

AP Comparative Government Unit Guide

Russia

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Democratic Centralism

→ The Leninist organizational structure that concentrates power in the hands of the party elite.

Nomenklatura

→ An ordered path from local party Soviets to the commanding heights of leadership.

Vladimir Putin

→ President of Russia 2000-08 and 2012-present. He consolidated power and crushed any opposition.

Dmitri Medvedev

→ Elected president in 2008 after Putin stepped down to stay on as Prime Minister.

Marxism-Leninism

→ Variation of communism based on the ideas of Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin.

Stalinism

→ A brutal form of communism imposed by a small group of party leaders.

Totalitarianism

→ A political system in which the government has total control over the lives of individual citizens.

Constitution of 1993

→ **Provided for strong president**, checked by popular election and lower house of legislature.

Duma

→ Russian **national legislature**...lower house.

Glasnost

→ A **policy of the Soviet government** allowing freer discussion of social problems- Gorbachev policy.

Russian Orthodox Church

→ Church that was the **main target of religious persecution** under Stalin's regime.

V. Lenin

→ Led the communist revolution, was the leader of the **Bolsheviks**, ruled Soviet Union

Politburo

→ A **seven-member committee** that became the leading policy-making body of the Communist Party in the USSR.

General Secretary

→ Head of the Politburo, **assumed full power as dictator of country**.

Five Year Plan

→ Plans outlined by Joseph Stalin in 1928 for the development of the Soviet Union's economy.

Nikita Khrushchev

→ **Aggressive Soviet leader** whose failed to put missiles in Cuba

Destalinization

→ **Kruschev's program attempt** to remove Stalin influences.

Democratization

→ The process of creating a government elected by the people.

Perestroika

→ A policy initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev that involved the restructuring of the social and economic status quo in communist Russia towards a market based economy and society.

Boris Yeltsin

→ **President of the Russian Republic in 1991**. Helped end the USSR and force Gorbachev to resign.

Constitutional Court

→ Highest body in the Russian legal system, responsible for **constitutional review**.

"Shock Therapy"

→ **An abrupt shift to free-market economics**. Yeltsin lowered trade barriers, removed price controls, and ended subsidies to state-owned industries.

Asymmetric Federalism

→ A system where power is devolved **unequally across the country** and its constituent regions.

CPRF

→ **The Communist Party of the Russian Federation** and is the second-strongest party. The party emphasizes centralized planning and nationalism, and implies an intention to

regain territories lost when the Soviet Union broke apart.

Decrees

→ Rulings that have the force of law but do not need the approval of the legislature.

Federation Council of Russia

→ The **upper house of the parliament of Russia.**

Liberal Democrats

→ The neofascist and racist opposition party led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. (**Nationalistic**)

Proportional Representation (PR)

→ An electoral system in which **political parties compete in multimember districts.**
Voters choose between parties, and the seats in the district are awarded proportionally according to the results of the vote.

Single-member district

→ An electoral district in which voters **choose one representative or official.**

United Russia Party

→ Political party put together by the oligarchs of Russia to support Putin. **Currently the dominant party in Russia.**

Sources:

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