

However, actions speak louder than words, and in the case of Latvia we may venture to suggest that the uncritical attitude on the part of Lucas towards its politicians will not have been viewed unkindly in certain quarters. Indeed Lucas, like Anders Aslund who we have featured previously, still has close ties to Latvia's political establishment and [both men featured alongside Dombrovskis at the 2017 Riga Conference](#).

Latvia's chief enemy was, and remains, the susceptibility of its officials to corruption and the consequent threat to the sovereignty of the Latvian people. Similarly the international institutions which are meant to support democracy at a higher level are vulnerable to the transnational personal and oligarchic ties with which Putin and Russia's elite hope to subvert the sovereignty of individual countries and international order. Rabinovics's proximity to both the collapse of Parex and the Butina episode is no accident. The inability of Latvia to tackle the scope of the corruption connected to the bank and the blind eye turned by the EBRD are also measures of Putin's success in his societal war. Dombrovskis may be no magician. But the mafia who looted billions from Latvia's economy while the EBRD helped prop up the looted carcass of Parex have performed a vanishing act beyond the scope of any stage illusionist.

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#Latvia, #Ukraine, #Rimsevics, #Edward Lucas, #EBRD, #John Christmas, #Corruption

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