



Vladimir Putin

Where does he come from?

WEBSITE

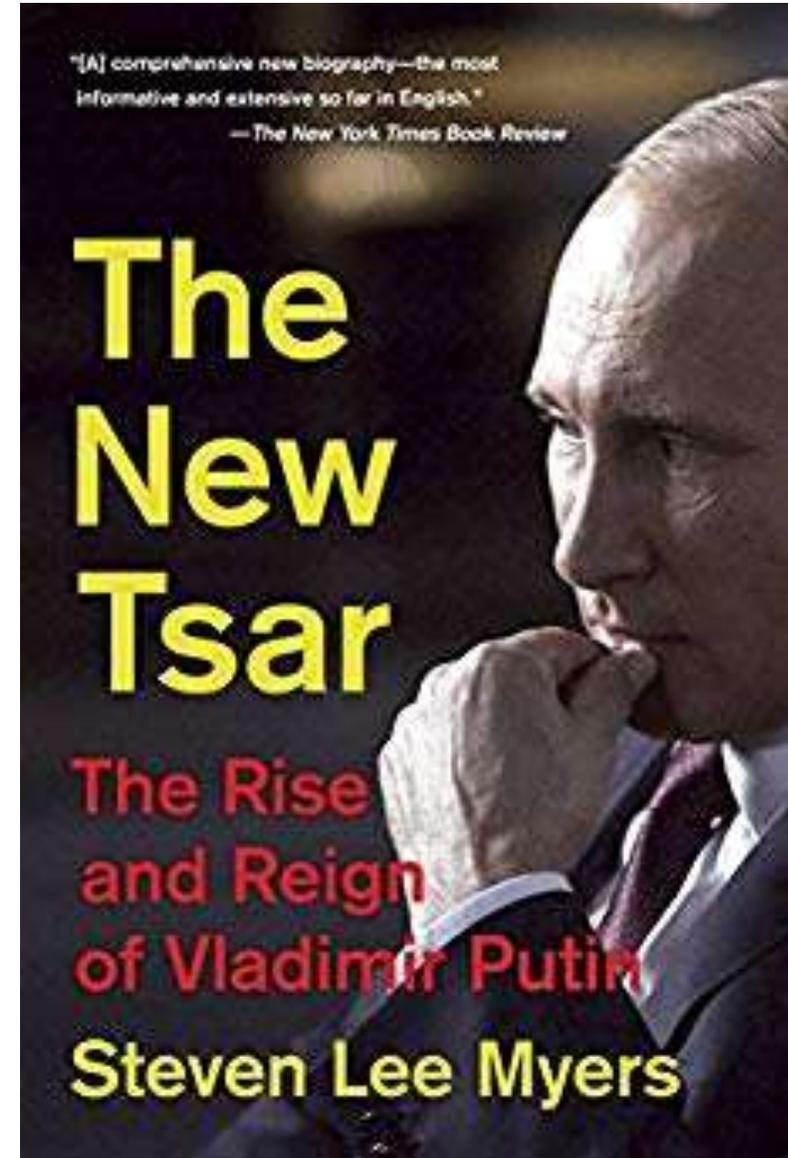
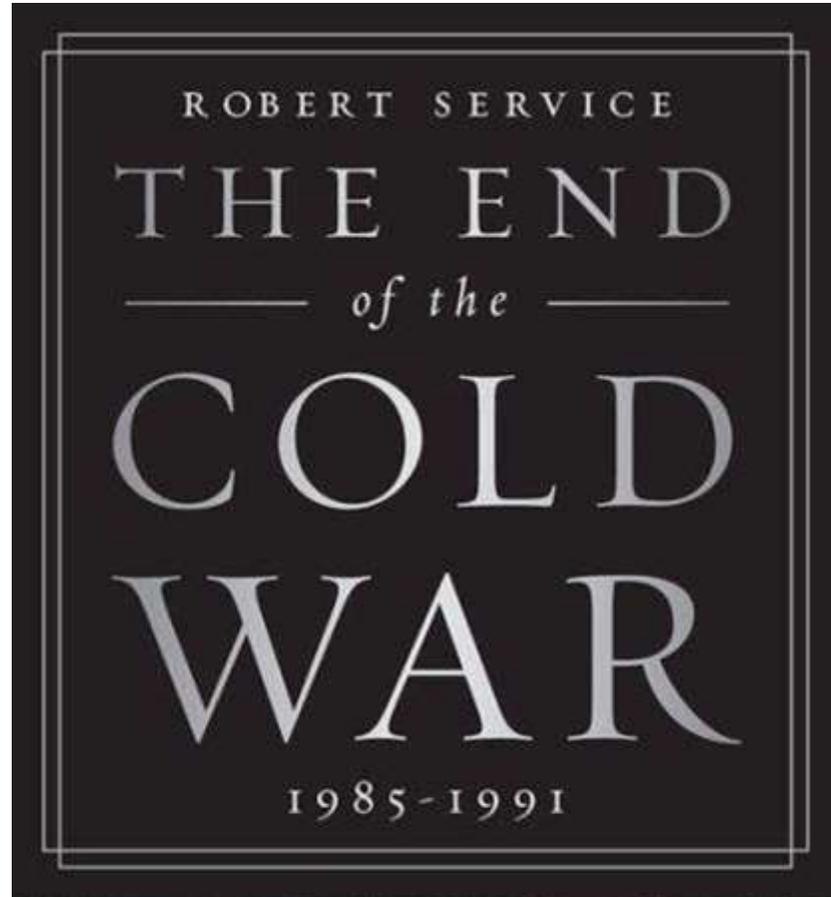
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Password to access the PowerPoint presentations: **lifeinstitute**





East Berlin
7 October 1989

40th anniversary celebrations of East
Germany

East German communist leader: Erich
Honecker

Gorbachev and Eastern bloc leaders in
attendance







Members of the **Federation of Communist Youths** cheering Gorbachev (*"Gorby"*, *"Hilf uns" – "Help us"*)



An ominous warning

“Mikhail Sergueivitch, you do understand what they are saying? Those are Party’s activists! This is the end!”

Mieczysław Rakowski



Vladimir Putin

37th birthday

A reluctant witness to the
dissolution of the Soviet bloc
(Eastern Europe)

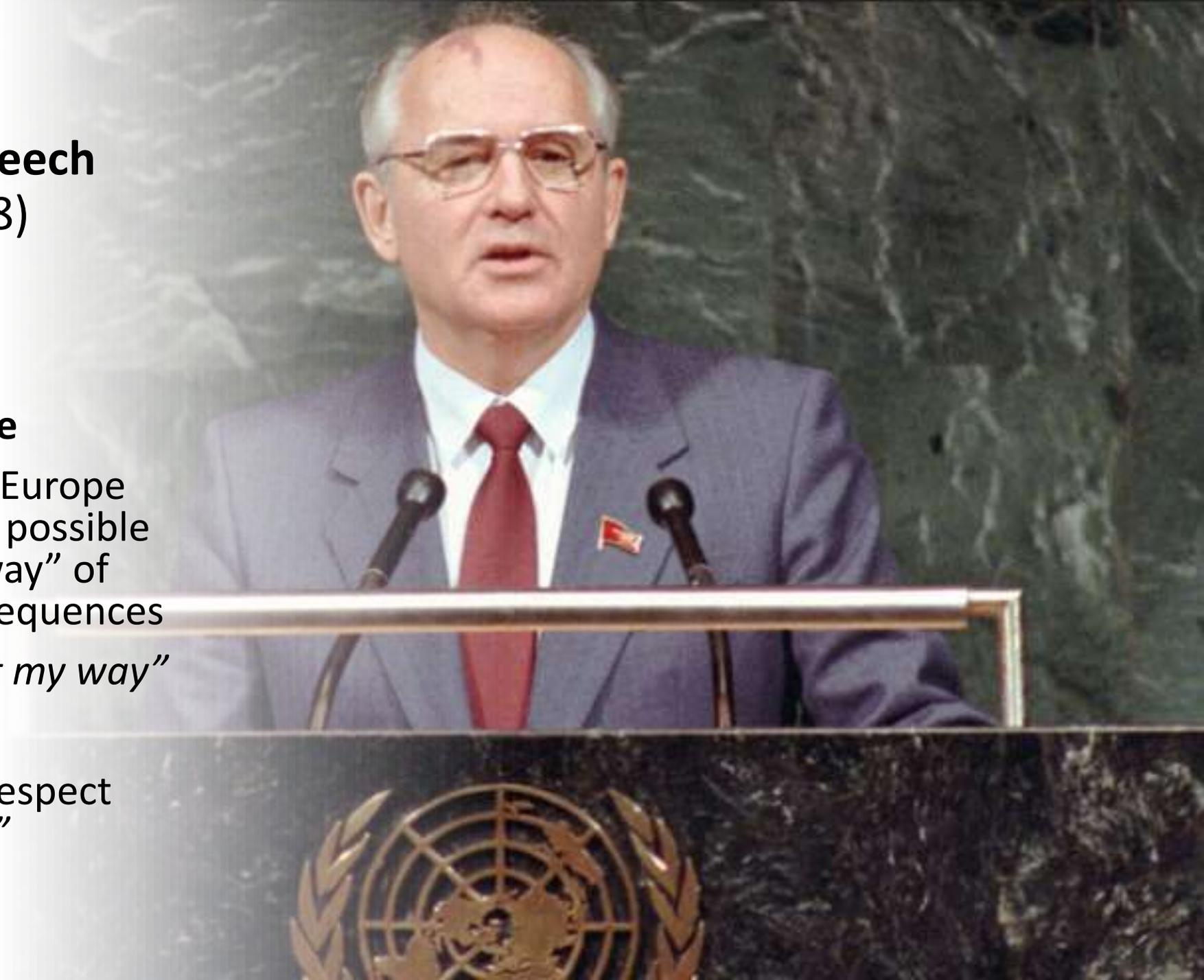
Gorbachev's **UN speech**
(December 1988)

Freedom of choice

Message to the Eastern Europe
Soviet satellites: it is now possible
to choose their "own way" of
government without consequences

"Sinatra Doctrine" *"I did it my way"*

Soviet government to respect
"universal values"



Poland

Tadeusz Mazowiecki: the first non-communist prime minister

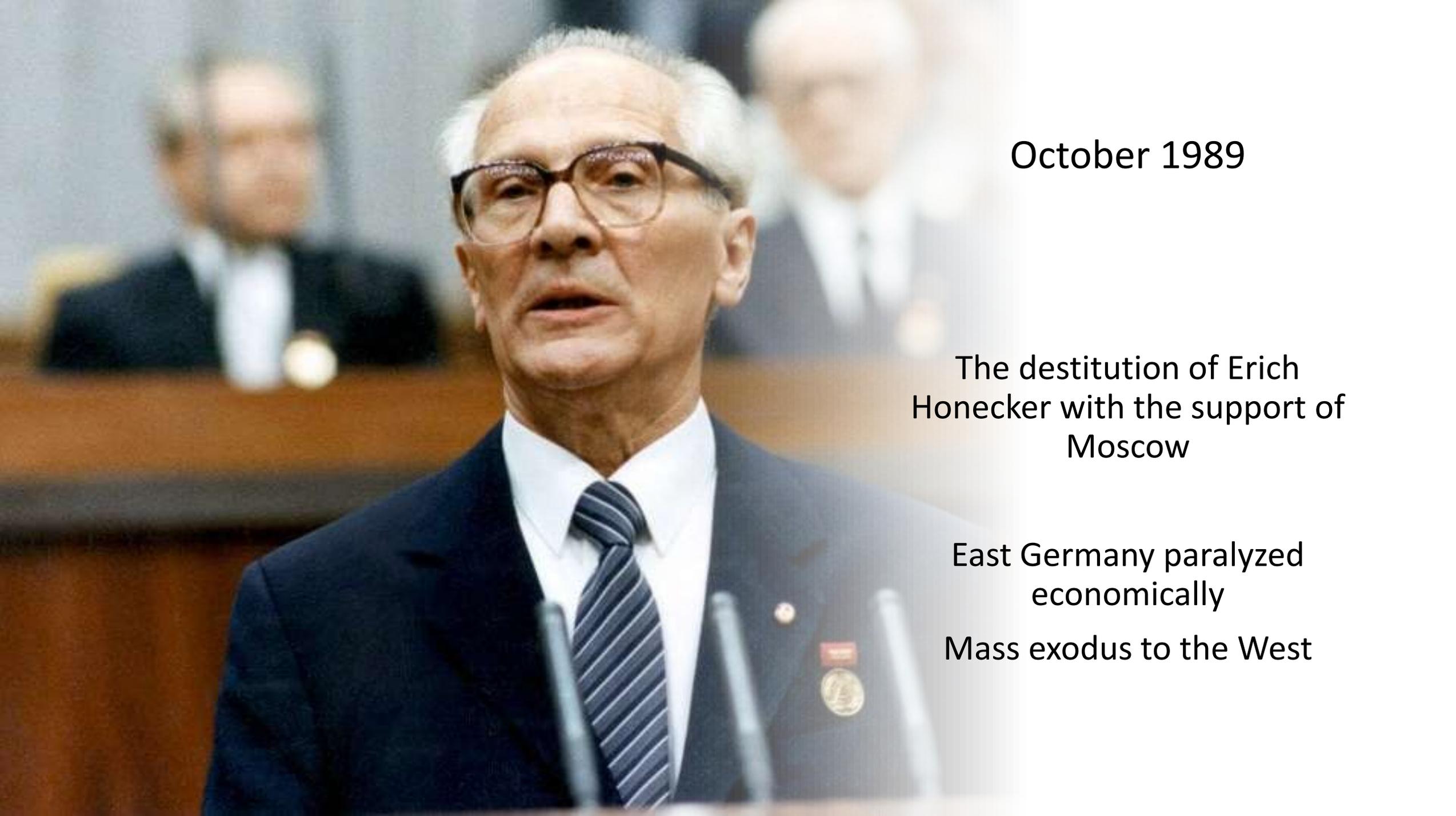
No Soviet military intervention





May 1989

Hungary opened its border
with Austria



October 1989

The destitution of Erich
Honecker with the support of
Moscow

East Germany paralyzed
economically

Mass exodus to the West

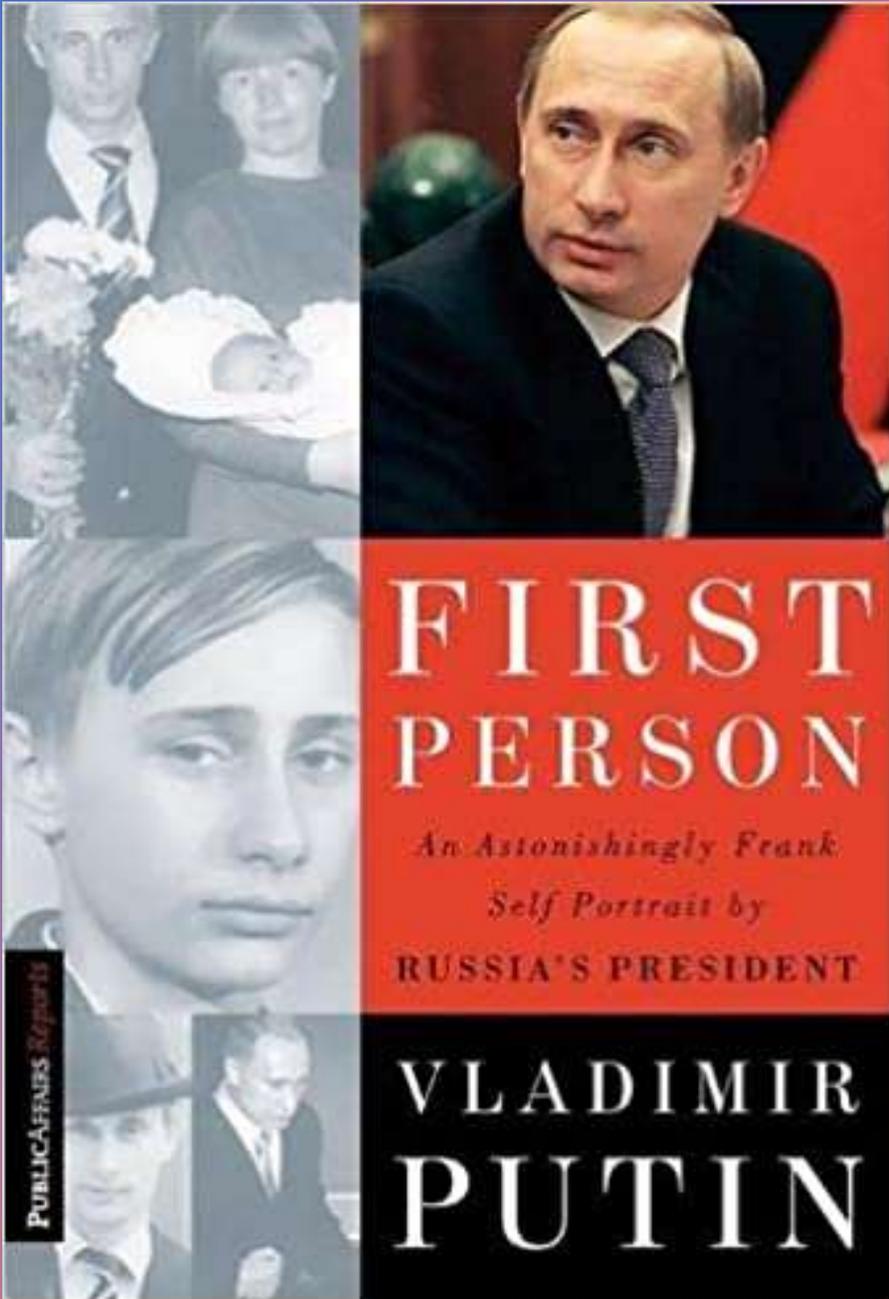


9 November 1989

The fall of the Berlin Wall

sky NEWS





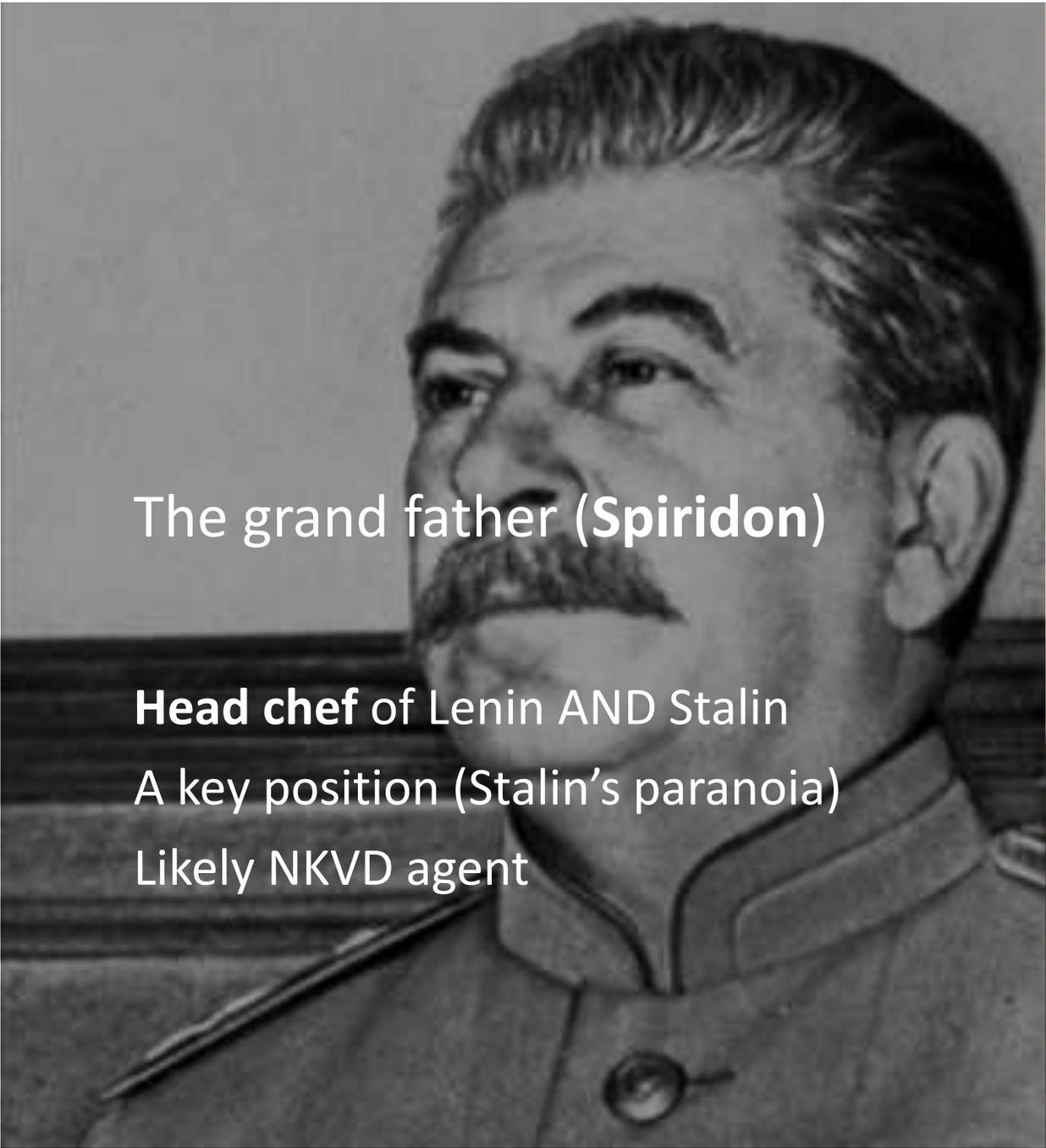
Where does Putin come from?

Rumors & fake information: Putin a descendant of... Rasputin
Born in the same village?

FALSE!

Vladimir Putin born in Leningrad
(7 October 1952)

A family in service of the secret police



The grand father (Spiridon)

Head chef of Lenin AND Stalin
A key position (Stalin's paranoia)
Likely NKVD agent



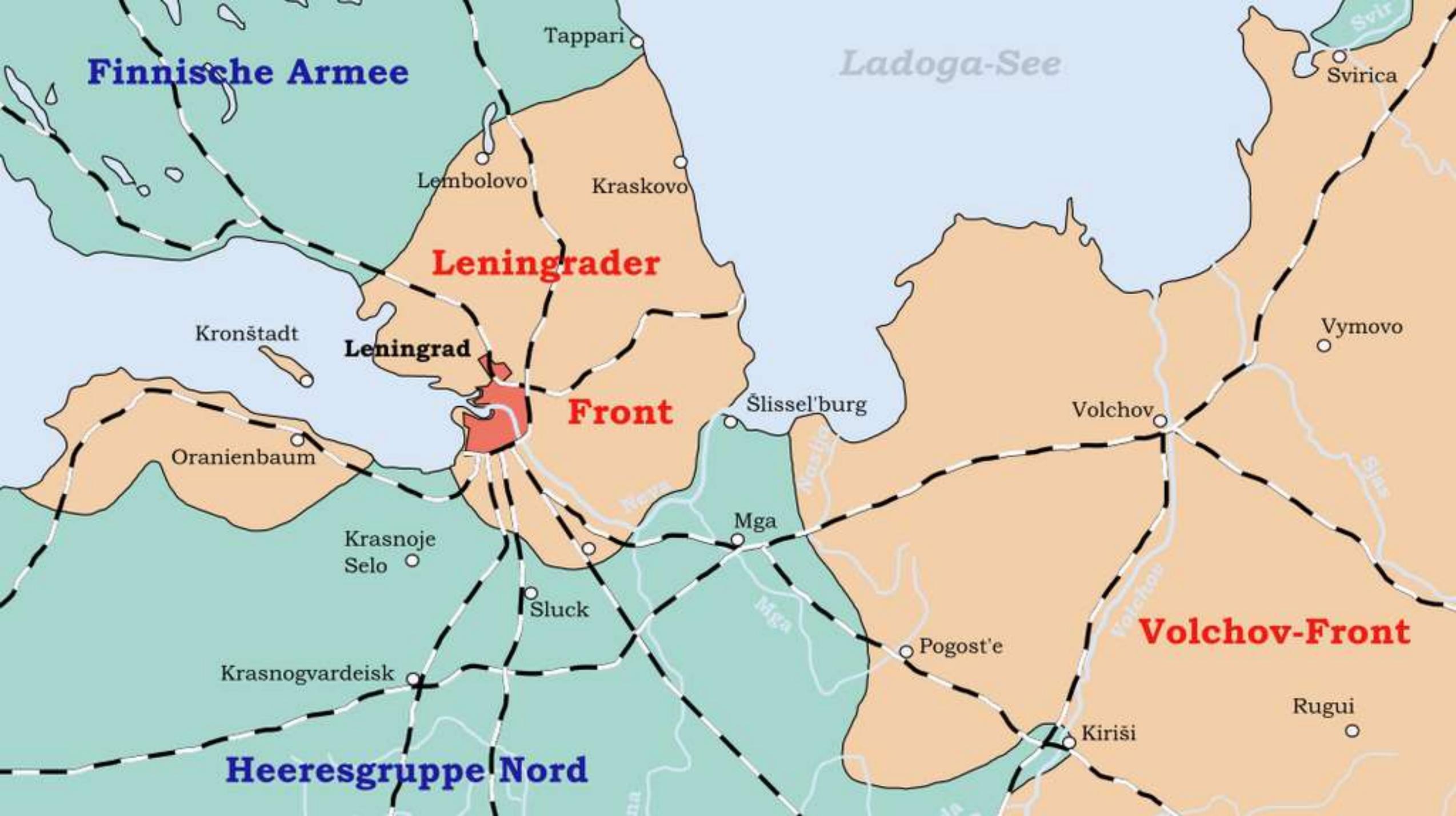


The father

Vladimir Spiridonovich Putin

NKVD agent

WW2: sole survivor of a
commando infiltrated in
Estonia behind German lines



Finnische Armee

Ladoga-See

Leningrader

Leningrad

Front

Volchov-Front

Heeresgruppe Nord

Tappari

Lembolovo

Kraskovo

Kronstadt

Oranienbaum

Krasnoje Selo

Sluck

Krasnogvardeisk

Mga

Slissel'burg

Pogost'e

Volchov

Kiriši

Rugui

Vymovo

Svirica

The German siege of Leningrad

A mother left in Leningrad who almost died of hunger

Family house destroyed
Moved to a community apartment



Smolny Institute



4 October 1957

The successful launch of the
Sputnik

A highly symbolic victory over the
Americans



The Space Race

Yuri Gagarin: the first human
to journey in outer space
(April 1961)





Modest roots but big dreams

Young Vladimir to become an astronaut, a pilot or a sailor?

A turbulent schoolboy

The practice of judo: balance & self-control

Leningrad region champion in 1976





A legal career?

Studying law: a path to the
judiciary, Party leadership or
KGB (the most gifted)

Early fascination for
espionage



The Shield and the Sword (1968)



1975

Putin joined the **KGB Second Chief Directorate**: counter-espionage
The largest of KGB departments

5-month training in Moscow
His job: to monitor foreign tourists
& businessmen
Disappointment



1983

Marriage

2 daughters



The background features a dark, atmospheric photograph of the Yuri Andropov Red Banner Institute building, a large classical-style structure with a prominent pediment. In the foreground, a large, semi-transparent portrait of Yuri Andropov is overlaid on the right side of the image. The portrait is a close-up, showing his face with a serious expression. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image, in a white, sans-serif font.

1984: Yuri Andropov Red Banner
Institute

Academy of Foreign Intelligence:
preparing KGB agents for foreign
mission

First foreign appointment: Dresden,
East Germany

Codename: "Platov"

Mostly office work

Dresden: a contraband hub

Close cooperation with the East German secret police (Stasi)

Robotron (largest East German electronics manufacturers)
Headquarters





Dealing with **Soviet paradox**

The Soviet Union: a military, political and nuclear superpower

The Soviet Union: **NOT** an economic superpower

A photograph of Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet Premier, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie, and has several medals on his chest. He is gesturing with his right hand raised. In the background, other people in suits are visible, some of whom are clapping. The scene appears to be a formal event or conference.

Early 1970s: growing concerns

Leonid Brezhnev: insufficient technological know-how



The solution:
intensifying industrial
espionage

The **KGB's mission: to steal** scientific
& technological information from the
West



Dresden: the heart of a technology **black market**

Obtaining foreign currencies (cigarette contraband) to buy **electronic components** via shell companies based in Austria or Switzerland

Remember **Vladimir Ippolitovitch Vetrov**?

KGB operative

Codename "Farewell"

A list of **250 Soviet agents (Line X)** revealed: engineers, technicians, scientists operating in the West under cover and gathering as much information as possible





Recruiting new sources

The targets: West German
businessmen

Dresden

Hôtel Bellevue

Theaterplatz

Hotel Bellevue managed
by the Stasi

The use of prostitutes
Blackmail

A cell enrolling East German
students scheduled to study
technologies at West
German universities





1985

Putin relieved by the rise to
power of Gorbachev

Much needed reforms
Gorbachev's popularity
overseas



Remember **Vladimir Kryuchkov**?

Head of the KGB

New instructions (1986): to **infiltrate** groups of political opponents to East German regime

A minor role for Putin?





Discreet contacts with
European far-left
terrorist groups

A training camp for the PLO

“Active measures” against the
“decadent” West

Dresden: a support base to German
Red Army Faction (bombings,
assassinations, kidnappings, bank
robberies...)

Carlos the Jackal



What role for Putin?

A far less minor role than
claimed after 2000

Red Faction Army financed
and supplied with weapons
by the KGB?

The fall of the Berlin Wall

A tragedy for Putin

The end of his illusions

Lack of clear directives from KGB headquarters in Moscow

Return to Leningrad





Anatoli Sobchak

First democratically elected mayor of
Saint Petersburg

Putin recruited as legal advisor

Gorbachev's efforts to save the Soviet
Union from dissolution



The legislative elections of 1990

March 1990: all 15 Soviet Republics able to hold free elections to elect their own parliament

The creation of a new role:
president of the Russian
Federation



19 August 1991

The Coup against Gorbachev

Putin in St. Petersburg (Leningrad)
Sobchak's negotiations with military
to prevent a bloodbath



The end of the Soviet Union

Their “intention was perhaps noble, because they wanted to save the Soviet Union from chaos. But the means and methods they used led, precisely, to more chaos. As soon as I saw their faces on television, I understood all was over!” (Putin)



20 August

Putin resigned from the KGB

Kryuchkov arrested



Vladimir Putin

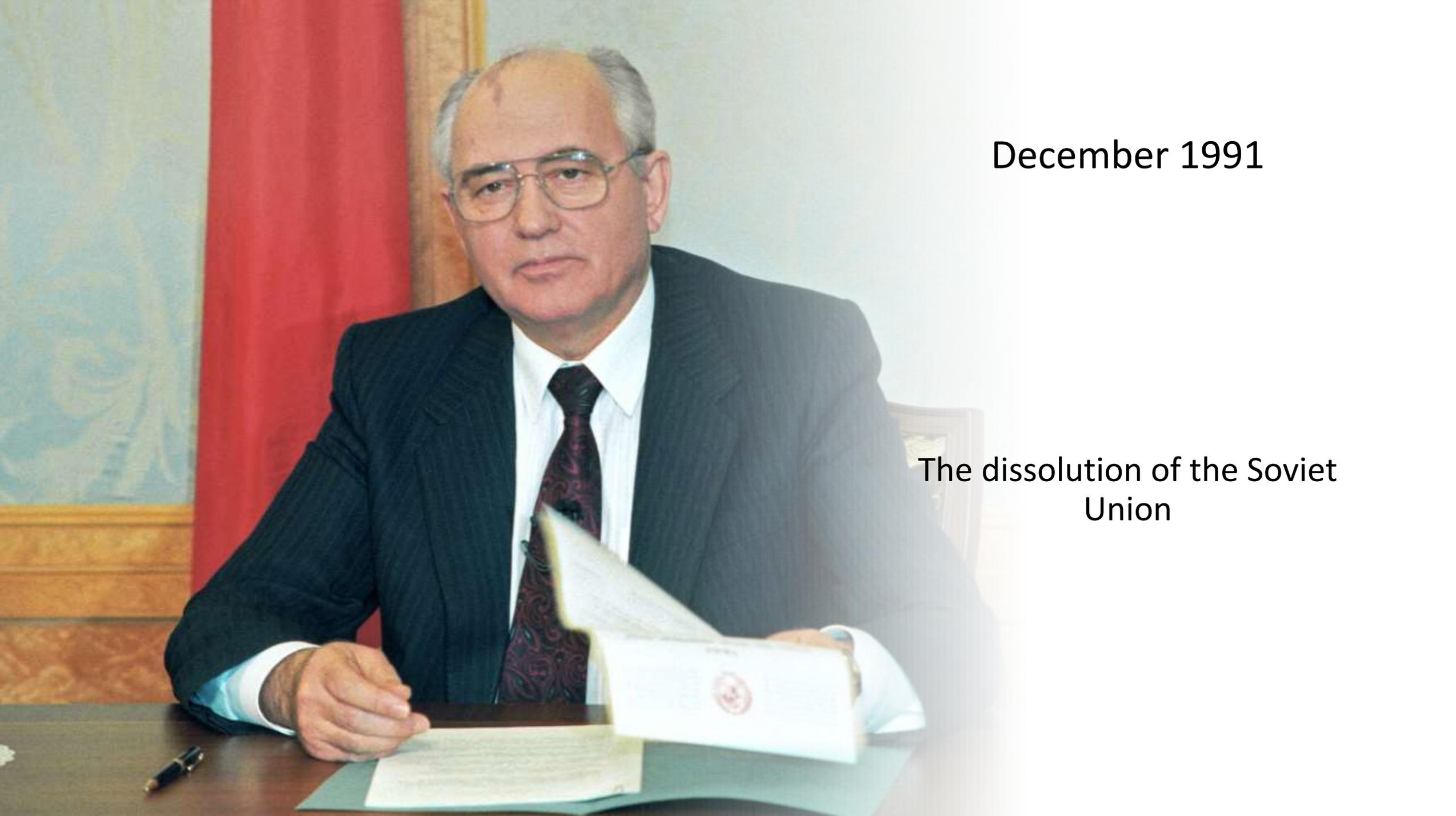
Where does he come from?



Putin's new role

To transform St. Petersburg
back into an open window to
the West





December 1991

The dissolution of the Soviet
Union



Revolution in post-Soviet Russia

Building a democracy

The introduction of market economy

“shock therapy” (a wave of uncontrolled
privatizations)

Mass poverty + hyperinflation

Nation’s wealth grabbed by a small group
of powerful businessmen (the Oligarchs)

A black and white photograph of the Russian Parliament building (the Duma) in Moscow. The building is a large, multi-story structure with a central clock tower. In the foreground, a soldier in a helmet and uniform stands with his back to the camera, looking towards the building. To the left, a tank is partially visible. In the lower foreground, a crowd of people is gathered. The image is semi-transparent, allowing text to be overlaid on the right side.

1993: constitutional
crisis

Political stand-off between
Yeltsin and Russian
parliament

Russia on the brink of civil
war

Yeltsin's consolidation of
power



Russia and the world

Financial support from the IMF
(International Monetary Fund)

A NATO-Russia partnership for
peace: creating trust between
NATO and Russia

NATO's expansion to the east: a
source of early tensions

European security order



Sources: NATO, IISS

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Cooperation with the
U.S.

Treaty **START 2** (Strategic Arms
Reduction) in January 1993



Russia and its "*near abroad*"

RUSSIA

Former Soviet Republics:
Russia's **sphere of influence**

Problem: Baltic states,
Ukraine and Georgia wanted
closer relations with the
West

ESTONIA
LATVIA
LITHUANIA
BELARUS
UKRAINE
MOLDOVA

GEORGIA
ARMENIA
AZERBAIJAN
KAZAKHSTAN
TURKMENISTAN
UZBEKISTAN
KYRGYZSTAN
TAJIKISTAN



Chechen separatism

1994: Russian military intervention in Chechnya widely condemned in the West



1996: a new Russian Foreign Affairs
Minister

Yevgeny Primakov (KGB foreign
intelligence)

The U.S.-Russia partnership is a myth

*"I say there is not and there cannot be a
serious partnership with Russia. She is
not currently a partner but a client"*

(U.S. Secretary of State)

Finding new partners: China



Managing St. Petersburg's post Soviet administration

Mass corruption

Russia unprepared for the
harsh reality of capitalism
(centralized economy)

1996: Putin out of a job
(Sobchak narrowly lost
mayoral race)



1996: Yeltsin re-elected

Putin joined the Yeltsin
administration as Deputy Chief of
Staff

Asian financial crisis (1998)

Sharp decline of demand for crude
oil + cost of war in Chechnya

Collapse of the ruble

Russia defaulted on its debt



July 1998

Sergey Kirienko appointed PM

Putin appointed **Director of the Federal Security Service (FSB)**

A chaotic period

Political instability

A severe economic crisis (except for a small minority)



Concerns over Boris Yeltsin's health

Alcoholism

Cardiovascular disease

Yeltsin accused of shady financial deals

Dropping popularity

Putin **loyal** to Yeltsin

9 August 1999

Yeltsin appointed Putin PM 9 months before presidential election (4th PM in 17 months)

All Yeltsin PMs former KGB operatives

Can Putin succeed?



A new political party
“Unity”

National unity to counter the
negative effects of economic
liberalism

Tensions in the Caucasus

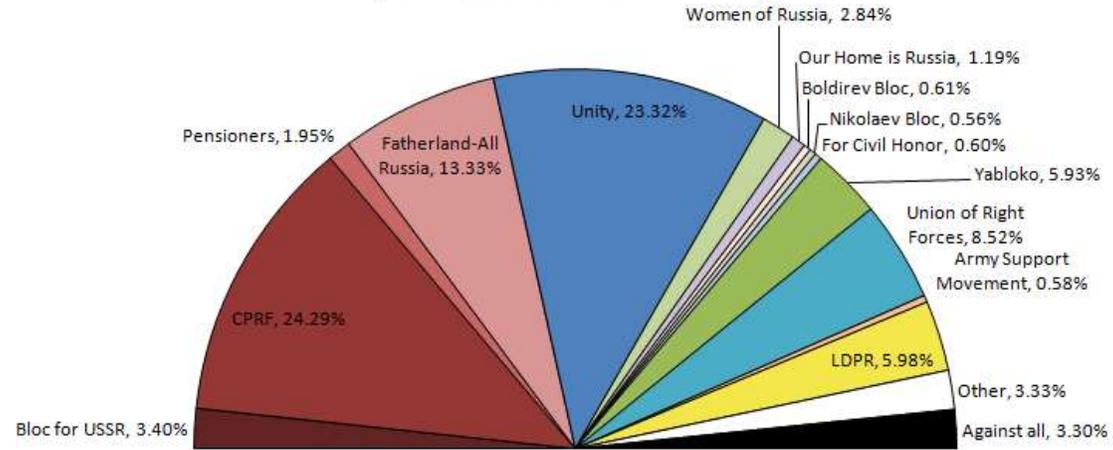
Multiple terrorist attacks

Putin: a strong government

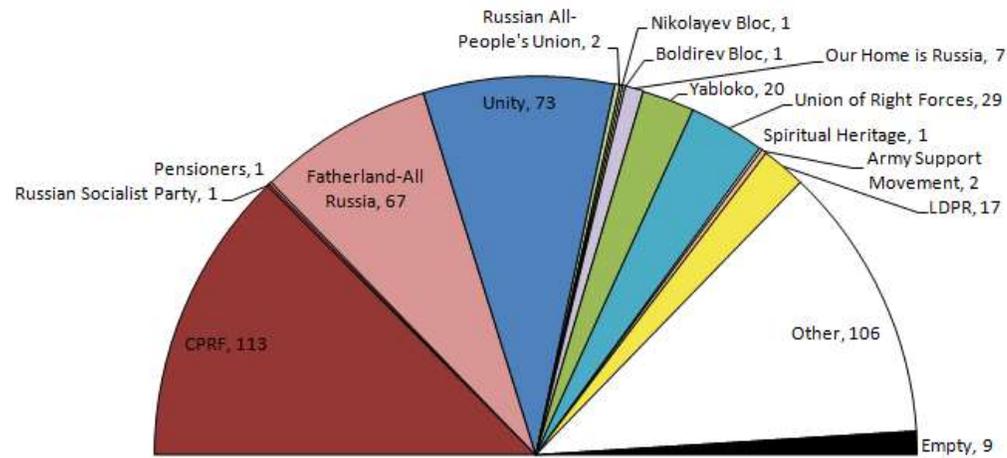
December 1999 legislative
elections: second largest %



Election results (Electoral bloc votes only)



Seats in Duma





31 December 1999

Boris Yeltsin resigned (*"I did my best"*)

Putin as Acting President of the Russian Federation

Peaceful transition of power

Putin perceived as the ideal candidate for president: young, competent, serious, loyal, patriot...

Symbol of hope: the man to help Russia turn the corner?





26 March 2000

Putin elected president of
the Russian Federation
(52,9%)

Many challenges ahead
Sinking demography
Economic chaos





Putin's vision

To maintain Russia's unity
Economic reforms (state control
over natural resources)

A strong and stable state

Foreign policy: Russia as
a “*besieged fortress*”

Russia as the equal of the
U.S.

No foreign meddling
(internal affairs and Russia’s
near abroad)



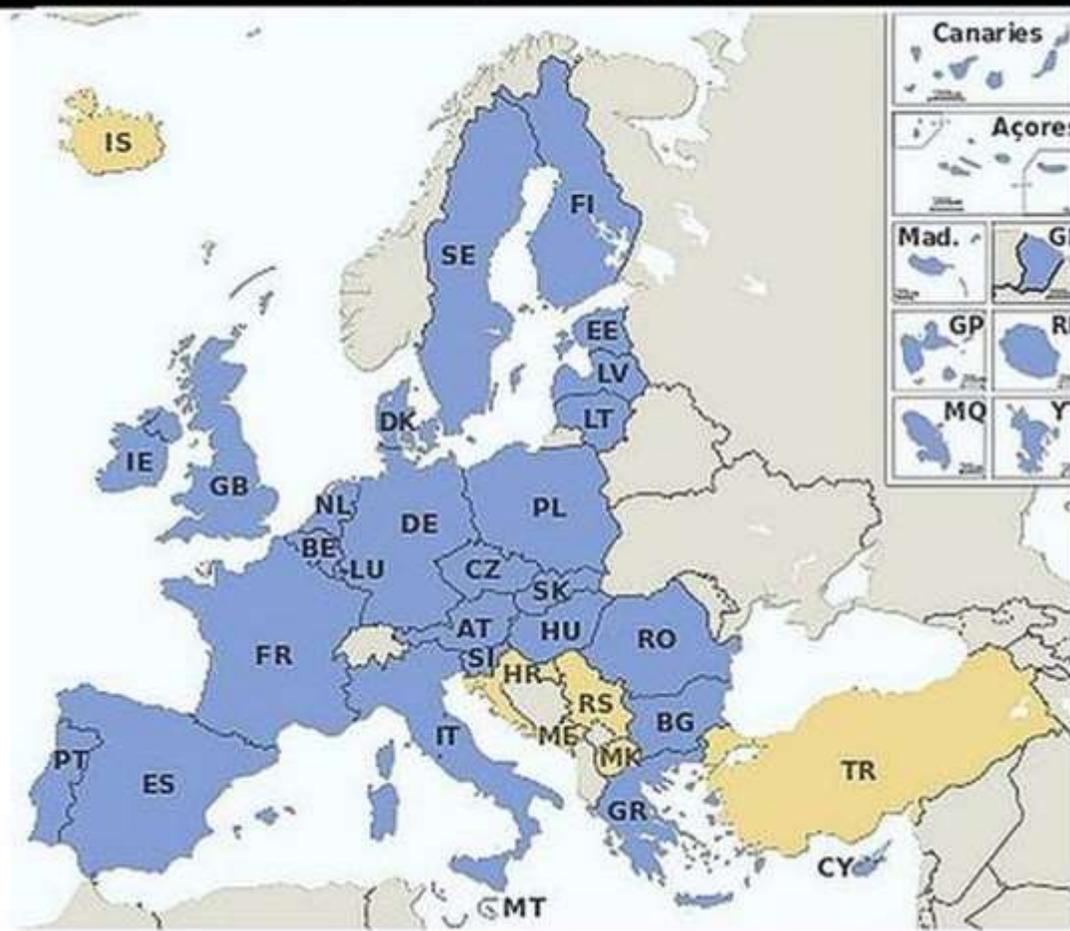
NATO EXPANSION

=

EU EXPANSION



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May 2017

Vladimir Putin in Beijing to attend
the **Belt and Road International
Forum**

Russia **welcomes** China's One Belt,
One Road initiative ("Belt and Road
Initiative" – BRI)

China's **growing economic influence** in Central Asia: a concern for Russia

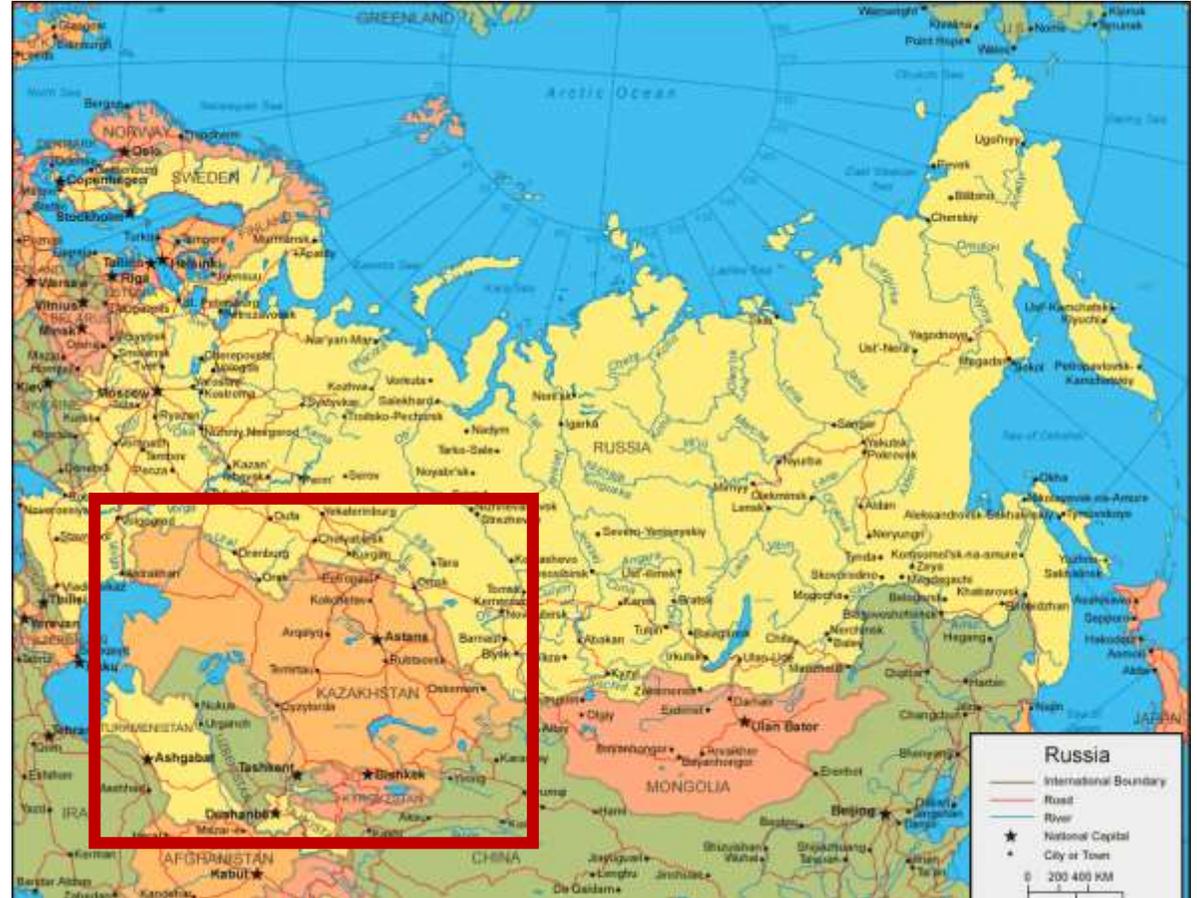


Growing Chinese influence in Central Asia

Negative consequences for Russia's economic & geopolitical interests in the region

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan: 5 former Soviet Republics independent since 1991

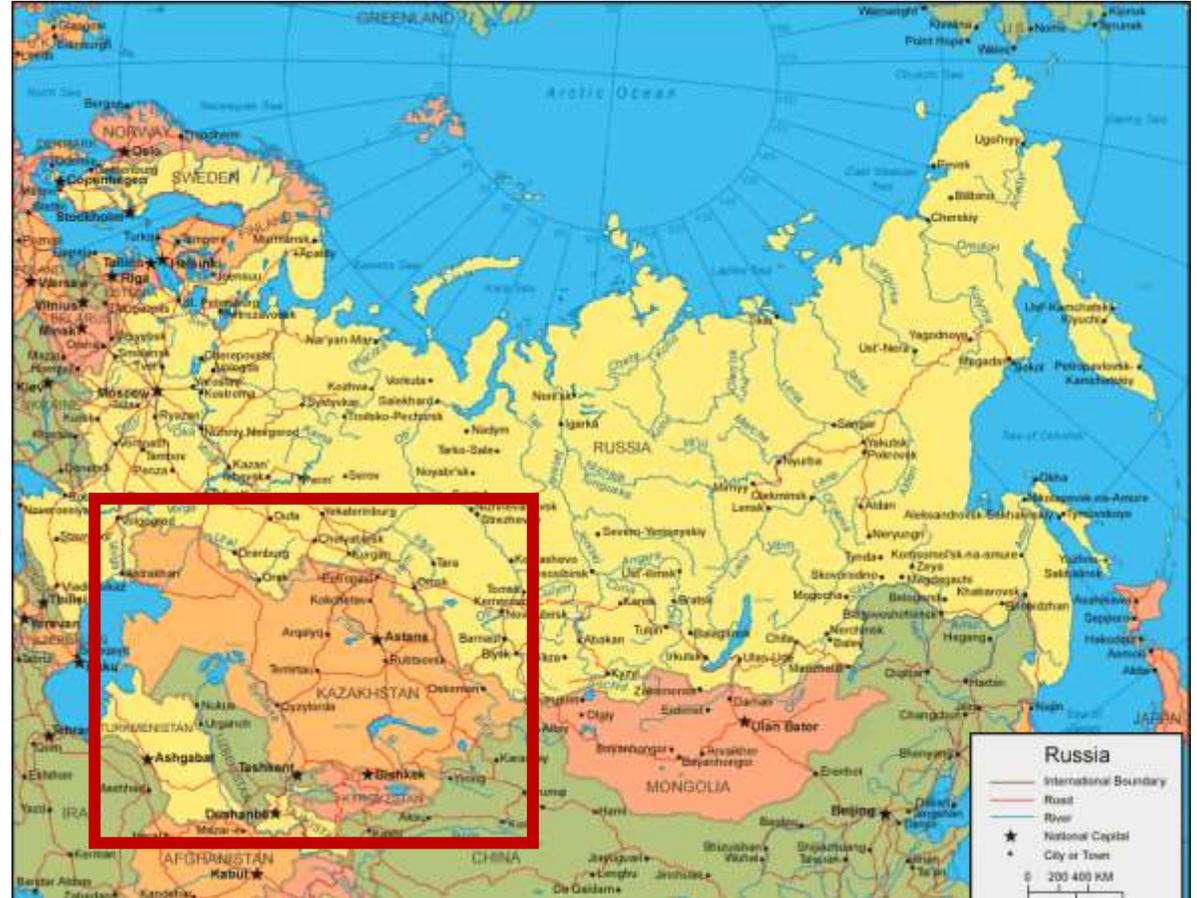
Ongoing close ties with Russia
Russia's "near abroad" (sphere of influence)



Central Asia: a key component of **Russia's security perimeter**

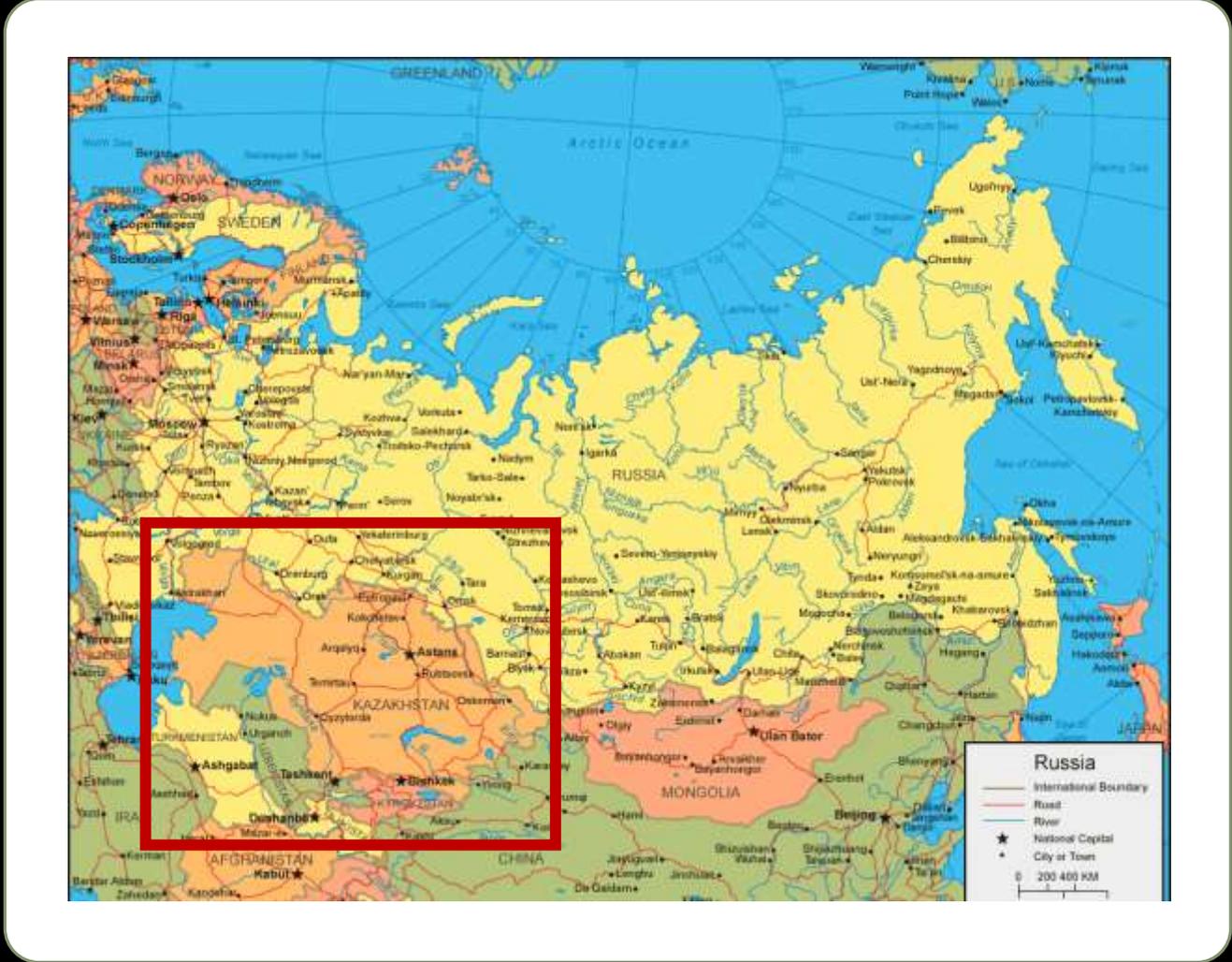
Central Asia (Russia's "soft belly"): a foreign policy priority for Russia

Maintaining Russia's influence: several **mechanisms of regional integration**



Mixed results

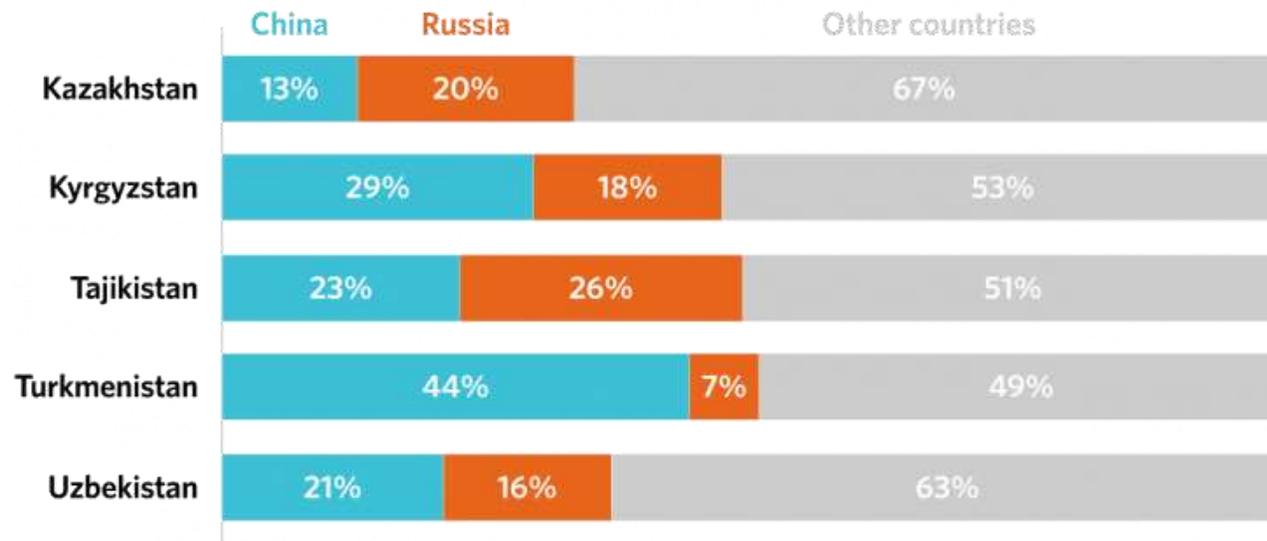
Russia: insufficient financial means to invest in Central Asia



China fast becoming Central Asian countries' main trade partner

Trade With China and Russia

Trade with China and Russia accounts for a large percentage of Central Asian trade with the world



Source: Trademap

Copyright Stratfor

Exports: manufactured goods

Imports: natural resources (oil & natural gas)

Energy cooperation: central to China's economic policy in Central Asia

Russia & China: a **marriage of convenience?**

Frequent high level political contacts

Enhanced **diplomatic cooperation** on
the global stage

Bilateral trade (\$108 billion in 2018)
& China's investments in Russia
(energy sector, infrastructure)





What about Russia?
What ulterior motive?

Rapprochement with China
dictated by **ongoing
confrontation** with the West
(the U.S. and its allies)

Russia's only alternative: an
alliance with China