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The next Czech dictator - Putin?

Everybody has an idea of what Russian democracy is like, but seeing is believing. [Click here](#) to watch (at the 11:45 mark) how Vladimir Putin announced the results of the vote to confirm Dmitri Medvedev as United Russia's election leader (a rudimentary knowledge of Russian is required). After stating that 582 delegates voted Yes in the silent vote, to just one against, Putin asked for a show of hands to confirm the outcome. When no one raised his hand No, Putin asked where the naysayer was. "Where is that person? Where is the dissident?" he asked with his best KGB smile. "Well, it would be of no use to come forward anyway," he concluded. For the Czech criminal elite, this is a much more attractive form of democratic deficit than the kind the EU offers. When real crisis hits Europe, some of these elite will be willing to give up a bit of their own sovereignty to learn from Putin the secret of maintaining control.

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