

# Putin: Democratic President or Authoritarian Ruler

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# Thesis

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- 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

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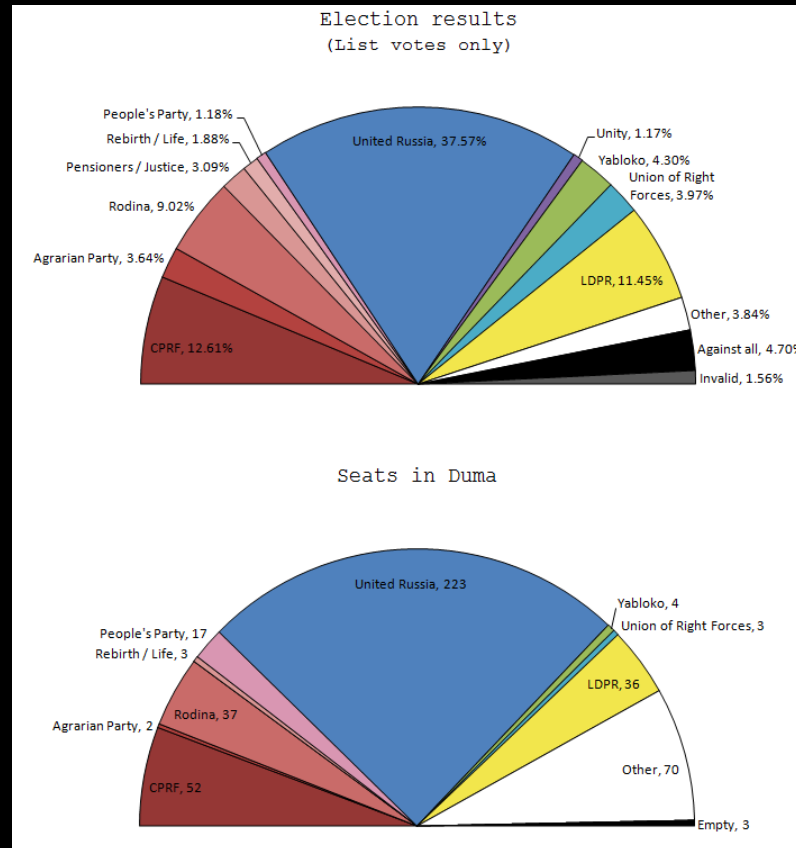
- Constitutional amendment in 2008  
President can serve 6 year term
- Putin stands to be in power until 2024
- Loophole in Constitution using Medvedev as a stand in 2008-2012 while Putin served as prime minister

# Dilution of the Legislative Branch

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- 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

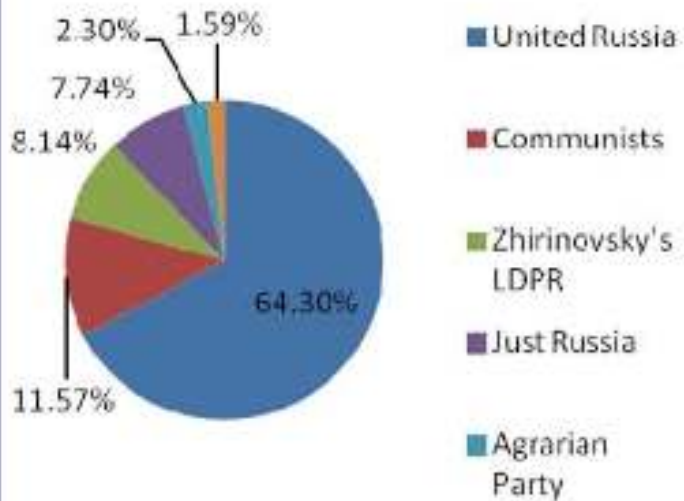
# Duma Elections 2003



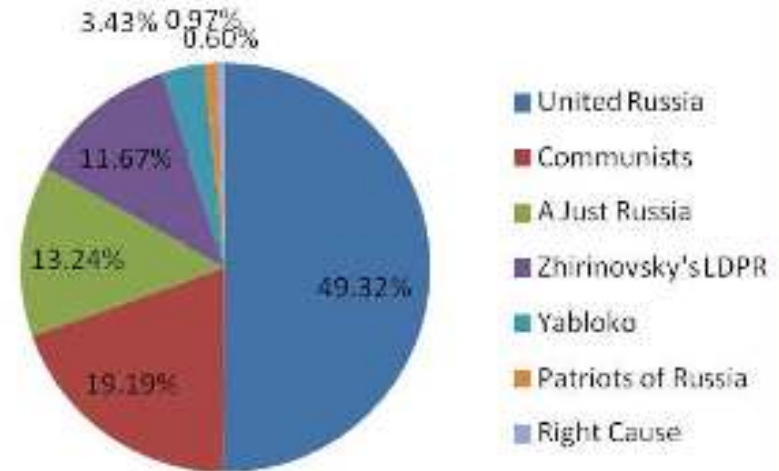
■ [http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/03/russias\\_aggression\\_is\\_really\\_a.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/03/russias_aggression_is_really_a.html)

# Duma Election Results 2007, 2011

## Percent of votes in 2007 State Duma



## Percent of votes in 2011 State Duma elections



# Russia's Federal Districts



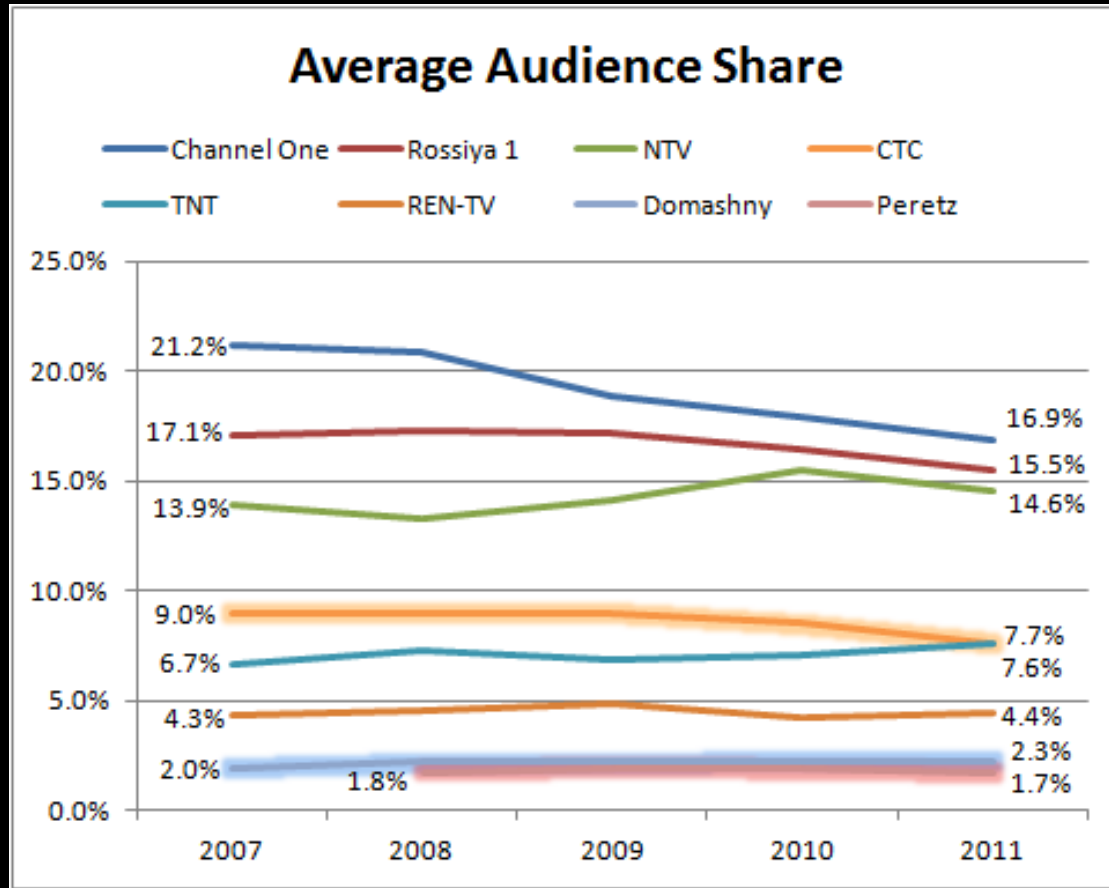
# State Censorship of the Media

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- 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



# State Ownership of the Oil Industry

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- 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)

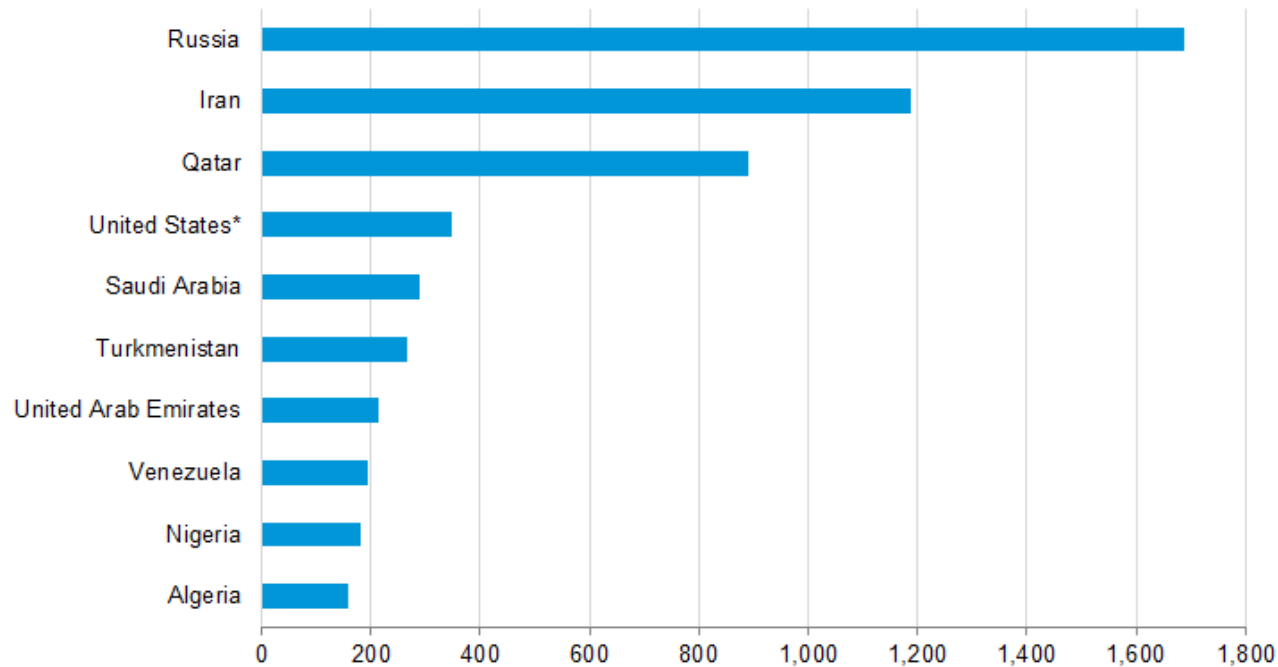
# Economic Data: Oil and Natural Gas Industry

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- \$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  
trillion cubic feet



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

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- Putin instructed oligarchs not to be involved in politics
- Boris Berezhovksy exile and death
- Forfeiture of Channel 1
- Mikhail Khordorkovsy imprisonment
- Bankruptcy and sale of Yukos

# Deaths of Anti-Putin Voices

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- Mysterious death of journalist Yuri Shchekochikhun
- Murder of author Anna Politkovskaya
- Poisoning of former KGB agent Andre Litvinenko

# Freedom in Crimea

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

# Sevastopol



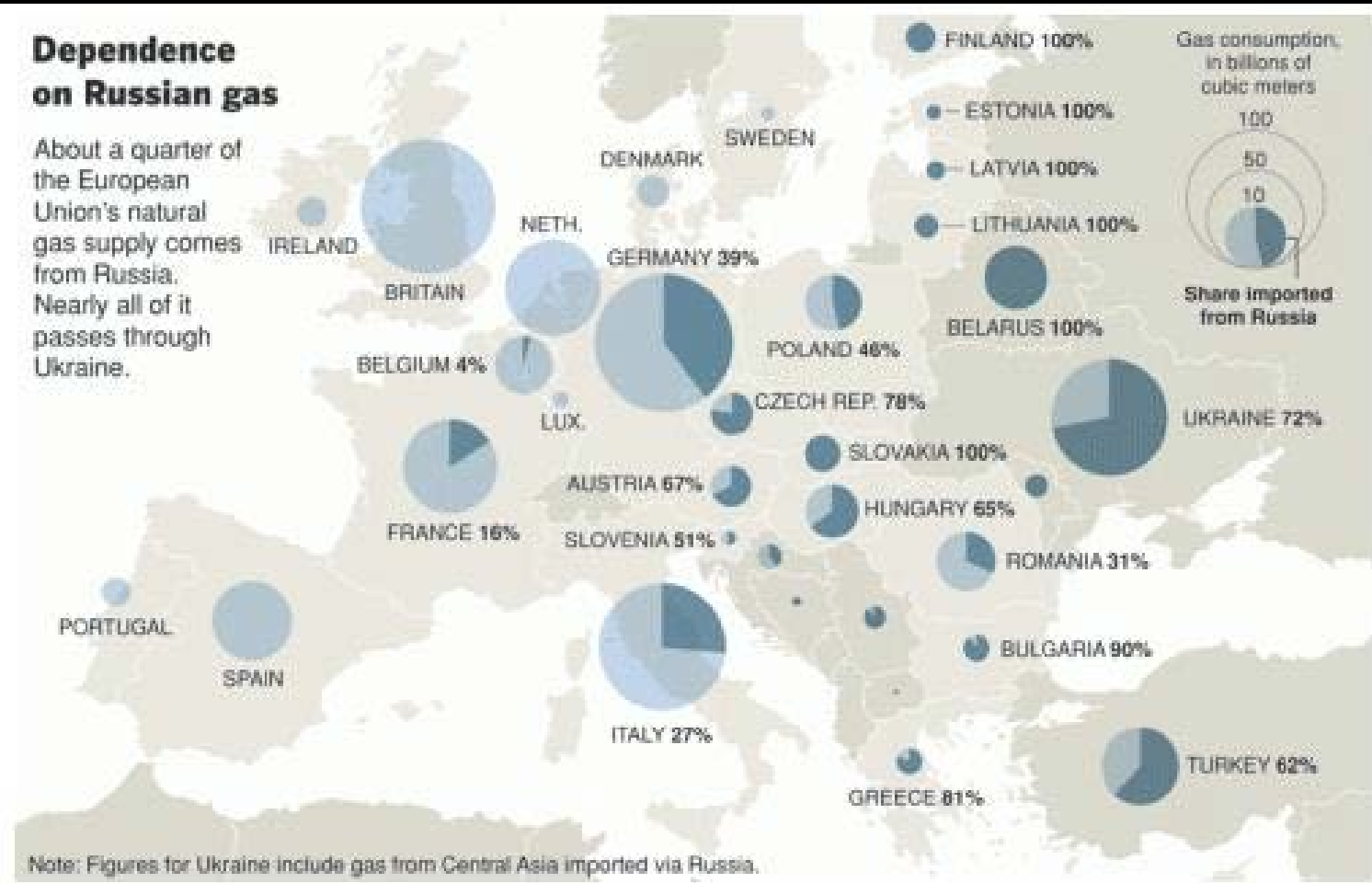
■ <http://www.ezmapfinder.com/kr/map-121138.html>



# Russian Gas Market

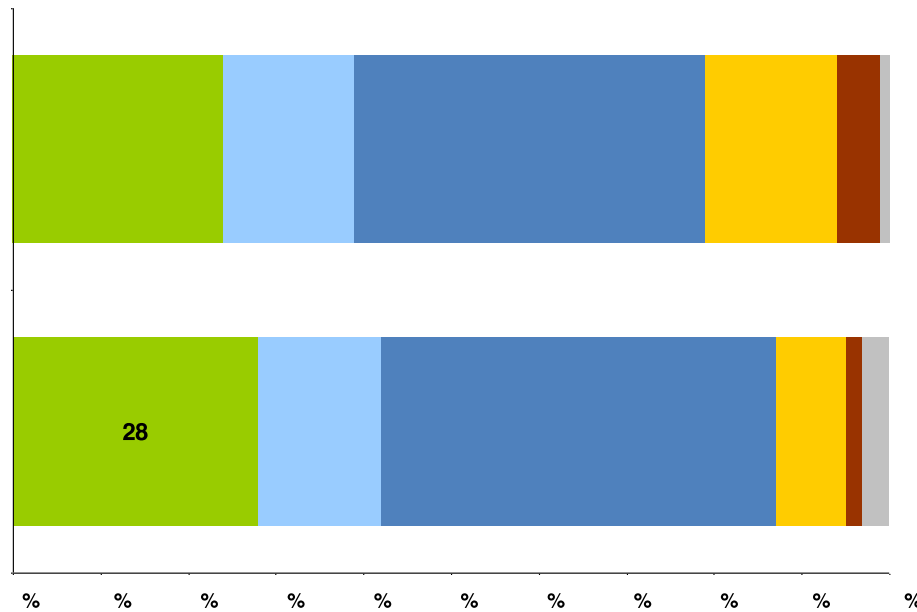
## Dependence on Russian gas

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



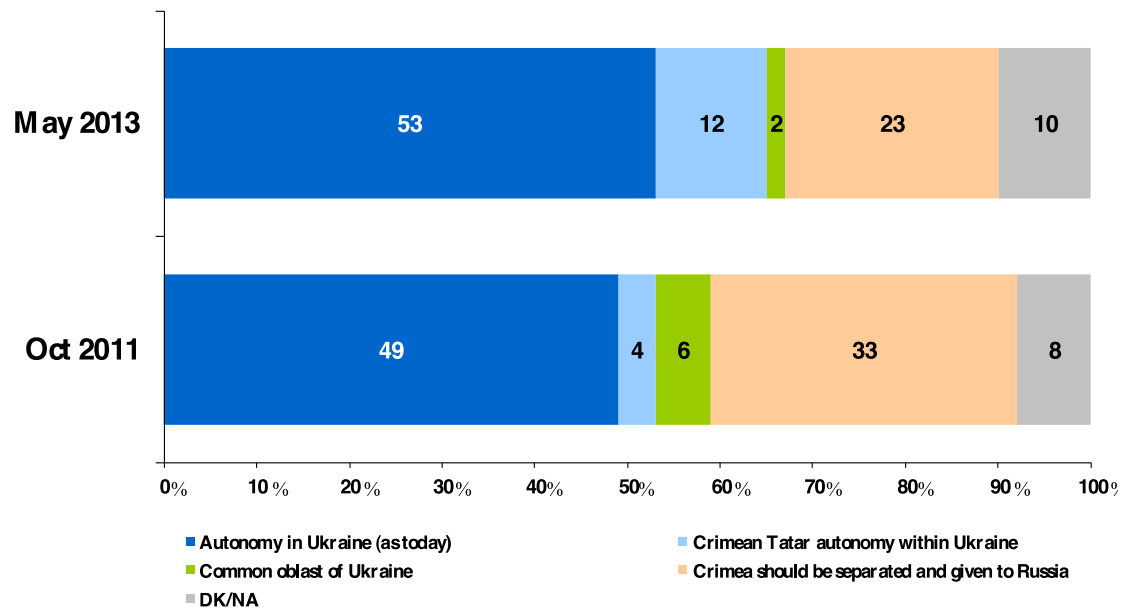
# Ethnicity in Crimea

Regardless of your passport, what do you consider yourself?



# Status of Crimea

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



# Conclusion

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- 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

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■ [http://img.timeinc.net/time/daily/2007/0712/putin\\_cover\\_2.jpg](http://img.timeinc.net/time/daily/2007/0712/putin_cover_2.jpg)

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