

Navalny

CR 754

**Billy:**

Thank you, that is enough explanation for me. Then I have further a question concerning Putin, who does not defend himself in any way against the attacks of the vicious Nawalny. I also find it strange that this Navalny is not stopped with his hate speech in the West.

**Ptaah:**

251. For the entire West, as you say, the hate speeches he is making against Putin and the Russian government in general are extremely convenient, whereby especially the German incompetent Chancellor Merkel, her supporters, as well as the entire EU dictatorship, as you call this European disaster, as well as the United States of America, are under the delusion that they can profit from this and bring Putin as well as Russia under their dictatorship delusion.

252. For the entire Western states, Nawalny, as a self-proclaimed enemy of Putin and enemy of Russia's government, is a welcome object to profit from his hate speech.

253. The lust for power of Navalny, who hopes to fulfil his own greed for power in the West through his hate speeches against Putin and to move into Moscow as Russian head of state, is limitless.

**Billy:**

The fact that he disguises his true malignant character and pretends to be different from what he really is corresponds to what has been characteristic of all like-minded people since time immemorial who have managed to gain state power in order to then bring thousands and millions of disasters upon their peoples or the entire world. Unfortunately, however, it is as it has always been, namely that such power-hungry elements, such as this Nawalny, through their lies, slander and promises of lies, etc., find a lot of support from completely clueless, stupid and judgment-incompetent followers or supporters, and as I often say, stupid people, turncoats, yes-men and opportunists, who always align their opinions as a weather vane flutters according to the direction of the wind. There is nothing more to be said about this, except perhaps that the true malignant nature of this man Nawalny is openly written on his face, which, however, is not seen and not recognised by all those earthlings who do not strive for the ability to recognise character in physiognomy and consequently cannot recognise or read out character traits.

But this only applies to simple and uneducated human beings, which is understandable in my opinion, because the so-called 'normal person' does not deal with psychology etc.; what is regrettable, however, is the fact that very often persons who call themselves psychological 'experts' etc. also fancy themselves as physiognomy interpreters etc., even though they are complete losers in this.

If, under certain circumstances, Nawalny were to actually come to government power in Russia, then mischief would be spread over time, as was the case with Stalin, Hitler and many other despots. When such elements actually come to power in government, they first play themselves to the peoples as good and people-oriented rulers, and then, when they have become comfortable in the saddle of government, they slowly turn into dictators and slowly bully the peoples and spread mischief.

**Ptaah:**

254. What you say is indeed so true, and as for Vladimir Putin, who is misjudged by all his enemies and his composure and calmness misinterpreted, will in the near future at least bring himself to demand proof that Nawalny was indeed poisoned with the nerve agent Novichok.

255. In fact, there is no evidence whatsoever that traces of Novichok were found on Nawalny, because, on the one hand, no Novichok residues were found on Nawalny during the first immediate and very thorough examinations after his hospitalisation in the Siberian city of Tomsk, when you asked us to determine whether something with Novichok had actually been involved there.

256. In fact, there was no evidence of any crime against Alexei Navalny, as we checked later when our interest was aroused.

257. We also looked in his bedroom, but we could not find any traces of the poison, nor on any dozens of objects belonging to him, foreigners or the hostel.

258. What we find extremely strange and suspicious is the fact that after his collapse, which also seems very strange to us, Nawalny was so quickly and easily flown out to the West to Germany and admitted to the Berlin University Hospital, where numerous tests and examinations were carried out on Nawalny, but the true results of which are being kept secret.

259. And these oddities continued to arise when suddenly Novichok was said to have been detected, which was not the case in precise examinations in Tomsk, but was then said to have been the case several times in Germany in renewed examinations, which, however, after our first clarifications in Tomsk, we no longer cared about in depth, but only superficially, until today.

260. What we do know, however, corresponds to extremely unpleasant inconsistencies which relate to background machinations which should not be mentioned openly, namely ...

261. Also the German government withholds various information and insists on secrecy about the affair of Alexei Nawalny, who is vehemently and viciously mired in deep hatred as a critic of Putin and the Kremlin, and who leaves no underhandedness out of consideration in order to make Putin impossible, and thereby gain state power himself.

262. However, the German leaders, above all Chancellor Merkel, are now keeping the results of the diagnosis of Alexei Nawalny secret.

263. And this also vis-à-vis Russia, although the Russian prosecution has requested legal assistance and the release of the results of the investigation in order to be able to conduct its own investigations.

264. But this is what the German state leadership wants to prevent, above all Chancellor Merkel.

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The fact is that, as a rule, it is always Western states that interfere in the interests of Eastern states and make demands on them, whereby Russia, in particular, has been the most popular and most denounced and attacked country for Western states since time immemorial, and has also been harassed with sanctions.

And it is precisely in this respect, with regard to the sanctions imposed on Russia by the USA, the EU dictatorship and Germany in particular, that I find Putin's actions good, namely that he does not react at all to these attacking ridicule, just as he does with regard to the lies of Nawalny that the giant palace in the south of the country belongs to Putin, but which is in fact the property of a Russian oligarch.

But, of course, it is as usual that the stupidly insolent followers of Navalny blindly believe his indoctrinating lies and do not question them.

But unfortunately, the Intelligendum of the Western rulers and politicians in their exuberant self-

importance and their desire to be better does not reach that far in order to refrain from these attacks. Consequently, they are as dumb as a post in this respect, because they are incapable of thinking and reasoning about a matter, which has always meant stupidity and stupidity.

Therefore, in order to keep up appearances, they are only able to make big and stupid sayings, to think they are and to live under the delusion that they are clever and that they have eaten their would-be wisdom with shovel diggers.

For me, at least, this is clearly visible, audible and visible on the faces of those who play up their importance on television and try to present themselves as knowledgeable and responsible, which not only looks grotesque, but is effectively ridiculous for both sexes.

But this is not only true of those in power, but also of various virologists and other 'experts', not only in Switzerland, but worldwide among the majority of those in power and virologists, etc.

CR 766

**Billy:**

Then we can end this topic and move on to other things, because look here, these articles were sent to me, if you would please read them:

**Ptaah:**

91. – Yes, good ...

**Lavrov: German Intelligence Services Could Have Helped Nawalny**

**With the Film About 'Putin's Palace'**

8th Feb. 2021 20:54 hrs

Russian President Vladimir Putin secretly owns a palace on the Black Sea, claims political blogger Alexei Nawalny in a recent and lavishly produced film in Germany – the gist of which has already been refuted. Now Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is raising the question of whether Navalny was assisted by German intelligence services in the production of the film.

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Russian Federation Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in a statement on Monday that intelligence services of the Federal Republic of Germany probably helped Russian activist Alexei Navalny to make his film about Russian President Vladimir Putin's alleged palace, according to the Russian news agency TASS. As a result, the Russian foreign ministry in Berlin has asked for clarification, it said. Lavrov stated:

"In this film, Navalny visits the building of the former Soviet secret service in Dresden and, together with some German colleagues, shows viewers materials from a folder he presents as 'Putin's personal file'. It is clear that it is impossible to get into this building and, moreover, to get access to certain archives without cooperating with the official authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany – most likely with their secret services."

The concrete question to which the Russian side would like an answer is thus: If Germany is so concerned about Alexei Nawalny's right to dispose of his personal data, how could the dossier from German archives, which the filmmakers claim concerns Russian President Vladimir Putin, have been handed over for public presentation without the latter's consent? The foreign minister added:

"We asked the German Foreign Ministry for explanations on this matter and were told in the following days that access by Navalny to the aforementioned materials had been approved by the relevant German authorities and that there was 'nothing secret' in the materials handed over to him."

Lavrov said this showed enough about the background of the whole story of the film on 'Putin's Palace' and the role played by the West in promoting it in the international media space.

Source: <https://de.rt.com/international/112925-lawrow-deutsche-geheimdienste-konnten-nawalny/>

**Causa Nawalny: Fourth Russian Request for Legal Assistance**

**Also Remains Unanswered by Germany**

9th Feb. 2021 06:45 hrs

Germany has also left unanswered Russia's fourth request for legal assistance in the alleged Novichok poisoning of Nawalny, the Russian foreign ministry said on Monday. The request was for the water bottle on which Novichok was allegedly found. There was also no information about Maria Pewtschich, who brought the bottle to Germany.

© Michael Kappeler/dpa

Alexei Nawalny was brought to Germany by a specially chartered plane for treatment at the Charité hospital in Berlin. On board the plane was also a water bottle that was said to have been contaminated with Novichok. (Tegel Airport, 22 August 2020)

In the case of the Russian opposition blogger Alexei Nawalny, the Federal Republic of Germany remains true to its tactic of answering Russian requests for legal assistance with statements devoid of content. This was pointed out by Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman of the Russian Foreign Ministry, in response to a media request on Monday for information on the whereabouts of the German response to the fourth Russian request dated 28 September 2020.

The subject of the request by the Russian Prosecutor General's Office was, among other things, the questioning of Maria Pewtschich, a comrade-in-arms of Nawalny's who has so far acted in the background, or having her questioned. She escaped questioning by Russian investigators by leaving for Germany.

Pevchich had brought to Germany a water bottle allegedly contaminated with the nerve agent Novichok, which Navalny's associates claim to have seized in his hotel room in Tomsk after the opposition politician lost consciousness during a flight, whereupon he was admitted to a hospital in Omsk for emergency treatment.

Zakharova said: "The German side refused a request from the Russian Prosecutor General's Office to question Ms. Pevchich, saying that her address on the territory of the FRG was allegedly unknown. Yet, according to open sources, she met Alexei Nawalny in Germany, who was guarded around the hrs by special services of the FRG, and was among those who saw him off on the day of his flight from Berlin to Moscow on 17 February 2020."

The request for data from a toxicological examination carried out in Germany by a Bundeswehr laboratory, in which traces of Novichok were allegedly detected on the water bottle brought by Pevchich, also remained fruitless. The same applies to the request for an interview with the experts who allegedly carried out this examination:

"No data were also provided on the results of the toxicological analysis of the traces of poison allegedly found on the mineral water bottles that M. K. Pewtschich had brought to Berlin from the hotel in Tomsk. The German authorities also refused to provide any information about the experts who examined the bottles and refused to allow us to question them."

On the 20th of January 2021, the Russian prosecutor's office submitted another request for mutual legal assistance in this matter to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Source: <https://de.rt.com/europa/112929-causa-nawalny-auch-viertes-russisches/>

92. ... – I have no information regarding these machinations, but when I think about it, I can see something of a possibility that the remarks might correspond to reality.

93. And I get this idea because I am concerned with the intrigues of the Western states against Russia

and so I also know about the sanctions and punitive tariffs imposed by Germany and the EU dictatorship union as well as by the USA against Russia, Iran and China.

94. This is because certain sections of the population as well as state leaders are addicted to a pathologically insane hostility towards Russia and for them the case of Nawalny is extremely convenient in order to insult and humiliate Russia in an unseemly manner, and on the surface especially Putin.

95. This, while the man Nawalny puts on a halo – as you sometimes like to say – and pretends to be harmless, as I can judge for myself, because I personally made an effort for this man when you asked me about this.

**Billy:**

Yes, I wanted to know what this man really is as a personality and also character-wise.

As I told you a long time ago, I assess this Nawalny as a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Far be it from me to condemn him as a human being, but I can probably point out his personality and character, which does not make for a good assessment.

His entire appearance, his physiognomy, his speech, his hand and arm movements, his entire posture and facial expressions, as well as his finger movements and gait, his eye movements and gaze, etc., reveal evil character flaws such as deceitfulness, greed for power, lack of conscience and malice, deviousness, violence and some other unpleasantness.

That is why I also followed the whole thing when he was already sentenced to 5 years in prison in 2013 with his criminal machinations of money embezzlement, after which this very well justified sentence was then suspended by an intervention of the European Court of Human Rights.

For his fraud and money laundering, which also fell into his criminal metier, he did not 'get the cash', although he was quite active in this regard, as I learned 3 weeks ago from a person of integrity who knows Nawalny personally.

As far as Russian politics are concerned, in which Germany is interfering with the case of Nawalny, whereby hatred is very much being stirred up and the whole thing can also cause mischief or at least great damage in several respects, that is not only stupid but idiotic, as is also the case with regard to the evil insulting attacks on Putin.

All those imbeciles in the German government and population – as well as in Switzerland, the USA, France and other Western states – who dare to insult Russia and Putin should clean up their own mess and rubbish.

But it is unfortunately the case with all those earthlings who are stupid and cowardly and lack a healthy intellect that they insult others, slander them and scrounge them into the mud, because this is the only way they can feel great in their hatred and vindictiveness.

How they present their stupidity, primitiveness and stupidity to their fellow human beings and even in public and make themselves ridiculous is something they are absolutely incapable of perceiving in their underdeveloped pathological consciousness deficit as well as in their foolishness, irrationality, foolishness and imbecility.

And since this is effectively so, they also do not notice that they are classified as ridiculous zeros by fellow human beings in their circle of acquaintances and, moreover, far and wide by human beings unknown to them, and that they are ridiculed behind their backs, but that these pretend to be 'good friends' in the foreground with expedient lying flatteries, in order not to fall into their insulting slander themselves.

If I now point out these facts, all the intelligent-less, stupid and stupid resp. non-thinking and non-thinking as well as insulting, hating and vindictive people will cry out in their ignorance and lack of

intelligence and shout that I am doing exactly the same thing with what I have just pointed out. Such a reaction, however, is nonsensical and proves the ignorance and lack of intelligence of the complainers in question, because I am not doing the same thing in any way, because I am not attacking a certain human being in any manner, neither with insults nor with hatred or revenge, etc., but I am merely stating effective facts about the behaviour of certain human beings who are to be criticised as wrong and who remain nameless.

And as far as the man Nawalny is concerned, I am also not insulting him, because what I said in relation to him were only psychological facts and findings in relation to his analytically recognised and established personality and character traits.

Such clarifying facts never correspond to an insult, nor do they have anything to do with hatred or revenge, but they only openly describe the values and unvalues of the personality and character as well as the behaviour of a human being, without insulting or attacking him in any manner.

Now that had to be said.

But look here, I copied this out of Wikipedia, which describes some of this man Nawalny.

If you want to read it?

**Ptaah:**

96. ... I want to ...

Alexei Anatolyevich Navalny (Russian Алексей Анатольевич Навальный, scientific transliteration Aleksej Anatol'evič Naval'nyj, English transcribed Alexei Anatolievich Navalny; born 4th June 1976 in Butyn, Moscow Oblast, Russian SFSR, Soviet Union) is a Russian lawyer, dissident, politician and documentary filmmaker. Since 2009 at the latest, he has gained great popularity as a political blogger. Nawalny's communication organs include his website and his channel on the video platform YouTube. In 2011, he founded the non-governmental organisation 'Fund to Fight Corruption', which is financed by donations and continuously investigates and publicises state corruption in Russia. In October 2012, he was elected to head a newly created coordinating council of the Russian opposition. In the mayoral election in Moscow in September 2013, he won 27 per cent of the vote, according to the government, and has since been considered the undisputed leader of the anti-Putin opposition. From 2009 to 2013, he took part, also as a speaker, in the Russian Marches, some of which were classified as extreme right-wing, from which he later partly distanced himself, calling himself a 'nationalist democrat', but merely reformulating the extreme right-wing slogans that had already been spread as sounding less radical, without actually changing their content. Since November 2013, he is the leader of the small party Russia of the Future. In July 2013, Navalny was sentenced to five years in prison for embezzlement in a trial that many observers considered politically motivated; in October 2013, this sentence was suspended. Following a decision by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in February 2016, Russia's Supreme Court suspended the sentence and the trial was reopened, in which he was again sentenced to five years' probation in February 2017.

In the following period, Navalny distinguished himself as a fighter against corruption with several high-profile actions. In March and June 2017, as well as on the 7th of October of that year – the birthday of Russian President Putin – he organised nationwide protests against corruption and the government, in which tens of thousands of human beings took part. Numerous demonstrators were temporarily arrested and he himself was also arrested for 25 days in July 2017 for violating the right of assembly. On the 17th of October 2017, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Nawalny's conviction was unlawful and that the convicted man should be paid 55,000 euros in damages.

In December 2016, Navalny announced his candidacy in the March 2018 presidential election. On the 25th of December 2017, Russia's Central Election Commission declared his candidacy inadmissible, citing his suspended sentence. He then called on his supporters to boycott the presidential election.

On the 20th of August 2020, Navalny became the victim of a poison attack using a Novichok nerve agent.

He was treated in the Omsk clinic by the deputy chief physician for anaesthesiology and resuscitation, Sergei Maksimishin, for two days, put into an artificial coma and transferred to the Charité hospital in Berlin at the instigation of his family. He was brought out of the artificial coma in September 2020 and was able to leave the hospital in the same month.

Navalny remained in Germany to recuperate, flew to Moscow in January 2021 and was arrested at the airport and remanded in custody for 30 days by court order after Russian law enforcement had put him on the wanted list for allegedly violating parole conditions from the Yves Rocher case. With his arrest, protests developed across the country in Russia. On the 2nd of February 2021, he was sentenced to three and a half years in prison by Judge Natalya Repnikova, who had been replaced shortly before, following the request of the Prosecutor General Ekaterina Frolova. Navalny is to serve his sentence in Kolchugino. As he was already under house arrest for ten months during the earlier trial, this time was counted towards the sentence still to be served. The European Court of Human Rights is calling for his release.

97. ... – Interesting; while some of this is known to me, other things are not.

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**Billy:**

Unfortunately, that will be the case. The insane behaviour of the Western countries, at least the 50 or so of them, who are supplying weapons, ammunition and money to the war fanatic Zelensky and thus allowing the war to continue, with Germany and America, as always, standing and lurking behind everything as ringleaders and inciting the world against Russia from time immemorial, do not know what they are doing and thus provoking. The rulers of all those countries, above all America and Germany – the latter with the secret neo-NAZIs in disguise in the government, who are not really able to think realistically and pretend and act differently from what they really have in mind, but do not yet dare to reveal their true intentions –, as well as the not insignificant proportion of the misguided sympathisers and followers from the respective populations who are in thrall to them and partisan, lowly intelligent and simple-minded and non-thinking, are conjuring up disaster. As a result of their low intelligence and simple-mindedness, they are unable to think to the extent that their idiotic attitudes have not only started to create enmity on all sides, like the Russian Navalny, who does not realise in prison that he is surrounded by enemies and is no longer playing with his life as long as he has done so far and which is already not worth a damn and will soon come to an end. However, all those non-thinking idiots who fall for the lousy propaganda of the neo-NAZIs, who are truly striving for something quite nasty, are not the peaceful, free and helpful – just like the EU dictatorship, which it makes the EU peoples and the world believe through outrageous lies to the contrary – that Germany is pretending to be.

**Alexei Navalny:  
The Actual Story**

*Published on 17th June 2023 by Maren Müller*



*Alexei Navalny: The Real Story – 1st June 2023, Jacques Baud*

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We are pleased to have the opportunity to speak with Colonel Jacques Baud about Alexei Navalny, a man touted as a 'hero' in the West. Colonel Baud sets the record straight.

**The Postil (TP):** Now that the documentary film Navalny has been awarded an Oscar and your own excellent book (The Navalny Case: Conspiracy to Serve Foreign Policy (1)) rigorously undermines everything that this documentary film presents as 'truth', we ask you to help us understand and categorise this 'myth' of Alexei Navalny. What fascinates the West about Alexei Navalny?

**Jacques Baud (JB):** Like other characters chosen by the West (such as Juan Guaido in Venezuela or Svetlana Tikhanovskaya in Belarus), he conveys the image of a new good-looking, younger and more dynamic leadership. He is very present on social networks and has the vast majority of his audience there. He thus appeals to a young audience (mainly 15-30 years old), which is very influential and sensitive to Western propaganda on social networks. Like his Venezuelan and Belarusian counterparts, he has no real experience in politics.

A more sophisticated audience perceives this as a disadvantage, while a younger audience thinks it recognises that he has not 'compromised' with the political system.

In Russia, he is relatively unknown outside the big cities such as Moscow and St Petersburg. In general, the Russian public is more demanding than the Western public and more traditional in its preferences. That's why it appeals to a less politically active audience. In the West, we have a completely wrong idea of his importance on the domestic political stage. As with Juan Guaido, the West overestimates the popular support for this marginal opposition.

For the United States, the advantage of selecting challengers who are unknown to the general public is that it is easier to create myths. Today in the West – especially in the 15-to-30 age group – you have



human beings who have very little general culture, no real-life experience, not the slightest knowledge of foreign cultures, human beings who see the world through Instagram. Especially in the United States, you realise that it is not difficult to artificially create heroes when you see how any influencer can trigger collective hysteria.

The Western media present Navalny as the 'leader' of the opposition in Russia. However, even the fact-checkers of the very Atlanticist French newspaper 'Libération' recognised that he is simply the most visible opponent (2). Navalny is part of the so-called 'extra-systemic' opposition, which is made up of small groups, often at the extremes of the political spectrum and too small to form parties.

In 2010, Navalny was invited to the United States to take part in the Yale World Fellows programme on the advice of Garry Kasparov. This is a 15-week, non-residential training programme at Yale University offered to foreign nationals identified by US neoconservatives as 'future leaders' in their respective countries. It is his only credential and his only real 'achievement'.

In Russia, Navalny campaigns for the rights of small shareholders in large companies. He founded an anti-corruption fund (FBK), which earned him sympathy in the West, but also great mistrust in Russia. This is because his accusations against Russian personalities appear to be more political than fact-based. In 2014, he was therefore convicted of defaming Duma deputy Alexei Lisovenko (3).

In 2016, the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Swiss Confederation dropped a case wrongly filed by Alexei Navalny against Artyom Chaika, the son of Russian Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika. (In 2020, the very same Yuri Chaika, Russia's Prosecutor General, was removed from office by Vladimir Putin on suspicion of corruption, without there being any obvious links to his son's case). In 2017, Russian billionaire Alisher Usmanov filed a lawsuit against Navalny for defamation (4) and won (5). In 2018, Navalny then lost a defamation lawsuit against businessman Mikhail Prokhorov (6).

**TP:** How good is Navalny's network with Western rulers?

**JB:** Navalny and his organisation are largely financially supported by former Russian tycoons such as Mikhail Khodorkovsky. In addition, the Navalny affair is part of a US-led influence programme that receives resources from NATO's Centre of Excellence on Strategic Communication (7), the UK's Integrity Initiative, the US National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and others, such as Conspiracy Watch in France.

The Integrity Initiative was founded after the Ukraine crisis in 2014 and in November 2018 the UK government confirmed that it was funding it (8). It is under the auspices of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), which is responsible for the Secret Intelligence Service (MI-6), and the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), which is responsible for the cyber warfare associated with this initiative. It is funded by the UK Ministry of Defence and Army, the Lithuanian Ministry of Defence and NATO and aims to counter Russian disinformation in Europe.

The Integrity Initiative uses the BBC and Reuters to promote an 'official' narrative, while the Integrity Initiative is based on private intelligence and IT marketing networks and agencies such as Bellingcat, and relies on national 'clusters' made up of correspondents in each participating country. The NED was founded in 1983 to take over some of the CIA's tasks (9) so that it could concentrate on more 'robust' activities. It is an NGO (actually a non-governmental organisation; or more accurately a 'quasi-NGO') funded mainly by the US government and Congress. Shortly after its founding, the 'New York Times' described the NED as follows:

'On its website, the NED does not specify who receives its funding, but a 2006 cable from the US embassy in Moscow indicates (10) that it is funding Navalny's 'Democratic Alternative' movement (11). An analysis of projects funded by the agency suggests that Navalny and his associates receive around 1.8 million US dollars per year.

In addition, John Brennan, former director of the CIA, tweeted on 9 October 2020:

Imagine the prospects for world peace, prosperity and security if Joe Biden were President of the United States and Alexei Navalny were President of Russia. We're already halfway there ...

In short: "We are working on it!"

Without going into all the details here, nobody is interested in Navalny as a politician, neither in the West nor in Russia. I don't even think that the United States seriously believes that he could be an alternative to Vladimir Putin. In reality, he is just a small cog in a larger project to undermine Russia. Let me remind you that the goal of the United States is the disintegration (officially: decolonisation) of Russia. The Navalny affair is symptomatic of a great country (the United States) that is no longer able to rise higher than its main rivals and is limited to destroying those who want to surpass it. In fact, Navalny is the symbol of the weakness of the United States.

TP: He has a long criminal record, is a convicted felon and is in prison. Which political faction, if any, does Navalny represent in the Russian political scene?

JB: Politically, his image is not very rosy. In 2007, he was expelled from the centre-right party 'Yabloko' because of his regular participation in the ultra-nationalist 'Russian March' and his 'nationalist activities' (12) with racist tendencies. He is an activist for ultra-nationalist causes. At the time, he made a video in which he eloquently imitated the shooting of Chechen migrants in Russia (13).

In October 2013, he supported (14) and encouraged (15) the racial riots in Biryulyovo and harshly criticised the 'hordes of legal and illegal immigrants'. In 2017, the progressive American media outlet Salon claimed (16): "If he were American, liberals would hate Navalny far more than Trump or Steve Bannon." Also in 2017, the left-wing American media company Jacobin even labelled him a 'Russian Trump' (17). In fact, as the American Foreign Policy Magazine of the American University of Princeton noted in December 2018, he is prominent thanks to far-right groups and his ideas are more akin to what is labelled a 'populist' in the West (18). I suggest you watch this excellent interview with two Russian left-wing activists by Aaron Maté of 'The Grayzone' (19), which illustrates the gap between reality and what our media says about Navalny.

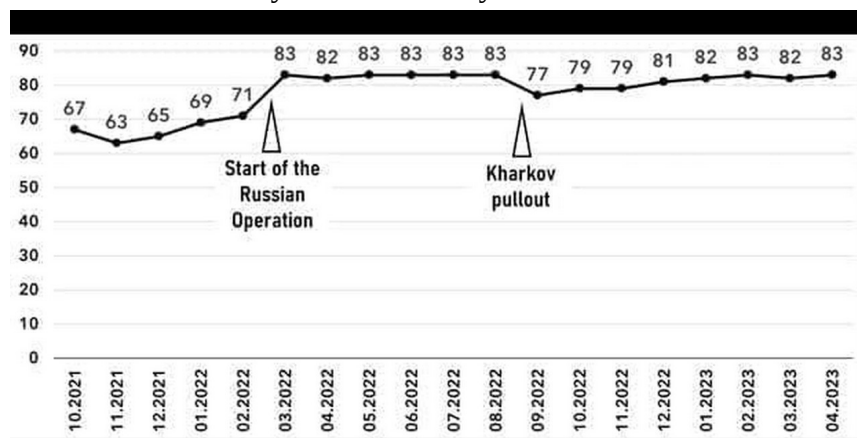


Figure 1 - Vladimir Putin's popularity rating has remained relatively stable since February 2022. A turning point was observed after the withdrawal of Russian-speaking forces from the Kharkov region in September. In general, the Russian population supports his government's actions.

Of course, our media suggest that there was 'a first Navalny' and that he has since changed (20). For example, in February 2021, a Swiss journalist claimed in a TV programme dedicated to Navalny that 'there is almost nothing left of his ultra-nationalist beginnings and his xenophobic statements in Navalny'. This is pure disinformation.

Back in April 2017, Navalny told the British newspaper 'The Guardian' that he had not changed his mind (21). In October 2020, a journalist from the German magazine Der Spiegel asked him (22): "A party had excluded you because of your participation in a Russian nationalist march in Moscow. Have your views changed since then?" Navalny replied: "I have the same views as when I entered politics."

In order to better demonise Vladimir Putin, the West claims that he is nostalgic for the USSR and maintains a confusion between today's Russia and the USSR of the Cold War. This confusion makes it possible to hide the fact that the main opposition to Vladimir Putin (albeit moderate) is the Communist Party. Moreover, I remind you here that the USSR also included Ukraine, and that the Soviet leaders who committed most of the crimes (such as Josef Stalin, Leon Trotsky, Moisei Uritsky, Genrikh Yagoda or Lavrentiy Beria) did not belong to either Russian or Orthodox culture.

Attempts are being made to portray Navalny as a victim of the Russian 'regime' due to his convictions and political influence. The French radio station 'France Internationale' claims that he was banned from running for the 2018 presidential election for political reasons. This is false. In fact, the reasons are legal, just as practised in other countries: Navalny was serving a suspended sentence at the time in connection with the Yves Rocher affair.

Navalny began his career in the 2000s as an entrepreneur. Following a common practice in Boris Yeltsin's Russia between 1990 and 2000, he bought up companies in order to privatise their profits (an illegal practice that led Vladimir Putin to fight against certain oligarchs who eventually sought refuge in the UK or Israel). In the first case (Kirovles), Navalny received a five-year suspended sentence.

The most 'controversial' case, however, is that of the French cosmetics company Yves Rocher. It is a relatively complex matter involving a tangle of companies and accounts, some of them abroad. The best description of the case can be found in Yves Rocher's press release (23) and on Wikipedia (in Russian, 24). In short, it is a case of embezzlement through abuse of office, in which the Russian state is pitted against Oleg Navalny.

In 2008, Oleg Navalny, Alexei's brother, was a manager at the Russian Post's automated sorting centre in Podolsk. In order to facilitate the delivery of Yves Rocher products to the sorting centre, he urged the French company to use the services of a private logistics company: Glavpodpiska (GPA), owned by the Navalny family. There is clearly a conflict of interest and a corruption situation that has led to an official investigation. It should be noted that Oleg Navalny is the main defendant, while Alexei Navalny is 'only' an accomplice. For this reason, Oleg was sentenced to three and a half years in prison and Navalny to a three and a half year suspended sentence.

Oleg and Alexei Navalny appealed against this decision to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), arguing that the judgement was politically motivated. Contrary to the claims of some Western media (25), the ECtHR did not declare this judgement invalid, as it did not judge the content of the case, but its form. On 17 October 2017, the ECtHR issued its judgment, in which it partially ruled in favour of the two brothers on certain legal issues and concluded that the Russian judicial system should pay them compensation. However, it rejected the allegation that their conviction was politically motivated (paragraph 89) (26).

In fact, after being charged in the case against the French company 'Yves Rocher', Navalny was placed on probation, after which he had to report to the Russian correctional service twice a month until the end of this period (30 December 2020).

Navalny's failure to comply with this obligation led to his arrest at the beginning of 2021. He had already violated this order six times in 2020 (twice in January, once in February, March, July and August), but the Russian authorities had shown leniency at the time. As the Swiss television correspondent in Moscow notes (27), Navalny 'unlike many other opposition figures, has never been sentenced to prison'. So despite his many offences, and contrary to claims in the West, Navalny has benefited from unusual leniency. So much so that some (conspiracy theorists) in Russia believe he is being used by the Kremlin to weaken the main opposition parties.

To claim that the lifting of his suspension was politically motivated, some argue that Navalny was physically unable to fulfil his obligations. 'France 24' explained (28) that he was unable to do so 'simply because he was hospitalised in Germany'. France 5' stated (29) that 'he was in a coma' and

Swiss television (RTS) that 'he was recovering in Germany after his poisoning' (30). These are simply lies.

In fact, his reporting obligation was suspended by the Russian authorities for the duration of his hospitalisation at the Charité in Berlin. The report of the Charité hospital doctors published on the 22nd of December 2020 confirmed (31) that he was discharged from hospital on the 23rd of September 2020 and that his symptoms had disappeared on 12 October 2020 (32).

On the 28th of December, the Russian prison authorities sent Navalny a warning (copied to his lawyer and press spokesperson) to report for duty, but he ignored it (33).

In fact, Navalny has been busy with the final editing phase of his film about Putin's palace since September. For this reason, he would not be able to return to Russia until the end of January 2021. The Russian prison authorities could hardly have ignored this new, almost three-month-long offence and revoked his suspended sentence. Navalny was no doubt hoping to benefit from the authorities' leniency once again. But given the airing of his film and his calls for sanctions against Russia, this was probably a rather naive assumption on his part ...

Even if the Russian authorities had – once again – wanted to show leniency towards him under these circumstances, it would have been completely incomprehensible to Russian public opinion. TP: The documentary portrays him as a serious threat to Putin. Is there anything that these documentary filmmakers know that leads them to this conclusion?

**JB:** No, Aleksey Navalny is neither the main opponent nor the most important or even the most dangerous opponent of Putin in Russia – he is simply the most visible (34). He is only of marginal importance in Russian politics.

Navalny has adopted the concept of 'smart voting' or 'tactical voting' to win votes from the extreme parties of both the right and the left. In other words, those who individually are not numerous enough to put up candidates in the elections. The principle of Navalny's 'intelligent voting' is that everyone gets their ballot paper, unless they are a member of the United Russia party (Vladimir Putin's party). So it works according to a logic based not on preference but on hatred ...

The opposition associated with him is anything but democratic and united. It brings together different factions of the extra-parliamentary opposition, ranging from the extreme right to the former Stalinist Communist Party.

These are individuals who are against the system but have neither a common vision nor a programme for the future of the country. It is also a young opposition, informed by social networks and relatively unstable. In essence, it is an opposition that wants to topple Vladimir Putin without being able to offer an alternative. This explains why this heterogeneous opposition has very little support in Russia. Navalny's election strategy shows that he has no plans for Russia and that the goal here is not to achieve the best for Russia, but to destabilise the current government. And that is why the West supports Navalny.

In fact, the Western narrative tends to suggest that the choice of the Russian people is limited to Vladimir Putin and Aleksey Navalny. This situation is very similar to that observed in France during the 2017 and 2022 presidential elections: Emmanuel Macron faced Marine Le Pen, the candidate of the extreme right. Then the voters' choice was very simple: they voted for the one they hated the least. In the case of Russia, the problem is even simpler, because Vladimir Putin's popularity is significantly higher than Macron's, while Navalny's is almost unknown.

So the only effect of promoting Navalny is to diminish the importance of the systemic opposition, which is the only one capable of opposing Putin. That's why I think Vladimir Putin should thank the Western propaganda media for weakening his opposition!

Navalny's popularity in Russia peaked in 2020-2021, after his alleged poisoning and the film about

Putin's alleged palace. But if you look at the number of protesters across Russia at this point in time, you have to admit that support for Navalny is marginal.

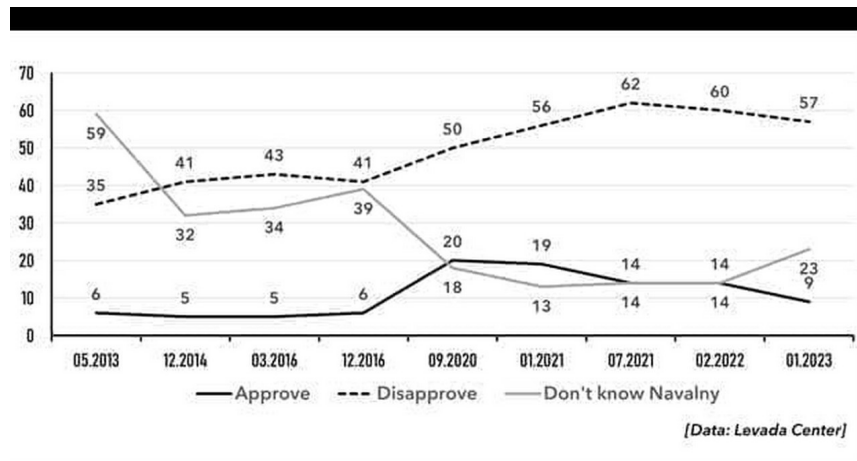


Figure 2 – Navalny's approval rating 2013-2023. His alleged poisoning and the release of the film about 'Putin's palace' helped to raise Navalny's profile among the Russian public. Today Navalny remains politically insignificant. (Data: Levada Centre)

Number of protesters across Russia on 23rd January 2021

	Number of participants (Independent estimate)	Number of participants (official estimate)	Arrests	Participation as % of local population
Moscow	15000	4000	300	0.13
St. Petersburg	10000	-	162	0.2
Ekaterinburg	5000	3000	14	0.4
Novosibirsk	4000	-	90	0.3
Vladivostok	3000	500	35	0.5
Krasnoyarsk	3000	-	46	0.3
Tyumen	800	-	3	0.12
Omsk	2000	-	18	0.17
Irkutsk	2000	-	6	0.3
Chelyabinsk	2500	900	33	0.2
Barnaul	1500	-	3	0.2
Khabarovsk	1000	250	28	0.17
Total	49800		738	0.25

Figure 3 – Number of protesters at the demonstrations for Navalny after his arrest in January 2021, when his popularity was at its highest. These figures were compiled by the independent Russian media outlet ZNAK. Compared to the millions of protesters in France in 2018-2019 and early 2023 (not to mention the number of victims!), the demonstrations in Russia are rather anecdotal. (Source: znak.ru)

TP: Then there is the well-known incident of Navalny's 'poisoning'. Could you shed some light on this?

JB: On the 20th of August 2020, during his flight from Tomsk to Moscow, Alexei Navalny was plagued by severe stomach pains. The flight is diverted to Omsk so that he can be urgently hospitalised. At this point, there is no analysis or evidence to determine the exact nature of Navalny's illness, but his spokeswoman claims that he was deliberately poisoned (35). Rumours on social media about a bad combination of alcohol and drugs are quickly dismissed by Western media as 'slanderous' (36). They readily favour – without any evidence – a more fanciful version (37): a Putin-ordered poisoning with 'Novichok' (38).

As soon as Mr Navalny arrived at the hospital in Omsk, Russian doctors diagnosed a metabolic disorder. About ten minutes after his arrival at the hospital, they gave him atropine to avoid complications during intubation, as explained by the Russian opposition media Meduza (39). The problem is that some conspiracy theorists conclude from the fact that atropine is a product that is also used as an antidote for nerve agent poisoning that the doctors 'knew' he had been poisoned with Novichok, an extremely dangerous nerve agent that was allegedly used against ex-agents, such as Sergei Skripal in 2018.

But if this had been the case, the medical staff in Omsk would have received him with appropriate protective equipment! On Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Dr Aleksandr Sabayev explained that the

doctors quickly realised it was a metabolic problem and administered atropine at a much lower dose than for poisoning. (40)

In fact, thanks to a photo of a document published by the Russian opposition website Meduza, we know what Russian doctors found in Navalny's blood and urine. But since there was no sign of nerve agent, our media simply didn't report it! (41)

On the 12th of December, the London 'Times' (42), followed by the 'New York Post' (43) and 'Deutsche Welle' (44), claimed that the Kremlin had attempted a second poisoning of Navalny in Omsk hospital before he left for Germany, accusing Russian doctors of 'complicity'. These media are simply liars and inventing a conspiracy theory. In fact, the German Charité report published in 'The Lancet' on 22 August shows that Navalny had a German doctor by his side in Omsk 31 hours after the onset of his symptoms – i.e. as early as Friday 21 August – and that his condition had 'slightly improved' by the time he was transported to Germany (45). According to the German doctors, their Russian colleagues had not only stabilised Navalny, but their treatment had also been effective. Navalny's relatives and our media have therefore (once again) lied.

There is little evidence to assess the relevance of the Western accusations of 2018 and 2020. The analyses carried out by the German, French and Swedish military laboratories in September 2020 remain secret and were neither published nor passed on to Russia, despite Russia's request. At present, we therefore only have the published scientific results of the doctors who treated Navalny in Omsk and Berlin, the declassified version of the OPCW report (46) and – in part – the government's responses of 19 November 2020 and 15 February 2021 to requests from German parliamentarians.

The analyses of the military laboratories vaguely indicate the presence of Novichok (but their content is not verifiable). The observations of civilian doctors tend to contradict their conclusions, while the government's answers appear much less categorical than those of the media, hiding behind military secrets when the facts seem to contradict the explanations.

On 24 August, Charité stated in a press release that the clinical analyses 'point to poisoning by a substance from the group of cholinesterase inhibitors'. However, the doctors in Omsk had not found any.

So: conspiracy? No, not necessarily.

As the opposition media outlet Meduza says, the German doctors were looking for evidence of poisoning, while the Russian doctors were looking for the cause of Navalny's illness. As they were not looking for the same thing, their results were different, but not inconsistent.

In October 2020, the Swedes published the results of their analyses and stated (47) that "the presence of [ANONYMISED] in the patient's blood was confirmed". The name of the substance is blacked out, so we don't know what it is. But we can assume that if it was Novichok (as Western countries expected), there would be no reason to hide it.

On 14 January 2021, the Swedish government explicitly refused to release this result in order "not to damage relations between Sweden and a foreign might", without specifying whether it was Germany or the United States. So we don't know what's going on, but we do know that Sweden is a country where honour is a fiction subject to political interests: Already in the Julian Assange affair, the Swedish government had literally 'invented' the rape allegations against him. So says Nils Melzer, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture. (48)

The analyses of Navalny's fluids published by the Lancet on 22 December 2020 as an appendix to the Charité doctors' report are one of the few documents available that contain scientific data (49). They allow us to draw a number of conclusions. For example, the presence of cholinesterase inhibitors could simply be explained by the antidepressants that Navalny himself was taking, most likely in combination with alcohol. This would explain why his symptoms are completely different from those

of Sergei and Yulya Skripal in 2018, who allegedly fell victim to the same poison. It should be noted that neither the Skripals' nor Navalny's symptoms are compatible with neurotoxic poisoning.

Moreover, the German doctors' documents show that his cholinesterase levels were close to normal when the French, Swedish and OPCW took the samples – 15 days after Navalny's arrival in Germany. At that time, these French, Swedish and OPCW laboratories could only detect 'cholinesterase inhibitors', but not the substances found at Charité, such as lithium or drugs that are thought to have caused them. In the absence of published results, we do not know exactly what they found, but it is likely that, having no other explanation for the presence of these inhibitors, they concluded that it was Novichok.

In keeping their results secret, these laboratories probably did not expect the German doctors to publish the results of their analyses. Thanks to the latter, the hypothesis that Navalny was the victim of an accidental poisoning seems more likely than a deliberate poisoning. Navalny must obviously have known this, just as he knew that these results would be published. And probably to refute their conclusions, Navalny staged his phone call with an 'FSB agent' the day before the Lancet article was published. (50)

**TP:** Is Navalny another 'anti-Putin' tool of the West? Or is the documentary simply exploiting the emotionality surrounding the war in Ukraine?

**JB:** In fact, since the early 1990s, the central tenet of American strategy has been to assert its supremacy on the international stage. This is the Wolfowitz Doctrine. Until the early 2000s, the United States had the advantage of having as adversaries a Russia that was rebuilding itself after the fall of communism and a China that did not yet have the economic importance it has today.

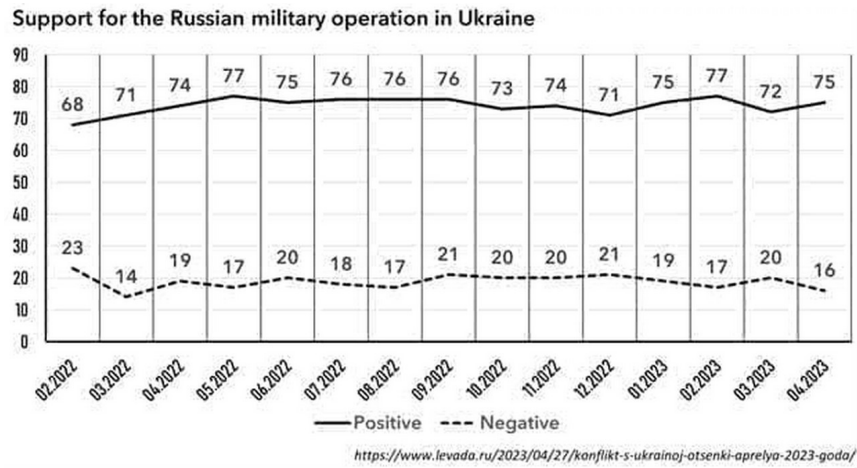
The withdrawal of the Bush administration from the disarmament agreements in 2002 caused mistrust in Russia. This explains why President Putin is trying to assert his country's position and its right to security. This led to Vladimir Putin's speech in Munich in 2007, which was interpreted by the USA as a declaration of war.

This situation has led the United States to pursue a destabilisation strategy that also includes support for non-systemic opposition.

The American strategy against Russia is very comprehensive and encompasses a wide range of means. It is described in detail in a series of two documents produced by the RAND Corporation, the Pentagon's main think tank: 'Extending Russia: Competing from Advantageous Ground' (51) and 'Overextending and Unbalancing Russia' (52). The war in Ukraine is the most visible since February 2022, but there are also the tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Transnistria region, the destabilisation of Syria, etc. Support for Navalny is part of this overall strategy.

The paradox is that Russia has become involved in Ukraine to protect human beings in the Donbass, which is a very popular cause in Russia. The same applies to Crimea, which was an autonomous entity shortly before Ukraine gained independence in December 1991. In addition, Vladimir Putin's already very high popularity was further boosted by the terrorist attacks carried out by Ukraine in Russia and supported by all Western countries.

Navalny is therefore part of a comprehensive attempt to discredit and ultimately isolate Russia on the international stage. However, the impact of this campaign on the internal situation in Russia is controversial. The patriotic sense of the Russian population is very high and even Navalny's supporters tend to support the government. I have noticed, for example, that non-system opposition websites very often hold different views to those of the West. Although there is still domestic opposition to the special military operation, we can see that it remains very stable and marginal.



**TP:** Thank you very much for your time. Any last words?

**JB:** It is ironic to see European politicians taking up the cause of Navalny, a far-right nationalist (53) who favours the annexation of Crimea (54) (and stated in the pro-Western 'Moscow Times' that he would not give it back (55) if he might come to power) (56). Who has never voiced a concrete project for Russia, who has tried to enrich himself through embezzlement, and who does not represent any of the values that Europe claims to defend!