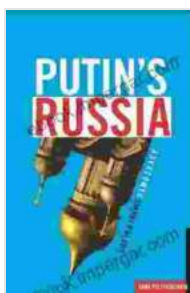


Putin's Russia: Life in a Failing Democracy



Putin's Russia: Life in a Failing Democracy

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 421 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 288 pages

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Vladimir Putin has been the President of Russia since 1999. During his time in office, he has overseen a systematic erosion of democratic institutions and the rise of authoritarianism. Putin's Russia is a country

where political dissent is suppressed, the media is controlled by the state, and the rule of law is weak.

In her book, *Putin's Russia: Life in a Failing Democracy*, Masha Gessen provides a detailed look at the political, economic, and social factors that have contributed to the decline of democracy in Russia. She argues that Putin's rise to power was not inevitable, but rather the result of a series of choices made by the Russian people and their leaders.

Gessen begins her book by describing the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the subsequent rise of Boris Yeltsin as the first President of Russia. Yeltsin was a charismatic leader who promised to bring democracy and economic prosperity to Russia. However, his presidency was marred by economic crisis, political instability, and corruption. Yeltsin's unpopularity paved the way for Putin's rise to power in 1999.

Putin initially presented himself as a reformer who would bring stability and economic growth to Russia. However, he quickly began to consolidate his power and crack down on political dissent. In 2000, he shut down the independent television network NTV. In 2003, he arrested Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the head of the oil company Yukos. And in 2004, he passed a law that effectively banned opposition parties from running in elections.

Putin's crackdown on political dissent has continued in recent years. In 2012, he passed a law that criminalized "gay propaganda." In 2015, he annexed Crimea from Ukraine. And in 2016, he was accused of interfering in the U.S. presidential election.

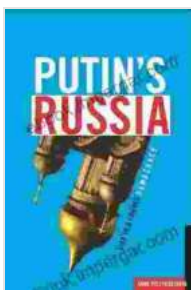
Putin's Russia is a country where the rule of law is weak. The courts are controlled by the government, and the police are often used to suppress

dissent. Corruption is rampant, and the government is increasingly reliant on oil and gas revenues to fund its operations.

The decline of democracy in Russia has had a profound impact on the lives of the Russian people. The economy has stagnated, and living standards have fallen. The gap between the rich and the poor has widened, and social mobility has declined.

Putin's Russia is a country at a crossroads. The future of democracy in Russia is uncertain. However, the Russian people have a long history of fighting for their freedom. It is up to them to determine the future of their country.

Masha Gessen's Putin's Russia: Life in a Failing Democracy is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the current state of Russia. Gessen provides a detailed and insightful analysis of the factors that have led to the decline of democracy in Russia and the consequences for the Russian people.



Putin's Russia: Life in a Failing Democracy

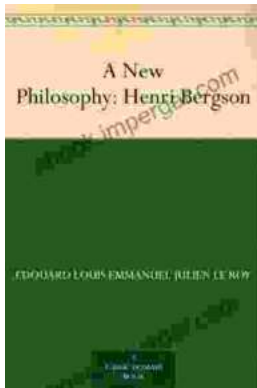
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