Russian Political Parties

Bryan, George, Jason, Tahzib
United Russia

- Founded in 2001 with the merging of the Fatherland All-Russia Party and the Unity Party of Russia.
- Currently holds 238 seats in the State Duma
- Centrist party - emphasizes stability and a third-way
- By far the most popular and largest party in Russia
United Russia

Vladimir Putin
The Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF)

- Successor party to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) - founded in 1993
- They are the second largest party in the Duma and they place themselves in direct opposition to the authorities.
- "The Communists won't get a fair chance in the State Duma elections of 2007. We were facing the bureaucratic-oligarch machine, camouflaged under the name 'United Russia.'" - Pre-election program of the CPRF for the 2008 Presidential Elections
CPRF (cont.)

- Guided by Marxist-Leninism (by far not the only Communist political movement)
- Focuses less on central planning than its predecessor
- In the 2011 parliamentary elections, they had the most support (> 20%) in Oryol, Pskov, Samara, Tomsk, Omsk, and Murmansk Oblasts. The CPRF also gained 19.35% of the vote in the Moscow Oblast. Nationally, the CPRF gained 19.19% of the vote, giving them 92 seats in the State Duma.
CPRF (cont.)

- Its main electoral strongholds are in large cities, major scientific and industrial centers, and in small towns and cities around Moscow.
- The CPRF has seen diminishing returns in presidential elections in recent years, dropping from 32% of the vote in the first round of voting in 1996 to 17.2% in 2012 (its lowest ever total was 13.7% in 2004). The CPRF candidate in 1996 may have actually won that election, but widespread fraud on Yeltsin's part denied the presidency to him.
Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR)

- Founded in 1993
- Led by controversial figure Vladimir Zhirinovsky
- Received a plurality of votes in the 1993 Duma Elections
- Frequently described as neither liberal nor democratic
- Currently holds 56 seats in the Duma
A Just Russia

- Formed on October 28, 2006, as a merger of the Russian Party of Life and the Russian Pensioners' Party
- A social democratic party
- "New Socialism of the 21st Century"
- Guarantees a social welfare state
- Currently holds 64 seats in the Duma
Liberal Parties

- Yabloko
  - fights for big business

- Patriots of Russia
  - aims at converting Russia into a social democracy

- Right Cause
  - intends to join the EU
Modern Russian Political Parties

- First emerged after the attempted coup in 1991.
- Parties were small and factional but there were many of them.
- Many revolved around a particular leader or leaders.
  - Bloc of General Andrey Nikolaev and Academician Svylaslav Fyodorov
  - Yuri Boldyrev Movement
- Other parties reflected particular groups.
  - Party of Pensioners
  - Women of Russia
Changes

- The number of parties began to shrink, but nevertheless many new parties had formed as well.
- New election rules implemented by Putin and utilized in the 2007 elections solidified this trend toward fewer parties.
  - New rules made it so that all seats in the Duma were elected by proportional representation.
  - All parties required to win 7% of national vote to win any seats.
  - Smaller parties with only regional support lost representation and only four parties gained seats: the Communist Party, the Liberal Democrats, United Russia, and A Just Russia.
Some of these new parties in the Duma are known as parties of power and are different from their predecessors:

- They are less ideologically based than the parties of the 1990s.
- They are strongly sponsored by economic and political power holders.
- ex. United Russia: Created to get Putin elected and will remain in power for as long as he does.
Duma Elections 1993
Duma Elections 2007

- CPRF
- Yabloko
- SPS
- LDPR
- UR
- JR
- Agrarian Party
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>Nigeria</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
<th>United Kingdom</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Relatively stable centrist party dominating elections marred by fraud.</td>
<td>● Single-member districts</td>
<td>● Centrist party competing against two other parties on a left-right dimension.</td>
<td>● Elections are by single-member districts.</td>
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<td>● Proportional representation.</td>
<td>● One dominant party, similar to Russia's UR</td>
<td>● Plurality and proportional representation</td>
<td>● Regional elections in Ireland, Scotland and Wales use proportional representation.</td>
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