

Kremlinology in the Age of Social Media

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2011 Russian elections

- ✎ Russian legislative election: December 4, 2011
- ✎ 450 seats in the State Duma
- ✎ United Russia won the elections with 49.32% of the vote, taking 238 seats



Protests following the 2011 Russian elections

- ⌘ Concerns: irregularities during the election
 - ballot stuffing
 - misuse of state resources
 - media bias and lack of impartiality by the election commission
- ⌘ Demands:
 - Freedom for political prisoners
 - Annulment of the election results
 - Registration of the opposition parties and new democratic legislation on parties and elections
 - New democratic and open elections

**МИТИНГ
ЗА ЧЕСТНЫЕ
ВЫБОРЫ**



“Суббота на Болотной площади”

Escalation in Protests

- ☞ The Big Three:
 - December 4,
 - December 24
 - February 4
- ☞ Not only opposition parties (Communist Party, Liberal Democratic Party)
- ☞ Defrauded real investors, motorists, nationalist groups, pensioners, young mothers



<http://static.guim.co.uk/sysimages/Guardian/Pix/pictures/2012/1/26/1327588618050/Barnaul-Russia-protest-to-006.jpg>

Key Players: 2011 Protests

- ☞ **Alexey Navalny:** Lawyer, social activist, founder of the RosPil anti-corruption portal
- ☞ **Boris Nemtsov:** Politician, co-chairman of opposition movement Solidarity
- ☞ **Yevgenia Chirikova:** Leader of Eco-Defense social movement and the unregistered Movement to Defend Khimki Forest



<https://www.facebook.com/events/198328520252594/>

“I Am for Fair Elections”

- ∞ Russia’s only independent elections watchdog, **Golos**: we have detected fewer violations in the run-up to the presidential election than the State Duma vote but that one of the main violators is Putin
- ∞ They allege Putin has illegally started campaigning before the official opening of the campaign season and has used his official status to promote his bid



“I am for Fair Elections” <http://www.jeremyriad.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/siberian-toy-protest-3.jpg>

Key Players: March 4, 2012 Elections

- ☞ **Prime Minister Vladimir Putin**, the former president
- ☞ **Sergei Mironov**, founder of the A Just Russia party
- ☞ **Mikhail Prokhorov**, billionaire businessman and the only independent candidate
- ☞ **Vladimir Zhirinovskiy**, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party
- ☞ **Gennady Zyuganov**, head of the Communist Party
 - The Moscow Times
<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/topics/presidential-vote-2012/452089.html>



“How Can I Follow All of This??”

- How many of you are on Twitter?
- Recommended: Twitter in Plain English tutorial
 - <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd09idmax0o>>



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Follower the Leader (On Twitter)

☞ @navalny

☞ @McFaul

☞ @4irikova



<http://en.rian.ru/images/16188/95/161889552.jpg>

Twitter and Journalism

- ✎ @miriamelder
- ✎ @JohnsonRussiaLi
- ✎ @Kremlinologist1
- ✎ @shaunwalker7



<http://en.rian.ru/images/17040/43/170404369.jpg>

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Mikhail Gorbachev and UNC CSEEEES Associate Director Jacqueline Olich celebrate Lafayette College's Oechsle Center for Global Education (Easton, PA) Wednesday, October 19, 2011