

# Duma Speaker Volodin Teaches Young Communist Lesson About Stalin, But They Aren't Having It

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State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin **Forum "Territory of Meanings on the Klyazma" Press Service**

When State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin reprimanded a young Communist for failing to recognize a quote by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, he might have miscalculated.

During a snap visit to a youth forum in the Vladimir region on Thursday, Volodin was asked by a young Communist Party member why the United Russia party had won a disproportionate number of seats in September's parliamentary elections in the Saratov region.

Volodin, who ran on United Russia's ticket, responded by asking the young politician whether he knew the quote: "A man can make mistakes, but the party cannot." When the young communist failed to recognize the words, he was reprimanded.

"[How can] you represent a political party which does not only revere that man, but receives many votes thanks to him? This was said by Stalin," state-run [TASS](#) cited Volodin as saying.

On Friday, however, the Communists struck back. In an online statement, the party said the statement “The party is never wrong” was actually [made](#) by Stalin’s nemesis Leon Trotsky at the 12th Communist Party Congress in 1924.

Stalin then reportedly [replied](#): “That’s not true. The party is frequently wrong. Ilyich [Lenin] showed us how to teach the party to lead by learning from its own mistakes. If there would be no mistakes, the party would have nothing to learn.”

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The Communists then used the opportunity to deal Volodin a personal blow, saying: “Even in 1924, Stalin said the party could be wrong. And you, Vyacheslav Viktorovich, are the perfect example!”

In May this year the Communist Party [amended](#) its charter to make it obligatory for all party members to study Leninist–Marxist thought. The party’s anti-corruption committee, meanwhile, has been named after Stalin.

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