

Miller, Chris. *Putinomics: power and money in resurgent Russia*. North Carolina, 2018. 217p bibl index ISBN 9781469640662, \$28.00; ISBN 9781469640679 ebook, \$19.99.

One unfortunate by-product of the 1970s break-in at the Watergate office complex has been the temptation to apply *gate* to subsequent political or other events, such as Travelgate and Spygate. The same cutesy tag is overused in economics after the publication of *Freakonomics*; subsequently, readers have seen *Parentonomics*, *Obamanomics*, and other *-omics* volumes. Now add *Putinomics*. Extending the conversation started in his 2016 book, *The Struggle to Save the Soviet Economy* ([CH, Apr'17, 54-3966](#)), in a relatively short book—160 pages of text with 50 pages of complementary material, endnotes, and references—Miller (Tufts) tackles the Putin era of the last 20 years. He looks at how the Kremlin's goals (or in a sense, the “pillars of Putinomics”) of strengthening its central authority, keeping inflation and unemployment low, and putting its efficiency eggs in private business baskets have fared. The author examines various sectors—oil and energy, the financial system and debts, central-government economic policies, and labor markets and pensions—in assessing Putin's successes and challenges. Largely an objective assessment, but with a thumbs-up on his metrics and sympathies, Miller's effort represents a solid contribution to this literature and readers' understanding. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals.