Structures of Governance - Russia
Russia’s Political Division

- Constitutional Semi-Presidential Federal Republic
- Three Branchs
- Divided into 83 Federal Subjects
  - 46 Oblasts – Similar to States
  - 22 Republics – Semi-Autonomous
  - 9 Krais – Former Territories, now exist as de-facto oblasts
  - 4 Autonomous Okrugs – Ethnic Republics
  - 3 Federal Cities – City States
  - 1 Autonomous Oblast – Jewish Autonomous Oblast
- Problem with contestation of Crimea Republic and Sevastopol Oblast
The Judicial Branch

• Three tiered Judicial System
  • Courts of General Jurisdiction
    • Municipal Trial Court – Handles majority of general trial cases
    • Military Courts – Handle issues related to service men and women
    • Regional Courts
  • Arbitration Courts
    • Resolve property and Commercial disputes
  • Constitutional court
    • Can determine constitutionality of governmental actions
The Legislative Branch

• The Federal Assembly
• Bi-Cameral Legislative Branch
  • Makes federal law
  • Approves treaties
  • Declares war
  • Power of the purse
• Similar in structure to Great Britain’s
  • Upper House – The Federation Council
  • Lower House – The Duma
The Federation Council

- Comprised of 166 members
  - Two representatives selected from each of Russia’s Federal entities
    - One selected by entity’s legislature
    - Other selected by entities head
  - Special powers
    - Can impeach President
    - Declares Elections
    - Appoints supreme court justices and higher arbitration judges
The Duma

• Lower House comprised of 450 Members
  • All deputies elected from party-lists
    • Proportional representation

• All bills originate in the Duma
  • Draft bills to be sent on to Federation Council for approval
    • Must work out any conflicts
    • Divided into committees to handle specific issues
The Executive Branch

• The President is the head of State and selects the Prime Minister
  • Prime Minister must be approved by the Duma
  • Determines matters of the state
    • Sets Domestic and foreign policy
    • Commander-in-chief
    • Veto power
    • Resolves issues of citizenship
    • Can grant pardons

• Prime Minister is the head of Government
  • Normally chairs cabinet meetings
  • Determines economic and fiscal policies
  • Sets energy prices
  • Determines social and labor policies
Federal Ministries

• 20 Federal Ministries
  • Foreign, Defense, Interior, Emergency, and Justice report to President
  • Rest report to Prime Minister

• 10 Additional Federal officers
  • Deal with specific industries, districts, or issues

• Responsible for executing and enforcing laws
Political Parties

• United Russia
  • Overwhelmingly largest and most powerful party
  • The Party of Putin
    • In favor of Economic Stability
    • Desire to re-establish Russia’s position as a super power
    • Seen as Center Right

• The Communist Party
  • Second Largest
  • Ideological successor to Soviet Union
    • Popular with elderly, pensioners, rural, working class

• Liberal Democratic Party
  • Populist behind Vladimir Zhirinovsky
  • Openly anti-western
    • Wants to support Ethnic minorities

• A Just Russia
  • Liberal Left
  • Counteracting power of United Russia
Elections

- Presidents elected every 6 years by popular vote
  - Can only serve two consecutive terms
- Legislative branch serve 5 year terms
  - Duma
    - ½ Elected proportionally
    - Other ½ as Single Member Districts
  - Federation Council indirectly elected
- Questionable validity of elections