



UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITARIANISM AND KLEPTOCRACY IN RUSSIA

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May 27, 2021

- **How has Vladimir Putin held onto power for more than twenty years and counting at this point?**

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1. **Authoritarianism and kleptocracy are not bad political or economic outcomes, they're Putin's most important tools.**
2. **Putin's true value to Russia's elites is being the indispensable man.**
3. **He "wins" when the Russian population and the outside world think he's so strong that change is not possible.**



HOW HAS PUTIN RULED FOR SO LONG?

Balancing all the elite factions *and*

Enforcing order upon the state *and*

Defining a clear grand strategy: make Russia a great power again or else it'll all come crashing down



WHAT CAN THE U.S. CONGRESS DO?

- Against authoritarianism
 - Help journalists through privacy and professional development assistance
 - Support online educational opportunities for Russian students
- Against kleptocracy
 - Support existing and future legislation (CROOK, TRAP, Combating Global Corruption, Magnitsky Act) to enhance resiliency here and build the rule of law abroad by targeting authoritarian elites

