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Russia And The Western Far Right: Tango Noir (Routledge Studies In Fascism And The Far Right)



Synopsis

The growing influence of Russia on the Western far right has been much discussed in the media recently. This book is the first – a detailed inquiry into what has been a neglected but critically important trend: the growing links between Russian actors and Western far right activists, publicists, ideologues, and politicians. The author uses a range of sources including interviews, video footage, leaked communications, official statements and press coverage in order to discuss both historical and contemporary Russia in terms of its relationship with the Western far right. Initial contacts between Russian political actors and Western far right activists were established in the early 1990s, but these contacts were low profile. As Moscow has become more anti-Western, these contacts have become more intense and have operated at a higher level. The book shows that the Russian establishment was first interested in using the Western far right to legitimise Moscow's politics and actions both domestically and internationally, but more recently Moscow has begun to support particular far right political forces to gain leverage on European politics and undermine the liberal-democratic consensus in the West. Contributing to ongoing scholarly debates about Russia's role in the world, its strategies aimed at securing legitimisation of Putin's regime both internationally and domestically, modern information warfare and propaganda, far right politics and activism in the West, this book draws on theories and methods from history, political science, area studies, and media studies and will be of interest to students, scholars, activists and practitioners in these areas.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anton Shekhovtsov is the world's leading expert on Russian political warfare against the West. His book is a masterly investigation of the Kremlin's tactics and strategy, highlighting both successes and failures. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to defend our freedom from our most formidable adversaries: Russia's crony-capitalist ex-KGB regime.

Edward Lucas, Senior Editor, The Economist 'Events in the Ukraine, Syria, and the US elections have thrust Putin's foreign policies to the centre of the attention of the Western media. Meanwhile, the growing nexus of informal contacts between his government and the far right, both inside and outside Russia, has been practically ignored. Shekhovtsov has deployed his rare combination of expertise in fascist studies and fluency in the relevant languages and cultures to good effect, filling in with meticulous scholarship what turns out to be a disturbingly large gap in the conventional understanding of Putinism. The result is a book relevant not just to observers of right-wing extremism and Russia-watchers everywhere, but to anyone prepared to be even more concerned about the new Cold War, where firewalls, encryption and maskirovka have replaced watchposts, spies, and Pravda.' - Roger Griffin, Author of *Modernism and Fascism*

'This path-breaking book is the first comprehensive investigation into, and political analysis of, the Soviet and post-Soviet Russian regimes' paradoxical relations with various Western right-wing extremists. The book discloses numerous hitherto un- or little known facts about Moscow's semi-secret outreach to European ultra-nationalists during the 1920s and 1950s, as well as about Putin's recent undisguised utilization of Western anti-liberal forces. Shekhovtsov follows meticulously and interprets revealingly the various motivations, strategies and challenges of the Kremlin's intensifying cooperation with the international radical right. His book makes important contributions to both, political science sub-fields such as right-wing extremism and Russian studies, as well as to the current public discourse on the nature, methods and repercussions of Moscow's escalating confrontation with the West.'

- Andreas Umland
Senior Fellow, Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, Kyiv

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