

## The most important points about Putin's regime and Russia

The question is often asked what one can call Russia today in the political landscape. Here is the answer:

- 1. Imperialist:** geared towards expansion, "Ukraine is part of Russia", "Russia from Dublin to Vladivostok"
- 2. Fascist:** cult of superiority, desire to subdue Ukrainians, patriotism in extremist form
- 3. Theocratic:** lack of separation between state and religion, Putin's function as "Russia's savior"
- 4. Autocratic / dictatorial:** tightly centralized / hierarchical / vertical distribution of power, Putin as tsar
- 5. Militaristic:** nationwide groups of children practice with Kalashnikovs, drone combat is a new school subject, Defense Ministry's weapon-packed Patriot Park for family outings
- 6. Terroristic:** Russia argues like IS and attacks Ukraine with terrorism
- 7. Kleptocratic:** Putin is a mafia boss who made his friends and himself billionaires
- 8. Propagandistic:** inhumane propaganda on an enormous scale
- 9. Esoteric / occult:** Putin's philosopher Dugin spreads prophecies of an end-time struggle
- 10. Failed state:** Brain Drain because of war and oppression, a lot of corruption, technologically left behind

- Russia is not a nation state, but sees itself as an empire. Expansion is in Russia's DNA. With this, Russia lags far behind the historical development of Europe.
- The Soviet Union is mourned because not only was it larger in size than today's Russian Federation, but it won the space race and was the first of the four victorious powers of World War II to hoist its flag atop the German Reichstag. The dark sides of the Soviet Union are consistently ignored. Coming to terms with the bloody Stalin era and the oppression is undesirable. Although Russia is the largest country in the world, it apparently suffers from an inferiority complex, since it was never the size of the English empire and never came close to the superpower USA.
- Victory over Nazi Germany is constantly touted and used to weld all parts of the multi-ethnic state of the Russian Federation together.
- The cult of World War II is directed against Ukraine in an obsessive way. It is claimed that Ukrainians must be liberated from a "Nazi regime". The President of Ukraine is Jewish. As the whole world marvels at the stupidity of Russian propaganda, Russia's foreign minister claims that the worst Nazis are among the Jews. Recently it was said that the entire West was ruled by Nazis. If a lie doesn't work, an attempt is made to reinforce the shaky structure of lies with more lies. Russia regularly comes before the United Nations with blatant lies.
- One presents oneself as anti-fascists. But as the saying goes: "If fascism returns, it will not say: I am fascism. No, he will say: I am anti-fascism." The murder and domination of the Ukrainian civilian population, aimed at subjugation and annihilation, leaves no doubt that fascism is flourishing on the Russian side. Penal and labor camps were set up in the Russian-occupied territories. 700,000 Ukrainian children were abducted.
- Putin is wanted for war crimes with an international arrest warrant. He can no longer represent Russia abroad as he faces arrest.
- Apart from the bombing of residential areas, schools and hospitals, Ukrainian cultural assets are also being massively destroyed. In Odessa alone, UNESCO has identified bomb damage to over 200 listed buildings. It is not yet clear whether the destroyed cathedral can be saved. The systematic eradication of Ukrainian culture in the occupied territories is also a feature of fascism. Book burnings also took place there.
- In the meantime, Russian propaganda is dishing up that Russia must liberate all of Europe from the clutches of the Anglo-American "naval power". From a Russian point of view, Europe does not seem to consist of sovereign nation states, but is the property of two opposing empires: the Eurasian "land power" Russia and the Anglo-American "sea power". In this vision, fueled by philosopher Alexander Dugin, Russia is said to stretch from Dublin to Vladivostok. After conquering Europe, the Russian "land power" is supposed to defeat the Anglo-American "sea power" in a final battle. At his inauguration in 2012, Putin announced that he would become "the leader and powerhouse of all Eurasia". So the old Soviet bloc thinking will continue to be cultivated and beefed up with an absurd and arrogant end-time prophecy.
- According to Dugin, in this concept Putin is the God-sent "savior of Russia". Because of this perspective, the ideology of Russia takes on theocratic traits.
- The head of the Russian Orthodox Church is Kirill I. Like Putin, he comes from the KGB and spreads anti-Western propaganda. The Russian Orthodox Church is not sovereign but part of the government. From

Kirill's point of view, it's about a final battle between the "true believers" and the Western "Satanists". Ukrainians are Russians possessed by demons.

- Patriarch Kirill I works closely with the Ministry of Defense and blesses the trains on which the tanks roll towards Ukraine. The Department of Defense created a "Patriot Park" for family outings to militarize society from childhood. A military church for the Russian army was dedicated there. The clothing that Hitler is said to have worn at the time of his death is exhibited on a commemorative path. In this context, Deputy Defense Minister Timur Ivanov spoke on Russian television of "unique relics", which caused irritation with regard to a possible fascist cult of relics.

- Overall, it can be said that Russia behaves in a similar way to IS. The "Islamic State" argues backwards and regards all areas conquered by Muslims in history as the property of the Islamic "ummah". Sharia should apply there. Just like in all places where Muslims live today. A strikingly similar line of reasoning comes from Putin regarding Russia's territorial claims and zones of influence. IS and Putin also dream together of subjugating the West. Just like Russia, IS uses inhuman propaganda and terror.

- Putin speaks of the "Russian world". For him, everyone who speaks Russian belongs to Russia. He wants to "protect" them and thus expand his sphere of influence.

- Putin hails from the KGB, and the various Russian intelligence agencies remain a key power factor for him today, both at home and abroad. Many Russian agents are disguised as diplomats. Putin mourns the fall of the Soviet empire and is an admirer of Stalin. But he identifies even more with the role of a tsar and presents himself as such. Stalin always wore a uniform, while Putin prefers to present himself in the pomp of the Kremlin Palace. Since Crimea was conquered in tsarist times, he counts it as part of his empire, although it was part of Ukraine in Soviet times.

- Putin used the Gazprom company to infiltrate the West and make it dependent. In Germany and Austria in particular, politicians have fallen for Putin in droves.

- Putin confiscates property if he doesn't like people and transfers it to his circle of friends or nationalizes companies and puts his confidants at the helm. With Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Putin made an example to show that he could simply dispossess someone and throw him in prison. Putin's hidden fortune is estimated at \$200 billion. Alexei Navalny is in prison for exposing many of Putin's machinations, such as Putin's palace on the Black Sea.

- The propaganda generated in Russia is outrageous in its content and scope, so it must be assumed that large sections of the population are being brainwashed. This confusion is intended to distract from the kleptocracy of the Putin mafia and flatly blames the cause of all problems on the West.

- Of course, all propaganda is just a means to an end. Behind the facade, it's all about maintaining power and wealth for the billionaires. The Russian economy must be kept running to the extent that no revolution breaks out. At the time of the Soviet Union, there was a planned economy and each region was responsible for something specific. The Russian-occupied Ukrainian territories not only have ice-free ports, but also heavy industry, mining and agriculture. Europe's largest steel works, which Putin would have liked to have incorporated, was located in Mariupol. That's why it defended Ukraine until there was nothing left of it.

- Russia's economic decline is inevitable. It will continue to decline economically over the next few decades, since the solvent European customers have been alienated. Europe says goodbye to fossil raw materials and relies on regenerative technologies. This is Russia's business practices on the ground. In order to market the gas from the gigantic Siberian fields reserved for Europe, new pipelines to India and China must be built. But they will not pay the prices at which Europeans bought natural gas.

- Through his policies, Putin is leading Russia to economic ruin. He steals from the state, he alienates the best customers, he has been sanctioned for his warlike aggressiveness. All this together leads to a decline of the Russian economy. Added to this is the brain drain caused by fleeing Russians.

- Roughly 10-20 percent of Russians believe in Putin, Dugin and Kirill I, while probably as many reject this ideology. About a million Russians are said to have left the country.

- Putin has completely undermined the rule of law by not prosecuting Prigozhin for shooting down Russian military planes. Putin alone decides whether someone is useful to him. And Wagner continues to be useful to him.

- A very perfidious strategy is to infiltrate the countries of Africa with propaganda and Wagner mercenaries. Russia presents itself there as an "anti-colonialist" who wants to protect Africa from the "evil West". At the same time, Wagner mercenaries protect undemocratic regimes there and plunder gold and diamond mines. Most recently, Putin wanted to bribe African countries with free grain.