

# Contents

Introduction.....	7
1 917-1991.....	21
Kyivan Rus' .....	21
The Mongols.....	22
The Rise of Muscovy .....	25
The Russian Empire .....	29
The Revolution and the Bolsheviks.....	35
Stalinism and War .....	46
Post-Stalinist Stabilisation .....	58
Stagnation and Fall of the Soviet Union.....	69
2 1992-2011.....	85
A New World Threatens.....	85
Putin's Ascendance .....	101
Russia Returning.....	117
The Medvedev Interregnum .....	133
3 2012-2019.....	149
A Man on a Mission .....	149
Lukashenka Kicks Back .....	158
Belarus Considers Its Options.....	176
Russian Militarisation .....	186
Return of the Cold War?.....	195
Putin confirms his position .....	204
Rise of the Russian World .....	214

4	2020-2024.....	223
	And the Streets Cried Out.....	223
	March towards the Edge.....	236
	The Reckoning.....	250
	Seeking Peace? .....	264
	Until the Bitter End?.....	278
	Conclusion.....	287
	Bibliography.....	291