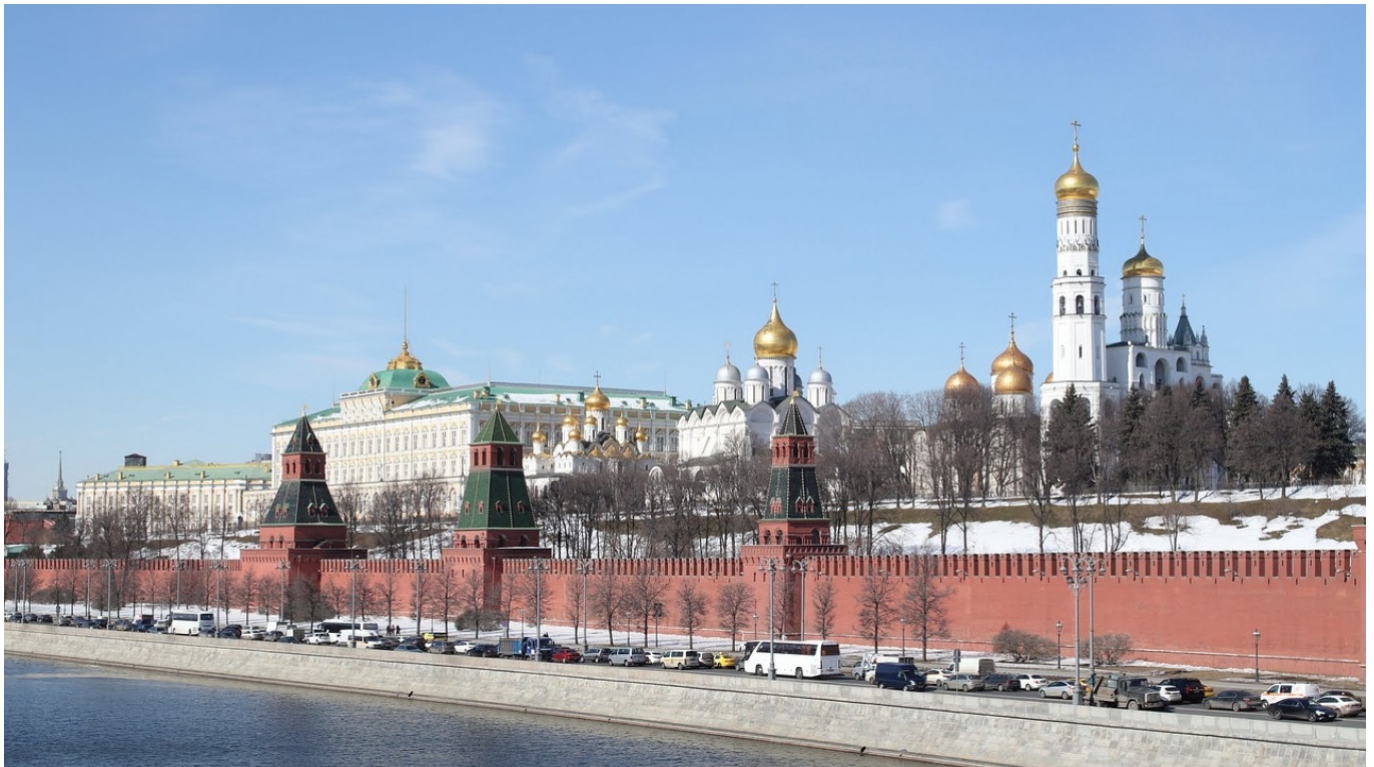


# Russia's Tumultuous Week: The Main Events

January 22, 2020



Putin's annual state of the nation address set off a chain of events including the prime minister's resignation, a new cabinet of ministers and widespread speculation about what Putin's power restructuring bodes for the future. **Pixabay**

President Vladimir Putin proposed to make several amendments to the Russian Constitution last week in what has been seen by many observers as an move to secure his executive power beyond 2024.

The proposals, made during his annual state of the nation address, set off a chain of events including the prime minister's resignation, a new cabinet of ministers and widespread speculation about what Putin's power restructuring bodes for the future.

**Related article:** [Russia Gets New Government in What Putin Calls 'Major Renewal'](#)

Here's a look at the sweeping changes that have taken place in the past seven days:

**Jan. 15:** Putin [proposes](#) a package of constitutional amendments aimed at shifting power from the presidency to parliament and the prime minister. Hours later, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev announces he and his entire government have resigned.

Although this dramatic exit seemed to signal a changing tide in Russian governance, many say it was simply the strategic removal of a prime minister whose increasing unpopularity had made him a political liability.

**Jan. 16:** Putin [confirms](#) former tax chief Mikhail Mishustin as prime minister. A relative political unknown, Mishustin vows to improve business and macroeconomic stability, as well as to push forward with enacting Putin's national projects.

**Jan. 19:** Putin, currently in his fourth term as president, [rejects](#) a "president for life" model, saying that future presidents of Russia should be limited to two terms in office. Some see this as an attempt to counter widespread speculation that he plans to stay in power beyond 2024.

**Jan. 20:** Putin [submits](#) the proposed amendments to the State Duma, with reports of a nationwide vote on the amendments to be held as early as April. The Kremlin later [announces](#) that Prosecutor General Yuriy Chaika, a longtime ally of the president, is leaving his post.

**Jan. 21:** Mishustin [appoints](#) his new cabinet. Despite Putin's declarations of a "major renewal," many senior ministers keep their positions, indicating little change in the overall ideology of the government. Read more about the new and old faces in Russia's cabinet [here](#).

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