

Note on Spellings

The transliteration of Ukrainian and Russian into English is complicated. Both are East Slavic languages that use the Cyrillic alphabet, and each one is transliterated in more than one way. In the transliteration of names in this book, I aim for consistency and simplicity.

For Ukrainian names, I use the 2010 Ukrainian government system of romanization as a guide. For Russian names, I follow a modification of the U.S. Library of Congress style developed by the *Moscow Times*, Russia's oldest English-language newspaper. There are plenty of exceptions to these guidelines because alternate spellings have come into common usage, for example Zelensky (Zelenskyi), Gorbachev (Gorbachyov), or Vitali Klitschko (Vitaliy Klychko).

For Ukrainian actors in this book I use their Ukrainian names, except for those who identified as Russian and willingly went over to the Russian side. Place names are spelled according to the language of the country in which they are located: Kyiv (as opposed to Kiev, the common transliteration of the Russian spelling), Odesa (Russian: Odessa), Donbas (Russian: Donbass), or Kharkiv (Russian: Kharkov). The one exception is Chernobyl (Ukrainian: Chornobyl), as the site of the 1986 nuclear disaster is universally known.

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Belarusian names pose a separate problem as most Belarusians speak Russian as their first language and often transliterate their names from the Russian. I use Alexander Lukashenko (Belarusian: Alyaksandr Lukashenka) for the dictator of Belarus as he uses the Russian spelling of his name. The Belarusian prodemocracy leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya (Russian: Svetlana Tikhanovskaya) prefers the transliteration of her name from Belarusian.