



Written by [Angeline Tan](#) on March 26, 2024

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Alexei Navalny: The Color Revolution That Wasn't?

On February 16, 47-year-old Russian lawyer and political activist Alexei Navalny collapsed and died in a prison colony north of the Arctic circle, where he was serving a 19-year sentence under Russian laws for "extremist activities." On March 1, Navalny's funeral took place in Moscow, with his casket taken to the Borisov Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Yulia, and two children.

According to Russian prison authorities, Navalny suddenly "felt ill" after a walk and collapsed, with efforts to resuscitate him failing. Speculation arose online that Navalny's death bore the marks of a "KGB heart punch," while government-backed news outlet Russia Today (RT) claims it was told Navalny died as the result of a blood clot, matching a statement by Ukrainian intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov.

American politicians were quick to accuse Russia of murdering Navalny. President Joe Biden alleged that while "we don't know exactly what happened ... there is no doubt that the death of Navalny was a consequence of something that [Russian President Vladimir] Putin and his thugs did." Vice President Kamala Harris claimed that "Russia is responsible" for the activist's death. This is probably true, but the outrage being ginned up is aimed at exploiting his death for political purposes in a larger geopolitical chess game.

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) suggested that Navalny's death was not an accident, even before medical examiners had determined the cause. Graham, who on several occasions has urged for the assassination of Russian President Vladimir Putin, pinned the blame for Navalny's passing on the Russian leader personally. "Let's make Russia a state sponsor of terrorism under U.S. law. Let's make them pay a price for killing Navalny," he told CBS' *Face the Nation*, claiming that he already discussed the idea with two Democratic senators.

On February 23, the United States sanctioned another 500 people and entities linked to Russia, including financial executives and prison officials. Biden said that the sanctions list would also encompass "individuals connected to Navalny's imprisonment."

Who Was Alexei Navalny?

With all the hype surrounding Navalny's mysterious death, and with Kyiv's Western backers calling for more anti-Russian sanctions to be imposed and arms to be delivered to Ukraine to combat Russia, it is worth taking a deeper look at this controversial Russian political figure, hailed in the West as an heroic



AP Images

Tragedy: Alexei Navalny's demise was tragic, not only because of the loss for his family, but also because it was at the behest of the United States that Navalny took the path that eventually led to his imprisonment and death.



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“opposition leader.”

Born in 1976, Alexei Anatolyevich Navalny graduated from law school in 1998 and earned a degree in finance in 2001. He would proceed to explore law, investments, and political activism during his career, eventually settling on politics. “I have always been obsessed with politics,” he admitted to the outlet Kommersant-Money in 2009.

Navalny was part of the Yabloko party between 2000 and 2007, before co-founding an ethnic nationalist movement called NAROD. He was featured in two contentious YouTube videos for the group, one championing gun rights to fight “flies and cockroaches” (referring to Muslim insurgents from the southern Caucasus), and another likening immigrants from Islamic regions to tooth decay.

In August 2008, Navalny spoke in favor of Russia’s intervention in Georgia on behalf of the embattled South Ossetia. He went on to join three annual “Russian March” rallies with advocates for ethnic nationalism.

By February 2011, Navalny had shifted his ideology to adhere to Western liberal beliefs and had become a prominent critic of Vladimir Putin. In a 2011 radio interview, he blasted Putin’s ruling United Russia party as a collection of “crooks and thieves,” and claimed it had stolen national elections. Western media labeled him the “Russian opposition leader” after he gave a series of speeches at anti-Putin protests that followed. In 2011 Navalny also founded the Anti-Corruption Foundation, or FBK, which published investigations into alleged corruption by Russian political leaders. This obviously earned him the scorn and suspicion of Russian authorities.

The highlight of Navalny’s political career was the July 2013 Moscow mayoral election, in which he won 27.24 percent of the vote, losing to Sergey Sobyenin.

Navalny continued to expose the government in Moscow, regional governors, and corporations regarding fraud, graft, and corruption — frequently getting sued for defamation as a result. Navalny and his brother Oleg — a postal employee — faced charges of embezzlement in 2012 for allegedly defrauding the Russian branch of the French cosmetics giant Yves Rocher. Navalny’s first criminal conviction was for embezzling funds from the state-run timber company Kirovles. In 2013, he was sentenced to five years in prison, but the sentence was later amended to probation. Alexei and Oleg were found guilty in the Yves Rocher case in December 2014, but Alexei once again was sentenced only to probation. Navalny condemned the charges against him as politically motivated and lashed out against the “disgusting feudal system” in which “one hundred families” were allegedly looting Russia.

In 2016, Navalny announced his intent to run against Putin in the 2018 presidential election, but he was barred from doing so owing to his criminal convictions. He subsequently called for a boycott of the election, and in 2017-2018 organized several public rallies against the Putin government.

After surviving a poisoning attempt in 2020 (which was almost certainly the work of the FSB, Putin’s rebranded KGB) and fleeing to Germany with his wife and two children, Navalny returned to Russia in January of 2021. He was promptly arrested, and his FBK was labeled an “extremist” organization, which led to his imprisonment at the Siberian facility in which he died.

Navalny the U.S. Asset?

In 2010, Navalny received a scholarship to the Yale World Fellows program, now known as the Maurice



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R. Greenberg World Fellows program, at Yale University, where he studied political science and world affairs. As a World Fellow, Navalny aimed to create a “global network of emerging leaders and to broaden international understanding.” The program is named after billionaire Maurice R. Greenberg, a key villain in the 2008 mortgage crisis, a major financial partner of Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party, and a longtime globalist at the Council on Foreign Relations. The most famous of Greenberg’s World Fellows is Jake Sullivan, a key advisor to Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, and now national security advisor to Joe Biden.

The U.S. government also bankrolled Navalny’s political activities via the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a controversial CIA front, as part of an attempt to foment regime change in Russia, similar to what it did in Ukraine in 2014.

Founded as a bipartisan, nonprofit institution, the NED is nominally an NGO that claims to back “democracy” abroad, but in reality it relies on continuous financial support from the White House and the U.S. Congress. The NED has manipulated and directed NGOs around the world in order to export “Western values”; conduct subversion, infiltration, and sabotage; and spark so-called democratic movements in target countries and regions, often leading to “color revolutions.” Simply put, the NED is essentially the U.S. government’s “white glove” that feeds globalist strategic interests.

Political pawn: Alexei Navalny, shown here speaking to supporters in Russia, was an ideal tool of the globalists in the Obama administration — handsome, articulate, and charismatic. Despite fawning coverage by Western media, he was more popular outside of Russia than inside. (AP Images)



As early as 1991, the founder of the NED, Allen Weinstein, admitted in an interview with *The Washington Post* that much of what the group was (and still is) doing was what the CIA had done 25 years earlier. Thus, the NED was known globally as the “second CIA,” with a long history of instigating color revolutions against “hostile” countries. Early NED documents unveiled activities by the group, mainly in Eastern Europe, to undermine state power in the late 1980s.

On August 27, 1989, *The Washington Post* published a report titled “How we helped Solidarity win,” noting that the NED provided financial support for the Polish Solidarity movement to overthrow the then-Polish government, heralding considerable changes in Eastern Europe.

The NED was also an important actor behind the Arab Spring, and in Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Algeria, Syria, Libya, and other countries, the endowment provided financial support to individuals and groups



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advocating for feminism and other “human rights”-type issues.

The group also funded many “independent” media outlets. Per the NED website, between 2016 and 2020, the organization funded 119 projects in Belarus under the category of “Freedom of Information,” spending an average of \$50,000 per project. This particular category obtained more funding than any other category for five consecutive years.

The fact that Navalny was a Yale World Fellow and received funding from the NED suggests that he was not merely an anti-corruption, pro-“democracy” activist working out of an altruistic desire to improve things for the Russian people, but an Astro-Turf candidate, a CIA-NED asset working on behalf of the West to instigate a color revolution in Russia.

Whether or not Navalny was unjustly prosecuted and murdered by the Russian government, his untimely death — a tragedy for his family — can at least in part be laid at the hands of the Deep State. This, perhaps, is the real tragedy.



Big plans: The Free Nations of Posts-Russia Forum seeks the overthrow of the Putin government and the breakup of the Russian Federation into many smaller countries. This fits with globalist plans to foment a color revolution in Russia with men such as Navalny. (Wikimedia Commons/freenationsrf.org)

Where Have We Seen This Before?

A damning 2004 article in *The Guardian* — certainly no friend of Putin’s Russia — by Ian Traynor titled “US campaign behind turmoil in Kiev” lays out the facts of U.S. interference in the politics of Eastern European countries. It was written in the aftermath of the 2004 U.S.-backed Orange Revolution in Ukraine, and is worth quoting here at length:

But while the gains of the orange-bedecked “chestnut revolution” are Ukraine’s, the campaign is an American creation, a sophisticated and brilliantly conceived exercise in western branding and mass marketing that, in four countries in four years, has been used to try to salvage rigged elections and topple unsavoury regimes.

Funded and organised by the US government, deploying US consultancies, pollsters, diplomats, the two big American parties and US non-government organisations, the campaign was first used in Europe in Belgrade in 2000 to beat Slobodan Milosevic at the



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ballot box.

Richard Miles, the US ambassador in Belgrade, played a key role. And by last year, as US ambassador in Tbilisi, he repeated the trick in Georgia, coaching Mikhail Saakashvili in how to bring down Eduard Shevardnadze.

Ten months after the success in Belgrade, the US ambassador in Minsk, Michael Kozak, a veteran of similar operations in central America, notably in Nicaragua, organised a near identical campaign to try to defeat the Belarus hardman, Alexander Lukashenko.

That one failed. “There will be no Kostunica in Belarus,” the Belarus president declared, referring to the victory in Belgrade.

But experience gained in Serbia, Georgia and Belarus has been invaluable in plotting to beat the regime of Leonid Kuchma in Kiev.

The operation — engineering democracy through the ballot box and civil disobedience — is now so slick that the methods have matured into a template for winning other people’s elections.

In the centre of Belgrade, there is a dingy office staffed by computer-literate youngsters who call themselves the Centre for Non-violent Resistance. If you want to know how to beat a regime that controls the mass media, the judges, the courts, the security apparatus and the voting stations, the young Belgrade activists are for hire.

They emerged from the anti-Milosevic student movement, Otpor, meaning resistance. The catchy, single-word branding is important. In Georgia last year, the parallel student movement was Khmara. In Belarus, it was Zubr. In Ukraine, it is Pora, meaning high time. Otpor also had a potent, simple slogan that appeared everywhere in Serbia in 2000 — the two words “gotov je”, meaning “he’s finished”, a reference to Milosevic. A logo of a black-and-white clenched fist completed the masterful marketing.

In Ukraine, the equivalent is a ticking clock, also signalling that the Kuchma regime’s days are numbered....

Last year, before becoming president in Georgia, the US-educated Mr Saakashvili travelled from Tbilisi to Belgrade to be coached in the techniques of mass defiance. In Belarus, the US embassy organised the dispatch of young opposition leaders to the Baltic, where they met up with Serbs travelling from Belgrade. In Serbia’s case, given the hostile environment in Belgrade, the Americans organised the overthrow from neighbouring Hungary — Budapest and Szeged.

In recent weeks, several Serbs travelled to the Ukraine. Indeed, one of the leaders from Belgrade, Aleksandar Maric, was turned away at the border.

The Democratic party’s National Democratic Institute, the Republican party’s International Republican Institute, the US state department and USAid are the main agencies involved in these grassroots campaigns as well as the Freedom House NGO and billionaire George Soros’s open society institute.

US pollsters and professional consultants are hired to organise focus groups and use



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psychological data to plot strategy....

Officially, the US government spent \$41m (£21.7m) organising and funding the year-long operation to get rid of Milosevic from October 1999. In Ukraine, the figure is said to be around \$14m....

Freedom House and the Democratic party's NDI helped fund and organise the "largest civil regional election monitoring effort" in Ukraine, involving more than 1,000 trained observers. They also organised exit polls. On Sunday night those polls gave [Viktor] Yushchenko an 11-point lead and set the agenda for much of what has followed.

The exit polls are seen as critical because they seize the initiative in the propaganda battle with the regime, invariably appearing first, receiving wide media coverage and putting the onus on the authorities to respond....

If the events in Kiev vindicate the US in its strategies for helping other people win elections and take power from anti-democratic regimes, it is certain to try to repeat the exercise elsewhere in the post-Soviet world.

Again, the article quoted above was written in 2004; much has transpired since then. A Russia-friendly Ukrainian government under Viktor Yanukovich gained power in 2009 in what even the anti-Russia West claimed was a legitimate election. The U.S.-backed and -orchestrated Maidan Revolution of 2014 saw Yanukovich overthrown and a succession of anti-Russia, pro-Western governments installed in Ukraine. A color revolution was attempted in Kazakhstan in 2020, but failed, and a movement to unseat Lukashenko in Belarus is ongoing.

Viewed in this light, the issue of Alexei Navalny becomes clearer. Navalny was simply the latest player in a global game of chess in which the U.S. Deep State attempts to undermine and overthrow governments opposed to its "democratic values." Russia, of course, is a big piece in this chess game, perhaps the biggest. Removing the smaller pieces was just a strategy to take down Russia, as well. This is not an exaggeration; various maps have been proposed of a post-Putin Russia broken into at least a dozen smaller countries.

Some such maps are products of the Free Nations of Post-Russia Forum, which was founded in 2022 by a Ukrainian restaurateur, Oleg Magaletsky, and exiled Russian separatists and advocates for the disintegration of Russia. According to Magaletsky, the forum is funded by Ukrainian oligarchs and European NGOs, and the "deimperialization, decolonization, deputinization, denazification, demilitarization, and denuclearization of Russia" is the organization's goal. Ten forums were held in 2022 and 2023, in cities including Warsaw, Prague, Gdansk, Helsingborg, Brussels, Washington, Philadelphia, New York, Tokyo, London, Paris, and Berlin (some forums were held in more than one city simultaneously).

Recently, the Russian government announced that three American NGOs — the American Councils for International Education, Cultural Perspectives, and the Institute of International Education — were working via the U.S. Embassy in Russia to implement programs and projects of "anti-Russia orientation aimed at recruiting 'agents of influence' under the guise of educational and cultural exchanges," and that these organizations would be expelled from Russia.



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All of the American and European efforts to contain, undermine, effect political change in, and destroy Russia have reached an obsession bordering on fetishism. A simple Google search for “breakup of Russia” will yield dozens of Western mainstream-media articles written over the past two years predicting the overthrow of Putin’s government and the collapse of Russia.

Now we have a war in Ukraine, and hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians and Russians have died to further the globalist obsession with knocking out Russia. Many conservatives in the United States are opposed to any more aid being sent to Ukraine, wondering why we are supporting a corrupt foreign government when we have our own problems at home.

A Better Path Forward

Rather than continuing to play a global chess game, undermining and overthrowing other governments in order to maintain hegemony, a much better path for America would be to return to the foreign policy of the Founders.

George Washington, in his 1796 farewell address, explained that foreign policy: “The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible.... It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world.”

In his 1801 inaugural address, Thomas Jefferson, echoing Washington, described America’s foreign policy as “peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations — entangling alliances with none.”

While serving as secretary of state, John Quincy Adams proclaimed in a July 4, 1821 address to U.S. House of Representatives:

[America] has, in the lapse of nearly half a century, without a single exception, respected the independence of other nations while asserting and maintaining her own. She has abstained from interference in the concerns of others, even when conflict has been for principles to which she clings, as to the last vital drop that visits the heart....

But she goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own....

She well knows that by once enlisting under other banners than her own, were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication, in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy, and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standard of freedom.

Indeed, we are seeing “wars of interest and intrigue ... which assume the colors and usurp the standard of freedom” being waged all around the world by globalists in the West. How long will this continue — until World War III breaks out, which very well could be a nuclear war fought among the Great Powers? Is taking down Russia worth potentially destroying our own country, and even ending life on Earth as we know it?



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