53% for Autonomy in Ukraine
- 12% for Crimean Tatar autonomy within Ukraine
- 2% for Common oblast of Ukraine
- 10% for Crimea should be separated and given to Russia

Oct 2011:
- 49% for Autonomy in Ukraine
- 4% for Crimean Tatar autonomy within Ukraine
- 6% for Common oblast of Ukraine
- 33% for Crimea should be separated and given to Russia
Conclusion

- Putin is an authoritarian
- One party state
- State controls both economy and media in Russia
- Silencing of anyone Anti-Putin
- Putin has had influence in Russian politics since December 31, 1999 could remain in power until 2024
Thank You

Works Cited


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2009,30806.html.


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%20May%2016-30,%202013.pdf.