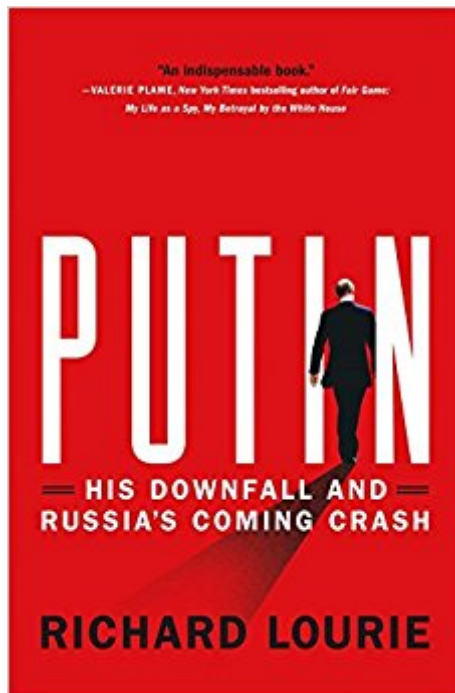




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Putin: His Downfall And Russia's Coming Crash



Synopsis

An electrifying and timely book, by leading Russian expert Richard Lourie, that explores Putin's failures and whether Trump's election gives Putin extraordinarily dangerous opportunities in our mad new world."A master chronicler of modern Russia. Drawing on his own expertise, Lourie paints a convincing portrait of a ruthless authoritarian leader headed toward failure. This book serves as an essential primer on Putin and, by extension, Russia." •Publishers WeeklyFor reasons that are made clear in this book, Putin's Russia will collapse just as Imperial Russia did in 1917 and as Soviet Russia did in 1991. The only questions are when, how violently, and with how much peril for the world. The U.S. election complicates everything, including: Putin's next land grab Exploitations of the Arctic Cyber-espionage Putin and China and many more crucial topics.Putin: His Downfall and Russia's Coming Crash is an essential read for everybody bewildered and dismayed by the new world order.

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Customer Reviews

"Longtime Russia expert Lourie's enlightening new book examines what motivates Putin as he confronts the U.S., Russia's most existential threat." •Booklist"A master chronicler of modern Russia. Drawing on his own expertise, Lourie paints a convincing portrait of a ruthless authoritarian leader headed toward failure. This book serves as an essential primer on Putin and, by extension, Russia." •Publishers Weekly"Provocative book [...] solid overall, as crystal-ball geopolitical treatises go, though with enough hedging to allow for a broad range of outcomes." •Kirkus Reviews"This

work tackles some of the most difficult questions concerning Putin's influence in global and Russian national affairs, with a novelist's eye for language and a political commentator's flair for dramatic intrigue...An astute look at modern Russia and the man at its helm." •Library Journal"A timely history lesson, Putin is a must-read for anyone interested in Russia and in understanding how current events can provide a glimpse into the future." •Bookpage"Richard Lourie has written an indispensable book for anyone seeking to understand Russia and Putin today. Fascinating and approachable with plenty of regulatory anecdotes, Putin goes a long way toward explaining Putin's actions and motivations which become obvious once you see the context. Understanding the man behind the mask will aid all those having dealings with Putin and his Russia." •Valerie Plame, New York Times bestselling author of Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House"Vienna had Sigmund Freud. Now Russia and Putin have Richard Lourie. Lourie diagnoses Russia as suffering from narcissistic injuries inflicted not only by history generally but by the west specifically, denuded of icons, and utterly dependent on the ongoing will to power of the only person in Russia who now matters. Drawing on an encyclopedic knowledge of Russian culture, Lourie palpates and articulates the distinct phrenology of Russia's intellectuals, masses, and governing classes to locate Russia's quintessential exaltation, dread, fervor, and pugnacity within the individual body and soul of Vladimir Putin. In Lourie's Russia, and for Lourie's Putin, ontogeny does indeed recapitulate phylogeny." •Jonathan M Winer, former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State"Richard Lourie knows Russia • and better yet, he knows Russians, at street level up through his friend Sakharov's stratosphere of science and art. On the rough, tough enigma of Vladimir Putin, Lourie's is a most satisfying voice: tough in its own way but digressive, historically and personally informed, acutely sensitive to vibrations of religion, culture, the missing iconography of the Putin era and the eternal iconoclasm in the Russian soul." •Chris Lydon, host, Radio Open Source."A must-read for anyone interested in the mind-set and motivations of the man who rules Russia. Richard Lourie's fascinating Putin: The Rise and Fall is at once an insightful, engaging and critical study of Vladimir Putin as well as a compelling history of the Russia he rules. Both stories are deftly interwoven in Lourie's incisive narrative which illuminates Putin's path to power at home and his projection of strength abroad. As the biographer of the Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov and a seasoned specialist in Soviet affairs, Lourie is well-positioned to meld the travails of Russia's past with the realpolitik of Putin's present. He does so with wit and verve, painting the turmoil of Russian history, the tragedy of Stalin's terror and the chaos of the post-Soviet years with both broad brush strokes and an eye for the telling detail. His landscape is a breathtaking one from the venal grasp of oligarchs to the global imperatives of geopolitics.

Lourie's felicitous prose makes this complex subject at once riveting and accessible." • Jack Schwartz, Former Editor The New York Times Culture Section and Editor of Newsday's book pages • Richard Lourie's Putin is a vivid description of the man and his world, an erudite yet easy read crammed with fascinating insights and anecdotes from his decades of reporting from Russia and the Soviet Union. I enjoyed it immensely. • Martin Fletcher "An erudite and elegant read. It takes a deep knowledge of Russian history and an intimate understanding of its culture to be able to describe its current state so concisely. " • Masha Gessen, National Jewish book Award Winning author and journalist

RICHARD LOURIE is the critically acclaimed author of both fiction and nonfiction, including The Autobiography of Joseph Stalin and Sakharov: A Biography. He has translated more than thirty books and served as Mikhail Gorbachev's translator for The New York Times. His articles and reviews have appeared in many influential publications, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, the New Republic, and The Nation. He has also served as a consultant on Russia to Hillary Clinton.

Good review, but didn't have much to say about "His Downfall and Russia's Coming Crash," as advertised.

“For Putin to have risked transforming Russia from a petrostate into a twenty-first-century diversified economy would have created a hazardous transition in which his own grip on power could have been lost. Power would have had to be delegated and decentralized, endangering Putin's position at the apex of the power vertical.” His various constituencies from prisoners to power elite must feel secure and must receive their accustomed share of the wealth. Such a system runs on loyalty and corruption. It has been said of Russia that the system is not corrupt but rather corruption is the system. And that is because no one feels a stake in the system, which inspires no sense of solidity, dependability, longevity—it can all be gone in the blink of history's eye. And Putin's chance to truly reform his country was also gone in the blink of that same eye.” page 125 What are we to make of Vladimir Putin's 18-year tenure as the President of Russia? Has Mr. Putin succeeded in energizing the people and taking the nation into the 21st Century? Or has Russia remained much too dependent on the volatile oil and gas markets? And what of Putin's adventures into Ukraine and Crimea? Are relations with the Chinese better or worse? Has Putin systematically eliminated his

harshest critics? What will become of Russia when Putin goes away? Richard Lourie has written extensively about Russia and the Soviet Union and is intimately familiar with these issues. He dissects the Putin years in his fascinating new book *Putin: His Downfall and Russia's Coming Crash*. As you might ascertain from the title, the author has not been particularly impressed. Lourie believes that over the years Putin has frittered away all too many opportunities to reform the way Moscow does business. He is most especially critical of the way Putin has handled the obsolescent Russian economy which for decades has been much too dependent on the increasingly volatile oil and gas markets. And when his government did choose to invest in new technology it bet on the wrong horse-- nanotechnology-- which proved to be a huge bust. Lourie reports that of the original \$5 billion to \$7 billion of state money, \$40 million had vanished into shell companies, and another \$450 million was spent on a silicon chip factory that proved inoperational. All told, something like \$1.5 billion had gone down the rabbit hole. Sounds an awful lot like the Solyndra debacle to me. Indeed, corruption, inertia and ineptitude were alive and well during Putin's administration. The author also points out that Putin has managed to accumulate considerable wealth during his tenure as President of Russia and explains how this happened. Putin participated in massive fraud with oligarchs who were willing to play ball with him resulting in an enormous theft of resources from the Russian economy. The fact of the matter is that Putin is now counted among the richest men in the world. Meanwhile, it is the Russian people who are left to deal with the devastating consequences of economic sanctions imposed by the United States and other nations for Putin's misbehavior. At the end of the day Richard Lourie worries about the future of Russia and life after Putin. He believes that economic trends and geopolitical realities place the future fortunes of this nation into serious question. Whoever succeeds Putin will face enormous if not insurmountable challenges. I found *Putin: His Downfall and Russia's Coming Crash* to be a well-written, meticulously researched and thought-provoking book. Recommended reading.

This is the first Putin book for ordinary readers that I have enjoyed reading; the others were too deep in the weeds for my comprehension. I agree with nearly all of author Lourie's "predictions" about Putin's fate, but in my opinion not enough was devoted to the enormous threat from Muslim masses inside Russia, and nearby in Germany; also China's millions located at Russia's border. Another major potential problem for Putin militarily in Syria is if Turkey decides that they want to resurrect the Ottoman Empire; or if not, then Iran decides it wants to establish their Shia caliphate in Iraq and Syria..The only criticism I have of Lourie's opinions is on Page 205 concerning Trump's

2016 election victory based upon Putin's involvement in the hacking of DNC and John Podesta's emails. Otherwise, this is a great book, and has a lot of information of interest to ordinary readers such as myself wanting to know more about Putin's control of Russia..

It's an interesting history of the Russian leader. It's the same story about Putin you hear elsewhere: smart, cunning, and brutal.

I heard Richard Lourie on NPR and got interested in his book. I thought it was a good analysis. Surprisingly good for an American author. I also noticed that the two worst reviews here for this book are written by people of Eastern European origin, most probably pro-Putin Russians. It is hard to accept the truth and simply easier to dismiss or even call it propaganda. I'm also of Eastern European decent and developed good critical reading skills through literature that challenges your own views. Through books like this one. Highly recommend.

Interesting views. Author would have more credibility if he had left out the gratuitous, ad hominem attacks on Trump and the Koch Brothers which really have no reason to be included except that it provides an additional outlet for Mr. Lourie to release his anger that Clinton lost the election. Maybe if Clinton had spent more time campaigning in battleground states like Wisconsin instead of attending fundraisers she would have bested Trump in the electoral college. For more interesting and less partisan views of Russia and Putin read/listen to almost anything by Professor Stephen Cohen.

Read it NOW!

Extremely well-respected author who's past work is highly rated right down the line. Thorough and meticulously researched. Excellent book.

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