Putin: up close and personal

Reminiscences of a Bradford professor at Valdai
by John Russell, jrussell@bradford.ac.uk
Vladimir Putin at Valdai, 19 Sep 2013
Monument to victims of terrorism, Moscow
Swissotel Moscow, from the river
Home from home at Swissotel, Moscow
Trying out the Sochi Olympic trains
Valdai, near Novgorod the Great, Russia
Russian opposition leaders debate
Sergei Lavrov, Foreign Minister
Sergei Ivanov, Presidential Chief of Staff
Delegates tour Valdai Monastery
Caviar courtesy of the church, Valdai
Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu
Putin’s speech at Valdai
http://valdaiclub.com/politics/62880.html
At the conference with RIAN organiser Renata Salmanova
Security and Sochi

http://valdaiclub.com/politics/66421.html
Russian Olympic own goals? Putin’s soft power backfires.
Ukraine: Russian soft coercion?
Ukraine 2014: a repeat of Georgia 2008?
Crimea 2014: a ‘zero sum’ game or room for a ‘win-win’ compromise

http://valdaicclub.com/near_abroad/67168.html

Ukraine's divide

2010 election results

![Map of Ukraine showing election results for Tymoshenko and Yanukovych](image1)

- Tymoshenko: 70%+, 50-69%
- Yanukovych: 70%+, 50-69%

Russian as native language

![Map of Ukraine showing Russian as native language](image2)

- Less than 20%
- 20-50%
- 50%+

Source: 2001 national census
Russia and the Ukraine: divergent narratives?