



Putin and Putinism

Introduction

This special collection puts together highly-cited recent articles from *Europe-Asia Studies* dealing with some of the most topical political developments in Russia during Vladimir Putin's third term as president. The start of this term was marked by heightened international attention towards the parliamentary and presidential elections of 2011 and 2012. The street protests that followed both polls brought renewed speculation about the stability of the political system and, from the government's point of view, reinforced a determination to avert the threat of a 'velvet revolution' that had so preoccupied Putin during his second period in office. Subsequent developments in Ukraine have raised new questions about the direction of state and nation-building under Putin, Russia's relationship with the West, the interaction between domestic and foreign policy and the role of the Orthodox Church and the media within Russian society. The articles collected here explore all of these dimensions, reflecting the interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and cutting-edge scholarship that has been the defining feature of *Europe-Asia Studies* throughout the almost 70 years of its existence.

David J. Smith

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Articles

[Political Opposition in Russia: A Troubled Transformation](#)

Vladimir Gel'man

Volume 67, Issue 2 (2015)

[Russia's Identity: Between the 'Domestic' and the 'International'](#)

Richard Sakwa

Volume 63, Issue 6 (2011)

[Putin's 'Preventive Counter-Revolution': Post-Soviet Authoritarianism and the Spectre of Velvet Revolution](#)

Robert Horvath

Volume 63, Issue 1 (2011)

[Lottizzazione Russian Style: Russia's Two-tier Media System](#)

John A. Dunn

Volume 66, Issue 9 (2014)

[Elections Russian-Style](#)

Stephen White

Volume 63, Issue 4 (2011)

[Questioning Control and Contestation in Late Putinite Russia](#)

Richard Sakwa

Volume 67, Issue 2 (2015)

[The Puzzle of Russian Anti-Americanism: From 'Below' or From 'Above'](#)

Vladimir Shlapentokh

Volume 63, Issue 5 (2011)

[The Church in the Service of the Fatherland](#)

Kathy Rousselet

Volume 67, Issue 1 (2015)

[Ukraine between Russia and the European Union: Triangle Revisited](#)

Vsevolod Samokhvalov

Volume 67, Issue 9 (2015)

[Nationalism for Export? The Domestic and Foreign-Policy Implications of the New 'Russian Idea'](#)

Luke March

Volume 64, Issue 3 (2012)