# 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



"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
- 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 Zhirinovsky, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party
- Gennady Zyuganov, head of the Communist Party
  - The Moscow Times
     http://www.themoscowtimes.com/t
     opics/presidential-vote 2012/452089.html









#### "How Can I Follow All of This??"

- Mow many of you are on Twitter?
- Recommended: Twitter in Plain English tutorial
  - o <http://www.youtube.com /watch?v=ddO9idmax0o>



### Follower the Leader (On Twitter)

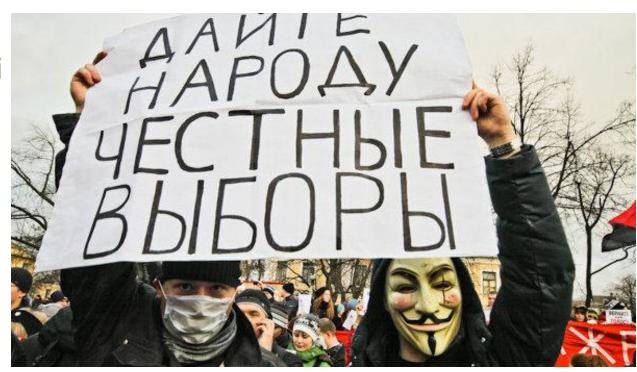
- **60** @navalny
- **60** @McFaul



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 CSEES Associate Director Jacqueline Olich celebrate Lafayette College's Oechsle Center for Global Education (Easton, PA) Wednesday, October 19, 2011