

Putin inaugurated as Russian president for fifth time, West boycotts

May 7 (UPI) — Russian President Vladimir Putin was inaugurated to his fifth term in office on Tuesday despite much of the Western world, including the United States, boycotting the ceremony because of the ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

During the ceremony, Putin was handed a presidential insignia, a symbol of Russian presidential power. The insignia was a gold cross of St. George displaying the Russian coat of arms and a gold chain, according to the state-run news agency TASS.

Putin's government will go into a reassignment mode after the inauguration ceremonies, where Russian watchers will keep a close eye on what past administrators will get promotions and which ones will get sacked in the process.

Putin faced little opposition in his election victory on March 15, where Russian officials said he received 87% of the vote, with several opponents jailed or barred from the ballot.

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