



**Crisis:** Present-day crisis

**Topic:** The Collapse of the Motherland

## **Theme of AUSMUN 2024**

---

The theme for this year's AUSMUN is "Forging Tomorrow with Yesterday's Lessons". Dating back to 500 BC, great minds such as Confucius have spread this ideal: "Study the past, if you would divine the future". During a typical Model United Nations conference, delegates are expected to learn from their country's past and, in many cases, actively rewrite it. Historical knowledge when used effectively can lead to informed decisions; by reflecting on what has and has not worked in the past, collectively we are able to gain perspective on current and future policy. We encourage delegates to keep this ideal in mind while wrestling with the nuances and complications inherent in the ideas of modern day problems.

AUSMUN is committed to actively serving its community and combating pressing issues. As we continue to expand in numbers, we further seek to expand our positive impact on the world around us. We are proud to announce that we have partnered with Dress for Success, a non-profit organization that enables women to become economically independent by offering professional clothing, a network of support, and the resources necessary for both personal and professional growth. By participating in AUSMUN 2024, in addition to debating "model" policy, you are actively bettering society and changing the world.

The 2024 AUSMUN board is honored to host all delegates for our largest conference yet. We cannot wait to see what delegates bring forward to each committee in their efforts to embody values of collaboration and this year's theme. Looking twenty twenty-forward to seeing you!

## **Rationale**

---

With ongoing shifts in the global landscape, defined by heightened tensions, economic insecurities, and ideological clashes, it is critical to discuss this topic now. Modern-day Russia has infamously experienced internal political hardships, and recently, with the globally condemned actions regarding Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the possibility of revolution comes closer to light. This hypothetical enables a complex discussion regarding conflicting political opinions, the priority of citizen welfare, and the understanding of the complicated mess of internal affairs within Russia. Throughout the coming age, debating conflicting ideologies diplomatically becomes more and more crucial for global peace. It is your job as delegates to work towards achieving your political ideologies using any means that you deem necessary, and thus providing the world with a stable effort towards quality relations.

## **Background**

---

In 1917, Russia underwent two revolutions, effectively ending centuries of imperial rule and initiating significant social and political changes that would eventually lead to the formation of the Soviet Union. Before the revolutions, Russia was an autocracy, with Tsar Nicholas II holding complete control (Imperial War Museums). Although the revolutions occurred within a few months, social unrest in Russia had been prevalent for years. In the early 1900s, the majority of Western Europe viewed Russia as an underdeveloped and backward society (Russian Revolution). While serfdom was the dominant practice in Russia well into the 19th century, it had disappeared in most of Western Europe by the end of the Middle Ages. By 1861, serfdom

was abolished in Russia, with peasant's newfound freedom paving the way for future revolutions. Russia underwent industrialization at the turn of the 20th century, bringing vast social and political change. Russia's population nearly doubled, resulting in poor working and living conditions and widespread food shortages for the new class of Russian industrial workers (Russian Revolution). Though the 1905 revolution brought some reform, democracy remained unheard of. The country's stability continued to go downhill with Russia's entry into World War I in 1914. Due to the Tsar's lack of military tactics, Russia underwent a string of defeats, all of which he was blamed for. By early 1917, most Russians had lost faith in the Tsarist regime (What Was). Protesters filled the streets, demanding that the Tsar step down and put an end to the war. Having lost the support of the army and under the advice of his army chiefs and ministers, the Tsar renounced his throne in March 1917. His brother refused to succeed to the throne, marking the end of the Tsarist regime (What was). The vacuum left by the collapse of the Tsarist regime allowed various political factions to vie for power. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, seized control in October 1917, establishing a socialist state and laying the groundwork for the Soviet Union. Over the next few years, the Bolsheviks consolidated power, eventually forming the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1922, which comprised multiple Soviet republics under centralized communist rule.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics would last 69 years before falling on December 26th, 1991. This was the result of the Soviet Union being in an economic and political backslide because of the many policies that Gorbachev made at the time. Gorbachev greatly liberalized the country and made major reforms to the Soviet Union's political structure such as constructing a multi party system and creating a president of the Soviet Union. This made the country slowly fall into democratization and eventually into the dissolution of centralized power within the

Soviet Union (The Collapse of the Soviet Union). Gorbachev and the union as a whole were going through many international pressures such as domestic pressures from Boris Yeltsin to democratize the country and pressure from loyal communists to change policies that Gorbachev introduced. The event that finally put the nail in the coffin of the Soviet Union was the unsuccessful coup of 1991. When the communists tried to overthrow Gorbachev, they did not succeed. Yet the attempt lessened Gorbachev's power within the union, making it fractured and balkanized.

Entering into the 2000s, Russia began a stage of recovery from their economic struggles faced in the previous decade. A main factor leading to Russia's economic recovery was the production of oil. Oil was a very powerful economic tool for ensuring the power of Russian elites. Throughout the 2000s, Russia moved into an authoritarian petrol-state where the elites were recruited solely on the basis of their loyalty to the supreme leader and his appointee (Inosemzew). Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia had been solely moving into democracy, but that was hindered by the election of Vladimir Putin. Putin moved away from the idea of democracy and surrounded himself with loyalists to ensure his power. Despite emerging opposition movements, led notably by figures like Alexei Navalny, Putin's grip on power remained firm. This was reinforced by his re-election in 2012, which faced many accusations of electoral fraud. Simultaneously, Russia's relations with the West deteriorated sharply following the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its involvement in the conflict in eastern Ukraine, resulting in the imposition of sanctions and increased international isolation. Economically, Russia faced challenges due to falling oil prices and sanctions, leading to stagnation and hardship for many citizens. Nonetheless, Putin maintained popularity through nationalist rhetoric, control of state media, and a tightly managed political system, solidifying his position as a central figure in

Russian politics throughout the decade. In April 2014, the war in Donbas started when 50 commando units led by the Russian citizen Igor Girkin took over the city of Sloviansk. Armed Russian-backed separatists revolted and declared the Donetsk and Luhansk republics as independent states. The Ukrainian military fought back against the separatists, and in February 2022, it was subsumed into the Russian invasion.

### **Contemporary Evidence**

---

During the buildup to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, a Scandinavian Airlines flight from Stockholm to Istanbul was shot down by the LPR Buk-M1 Surface to air missile system, killing all 314 passengers and crew. This incident following the Malaysian Airlines shutdown in the Donbas conflict enraged the Scandinavian and NATO countries' populations, leading to much increased military and financial support in the Ukrainian War. This, combined with a disordered and incompetent leadership by the Russian commanders, led to a much weaker Russian offense. By extension, this led to the dissolution of the march on Kyiv. This extra momentum resulted in the 2022 Kharkiv counter-offensive, something that occurred earlier than expected and at a much more preponderant scale. It was so effective that a majority of the gains from the opening attack were recaptured. As incompetence and battlefield filers continued to cripple the Russian military, the Wagner group led coup by Pregosin sparks multiple popular revolts in the autonomous republics. At the peak of the chaos, a wide-scale internet blackout swept the federation. When communication was reestablished 12 days later, Vladimir Putin was nowhere to be found, initiating the total collapse of the Russian Federation. This left a power vacuum in the Russian state, and six main factions rose and began to fight for control. With the

Russian state susceptible to ideological change, multiple factions sought to seize control over the current pro-Putin regime. The communists, anarchists, and progressives all want to drastically change the political landscape of the Russian Federation with force.

## **Directive**

---

The collapse of the Russian Federation has made it vital for the parties involved in the conflict to address this problem. This debate should focus on what action is to be taken in regards to Russia's government, economy, and standing as a country. We suggest that each delegation devise new and innovative solutions to aid the collapse of the Russian Federation. We recommend referring to the map linked below. We urge you to work with fellow delegations on finding only the best and most effective solutions. Here are some questions to consider when talking about the Russian collapse.

1. Should the Russian state survive? If not, what should replace it?
2. Is revolution necessary to achieve these goals? If so, how far is acceptable?
3. What methods should be used to achieve successful peace? Should diplomacy be worked towards?
4. Should other nations or organizations be allowed to interfere? If not, how should they be dealt with?
5. What solutions would benefit Russian citizens?
6. Who should be held accountable for the impacts placed upon the globe?
7. If Putin is captured, how should he be prosecuted for his crimes against the Russian people?

## Resources for Delegates

---



- [Russia Overview](#)
- [Political Freedom in Russia](#)
- [Russian Political Shift](#)
- [What's Happening in Russia](#)
- [Overview of The Russo-Ukraine War](#)

### Explaining ideologies:

- Explaining Socialism:
  - [Brief Explanation of Socialism](#)
  - [Explanation of Socialism](#)

- Explaining Communism:

[Brief Explanation of Communism](#)

[Explanation of Communism](#)

- Explaining Anarchism:

[Brief Explanation of Anarchism](#)

[Explanation of Anarchism](#)

- Other Anarchists:

[What is Anarcho-Syndicalism?](#)

[What is Anarcho-Communism?](#)

## Delegations

---

**Disclaimer:** Because the timeline splits off from reality in 2022, your delegation might be deceased, but for the sake of the conference, they are considered alive and well. Your delegation might also not currently hold a position. For the sake of this conference, your delegation holds the position that is listed next to their name.

1. **Alexei Navalny (Chairman of Russia of the Future)** - Alexei Navalny is a prominent Russian opposition leader, political activist, and anti-corruption campaigner. He gained widespread attention for his investigations into corruption among high-ranking Russian officials and oligarchs. Navalny has been a vocal critic of President Vladimir Putin and the ruling United Russia party. He has organized large-scale protests and ran for political



office, advocating for democratic reforms and transparency in Russian politics. Navalny has been arrested many times due to his activism, including an attempted assassination in 2020, which he stated the Russian government orchestrated.

[Alexei Navalny](#)

[Protests, poisoning and prison: The life and death of Russian opposition leader](#)

[Alexei Navalny](#)

- 2. Andrei Kozitsyn (CEO of Ural Mining and Metallurgical Company)** - Kozitsyn is one of the richest men in Russia and controls large shares of strategic industries such as zinc and copper mining. He also has significant investments in both the agricultural and media industries. While he currently favors the Putin regime, he would be willing to serve anyone who would make concessions or protect his business interests.

[Andrei Kozitsyn](#)

[Biography of Andrei Kozitsyn](#)

- 3. Andrey Guryev (Founder & CEO, PhosAgro)** - Guryev is an incredibly wealthy man with one of the largest fertilizer companies. While he does not directly control PhosAgro, he has a majority stake and his son is the current CEO. He also has many connections from his 11-year political career. However, his current connections with the Putin regime are born of fear and mutual benefit; if some other group were to promise more favorable terms he would likely flip.

[Andrey Guryev](#)

[Biography of Andrey Guryev](#)

**4. Anton Siluanov (Minister of Finance) - Russian politician and economist Anton**

Germanovich Siluanov was born on April 12, 1963. He is an active state counselor of the Russian Federation, with the rank of first class in the federal state civilian service. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin nominated him as Minister of Finance in 2011. He succeeded Alexei Kudrin, who was removed from office by President Dmitry Medvedev after he openly criticized the 2.1 trillion ruble increase in defense expenditure that was planned through 2014. Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Siluanov held the position from 2018 to 2020.

[Anton Siluanov](#)

[Official Biography of Anton Siluanov](#)

**5. Arkady Rotenberg (Co-founder of SMP Bank, Head of SGM) - Born on December**

15, 1951, Arkady Romanovich Rotenberg is a wealthy businessman and oligarch. He co-owned the Stroygazmontazh, the biggest construction business in Russia for gas pipelines and electrical power supply lines, with his brother Boris Rotenberg. While his current allegiance is with Putin, his main drive is to preserve his wealth and status.

[Wiki of Arkady Rotenberg](#)

[Biography of Arkady Rotenberg](#) (This page is in Russian. Though you should be able to translate it within the Google browser, contact Policy staff with any issues)

6. **Autonomous Action (Revolutionary Anarchist Federation)** - The Autonomous Action is an anarchist group focused on achieving libertarian communism through ways of direct democracy, public self-government, and federalism. They push for the total dissolution of the Russian government and propose self-government based on federated free individuals and communities. This organization rejects capitalistic and bureaucratic control; they envision a society where wealth and resources are shared and advocate for a united front against Capitalism's resistance.

[Autonomous Action's Website](#) (This page is in Russian. Though you should be able to translate it within the Google browser, contact Policy staff with any issues)

[Wiki of Autonomous Action](#)

[What is Anarcho-Communism?](#)

7. **Aysen Nikolayev (Head of the Sakha Republic)** - Aysen Sergeyevich Nikolayev, a politician from Russia of Yakut descent, was born on January 22, 1972. He has been the fourth Head of the Sakha Republic since May 28, 2018. He's probably going to take advantage of the unrest and break away from the Federation.

[Wiki of Aysen Nikolayev](#)

[Biography of Aysen Nikolayev](#)

8. **BOAK(Militant Anarcho-Communist Organization)** - The Boak are a far-left anarchist party formed in 2018. They heavily oppose Putin and are considered a terrorist organization by the Russian government because of their involvement in attacks against the government, including sabotaging railroads and molotov attacks. They became

notably active in 2022 as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian war, in which they aided the Ukrainian front through their guerrilla warfare tactics. Their aim is to destabilize the Russian government and disrupt its infrastructure.

[Autobiography of BOAK](#)

[Wiki of BOAK](#)

[What is Anarcho-Communism?](#)

- 9. Dmitry Utkin (Military Leader of Wagner)** - Born on June 11, 1970, Dmitry Utkin is the enigmatic co-founder of the Wagner Group, a controversial private military company known for its involvement in conflicts in Ukraine and Syria. Little is known about Utkin's background, but he remains a central figure in Wagner's operations with a military background.

[Dmitry Utkin](#)

[Who Was Dmitry Utkin](#)

[The Wagner mercenary group's second-in-command is buried in a quiet Moscow ceremony](#)

- 10. Gennady Zyuganov (Chair of the Union of Communist Parties)** - Born on June 26, 1944, Gennady Andreyevich Zyuganov is a politician from Russia who has held the position of General Secretary for the Communist Party of the Russian Federation since 1993. He was also a member of the State Duma. Since 2001, he has also served as Chair of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, a member of the Union of Communist

Parties. Zyuganov was a presidential candidate in Russia four times, the most notable being his contentious defeat to Boris Yeltsin in the second round of the 1996 election.

[Gennady Andreyevich Zyuganov](#)

[Biography of Gennady Andreyevich Zyuganov](#)

**11. Ivan Melnikov (First Vice Chairman of the State Duma)** - Ivan Ivanovich Melnikov, born in 1950, is a Russian politician and professor. He serves as the vice-chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) and the First Vice-chairman of the State Duma. Melnikov was an active member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and helped found the Communist Party of the Russian Federation in 1993.

[Ivan Melnikov](#)

[Overview of Ivan Melnikov](#)

**12. Leonid Kalashnikov (Member of the State Duma)** - Leonid Ivanovich Kalashnikov, a Russian Communist Party deputy and head of the committee on Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Eurasian Integration, and Relations with Compatriots, was sanctioned by the United States Department of the Treasury following the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.

[Leonid Kalashnikov](#)

[Mr. Leonid Kalashnikov, deputy chairman of State Duma Committee on International Affairs, meets with Christian hierarchs from Syria](#)

[Armenia's Parliament Speaker receives Russian delegation led by](#)

[Leonid Kalashnikov](#)

**13. Leonid Volkov (Central Council of the Progress Party Member)** - Leonid Volkov is a Russian Political activist and opposition figure. He's well known for his involvement with Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) and the broader opposition movement against Vladimir Putin's government. Volkov has been a key strategist and organizer, particularly in coordinating Navalny's campaigns and protests.

[Leonid Volkov](#)

[Leonid Volkov](#)

[Biography of Leonid Volkov](#)

**14. Mikhail Kasyanov (Former Prime Minister)** - Mikhail Kasyanov is a Russian politician who served as prime minister from 2000 to 2004 under President Vladimir Putin. After leaving office, Kasyanov became a critic of Putin's government. He co-founded the political party People's Democratic Union and has advocated for democracy and human rights in Russia. Kasyanov has also been involved in various opposition movements and has spoken out against corruption and authoritarianism.

[Mikhail Kasyanov](#)

[Kremlin adds former Russian PM Mikhail Kasyanov to 'foreign agents' list](#)

**15. Mikhail Mishustin (Prime Minister)** - Born on March 3, 1966, Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin is a politician and economist from Russia who has been the country's prime minister since January 16, 2020. Prior to that, from 2010 until 2020, he was the Federal Tax Service's director. On January 15, 2020, President Vladimir Putin named Mishustin

as prime minister in response to Dmitry Medvedev's resignation. He is a Putin loyalist through and through.

[Mikhail Mishustin](#)

[Official Biography of Mikhail Mishustin](#)

**16. Oleg Belozyorov (CEO of Russian Railways)** - Oleg Valentinovich Belozyorov is a Russian politician and manager who was born in Latvia on September 26, 1969. Since August 20, 2015, he has presided over Russian Railways. He headed the Russian Federal Road Agency from 2004 to 2009 and held the positions of First Deputy Minister of Transport and Deputy Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation from 2009 to 2015.

[Oleg Belozyorov](#)

[Oleg Belozyorov's Personality](#)

[Oleg Valentinovich Belozyorov](#)

**17. Ramzan Kadyrov (Head of the Chechen Republic)** - Born on October 5, 1976, Ramzan Akhmatovich Kadyrov is a politician from Russia who serves as the current head of the Chechen Republic. He had previously been connected to the Chechen independence movement through his father, who had been nominated mufti of Chechnya by separatists. He serves in the Russian military as a colonel general. Kadyrov is the son of former Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov, who became the president of Chechnya in 2003 after switching sides in the Second Chechen War to serve Vladimir Putin's government in Russia. But the Chechens could persuade him to secede.

[Ramzan Kadyrov](#)

[Ramzan Kadyrov's Personality](#)

[Biography of Ramzan Kadyrov](#)

**18. (CRAS) Confederation of Revolutionary Anarcho-Syndicalists** - The anarchist organization, the Confederation of Revolutionary Anarcho-Syndicalists (CRAS), is an organization in Russia that strives to foster an independent, libertarian labor movement rooted in anarcho-syndicalism. Since the mid-1990s, CRAS has supported various labor and social conflicts, advocated for workers' rights, and resisting neoliberal reforms. Despite facing repression and limitations on street actions by the Russian government, CRAS persists in its efforts, participating in larger protests such as anti-war demonstrations.

[Interview with CRAS, Russian Anarcho-syndicalists](#)

[Wiki of Confederation of Revolutionary Anarcho-Syndicalists](#)

[WHO ARE WE?](#) (This page is in Russian. Though you should be able to translate it within the Google browser, contact Policy staff with any issues)

[Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution](#)

[What is Anarcho-Syndicalism?](#)

**19. Rustam Minnikhanov (Head of Tatarstan)** - Since 2010, Rustam Nurgaliyevich Minnikhanov, a politician from Russia, has led Tatarstan. The persecution of the Tartar ethnic minority throughout the federation could force him to secede despite being elected by the Putin administration.



## [Rustam Minnikhanov](#)

### [Biography of Rustam Minnikhanov](#)

**20. Sergei Shoigu (Minister of Defence)** - Russian politician and military soldier Sergei Kuzhugetovich Shoigu was born on May 21, 1955 and has held the position of Minister of Defense since 2012. Since 2012, Shoigu has presided over the Commonwealth of Independent States' Council of Ministers of Defense. From 1991 to 2012, Shoigu served as the Minister of Emergency Situations. In 2012, he took on a brief tenure as Moscow Oblast's governor. As a close buddy and confidant of Vladimir Putin, Shoigu is a member of Putin's inner circle's siloviki. However, his power has been diminished as a result of his recent failures during the Russian-Ukrainian War.

### [Sergei Shoigu](#)

#### [Putin replaces Shoigu as Russia's defense minister as he starts his 5th term](#)

**21. Sergei Lavrov (Minister of Foreign Affairs)** - Since 2004, Sergei Viktorovich Lavrov, a Russian diplomat who was born on March 21, 1950, has held the position of foreign minister. Since the Tsarist era, he has been the foreign minister with the longest tenure. From 1994 until 2004, Lavrov represented Russia as a permanent representative to the UN.

### [Sergei Lavrov](#)

#### [Official Biography of Sergei Lavrov](#)

**22. Vagit Alekperov (President of Lukoil) -** Vagit Yusufovich Alekperov is a businessman.

From 1993 until 2022, he served as President of the oil corporation Lukoil. Alekperov is now the fifth richest person in Russia and the ninetieth richest person in the world with an estimated net worth of US \$19.6 billion as of April 16, 2021, according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index by Bloomberg L.P. In the past, Alekperov held a 36.8% ownership position in the football team Spartak Moscow. Alekperov is close to fellow former Spartak owner Leonid Fedun. Up until 2022, Alekperov also owned Heesen Yachts, a manufacturer of superyachts.

[Vagit Alekperov](#)

[The Triumph of the Quiet Tycoon](#)

**23. Valentin Konovalov (Head of the Republic of Khakassia) -** Born on November 30,

1987, Valentin Olegovich Konovalov is a politician from Russia who has been leading Khakassia since 2018. Before taking the position, he was a municipal politician. He was a Communist Party member who successfully challenged the sitting leader of the ruling United Russia party, Viktor Zimin, with the help of the right-wing LDPR, underscoring the surge in anti-establishment sentiment in the nation at the time.

[Valentin Konovalov](#)

[Valentin Konovalov](#)

**24. Viktor Vekselberg (Founder of Renova Group) -** Born in Ukraine on April 14, 1957,

Viktor Felixovich Vekselberg is a Russian-Israeli-Cypriot oligarch, billionaire, and businessman. He is the proprietor and head of the Russian corporation Renova Group. As

of November 2021, Forbes estimates that his net worth is \$9.3 billion, placing him as the 262nd richest person in the world.

[Viktor Vekselberg](#)

[Financial Profile of Viktor Vekselberg](#)

[Viktor Vekselberg](#)

**25. Vladimir Kashin (Member of the State Duma)** - Vladimir Ivanovich Kashin, born on August 10th, 1948, is a Russian politician and academic who has served as a deputy for the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and as head of the committee on Agrarian Issues. He holds a Doctorate of Sciences and has been an academician of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences since 1997. Kashin has been awarded several prizes and is the author of over 150 scientific papers. He was sanctioned by the US Department of the Treasury following the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.

[Vladimir Kashin](#)

[Vladimir Ivanovich Kashin](#)

[Kashin Vladimir Ivanovich](#)

**26. Vladimir Kolokoltsev (Minister of Internal Affairs)** - Born on May 11, 1961, Vladimir Alexandrovich Kolokoltsev is a politician and law enforcement official from Russia. He served as the Moscow Police Commissioner between 2009 and 2012. Since May 21, 2012, he has served as the Russian Minister of Internal Affairs. He is a crucial player in terms of military might.

[Vladimir Kolokoltsev](#)

## [Official Biography of Vladimir Kolokoltsev](#)

**27. Vladimir Milov (former chairman)** - Born on June 18, 1972, Vladimir Stanislavovich Milov is a Russian politician and economist. He served as the Democratic Choice political party's head from May 2012 to December 2015. From May to October 2002, he was the Russian Federation's Deputy Minister of Energy. He was one of the founders of the coalition "For Russia without Lawlessness and Corruption" and served as a member of the Federal Political Council of the democratic movement Solidarnost from 2008 to 2010. Up until 2013, he served as president of the Institute for Energy Policy, an independent think tank with its headquarters in Moscow.

[Vladimir Milov](#)

[Biography of Vladimir Milov](#)

[Vladimir Milov](#)

**28. Vladimir Ryzhkov (First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma)** - Vladimir Ryzhkov is a Russian politician and political figure known for his involvement in opposition politics. He was a member of the Russian State Duma (parliament) from 1993 to 2007, representing liberal and reformist views. He co-founded the liberal Republican Party of Russia, People's Freedom Party (RPR-PARNAS), and has been a vocal critic of President Vladimir Putin's policies, particularly on democracy, human rights, and political freedom in Russia. Ryzhkov is also recognized for his efforts to promote political pluralism and reforms in Russian governance.

[Vladimir Ryzhkov](#)

[Frontline on Vladimir Ryzhkov](#)

[Articles by Vladimir Ryzhkov](#)

**29. Yury Afonin (Member of the State Duma)** - Born in 1977 in Tula, Russia, Afonin studied history at Tula State Pedagogical University and law at the Russian Academy of Public Administration. He served as First Secretary of the Leninist Komsomol from 2003 to 2014. Afonin was elected to the 5th State Duma in the 2007 Russian legislative election and has been re-elected multiple times. As a deputy, he serves on the Security and Anti-Corruption Committee, Defence Budgetary Commission, and Commission for Deputy Income and Property Reporting.

[Yury Afonin](#)

[Biography of Yury Afonin](#)

**30. Yevgeny Prigozhin (Leader of Wagner)** - Born on June 1, 1961, Yevgeny Prigozhin is the leader of the violent mercenary group known as Wagner. Yevgeny Prigozhin is a Russian businessman and is known for his catering, construction, and security services. He gained fame in the 1990s for government contracts and co-founded the Wagner Group, a private military company. Prigozhin holds close ties to the Kremlin, particularly President Vladimir Putin, but recently he has been a critic of Putin.

[Yevgeny Prigozhin](#)

[From Putin's 'personal chef' to rebel: Who was Wagner chief Yevgeny](#)

[Prigozhin?](#)

## Works Cited (MLA)

---

Inosemzew, Wladislaw, and Stefan Meister. "Russia of the 2010s | DGAP." *German Council on Foreign Relations*, <https://dgap.org/en/research/publications/russia-2010s>. Accessed 11 June 2024.

"Lists of active separatist movements." *Wikipedia*, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists\\_of\\_active\\_separatist\\_movements](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_active_separatist_movements). Accessed 11 June 2024.

"Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian." *Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian*, <http://history.state.gov/milestones/1989-1992/collapse-soviet-union>. Accessed 11 June 2024.

"War in Donbas." *Wikipedia*, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War\\_in\\_Donbas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Donbas). Accessed 11 June 2024.

"What Was The February Revolution Of 1917?" *Imperial War Museums*, <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-was-the-february-revolution>. Accessed 11 June 2024.

"Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN)." *Britannica*, 2 May 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Zapatista-National-Liberation-Army>. Accessed 11 June 2024.

"Russian Revolution." *History.Com*, 12 Mar. 2024, [www.history.com/topics/european-history/russian-revolution](http://www.history.com/topics/european-history/russian-revolution). Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

Bechev, Dimitar. "Who was Dmitry Utkin, a key Wagner mercenary who died alongside Prigozhin?" *Al Jazeera*, 28 August 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/28/who-was-dmitry-utkin-a-key-wagner-mercenary-who-died-alongside-prigozhin>. Accessed 11 June 2024.

Tanno, Sophie, and Lauren Said-Moorhouse. "From Putin's 'personal chef' to rebel: Who was Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin?" *CNN*, 23 August 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/23/europe/wagner-chief-yevgeny-prigozhin-russia-intl/index.html>. Accessed 11 June 2024.