



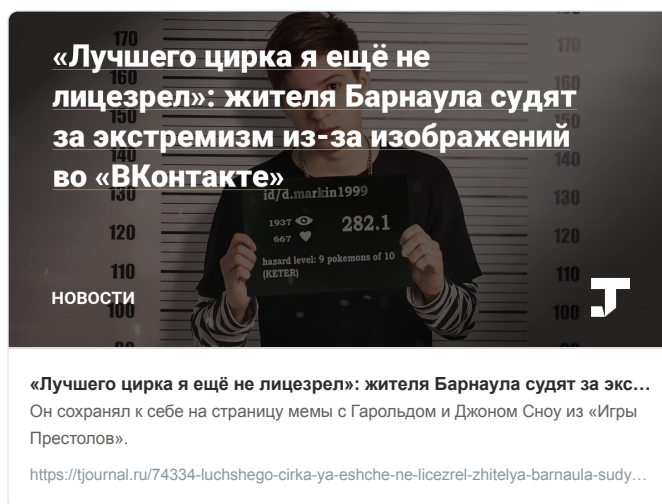
**Mikhail Svetov** @msvetov

Aug 11, 2018 · 33 tweets · [msvetov/status/1028234668334874624](https://twitter.com/msvetov/status/1028234668334874624)

## Ten likes one fact about Putin's Russia and everything that Western right wing gets wrong about Putin.

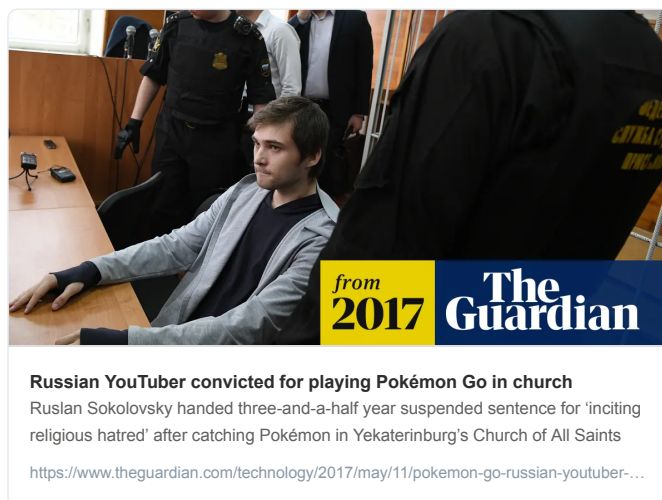
Russia has one of the harshest laws against free speech in the world.

Article 282 is used every day to arrest people for posting memes. Just in the last two weeks some 20 people were arrested.



This law is routinely used to curb opposition to Putin's dictatorship. What happened to Tommy Robinson is peanuts compared to what happens daily in Russia.

My friend Ruslan Sokolovsky spent over a year in jail for "inciting hatred" after playing pokemon-go inside a church. He is still featured on the Russia's terrorist list



Elections in Russia are a sham but even those become increasingly rare. Most Russian cities lost the right to choose their own mayor at all. For example, mayor of Ekaterinburg, third largest city in Russia, is appointed and not elected.

5. The idea that Putin is a champion of traditional Russian values is bonkers. Putin's immigration policies are exactly akin to those of other European countries. Attached is a photograph of central Moscow during the muslim prayer.



6. Russia has visa free regime with most central-asian countries, like Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, etc. Thanks to rampant corruption, millions of illegal workers stay in Russia indefinitely.

7. The idea that Russia has low tax rate is false. In addition to 20% VAT we pay mandatory 22% towards the government pension fund, 13% Income tax, 5.1% for compulsory medical insurance and 2.9% into Social Security fund. A total of 64%. Not included are crazy high import taxes.

8. Relatively high birthrate in Russia is exclusively explained by explosive growth of minorities. [http://pics.v6.top.rbk.ru/v6\\_top\\_pics/media/img/1/82/754544916446821.jpg](http://pics.v6.top.rbk.ru/v6_top_pics/media/img/1/82/754544916446821.jpg)

9. In the last 20 years Putin held several amnesties for illegal immigrants. Another one is in the works right now. [https://www.znak.com/2017-02-21/v\\_technie\\_goda\\_dlya\\_nelegalov\\_iz\\_byvshih\\_respublik\\_ssr\\_obvyat\\_migracionnyu\\_amnistiyu](https://www.znak.com/2017-02-21/v_technie_goda_dlya_nelegalov_iz_byvshih_respublik_ssr_obvyat_migracionnyu_amnistiyu)

10. Apparently, some 15,000 white South African farmers seek refuge in Russia. Aside from staying in South Africa this is probably the dumbest move one can do. Massacres of rural population are a thing in Russia too and very few of them get reported. <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/12/world/europe/12russia.html>

11. In addition to article 282 Russia has a dedicated "anti-meme law"



**The Kremlin Declares War on Memes**

By saying it is illegal to add celebrities' images to certain memes, the Kremlin could be opening the door to banning a whole genre of absurdist online humor.

<https://globalvoices.org/2015/04/10/russia-the-kremlin-declares-war-on-memes/>

Seriously, it just blows my mind that so many people on the western right see Putin as sympathetic to free speech.

12. Russian nationalists is the most heavily prosecuted group in Russia. Every remotely successful nationalist movement is quickly outlawed by Putin's government. There's not a single nationalist party in Russia.

13. Russia used to have a movement against illegal immigration. It was outlawed by the Putin's government and its leader Aleksander Potkin was sentenced to 7.5 years in jail.



**Russian nationalist Potkin sentenced to 7.5 years for organizing extre...**

Moscow's Meshchansky District Court has sentenced Russian nationalist Alexander Potkin to 7.5 years in penal colony for organizing an extremist movement and...

[http://www.rapsinews.com/judicial\\_news/20160824/276716529.html](http://www.rapsinews.com/judicial_news/20160824/276716529.html)

14. Russian students are tested for extremism and their loyalty to the government.

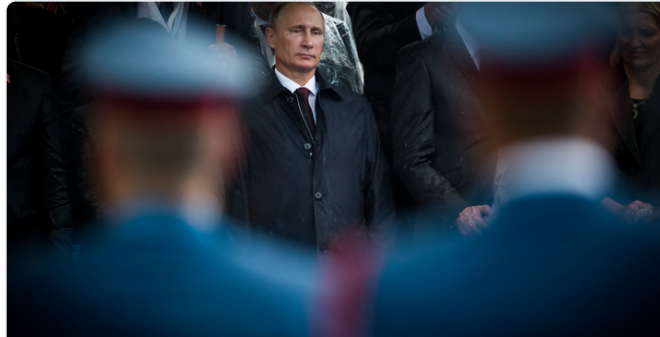


**Тест на благонадежность - Чего ждать российским студентам от пр...**

Российских студентов проверяют на экстремизм. Федеральное агентство по делам национальностей вместе с МВД разрабатывают специальные анкеты для учащихся ВУЗов и средних специальных учебных заведений. Ц...

<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/3164570>

15. Think SJW's and what happens on American campuses is crazy? In Russia students are threatened with expulsion for refusing to vote for Putin.



**Russian students 'threatened with expulsion' for not voting**

Taped recording of a university lecturer threatening students is viewed more than 80,000 times

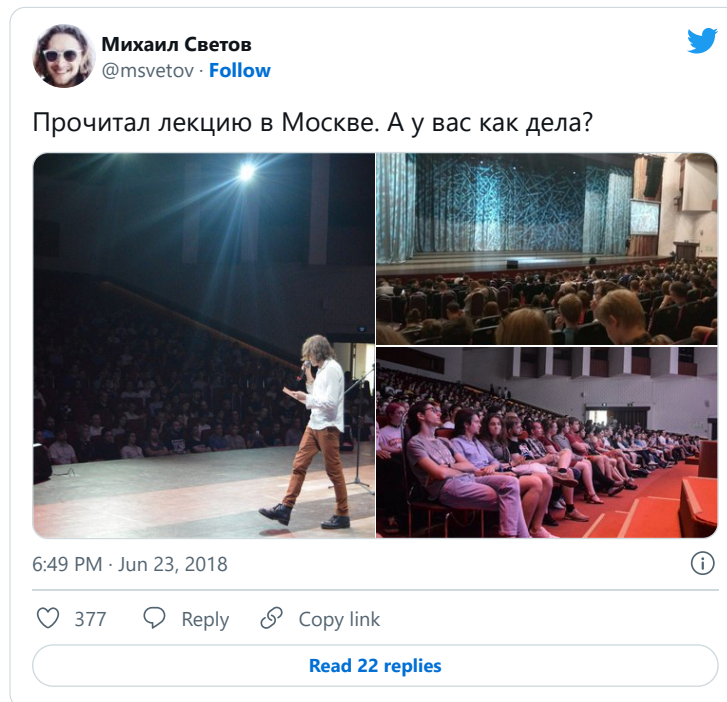
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/russian-students-threatened-expulsion-n...>



16. Even if you keep all your questionable memes in a private album, invisible to anyone else, you will still get two years in prison.



17. Two months ago I was looking to give a lecture in Moscow about what it means to be a Russian patriot. I had 21 venue cancellations before finally finding a place to speak. The lecture was a huge success by the way.



18. I was once detained for trying to give a lecture about free market economy.

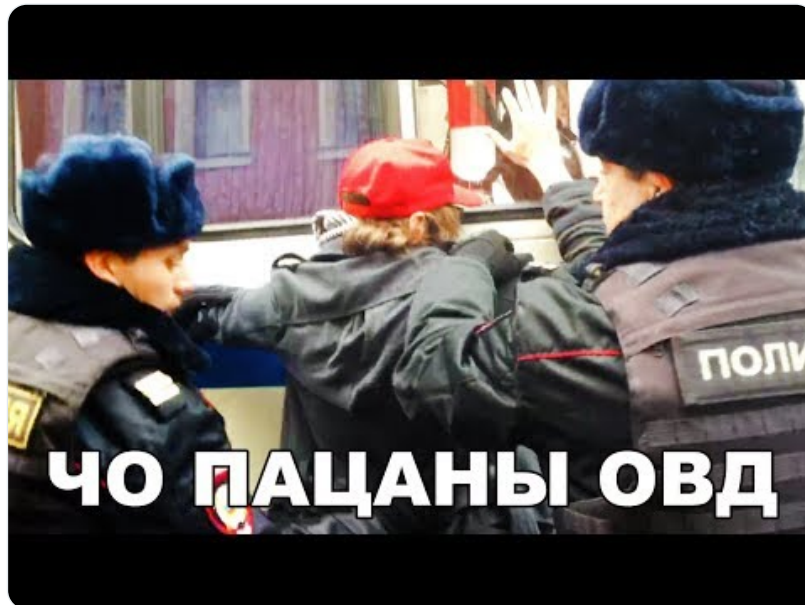


**Russian Libertarians Detained, Apparently on Suspicion of Being Part ...**

Over two dozen attendees at the "Adam Smith Forum," a libertarian conference over the weekend in Russia, were arrested by...

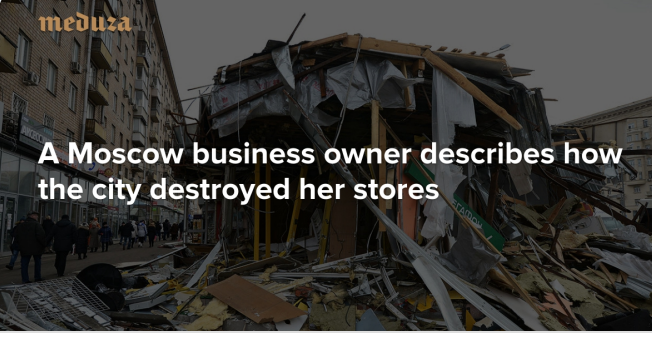
<https://reason.com/blog/2017/11/07/russian-libertarians-detained-apparently>

I had to read it from inside the police van.



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/6NvXeWy8geQ>

19. Property rights enjoy no protection in Russia. Three years ago Mayor of Moscow overnight bulldozed several thousand small businesses in Moscow and nationalised their land.



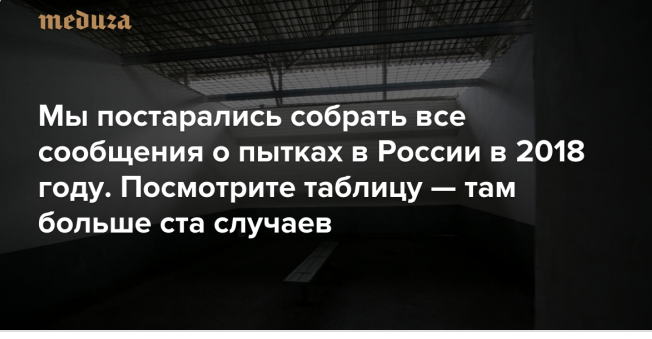
**A Moscow business owner describes how the city destroyed her stores**

**'They tore it all down, took everything away, and yes they even beat us...**

On the night of February 9, by the order of the mayor of Moscow, dozens of shopping pavilions in the city's center and outskirts were demolished. Authorities maintain that these areas were all built ...

<https://meduza.io/en/feature/2016/02/11/they-tore-it-all-down-took-everything-away-an...>

20. Russia has a serious problem with police torture. This year alone there was 54 recorded cases. But it's just a tip of the iceberg, because police torture is almost never reported



**Мы постарались собрать все сообщения о пытках в России в 2018 году. Посмотрите таблицу — там больше ста случаев**

**Мы постарались собрать все сообщения о пытках в 2018 году. Пос...**

В России постоянно пытаются людей. Сотрудники колоний, следственных изоляторов, полицейские, следователи, оперативники ФСБ. Бьют кулаками, ногами, палками и бутылками с водой. Приковывают наручниками, ...

<https://meduza.io/feature/2018/08/09/vse-soobscheniya-o-pytkah-etogo-goda-v-odnoy-...>

21. To initiate a referendum in Russia you have to collect 2 million offline signatures in a span of one month, but no more than 50k in each region. And there's a big list of issues that can't be taken to a referendum at all. Needless to say, there are no referendums in Russia.

22. 92% of all land in Russia is owned by the government. The rest mostly belongs to Putin's cronies. One of the biggest landlords in Russia is Former Minister of Agriculture Alexander Tkachov. Somehow he acquired 641 thousand hectares.

<https://en.crimerussia.com/gover/agrocomplex-of-minister-tkachyov-s-family-became-one-of-the-largest-land-tenure-in-russian-federatio/>

23. 70% of Russian GDP is government spending and that number is growing every year.



**ЭКОНОМИКА**

**В**

Государство и госкомпании контролируют 70% российской эконом...  
ФАС признала государство главным врагом конкуренции  
<https://m.vedomosti.ru/economics/articles/2016/09/29/658959-goskompanii-kontrolliruy...>

24. Russia includes 22 republics most of which have a second official language. Even in cities with Russian majority, schoolchildren in those republics are forced to study local languages.

25. The idea that Putin had to invade Ukraine to protect Russians from Ukrainian nazis is absolute garbage. It was purely a land grab. There are many places where Russians are genuinely oppressed, like Turmenistan. <https://ria.ru/world/20180422/1519094484.html>  
Putin doesn't care about them one bit.

26. Think "Prism" and collecting metadata is bad? Russia has "Yarovaya law" that mandates internet providers to store //all users' internet traffic// up to 6 months in case government wants to have a peak. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarovaya\\_Law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarovaya_Law)

25b. When the war in Ukraine was just getting started, I wrote an in-depth appeal to western right to stop eating up Putin's propaganda. Everything in this article still holds true.  
<http://libertarian-party.ru/blog/an-appeal-to-western-libertarians-about-the-war-in-ukraine>

27. Russia is the biggest country in the world but our total GDP is 33% smaller than that of Italy and 3 times smaller when adjusted per capita. Russia is very poor.





28. Three years ago Russians had their retirement savings ransacked by the government to plug holes in the budget. <https://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/05/russia-economy-idUSL6NoQB4IW20140805> There are no more retirement savings left and all pensions are now paid by taxpayers. Incidentally, taxes were raised.

29. Putin is a good friend and supporter of Maduro, Mugabe, Erdogan and other enemies of the western world. Seriously, how stupid do you have to be to think he supports any of the right wing causes?



**Putin Offers Support For Venezuelan Leader Reelected In 'Sham' Vote**

Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered support for Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro after the United States, the European Union, and Latin American countries rejected his reelection as a "...

<https://www.rferl.org/a/putin-offers-support-venezuelan-president-maduro-re-elected-sh...>

30. Putin routinely waives multi-billion dollar debt for third world countries and then proceeds giving them new loans even though Russia's own population is struggling.



**Putin Writes Off \$32 Billion of Cuba's Debts to Russia**

Russian President Vladimir Putin is currently on a grand tour of Latin America. His first stop is in Havana, Cuba. Ahead of arriving in Cuba, Putin decided to bestow a gift upon the Cuban government.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/07/russia-writes-off-32-billion-in-cu...>

**A Friend in Deed: Russia Writes Off Over \$20Bn for African Countries**

Moscow continues its policy of relieving developing countries of their debts.

28.09.2017, Sputnik International

<https://sputniknews.com/russia/201709281057784610-russia-africa-debt/>

31. Government prevents ordinary Russians from benefiting from Russia's abundant natural resources. If a Russian finds gold on his own plot of land it still belongs to the government.

