



Electoral Issues of Russia

Putin's Rise To Power

- Started off as a KGB agent turned FSB head
- Appointed Prime Minister by Boris Yeltsin in 1999
 - With understanding that when Yeltsin stepped down Putin would take over
 - Yeltsin wanted to avoid jail so made sure favorable successor was in his place
 - Dimitry Medvedev highly influential in Putin's government from the beginning



Power Switching – 2008 Presidential Election

- Constitutional two consecutive term limit restricted Putin from seeking a third term
 - Dimitry Medvedev ran in his place, with the promise to retain Putin as Prime Minister
- In polls few Russians believed Medvedev actually held more power than Putin
 - Most believed they shared power



Power Switching – The 2012 Presidential Election

- Presiding President Dimitri Medvedev agreed to step out of presidential race and allow Putin to run instead
 - Putin in return promised to make Medvedev the Prime Minister
- Led to large amounts of protest within Russia, and from outsiders who favored more liberal Medvedev
 - Putin won controversial election and has maintain authoritarian like control

ЖИРИНОВСКИЙ Владимир Вольфович	ЗЮГАНОВ Геннадий Андреевич	МИРОНОВ Сергей Михайлович	ПРОХОРОВ Михаил Дмитриевич	ПУТИН Владимир Владимирович
4 409 278	12 166 215	2 723 774	5 536 536	45 109 640
6.23%	17.19%	3.85%	7.82%	63.75%

The Removal of Political Opponents

- Opponents of Putin's policies have been brutally murdered or imprisoned
 - Whistle-blowers also targeted
 - Many high level officials who speak out against die under suspicious circumstances shortly after
- Opponents in elections sometimes charged with crime to remove them
 - Ex. [Alexi Navalny](#) who wants to oppose Putin in 2018



Putin's Current Popularity

- Vladimir Putin retains high popularity in Russia
 - Never been below a 60% approval rating since 1999
 - Russian actions in Syria, Crimea, and showing strength has bolstered his numbers
- Little opportunity for opposition
 - Media not allowed to report unfavorably of government
 - Scored 83/100 on press freedom
 - (100 is the Worst, US got a 21)
 - Examples of journalists being imprisoned or murdered



Growing Opposition

- Growing amount of support for opposition to Putin
 - Percent of votes for Putin slowly dropping
 - Criticism for dropping relations with west
- Protest to government policies being organized
 - Protest organizers sometime arrested and jailed

