Global Social Justice Activism and Protest Movements: East Europe and Eurasia Resource Guide

Russia

- **Putin v. the People: The Perilous Politics of a Divided Russia**
  - Samuel Greene and Graeme Robertson
  - For a comprehensive overview of state-society relations in Putin’s Russia
  - [https://www.google.com/books/edition/Putin_v_the_People/duSYDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Putin_v_the_People/duSYDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0)

- Alexei Navalny videos demonstrating official corruption:
  - “Don’t call him ‘Dimon’”
  - About former prime minister Dmitri Medvedev
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrwlc7_GF9g&t=62s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrwlc7_GF9g&t=62s)

- “Putin’s Palace”
  - Released shortly before Navalny’s poisoning
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipAnwilMncI&t=3281s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipAnwilMncI&t=3281s)

- Russia’s New Political Momentum
  - Gulnaz Sharafutdinova
  - About the Navalny-inspired protest movement

- Why Protests Keep Putin Up at Night
  - Stephen Crowley
  - The fears of a strongman

- Putin’s Labor Dilemma: Russian Politics between Stability and Stagnation
  - [Coming soon! Shameless self-promotion! But 30% off with code 09FLYER !]

- Protest in Putin’s Russia
  - Mischa Gabowitsch
  - [https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Protest+in+Putin%27s+Russia-p-9780745696263](https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Protest+in+Putin%27s+Russia-p-9780745696263)

Ukraine

- Ukraine Crisis: Timeline
  - Events leading up to the 2014 Maidan Revolution and beyond
• **Why Ukraine’s Yanukovych Fell... Though Many Predicted He Wouldn’t**
  - Lucan Way
  - [https://www.ponarseurasia.org/ukraine-yanukovych-fell-predicted-wouldn/](https://www.ponarseurasia.org/ukraine-yanukovych-fell-predicted-wouldn/)

• **Inside the ‘Museum of Corruption”**

**Belarus**

• **Dictatorland: Belarus**
  - A whimsical take on a serious subject. The film was made before the 2020 anti-Lukashenko protests
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMZ_tgLVqiE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMZ_tgLVqiE)

• **The Belarus Protests and Russia: Lessons for “Big Brother”**

• **The Factory Joins the Square: Putin’s Nightmare Unfolds in Belarus**
  - Stephen Crowley
  - Will workers join with liberals demanding political freedoms?
  - [https://www.thenation.com/article/world/putin-belarus-protests/](https://www.thenation.com/article/world/putin-belarus-protests/)
  - [PDF available if there is a paywall]

**Pussy Riot**

• **Riot Days**
  - Maria Alyokhina
  - Alyokhina’s account of her years in Russia’s criminal system following Pussy Riot’s arrest for the “Punk Prayer” performance.
  - [https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250164926](https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250164926)

• **Kicking the Kremlin: Russia’s New Dissidents and the Battle to Topple Putin**
  - Marc Bennetts
  - Looks at the opposition movement in Russia and introduces a new generation of Russian dissidents.
  - [https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Kicking-the-Kremlin/Marc-Bennetts/9781781780743486](https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Kicking-the-Kremlin/Marc-Bennetts/9781781780743486)

• **Pussy Riot: Speaking Punk to Power (Russian Shorts)**
  - Eliot Borenstein
Looks at the history of Pussy Riot, who they are, what they’re trying to achieve, and how they are frequently misunderstood by western media.


- **Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot**
  - Masha Gessen
  - Contains Gessen’s account of the members of Pussy Riot and their personal journeys that led to the creation of Pussy Riot.

- **Rock/Music Writings**
  - Dan Graham
  - This doesn’t necessarily focus on Pussy Riot, but this book contains writings about rock music and its cultural impact.
  - https://primaryinformation.org/product/dan-graham/

- **Revenge of the She-Punks: A Feminist Music History from Poly Styrene to Pussy Riot**
  - Vivien Goldman
  - Focuses on women in punk from the 1970s to contemporary musicians across the globe.
  - https://utpress.utexas.edu/books/goldman-revenge-of-the-she-punks

- **Postmodern Crises: from Lolita to Pussy Riot**
  - Mark Lipovetsky
  - The chapter “Pussy Riot as the Trickstar” is worth focusing on (Alicia Baca has a copy of this book she is willing to lend out if anyone is interested in reading it).
  - https://academicstudiespress.com/arsrossica/postmodern-crises

- **Pussy Riot!: A Punk Prayer For Freedom**
  - Pussy Riot
  - Contains English translations of the courtroom statements from the October 10 appeal, Pussy Riot’s letters from prison, defense attorney closing arguments, poems, and various tributes to Pussy Riot.

- “What Pussy Riot’s 'Punk Prayer' Really Said.” *(The Atlantic)*
  - Jeffrey Tayler
  - Contains an English translation of “Punk Prayer” (be warned, there’s a lot of swearing if you’re uncomfortable with that) and contains a brief analysis of its meaning.
• **Read & Riot: A Pussy Riot Guide to Activism**
  - Nadya Tolokonnikova
  - Not necessarily an academic text, but an interesting read on activism from Pussy Riot’s founder.