Lecture 5
FROM PUTIN TO...PUTIN: RUSSIA AND ITS NEW PROJECT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

April 10, 1.30-3.30 PM
Structure

• Russia in 90th
• It’s time to build (1999-2007)
• Putin in Munich and Georgian war (2007-2008)
• Annexation of Crimea 2014
• Putin’s consensus
• What lies ahead for Russia?
Statistics

- **Population**: 142,122,776
- **Ethnicity**: Russian 77.7%, Tatar 3.7%, Ukrainian 1.4%, Bashkir 1.1%, Chuvash 1%, Chechen 1%, other 10.2%, unspecified 3.9%
- **Population growth rate**: -0.11%

Life expectancy at birth:
- **total population**: 71.3 years
- **male**: 65.6 years
- **female**: 77.3 years (2018)

- **GDP per capita**: $10,743 (2017)
Russia in 90th

- Economic collapse
- Development of the Oligarch system (“semya”)
- President election in 1996: candidate Boris Yeltsin
- First and Second Chechen War
It’s time to build (1999-2007)

• Structural changes and challenges
• Collaboration with EU (financial and infrastructural projects, partnership with NATO)
• Reintegration process within Commonwealth of Independent States
• “Soft Power” model
Vladimir Putin’s Geopolitics Games

Geopolitics versus a “universal” international system of values (Clash of Civilizations)

• The concept of “Russkyi Mir” (Russian World)
The weak spots: Transnistria, South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Crimea
Putin in Munich and war with Georgia (2007-2008)

08.08.2008 war with Georgia
Modern hybrid warfare

- Hofman: Any adversary that simultaneously employs a tailored mix of conventional weapons, irregular tactics, terrorism, and criminal behavior in the same time and battlespace to obtain their political objectives.

- Cyber attacks and Electronic warfare

- Economic pressure and sanctions

- Engagement of private military companies and local criminals
Russian Strategy in Post Soviet Space after 1999

- Post-Soviet Economics and energy dependence

- Regional organizations of cooperation and Security:
  - Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
  - Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO);
  - the grouping of Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova known as GUAM;
  - Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which includes China as well as Russia and four Central Asian states
Crimea: annexation
https://vimeo.com/123194285
Details of operation “Back Home”

**Timeline**
- February 22: President Yanukovich flees Kiyv
- Feb 25: Pro-Russian activists block Crimean parliament, in Sevastopol A. Chaliy is elected
- Feb 27: protests in Simferopol, Sergey Aksyonov was appointed as PM, Parliament votes on referendum date
- Feb 28: “little green men” appear in Crimean Parliament
- Feb 28: Simferopol and Sevastopol Airports are seized
March 2: the head of the Security Service of Crimea, Pettier Zima, Chief of the Department of Internal Affairs in the Crimea, Sergey Abisov, the head of Service for Emergency Situations Sergei Shakhov and acting Chief of the Border Guards of Crimea Victor Melnichenko each take an oath of allegiance to the people of Crimea

March 2: newly appointed chief of the Ukrainian Navy, Denis Berezovsky, in a televised statement announces that he refuses to follow orders from the self-declared government in Kiev and declares loyalty to Crimean authorities and people

March 16: Crimean referendum. Some 95.5% of voters in Crimea support joining Russia
March 18: President of Russia Vladimir Putin addresses State Duma deputies, Federation Council members, heads of Russian regions and civil society representatives in the Kremlin, calling for the creation of "two new constituent entities within the Russian Federation: the Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol."

March 18-25: Russian soldiers storm Ukrainian military bases in Crimea.

March 25: Russia awards a medal to former Ukrainians who assisted in the annexation of Crimea. Controversy erupts over the reverse of the medallion, which dates "the return of Crimea" as February 20 — March 18.
"Otpuskniki" (vacationers)
Aproximately 2000 GRU “vacationers” arrive in Crimea between February 22 and March 10, 2014
“Russian PMCs are the tools for the implementation of national interests without the direct participation of the state”, – Vladimir Putin, April 11, 2012
Reactions and consequences:

• Ukraine: Loss of territory, riots and warfare in the Donbass, political stagnation, economic and social challenges. National sentiments and a more active civil society.

• Russia: International criticism, obscurity and sanctions, growing domestic personal support of President Putin.
Putin’s List

2018
The US Treasury Department released a supposed list of 114 Russian politicians and businessmen, as well as 96 people labeled oligarchs.
Putin’s consensus

• Aftermath: Life in Crimea now
• International development on a conflict
• Who is next?
What lies ahead for Russia?

Рабочие в городе Чжуцзи смотрят трансляцию открытия 18 съезда Компартии Китая, на котором Си Цзиньпин был избран генсеком. 8 ноября 2012 года

The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China began on November 8, 2012.