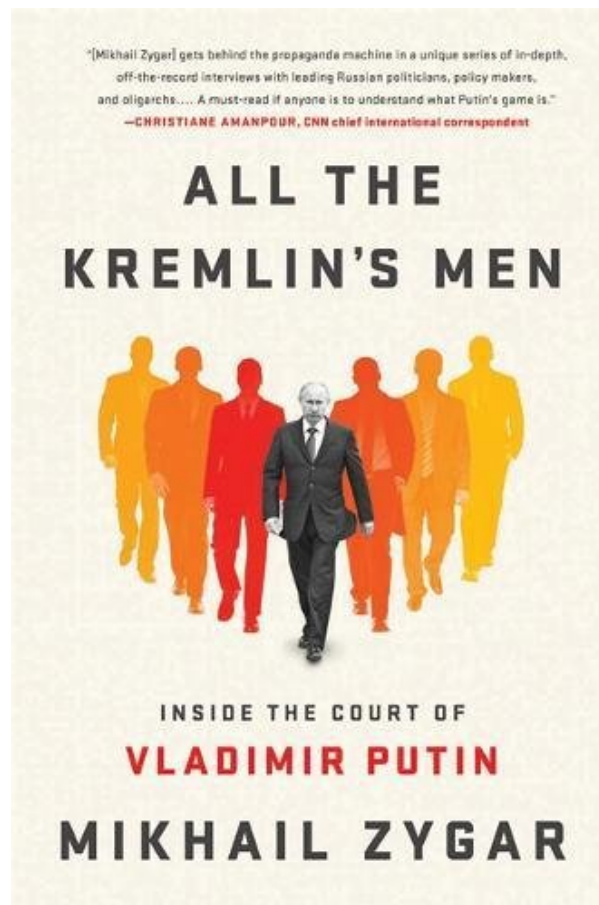


# ALL THE KREMLIN'S MEN: INSIDE THE COURT OF VLADIMIR PUTIN BY MIKHAIL ZYGAR



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—CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR, CNN chief international correspondent

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## Review

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All the Kremlin's Men is a gripping narrative of an accidental king and a court out of control. Based on an unprecedented series of interviews with Vladimir Putin's inner circle, this book presents a radically different view of power and politics in Russia. The image of Putin as a strongman is dissolved. In its place is a weary figurehead buffeted--if not controlled--by the men who at once advise and deceive him.

The regional governors and bureaucratic leaders are immovable objects, far more powerful in their fiefdoms than the president himself. So are the gatekeepers--those officials who guard the pathways to power--on whom Putin depends as much as they rely on him. The tenuous edifice is filled with all of the intrigue and plotting of a Medici court, as enemies of the state are invented and wars begun to justify personal gains, internal rivalries, or one faction's biased advantage.

A bestseller in Russia, All the Kremlin's Men is a shocking revisionist portrait of the Putin era and a dazzling reconstruction of the machinations of courtiers running riot.

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- Brand: PublicAffairs
- Published on: 2016-09-06
- Released on: 2016-09-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.63" h x 1.25" w x 6.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 400 pages

## Features

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Original, refreshing outlook on Putin's Russia

By Amazon Customer

Great read - refreshingly original

What sets this book aside from all other books on Putin's Russia is 3 things:

1. Approach --> it does not portray Russia as ruled by 1 man, but gives an actual insight in the power structures and factions that rule the Kremlin
2. Author --> The author himself is Russian - he is involved with independent Russian tv station TV Rain (and had to resign after publishing this book because of pressure from the Kremlin). He managed to get very close to many of the men in power at the Kremlin, giving a unique insight from within this very closed group of people & power, instead of reporting from a distance, as is usually the case with books like these.
3. Writing style --> every chapter starts with an anecdote about a powerful figure. These anecdotes are great storytelling, especially the ones on Chechnyan leader Ramzan Kadyrov and head of Rosneft Igor Sechin. Also, the writer clearly tries to maintain a certain neutrality in his writing, whereas most western journalists / writers (Myers, Pomerantsev) clearly write from a certain moral high ground.

It's very refreshing, original, and I definitely recommend the book.

A final big plus: there is a "Who is who" list included in the English version. A very welcome feature, especially for non-native Russian readers like me, for whom complexity of the many Russian names might be a bit overwhelming sometimes.

11 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting yet frustrating insight in the Kremlin

By Noel

This is a unique book, perhaps the most interesting written about Russian politics since the Yeltsin era. But like most readers, I expected to learn more about Putin through this gallery of close advisers, the Kremlin Men of this book. Yet he remains frustratingly distant, seemingly wary of all and certainly not one to indulge in confidence. The author's repeated argument that Putin reacted to events tactically while he lacked a broader or longer term strategy is difficult to accept about an obviously very smart leader and one who openly vowed to return Russia to world power status.

The Kremlin Men themselves have a certain Lake Wobegon quality (where all the children are above average) about them, although one or two are particularly chilling. My own view is that if the author of this book, Mr. Zygal, is indeed the last prominent independent journalist in Russia, it is because he knows which limits not to trespass.

This is not to say that this book is not informative. It does provide a Russian perspective on recent events and explains how the Kremlin understood them or chose to interpret them. At times, one is surprised and even worried at the apparent paranoia of the Kremlin about Western intentions, where steps or slights are interpreted (or is it exploited?) to justify more serious aggressions. One the memorable quotes is the one attributed to president Putin in a meeting with vice-president Biden: "we may look like you but we are not like you". It is true in many ways, but it is also a way to justify policies which are at odds with those of most of the rest of the world.

Still gigantic, yet woefully depopulated, economically sluggish, bordered by a massive China, an unstable Middle East and a rich but rudderless Europe, Russia is trying to find its place in the world. It is a massive undertaking for one man who remains an enigma.

14 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

In-Depth and Entertaining

By F. Kazmi

Probably the best book ever written about Modern Kremlin History. So much so, they confirmed it themselves! Interesting story, consistent and unique in persepective. Perfect for curious readers, Russophiles, and those who want to know "the real story", or at least a version of it.

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