

# The Moscow Times

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"I would like to travel differently — to look at nature and historical sites." **Vladimir Putin** told Chelyabinsk factory workers

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presidential elections during Putin's rule.

2018

Putin refuses to confirm if he will run for re-election in 2018.



If he is re-elected, Putin would have been in office for 23 years at the end of the presidential term and become Russia's most long-ruling leader after Stalin.

# Should I Stay or Should I Go?

By **Ola Cichowlas** and **Mikhail Fishman** [newsreporter@imedia.ru](mailto:newsreporter@imedia.ru)



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Cover illustration by Maria Zaikina

## Vladimir Putin intimates he may soon be ready for retirement

Every time President Vladimir Putin hints about leaving, the world listens. Rumors have long been circulating around Moscow that Russia's great leader may, in fact, be considering leaving office. Russia's 2018 presidential election, Putin's fourth in last 17 years, is just 15 months away.

So when Putin unexpectedly told gathered workers of the Rosano metal plant in the Urals city of Chelyabinsk that he hoped to have a "successful retirement," local political gossip went into overdrive.

And Putin did not stop at that. Addressing the Soviet-style staged meeting, the president revealed that he "dreamt of traveling, [...] of looking at nature and historical sites."

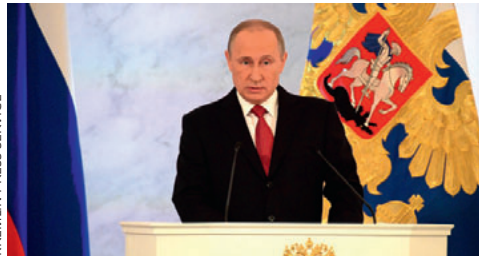
It would be an altogether different way of seeing the world, he suggested.

"Now, all my traveling is reduced to moving from one airport to another room somewhere else," he said. "I was in Peru recently. Well, what did I see? An airport, another building, and then back to Moscow. And there are things to look at in Peru."

While it is wise not to read too much into Putin's responses, analysts say they offer some glimpses into his state of mind.

"Of course, he should be thinking about his retirement," says Russian political historian Valery Solovei. "His 'dream of free traveling' suggests two things: he wants to be in good shape when he retires, and he wants Russia to be on good terms with the rest of the world."

Russia's establishment has given few clues



Russia's establishment seems to be gearing up for Putin's re-election in March 2018.

about any impending switch, and indeed seems to be gearing up for Putin's reelection in March 2018. "Everything is going according to plan," confirms elections guru Yevgeny Minchenko.

A number of changes have been made inside the highest echelons of the presidential administration, all believed to pave the road for a smooth election in 2018. A new team led by Alexei Kudrin, Russia's former finance minister, is working on a plan of economic reforms, which are believed to be at the center of Putin's electoral campaign.

What are his reasons to stay? "Obvious," says a former top official, speaking anonymously. "He's in good shape, he has everything under control." On face value, there is little impetus for Putin to leave. At home, his ratings remain at their highest they have ever been. Abroad, the onward march of populism, culminating in Trump's unexpected victory in the United States, has broken the West's anti-Putin front.

What might his reasons be for leaving? According to another insider, Putin is thinking deeply about his legacy, and his words of successful retirement are no whim. "Deep inside, he understands that his peak is over, especially with the Russian economy steadily deflating," the insider says. Twenty-three years in power would make Putin the most long-ruling Russian leader after Stalin, exceeding even Brezhnev. If he runs for office again, he will still be president at 71.

Putin will make his final decision in March, one year before the election, says a Kremlin insider: "He wants to stay and he wants to go."

The president wants a number of things simultaneously, suggests political expert Alexei Makarkin. On the one hand wants to "preserve and consolidate power." On another, he wants to show he does not want to be president-for-life like the late Islam Karimov in Uzbekistan.

He will leave one day, "just not in the near future," says Makarin.

Other moments at Putin's meeting with the workers suggested he remains on very good terms with his image as Russia's only savior.

"Vladimir Vladimirovich," one of the workers asks Putin, "I have a small daughter. What should I tell her when she asks 'Daddy, who is Putin?'"

After a long pause, the Russian leader replies: "Tell her he is a man who is working so that you can be happy. He lives and works for that." **TMT**

### TECH TALK

## Security First, Technology Second: Back to the Future for Russian IT

By **Andrei Soldatov**  
Journalist and specialist in information security



In the Bavarian Alps there is a small mountain resort town, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, famous for its spectacular views and its hosting of the Nazi Olympics in 1933. It has also, since 2007, been the location of a conference between Russian and American top cyber officials and generals.

Every April, they gather in the Hotel Atlas, a traditional Bavarian three-story lodge, to talk cyber. The discussion is private, and by and large participants have tried to be pleasant and friendly to one another. But nothing can hide the fact that the sides have diametrically different views of the Internet.

In 2010, one of participants, American expert George Sadowsky, admitted in exasperation, "The Russians have a dramatically different definition of information security than we do ... They really mean state security."

The new Information Security Doctrine signed by President Vladimir Putin on Dec. 6 is the very embodiment of the concept of state security. The list of threats listed in the document includes "hostile coverage of Russian state policy" by foreign media; destabilization of Russian regions by "informational-psychological means" i.e. by foreign intelligence services; the use of IT to disrupt the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political stability of Russia, and so on.

On the one hand, none of this is particularly new. Many of the terms were already used in the first Doctrine on Information Security, signed in 2000, while the others came into use after the Arab Spring and the Moscow protests in 2011-2012, when the Kremlin was awakened to the potential of social media.

But the new document has also an unmistakably new old Soviet touch. Here, security comes first, technology comes second. The authors of the Doctrine are not happy with "the practice of introducing information technologies without first providing for information security;" they think it increases risks. As far as they are concerned, telecoms and IT-companies should always consult with secret services ahead of introducing new services and technologies for their customers.

The Doctrine questions the very essence of the modern information society — the free flow of information across borders. "The possibilities of cross-border flow of information are used increasingly for geopolitical or military-political goals in contradiction of international law," reads the "Threats" chapter of the Doctrine, a thinly veiled hint at so-called "Twitter revolutions." There are mentions of ominous forces building the means to disrupt "critical infrastructure" of the Internet.

What this means in practice is that telecom companies will have to ask secret services where to have their fiber optic cables laid. It also means that the Kremlin is serious in pursuing the idea of a cyber kill-switch — an option which would enable the authorities to cut the Russian Internet off from the outside world in case of "emergency." All this looks very Soviet, and totally misplaced. After all, the opposition protests in 2011-2012 were not organized or led from abroad.

Strict informational control was, of course, how things were done for 70 years in this country. Soviet authorities traded technological development for the ghost of state security. It

didn't end well then — either for the Soviet system or for Soviet technology. There is little indication it will end well now.

In our book "The Red Web" we describe how the KGB forced the Soviet Communications Ministry to cut international phone lines right after the Moscow Olympic Games. The lines were built for the Games, but were destroyed only months after because the KGB was not comfortable giving Soviet citizens the option of automatic connection. As result, the country found itself well behind the West in telecommunications.

Ironically, Putin's new Doctrine is full of complaints on the consequences of such decisions. It admits IT development is "insufficient," for example. But the authors of the strategy never come near to learning their lesson. Instead, they lament the "unjust governance of the Internet," and they demand a bigger role for the Kremlin.

Significance change in Internet governance is unlikely to happen soon, but the authors of the Doctrine do have options. While the first Doctrine, written back in 2000, focused mostly on threats and goals, the new Doctrine proudly lists new tools at the Kremlin's disposal — "forces of providing information security," "means of providing information security" and the "system of providing information security."

In other words, in 16 years, the Kremlin has created an entire information security bureaucracy, spread all over the country.

And these new forces are capable of one thing — they can slow down the country's technological progress, once again. **TMT**

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# 4 Looking Forward



In a joint statement, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and EU High Commissioner for Foreign Affairs Mogherini described the new pact as a “way of cementing transatlantic unity”

The Moscow Times  
No. 5784

73%

U.S. spending as proportion of NATO defense spending.

2% of GDP

Defense spending target for NATO members.



“Strong ties between NATO and the EU bring North America and Europe closer together,” Stoltenberg said.

## Weekly Forecast\*

### Real Estate



Nina Novikova  
Director, Economics AECOM

“Construction is one of the most vulnerable industries in times of crisis.”

Fulfilling developers’ obligations to local authorities, creditors and owners means tightened control over construction costs, as out of three components — land acquisition, connection to utilities and construction as such — it is only the latter which is transparent.

In late 2014, when ruble fell far below the imaginable level, market participants did not know what impact it could have on construction costs. Now, in two years, by various estimates, construction costs in rubles (shell & core, public buildings) climbed between 15 and 25 percent, mostly due to price uplift for imported goods (primarily, engineering systems), and not because of ruble rate or sanctions. In some cases, though, local suppliers were also spotted in overpricing in an attempt to secure themselves. For now, developers choose to keep selling prices unchanged by offsetting the higher costs with profit margin for the sake of sales. The main potential threat in the short term, therefore, would be sacrificing quality in a cost reduction race, the simplest way, instead of design and management solutions optimization. In particular, should a developer choose a reputable and experienced designer instead of cutting design costs, this decision may bring significant savings at construction, and in case of using BIM technologies, even at operation and maintenance stages.



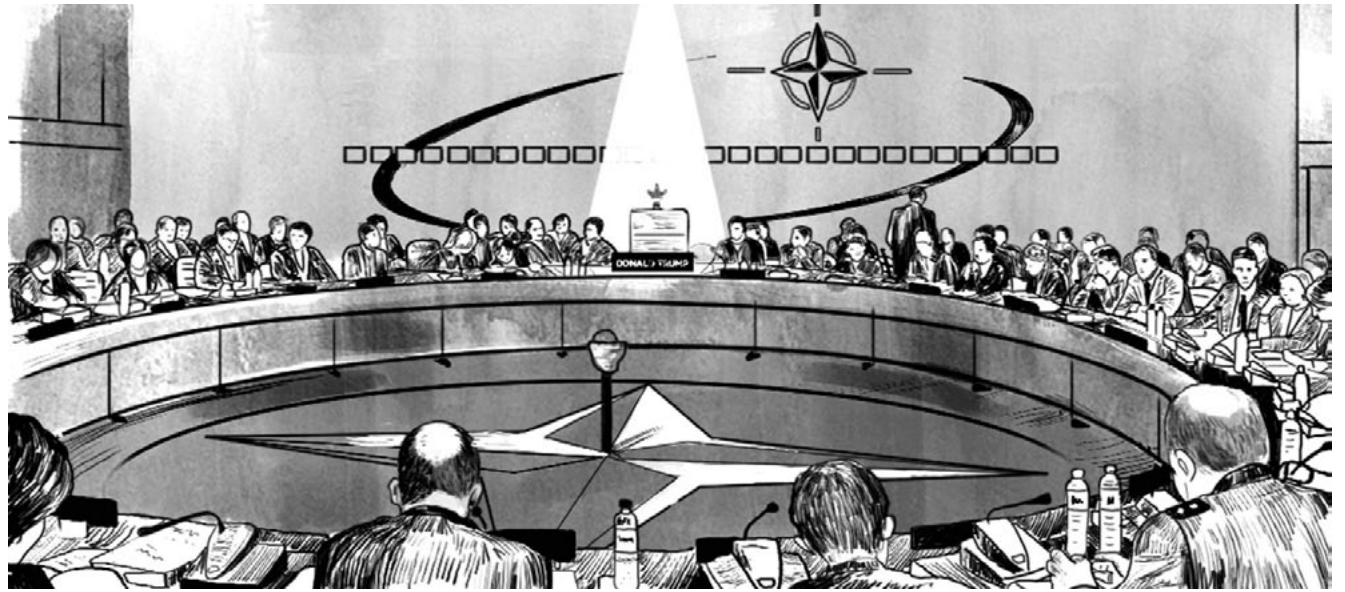
Eriskhan Kurazov  
General Director of  
MLP Management Company

We believe that the worst is already behind the domestic market of high-quality warehouse real estate.

Beginning in the second half of 2016, the market came to life after a long lull, and we are seeing an increase in transactions. In 2016, one million square meters was rented out in this market, and more than 300,000 square meters were leased by our company.

This growth in transactions has led to a decrease in vacant facilities. As a result, at the end of 2016, the total amount of vacant facilities on the market for high-quality warehouse real estate in the Moscow region will be 1.2 million square meters, which corresponds to 9-10 percent of total available space; this number is lower in our complexes. We are confident that this positive market trend will continue in 2017. We expect that by the end of 2017, the percent of vacancies will not be above 6-8 percent.

The lack of an increase in rental rates has made so-called speculative warehouse construction projects economically unfeasible. Therefore, 75 percent of construction planned by developers — 350,000-400,000 square meters — will be completed for a specific customer. The reduction in vacant facilities and developers’ passive position in regards to new construction will lead, we believe, to an increase in rental rates.



# NATO Pivots to Europe

By Matthew Bodner m.bodner@imedia.ru, Twitter: @mattb0401 | Illustration by Elena Rasputina

## In the face of an uncertain Trump presidency, the Alliance looks elsewhere for support

**B**RUSSELS — As U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to Brussels on Wednesday for his final NATO ministerial meeting, the buzzword driving the discourse at the headquarters of the Western military alliance was the “transatlantic bond.” Beneath the cold diplomatic understandings upon which the alliance is built, NATO relies heavily on such rhetoric to justify its existence.

But with the election of Donald Trump as the 45th president of the United States almost a month ago, the future of the so-called transatlantic bond has been thrown into question. Trump’s campaign was littered with statements indicating, at best, a casual disregard for Washington’s commitments to European security.

Trump’s nomination of retired Marine General James Mattis for his secretary of defense, along with several rumored candidates for secretary of state suggest his administration may be less disruptive than initially anticipated.

Some candidates for the top diplomat job are establishment heavyweights like Mitt Romney, and respected foreign policy hands like Jon Huntsman. Mattis is a decorated general who served as NATO’s supreme allied commander of transformation. Mattis has spoken of the need to bolster NATO’s warfighting capabilities, and of the threat posed to European order by a revanchist Russia. But Trump will still be the commander-in-chief, and the uncertainty emanating from Washington has nonetheless left European allies looking inward for security assurances.

### New Agreement

The meeting in Brussels this week was almost entirely focused on a landmark agreement between NATO and the European Union. The two have had a historically awkward relationship. Though both sides stressed the agreement has been in the works for some time, a senior NATO official admitted consensus was not certain “even three days ago.”

The agreement, according to materials given to reporters at the ministerial meeting, is expansive, covering 40 points and seven “mutual security concerns.” The document prioritizes countering the so-called hybrid threat — a placeholder term for Moscow’s tactics used in Crimea and eastern Ukraine.

The agreement was vindication of the long-held fears of NATO’s eastern members, Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs said in an interview with The Moscow Times on Dec. 6.

“Two years ago, when we were talking about propaganda and so on, we were told we were being paranoid, that this was a specific eastern and groundless concern,” he says. “But now it’s the German government, the Dutch government, and they are more concerned about some of these issues than we were!”

While nations like Latvia may feel vindication, the new agreements represent a rational move for NATO’s European members, as they try to create some sense of continuity before Trump’s inauguration next year. A summit with Trump, vaguely planned for sometime before the summer of 2017, has yet to be scheduled.

Kerry, for his part, did his best to assure his European counterparts that the U.S. would remain strongly committed to its NATO partners. Striking a hopeful and optimistic tone, reminiscent of his cheerleading speech at the Munich security conference in February, Kerry encouraged the alliance to soldier on.

“The change of the administration will not change the unwavering commitment of the U.S. to our NATO obligations,” Kerry said. “The U.S. commitment to NATO and Article Five transcends politics,” he said, addressing concerns that Trump might not answer the call to defend allies from attacks, as stipulated by Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, the cornerstone of NATO.

### NATO Contributions

The United States accounts for over 70 percent of defense spending within the 28-member bloc. While Trump may have rattled NATO members with talk of defending only those members who honor their commitment to spend at least 2 percent of their GDP on defense, he was not the first American leader to draw attention to the imbalance.

The question of Trump’s policies toward NATO and European security are most prescient for the nations of Eastern Europe. They seem to be learning to speak Trump’s language. In interviews with The Moscow Times, both the Latvian and Lithuanian foreign ministers downplayed the potential for change.

Both ministers accepted the president elect’s critique of NATO spending, and stressed they were doing all they could to meet their spending obligations. Latvia and Lithuania, unlike Poland and Estonia, currently do not meet the 2 percent benchmark.

Latvia’s Rinkēvičs told The Moscow Times that Trump’s warning “was absolutely the right criticism.” Moreover, he insisted Latvia had nothing to lose from renewed dialogue between the United States and Russia. “There is a need to look for ways to negotiate on key issues with Russia,” he said.

At the same time, the Latvian foreign minister says no deal with Russia should compromise geopolitical stability. While nations close to Russia may be open to a Trump-led detente with their imposing eastern neighbor, accepting some of Moscow’s more egregious behavior — such as the illegal annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 — would be a step too far.

It is a matter of international law, Rinkēvičs says. “If the U.S. and Russia engage in dialogue, there are certain principles that should be honored and upheld.” **TMT**

# «Our Brand Already Has Positive Associations for Foreign Clients»



Alexander Henkin,  
Otkritie Bank's  
regional  
director

Times change, and banks are changing with them. We hear stories about how, at the beginning of this century, during the dot-com boom, California banks adapted to their clients and began to interact with them in a freer, and previously unseen way. Then the crisis came, and employees were told that times had changed and it was no longer acceptable to come to a client meeting in shorts and a Hawaiian shirt. Banks are changing again now — the level of customer service is rising and clients are constantly being offered new options. Otkritie Bank (PAO Bank "FC Otkritie") recently launched a separate service for clients living in Russia. Otkritie Bank's regional director Alexander Henkin tells about why this is necessary and how it works.

**You are launching a service for foreign clients. But we are in a crisis, and the number of expatriates in Russia is decreasing rather than increasing. Why do you need this shrinking segment?**

Otkritie Bank is the largest private bank in Russia. We are growing rapidly and trying to be the best bank in many client categories. We need to speak the language of every client. As a large full-service bank, we have a significant share in the corporate segment, as well as investment, retail, small business and private banking. And we are developing convenient services and products for each of these categories. We are training our staff to work with pensioners, businessmen and young people. And we see ourselves working with foreign customers in the same way — this is another growth point. We will explore the best practices in Russia and around the world and work with foreign consultants. Banks' product lines are similar and differ mainly in financial terms. In this regard, the most important factor in market competitiveness is service.

**But still, why do foreigners need a private bank in Russia? For example, you intend to offer them time deposits. But why do they want yield in rubles?**

We didn't introduce this new service out of nowhere. We see that our brand already has

positive associations for foreign clients — they come to us. But we want to give them more. Any foreigner living in Russia has daily expenses — rent, bills, currency exchange, and so on. Many foreign employees in Russia are paid in rubles at an exchange rate. Our line of services includes deposit accounts with convenient control of the same sum in three currencies — rubles, dollars and euros — without loss of interest, and it can be done online. We are ready to advise clients on when to convert money into different currencies. And our interest rates are quite competitive. Even if the client's main account is in a home country, that doesn't mean they send their savings there immediately. Often they need to accumulate funds to place them in a specific investment product. We can provide a convenient platform for this. Our service is a useful add-on that will allow foreign clients

to get even more comfort and convenience in banking services.

## And cards?

Certainly. Otkritie Bank has cards for a variety of needs and our product line is constantly being updated.

This category of customer flies a lot. This means that they need our co-brand cards with airlines, as well as the Travel Card that allows them to collect bonuses and use them to fly on any airline or pay for hotels in our partner program.

**You will also offer clients coins made of precious metals. But this is not a short-term investment, and the client will probably sell them in their own country. Wouldn't it be more logical for them to think about that market, and its liquidity — that is, buy the coins there?**

People have different attitude towards coins. For some, they're an investment, but for others they're a good gift. We have a wide range of commemorative and investment coins of various denominations and themes, so an original gift can be found for almost everyone. We will develop this area, and our coins are very popular with our clients. It's a worthwhile, memorable, truly valuable gift at an affordable price — and even beautiful and stylish. For a foreigner, it's a great opportunity to bring a special souvenir home from Russia, not just nesting dolls.

**You position the service for foreigners as a special service, not just a Russian banker that speaks a foreign language. Do you see any special needs here?**

The difference in the service, for example, is that we don't just have English-speaking cashiers, but linguists with degrees. You could

say that it is just an "English" button at the entrance that directs the client to the right specialist. But, in fact, it is a deeper question. We are convinced that for clients to begin truly trust the bank, you need to get acquainted with them personally, to describe people. That is, almost every client needs live communication. And our task is to make the service so convenient and comfortable that the client wants to return.

**But people usually don't want to spend extra time at a bank.**

The office where we launched the service is at Smolenskaya-Sennaya Square 27, Building 1. The branch is conveniently located in the center of Moscow, near the Metro.

The atmosphere in the office is very friendly, with unique eco-design and comfortable waiting areas. The interior uses modern design solutions based on natural finishing materials — brick, stone, wood, leather. The branch has a large, comfortable client zone with commodious meeting spaces, comfortable furniture, and green areas decorated with live plants. Managers meet with customers at a table, on the principle of having a dialog among partners, which creates a more comfortable environment for financial advice. Come see for yourself how great it is.

**Only one office in all of Moscow? What if it's inconvenient for the client to go there?**

So far there is one office — the first one. If it is inconvenient for the client to go there, we are willing to offer the same service in any of our other 40 Moscow offices. Just call the special toll-free number that is shown on the information boards in all of our branches. In a few months, we will assess the service and make decision on its expansion. I think that will happen this winter.



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"The worst is already behind us, but growth rates are, of course, still not good enough." **Maxim Oreshkin**

**1982**

year Maxim Oreshkin was born.

**2013 - 2016**

Alexei Ulyukayev's tenure as economic development minister.



"Maxim, you are a fairly young man, but I cannot call you a young specialist." **Putin** told Oreshkin

# The Consensus Candidate

By **Matthew Kupfer** newsreporter@imedia.ru | Twitter: @Matthew\_Kupfer

## Russia's new economic development minister is unlikely to rock the boat

It took two weeks for President Vladimir Putin to find a replacement for Alexei Ulyukayev, the economic development minister sacked in a corruption scandal. His final choice of Maxim Oreshkin, a largely unknown 34-year-old deputy finance minister, raised a few eyebrows.

"Maxim, you are a fairly young man, but I cannot call you a young specialist," Putin said to Oreshkin during the appointment meeting.

A macroeconomist with fairly extensive experience in both the private and public sector, Oreshkin has been praised in Russia's financial sector as smart, professional, and deeply knowledgeable – in short, a true technocrat.

The appointment of such a young and well regarded technocrat suggests that, this time, the Kremlin bypassed the standard patronage networks to pick the best person for the job.

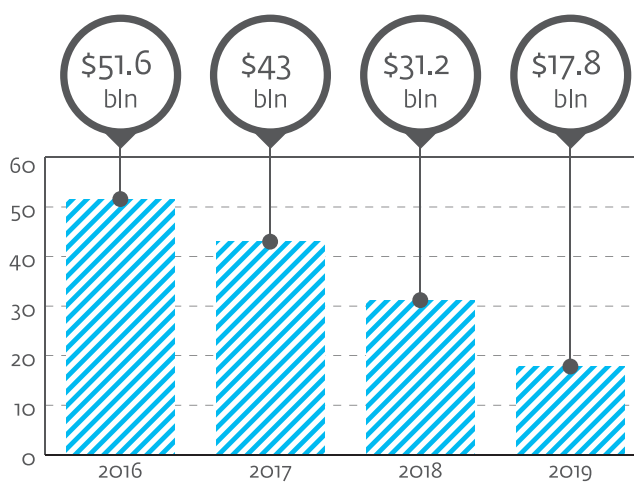
"Clearly it was done not out of loyalty to the current team, but because of [Oreshkin's] competence and professionalism," says Sergei Romanchuk, head of money markets at Metallinvestbank.

But these same positive traits also raise questions about Oreshkin's potential effectiveness in office. He now inherits a ministry charged with macroeconomic planning and charting economic growth, but one which has fallen in importance in the last several years.

Putin's appointment of an official from the Finance Ministry, which focuses on filling state coffers and controlling expenses, to head Economic Development suggests that the Kremlin has chosen a conservative economic path focused on balancing the budget, experts say.

Gone are the days of reformist German Gref, who served as Economic Development and Trade Minister from 2000 to 2007 and proposed vast reforms to overhaul the tax system, privatize state industries, deregulate the economy,

### Russia's Budget Deficit (Prognoses)



Source: rbc.ru

reform the state, and drive Russia toward World Trade Organization accession. Oreshkin has a rather different mandate.

"The decisions he makes about economic growth will be based upon budgetary realities — and minimal risk," says Denis Poryvai, a bond market analyst for Raiffeisenbank.

As a result, the reforms Oreshkin advocates would strive to build upon the current system. Romanchuk suggests these could include tax breaks for certain economic sectors, or the removal of barriers to growth to improve Russia's ranking in the Doing Business index. In other words: gradual changes, not radical ones.

"We can expect micro-changes that will influence the economy and the trajectory of growth," he says.

"Reforms will happen, but they will be of a local and technical nature."

Even if Oreshkin wanted to carry out more radical reforms, he does not have the political power, Romanchuk says. Unlike Ulyukayev — who, prior to becoming minister, held the second highest position in the Central Bank and got his start with 1990s political reformer Yegor Gaidar — Oreshkin has a much weaker political pedigree. To increase his influence, he will have to "gain political weight," Romanchuk says.

In this regard, Oreshkin can be understood as a status quo candidate. Under Ulyukayev, the Economic Development Ministry took a backseat to the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank. These two ministries became the places where "the government leadership and the presidential administration turned for expert help," Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov said on Dec. 1, while introducing Oreshkin to the staff of his new ministry. "We need to go back and make sure that the fundamental work of macroeconomic prognoses is done in the Economic Development Ministry."

Appointing a Finance official to take over Economic Development is both the most direct and least transformative way of doing that. "Now it's all under the Finance Ministry," a source close to the government told The Moscow Times.

Oreshkin seemed to suggest as much during his first meeting with the Economic Development Ministry staff. Now, the Ministry must undergo a "reset," he said. Among its top priorities will be greater cooperation with the Finance Ministry, the Central Bank, and the other state ministries.

"We can't reach an optimal result alone," Oreshkin told his new staff. **TMT**

The Moscow Times  
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 Mikhail Orlov Public Tax Ombudsman under RF	 Aleksey Overchuk Deputy Head, The Federal Tax Service of Russia	 Maxim Reshetnikov The Head of the Department for Economic Policy, Moscow Government	 Andrey Serov Global Tax Director, Kaspersky Lab	 Anton Toroptsev Head of Tax Department, Nissan Motor Corporation

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16+ Реклама

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Реклама

# Out & About



Weekly round-up of all that's new, delicious and fun in Moscow.



ARKHIV 13



ARKHIV 13

While perhaps not to everyone's taste, the large groups gathered to dine and celebrate special occasions seemed delighted by the easy decadence of Arkhiv 13.

## Arkhiv 13: Karaoke and Russian Classics

By **Ruth Moore** r.moore@imedia.ru | Twitter: @ruth\_ski

*Wine, dine and unwind at this historic city center mansion*

**M**uch of Arkhiv 13's appeal comes from its venue—a charming 19th century mansion tucked away in a courtyard off Myasnitskaya Ulitsa. Ascend the grand staircase and pass a number of glittering hostesses before taking your seat in the spacious central dining room. On the cards: perennial Russian classics that won't look outdated on your Instagram account.

Brand chef Vladimir Mochalin is the brains behind the kitchen. Inspired by the building, its heritage and the people who have passed through its doors, his dishes are a patchwork of

different influences and epochs, with a firm nod to traditional Russian cuisine.

Start with the Olivier salad, prepared according to a 19th-century recipe. Quails eggs, shrimp, black caviar and beautiful presentation bring it up to modern-day dining standards (550 rubles). The grilled vegetable salad with aubergines and brinza (280 rubles) is less exciting, but a good option if you're not quite brave enough to start with the stroganina—a speciality hailing from Russia's Far North which consists of thinly sliced frozen raw fish.

Anyone at all familiar with Russian cuisine

will feel at home with the mains, which include the perennial beefsteak, accompanied by a fried egg and served on a bed of red cabbage (680 rubles). A clear highlight is the duck breast with pumpkin mash and button mushrooms (680 rubles). Portions are small, but fairly priced.

With its magnificent five-meter-high ceilings, ornate stucco and beautiful pillars, you'd have thought Arkhiv 13 wouldn't need much further embellishment. It's a shame then that designers have opted for a dramatically oversized contemporary chandelier which takes up much of the ceiling in the central dining room.

A congenial, if at times slightly raucous atmosphere dominates the main dining room. This certainly puts a stop to too many reveries about Russia's grand silver age—at our sitting the DJ decks came out as midnight drew closer, and a young reveler took to the stage to sing a heavily-accented rendition of Uptown Funk. You won't dine like Pushkin here, but you'll probably have a fun night anyway. **TMT**

**+7 (925) 077 5505**  
www.archiveclub.ru  
13 Myasnitskaya Ulitsa  
Metro Kitai-Gorod, Chistiye Prudy

### NEWS & OPENINGS



CHIP AND INJIR

#### ChIP and Injir

##### Refuel as you trawl the mall

A ChIP and Injir stand will grace the basement of Tsvetnoi mall this yuletide serving up coffee to weary shoppers. ChIP stands for Chelovek I Parokhod (The Man and the Steamship)—a phrase penned by poet Vladimir Mayakovsky. Grab a small cappuccino or flat white (150 rubles) and pair with Injir's coffee and chocolate cake with prunes and walnuts (100 rubles).

**+7 (985) 330 5847**

facebook.com/cheandpa  
15 Tsvetnoi Bulvar, Bldg. 1  
Metro Tsvetnoi Bulvar, Trubnaya



ROCKY'S PUB

#### Rocky's

##### Hipsters take over one of the Seven Sisters

Rocky's is a new gastropub at the back of a skyscraper on Barrikadnaya—one of the so-called Seven Sisters. Opened by the owners of the Molly Gwyn's chain, Rocky is out to target a young, hip crowd with its 15 types of craft beer. The food is better than your average pub grub: try the spicy eggplant with quinoa (410 rubles) or shrimps in tom yam sauce (460 rubles).

**+7 (495) 692 14 20**

facebook.com/rockysmoscow  
1 Kudrinskaya Ploshchad  
Metro Barrikadnaya, Krasnopresnenskaya



KHINKALI POINT

#### Khinkali Point

##### Cheap, easy and delicious

Khinkali Point on Lesnaya Ulitsa is the brand's second branch. The khinkali dumplings start from 50 rubles each. Tuck into pkhali with walnuts for just 160 rubles, while the gebzhaliya—salty cheese—in matsoni yogurt is 230 rubles. Pair with a Georgian "Natahtari" beer (200 rubles) or a glass of house wine (180 rubles) for a fast, filling lunch.

**+7 (495) 946 6004**

xpointcafe.ru  
20 Ulitsa Lesnaya, Bldg. 1  
Metro Belorusskaya



SPARKLING DOG

#### Sparkling Dog

##### Street food and fizz

Sparkling dog serves the seemingly incongruous combination of sparkling wine and hot dogs. After a stint at the trendy Flacon design complex in northern Moscow, Sparkling Dog has now opened a new joint on Ulitsa Pokrovka. Enjoy a chilled glass of prosecco for 200 rubles and chase it with mustard, relish and onions for 250 rubles.

**+7 (985) 696 9108**

facebook.com/SparklingDogRussia  
3/7 Ulitsa Pokrovka  
Metro Kitai-Gorod, Chistiye Prudy

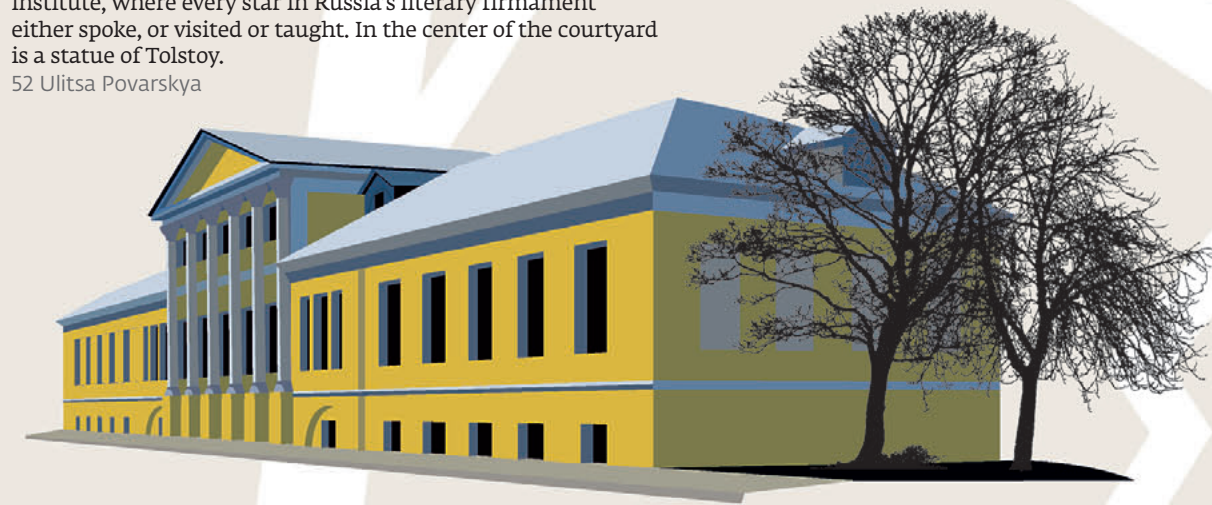
## Take it and go!

Four pages packed with the best places in Moscow to eat, drink, walk, shop, listen, watch, dance and sightsee. A new walking route and listings every week! **Take it, use it, save it!**

**1. Rostov Mansion**

This short walk along a couple of blocks of old Moscow begins at the Barrikadnaya metro station. Walk up the hill and cross over the Ring Road, bearing to the right of the Tchaikovsky Center. This is the end of Povarskaya Ulitsa, Cook's Street, where the tsar's household kitchen staff once lived. This end of the street, however, had larger lots for the aristocracy's manor house and gardens. Almost every building on this street has a history, beginning with the yellow and white mansion on the left. Behind a tall wrought-iron fence, the "arms" of low buildings reach out from the main building to surround a snowy courtyard. First built in the late 18th century, the house was updated with a more classical appearance a century later. Once owned by the very princely Dolgorukovs, it is believed to be the prototype of the Rostov mansion in Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace," although other scholars doubt this. What is not in doubt: the literary pedigree. Over the years it has been a literary salon, a palace of culture, a writer's union, and literature institute, where every star in Russia's literary firmament either spoke, or visited or taught. In the center of the courtyard is a statue of Tolstoy.

52 Ulitsa Povarskaya



2

**2. Central House of Writers**

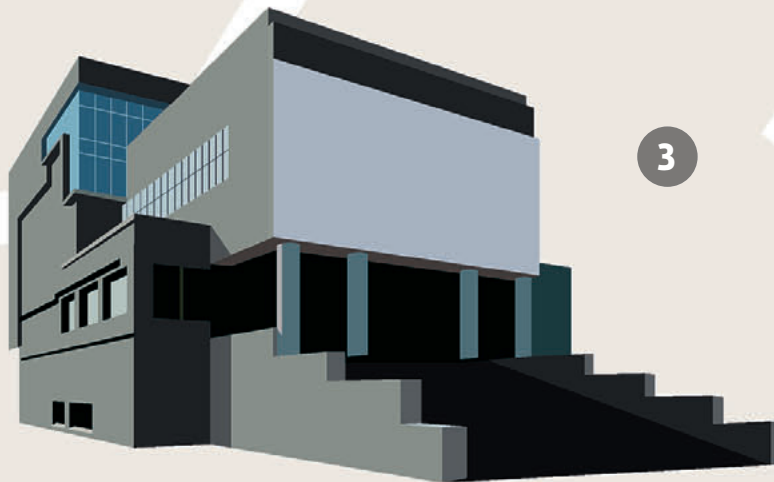
Next door is a magnificent house from a later era but with an equally strong literary pedigree. Built in 1887 by the architect Pyotr Boitsov for a prince with the fabulous name of Svyatopolk-Chertvertinsky, it is an eclectic mix of French Renaissance and baroque with a bit of whimsy thrown in. Inside the carved wooden décor is considered some of the finest 19th century wood work in the city. After the house was sold to a literary translator, it was used for various purposes, finally turning into the Central House of Writers by request of Maxim Gorky in 1933. A later addition to the back of the house (on Bolshaya Nikitskaya Ulitsa) expanded the space for archives and a library. Stop in for a meal in the luxurious hall or for a literary event.

50 Povarskaya Ulitsa

**3. Theater of the Film Actor**

Across the street is a building from an entirely different era, built in 1931-35 by the Vesnin brothers as the Central House of Prison and Exile. That may not be the most inviting name for a club for people who had been imprisoned or exiled under the tsarist regime. But soon after it was built, the organization was disbanded — perhaps because the Soviet regime was producing too many new members. For a decade it was a movie theater, and then part of the House of Cinema. It has gone down in literary history as the place where a meeting of writers voted to exclude Boris Pasternak from the writers' union in 1958. Since 1969 it has been a theater that showcases film actors, its asymmetrical constructivist form a striking addition to the older architecture around it.

33 Povarskaya Ulitsa



3



Trubnikovsky Pereulok

# Along Povarskaya Ulitsa A Short Stroll on a Street Of Cooks and Aristocrats

By Michele A. Berdy [m.berdy@imedia.ru](mailto:m.berdy@imedia.ru) | Illustration by Maria Zaikina, Miron Epshtein

Where houses have names and once welcomed Russia's literary and cultural elite







#### 4. Volkonskaya House

Back on the other side of the street is a small yellow house — a one-story wooden house with a mezzanine built in 1814. It is nothing much, except for three circumstances. The first is that it is the last one-story wooden house with a mezzanine on the street, and one of the few left in Moscow. The second is that it, despite its deformation over the years, it gives a sense of what all Povarskaya looked like in the early 19th century. And the third is that when it was owned by the Naryshkin brothers in the mid-19th century, it was visited by the writer Alexander Dumas, who found the house and hosts extremely hospitable. It is named after one of its first inhabitants.  
48 Povarskaya Ulitsa

4

Povarskaya Ulitsa



5

Skatynny Pereulok

6

7

#### 5. Mindovsky Mansion

Coming up are two houses built “on spec” by the Moscow Trade and Construction Company. In the first years of the 20th century, the company bought a large parcel of land and commissioned the famed architect Lev Kekushev to design two homes in the style moderne for later sale. The first one was eventually sold to the industrialist Ivan Mindovsky, whose family lived in it up until the 1917 Revolution. It is done in the European Art Nouveau style, with spectacular bas reliefs and carvings. Look up to the very top of the building under the roof to see the wonderful cavorting putti. Since 1972 it has been the New Zealand Embassy, which has received awards and thanks for its magnificent upkeep. It is considered one of the finest examples of style moderne architecture in the city.  
44 Povarskaya Ulitsa



#### 7. Orlova House

The last house on this short walk is across the street — a kind of giant version of the “house with a mezzanine” seen earlier. This large and solid house was built after the fires of 1812 in the classical style with some unusual touches, like the arched windows of the central section. It was almost always a rental property with many apartments, large and small. It was twice visited by the poet Alexander Pushkin, who in 1828 read his poem “Poltava” here to a group of friends. Just before the Revolution it was a school for a charitable organization. During the Soviet years the actress Lyubov Orlova lived here for a while, giving the house its name. Here our walk ends, and you can head to the right toward Novy Arbat or to the left into the Patriarch’s Ponds neighborhood for a warming drink or meal.  
27 Povarskaya Ulitsa



Skaryatinsky Pereulok

#### 6. Ponizovsky Mansion

The next house was also built on spec in 1903 by Lev Kekushev, but it was, alas, remodeled in the neo-classical style by another architect in 1915. Photographs of the original house show arched windows, a whimsical cupola over the entryway, and light ceramic tiles on the façade. It was purchased by fabric manufacturer Matvei Ponizovsky and is now the Embassy of Afghanistan. Although the exterior was changed beyond recognition, the interior design — lighting fixtures, stained glass windows, carved wooden stair banisters and other ornamentation are the original style moderne done by Kekushev.  
42 Povarskaya Ulitsa





**Michael Koblenz**, founder of MIKO Group

"I adore Sumosan at the **Radisson Slavyanskaya**. They have the most amazing and creative sushi I have ever had. It's only topped by their own restaurant in London."



PETERRAAYVANGER / PIXABAY

## Your Christmas Shopping Sorted: Moscow's Best Fairs

Friends and family back home already laden with matryoshka dolls from Christmases past? If you're looking for some original holiday gift inspiration this December, don't worry, we've got it covered. Moscow is bursting with bazaars, craft fairs and handmade gifts — so sharpen those elbows, wrap up warm and get into the holiday spirit.



ARTFLECTION

### ArtFlection

#### Artisans' paradise

More than 100 of the country's finest potters, designers and craftspeople will descend on Moscow toward the end of the month, meaning that even if you've left your shopping until Christmas Eve itself, it still won't be too late to get your hands on an exceptional present. Alongside more stalls than physically possible to visit in an afternoon, visitors to the fair can enjoy performances from a flashmob, arts and crafts masterclasses and a temporary exhibition of contemporary art.

### Main Telegraph

artflection.ru  
7 Tverskaya Ulitsa.  
Metro Okhotny Ryad.  
Dec. 24-26  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### GUM Christmas Market

#### Step into Christmas

Every year the GUM skating rink takes center stage on Red Square. After a spin on the ice, warm up with a cup of mulled wine and some roasted chestnuts at the festive market located directly behind the rink. Yes, it's a tourist trap, but there's nowhere more picturesque to browse for souvenirs. From woollen socks to scarves, gloves and Slavic-themed trinkets you can enjoy hunting for gifts under the glow of GUM's thousands of twinkling fairy lights. Musicians, dancers, jugglers and snow maidens

will make appearances in resplendent garb Thursdays through Sundays.

### Red Square

gum.ru  
Metro Ploshchad Revolyutsii, Okhotny Ryad  
Through Feb. 28  
10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. daily

### Central House of Artists Fair

#### Gifts galore

Artisans from all across Russia will flock to the Central House of Artists this December, bringing with them tapestries, batik paintings, ceramics, jewellery and much more besides. Given that the large majority of items are handmade in very small batches, you can guarantee you'll get your hands on something very special for your loved ones at the fair. Other wares include Christmas decorations — for your home or tree — and specialist books, personalized greetings cards and calendars.

### Central House of Artists

cha.ru  
10 Ulitsa Krymsky Val  
Metro Park Kultury, Oktyabrskaya  
Dec. 9-25  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



FLACON

### Flacon Design Factory Market

#### For cool, crafty people

Achingly cool Flacon design factory is putting on another festive extravaganza this December. Called the "Station" Christmas fair, you can expect to find diverse, affordable and original gifts from all over

the world and delicious festive drinks and snacks from various stalls. From clothing, and cosmetics to homeware and traditional Russian crafts, this two day yuletide she-nanigan is the perfect way to splash some cash and do a good deed in the process — some of the proceeds from the fair will go toward charities including the Nastenka foundation, which supports children with cancer and the Ray shelter for homeless animals.

### Flacon Design Factory

36/4 Bolshaya Novodmitrovskaya Ulitsa  
Metro Dmitrovskaya  
Dec. 17-18  
Noon to 9 p.m.



KABOOMPICS / PIXABAY

### Formula: Hand-Made New Year

#### A celebration of hand-made crafts

This may be an unwieldy name for a Christmas crafts fair, but don't let that put you off. This hugely popular event is expected to attract more than 12,000 people this year with a staggering 300 vendors from across the Moscow region — and the country — bringing their wares to Sokolniki Park. Alongside hundreds of stalls, visitors can enjoy a special program of events and masterclasses — meaning you can learn how to make your own gifts for the next festive season.

### Sokolniki Park

formularukodeliya.ru  
7 5th Luchevoi Prosek, Bldg. 1  
Metro Sokolniki  
Dec. 9-11  
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Hoeb Kobchet Restaurant**

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Date: **31.12**

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The Moscow Times  
**CONFERENCES**

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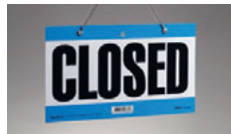
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Participation in the project: **Alexandra Podlipskaya** a.podlipskaya@vedomosti.ru

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16+ Реклама



Major reform of the Moscow health care system was launched in 2014. As a result, more than 20 hospitals were shut down.

**1914**

psychiatric hospital No.12 was opened.

*"No one will benefit from the optimization. It's simply harmful."* **Yelena Kostyuchenko**, *Novaya Gazeta* reporter



**3**

psychiatric hospitals will be reportedly left in Moscow following re-organization.



ILYA KUTOBOY

# A Bitter Pill to Swallow

By **Daria Litvinova** d.litvinova@imedia.ru | Twitter @dashalitvinov

## Moscow health care "optimization" leaves city with just three psychiatric hospitals for more than 12 million residents

About a year ago, Nina [not her real name] fell into severe depression. "I had no feelings and just wanted it to be over," she recalls. "I had two options: suicide or medical help."

An Internet article led her to Hospital No. 12, a psychiatric hospital in north-west Moscow that seemed to have good reviews from patients. She was admitted for free the next day, with very little bureaucracy standing in the way.

Nina expected a standard Russian psychiatric hospital experience: prison-like wards, unsympathetic doctors and medication. The longer she stayed at the hospital, however, the more she realized it was different. Doctors at Hospital No. 12 encouraged relatives and friends to visit, and they allowed patients in stable condition to go home on weekends. Their focus was not only on medication, but therapy and psychoanalysis. The hospital-pioneered new treatment regimes using yoga, swimming, massage and art.

All that is now about to change as Moscow city authorities embark on what they call an "optimization" drive of health care facilities. Hospital No. 12 is one of many earmarked for closure, either "merged" with larger in-patient facilities or disappearing altogether. Just this month, at least one other hospital was informed of significant reorganization.

As a result of the reforms, medics fear Moscow and its 12 million residents will be left with just three mental hospitals.

"This is simply ridiculous," says Yury Savenko, president of the Independent Psychiatric Association. "It isn't even close to being enough for a metropolis like Moscow."

### A Unique Hospital

Hospital No. 12 made headlines in late November when doctors and patients launched an online petition calling for authorities to save the facility.

"The hospital has been operating since 1914 ... the changes essentially mean the hospital's existence will end," the pledge read. As of Dec. 6, nearly 6,000 had signed the petition.

Hospital No. 12 is a unique facility in Moscow in offering outpatient services to patients in borderline psychiatric state.

"They were real professionals, saving lives there," says Yelena Kostyuchenko, a reporter for the Novaya Gazeta newspaper, who is a former patient. "Their doctors knew how to deal with people in grief, people in shock. They treated victims of terrorist attacks, prevented many suicides, and dealt with post-traumatic stress disorder in people returning from war."

Moscow's Health Care Department ignored a request for comment. Alexei Khripun, head of the department, referred The Moscow Times reporter to his spokespeople.

Earlier this month, however, Moscow City officials told Russian media outlets that patients and doctors "would only benefit" from merging the hospital No. 12 with the larger Solovoyov Neuropsychiatric Center.

Clinicians at the hospital disagree. "The Solovoyov Center is different, with different approaches to treating people," says psychotherapist Lina Yegorova. "Most importantly, it's a closed in-patient facility, quite unlike us and our open doors. You wouldn't be able to come and go there."

### Ulterior Motives

City officials argue that the existing system of psychiatric care is ineffective. Too many hospital beds are not being used, while the outpatient care is underdeveloped, they say.

"They are referring the European model, where the number of psychiatric hospital beds went down over the years," says a psychiatrist from hospital No. 15, another psychiatric facility on the chopping block, on condition of anonymity. "In Europe, the number of beds per 100,000 people gradually decreased from 400 to 100-120, but in Russia they're trying to cut down the existing 130 beds."

Questions about why these particular hospitals are being absorbed into other facilities — and not, for example, the other way round — remain unanswered by authorities, the psychiatrist added.

At Hospital No. 12, doctors and patients believe that an ulterior motive could be at play, and that authorities are more interested in the land for development purposes. "The territory the hospital occupies is great," says Kostyuchenko. "It is close to a metro station, it has a big, beautiful historical park and is housed in a sublime art-nouveau building. It is not the first time that authorities have tried to take over the land."

The hospital No. 15 — a large facility with some 800 hospital beds — will meanwhile be turned into a psychiatric care home.

According to the psychiatrist, who has seen full government plans, only three in-patient psychiatric facilities will remain in Moscow following the reorganization. This is down from 16 facilities open at the beginning of the decade.

Moscow's health care department has promised to open 20 new outpatient psychiatric health centers to counteract the closures, as well as increasing the number of psychiatric wards in existing clinics.

Russia's psychiatric professionals question whether the switch is likely to prove effective in the Russian context. "Our colleagues in several Eastern European countries tried implementing this model, and found that it costs much more," Savenko from the Independent Psychiatric Association says.

"If we're saying our country has the money — fine. The problem is we tend to prefer spending money on weapons rather than health care." **TMT**



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реклама



Chess reportedly came to Russia in the 9th century either from Persia or from Middle Asia.

2007

last time Russia took the world chess title.

12

the number of rounds in Magnus Carlsen and Sergei Karyakin's match.



*"When you're facing off with the world champion, you can't give up, right? You have to fight till the end."*  
**Sergei Karyakin**



Sergei Karyakin became the youngest grandmaster in history at age 12 and is giving everything to boost his chances of becoming the next world champion.

# Return of the Crown

By [Eva Hartog](#) e.hartog@imedia.ru | Twitter: @EvaHartog

The re-emergence of a Russian at the chess top table has seen the sport return to the nation's hearts

18+

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РЕКЛАМА

**W**ith only minutes left, Sergei Karyakin seemed lost in thought, much to some people's frustration. "Why is he stopping to think right now?" an exasperated TV commentator asked, questioning the Russian's slow play as the clock ticked down.

Many argue it was exactly that sangfroid disposition that propelled Karyakin to become the youngest grandmaster in history at age 12, and on to last week's World Championship finals in New York in the first place.

But in the end it wasn't enough. With a quick and final sweep, Norway's Magnus Carlsen sacrificed his queen to win the match and defend his world title. The three-week epic standoff had dominated news cycles and put chess back on the map for the first time since the height of the Cold War.

The match was as close as Russia has come to winning the world championship in a decade. For weeks, the prospect of "returning the crown" had been trailed in the Russian media, and had become nothing short of a Russian obsession. Russians of different ages reminisced about playing chess, and the glory days when Soviet chess players dominated the world stage.

"It is important to bring back the crown to Russia," Karyakin, 26, told *The Moscow Times* in a five-star central Moscow Hotel, a week after the final. "I'm going to dedicate all my efforts to making sure it happens."

## The Soviet School

While most fans associate chess with Soviet times, the board game first gained popularity in Tsarist Russia.

"Around 1890, the Russian Mikhail Chigorin came as close to defeating the then holder of the world title, the American Wilhelm Steinitz, as Karyakin was to beating Carlsen," says Bernard Cafferty, a British chess master and author. Perhaps even more famously, the iconic Russian poet Alexander Pushkin was also a chess fan. He wrote a letter to his wife thanking her for taking up the sport. "It is indispensable to any orderly house-

hold," he wrote. "I'll explain later." (He never did.)

It was the Bolsheviks, however, who made the hobby a matter of state. Early promotion of the sport was led by revolutionary Nikolai Krylenko, and no less than Lenin himself. Soon, matters of chess were as much ideology as sport, and players were transformed into members of Soviet "chess shock brigades."

For the Soviet leadership, chess served multiple functions, says Andrew Soltis, a U.S. grandmaster and author of a book on Soviet chess. "It was seen as a very cheap form of mass entertainment and a means, like ballet, of demonstrating Soviet cultural supremacy," he says. It was also used more pragmatically, as a way of reducing illiteracy among Red Army recruits.

Opinions vary as to whether there is a distinct "Soviet" school of chess, uniting big, but very distinct stars such as Mikhail Botvinnik, Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov. If anything, such a school was characterized by a highly professional attitude toward the game, and an aggressive playing style, says Soltis. But that chess became a central propaganda tool is indisputable.

"Chess was one of the very few international activities in which the Soviet Union vied with the West in the decade after 1945," says Cafferty. At the same time, many of the Soviet stars, such as the Estonian Paul Keres or the Armenian Tigran Petrosyan were not, in fact, ethnic Russians.

Soviet domination over world chess lasted until the 1960s, with the emergence of two Western rivals — Danish player Dane Larsen and the American Robert Fischer. In 1972, the latter beat the then-world champion Boris Spassky. It was a humiliation for the Soviets, and it "moved international chess into a new historical phase," says Cafferty.

Meanwhile, cracks in ideological unity at home spilled over onto the chessboard. In 1984, the splits were on display for the world to see in a tense standoff between the two Soviet rivals Kasparov, an Armenian Jew who had worked his way up the



“Karyakin is very disappointed now, but he is young. It’s likely he’ll fight for the title again.” **Sergei Smagin**, Moscow Chess Federation

## 6th

is Sergei Karyakin’s world ranking after the match.



During Soviet times chess was a very popular game, with hundreds of chess clubs functioning all over the country and thousands of people playing it.

## \$1.1 Mln

is the prize for the winner in the Karyakin-Carlsen match.



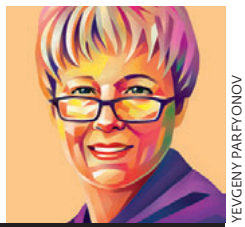
Tigran Petrosian, of the Soviet Union, sits at the chess board and waits for Bobby Fischer on Oct. 14, 1971.

### THE WORD’S WORTH

# The Words I Hate to Love

## Мизогиния: misogyny

By **Michele A. Berdy**  
Moscow-based translator and interpreter, author of “The Russian Word’s Worth” (Glas), a collection of her columns.



ranks, and Karpov, an ethnic Russian and clear favorite of the Soviet elite. Many saw Kasparov’s eventual, dramatic win in 1985 as a harbinger of the Soviet regime’s decline.

When the Soviet Union eventually crumbled in the 1990s, the chess scene imploded with it. “Chess clubs disappeared, coaches dispersed and chess players took up business instead,” says Sergei Shipov, a prominent chess commentator.

Russia never fully recovered from the blow.

### Political Charge

But with the country failing to make its mark with more popular sports, such as football, Russians have become hungry for chess greatness once more. The country still produces strong chess players, such as Vladimir Kramnik, who was world champion until 2007, and now Karyakin. Even though Karyakin was always the underdog in the final, ranking ninth in the world at the start of the tournament (and moving to sixth place after last week’s events), it was an impressive achievement.

“The fact that a Russian chess player has made the top two is a huge success that Russian footballers can only dream about for another 50 years,” says Shipov.

Meanwhile, chess is regaining some of its Soviet-era charge. As in the old days, the sport is a place to play out political rivalries.

“One way of showing off is to jump higher or run faster. But if you show you’re more intelligent — that has a lot more prestige,” says Shipov.

Karyakin seems to have embraced the role of political ambassador for Putin’s Russia. Born and raised in Crimea, he competed under the Ukrainian flag for much of his early career. But in 2009, he was granted Russian citizenship, and appears to have never lost his gratitude. Holiday pictures from Crimea shared on social media show him wearing a T-shirt with Putin’s portrait and the words “We don’t abandon our own!” Karyakin has picture of him standing alongside the Russian president pinned to the top of his Twitter account.

Karyakin is supported at the highest level of Russian government. Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov flew out to New

York to attend the final. Karyakin, a believer, has also revealed that the head of the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill is among his fans.

Criticism that he is a Kremlin stooge leaves him unfazed. “I have a right to express my opinion,” he says. “If that offends anyone, there’s nothing I can do. My opinion is not a bargaining chip.”

Austrian Chancellor Alfred Sinowatz, left, opens the International Chess Tournament on Jan. 6, 1986, in Vienna, Austria, here playing against former Soviet World Champion, Antoly Karpov.



### God’s Mistakes

Despite the nationwide nostalgia, and the appearance of a possible future world champion, a return to the Soviet days of chess glory is unlikely.

The Kremlin’s weak spot for chess is not enough to compensate for the fact that, under capitalism, the rules of the game have changed. Chess has to compete with other sports such as hockey and football, which attract more viewers and more investment. Meanwhile, Russia’s rivals have gotten stronger, not infrequently employing Russian coaches to share the secret of the trade. Karyakin’s rival, Carlsen, was, for example trained by Kasparov for years.

Success is now largely down to individual players.

“The biggest stars are God’s mistakes, it is pure coincidence,” says Shipov. “No one can understand how Carlsen emerged from Norway, a country with no chess tradition.”

While there are several Russians in the world chess elite, it is by no means guaranteed that a Russian will be sitting across from Carlsen in 2018, when the title is once more up for grabs. “There must be sore heads in the Moscow chess hierarchy wondering how to back any future great hope of Mother Russia,” says Cafferty.

Meanwhile, Karyakin is giving everything to boost his chances of becoming the next world champion.

His regime involves punishing workouts — he lost 8 kilograms in the six months ahead of the world championship — and a diet of almost no sugar on the recommendation of doctors.

Some media reports have also claimed Karyakin also has a superstitious attachment to the color blue, wearing blue sweaters and blazers during matches. But when about it, Karyakin looks stunned that such a rumor could exist about someone more used to rational calculation.

“You’d better ask my wife about that,” he laughs. “To be honest, I have no clue what color my clothes are.”

The reincarnate of Russia’s long chess tradition is also just a man, after all. **TMT**



Former world chess champion Boris Spassky concentrates during his match with England’s William Hartston, on the opening day of the European Team Championships at Bath’s Guildhall, July 7, 1973.

Ever since Nov. 9 at about 3 a.m. New York time, I have been talking a lot about hate crimes — that is, when I’m not sputtering and muttering and using very impolite words that are not appropriate for a family newspaper. It’s hard enough to talk about varieties of discrimination and hate crimes in English without setting off a verbal war, but it becomes particularly fraught when trying to have the same conversation in Russian. Equivalent words don’t always have equivalent meanings or connotations. One person’s chauvinism is another person’s как ты смеешь! (how dare you?!).

Take misogyny, one of those words that English-speakers use a lot, sometimes to mean hatred of women, more often to mean prejudice against women. In Russian, it’s мизогиния, but the word is so rare that the spell checker doesn’t know it and most people have no idea what you’re talking about. This is definitely a downer when you’re on a roll in your post-election rant. I mean, Чаво чаво (huh?) is not the response you’re looking for. I found only a few examples of usage, like the rather high-toned: Его мизогиния — только часть его мизантропии (His misogyny is just part of his misanthropy).

The word more commonly used to describe people who hate or disdain women is the spectacular eight-syllable женоненавистничество, which despite its length and impossible pronunciation — if you want to give it a go, the stress is on the fifth syllable — is just a big compound word that includes ненависть (hatred) and жен (of women). If you find it a mouthful, you can use женоненавистник (woman-hater).

But both words are stronger than misogyny and misogynist. They don’t mean the guy at work who thinks women should get paid less because they have a hubby to take care of them; they mean the guy at work who gets the heebie-jeebies being in the same room with women. Георгий, женоненавистник и убежденный холостяк, хотел уничтожить всех женщин в мире (Georgy was a confirmed bachelor who hated women and wanted to destroy all the women in the world).

Here’s the problem with these slight and not-so-slight shades of intensity and meaning: In English you can say, “One of the reasons Clinton lost is widespread misogyny,” and while people might disagree, no one thinks you’re crazy.

But if you say that in Russian as Клинтон проиграла отчасти из-за распространённой мизогинии (literally Clinton lost in part because of widespread misogyny), your friends will say: Вот! Я знала, что она смертельно больна (See! I knew she had a fatal disease).

And if you say Клинтон проиграла отчасти из-за распространённого женоненавистничества (literally, Clinton lost in part due to widespread hatred of women), your friends will say, Ты чё — спятила, что ли? (Are you out of your frigin’ mind?)

When all fails in translation, try конкретизация (concretization), that is, talk about a particular part of misogyny. Клинтон проиграла отчасти потому, что многие не готовы принять женщину президента (Clinton lost in part because many people aren’t ready to accept a woman president.) So far that has gotten nods of understanding, even if my Russian friends don’t agree.

Other options are сексизм (sexism), which is a word and concept stuck in the bra-burning era, or мужской шовинизм (male chauvinism), which sounds like the punchline to a joke.

We need more words, please. It’s going to be a long four years. **TMT**



"The musical has undoubtedly become a trend." **Dmitry Bogachev**, director of Stage Entertainment Russia

# 1,000

people auditioned for a part in "Anna Karenina."

# \$32 Mln

The amount made by "The Phantom of the Opera" during its two-year stint.



The pioneering musical "Nord-Ost" was based on a popular Soviet-era novel, "Two Captains" by Veniamin Kaverin. It was the first Russian musical to run for a year on a daily schedule.



MOSCOW OPERETTA THEATER



MOSCOW OPERETTA THEATER

"Anna Karenina" is the third original musical to be staged at the Moscow Operetta Theater following the box office success of both "Count Orlov" and "Monte Cristo."

# East Side Story

By **Ruth Moore** artsreporter@imedia.ru | Twitter: @ruth\_skii

## A relative newcomer, musical theater has now firmly found its footing with Russian audiences

The crowd jostling elbow to elbow at the Moscow Operetta Theater bar for their interval drinks are an eclectic bunch: young couples, family groups celebrating special occasions, a handful of tourists and even a pair of babushkas fanning themselves with their programs in the stifling heat of the foyer.

It's not unusual to see a packed theater in Moscow, but this evening's performance isn't ballet, a classic play or a music concert. It's "Anna Karenina," an all-singing, all-dancing interpretation of the Tolstoy classic.

The larger-than-life musical has been a smash-hit at the box office so far despite its unorthodox reimagining of the beloved novel. And it's far from the only hit musical in town. After a late and somewhat hesitant arrival in the country—some decades after the genre became a tour de force in the U.S and Britain—the tide has turned for musicals in Russia.

"I think that the musical genre has firmly taken its place in the cultural life of Moscow," said theater critic Marina Shimadina in an interview with The Moscow Times. "It has its own, constantly growing audience which is much broader than for ordinary theater because musicals offer spectacular, impressive shows with mass appeal."

### A Flexible Format

The Stage Entertainment theater company, which puts on productions at Moscow's Rossiya and MDM theaters, currently works on the Broadway schedule of eight shows every week. Its roster of previous productions includes "Cats" and "Mamma Mia!"

Last year the company's show, "The Phantom of the Opera," made it second in the RBC newspaper's summary of the highest grossing entertainment in Russia for the previous year—a list which spanned theater, television and exhibitions. Could this be a sign the Russian musical is now an art form in its own right?

"For the Russian professional theater community, the musical is recognized as an as independent and self-sufficient kind of theatrical art," Dmitry Bogachev, managing director of Stage Entertainment Russia, told The Moscow Times. "Many well-known opera and drama composers, theater directors and choreographers are happy to work in musicals because it gives them more creative freedom."

This artistic freedom is certainly tangible in the Moscow Operetta Theater's "Anna Karenina." In one scene set at an ice rink the chorus glide around the stage on inline skates, while in another a group of fieldworkers combine traditional Russian dance with break dance as they toss bales of hay around the stage.

The adaptation of a masterpiece of Russian literature into a popular theater production is not intended to dumb-down

the novel for a mass audience, according to Bolonin, the show's producer.

"A few years ago, when we put on the musical 'Monte Cristo,' sales of Dumas' novel grew significantly," he told The Moscow Times. "I do not doubt that the same will happen with Tolstoy's 'Anna Karenina.' Some will want to re-read it, and perhaps some will want to discover it for the first time."

### Right Time, Right Place

Such an appetite for the genre would have been difficult to foresee just 20 years ago. During the Soviet Union the bright lights of Broadway weren't exactly everyday fare for theatergoers.

"Musicals were considered Western, bourgeois and purely an entertainment phenomena—as such they had no place in Soviet theaters," said Shimadina. "We survived on musical comedies, which were officially approved by culture officials."

The introduction of the musical to the post-Soviet space came much later than other cultural exports like television and music for obvious reasons: the prohibitive cost of staging a production in an unknown marketplace. The Polish musical "Metro" (1998) and "Nord-Ost" (2001) are widely regarded as the pioneering productions in Russia.

But not all shows have been immediately embraced by audiences. "Forty Second Street" flopped in 2002 with a run of just 11 weeks. It has taken time for Russian audiences to get accustomed to some productions.

"When 'Chicago' was staged for the first time in 2002, the public was not ready for its aesthetics, its black comedy and its tale of prison life," Shimadina told The Moscow Times.

Fast forward to 2016, and the tables have turned. "Dance of the Vampires," which made its Moscow debut this season, is a raunchy, hedonistic extravaganza of the undead which audiences appear to be lapping up. The show is currently scheduled to run through May next year, if not longer.

### Don't Run Before You Can Walk

The genre, however growing in popularity, does face some problems.

"In my opinion, there aren't enough professional theater producers who understand theater, know how it works and know how to organize a process from the moment the idea is conceived with a group of writers to organizing marketing and ticket sales," said Bogachev.

And there's also a risk that the musical is becoming a victim of its own success. While Shimadina considers Stage Entertainment, the Moscow Operetta Theater and the Moscow

Musical Theater to lead the field, smaller theaters have picked up on the commercial viability of a format with mass appeal, to the detriment of quality in the production.

"From a Broadway perspective, many Moscow musicals are far from ideal," said Shimadina. "The biggest problem is that we do not have the musical school which has developed in the U.S and London. The Russian genre is all of 15 years old. We our teaching ourselves how to do the genre from examples of imported musicals."

But it looks like there is a bright future ahead. Now that the musical is more firmly established, industry experts hope that investors, producers and actors will become more abundant. For this season's "Anna Karenina" more than 1,000 auditioned for a part, the majority with prior musical experience.

"If previously the trend was to stage performances which were already licensed [abroad], we can now say with confidence that the trend has shifted toward creating original Russian performances, which are not only equal, but sometimes superior to their foreign counterparts," said Bolonin. **TMT**

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Liquidator  
**Mr. David Lowseck**  
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**Dmitry Chebanov**  
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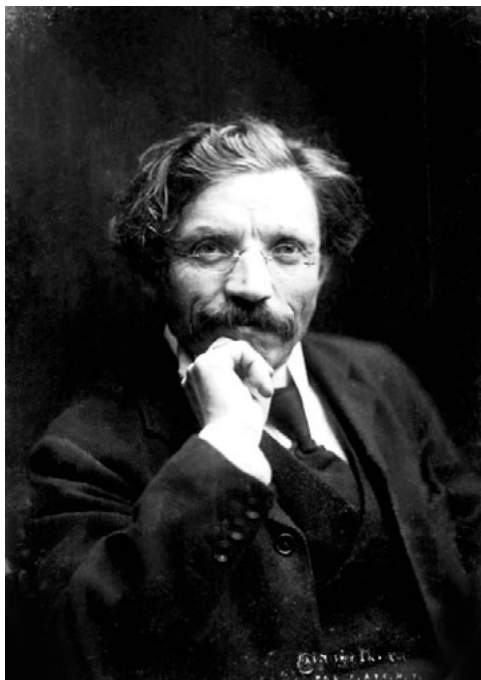
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## Remarkable Life of Sholem Aleichem on Show at Jewish Museum

By **Ciara Haley** [artsreporter@imedia.ru](mailto:artsreporter@imedia.ru)

A staggering 100,000 mourners lined the streets for Sholem Aleichem's New York funeral when he died in 1916. In the instructions he left regarding his burial, he asked "Let my name be recalled with laughter or not at all."

The colorful life of Aleichem, characterized by more than one rise and fall from the clutches of poverty, is celebrated by a new exhibition at the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center to mark the centenary of his death.

Born in central Ukraine — then part of the Russian empire — Aleichem is widely considered to have redefined the structure of modern Yiddish literary culture. While best known for his "Tevye the Dairyman" story, on which the film and theater production "Fiddler on the Roof" is based, Aleichem produced a vast array of plays, novels and screenplays during his lifetime.

He also had a remarkable life; after a childhood marked by poverty, he married his wife against the wishes of her wealthy landowner father. They went on to lose their entire fortune in stock speculation

and left Ukraine, fearful of the pogroms sweeping the Russian Empire.

The new exhibition gives a panoramic view of the writer and his legacy: from in-depth biographical information to photographs of his life and rare primary documents including the writer's original manuscripts and his letters to Tolstoy and Chekhov.

"The unique nature and the volume of documentary and art materials — many of which have never been seen by the public before — make this the first ever exhibition to capture the large-scale legacy of the great Jewish writer," said Grigory Kazovsky, the curator of the exhibition, in an interview with The Moscow Times.

Other exhibits display the various editions of Aleichem's works in Yiddish, alongside their translations into Russian, English and dozens of other world languages. Included in this section are some exceedingly rare first editions dating from the 19th century as well as the two volumes of "The Yiddish People's Library" almanac which Aleichem published to encourage other Yiddish writers in spite of his dire financial straits.

Aleichem drew on the richness of the Yiddish language — the vernacular used by most Eastern European Jews of the time — to bring extraordinary warmth and realism to his stories. It was this skill which drew the inspiration of many other artists, represented in the illustrations made to accompany his books by Anatoly Kaplan, Meyer Akselrod, Nathan Altman and Mane-Katz. Visitors can also enjoy the costumes, playbills, rare posters, and photographs of scenes from the often spectacular performances of his plays as well as the film realizations of Aleichem's works on film. There's even an opportunity to immerse yourself in Aleichem's world by watching the rarely screened film "Jewish Happiness" (1925), based on Aleichem's writings and starring legendary stage actor Solomon Mikhoels." **TMT**

"Sholem Aleichem. The writer and his characters in art, theater and movies" runs at the Jewish Museum through Jan. 22. 11 Obraztsova Ulitsa, Bldg. 1A. Metro Marina Roshcha, Dostoevskaya, Mendeleevskaya. [jewish-museum.ru](http://jewish-museum.ru)

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РЕКЛАМА

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