

ATHENA

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

MSc Course

"The EU and the Post-Soviet Space"

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FARTAN

AS

ANDREI NIKOLAEVICI

(Fictional) Leader of
the "Saving the People
of Russia" Party



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Context

Starting on the 14th of March 2023, following Russia's cease fire in Ukraine after losing full control over the latter's territories, peaceful protests have been taking place in Russia, asking for the resignation of president Vladimir Putin, alongside his highest-ranking officials. Due to his refusal to resign, on the 21st of March, 2023, a violent revolution erupted. The protesters were responded to with violence, and the situation quickly escalated into an armed revolution, spreading across the largest cities of Russia. On the 27th of March, at 4:02 am, president Vladimir Putin was seen leaving the country in a private plane, alongside his regime's highest-ranking officials. At sunrise, 06:15 am, on the same day, in the Red Square in Moscow, Andrei Nikolaevici, leader of the revolutionary group and newly established 'SPR' - Saving the People of Russia party, is holding a speech, trying to seize political power.

Speech

People of Russia, I stand before you today, at this exceptional moment, marking the end of a revolution. At 4:02 am this morning, our now former president, Vladimir Putin, has fled the country with a private plane, alongside former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov; former leader of the United Russia party, Dimitri Medvedev; former Minister of Defence, Sergei Shoigu and former director of the Russian Security Service, Alexander Bortnikov. As their location is currently unknown, we are eagerly awaiting their return to Russia, as we prefer watching criminals behind bars than on television screens.

But let us now rejoice, if only for a moment, because for the first time in decades, we, the ordinary people of Russia, are finally free. Free to choose our leaders independently, free to express our concerns publicly, free to oppose the wars that we fought in and were never ours in the first place. We will make sure to never forget the loss of life and the damage we have caused to our Ukrainian and Georgian brothers, amongst others! Let their memory be a catalyst for a bigger, brighter future - for Russia and all of our neighbours!

For it was never us, the ordinary people, that decided to live through such terrible times, but rather it was history that decided for us. The past has been cruel to us, my brothers, for as the Iron Curtain fell across the continent, a guillotine came crushing upon our heads - and communism had begun. We had no choice but to obey that system of terror and turn a blind eye to the crimes committed by the Communist Party - a dark history we shall always remember.

Then, in 1991, we had a short-lived moment of change - it seemed as if the Sun was finally shining upon us again. The walls of communism were beginning to crumble and from their ruin, we expected flowers to grow and beauty to be seen. But we were wrong, my friends! For instead of flowers, only the bitter weeds of imperialism had grown, crushing our new-found hopes to pieces. As communism had fallen, a new system of terror was imposed upon us, more subtle and subversive, and we became both victims and criminals, always confused, never knowing what our next move should be.

We were taught how to think, how to feel, how to judge and how to decide. We were taught that by trusting the system, we were trusting ourselves, as true Russians! And so we did - but then it turned against us, dear friends, and from its partisans we became its casualties!

My friends, we are at a crossroads and have to choose a future for ourselves. But let us not be hasty and get fooled by the Western ideal of democracy either. We, the ordinary people of Russia, crave real democracy, where rights exist alongside responsibilities and people love each other regardless

of their views, backgrounds and nationalities. Do not be fooled by the European model that is being imposed upon us, for it is the product of the same tragic history that we had to suffer- the one which allows them to rule over the world today; the one which condemned us to our tragic destinies.

Brothers of Russia, it is high time we decided for ourselves and created our own model for governance - one where people are free and justice prevails! Today, brothers, we have broken the shackles of our past, and we will always remember the heroes that sacrificed themselves for this revolution! Do not fear change, my friends, but embrace it, as fearful as it may seem, for we can finally re-build Russia as we see fit!