



Rosenberg: How Putin and Trump shook up the world in a week



When he penned his eyewitness account of the 1917 Russian Revolution, American journalist John Reed famously titled it *Ten Days That Shook The World*

But 10 days is too long for Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin. They've shaken things up in a week. It began with the Putin-Trump telephone conversation on 12 February and their presidential pledges to kickstart relations.

It continued with the Munich Security Conference and a schism between Europe and America. Next stop Saudi Arabia for the Russia-US talks: the first high-level in-person contacts between the two countries since the Kremlin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Trump knows he will have to make concessions [to Russia] because he is negotiating with the side that's winning in Ukraine," writes pro-Kremlin tabloid *Moskovsky Komsomolets*. "He will make concessions. Not at America's expense, but at the expense of Europe and Ukraine.

"For so long Europe had gone around all puffed up, thinking of itself as the civilised world and as a Garden of Eden. It failed to notice it had lost its trousers... now its old comrade across the Atlantic has pointed that out..." Instead, people are watching and waiting to see whether Trump will really turn out to be Russia's new best friend and whether he can bring an end to the war in Ukraine.

"Trump is a businessman. He's only interested in making money," Nadezhda tells me. "I don't think things will be any different. There's too much that needs to be done to change the situation." "Perhaps those talks [in Saudi Arabia] will help," says Giorgi. "It's high time we stopped being enemies."