

THE PUTIN SYSTEM

“If you control the past, you control the present and when you control the present, you control the future...”

George Orwell... and Vladimir Putin



1 X 95 OR 2 X 52 - LES FILMS GRAIN DE SABLE

Cyber attacks on Estonia - The murder of dissidents on foreign soil
The testing of multi-warhead missiles - The suppression of democracy
Opposition to the independence of Kosovo - The assassination of journalists

THE BEAR HAS STARTED TO ROAR

Russia's re-emergence on the world stage in recent months is reminiscent of the glory days of the Soviet Union. But, with democratic opposition in the country being systematically crushed, does Vladimir Putin's ultra-authoritarian leadership have more in common with his communist predecessors than previously thought?

This film is an investigative documentary covering 30 years in the history of Russia through the personal history of Vladimir Putin: a man who has single-mindedly played all the rules of the game to reach the throne of power. It covers all the major events and aspects of the "Putin system" up to the present day .

Who is Vladimir Putin?

- Was he really an unknown outsider when he reached the throne of power?
- What events in his life, what aspects of Vladimir Putin's personality, what tactics and strategy led him step by step, to the top?



THE PUTIN SYSTEM

The Putin System was produced and directed by Jean Michel Carre and Jill Emery for Les Films Grain de Sable 2007



Today, Putin is the supreme arbitrator in the Kremlin. He has coldly and methodically constructed a system in Russia where the FSB and his cabal in the Kremlin have taken control and where the secret service now exerts more power than its predecessor the KGB.

The Kremlin has ousted the private oligarchs of Yeltsin's regime, "privatized the state", thwarted political opposition, taken control of the media, especially television. Putin has now cast himself as a reassuring *czar* atop a consumer society within a psychological gulag.

Older Russians have exchanged memories of the ideological and economic poverty of communism and have become nostalgic for Russia's past imperial and soviet glory. They have found in Putin a new hero .

The younger generation are becoming indoctrinated. The "Nashi," or "Young Guards" are being taught to understand the sense of national identity "soviet style". For the "Nashi," the dangers of the enemy "within" and "without" are real. They are encouraged to dish out violent retribution on those opposing their views and to distrust anyone, or anything "foreign".

For the Russian president the tragedy of the war in Chechnya is a legitimate battle to control territory under Russian sovereignty. The elimination of the "enemies of Russia", like Anna Politkovskaya in Moscow or Alexander Litvinenko in the UK, demonstrates Putin's unwillingness to tolerate dissent, even if it means crossing national borders.

Vladimir Putin's political power has been confirmed within the country but he has also become more and more arrogant on the world stage. After a short and tactical honeymoon between the two major world powers, the United States has once again become, "the wolf" and enemy number one.

Putin has stabilized the economy, developed military power and made oil and gas his new weapons, his empire and his challenge to the world.

Whatever happens Putin's chosen successor will provide him with immunity for his crimes and perpetrate his system and his geo-strategic policies.

Although nothing in Russia is ever predictable, the future of Putin's Russia will inevitably affect the future of us all.