

The U.S. Imposed New Sanctions Today on Russia. What Are They?

August 26, 2019



Sergei Skripal, Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov **Facebook** / **Screenshot RT** / **MT**

A new round of U.S. sanctions on Russia over the poisoning of a former spy in Britain last year has gone into effect on Monday.

Washington imposed an initial batch of sanctions last year on Russia after determining that Moscow had [used](#) a nerve agent against a former Russian double agent, Sergei Skripal, and his daughter Yulia, in Britain. The Kremlin has repeatedly [denied](#) claims that Russia's GRU military intelligence agency poisoned the Skripals in Salisbury in March 2018.

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U.S. President Donald Trump signed the second round of sanctions after Russia failed to provide "reliable assurance" that it would no longer use chemical weapons. The new sanctions will [remain](#) in place for at least a year.

What do the new [sanctions](#) do?

- Block international financial institutions, such as the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund, from lending or providing any technical or financial assistance to Russia.
- Block U.S. banks from [lending](#) to Russia, except for purchasing food or other agricultural products.
- Authorize the U.S. Commerce Department to deny Russia export licenses for chemical and biological goods and technology.

Why were the sanctions imposed?

- The U.S. gave Russia a 90-day deadline in August 2018 to give "reliable assurance" that it would no longer use chemical weapons following the Skripal incident.
- "Russia did not provide the assurances required under U.S. law," the White House said earlier this month. "So we are imposing a second round of sanctions."
- The first round of U.S. sanctions in August 2018 terminated foreign assistance, some arms sales and financing and prohibited security-sensitive goods and technology exports.

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