

# UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITARIANISM AND KLEPTOCRACY IN RUSSIA

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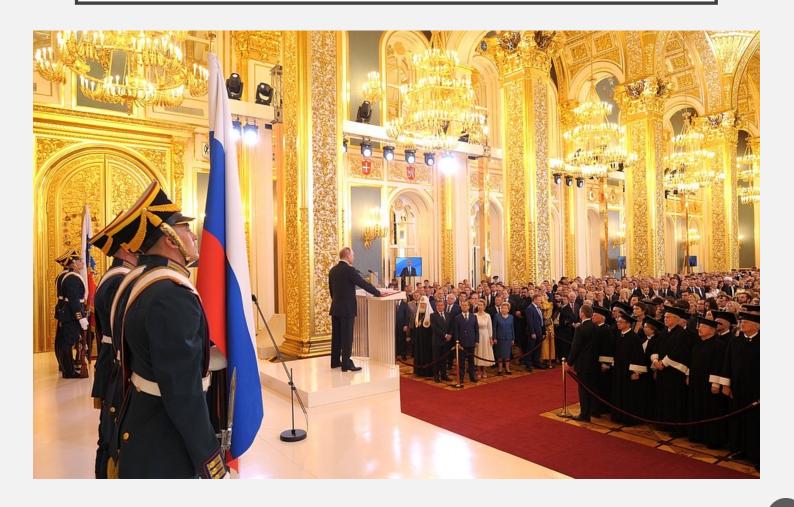
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- How has Vladimir Putin held onto power for more than twenty years and counting at this point?
- I. Authoritarianism and kleptocracy are not bad political or economic outcomes, they're Putin's most important tools.
- 2. Putin's true value to Russia's 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.

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## 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

