RUSSIA

I. Critical Historical Junctures
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I. Critical Historical Junctures

TSARIST RUSSIA:

- Peter the Great (1695-1725)
  - Construction of St. Petersburg
  - ‘Westerners v. Slavophiles’
- Problems of Tsarist Empire
  - Feudalism and Autocracy
  - Economic Backwardness
  - Ethnicity
- 1905 Revolution
- World War I and Collapse
Communist Russia under Lenin

- March Revolution (1917)
  - Alexander Kerensky and the Provisional Government
  - Bolsheviks and ‘Bread, Land, Peace’
- October (Nov.) Revolution (1917)
  - Government and Soviets
- Russian Civil War (1918-21)
- Lenin and the NEP
Communist Russia under Stalin

- Joseph Stalin (Joseph Dzhugashvili)
- Collectivization
  - Industry and Agriculture
- Purges
  - 10-20 million killed
- Foreign Affairs
  - Isolation
  - Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939
  - German Invasion of 1941
  - Around 27 million killed
Communist Russia Bureaucratized

- Nikita Khrushchev (1956-64) and De-Stalinization
  - ‘Secret Speech’ (1956)
- The Soviet ‘Party State’
  - Centralized Bureaucracy (‘apparatchiks’)
  - Dual Party-Government Structure (‘nomenklatura’)
  - Police State
- Leonid Brezhnev (1964-82) and Bureaucratized Communism
  - Problems in the Soviet Economy
Communist Russia Reformed

- Mikhail Gorbachev (1985-91) and Reform
  - New Thinking in Foreign Policy
  - *Glasnost* (‘openness’)
  - *Perestroika* (economic restructuring)
- Fall 1989: Protests and the Berlin Wall
- August 1991: Failed coup and the end of the USSR
Democratic Russia

- ‘Shock therapy’ and resistance
- The ‘Near Abroad’ and Chechnya
- 1996 Presidential Election and the 1998 Financial Crisis
- Putin becomes Prime Minister
  - Renewed assault on Chechnya
- Medvedev handpicked by Putin
  - Wins 2008 election
II. Governance and Policy-Making

- The Constitution
  - ‘Super-presidentialism’ and Popular Sovereignty
- Federalism
  - 49 regions (*oblasts* - largely subsets of Russian parts of Russia)
  - 21 republics (e.g., Chechnya, Ingushetia, Tartarstan -- generally ethnically based)
  - 10 autonomous regions
  - 2 federal cities (Moscow and St. Petersburg)
  - 7 other territorial entities (e.g., Kaliningrad)
- Practical decentralization and Putin’s move to exert greater control
II. Governance and Policy-Making

- **Executive**
  - President directly elected on two-round system (Dmitry Medvedev)
  - PM appointed by the President and approved by the Duma (currently Vladimir Putin)

- **Legislature (Federal Assembly)**
  - *State Duma*: 450 members (proportional representation with 7% threshold)
  - *Federation Council*: 178 deputies (2 each from Russia’s 89 republics and regions; appointed by governments in those areas)
III. Representation and Participation

- Political Parties
  - LEFT: Communists (Gennady Zyganov)
  - CENTER/ESTABLISHMENT: United Russia (Mevedev/Putin)
  - RIGHT: Yabloko [Apple] (Grigory Yavlinsky) and Union of Right Forces (Nikita Belykh)
  - FAR/NATIONALIST RIGHT: Liberal Democrats (Vladimir Zhirinovsky)

- Corruption and Oligarchs
IV. Political Economy

- Problems of the Soviet Command Economy
- Shock Therapy and Economic Dislocation
- Privatization, Oligarchs and Organized Crime
- The Curse of Oil

Too much of a good thing?
V. Political Culture

- Weak foundation for Democracy
  - Lack of Civil Society
  - Weak Support for Democratic Ideals
  - Support for ‘Strong Leadership’
  - Minimal Support for Free Markets

- Nationalism
  - Not just ethnic based
  - Anti-Western elements
V. Russian Politics in Transition

- The Erosion of Democracy
- The Bleeding Wound of Chechnya
- Russian Energy and Russian Power
- Strained Relations with the Near Abroad
  - Winter 2008 gas dispute with Ukraine