

NEW RUSSIA BAROMETER XX. PUBLIC OPINION OF VLADIMIR PUTIN'S RETURN AS PRESIDENT

Richard Rose

Glasgow: CSPP *Studies in Public Policy* No. 492, 2012.

ISSN: 0140-8240

Abstract

The nationwide New Russia Barometer survey puts into perspective journalistic reports of street demonstrations in Moscow. Shortly after the presidential election, the Levada Centre interviewed a nationwide sample of Russians between 16 and 20 March 2012. The survey contains public assessments of the Russian government as a whole, Vladimir Putin, and full details of the electoral behaviour of respondents, including their experience, if any, of electoral irregularities and their view of political demonstrations. This twentieth NRB survey incorporates trend indicators asked in previous NRB surveys since 1992. Assessments of political, economic and social conditions in 2012 can be compared with replies in surveys undertaken during Boris Yeltsin as well as Vladimir Putin's time in office. While support for the current political system is not as high as before, it remains on balance positive. However, people regard it as halfway between a democracy and a dictatorship. The paper gives the results for all questions asked and also reports opinions separately for younger, middle age, and older Russians.