

A CNN FILM

# NAVALNY

CNN FILMS FILMS & HBO MAX PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHBOYLE FILMS RAE FILM STUDIOS COTTAGE M A DANIEL ROHER FILM "NAVALNY"  
STORY BY ALEXANDRA HANNIBAL PRODUCED BY AMY ENTELS COURTNEY SEXTON MARIA PEVCHIKH EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MAGGIE DE VRIES EDITOR NIKKI WALTZ  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LANGDON PAGE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MAYA DASH HAWKE PRODUCED BY ODESSA RAE DIANE BECKER MELANIE MILLER SHANE BORIS DIRECTED BY DANIEL ROHER

POISON ALWAYS LEAVES A TRAIL



**JOURNEYS IN FILM™**  
educating for global understanding

**POWER:**  
**WHAT IS POWER? WHO HAS POWER?**

# POWER: WHAT IS POWER? WHO HAS POWER?



## DRIVING QUESTIONS

What does it mean to have power? Who and what regulates who has power and who doesn't? How does the distribution of power impact individuals and societies?

It is important to note that power is not always distributed evenly or fairly in society, and there may be inequalities in access to power based on factors such as race, gender, or socioeconomic status. Additionally, power constantly shifts and evolves as new technologies, social movements, or political changes alter the balance of power.

### Personal Reflection

1. How does the story of Navalny's activism and imprisonment challenge your understanding of power? What insights does his story provide regarding the dynamics of power and political opposition in authoritarian states?
2. How can individuals and communities challenge power imbalances and promote human rights and democracy in repressive political environments?

### Discussion Questions

1. What is power, and how do individuals and institutions acquire and exercise it?
2. How can we measure power, and what are some of the challenges involved in measuring power?
3. Can power be used for both good and evil purposes, or is it inherently corrupting?
4. How has the power balance between Putin and Navalny shifted over time, especially before and after Navalny's imprisonment? What factors have contributed to these changes?
5. Do you think this film and the critical acclaim and attention it receives is a media tool that can give Navalny (and those seeking to free him from prison) power? Why or why not?
6. What do the latest developments in Navalny's case, including his imprisonment and the crackdown on his supporters, reveal about the current state of power and political opposition in Russia?



## Extension Activities

1. Analyze the role of activists in promoting change and challenging power. How have activists in various countries (Russia, the United States, or any other countries of your choosing) organized to promote human rights and enact democratic reforms? What strategies have they used that had a significant impact on the balance of power?
2. Conduct a comparative analysis of the balance of power and political opposition in different authoritarian regimes. How do power dynamics differ in countries such as China, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, or Iran, compared to Russia? Look at similarities and differences in the tactics and strategies used by opposition leaders in different countries and note what can be learned from their experiences.
3. What are some organizations or initiatives that are working to promote democracy and human rights in Russia, and how can individuals and communities support their efforts?
4. How have international sanctions and pressure affected the power balance between Putin and Navalny? What role have other countries played in shaping this dynamic? Are some types of sanctions more effective than others? If so, which sanctions would you especially recommend or discourage? Consider how sanctions impact the economic and political conditions within Russia, and how these conditions affect the power balance between Putin and Navalny.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of State Press Statement by Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State. *Imposing Sanctions on Russia for the Poisoning and Imprisonment of Aleksey Navalny*. <https://www.state.gov/imposing-sanctions-on-russia-for-the-poisoning-and-imprisonment-of-aleksey-navalny/>. Accessed 25 March 2023

NPR World, by Bill Chappell: *EU Sanctions Russian Officials over Navalny Poisoning, Citing Chemical Weapons Use*. <https://www.npr.org/2020/10/15/923982672/eu-sanctions-russian-officials-over-navalny-poisoning-citing-chemical-weapons-us>. Accessed 25 March 2023.

The Economist, by Leonid Volkov. *Alexey Navalny's Chief of Staff Says Personal Sanctions Need Rethinking*. <https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2023/03/14/Alexey-navalnys-chief-of-staff-says-personal-sanctions-need-rethinking>. Accessed 25 March 2023.



## Additional Resources

### Books/Articles

Bill Browder, *Freezing Order: A True Story of Money Laundering, Murder, and Surviving Vladimir Putin's Wrath*. (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2022)

Bill Browder, *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder and a Man's Fight for Justice*. (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015)

Erica Chenoweth, *Civil Resistance: What Everyone Needs to Know*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021)

Erica Chenoweth and Maria J Stephan, *The Role of External Support in Nonviolent Campaigns: Poisoned Chalice or Holy Grail?* (Washington, D.C.: International Center on Non-violent Conflict, 2021)

Luke Harding, The Guardian: *Face off: the extraordinary power struggle between Vladimir Putin and Alexey Navalny*  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/06/face-off-the-extraordinary-power-struggle-between-vladimir-putin-and-Alexey-navalny>.

Luke Harding, *Shadow State: Murder, Mayhem, and Russia's Remaking of the West*. (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2020)

Paul LeBlanc, CNN: 'We don't realize how strong we actually are': How Alexey Navalny became Russia's opposition leader  
<https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/22/world/who-is-alexey-navalny/index.html>. Accessed 25 March 2023.

Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View*. (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2022)

Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom*. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1995)

Bertrand Russell, *Power*. (London: Routledge Classics, 2004)

### Other Media Resources

[The Third Harmony](#) Podcast

Pod Save the World: Inside Navalny's Operation  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/pod-save-the-world/id1200016351?i=1000567355325>

The Power Vertical Podcast by Brian Whitmore: Navalny vs. Putin  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/is/podcast/navalny-vs-putin/id1538016458?i=1000506222187>

### Related Film Resource from Journeys in Film

[Crip Camp Curriculum Guide: Lesson 5: The Strategic Use of Power](#)

### Websites

Carnegie Moscow Center:  
<https://carnegie.ru/>

Harvard Nonviolent Action Lab:  
<https://carrcenter.hks.harvard.edu/non-violent-social-movements>

The Moscow Times:  
<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/>

### YouTube

The success of nonviolent civil resistance: Erica Chenoweth at TEDxBoulder  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJSehRIU34w>

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