

مركز البيدر للدراسات والتخطيط

Al-Baidar Center For Studies And Planning



# Alexander Dugin: Putin's Brain

Research Department

## About Center

Baidar Center for Studies and Planning is a non-governmental and non-profit organization established in 2015 and registered with the NGO Directorate in the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Baghdad.

The Center seeks to contribute to developing the state and its institutions, by proposing ideas and practical solutions to the main problems and challenges facing the state, including improving public sector management, policies and strategic planning, using reliable data and best practices. The Center engages the relevant authorities in the state with regular meetings to support this objective and utilises the support of international organizations dedicated to assisting Iraq's development. The Center also seeks to support economic reforms, sustainable development and provide technical assistance to the public and private sectors. The Center also seeks to support development of the private sector to provide job opportunities for citizens through training and upskilling, in a way that reduces dependence on government institutions and contributes to supporting and diversifying the country's economy.

The Center aims to utilise the vast amount of potential in Iraq's human resources by organizing programs to prepare and develop promising young people, including leaders capable of proposing, adopting and implementing visions and future plans that advance society and preserve its value system based on the commitment to a high moral standard and rejection of all types of corruption.

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There is no doubt that the political positions and international behavior of states, regimes and rulers are based on political theories and ideas, which vary according to the cultural, social and economic nature of the states. Therefore, understanding the political attitudes and behavior of a particular state and regime requires an intellectual and theoretical search for the infrastructure on which those postures are based and precisely figure out their effects. Thus, Russia today is called "Putin's Russia" due to the dominant role of President Putin, and his long duration in office and presidency over Russia since 1999 up to date.

There is a saying which is frequently repeated; if you want to know the spirit of modern Russia, you need to know Alexander Dugin and his philosophy and political theories. Who is Alexander Dugin?

There are several descriptions given to the Russian intellectual Alexander Dugin, including: The Kremlin theorist, the pioneer of the Eurasian movement, Putin's brain, the mastermind and others.

Dugin, the theorist and professor at Moscow University, earned two doctorates, one in philosophy and the other one in political sciences;

he speaks nine languages, and is the author of dozens of books that span the intersection of thought with politics, which include his theories, opinions and ideas.

Among his most famous and widely published books: *The Foundations of Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia*, and his other book “*The Fourth Political Theory*”.

Alexander Dugin is known to be the brain that Putin thinks, and directly influences him, although he has never been an official adviser to him or in the Kremlin. Dugin, who has studied Russian history with analysis and care, during Cæsarean, Bolshevik, Soviet, and post-disintegration of the Union, to modern Russia, he considers “Putin’s Russia” facing and standing in opposition to liberalism and its model, imposed by the West through soft and hard power. He also finds hope in the Russian regime and Putin, as being a system that preserves national values and Russian civilizational traditions as he calls them, and believes that the current regime is one of the best that ruled Russia; however, he notes down his remarks and sometimes declares it.

According to Dugin, democratic liberalism defeated the Soviet Union and achieved its goals with its disintegration, and that Soviet Russia failed to confront and repel it, which is expressed by “the defeat of the Land Bloc by the Naval Bloc.” But in his doctrine, this is considered a historical lesson, one must take advantage of it, and a lesson learned, and therefore he believes that the confrontation against the Western liberal order should not be done by a single pole, but rather with the alliance and cooperation of poles consisted of Russia, China and the rest of the regionally qualified countries.

Dugin is considered the strategic theorist of modern Russia based on traditional Russian national values. He builds his vision by putting forward the “Neo-Eurasianism” theory. In his book, “*The Fourth Political Theory*”, he presents a new and fourth political thesis, after he identifies the main successive political theories, which according

to his opinion are three theories: First one is Fascism, second one is Marxism, and third one is liberal democracy, where Dugin sees that fascist theory and Marxist theory have lost in the global game, while liberal democracy has been surpassed and the whole world is living under the rule of liberal democratic ideas, based on erasing traditions and cultures in the countries under its control and domination.

Thus, Dugin formulates the fourth political theory, which is based on strengthening the cultural, national and civilizational values of each state and its people, and supporting its own national traditions. He calls for confronting liberal democracy, which imposes its cultural and political model on all other civilized models in the world, and forces peoples and states that disagree or reject it, to adopt its liberal democratic model, under the slogan “Whoever is not with me is against me.”

Dugin vehemently opposes the “unipolar” theory and the state ruling the planet, and urges a multipolar world with blocs. Therefore, he calls for a multipolar alliance of Russia, China, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, or their integration and cooperation in the face of the hegemony of the American–West Pole, and focuses particularly in his ideas on the two international powers Russia and China, where the first represents the major military power and the second as the greatest economic power in the world.

Dugin spoke and wrote about the need to protect the Russian Federation by guarding the complex national security of geography and politics “geopolitics”, and believed in the necessity of including the areas with the security intersection of Russia and which is considered an integral part of its security and national environment, whether in Georgia or Ukraine, and he called for the seizure of Crimea before Russia took control of it in 2014.

While Dugin believes that “Putin’s Russia” today is better compared to the regimes that preceded it – Cesarean, Bolshevik and post-Soviet Union disintegration – but at the same time he does not hide his criticism, albeit mild of the current Russian regime led by Putin, and openly expresses his concern for the future, that is post-Putin Russia.

Alexander Dugin’s theories and ideas remain the focus of attention and follow-up, and at the same time, they are being discussed and criticized. Dugin’s ideas and theories remain important and worthy of observation and reading, this is because of its impact – as many observers believe – on the policy of the Russian Federation and President Putin’s domestic and foreign policy.

References:

- Professor Alexander Dugin two books: “The fourth political theory”, and “The Foundations of Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia”
- The “Insider” with Alexander Dugin, a program from Al-Mayadeen TV Channel, “is the confrontation with the West around the corner?”
- “The Interview” program, “The Impact of the Theories of the Russian intellectual Alexander Dugin on Putin’s Policies”, Al-Jazeera TV Channel, Parts 1 and 2.
- A special talk show with Professor Alexander Dugin on Ten TV.
- Number of articles that dealt with the ideas and theories of Professor Alexander Dugin.