



Journalists in Russia and their attitude to protests?

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Political protest: cores

- Collective action aimed at changing the system of representatives and/or executive power, the policy of the state or the relations between citizens and the state in general (Jenkins , Klandermans, 1995)
- Purpose: to achieve collective goals and claims (Tharrow, 2012)



Myths about protests in modern Russia

- No tradition;
- Weak, fragile, fragmented;
- Based on liberal ideas;
- Demands for democracy, civil rights, press freedom, etc.



Five stages of protest movement in modern Russia (1990 – 2015)

- ▶ I stage – 1990 – 1991
- ▶ Mass democratic demonstrations and social movements against the Communist party reign.
- ▶ Most numerous public actions in the history of modern Russia.



The second stage (1992 – 1993)

- ▶ Political protests of the communist opposition against President Yeltsin with mass political mobilization in October 1993.



The third stage (1994 -2004)

- ▶ The growth of the workers strike movement
- ▶ “Putin’s consensus”



The fourth period (2005 -2010)

- ▶ Rebirth and growth of political protests
- ▶ Mass protests of pensioners against Putin's monetization social reforms – 2005
- ▶ Protest of car owners 2007-2010
- ▶ Ecological protests 2007 – 2010
- ▶ Protest in the Russian regions against local authorities



Finally, the fifth period since 2011

- ▶ Following the parliamentary elections (2011), Russia protested against electoral fraud.
- ▶ over 30,000 citizens pledged virtual support for the opposition on Facebook.

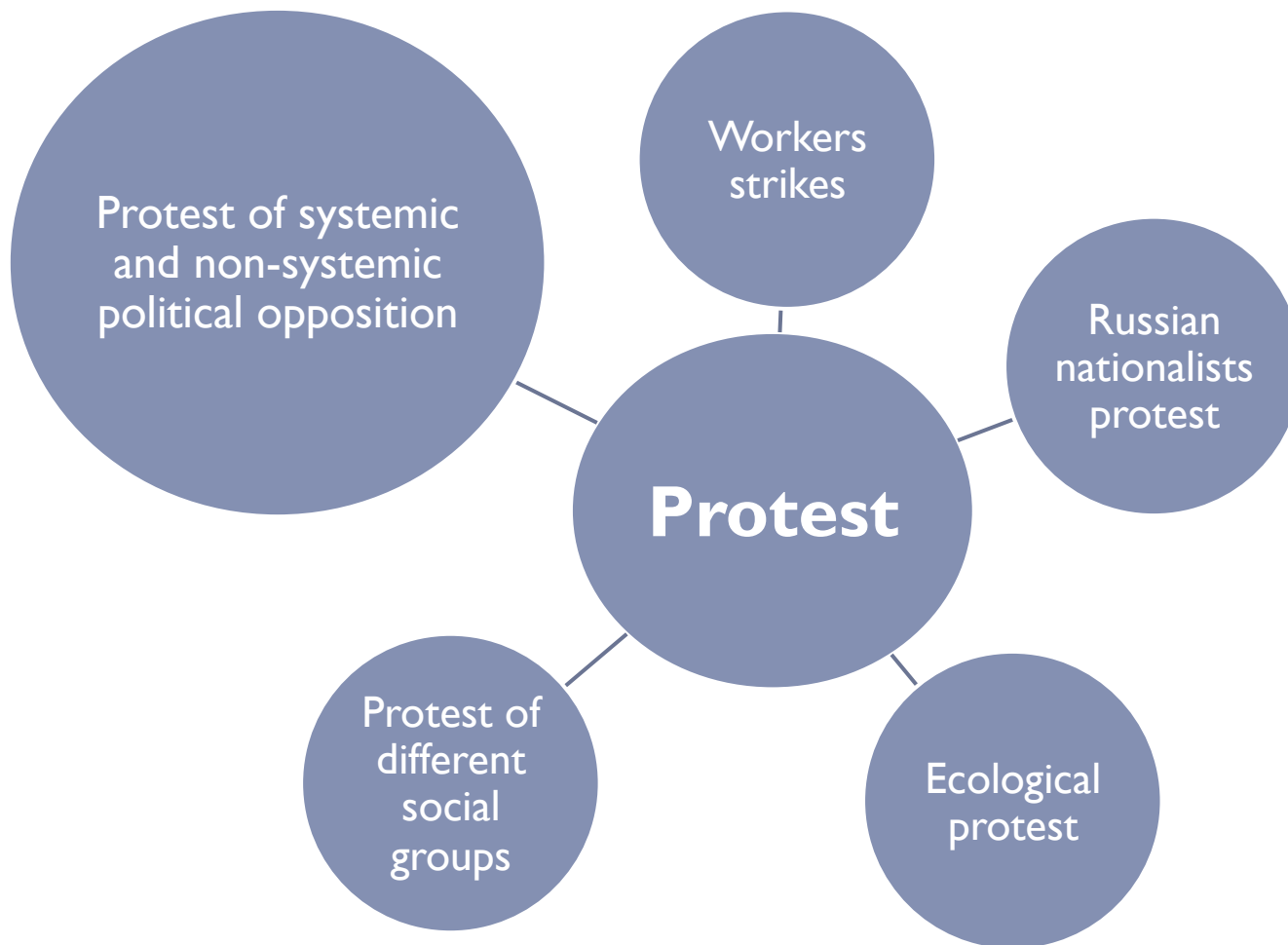


Finally, the fifth period since 2011

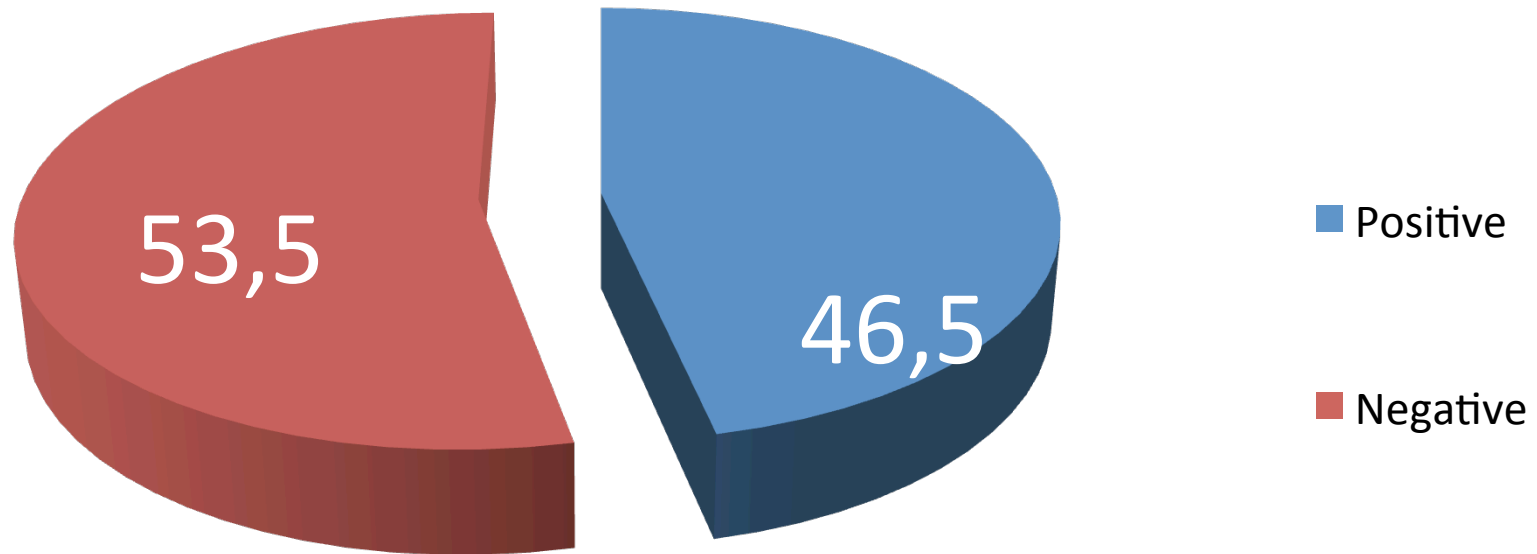
- ▶ Young urban professionals marched alongside pensioners and intellectuals, and the ideological spectrum ranged from liberal and communist to nationalist and monarchist.
- ▶ Official police estimates suggested 25,000 had joined the demonstrations, while various opposition leaders claimed the crowds reached up to 150,000



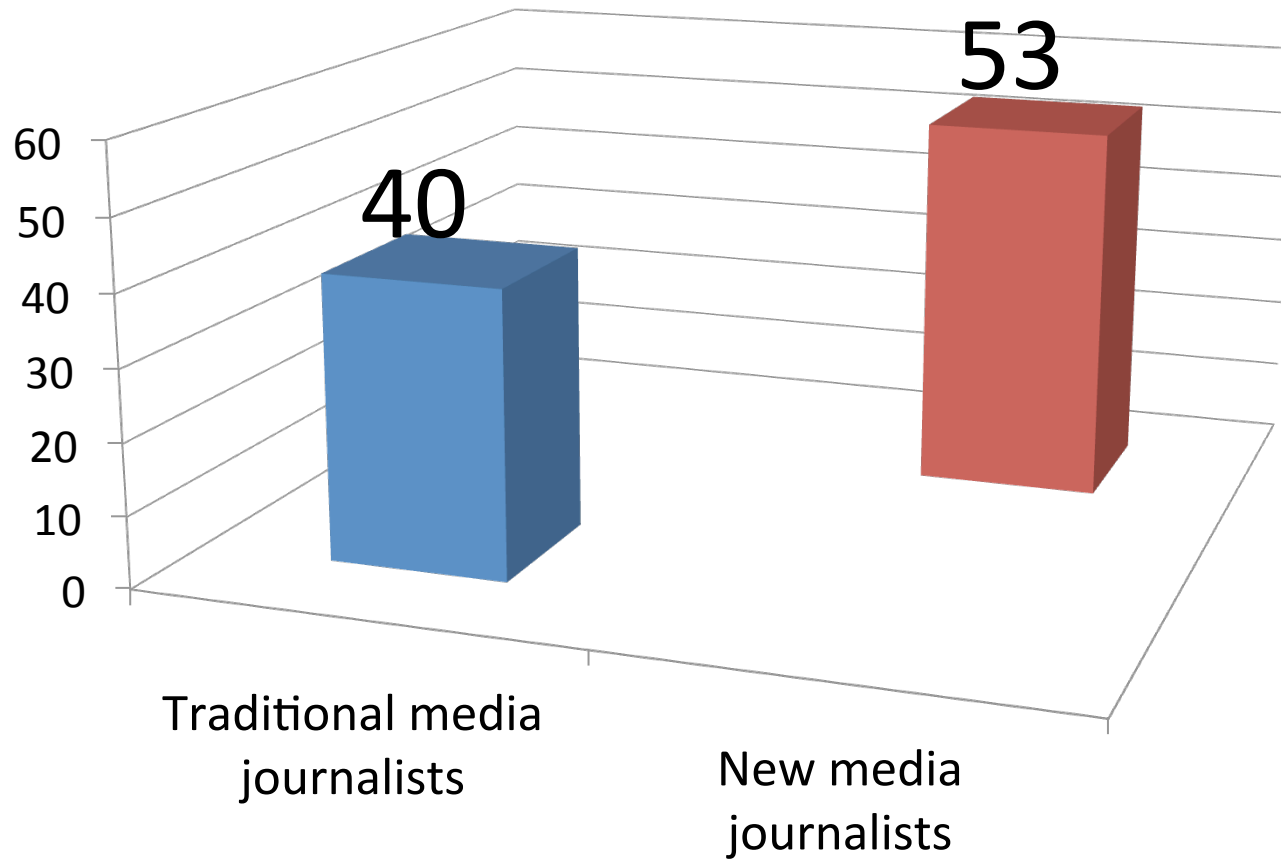
Structure of the Russian political protest



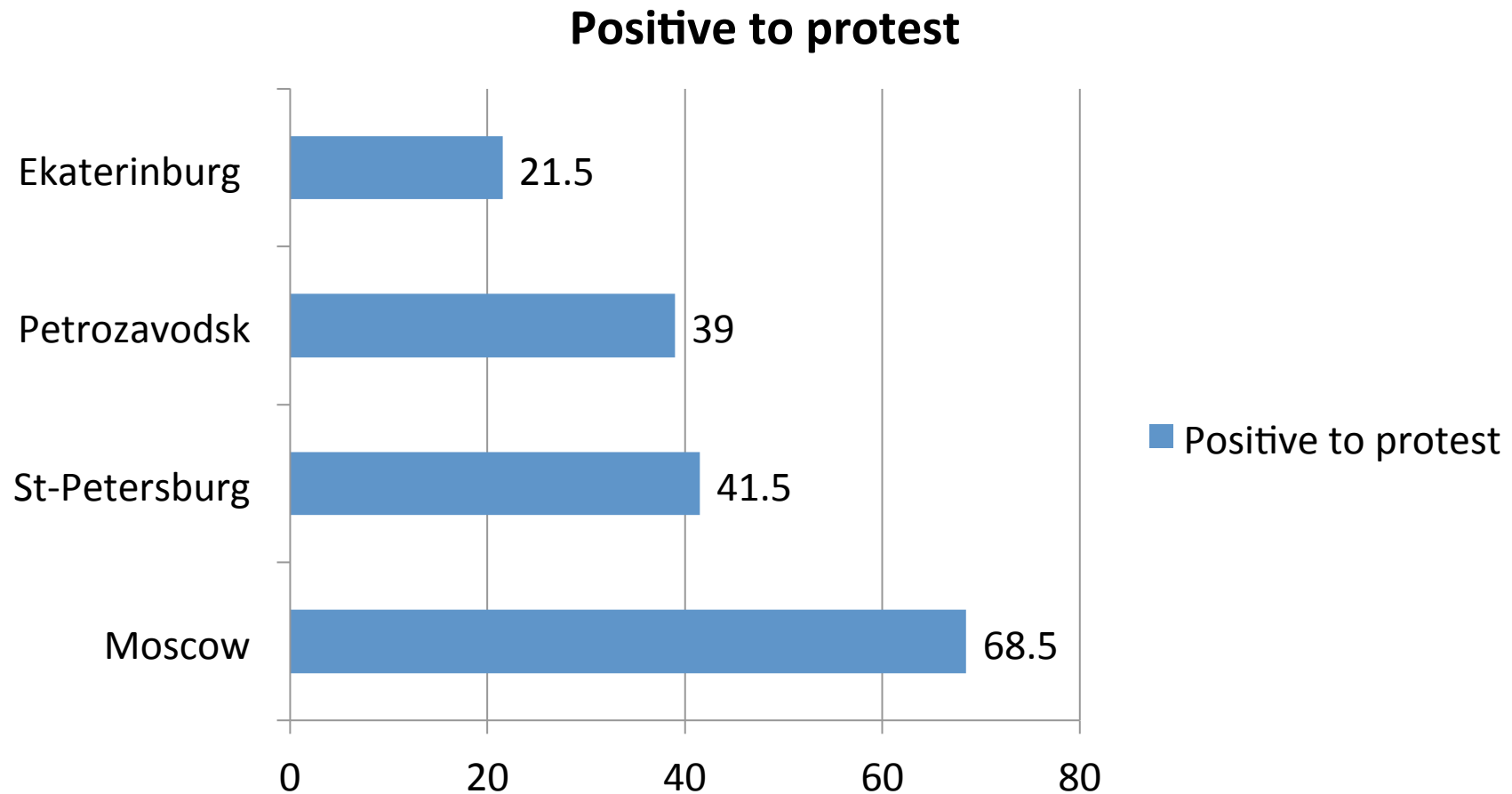
Attitude of Russian journalists to protests:



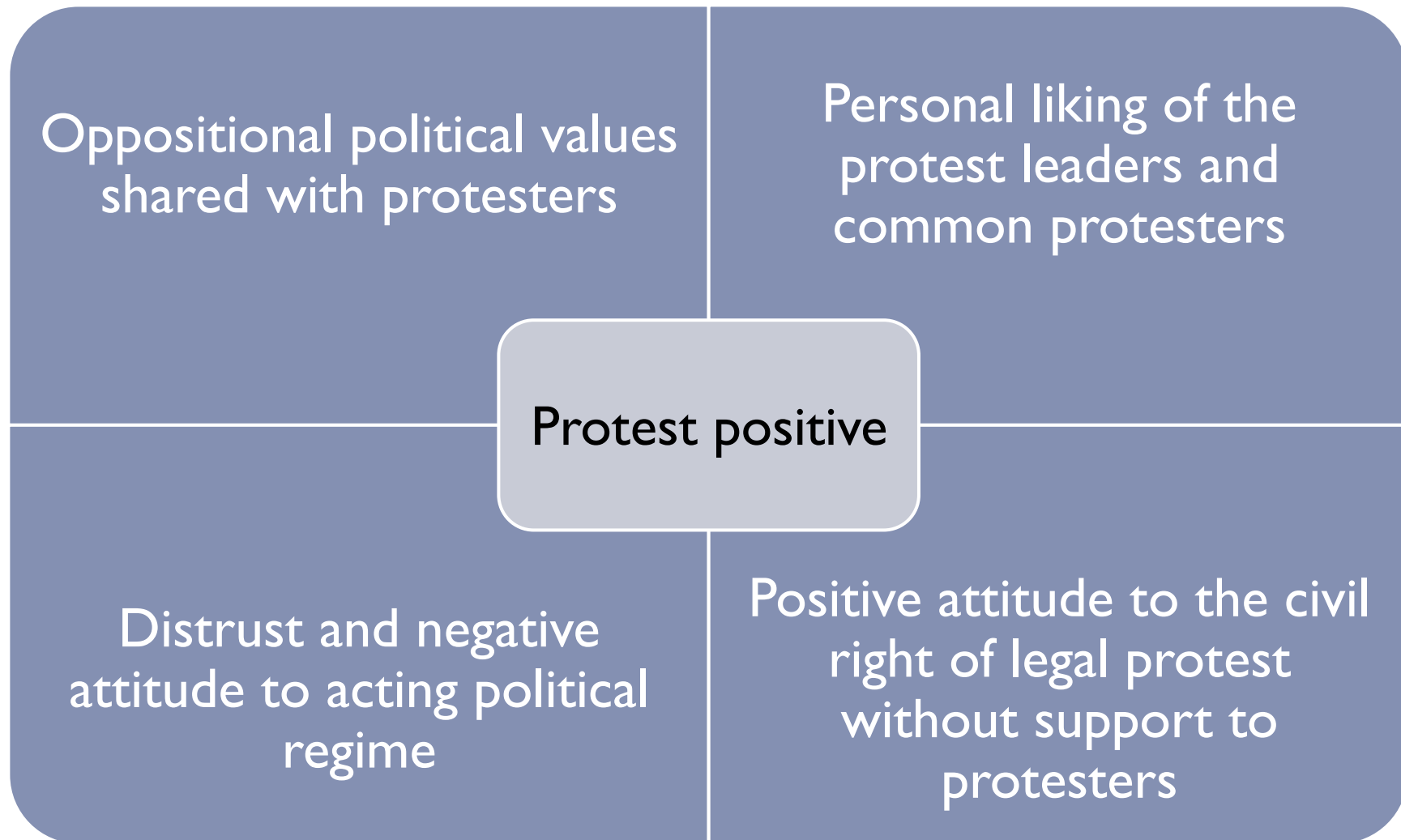
New media journalist are more likely to support protest



Capital and provincial journalists: different in their attitude to protest



Structural model of the Russian journalists positive attitude motivation to political protest



Why do journalists support protests?

Factor 3. Distrust and negative attitude to acting political regime

Roman, 42 yr., TV-correspondent

- The protests help to destroy state oligarchy which is greedy about getting profits only for itself.
- The authorities do not worry about social problems, and the protests remind them: you are bastards, you have to know your place!
- We as people are being cheated with these Russian powers.

Why do journalists support protests

Factor 4. Positive attitude to the civil right of legal protest without particular support to protesters

- **Igor' , 27 yr., reviewer of Internet Gazette**
- It is normal to have and transmit comments from all those who are involved in one or another situation. Journalistic reports stimulate our authorities to conceive what goes on around them. It is important to know the opinions of all sides.

Why do journalists support protests?

Factor 2. Personal liking of the protest leaders and protesters themselves

- **Anna, 28 yr., radio correspondent**

The people from opposition are great because they come out onto the streets. They can say about what other people are silent, and this is important because lately it is not habitual in our country to speak about what is not liked.

Structural model of the Russian journalists who are negative to political protests

Distrust to the protest leaders

Fear of instability, political turbulence

Positive attitude to the actual political regime



Why do journalists neglect protests?

- I. **Protests shake the boat and make the whole state mechanism totally or, at least, partly unmanageable;**

Darya, 40 yr., editor in chief of the glossy magazine:

As an individual of an old formation, I think that it is not worth shaking the boat. I have a very ambiguous attitude to the protests in Russia.



2. Mistrust to the leaders of opposition as personally feeble who simultaneously tend to reach their own purposes;

Anton, 32 yr., newspaper correspondent:

The ideas of opposition seem to be good, but their leaders are powerless and do not set concrete programs and purposes. Besides, they discredit each other. Therefore people do not support the opposition

Pavel, 25 yr., Internet journal

Many of those who protest, do this for money. I have many friends working for security bodies and they know that those who participate in protests get the money in the lobbies. I am prone to believe them.

Dmitry, 26 yr., Internet portal

I support protests but do not feel interesting to take part in them. I cannot influence the powers and some people from the opposition look arrogant and selfish to real people's needs



3. The leaders of the protest movement think only of themselves

Kirill, 26 yr., Internet newspaper

They are stupid and cannot work consistently and hard. It is correct that these people are bullied. It is always as a historical process continues. If it is going to be a civic war, it is not awful because later will be better.

Maria, 28 yr., Internet website

Journalists often provoke situations and are eager to draw attention only. All journalists are involved in money work.

Valeriy, 45 yr., radio correspondent

Those who come out onto the streets want to satisfy their ego, first of all. They are not real fighters and seem to be untrusted. Many of them dream about destroying the system without bringing something positive to it.



Opposition and liberally oriented media in Russia

I. Novaya gazeta,

weekly, since 1 April 1993, with the circulation 284 thousand copies



In 2010 the newspaper received Freedom of Speech Medal of [Roosevelt Study Center](#)



2. Meduza Project, since July 2014



Galina Timchenko, editor-in-chief, a former director of the closed Information portal Lenta.ru:

“We choose the most important news and prepare the best texts on what is happening in both Russia and the world”

