

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910460121203321
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Titolo	Popular support for an undemocratic regime : the changing views of Russians // Richard Rose, William Mishler and Neil Munro [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2011
ISBN	1-139-06420-7 1-107-22213-3 1-283-11120-9 1-139-07672-8 9786613111203 0-511-80920-4 1-139-08354-6 1-139-07900-X 1-139-08127-6 1-139-07100-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vii, 206 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	947.086
Soggetti	Democratization - Russia (Federation) Democracy - Russia (Federation) Political participation - Russia (Federation) Post-communism - Russia (Federation) Russia (Federation) Politics and government 1991- Russia (Federation) Economic conditions 1991- Russia (Federation) Social conditions 1991-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: the need for popular support -- 1. Democratic and undemocratic models of support -- 2. Changing the supply of regimes -- 3. Putin consolidates a new regime -- 4. Increasing support for an undemocratic regime -- 5. Individual influences on regime support -- 6. Time tells: there is no alternative -- 7. Finessing the challenge of

succession -- 8. The challenge of economic reversal -- 9. Maintaining a regime: democratic or otherwise -- Appendix A: New Russia barometer samples -- Appendix B: Coding of variables.

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## Sommario/riassunto

To survive, all forms of government require popular support, whether voluntary or involuntary. Following the collapse of the Soviet system, Russia's rulers took steps toward democracy, yet under Vladimir Putin Russia has become increasingly undemocratic. This book uses a unique source of evidence, eighteen surveys of Russian public opinion from the first month of the new regime in 1992 up to 2009, to track the changing views of Russians. Clearly presented and sophisticated figures and tables show how political support has increased because of a sense of resignation that is even stronger than the unstable benefits of exporting oil and gas. Whilst comparative analyses of surveys on other continents show that Russia's elite is not alone in being able to mobilize popular support for an undemocratic regime, Russia provides an outstanding caution that popular support can grow when governors reject democracy and create an undemocratic regime.

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