

Russia's Top Auditor Kudrin Blasts Corruption in Legal System

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Alexei Kudrin [ru_minfin / Flickr \(CC BY-NC 2.0\)](#)

Russian economic growth is hampered by deep-seated corruption in the country's legal system, the head of Russia's auditing agency said Thursday.

Audit Chamber head Alexei Kudrin told a St. Petersburg International Economic Forum panel that corruption in the Russian judiciary system goes back centuries, pointing to one of the classic Russian poet Alexander Pushkin's works as his favorite example.

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"There are no stable rules, there's no impartiality in ... the arbitration of problematic disputes," Kudrin, a former finance minister and prominent liberal economic voice, [said](#).

Russian businesses overwhelmingly distrust the national legal and law enforcement system, according to business ombudsman Boris Titov's recent [survey](#) of businesses submitted to

President Vladimir Putin.

“Such an attitude toward a fundamental institution that is in fact the ultimate arbiter of justice shows that we have weak rule-of-law institutions,” Kudrin [said](#), referring to the survey’s findings.

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He said a criminal case into embezzlement against U.S. investor Michael Calvey, who had sought to attend the St. Petersburg forum despite his house arrest, was “a shock to the economy” that had [doubled](#) Russia’s capital flight in 2019.

“We need to take a host of measures every day to increase trust in businesses until there’s a breakthrough. Until there’s no breakthrough... investment won’t flow,” he said.

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