Putins Preventive Counter-Revolution Post-Soviet Authoritarianism and the Spectre of Velvet Revolution

By Robert Horvath

Routledge. Paperback. Condition: New. 288 pages. Dimensions: 0.0in. x 0.0in. x 0.0in.This book examines the preventive counter-revolution, a programme of reforms and repression that transformed the face of Russian politics during Vladimir Putins second term as president. Kremlin propagandists hailed this programme as a defence of national sovereignty against Western attempts to foment a velvet revolution in Russia. But this book shows that the Putin regime was reacting to a real domestic threat: opposition leaders and youth activists who had begun to employ velvet revolutionary methods in a campaign to harness popular grievances and to challenge Putin in the streets and at the ballot box. It traces the formulation and implementation of the regimes two-track response, which was based on a careful analysis of the lessons of the recent velvet (or coloured) revolutions in Georgia and Ukraine. The first track was repressive: the imposition of controls on NGOs, restrictions on electoral competition, and a crackdown on opposition demonstrations. The second was the mobilisation of supporters in patriotic youth organisations that employed both gang violence and velvet revolutionary techniques. Drawing on a wide range of Russian-language sources, including opposition activists blogs, this book charts the end of Russias experiment with liberal...

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