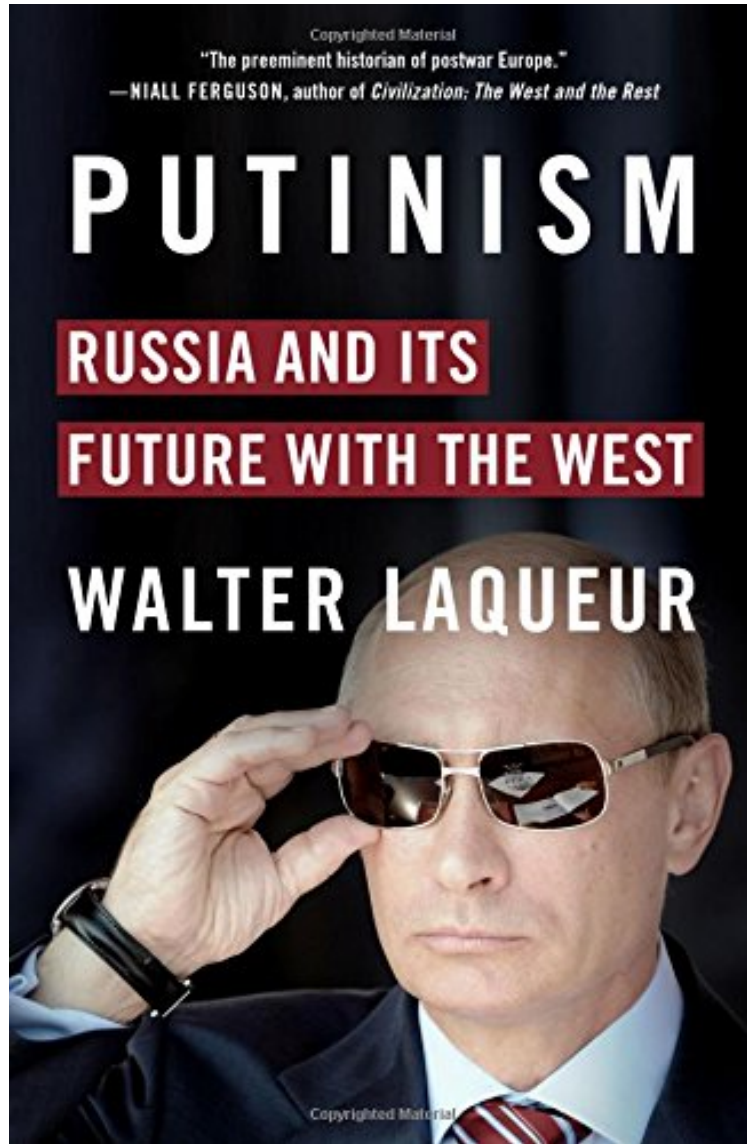


Putinism: Russia and Its Future with the West

Walter Laqueur

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Walter Laqueur : Putinism: Russia and Its Future with the West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Putinism: Russia and Its Future with the West:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A chaotic mess of a book, but worth a read By M. A Newman This is a great mess of a book that by no means should be anyone's first book on Russia. One should approach this book knowing something about Alexander Dugin, Ivan Ilyan and Nikolai Berdyaev, look them up on Wikipedia. It is a very

interesting book, maddening at times mainly due to the organization. As is the case with previous books, Laqueur's focus is Russia right wing. In light of the events in the US presidential election, the mad concerns about the search for an organic Russian idea, drawing on dubious ethnographic research by Anna Akhmatova's son Lev Gumilev, these theorists might appear positively sane by comparison. In the end, there seems to be a rejection of the west, an attempt to excise the multicultural character that is Russia. This is a book, well worth reading, exposing the western reader to current intellectual thought in Russia. The chapter headings are so divorced from reality however, that the contents are frequently a source of surprise. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read full of geopolitical flashpoints. By Sam This book is not a biography for Vladimir Putin. This book is in fact a very detailed analysis of the circumstances that have impacted President Putin's perspective, and have led to the development of his administration's methodology for crisis management. I recommend this book because I believe it is more important to understand the country than it is to understand the man, and I believe Vladimir Putin would agree that true resolution can only be had by understanding the geopolitics of the multiple regions Russia must coexist with to survive. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Putin would like to have an orderly world in which he can ... By Customer Walter Laqueur's sharp analysis is right on target - again. He examines Vladimir Putin's objectives, as much as we know about them, and presents us with a future or relations with Russia that will often be difficult to navigate. Putin would like to have an orderly world in which he can focus on dealing with the West, and specifically the US. The problem is not Putin, but how we deal with Putin as he deals with his world.

There is no question that tensions between Russia and America are on the rise. The forced annexation of Crimea, the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight 17, and the Russian government's treatment of homosexuals have created diplomatic standoffs and led to a volley of economic sanctions. In America, much of the blame for Russia's recent hostility has fallen on steely-eyed President Vladimir Putin and many have begun to wonder if they are witnessing the rebirth of Cold War-style dictatorship. Not so fast, argues veteran historian Walter Laqueur. For two decades, Laqueur has been ahead of the curve, predicting events in post-Soviet Russia with uncanny accuracy. In *Putinism*, he deftly demonstrates how three long-standing pillars of Russian ideology—a strong belief in the Orthodox Church, a sense of Eurasian "manifest destiny," and a fear of foreign enemies—continue to exert a powerful influence on the Russian populous. In fact, today's Russians have more in common with their counterparts from 1904 than 1954 and Putin is much more a servant of his people than we might think. Topical and provocative, *Putinism* contains much more than historical analysis. Looking to the future, Laqueur explains how America's tendency to see Russia as a Cold War relic is dangerous and premature. Russia can and will challenge the West and it is in our best interest to figure out exactly who we are facing—and what they want—before it is too late.

“An aptly timed and much needed look at the mercurial master of the Kremlin” —Peter Baker, *New York Times* “An erudite and unsettling but convincing argument that the new Russia is a dictatorship 'approved by the majority as long as the going is good,' and if Putin were to vanish today, his successor would make few changes.” —Kirkus (starred review) “Laqueur is grimly convincing in lowering expectations that Russia will become genuinely democratic any time soon. This thorough examination of all aspects of modern Russian society and culture makes an excellent addition to recent literature on Putin-era Russia.” —*Publishers Weekly* “Big-picture analysis is always good, and Walter Laqueur, dean of American Russia watchers, excels at it.” —James S. Denton, *World Affairs* About the Author WALTER LAQUEUR was the director of the Institute of Contemporary History in London for 30 years. Concurrently, he served as chairman of the International Research Council of CSIS in Washington, DC. He was also a professor at Georgetown University and is the author of more than 25 books including *After the Fall* (2012) and *The Last Days of Europe* (2007). He has had articles published in *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, *THE WASHINGTON POST*, and countless other newspapers worldwide.