

Putin's 20-year reign

Approval rating of Vladimir Putin and Russian government

Oct 2002: Moscow theatre siege – 200 hostages killed



72% Sep 2004: Beslan school siege – 330 hostages killed, including 186 children

88% 2008-09: Financial crisis. Oil price plummets, GDP shrinks by 8%



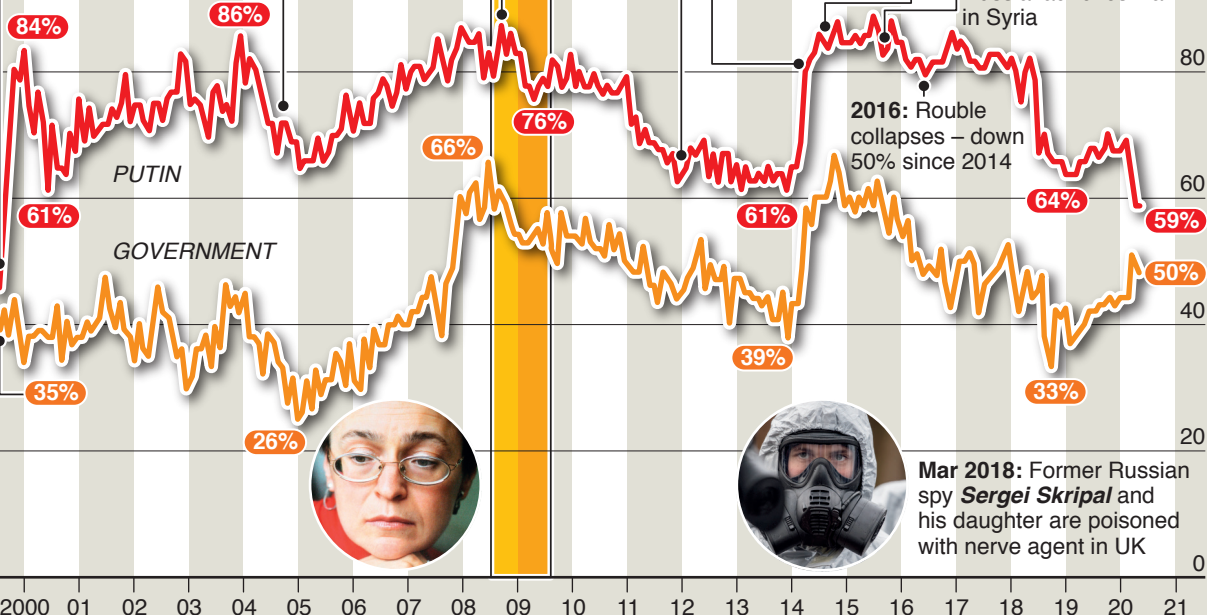
63% Dec 2011: Anti-government protests

Jul 2014: All 298 people aboard **Malaysia Airlines flight MH17** are killed when passenger jet is hit by Russian-made missile over Ukraine. Flight is en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur

88% Sep 2015: Russia launches war in Syria

53% Aug 1999: Ex-KGB chief appointed acting prime minister by President **Boris Yeltsin**

Putin launches war in Chechnya



77% Oct 2006: Journalist **Anna Politkovskaya** (above) murdered on Putin's birthday

Jul 2008: Russian oil peaks at \$147 per barrel

83% Aug: Russia fights and wins five-day war with Georgia over "breakaway provinces" Abkhazia and South Ossetia

69% May 2012: Putin sworn in as president as riot police battle protesters



69% Feb 2014: Annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region creates so-called **Crimean Consensus** – massive wave of public support for Kremlin's confrontational stance towards West

64% Jan 2019: Approval drops after years of falling real incomes, rise in pension age and increase in VAT. **Jul:** Protests break out in Moscow

59% May 2020: Putin's handling of coronavirus pandemic heavily criticised
Jul 1: Referendum on constitutional changes to allow Putin to stay in office until 2036

