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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Foreword -- Preface and Acknowledgments -- I Introduction -- The ratings problem -- Main material -- Delimitations -- Transliteration of Russian words and names -- II Theoretical Points of Orientation -- Political succession -- Legitimacy -- Legitimacy in non-democratic states -- Charisma and routinization -- Legitimacy and political myth -- III Legitimizing Putin -- The 2011-2012 legitimization crisis -- Re-legitimization: Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea -- Strength and stability -- The great power myth -- Getting out of troubles: the smuta myth -- D ynamic interplay: the phoenix myth -- The bulwark and its champion -- The man of action -- Great communicator, benevolent ruler -- Putin the populist -- Putin the common Russian -- IV Legitimacy through Othering -- Othering and Russia -- Relations with the United States -- Dealing with Trump -- Enter Joe Biden -- No more the underdog -- Paradigm shift and saber-rattling -- V Challenges from Within -- Electoral authoritarianism in Russia -- The presidential elections of 2018 -- The Navalny challenge -- Medvedev's downfall -- Navalny vs. Putin -- The fall guy function -- Stability and order -- The good tsar -- VI Challenge from Without -- The corona crisis: devolving power -- Entering center stage-and exiting again -- The Sputnik V vaccine -- Faring better than the West? -- Skewing the statistics -- The pandemic and the image -- VII The Succession Issue -- Looking to the East? -- Guarantor of the constitution? -- Successions in the Russian post-Soviet past -- Post-

