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## Putin Country Journey Into Russia

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### JORDON HICKS

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*Molotov's Magic Lantern* RAND

Just five years after a Soviet missile blew a civilian airliner out of the sky over the North Pacific, an Alaska Airlines jet braved Cold War tensions to fly into tomorrow. Crossing the Bering Strait between Alaska and the Russian Far East, the 1988 Friendship Flight reunited Native peoples of common languages and cultures for the first time in four decades. It and other dramatic efforts to thaw what was known as the Ice Curtain launched a thirty-year era of perilous, yet prolific, progress. Melting the Ice Curtain tells the story of how inspiration, courage, and persistence by citizen-diplomats bridged a widening gap in superpower relations. David Ramseur was a first-hand witness to the danger and political intrigue, having flown on that first Friendship Flight, and having spent thirty years behind the scenes with some of Alaska's highest officials. As Alaska celebrates the 150th anniversary of its purchase, and as diplomatic ties with Russia become perilous, Melting the Ice Curtain shows that history might hold the best lessons for restoring diplomacy between nuclear neighbors.

[Black Earth](#) Suhrkamp Verlag

[Putin Country](#) Farrar, Straus and Giroux

[Nichts ist wahr und alles ist möglich](#) St. Martin's Press

Over the past century alone, Russia has lived through great achievements and deepest misery; mass heroism and mass crime; over-blown ambition and near-hopeless despair – always emerging with its sovereignty and its fiercely independent spirit intact. In this book, leading Russia scholar Dmitri Trenin accompanies readers on Russia's rollercoaster journey from revolution to post-war devastation, perestroika to Putin's stabilization of post-Communist Russia. Explaining the causes and the meaning of the numerous twists and turns in contemporary Russian history, he offers a vivid insider's view of a country through one of its most trying and often tragic periods. Today, he cautions, Russia stands at a turning point – politically, economically and socially – its situation strikingly reminiscent of the Russian Empire in its final years. For the Russian Federation to avoid a similar demise, it must learn the lessons of its own history.

*Warmonger* Random House

Die fünf Staaten mit »stan« im Namen erstrecken sich von der Wüste bis ins Hochgebirge, gelangten, wie Kasachstan, dank großer Öl- und Gasreserven zu beachtlichem Reichtum oder zählen, wie Usbekistan, zu den ärmsten Ländern der Welt. Was sie eint, ist eine große Zerrissenheit – zwischen jahrzehntelanger Sowjetherrschaft und autonomer Selbstverwaltung; zwischen hypermoderner Großmachtinszenierung und ärmlichen Lebensbedingungen; zwischen diktatorischem Herrscherkult und höchst lebendigen Traditionen und Kulturen. Erika Fatland erzählt von Samarkand und Dschingis Khan, von Brautraub und der Kunst der Adlerjagd, von erstaunlichen Machtdemonstrationen korrupter Despoten, von marmornen Städten und riesigen Goldstatuen, die sich mit der Sonne drehen. Voller Fragen, Neugierde und Abenteuerlust machte sich Erika Fatland auf in diese so fernab gelegenen Länder. Sowjetistan ist das Ergebnis dieser Reise: eine beeindruckende Reportage voller erstaunlicher, ergreifender und skurriler

Geschichten, Begebenheiten und Begegnungen, die einem immer wieder aufs Neue die Augen öffnen. Ein fulminant erzähltes, ebenso bereicherndes wie lehrreiches Buch über einen im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes unfassbaren Teil der Welt.

*Melting the Ice Curtain* Profile Books

'Would you like to know where Putin comes from? What the Russians are like today? And why? Read this book' SVETLANA ALEXIEVICH 'Elena Kostyuchenko is an important guide to the twenty-first century' TIMOTHY SNYDER To be a journalist is to tell the truth. To be patriotic is to be critical, honest and fearless. I Love Russia takes us to places that non-Russians have never seen and brings us voices we have never heard. It is Elena Kostyuchenko's courageous attempt to document Russia as experienced by those whom it systematically and brutally erases: village girls recruited into sex work, queer people in the outer provinces, patients and doctors at a Ukrainian maternity ward, and reporters like herself. At once uncompromising and deeply humane, it stitches reportage and personal essays into a kaleidoscopic, often other-worldly journey. Here is Russia as it is, not as we imagine it. I Love Russia may be the last work from her homeland Kostyuchenko will publish for a long time – perhaps ever. She writes driven by the conviction that the greatest form of love and patriotism is criticism. And because the threat of Putin's Russia extends beyond herself, beyond Crimea, and beyond Ukraine. This is a singular portrait of a nation, and of a woman who refuses to be silenced. 'Elena's bravery and reportage are astonishing' CHRISTINA LAMB, author of *Our Bodies, Their Battlefields*  
*Black Earth: A Journey Through Russia After the Fall* Simon and Schuster

"That Black Earth is an extraordinary work is, for anyone who has known Russia, beyond question."—George Kennan "A compassionate glimpse into the extremes where the new Russia meets the old," writes Robert Legvold (Foreign Affairs) about Andrew Meier's enthralling new work. Journeying across a resurgent and reputedly free land, Meier has produced a virtuosic mix of nuanced history, lyric travelogue, and unflinching reportage. Throughout, Meier captures the country's present limbo—a land rich in potential but on the brink of staggering back into tyranny—in an account that is by turns heartrending and celebratory, comic and terrifying. A 2003 New York Public Library Book to Remember. "Black Earth is the best investigation of post-Soviet Russia since David Remnick's Resurrection. Andrew Meier is a truly penetrating eyewitness."—Robert Conquest, author of *The Great Terror*; "If President Bush were to read only the chapters regarding Chechnya in Meier's Black Earth, he would gain a priceless education about Putin's Russia."—Zbigniew Brzezinski "Even after the fall of Communism, most American reporting on Russia often goes no further than who's in and who's out in the Kremlin and the business oligarchy. Andrew Meier's Russia reaches far beyond . . . this Russia is one where, as Meier says, history has a hard time hiding. Readers could not easily find a livelier or more insightful guide."—Adam Hochschild, author of *King Leopold's Ghost* and *The Unquiet Ghost: Russians Remember Stalin* "From the pointless war in Chechnya to the wild, exhilarating, and dispiriting East and the rise of Vladimir Putin, the former KGB officer—it's all here in great detail, written in the layers the story deserves, with insight, passion, and genuine affection."—Michael Specter, staff writer, *The New Yorker*; co-chief, *The New York Times Moscow Bureau*, 1995-98. "[Meier's] knowledge of the country and his abiding love for its people stands out on every page of this book....But it is his linguistic fluency, in particular, which enables Mr. Meier to dig so deeply into Russia's black earth."—*The Economist* "A wonderful travelogue that depicts the Russian people yet again trying to build a new life without really changing their old one."—William Taubman, *The New York Times Book Review*.

*Russia* Putin Country

Travels with NPR host David Greene along the Trans-Siberian Railroad capture an overlooked, idiosyncratic Russia in the age of Putin. Far away from the trendy cafés, designer boutiques, and political protests and crackdowns in Moscow, the real Russia exists. Midnight in Siberia chronicles David Greene's journey on the Trans-Siberian Railway, a 6,000-mile cross-country trip from Moscow to the Pacific port of Vladivostok. In quadruple-bunked cabins and stopover towns sprinkled across the country's snowy landscape, Greene speaks with ordinary Russians about how their lives have changed in the post-Soviet years. These travels offer a glimpse of the new Russia—a nation that boasts open elections and newfound prosperity but continues to endure oppression, corruption, a dwindling population, and stark inequality. We follow Greene as he finds opportunity and hardship embodied in his fellow train travelers and in conversations with residents of towns throughout Siberia. We meet Nadezhda, an entrepreneur who runs a small hotel in Ishim, fighting through corrupt layers of bureaucracy every day. Greene spends a joyous evening with a group of babushkas who made international headlines as runners-up at the Eurovision singing competition. They sing Beatles covers, alongside their traditional songs, finding that music and companionship can heal wounds from the past. In Novosibirsk, Greene has tea with Alexei, who runs the carpet company his mother began after the Soviet collapse and has mixed feelings about a government in which his family has done quite well. And in Chelyabinsk, a hunt for space debris after a meteorite landing leads Greene to a young man orphaned as a teenager, forced into military service, and now figuring out if any of his dreams are possible. Midnight in Siberia is a lively travel narrative filled with humor, adventure, and insight. It opens a window onto that country's complicated relationship with democracy and offers a rare look into the soul of twenty-first-century Russia.

*Extending Russia* Carl Hanser Verlag GmbH Co KG

»Ein augenöffnendes Buch über das System Putin.« Süddeutsche Zeitung Als Ende der 1980er-Jahre die Sowjetunion zusammenbrach, ahnte niemand, dass ein ehemaliger KGB-Agent sich über Jahrzehnte als russischer Präsident behaupten würde. Und kaum jemand rechnete damit, dass Putin seine Drohungen wahr machen und einen Krieg beginnen würde. Doch ein Alleinherrscher ist Wladimir Putin nicht. Seine Macht stützt sich auf ein Netzwerk ehemaliger sowjetischer KGB-Agenten, dessen Einfluss weit über Russland hinausreicht. Catherine Belton, ehemalige Moskauer-Korrespondentin der Financial Times, hat mit zahlreichen ehemaligen Kreml-Insidern gesprochen. Etwas, das bisher einmalig sein dürfte. Es sind Männer, deren Macht Putin zu groß wurde und die nun selbst vom Kreml »gejagt« werden. Belton beleuchtet ein mafiöses Geflecht aus Kontrolle, Korruption und Machtbesessenheit und zeichnet damit eine jahrzehntelange Entwicklung, die dem Westen eine Warnung hätte sein müssen. Ihr Buch liest sich in aller seine Komplexität so spannenden wie beängstigend. Ein machtpolitischer Thriller, der im Februar 2022 zur schlimmstmöglichen Realität geworden ist. Nominiert als bestes Buch des Jahres von The Economist, Financial Times, The New Statesman und The Telegraph »Catherine Belton hat Männer zum Reden gebracht, bei denen man nicht unbedingt erwarten würde, dass sie reden wollen. Mit vielen Details entwickelt sie ein lebendiges Bild der wirtschaftlichen und politischen Umbrüche, die Russland in den vergangenen 30 Jahren erlebt hat.« Reinhard Vesper, FAZ »Dieses fesselnde, fundiert recherchierte Buch ist wohl das Beste, das über Putin und die Menschen um ihn herum geschrieben wurde. Vielleicht sogar das

beste über das heutige Russland.« Peter Frankopan »Sensationell ist ihr Einblick in die Strukturen des KGB. Dokumentiert wird, wie sich die KGB-Führung bereits zu Sowjetzeiten auf das nächste Kapitel der russischen Geschichte vorbereitete – basierend auf Geheimdienst-Traditionen, die noch aus der Zarenzeit stammten.« John Kornblum, ehemaliger Botschafter der USA »Schritt für Schritt seziert Belton Putins Aufstieg und den Putinismus. Ihr Buch zeigt, wie Russlands Präsident in jeder Phase seiner Karriere die Methoden, Kontakte und Netzwerke des KGB in vollem Umfang nutzte. Ihre Darstellung wird maßgebend sein.« Anne Applebaum, *The Atlantic* »Furchtlos und faszinierend. Das Buch liest sich stellenweise wie ein John le Carré-Roman. Eine bahnbrechende und sorgfältig recherchierte Anatomie des Putin-Regimes. Beltons Buch wirft ein Licht auf die Gefahren, die vom russischen Geld und Russlands Einfluss auf den Westen ausgehen.« Daniel Beer, *The Guardian* »Bücher über das moderne Russland gibt es viele. Catherine Belton übertrifft sie alle. Ihr lang erwartetes Buch ist das beste und wichtigste über das heutige Russland.« Edward Lucas, *The Times*  
**21 Lessons for the 21st Century** Rowman & Littlefield

Wladimir Putin führt Krieg gegen die Ukraine - und bedroht alle westlichen Demokratien, vor allem in Europa. Wie konnte es dazu kommen, dass die Freiheit und Offenheit, die einst durch Glasnost und Perestroika in Russland Einzug hielten, heute wieder in Gefahr sind? Wer verstehen will, was Putin antreibt, warum er die Konfrontation mit dem Westen sucht und den Krieg in Kauf nimmt, sollte das politische Vermächtnis von Michail Gorbatschow lesen. Wie kein zweiter Politiker hat er auf Annäherung und Gewaltfreiheit gesetzt. Er ist ein Politiker von gestern mit einem wachen Blick für das Morgen. Mit einzigartiger Kennerchaft beschreibt er die Entstehung des "Systems Putin" und die Absichten dieses Mannes. Unverblümt rechnet er mit Putin ab. Dieser zerstöre um seiner eigenen Macht willen die Errungenschaften der Perestroika in Russland und errichte ein System ohne Zukunft.  
*The Russia Conundrum* Faber & Faber  
Winston Churchill famously described Russia as 'a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma' and even today it remains a country little understood by the West. In this revealing portrait, Jonathan Dimbleby crosses eight time zones and covers 10,000 miles in an attempt to get to the beating heart of the new Russia. His epic journey takes him from the Arctic city of Murmansk in the west to the Asian port of Vladivostok in the east, and he encounters an extraordinary range of people: urban intellectuals and entrepreneurs, war veterans and migrant labourers, spiritual leaders and aging rock stars, bootleg vendors and fish poachers, loggers in the forests of Siberia and fellow journalists under siege in an increasingly autocratic society. Russia is both a deeply personal odyssey and a mesmerizing account of a country undergoing profound economic, cultural and political change.

*Putins Netz. Wie sich der KGB Russland zurückholte und dann den Westen ins Auge fasste* Random House

This book provides a comprehensive and systematic overview of Putin's third term as Russia's president. It covers political, international relations, economic and social issues, and provides a balanced assessment of Putin's successes and failures. These include the conflict in Ukraine, the annexation of Crimea, scandals associated with the Olympics, Russia's increasing involvement with Asia, including with the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation, and shifts in the economy away from huge reliance on energy resources. The book sets Putin's activities as president in their wider context, discussing his overall popularity, the weakness of potential opposition and the development of the Russian Federation as a relatively new state.

*There Is Nothing for You Here* Hachette UK

When Vladimir Putin, an unimportant, low-level KGB operative, was rushed to power by a group of Oligarchs in 1999, he was a man without a history. Within a few brief years, Putin had dismantled Russia's media, wrested control and wealth from the country's burgeoning business class, and decimated the fragile mechanisms of democracy. Virtually every obstacle to his unbridled control was removed and every opposing voice silenced, with political rivals and critics driven into exile or to the grave. Drawing on information and sources no other writer has tapped, Masha Gessen's fearless account charts Putin's rise from the boy who had scrapped his way through post-war Leningrad schoolyards, to the 'faceless' man who manoeuvred his way into absolute - and absolutely corrupt - power.

*Historical Dictionary of the Russian Federation* Haus Publishing

As the U.S. National Defense Strategy recognizes, the United States is currently locked in a great-power competition with Russia. This report seeks to define areas where the United States can compete to its own advantage. It examines Russian vulnerabilities and anxieties; analyzes potential policy options to exploit them; and assesses the associated benefits, costs, and risks, as well as the likelihood of successful implementation.

*Russia* Polity

This second edition of *Historical Dictionary of the Russian Federation* contains a chronology, an introduction, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 700 cross-referenced entries on important personalities, politics, economy, foreign relations, religion, and culture.

*I Love Russia* Goldmann Verlag

Eine glänzend geschriebene Geschichte Sowjetrusslands – von den Wurzeln des Bolschewismus bis zum Putsch gegen Gorbatschow 1991. Laut Orlando Figes erstreckt sich die Wirkung der Russischen Revolution von 1917 über die Jahrzehnte der Diktatur bis in die Gegenwart. So waren die Sowjetführer bis zuletzt überzeugt, dass sie die von Lenin begonnene Revolution fortsetzten und auf ihre Ziele hinarbeiteten: eine kommunistische Gesellschaft des materiellen Überflusses für das Proletariat und ein neuer kollektiver Menschentyp. In einem historischen Moment, da in Russland unter Putin die autoritäre Staatstradition wiederauflebt, liefert Figes eine überzeugende Interpretation des russischen 20. Jahrhunderts.

**Russia** Routledge

'Wise and thorough' Spectator 'Brisk and readable ... very valuable' Financial Times 'He is an engaging guide ... and writes with the same flair demonstrated in his previous bestseller *Afgantsy*' Sunday Telegraph 'A scholarly yet highly readable gallop through the last 1000 years of Russian history ... To understand this tormented nation, you can do no better than read this illuminating portrait' Jonathan Dimbleby With its attack on Ukraine, Russia's future seems almost as uncertain as its past. The largest country in the world - with the largest arsenal of nuclear weapons - has been known over the past thousand years as Rus, Muscovy, the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. Thirty years ago it was reinvented as the Russian Federation. Russia is not an enigma but its past is violent, tragic, sometimes glorious, and certainly complicated. Like the rest of us, the Russians constantly rewrite their history. They too omit episodes of national disgrace in favour of patriotic anecdotes, sometimes more rooted in myth

than reality. Expert and former ambassador Rodric Braithwaite unpicks fact from fiction to discover what lies at the root of the Russian story, more relevant to the rest of the world now than ever before.

[Making Russia and Turkey Great Again?](#) Bloomsbury Publishing

'In the late summer of 2016,' writes award-winning travel writer Stephan Orth, 'a journey to Russia feels like visiting enemy territory.' In this humorous and thought-provoking book, Orth ventures through that vast and mysterious land to uncover the real, unfiltered Russia not seen in today's headlines: authentic, bizarre, dangerous, and beautiful. Sidestepping the well-trod tourist path by staying with an eclectic array of hosts, he bumps into gun nuts, internet conspiracy theorists, faux shamans, and Putin fans; learns to drive in death-defying Russian style; and discovers how to cure hangovers by sniffing rye bread. But he also sees a darker side of the country, witnessing firsthand the effects of Putin's influence in the run-up to the American election and the power of propaganda in this 'post-fact' era. Weaving everything together with thoughtfulness and warmth, Orth follows the bestselling Couchsurfing in Iran with another complex, funny, and personal travelogue – a colourful portrait of a fascinating and misunderstood country. 'Funny, insightful, and mind-bendingly entertaining. Stephan Orth is a fearless and fabulous tour guide to the real Russia and its people.'—Lisa Dickey, author of *Bears in the Streets: Three Journeys across a Changing Russia* 'Quirky, subtly revealing ... Amazing reporting, generous pictures, and the author's true sense of connection with the locals add up to a truly honest view of Russia today.'—Kirkus Reviews *Couchsurfing in Russia* HarperCollins

A journey into the glittering, surreal heart of 21st century Russia, where even dictatorship is a reality show Professional killers with the souls of artists, would-be theater directors turned Kremlin puppet-masters, suicidal supermodels, Hell's Angels who hallucinate themselves as holy warriors, and oligarch revolutionaries: welcome to the wild and bizarre heart of twenty-first-century Russia. It is a world erupting with new money and new power, changing so fast it breaks all sense of reality, home to a form of dictatorship far subtler than twentieth-century strains that is rapidly rising to challenge the West. When British producer Peter Pomerantsev plunges into the booming Russian TV industry, he gains access to every nook and corrupt cranny of the country. He is brought to smoky rooms for meetings with propaganda gurus running the nerve-center of the Russian media machine, and visits Siberian mafia-towns and the salons of the international super-rich in London and the US. As the Putin regime becomes more aggressive, Pomerantsev finds himself drawn further into the system. Dazzling yet piercingly insightful, *Nothing Is True and Everything Is Possible* is an unforgettable voyage into a country spinning from decadence into madness.

[Russia](#) Brookings Institution Press

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'The history book you need if you want to understand modern Russia' ANNE APPLEBAUM 'A magnificent, magisterial thousand year history of Russia . . . by one of the masters of Russian scholarship' SIMON SEBAG MONTEFIORE 'A great historian at the peak of his powers' WILLIAM DALRYMPLE '[An] excellent short study' MAX HASTINGS, SUNDAY TIMES 'If you really want to understand Putin's Russia today, anchored in its past of myths, then you simply have to read Figs's superb account' ANTONY BEEVOR 'A lucid chronological journey that ably illustrates how narratives from the nation's past have been used to shape its autocratic present' OBSERVER 'A valuable, instructive overview' INDEPENDENT ----- From the great storyteller of Russia, a spellbinding account of the stories that have shaped the country's past – and how they can inform its present. No other country has been so divided over its own past as Russia. None has changed its story so often. How the Russians came to tell their story, and to reinvent it as they went along, is a vital aspect of their history, their culture and beliefs. To understand what Russia's future holds – to grasp what Putin's regime means for Russia and the world – we need to unravel the ideas and meanings of that history. In *The Story of Russia*, Orlando Figes brings into sharp relief the vibrant characters that comprise Russia's rich history, and whose stories remain so important in making sense of the world's largest nation today – from the crowning of sixteen-year-old Ivan the Terrible in a candlelit cathedral, to Catherine the Great, riding out in a green uniform to arrest her husband at his palace, to the bitter last days of the Romanovs. Beautifully written and based on a lifetime of scholarship, *The Story of Russia* is a major and definitive work from the great storyteller of Russian history: sweeping, suspenseful, masterful. ----- PRAISE FOR ORLANDO FIGES 'An outstanding historian and writer, he brings distant history so close that you could feel its heartbeat' KARL OVE KNAUSGAARD 'Figes knows more about Russia than any other historian' MAX HASTINGS, SUNDAY TIMES

[The Story of Russia](#) Farrar, Straus and Giroux

An in-depth exploration of Ukraine through encounters with the many different people who live there. "Will someone pay for the spilled blood? No. Nobody." Mikhail Bulgakov composed this ominous and prophetic phrase in Kiev amid the turmoil of the Russian civil war. Since then, Ukrainian borders have shifted constantly, and its people have suffered numerous military foreign interventions. Ukraine has only existed as an independent state since 1991, and what exactly it was before then is controversial among its people as well as its European neighbors. In *Black Earth: A Journey through the Ukraine*, journalist and celebrated travel writer Jens Mühlhling takes readers across the country amid the ousting of former president Viktor Yanukovich and the Russian annexation of Crimea. Mühlhling delves deep into daily life in Ukraine, narrating his encounters with Ukrainian nationalists and old communists, Crimean Tatars and Cossacks, smugglers, and soldiers. *Black Earth* connects all these stories to convey an unconventional and unfiltered view of Ukraine, a country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and the center of countless conflicts. In this paperback edition, a new preface is included that takes into account recent developments up to the 2022 war between Russia and Ukraine.