

In today's #vatnik soup I'll introduce a Russian oligarch, Oleg Deripaska. He was one of the few people who had close ties to Putin, and he's been described as "Putin's favorite industrialist". Deripaska used to be "among the 2–3 oligarchs Putin turns to on a regular basis".



He got rich after the fall of Soviet Union by trading raw materials such as metals. In 2000 he merged his business with Roman Abramovich to create RUSAL, which eventually became the largest aluminum producer in the world (it was surpassed by China Hongqiao Group in 2015).

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He was maried to Polina Yumasheva between 2001 and 2018. Yumasheva is the daughter of Boris Yeltsin's top advisor Valentin Yumashev, which put him close to Yeltsin's inner circle, "The Family".



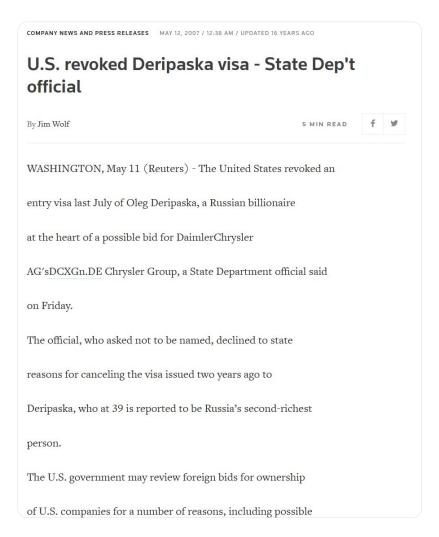


Eventually Deripaska established diversified investment and industrial group Basic Element. The company got several deals for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. These investments totaled to over 1,4 billion USD.

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In 2006, Deripaska was denied entry visa to the US, but no reason for this was given. The Wall Street Journal speculated that this could be due to his alleged connections to organized crime in Russia.



In 2021, Russia gave Deripaska diplomatic status, allowing him to enter the US freely. In 2017, Oleg bought a "golden passport" from Cyprus, generating billions of revenue to the country while at the same time gaining Cypriot citizenship.

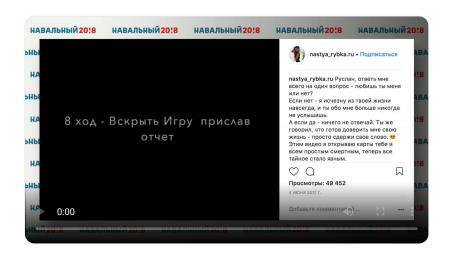


In 2017 the Associated Press published an article which alleged that Paul Manafort and Deripaska signed an annual 10 million USD deal to promote Russian interests in Europe and in the US. The paper suggested that this deal went as far back as to 2005.

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It was also alleged that Manafort provided briefings on political developments to Deripaska via Kyiv-based operative Konstantin Kilimnik. In Feb, 2018, Navalny published a damning video about a meeting between Deripaska and Deputy PM of Russia, Sergei Prikhodko.



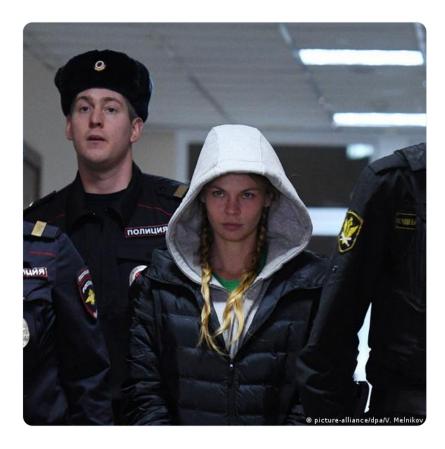
Navalny then accused that Deripaska was working as a middle man between the Russian government and Paul Manafort during the 2016 US elections. In Russia, this video was quickly added to the Federal List of Extremist Materials, thus making it illegal in Russia, by

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... Roskomnadzor, agency responsible for censorship in the country. One of the people shown in the video was Anastasia Vashukevich, a Belarusian escort. She stated that she has 16 hours of audio recordings on the Russian interference in the 2016 US election.

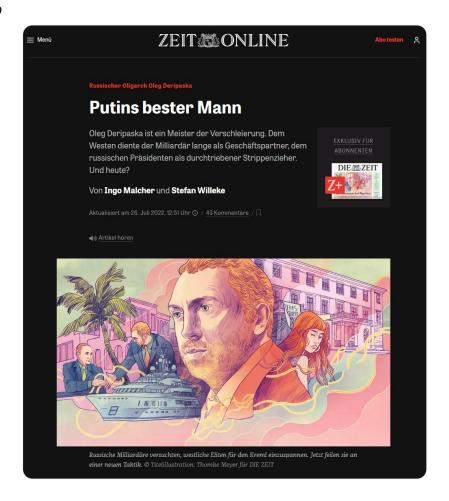


Anastasia stated that the recordings include Deripaska discussing the US election with three Americans, and that she'd release these recordings if she was given an asylum in the States. This never happened, since she was deported to Russia.



She eventually apologized to Deripaska, and he denied having any inmate relationship with Vashukevich. Die Zeit published a dossier in 2022 that accused Deripaska of sexual relations with underage girls in various countries.

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In Jan, 2023, the former NYC head of counterintelligence in the FBI, Charles McGonical, was arrested on charges of money laundering and false statements, violating the US sanctions on Russia and allegedly working for Deripaska.

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McGonical was charged with conspiring with Sergey Shestakov, a former Soviet and Russian diplomat and a US citizen, to provide services to Deripaska. They allegedly investigated a rival Russian oligarch and received concealed payments from Deripaska through shell companies.

Oleg has been critical of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. On 27th Feb, 2022, he posted calls for peace and negotiations and the next day he commented on the sanctions that "unlike 2014, it will not be possible to sit this out now".

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3 minute read · February 27, 2022 6:46 PM GMT+2 · Last Updated a year ago

Two of Russia's billionaires call for peace in Ukraine

By Guy Faulconbridge and Catherine Belton



[2/2] Russian tycoon Oleg Deripaska attends a session of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in Saint Petersburg, Russia, June 3, 2021. REUTERS/Evgenia Novozhenina

He also said that the war would bring "200 years of damnation to Russia". Oleg has said that the sanctions are more harmful for Russia than to the West: "The debt markets are closed, the capital markets are closed, foreign owners are expropriated; it is a major upheaval."

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Oleg was sanctioned by the US in Apr, 2018, by the UK in Feb, 2022, by Australia in Mar, 2022 and by the EU in Apr, 2022. In Sep, 2022, he was accused of sanctions evations in the US. He was allegedly assisted by two women: ...

... Olga Shriki, operating in the US, and Natalia Bardakova, directing Shriki from Russia. Also, Edward Henry Bonham-Carter, the vice chairman of a British fund management group Jupiter Fund Management, was charged for helping Deripaska to avoid the sanctions.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Russian Oligarch Oleg Vladimirovich Deripaska and Associates Indicted for Sanctions Evasion and Obstruction of Justice

U.S. Citizen Arrested for Her Role in Facilitating Illicit Travel by Deripaska's Girlfriend and in Real Estate Transactions

The Justice Department announced today the unsealing of an indictment charging a U.S. citizen and three citizens of the Russian Federation with violating new U.S. sanctions imposed earlier this year in response to Russia's unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine.

According to court documents, Oleg Vladimirovich Deripaska, aka Oleg Mukhamedshin, 52; and Natalia Mikhaylovna Bardakova, aka Natalya Mikhaylovna Bardakova, 45, both citizens of the Russian Federation (Russia), and Olga Shriki, 42, a New Jersey resident and naturalized U.S. citizen, are charged with conspiring to violate U.S. sanctions imposed on Deripaska and one of Deripaska's corporate entities, Basic Element Limited (Basic Element). Shriki is further charged with obstruction of justice based on her alleged deletion of electronic records relating to her participation in Deripaska's sanctions evasion scheme following receipt of a grand jury subpoena requiring the production of those records. Bardakova is charged with one count with making false statements to agents of the FBI. Additionally, Ekaterina Olegovna Voronina, aka Ekaterina Lobanova, 33, is charged with making false statements to agents of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security at the time of Voronina's attempted entry into the United States for the purpose of giving birth to Deripaska's child. Shriki was arrested this mornine.

"In the wake of Russia's unjust and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, I promised the American people that the Justice Department would work to hold accountable those who break our laws and threaten our national security. Today's charges demonstrate we are keeping that promise," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "The Justice Department will not stop working to identify, find, and bring to justice those who evade U.S. sanctions in order to enable the Russian regime."

"As today's charges reveal, while serving the Russian state and energy sector, Oleg Deripaska sought to circumvent U.S. sanctions through lise and deceit to cash in on and benefit from the American way of life," said Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco. "But shell companies and webs of lies will not shield Deripaska and his cronies from American law enforcement, nor will they protect others who support the Putin regime. The Department of Justice remains dedicated to the global fight against those who aid and abet the Russian war machine."

According to court documents, Deripaska, the owner and controller of Basic Element, a private investment and management company for Deripaska's various business interests, was subjected to economic sanctions on April 6, 2018. On that day, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated Deripaska as a Specially Designated National (SDN), in connection with its finding that the actions of the Government of the Russian Federation with respect to Ukraine constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States (the OFAC Sanctions). In designating Deripaska, OFAC explained that Deripaska was sanctioned for having acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, a senior official of the Government of the Russian Federation, as well as for operating in the energy sector of the Russian Federation economy.

Swedish government tried to persuade the US in 2018-2019 to ease their sanctions on Deripaska because his businesses were employing so many people in Sweden. This campaign included letters to Mike Pompeo and multiple visits to Washington DC.



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CORRECTION: The UK businessman charged for allegedly helping Deripaska is Graham Bonham-Carter, not Edward Henry Bonham-Carter.

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