

# The Hidden Oligarchs

## Introduction

The rise of oligarchs in the aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse has cast a long and dark shadow over the nation's political, economic, and social landscape. This book delves into the intricate web of corruption and organized crime that has become synonymous with oligarchic rule, shedding light on the hidden machinations that have shaped modern Russia.

The story begins in the tumultuous years following the fall of the Soviet Union, as a new elite emerged from the ashes of the old regime. These oligarchs, often with close ties to the former communist nomenklatura, swiftly seized control of key industries and sectors, amassing vast fortunes through dubious means and shady dealings.

As their wealth and influence grew, the oligarchs began to exert their power over the political sphere, forming a corrupt nexus that would come to define the country's political landscape. Backroom deals, bribery, and extortion became the norm, while democratic institutions were systematically undermined.

The consequences of oligarchic rule have been devastating for Russian society. The gap between the super-rich and the rest of the population has widened dramatically, leading to rampant inequality and social unrest. Public services have been neglected, infrastructure has crumbled, and the rule of law has been subverted.

The tentacles of oligarchic influence have also reached far beyond Russia's borders, as these newly minted elites have sought to expand their empires and exert their power on the global stage. They have acquired foreign assets, lobbied governments, and infiltrated

international organizations, seeking to shape global governance in their favor.

Despite the formidable challenges posed by oligarchic rule, there are signs of hope for a better future. Anti-corruption movements have emerged, calling for transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. Citizens and civil society groups have taken to the streets to demand change, and international cooperation is slowly but surely gaining momentum.

This book is a clarion call for action, a wake-up call to expose the hidden machinations of oligarchy and to demand a more just and equitable society. It is a call to arms for citizens, policymakers, and international organizations to unite against this pernicious force that threatens to undermine the very foundations of democracy and progress.

## Book Description

In the aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse, a new elite emerged from the ashes of the old regime: the oligarchs. These individuals, often with close ties to the former communist nomenklatura, swiftly seized control of key industries and sectors, amassing vast fortunes through dubious means and shady dealings.

This book delves into the intricate web of corruption and organized crime that has become synonymous with oligarchic rule in Russia, shedding light on the hidden machinations that have shaped the country's political, economic, and social landscape.

The rise of the oligarchs has had devastating consequences for Russian society. The gap between the super-rich and the rest of the population has widened dramatically, leading to rampant inequality and social unrest. Public services have been neglected,

infrastructure has crumbled, and the rule of law has been subverted.

The oligarchs' influence has also reached far beyond Russia's borders, as they have sought to expand their empires and exert their power on the global stage. They have acquired foreign assets, lobbied governments, and infiltrated international organizations, seeking to shape global governance in their favor.

Despite the formidable challenges posed by oligarchic rule, there are signs of hope for a better future. Anti-corruption movements have emerged, calling for transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. Citizens and civil society groups have taken to the streets to demand change, and international cooperation is slowly but surely gaining momentum.

This book is a clarion call for action, a wake-up call to expose the hidden machinations of oligarchy and to demand a more just and equitable society. It is a must-

read for anyone interested in understanding the challenges facing Russia today and the global implications of oligarchic rule.

# Chapter 1: The Rise of the Oligarchs

## The Birth of a New Elite

In the aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse, a new elite emerged from the ashes of the old regime: the oligarchs. These individuals, often with close ties to the former communist nomenklatura, swiftly seized control of key industries and sectors, amassing vast fortunes through dubious means and shady dealings.

The rise of the oligarchs was facilitated by a number of factors, including the privatization of state assets, the weak rule of law, and the lack of transparency and accountability in the business and political spheres. As a result, a small group of individuals was able to accumulate immense wealth and power, while the majority of the population was left behind.

The oligarchs' accumulation of wealth was often accompanied by a disregard for the law and a willingness to use violence and intimidation to achieve

their goals. They established close ties with criminal groups, and many of them were involved in money laundering, tax evasion, and other illicit activities.

The oligarchs' rise to power also had a profound impact on Russia's political landscape. They used their wealth to influence elections, bribe government officials, and control the media. As a result, they were able to shape policies and laws in their favor, further consolidating their power and wealth.

The emergence of the oligarchs marked a dark chapter in Russia's history. Their greed and corruption undermined the country's economy, weakened its institutions, and eroded public trust in the government. The oligarchs' reign would cast a long shadow over Russia's future, and their legacy continues to shape the country's politics and society today.

# Chapter 1: The Rise of the Oligarchs

## The Exploitation of Power and Influence

The rise of the oligarchs in Russia was facilitated by their exploitation of power and influence in a variety of ways.

One key factor was their close ties to the former communist nomenklatura. Many oligarchs had held positions of power in the Soviet Union, and they were able to use their connections to gain access to valuable assets and resources after the collapse of the USSR. They also benefited from the privatization process, which was often conducted in a way that allowed them to acquire state-owned assets at a fraction of their true value.

Another way in which the oligarchs exploited their power and influence was through their control over the media. They used their wealth to buy up newspapers, television stations, and other media

outlets, which they then used to promote their own interests and attack their rivals. This allowed them to shape public opinion and influence political discourse in their favor.

The oligarchs also used their wealth to fund political parties and candidates, thereby gaining significant influence over the political process. They were able to buy laws that benefited their businesses and block legislation that threatened their interests. This resulted in a system of crony capitalism, in which the oligarchs used their political power to enrich themselves at the expense of the general population.

The exploitation of power and influence by the oligarchs had a devastating impact on Russian society. It led to a widening wealth gap, increased inequality, and a decline in public trust in the government. It also contributed to the rise of corruption and organized crime, as the oligarchs used their wealth and power to

protect themselves from prosecution and to silence their critics.

# Chapter 1: The Rise of the Oligarchs

## The Shady Deals and Backroom Politics

The rise of the oligarchs in post-Soviet Russia was not a clean or transparent process. It was characterized by a murky underworld of shady deals and backroom politics, where power and influence were often more important than the law.

One of the most common ways that oligarchs amassed their wealth was through the privatization of state assets. In the chaotic years following the collapse of the Soviet Union, many valuable state-owned enterprises were sold off at fire-sale prices, often to well-connected individuals with close ties to the government. These individuals were able to use their political influence to secure favorable terms for themselves, often at the expense of the public.

Another way that oligarchs increased their wealth was through government contracts. With their connections

to powerful politicians and bureaucrats, oligarchs were able to secure lucrative contracts for their businesses, often without competitive bidding. These contracts were often inflated in value, allowing the oligarchs to make huge profits while providing little in return to the state.

The oligarchs also used their wealth and influence to manipulate the political system to their advantage. They made generous campaign contributions to politicians who would support their interests, and they used their media outlets to promote their favored candidates and policies. They also used their connections to law enforcement and the judiciary to intimidate their rivals and protect their own interests.

The result of this shady dealing and backroom politics was a system of crony capitalism, where the oligarchs used their wealth and influence to enrich themselves and their associates at the expense of the public. This system led to widespread corruption, inequality, and

social unrest, and it ultimately undermined the democratic institutions of the country.

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

**Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.**

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