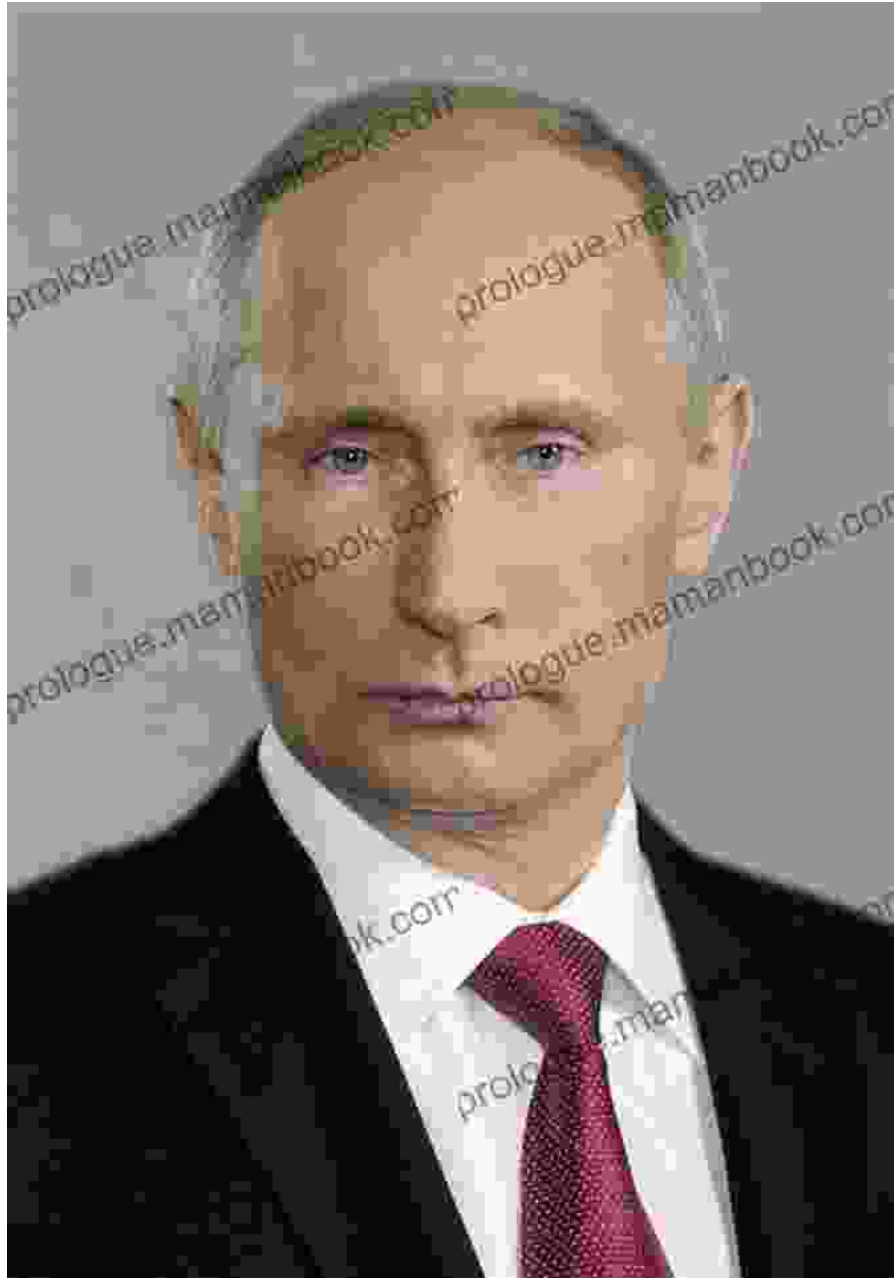


# How Russia Fell In and Out of Love with Vladimir Putin



Vladimir Putin has been the President of Russia for over two decades, a period that has seen him rise from obscurity to become one of the most powerful and influential leaders in the world. But how did he manage to

achieve such a remarkable feat? And why have his popularity ratings fluctuated so dramatically over the years?



## Fragile Empire: How Russia Fell In and Out of Love with Vladimir Putin by Ben Judah

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
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In this article, we will explore the reasons behind Putin's rise to power, examine the factors that have contributed to his enduring popularity, and discuss the challenges that he has faced throughout his presidency.

### Putin's Rise to Power

Vladimir Putin was born in Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg) in 1952. After graduating from Leningrad State University, he joined the KGB, the Soviet Union's secret police. He rose through the ranks quickly, eventually becoming head of the KGB's foreign intelligence service.

In 1999, Putin was appointed Prime Minister of Russia by President Boris Yeltsin. Yeltsin's health was failing, and he was looking for a successor who could maintain stability and prevent the country from falling into chaos.

Putin fit the bill perfectly. He was a strong leader with a reputation for being tough on crime and corruption.

When Yeltsin resigned in 2000, Putin was elected President in a landslide victory. He won reelection in 2004, 2012, and 2018.

## **Putin's Popularity**

Putin's popularity has been based on a number of factors, including:

\* **His strong leadership:** Putin is seen by many Russians as a strong and decisive leader who has restored order and stability to the country. \* **His economic policies:** Putin has presided over a period of economic growth and prosperity for Russia. \* **His patriotism:** Putin has appealed to Russian nationalism by portraying himself as a defender of the country's interests. \* **His opposition to the West:** Putin has taken a tough stance against the West, which has resonated with many Russians who feel that the country has been humiliated by the West in recent years.

## **Challenges to Putin's Rule**

Despite his popularity, Putin has faced a number of challenges throughout his presidency, including:

\* **The Chechnya conflict:** Putin's handling of the Chechnya conflict has been criticized by human rights groups. \* **The 2008 Russo-Georgian War:** Putin's decision to invade Georgia in 2008 was widely condemned by the international community. \* **The annexation of Crimea:** Putin's annexation of Crimea in 2014 led to sanctions from the West and further isolation for Russia. \* **The economic crisis:** Russia's economy has been struggling in recent years, due to a combination of factors including low oil prices and

Western sanctions. \* **The COVID-19 pandemic:** The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on Russia, both economically and socially.

## Putin's Legacy

It is still too early to say what Putin's legacy will be. However, there is no doubt that he has been one of the most significant figures in Russian history. He has restored Russia's status as a global power, and he has made the country more prosperous and stable than it has been in decades.

However, Putin's presidency has also been marked by controversy and conflict. He has been accused of authoritarianism, corruption, and human rights abuses. The long-term consequences of his rule remain to be seen.

Vladimir Putin is a complex and controversial figure. He has been both praised and criticized for his actions as President of Russia. It is clear that he has had a profound impact on the country, but the full extent of his legacy will not be known for many years to come.



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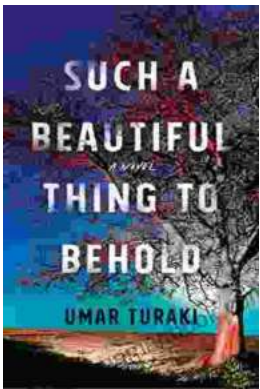
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