

Russia Post-Putin

Oxford Analytica Client Conference Call
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The Ukraine crisis seems to have made the person and personality of the Russian president synonymous with that of his country; their interests and identity have become intertwined. What are the consequences and risks arising from this situation, and what would Russia look like should it no longer be true?

Russia's adventurism in Ukraine has created the greatest security crisis in Europe in a generation -- but it has also united most of Russia around President Vladimir Putin. The Russian leader has conflated himself with country and crisis. This fusion has boosted his popularity, particularly beyond Moscow and St. Petersburg, and he has used the opportunity to strengthen further the firm hand of his authority.

Such a course holds dangers for Putin, not only from an increasingly beleaguered economy but also the outburst of Russian 'patriotism', which has been buoyed by the Donbas crisis. Such nationalism poses a threat to the president if he fails to control it and the intra-elite factions that are making use of it. A miscalculation on his part could lead to his downfall -- and usher in an even more, for the West, problematic leader.

Putin currently shows no sign of changing course: hawkish policy makers appear to be increasingly telling him what he wants to hear, thereby further escalating the situation and inadvertently raising the risk of the collapse of the system in which Putin is at the heart.

Join our Client Conference Call on **March 26 at 1500** to explore the outlook for Russia as we address key questions including:

- Can Putin control Russia's rising nationalism?
- What is the landscape within Russia's ruling elite?
- Will Russia get more 'dangerous' as the economy weakens, and strengthen or weaken Putin's hold on power?
- What if Ukraine collapses first?
- Who could replace Putin?

Chair

Graham Hutchings, Managing Director, *Oxford Analytica*

Graham Hutchings undertook his first consulting assignment for Oxford Analytica in 1988 when he was China Specialist with London's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper. He spent 10 years based first in Beijing and then Hong Kong as the paper's China Correspondent, reporting on such major events as the suppression of the student-led protests in Tiananmen Square, China's economic 'take-off' and the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty. He studied Chinese history, politics and language at the Hatfield Polytechnic and Ealing College of Higher Education.

Graham joined Oxford Analytica full time in 2000 as Managing Editor of the Oxford Analytica Daily Brief. His *Modern China: A Companion to a Rising Power* was published by Penguin Press in the same year. In 2011 he was appointed Director of Analysis, in which capacity he led the firm's Analysis team and the global contributor network in delivering analysis of political, economic and social events around the world each day for clients in government, international institutions and corporations.

He became Managing Director of Oxford Analytica in April 2013.

Panellists will include:

Dr Alex Pravda, Russia/CIS Region Head, *Oxford Analytica*

Emeritus Fellow, St Antony's College, Oxford;

Senior Research Fellow, School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, University of Oxford; Emeritus Fellow, Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre, St Antony's College, Oxford; taught at universities in the UK and held visiting appointments at US universities; has advised corporations involved in business with Russia and has served as specialist advisor to the House of Commons.

Professor Paul Chaisty, Russia/CIS Region Head, Oxford Analytica

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University Lecturer in Russian Politics and Fellow of St Antony's College, University of Oxford

Paul Chaisty is the University Lecturer in Russian Government and Director of the Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre at St. Antony's College, Oxford University. His recent publications include *Legislative Politics and Economic Power in Russia* (Palgrave, Basingstoke, 2006). He is currently researching the phenomenon of coalitional presidentialism in the former Soviet Union, and the political sociology of post-Soviet Russia.

Professor Philip Hanson, Contributor, Oxford Analytica

Emeritus Professor of the Political Economy of Russia and Eastern Europe, University of Birmingham; previous posts include visiting professorships at Michigan, Harvard, Kyoto, Uppsala and Stockholm Universities; held official positions at UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Radio Liberty and UN Economic Commission for Europe; awarded an OBE for services to Soviet and Russian Studies in 2011.