

8. Putin, who has dominated Russian politics since the beginning of the 21st century, won almost 64 per cent of votes, Russia's Central Election Commission said. 'According to the preliminary results, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin has been elected president of the Russian Federation,' the head of the election commission Vladimir Churov told reporters on Monday. Addressing tens of thousands of supporters in Moscow late on Sunday, a tearful Putin said the Russian people had clearly rejected the attempts of unidentified enemies to 'destroy Russia's statehood and usurp power'. 'The Russian people have shown today that such scenarios will not succeed in our land,' said Putin, flanked by outgoing President Dmitry Medvedev. 'They shall not pass!' 'I promised you we would win. We have won. Glory to Russia. We won in an open and fair struggle.' But the scale of Putin's victory was questioned by some of his rivals, and opposition activists, who called for protests on Monday over allegations of vote-rigging.