

# Arctic speculation

(February 2024)

The author of these pages begs the benevolent reader to help him understand the logic of some recent and tragic Russian political events:

1. Politician Alexei Anatolyevich Navalny dies in a Russian prison on February 16, 2024;
2. Despite being fully aware that it would be accused of murder as soon as the death was reported, the Russian government decides not to keep the event hush, as would have been expected, but to immediately announce the decease of Mr. Navalny;
3. Within minutes, Western media and politicians, including the U.S. president, assert that Mr. Navalny was unequivocally murdered at the very hands of Russian president Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, while acknowledging that details of what had happened were still not known (see New York Times front page report below);
4. The murder was reportedly perpetrated and widely publicized by the Russian government only:
  - a. a few days after an interview of Mr. Putin which was viewed by a quarter of a billion people,
  - b. at the very moment of some significant Russian military success in Ukraine, and
  - c. a few weeks before the Russian presidential elections;

*Note: at the time of the following events, Mr. Navalny was on probation, having been sentenced by Russian criminal courts to a number of suspended prison sentences.*

5. On August 20, 2020, Mr. Navalny had collapsed during the 3,000 km, 4 hours flight between Tomsk in Siberia and Moscow, as a consequence of having been reportedly poisoned at the hands of Vladimir Putin;
6. The scheduled public flight was operated by Russian *S7 Airlines (JSC Siberia Airlines)* on an aircraft of either the Boeing 737 or Airbus 320 families;
7. Despite being reported as unquestionably guilty of the poisoning, the Russian government allowed the aircraft to make an emergency landing at Omsk, about 750 km into the flight and 300 km off course;
8. Despite being reported as unquestionably guilty of the poisoning, the Russian government allowed the patient to be transported to the City Clinical Emergency Hospital No. 1 in Omsk;
9. The medical facility stated that although poisoning may have been a reason for Mr. Navalny's collapse, a confirmation could not be supplied;
10. At the request of Mr. Navalny's family, the Russian government, despite being reported as unquestionably guilty of the poisoning, allowed the immediate medical evacuation of Mr.

Navalny by air ambulance to the *Charité* Hospital in Berlin, 4,000 km away, in which he stayed between August 22 and September 22;

11. On September 2, the *Charité* hospital declared that Mr. Navalny had been poisoned, a charge that has since been questioned;
12. Although the German government declared that an unequivocal proof existed that Mr. Navalny had been poisoned by a Novichok-type nerve agent, the German government has not disclosed any technical detail about the exact procedure used for the identification of the poison, nor about the concrete poison formula [Wikipedia article: "*Poisoning of Alexei Navalny*"], nor have they responded to the Russian government's requests for information;
13. Contrary to most expectations, despite both the reported assassination attempt at the hands of Mr. Putin and the parole violation regarding his suspended sentences, Mr. Navalny decided on January 17, 2021 to fly back to Russia on a Boeing 737 airplane operated by the *Pobeda* airline, a subsidiary of Russian *Aeroflot*;
14. Not unexpectedly, upon his arrival in Moscow the Russian authorities arrested Mr. Navalny for violation of the terms of his suspended sentences and sentenced him to heavy prison terms, before charging him with additional crimes, whether deservedly or not;
15. It would appear that Mr. Navalny may have been promised by his Western hosts some solid preliminary guarantees vis-à-vis his unavoidable arrest, although these did not materialize;
16. It would appear from the reportedly intense, focused, and relentless governmental animosity against Mr. Navalny that he concentrated in himself all Russian forces opposed to Mr. Putin, although Mr. Navalny's reported command of only a few percentage points of the Russian electorate begs for the suggestion of some rationale behind such unpopular governmental waste of resources;
17. It would also appear from the Western focus put exclusively on Mr. Putin that, despite Mr. Navalny's long history of fierce assaults (whether deserved or not) against a large number of corporations, politicians, and various ethnicities, no one other than Mr. Putin, be it in Russia or elsewhere, may have ever harbored any desire to attempt on Mr. Navalny's life.

## The New York Times

### BREAKING NEWS

## President Biden said there was “no doubt” that the Kremlin was behind the death of the Russian opposition leader Aleksei Navalny.

Friday, February 16, 2024 1:21 PM ET

“Make no mistake: Putin is responsible for Navalny’s death,” Mr. Biden said at a White House news conference, while acknowledging that the United States still did not know details of what happened.