

## **Course syllabus developed with funding from:**

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**Populism in Russia Worksheet.** Read the following articles on populism in post-Soviet Russia:

Boghani, Priyanka. "Putin's Legal Crackdown on Civil Society"

Deiwiks, Christa. "Populism."

Sestanovich, Stephen. "What a failed Soviet coup can teach us about 21st-century populism."

In addition, watch the *Frontline* video "Putin's Way." <<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/putins-way/>> or <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bst3LDAbhmU>>.

Answer the following questions associated with the listed readings and video. Bring your answers to class on November 30<sup>th</sup> for a seminar discussion.

**Worksheet Rubric (do not mark, project begins at the bottom of this page)**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Answered all questions: (35 points possible)	_____	_____
(If yes, move to item #3)		
1a. Number of questions skipped (0.75 points each)		_____
1b. Number of skipped pages. (3.5 points each)		_____
1c. Value of skipped question:	_____	
1d. Value of each skipped page:	_____	
2. Worksheet Score		_____ /35
_____ (Value of skipped questions and pages subtracted from total value)		

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
3. All questions answered with <u>evidence</u> or an <u>extensive</u> response (Up to 10 points extra).	_____	_____ Stop. No extra credit
<b>3a. <u>Additional Worksheet Score</u></b> Questions answered with evidence (up to 5 extra points)		_____
<b>3a. <u>Additional Worksheet Score</u></b> Questions answered with extensive responses (up to 5 extra points)		_____
4. Total Worksheet Score		_____ /35

**QUESTIONS BEGIN ON NEXT PAGE**



8. What are the complementary objectives with populist referring to the people? (Deiwiks)

9. Why is the 'other' critical for the construction of a populist ideology? (Deiwiks)

10. What are the different targets of right-wing populism and left-wing populism? (Deiwiks)

**right-wing populism**

**left-wing populism**

11. What are the conditions that promote populism?

12. Considering the framework presented in the Deiwiks article, as well as knowledge gained about Russia in class, what were the conditions (the specific people or events, not just a restatement of the general conditions asked for in question 11) that promoted a populist movement with Boris Yeltsin? (Sestanovich)

- 13.** If the people and the other is the core dichotomy of populism, who are they in Yeltsin's Russia? (Sestanovich)
- 14.** What is a Demagogue?
- 15.** Why did Yeltsin fail as a populist leader? (Sestanovich)
- 16.** How does Yeltsin's failure set the stage for Vladimir Putin? (Sestanovich)
- 17.** How might Ukraine be following Yeltsin's populism model? (Sestanovich)
- 18.** Why do the new populist (called illiberal by Sestanovich) turn on the newly empowered populist and how do the old populist (liberal, using Sestanovich words) lose the support of the people?
- 19.** What does Professor Dawisha mean by saying Russia needs to be seen as an authoritarian system in the process of succeeding? ("Putin's Way")

- 20.** Considering Putin's self-produced documentary, how does this fit within the concept of Demagoguery? Also consider the internet definition of the term sockpuppet (do an internet search for: *Sockpuppet (Internet)*)
- 21.** How does the *Frontline* video Putin's Way undermine Sestanovich's premise of Putin's rise to power as a reaction to Yeltsin's fall from power?
- 22.** How does the attack on Chechnya aid Putin's (*Frontline*, Putin's Way) rise to power and how does this Russia versus Chechnya dichotomy aid a populist construction (Deiwiks)?
- 23.** Consider the conditions thought to be needed for populist movements, specifically opaqueness of political insitutions (Deiwiks), what are the characteristics of Vladimir Putin's government? (Putin's Way)
- 24.** Who is Gerhard Schröder and how does he fit into this story about Vladimir Putin? (Putin's Way)
- 25.** As a former KGB agent, how was Putin trained to relate to other people? (Putin's Way)

**26.** Why did the Arab Spring worry Vladimir Putin? (Putin's Way)

**27.** When Vladimir Putin was nearing legal limits on his term in office and he announced (in 2011) that he would run for another term as president, what was the popular reaction? (Putin's Way and Boghani)

**28.** As a lawyer and leader of the state, how did Putin discourage protests? (Boghani)

**29.** Considering the wealth of an average Russian (mentioned in Putin's Way), how does Putin shut-down spontaneous protests? (Boghani)

**30.** Putin also targeted NGOs. How does this fit into the rubric of populism? (Boghani and Deiwiks)

**31.** Why is calling NGOs "foreign agents" an effective way to slander an NGO in Russian? (Boghani)

- 32.** In terms of controlling people and motivating populist movements to support the state, how does the media in Russia feed into this support? (Boghani)
- 33.** What is the meaning behind the line that Putin is the master and prisoner of the Kremlin and what could this imply for future governance and transfer of powers in Russia (Putin's Way)
- 34.** Consider the contrast between Sestanovich's description and the Frontline video's description of the transition of power from Yeltsin to Putin. With, Russia described as "basically a corrupt, backward country," what is a potential fear of populism that Putin might have?
- 35.** What are the potential economic problems mentioned that Russia faces? (Putin's Way)
- 36.** How does Putin redirect any potential dissatisfaction the Russian people may have with his governance? (Putin's Way)
- 37.** What became of the anti-Putin populism in 2011 after Putin's confrontation with Ukraine? (Putin's Way)

**38.** What does the flight MH17 do to Russia's international position? (Putin's Way)

**39.** Why is Putin's story of a cornered rat instructive? Although not mentioned in the video, with continued economic troubles in Russia, who else could be seen as the cornered rat? (Putin's Way)

Go to "the Gaurdian" web site and search for and watch, "The Night Wolves: Putin's Motorbiking Militia of Luansk" (<<https://www.theguardian.com/news/video/2016/jan/29/the-night-wolves-putins-motorbiking-militia-of-luhansk-video>>).

**40.** What is Donbass?

**41.** Notice the old, black and white, framed photo at 2:41 and later at 11:36. Who is this person and why might the Night Wolves glorify him?

**42.** How does God, nostalgia, and patriotism fit into the Night Wolves worldview?

**43.** How is Putin viewed by the Night Wolves?

**44.** How is the West/America viewed by the Night Wolves?

**45.** Putting all the information together about Russia, populism, and Putin, why might Putin support the policies he does towards the West and Ukraine?

**46.** Why might Russian populist follow Putin instead of denounce him?

**47.** How might this information inform the West's policies toward Russia?

**48.** What might be the long-term results for Putin and Russia?