

Gallup: Americans' Hostility to Russia Soared after Obama's 2012 Re-Election

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The Gallup organization samples Americans' approval-disapproval of Russia in February of each year, and the approval-figure for this year is only slightly more than half as high as it had been back in 2012 when Obama publicly mocked his Presidential-campaign opponent Mitt Romney's famous statement that [«Russia, this is, without question, our number one geopolitical foe»](#).

A [Gallup poll released on 20 February 2017](#) showed that Americans' favorability rating of Russia, immediately after U.S. President Barack Obama left office, is only 28%, which is just above Americans' 24% favorability toward The Palestinian Authority, and just below the 31% favorability toward Saudi Arabia. Russia hasn't always been rated down in that low league of American popularity.

Back in 2012, before Obama's second term, that favorability rating toward Russia was 50%. The year before that, in 2011, it was 51%. It had been [reasonably stable until Obama's re-election](#) (except during 1998-2004 when it gyrated wildly because of Americans' uncertainty of what the post-Soviet, post-communist, Russian government was like).



The [lowest-ever](#) American approval-rating for Russia occurred in Gallup's poll on 8-11 February 2015, almost a year after the overthrow of Ukraine's government and the vote of Crimeans to abandon Ukraine's government and rejoin Russia, when it was 24%. In Gallup's immediate-prior poll, which was taken right before the 20-26 February 2014 overthrow of the Ukrainian government, the Gallup poll on 6-9 February 2014, 34% of Americans approved of Russia.

No other nation has plunged even nearly as steeply in Americans' favorability as did Russia, during Obama's second term. The plunge, from 50% to 28%, which is a 44% plunge in the rating, compares with, as the second-steepest such plunge, Saudi Arabia: it's a plunge from 42% in 2012, to 31% now, which is a 26% plunge — far less than the 44% plunge for Russia.

The biggest rise during Obama's second term was for Cuba: 37% favorability-rating in 2012, 51 % today, which is a 38 % rise, during the four years of Obama's second term.

Cuba's remarkable rise during Obama's second term cannot reasonably be attributed to Obama's having restored, on 20 July 2015, diplomatic relations with Cuba, which had been severed in 1961. The rise instead [occurred gradually throughout Obama's second term](#). And,

prior to 2012, going all the way back to 1998, Americans' approval-rating of Cuba had been rather stable, within the 25 % to 30 % range. So: apparently throughout Obama's second term, the U.S. press were providing increasingly favorable 'news' coverage of Cuba.

Russia's chart-topping plunge [occurred fairly steadily throughout Obama's second term](#). It wasn't caused entirely by the events in February and March 2014 in Ukraine: the overthrow of President Yanukovich and the plebiscite in which over 90 % of Crimeans (who had voted overwhelmingly for Yanukovich) voted to no longer to be in Ukraine but instead to return to being citizens of Russia, which Crimeans had been until 1954, when the Soviet dictator arbitrarily transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine (he was a Ukrainian: Nikita Khrushchev). Obama's policy on that was to insist that the people of Crimea had no right of self-determination of peoples (which right he agreed with when it pertained to Catalonians in Spain and to Scots in UK but not to Crimeans in Ukraine) but that instead Russia's acceptance of Crimeans back into Russia is 'conquest of land' by Russia, and so Obama imposed economic sanctions against Russia, and NATO poured U.S. and other troops and missiles onto Russia's borders, allegedly so that there would be no more such 'conquests' by Russia (as if there were anything like a plebiscite in Romania or Latvia or Poland etc. in which a majority of the residents there sought for their land to become a part of Russia).

What is especially important to note regarding the plunge in Americans' approval-rating for Russia is that it didn't occur only after, but started well before, those events in Ukraine in 2014; it started at the very end of Obama's first term, in 2012.

[Obama's State Department started planning the overthrow of Ukraine's government by no later than 2011, when they were probing Julian Assange for information about how to stir revolutions by drawing supporters into online resistance activities. Assange did not know, at that time, what use the U.S. State Department \(assisted by Google's chief, Eric Schmidt\) were aiming to make of the information that he provided.](#) However, by the time the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine started on 1 March 2013 its «tech camps» to implement the 'revolution', it became clear what use Obama's people were making of Assange's insights.

Apparently, the 'news' coverage of Russia during the years of the plunge, 2012-2016, was somehow becoming progressively more and more unfavorable, in preparation for the 2014 Ukrainian coup and its aftermath of economic sanctions and the positioning of increasing numbers of U.S. troops and missiles on and near Russia's borders. [The U.S. government even publicly celebrated its propaganda-success.](#)

Manipulating the public in a 'democracy' has become so much of a science, so that a person can reasonably doubt whether democracy, in even the limited extents to which it has existed in the past, possesses any realistic meaning in today's world — or (if so) *what* meaning.

The basic theories of politics and understandings of ideology — everything that employs the concept «democracy» — are false now, even if they weren't false earlier, when 'democracies' routinely included societies such as ancient Athens, where the majority of citizens owned one or more slaves.

Where lies reign, what meaning has 'democracy'? Has it become merely one more lie? This is a [serious question](#).

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