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Reading as Defiance

Russia Underground

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Russia Underground takes you on a journey to meet the Russians who continue to battle for free speech, artistic freedoms and basic human rights despite Putin's brutal wartime crackdown, hosted by journalist Howard Amos and researcher Nina Berezner.

When it comes to books, Russia more and more resembles the Soviet Union.

Censorship means that publishers have moved abroad, bootleg copies of banned texts are sold online and even the language of literature has changed — becoming more allegorical, euphemistic and indirect.

We spoke to some of those still championing reading in wartime Russia: independent booksellers, online bookclub organizers and publishers. Is reading itself now an act of resistance?

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