RUSSIAN "POLITICAL PARTIES"

Annabelle, Tiffany, Adrianne

http://youtu.be/vm1U5E44W90?t=2m8s
History of Politics in Russia (A.C.)

- Russia originally started out as an anomaly amongst the industriized western countries in the early 1900s. After an embarrassing defeat in 1904 by the modernized Japanese, it started industrialization, which eventually led to social revolutions from the working class.
- WWI led to the removal of the Czar, and finally the installation of a communist government headed by Lenin, who subsequently renamed Russia the “Soviet Union”.
- Stalin took over after Lenin’s death and enforced a notoriously harsh rule on the people. When he left power, the Communists veered away from his tactics.
In 1985, Gorbachev took over and initiated glasnost (political openness) and perestroika (economic restructuring). Despite his intentions, this led to a huge turmoil that resulted in the eventual split of Boris Yeltsin, along with a coup.

This incident led to Gorbachev’s political destruction: his authority was completely undermined and Yeltsin became president in 1991, eventually passing the role down to Vladimir Putin.
United Russia

- Centrist
- 238/450 seats in Duma
- State regulation/market freedoms for economy
- Scratches Putin’s back
- Minimize gaps b/w rich/poor, state, business and society
United Russia’s Control

- Maintains control of national/local politics with Putin’s support/popularity.
- Much instability of chaotic revolutionary change → Putin attacks Chenchyna republic and gets much love.
A Just Russia

- Social Democratic
- 64 seats in Duma
- Welfare state where everyone is equal, small gap between rich and poor, and guarantee individual rights
- State responsible for well-being of citizens while citizens responsible for state effectiveness
- “New Socialism” → does not eliminate the market but transfers power to the people
Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF)

- Communist Party est. 1993
- successor of Communist Party of the Soviet Union (1917-1991)
- Second largest political party
- Modern form of socialism → nationalisation of natural resources, agriculture, and large industries in mixed economy that allows for growth of small businesses in private sector
- “revival-unification” congress in Feb 1993 as result of new governing bodies established
Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR)

- Not *actually* liberal or democratic: while self-described to be centrist, it is actually rightist and ultra-nationalistic.
- Became second official registered political party after Gorbachev reforms (April 1991)
- Wants “revival of Russia as a great power”
- Wants Belarus to join with Russia (and Ukraine & Co should come back too.)
- Wants mixed economy with private ownership, but ultimately management is by state.
True Lib Dem Parties (Yabloko)

- Social liberal party
- Early 90s
- Greater freedom and civil liberties
- Integration with the West, becoming BFFLS with US and join the EU
- Electoral Fraud in 2003 (need 5% to get into parliament, got 6% but might have actually been 4.3%)
- Lost representation in Duma in 2007 but won a few places in regional parliament in 2011
## Comparison of Political Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>Nigeria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Semi Presidential</td>
<td>Parliamentary</td>
<td>Presidential</td>
<td>Presidential</td>
<td>Presidential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bicameral</td>
<td>Bicameral</td>
<td>Bicameral</td>
<td>Bicameral</td>
<td>Bicameral</td>
<td>Bicameral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>federal</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>Unitary</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>Federal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower house: PR</td>
<td>FPTP</td>
<td>SMPDP</td>
<td>FPTP</td>
<td>FPTP</td>
<td>FPTP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper House: appointment by executive and legislature</td>
<td>Hereditary</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>SMDP</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sources

http://eng.yabloko.ru/Hotissues/index_htiss.html#rights
http://xn----7sbahalgzdz1bcnjdna1wg.xn--p1ai/?p=42
http://cprf.ru
worldnews.about.com/od/russia/tp/Political-Parties-In-Russia.htm