

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РФ
Федеральное государственное автономное
образовательное учреждение высшего образования
«Национальный исследовательский Нижегородский государственный
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РОССИЯ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ МИРЕ RUSSIA IN THE MODERN WORLD

Учебно-методическое пособие

Рекомендовано методической комиссией Института международных отношений и мировой истории для студентов ННГУ, обучающихся по направлениям подготовки 41.03.05 «Международные отношения», 41.03.01 «Зарубежное регионоведение», 41.03.04 «Политология»

Нижегород
2019

УДК 42.8 (07)
ББК 143.21я.73
Ж 60

Ж 60 РОССИЯ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ МИРЕ (RUSSIA IN THE MODERN WORLD): учебно-метод. пособие [Электронный ресурс] / О.Р. Жерновая, Л.А. Петрукович. – Нижний Новгород: Изд-во ННГУ, 2019. – 34 с.

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Данное учебное пособие предназначено для занятий по развитию навыков работы с текстами общественно-политического содержания в рамках программы бакалавриата, в соответствии с требованиями программы по английскому языку. В пособие включены тексты информативного характера по государственно-политическому устройству Российской Федерации; упражнения, направленные на развитие навыков работы с текстом (правильное понимание содержания текста, умение свернуть информацию, правильно понять и перевести фрагменты, содержащие лексические и грамматические трудности).

Учитывая профессиональную ориентацию студентов, авторы использовали тексты публицистического характера и отбирали лексику, которая будет востребована на более продвинутом этапе обучения в профессиональных целях. Критериями отбора лексики являются ее частотность, стилистическая оправданность и профессиональная необходимость. Предложенная лексика может использоваться как базовая для работы над публицистикой профессиональной направленности на этапе ранней профессионализации. При работе над курсом авторы использовали аутентичные источники, изданные, в основном, за последние 5 лет.

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УДК 42.8 (07)
ББК 143.21я.73

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Введение

Учебно-методическое пособие «Россия в современном мире» предназначено для студентов ННГУ, обучающихся по направлениям подготовки 41.03.05 «Международные отношения», 41.03.01 «Зарубежное регионоведение» и 41.03.04 «Политология». Данное пособие будет полезно тем, кто изучает политику как специальность: политологам, аналитикам, сотрудникам СМИ, специалистам по международным отношениям и связям с общественностью.

Цель данного учебно-методического пособия – научить пользоваться политическим словарем, расширить словарный запас по теме «Государственное устройство России», активизировать языковые и речевые навыки обучаемых, и подготовить их к чтению оригинальной англоязычной литературы, а именно, материалов общественно-политической тематики; научить обсуждать политические проблемы на английском языке и участвовать в общественно-политических дискуссиях.

УМП состоит из 4 разделов, каждый из которых включает презентацию лексических единиц в контексте их употребления и комплекс заданий и упражнений, способствующих усвоению представленного материала. Кроме того, данный материал и информация может использоваться в устной и письменной речи.

Предлагаемые тексты знакомят студентов с государственным устройством России, развивают у учащихся навыки чтения и понимания довольно сложных политологических англоязычных материалов по политической тематике.

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Unit I

WHAT IS STATE? WHAT IS STATE SYSTEM?

*The more corrupt the state
the more the laws
Cornelius Tacitus*

Warm up

Read the head of the unit. Study the idea of *state system*.

- a) Write down some words and phrases related to state system.
- b) Give your own definition of “state” and definition of “system”.
- c) In groups of three or four compare and contrast your notes. Discuss and report back to the class the different points of view.
- d) Study the dictionary definitions of “state”:

- **the political organization constituting the base of civil government;**

Webster’s New World Dictionary

- **the power or authority represented by a body of people politically organized under one government;**

Webster’s New World Dictionary

- **a politically organized body of people usually occupying a definite territory;**

Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary

- **organized political community with its apparatus of government.**

Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English

The term *state* should be distinguished from the terms *nation* and *country*: *country* denotes a geographical area; *nation* denotes a people who are believed to share common customs, origins and history; *state* refers to the set of governing institutions that has sovereignty over a definite territory.

e) Study the functions of **the state**:

The state performs a wide range of functions:

- to maintain order
- to ensure stability
- to safeguard liberty
- to protect individuals from insecurity
- to serve the interests of society
- to handle conflicts

f) Study the dictionary definitions of “**system**”:

- **a set of rules or principles, classified or arranged in a regular, orderly form;**

Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary

- **a form of social, economic or political organization or practice;**

Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary

- **ordered set of ideas, theories, principles put together on the site.**

Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English

g) Underline the similarities and circle the differences.

h) Compare your definition with the dictionary ones.

i) Write your fine-tuned definition.

j) Interview the students of the other group on the meaning of the word combination ‘state system’ and say whether it differs from the one given in the explanatory dictionary of the Russian language: “*Form of organization of state*”.

k) Match the terms with their definitions. The first one is given as an example:

1) state system	a) is a term used to describe the relationships that were developed after the state became the significant, and then the dominant actor in macropolitics
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2) civil society	b) refers to a weak, fragile state that fails to recover from crisis
3) nation-state	c) is a derogatory term used in reference to policies where the state is characterized as being excessive in its desire to protect, govern or control particular aspects of society
4) multinational state	d) are ex-colonial states of Asia, Africa and Oceania, which through the process of decolonization have achieved juridical statehood. They possess all the trappings and formal qualities of sovereign independent statehood, but lack many attributes of empirical statehood, in particular, the political will, institutional authority and organized power to protect human rights or to provide socio-economic welfare.
5) one-party state	e) a state in which the population consists of two or more ethnically distinct nations that are of significant size
6) failed state	f) embraces public organizations such as firms, labour unions, interest groups that form part of the collective life of society, and of democracy, but are normally voluntary in character and autonomous from the government
7) rouge state	g) is the status of a place as an independent country, the condition of being an independent nation
8) nanny-state	h) is a type of party system government in which a single political party
9) quasi-state	i) describes a state regarded as threatening to world peace because it is ruled by an authoritarian regime that severely restricts human rights, sponsors terrorism and seeks to proliferate weapons of mass destruction (a state of concern)
10) statehood	j) is a state where a single nation comprises the bulk of the population

Talking point

2) Answer the following questions:

- 1) What should states do? Is a state a positive, or constructive force, with responsibilities that should be enlarged, or is it a negative, or destructive entity that must be constrained?

- m) How should responsibilities be apportioned between the state and the civil society?
- n) Does the state serve the common good, or is it biased in favour of privileged groups or a dominant class?
- o) Do you share the viewpoint that globalization, growing economic interdependence, the emergence of supranational bodies and other developments have made the state irrelevant?
- p) What do we study state systems for?
- q) Can a state system of a particular country undergo changes?
- r) What types of state systems can you recollect?
- s) How did the emergence of new states in the 20th -21st centuries change the international system?
- t) Do you agree that any intervention in the domestic affairs of a sovereign state undermine the pivotal principles of the post-cold war period – the principles of non-intervention, national sovereignty and self-determination? Can intervention ever be justifiable?

Unit II

THE STATE SYSTEM OF RUSSIA

Reading I

1) Skim the text and answer the questions:

- a) What does the Russian Federation consist of?
- b) What branch of power: legislative, executive or judicial does the president belong to?

Russia is a democratic federative law-governed state with a republican form of government. The population of Russia is about 150 million people and the territory is 6.6 million square miles. The Russian Federation consists of 85 constituent entities (22 republics, 1 autonomous region, 9 autonomous areas, 4 territories, 46 regions and 3 federal cities: Moscow, St.Petersburg and Sevastopol). All of these are formally equal in their sovereign rights. The authorities of the constituent entities have the right to pass laws independently from the federal government. These laws are valid on the territory of the appropriate federate division, but they cannot contradict the federal laws. In case of conflicts between federal and local authorities, the President uses consensual procedures to resolve the problem. In the event a consensus is not reached, the dispute is transferred to the appropriate court for its resolution. The Russian President has the right to suspend acts passed by local executive authorities in case that these acts conflict with federal laws of Russia, its internal commitments, or if they violate the human and civil rights and freedoms until the issue is resolved by appropriate court.

State power in Russia is carried out by dividing power into three independent branches: legislative, executive and judicial. Legislative power belongs to the Federal Assembly (the Parliament). Executive power belongs to the central and local governments. Judicial power is provided by appropriate judicial system and by civil, administrative and criminal legislation.

The 1993 constitution created a dual executive consisting of a president and prime minister, but the president is the dominant figure. Russia's strong presidency is sometimes compared with that of Charles de Gaulle (in office 1958-69) in the French Fifth Republic. The President is the head of the state and determines the basic objectives of the internal and external policy of the state. He is elected for four years on the basis of universal, equal and direct right to vote by secret ballot for all eligible citizens. One and the same person cannot serve as President for more than two terms in succession. The president stops performing his duties ahead of time if he resigns, because of impeachment, or if he cannot continue to carry out his duties due to poor health. Elections of a new President are to take place within three months and in the meantime his duties are acted upon by the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.

The President appoints, with the consent of the State Duma the Government of the Russian Federation, chairs the meetings of the government, adopts the decisions of the resignation of the government. The president nominates to the State Duma a candidate for appointment to the post of the Chairman of the Central Bank, presents to the federation Council candidates for the posts of the Constitutional and Supreme Court justices, Supreme Arbitrage Court justices, and a candidate for the post of Prosecutor General. The President Forms and Heads the Security Council. He is the Supreme Commander-in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and appoints and dismisses the supreme commanders of the Armed Forces. He appoints diplomatic representatives for approval of the Parliament. He confers supreme military and supreme special titles and honorary titles of the state. He has the right to show mercy and to decide on issues of citizenship. He has the right to introduce the state of emergency throughout the country or in a particular territory within the Russian Federation. The president has the right to dissolve the state Duma, to announce elections ahead of time and to pass the decision to conduct a referendum on federal issues.

2) Choose the best ending to these incomplete sentences:

- 1) The President uses consensual procedures ...
 - a) to veto the act
 - b) to perform duties
 - c) to resolve the problem
- 2) The dispute is transferred to the appropriate court ...
 - a) for its resolution
 - b) for suspension
 - c) for discussion
- 3) State power in Russia is carried out by dividing powers ...
 - a) between citizens
 - b) into three independent branches
 - c) for performing duties
- 4) The president stops performing his duties ahead of time if he resigns, because of ...
 - a) impeachment
 - b) a state of emergency
 - c) elections
- 5) The President selects and releases diplomatic representatives for approval by
 - b) the State Duma
 - c) the Parliament
 - d) the Chairman of the Government

3) Read the text again and answer the following questions:

- 1) What type of state is Russia?
- 2) Who has the right to pass laws independently from the federal government?
- 3) When does the President use consensual procedures to resolve the problem?
- 4) Where is the dispute transferred to in case a consensus is not reached?

- 5) In which case does the President have the right to suspend acts passed by local executive authorities?
- 6) What are the three independent branches of power in Russia?
- 7) What is the legislative branch of power provided by?
- 8) Who determines the basic objectives of internal and external policy?
- 9) What are the basic principles of voting when electing the President?
- 10) How does the President appoint the candidates for the main posts of government in Russia?
- 11) Do you know in what case the President can can dissolve the State Duma?

4) Find word combinations in the text to name the functions performed by the president. Look at the example.

1. to head the Security Council

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Word Study

1) Find verbs in the text that correspond to the nouns:

Election, service, resignation, management, confirmation, dissolution, assignment, formation, suspension, enforcement.

2) Find the English equivalents to the following words and word combinations in Russian in the text:

- a) представитель
- b) принять закон
- c) достичь согласия
- d) вводить чрезвычайное положение
- e) соответствующий административный округ
- f) приостановить действие закона
- g) быть действительным
- h) внешняя политика
- i) освободить (от должности)
- j) выполнять свои обязанности
- k) уголовное законодательство

3) Translate the following words in the text from English into Russian:

- a) to assign
- b) to confer
- c) consensual
- d) constituent entity
- e) to contradict
- f) to dissolve
- g) an eligible citizen
- h) to enforce
- i) impeachment
- j) in succession
- k) representative government
- l) to resign
- m) resignation
- n) secret ballot

- o) to show mercy to smb.
- p) universal

4) What do these words or word combinations from the text refer to?

- 1) a state – *service, law, country*;
- 2) authority – *person, power, body*;
- 3) to suspend – *to delay, to keep on, to stop*;
- 4) eligible citizens – *grown-up, law-abiding, educated*;
- 5) to release smb. – *to let free, to make to resign, to praise*;
- 6) state of emergency – *extraordinary situation, sequence of events, policy*

5) Read the text on the Russian state system and translate the words in the text from Russian into English.

The state system of the Russian Federation

The Russian Federative Republic was *учреждать* by the Constitution of 1993.

Under the Constitution Russia is a Presidential Republic. The federal government consists of three *ветвей*: legislative, *исполнительная* and judicial. Each of them is balanced by the President.

The legislative power is *принадлежит* in the Federal Assembly. It consists of two *палат*. The Upper Chamber is the Council of Federation. The Lower Chamber is the State Duma. Each chamber is headed by the Speaker. *Законодательная власть (инициатива)* may be initiated by the two chambers. But to become a law *законопроект* must be approved by both chambers and signed by the President. The President may *накладывает вето* the bill. The President is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, he signs treaties, *обеспечивает соблюдение законов*, appoints ministers to be approved by the Federal Assembly.

The executive power belongs to the government which is headed by the Prime Minister. The first action of the Prime Minister on appointment is to form the Cabinet.

Судебная власть is represented by the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and district courts.

The members of the Federal Assembly are elected by popular vote for a four year period.

Reading II

Read the text and answer the following questions:

1. Why did Russia need a new constitution after the collapse of the Soviet Union?
2. Is Russian proclaimed the state language under the RF Constitution?
3. Did the 1993 constitution change the way the state power system was organized?
4. Does the 1993 Constitution proclaim a predetermined unified economic system based on state ownership?
5. What is the role of the 1993 constitution in the Russian Federation?

The Constitutional Process in the Russian Federation

The 1993 constitution declares Russia a democratic, federative, law-based state with a republican form of government. State power is divided among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Diversity of ideologies and religions is sanctioned, and a state or compulsory ideology may not be adopted. The right to a multiparty political system is upheld. The content of laws must be made public before they take effect, and they must be formulated in accordance with international law and principles. Russian is proclaimed the state language, although the republics of the federation are allowed to establish their own state languages for use alongside the Russian one.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union it became clear that Russia would need a new constitution free from the layers of the past. Work on a new constitution began at the beginning of the 1990s amidst broad public discussion and resulted in several different drafts being prepared. The main ones were the draft constitution drawn up by the Russian Supreme Soviet's Constitutional Commission and the draft prepared by the Constitutional Conference convoked by decision of the President. The Constitutional Conference's draft reflected many of the provisions in the Constitutional Commission's draft and was adopted as the basis for further work to draw up a final draft constitution. The Russian regions, deputies, specialists and working groups were all involved in this process. The result was a draft constitution submitted by the President to the nation in a referendum. The referendum was held on the basis of the Provision for a Referendum on the Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation.

A total of 58,187,755 voters, or 54.8 percent of the registered voters, took part in the referendum on the new draft constitution on December 12, 1993. Of this total, 32,937,300 voters, or 58.4 percent of those who took part in the referendum, voted in favour of the draft constitution and it was adopted. It officially came into force on December 25, 1993, at the moment of its official publication.

The 1993 constitution considerably changed the way the state power system is organised and made a lot of progress toward improving Russia's federal structure. For the first time in Russia's history, the constitution's provisions have direct application. This means that any person can defend their rights based on the constitution's provisions, and when examining cases and settling disputes, the courts and other state bodies must base themselves above all on the constitution's provisions. The constitution represents the highest law in the country and so all other laws must conform to its provisions. This is achieved in particular through a system of judicial constitutional control.

Unlike in the past, the 1993 constitution does not proclaim a predetermined unified economic system based on state ownership, but gives equal protection to all forms of ownership and guarantees the freedom and development of civil society.

The Constitution forms the country's legal foundation, proclaims the President of the Russian Federation the head of state and lays upon him the responsibility for defending the Constitution, human rights and civil liberties, safeguarding Russia's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and ensuring the coordinated functioning and cooperation of the state bodies of power.

Talking point

Make a report on the following topics:

- a) The State system of the Russian Federation.
- b) The President's powers and duties.

Writing

Write an essay that must end with the quotation:

"I'd rather be right than be President". (<i>Henry Clay</i>)
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Unit III

THE PARLIAMENT OF RUSSIA

***Democracy is the government of the people,
by the people, for the people.***

Abraham Lincoln

Reading III

1) Before you read the text just cast a glance at the heading and guess the subject matter of the unit.

- Write down some words and phrases related to Parliament.
- Give your own definition of “**parliament**”.
- In groups of three or four compare and contrast your notes. Discuss and report back to the class the different points of view.
- Study the dictionary definition of “**parliament**” given in “Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English”: ...*supreme law-making council* Does it coincide with your own definition of a legislative body? Compare the definitions of government given in “Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary”:
 - 1) the body of persons that constitutes the governing authority of a political unit or organization.**
 - 2) the organization through which a political unit exercises authority and performs functions.**
- Which of them fits your own notion of the executive body of Russia better?

2) Give answers to the following questions:

- a. Why are legislative and executive functions performed by different institutions?
- b. Are these two establishments (Government and Parliament) equally important? Why?

- c. Can a state be properly ruled without these two branches? Give some examples.
- d. In which cases can a state do without these supreme bodies of power?

The Legislative Branch of Power

Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions. Share your ideas with your group-mates.

1. What is the legislative branch of power?
2. What is the legislative branch of power vested in?
3. What are the main functions of the legislative branch of power?

The Federal Assembly – the Parliament of the Russian Federation is the representative and legislative body of the Russian Federation. It consists of two chambers: the Federation Council and the State Duma.

The Federation Council is the upper house of the Federal Assembly of Russia (the parliament of the Russian Federation), according to the 1993 Constitution of the Russian Federation. Each of the 85 federal subjects of Russia sends two senators to the Council, for a total membership of 170 Councilors.

The two houses of the Federal Assembly are physically separated. Sessions of the Federation Council are held in Moscow from January 25 to July 15 and from September 16 to December 31. Sessions are open to the public, although the location of sessions can be changed if the Federation Council desires so, and secure closed sessions may be convoked.

The chairperson of the Federation Council is the third most important position after the president and the prime minister. In the case of incapacity of the President and Prime Minister, the chairman of the Federation Council becomes acting President of Russia.

The modern history of the Federation Council began during the 1993 Constitutional Crisis that pitted President Boris Yeltsin's unpopular neoliberal and governmental structure reforms against the increasingly radical Congress of People's Deputies, the nation's legislature.

Similar to the United States Senate, the Federation Council consists of two representatives from each of Russia's constituent entities. Unlike the State Duma, which consists of hundreds of districts across the nation, the Federation Council acts as more or less the voice of Russia's federal subdivisions.

The Council's first elections were held on December 12, 1993, simultaneously with the State Duma elections and a referendum on the new Constitution of the Russian Federation. With the constitution now in effect the elections to the Federation Council are to be franchised solely to territorial authorities, with one senator elected from the subject's legislature, and the other by the subject's executive branch. This later was codified in 1995 when the Council's first term expired.

The Council is charged in cooperating with the State Duma in completing and voting on draft laws. Federal laws concerning budgets, customs regulations, credit monitoring, and the ratification of international treaties are to be considered by the Federation Council after they have been adopted by the State Duma, where most legislation is introduced.

Special powers accorded only to the Federation Council are:

- approval of changes in borders between the subjects of the Russian Federation;
- approval of a decree of the President of the Russian Federation on the introduction of martial law;
- approval of a decree of the President of the Russian Federation on the introduction of a state of emergency;
- deciding on the possibility of using the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation outside the territory of the Russian Federation;
- declaring of elections of the President of the Russian Federation;

- impeachment of the President of the Russian Federation;
- approving the president's nomination of judges of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, of the Supreme Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation;
- approving the president's nomination of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation;
- appointment of Deputy Chairman and half of the auditors of the Accounting Chamber.

For laws to pass the Federation Council, a vote of more than half of its 170 senators is required. When considering federal constitutional laws, three-fourths of the Council's votes are required for passage. If the Council vetoes a law passed by the State Duma, the two chambers are mandated to form a Conciliation Committee in order to form a compromise document, which would again go under vote by both houses. Two-thirds majority in the Duma can overcome the Federation Council's veto.

The **State Duma** is the lower house of the Federal Assembly of Russia. There are 450 deputies in the House. They are elected every 5 years. Half of the seats are filled by proportional representation. It means that 225 members of the Duma are elected on the basis of party lists. The threshold for political parties is 5 %. The remaining 225 seats are contested in geographical constituencies.

The Lower chamber has special powers enumerated by the Constitution of Russia. They are:

- consent to the appointment of the Prime Minister of Russia;
- hearing annual reports from the Government of the Russian Federation on the results of its work, including issues raised by the State Duma;
- deciding the issue of confidence in the Government of the Russian Federation;
- appointment and dismissal of the Chairman of the Central Bank of Russia;

- appointment and dismissal of the Chairman and half of the auditors of the Accounts Chamber;
- appointment and dismissal of the Commissioner for Human rights;
- announcement of amnesty;
- bringing charges against the President of the Russian Federation for his impeachment (requires a two-thirds majority).

The State Duma adopts decrees on issues relating to its authority by the Constitution of the Russian Federation. Decrees of the State Duma are adopted by the majority of the total number of deputies of the State Duma, unless another procedure is envisaged by the Constitution. All bills are first approved by the State Duma and are further debated and approved (or rejected) by the Federation Council.

The federal laws adopted by the State Duma on the following issues must compulsorily be examined by the Federation Council:

- the federal budget;
- federal taxes and levies;
- financial, currency, credit and customs regulations, money emission;
- ratification and denunciation of international treaties of the Russian Federation;
- the status and protection of the state border of the Russian Federation;
- war and peace.

The State Duma forms committees and commissions that are the main organs of the House involved in the legislative process.

Any Russian citizen who is age 21 or older is eligible to participate in the election to the State Duma. However, that same person may not be a deputy to the Federation Council. In addition, a State Duma deputy cannot hold office in any other representative body of state power or bodies of local self-government. A deputy of the State Duma is a full-time and professional position. Thus, deputies to the State Duma may not be employed in the civil service or engage in any activities for remuneration other than teaching, research or other creative activities.

The legislative process in Russia includes three hearings in the State Duma, then approvals by the Federation Council, the upper house and sign into law by the President.

Draft laws may originate in either legislative chamber, or they may be submitted by the president, the Government, local legislatures and the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, or the Superior Court of Arbitration within their respective competences. Draft laws are first considered in the State Duma. Upon adoption by a majority of the full State Duma membership, a draft law is considered by the Federation Council, which has fourteen days to place the bill on its calendar.

3) Read the text again and answer the following questions:

- What two chambers does the Federal Assembly consist of?
- When did the history of the Federation Council begin?
- Who or what does the Upper chamber of the Federal Assembly represent?
- How are the representatives to the Federation Council chosen?
- What issues is the Upper chamber charged in?
- What are the requirements for the Federation Council for voting when considering federal constitutional laws?
- Are there clear limitations of competence in each chamber in the Federal Assembly?
- Why are there 450 members in the Lower chamber of the Federal Assembly?
- How are the deputies elected to the State Duma?
- What special powers does the State Duma have?
- Can a person be a deputy in the State Duma and in the Federation Council at the same time? Why?/Why not?
- How many hearings should be held before the President signs the law?
- Are all bills debated and approved (or rejected) by the Federation Council?
- What other activities can deputies to the State Duma engage in?

- What chamber may draft laws originate in?

Word Study

Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases:

- to convoke
- constituent entities
- to be charged in
- draft law
- martial law
- impeachment
- to veto
- threshold
- to bring charges against
- to be envisaged
- to hold office in
- to engage in

Study the table and compare the two chambers of the Federal Assembly.

Federation Council	State Duma
<p>Powers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve of changes regarding subjects in Russia. 2. Approve martial law. 3. Approve a state of emergency. 4. Decide on the use of armed forces outside of Russia. 5. Impeach the president. 6. Declare the elections of president. 7. Approve the presidential nomination of Supreme Court 	<p>Powers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint the prime minister of Russia. 2. Hear annual reports of work of government. 3. Decide the issue of confidence on government. 4. Appoint and dismiss the chairman of the Central Bank of Russia. 5. Appoint and dismiss the chairman and half of the

<p>judges.</p> <p>8. Approve the presidential nomination of Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation.</p> <p>9. Appoint the chairperson and half of auditors of the Accounting Chamber.</p>	<p>auditors of the Accounts Chamber.</p> <p>6. Appoint and dismiss the Commissioner of Human Rights.</p> <p>7. Decide if the president should be impeached (2/3 vote).</p> <p>8. A majority of more than 50 percent is needed for laws to be passes in the State Duma.</p>
<p>Duties/Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cooperate with the State Duma in drafting and considering laws; • independently draft laws 	<p>Duties/Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopt federal laws, federal constitutional laws, and constitutional amendments
<p>General Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper house of the Federal Assembly • 170 Councillors/senators • current Chairman of the Council is Valentina Matviyenko 	<p>General Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower house of the Federal Assembly • 450 deputies • current Chairman of the State Duma: Vyacheslav Volodin
<p>Elections/Appointment</p> <p>Indirect Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one senator is elected by the provincial legislature of each of the federal subjects (regional bodies) of Russia • one senator is nominated by the provincial governor and approved by the provincial legislature <p>Political Affiliation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • political parties and factions are banned in the Federation Council • lobbyist groups and caucuses sometimes form <p>Chairman of the Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elected by the senators of the Federation Council 	<p>Elections/Appointment</p> <p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 years old • citizen of the Russian Federation • may not hold office in any other representative body <p>Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elections are held every five years • proportional representation system <p>only registered political parties may run candidates</p>

<p>Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • terms differ based on the federal subject (regional body) • legislation must also pass through the State Duma 	<p>Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • five-year term • legislation must also pass the Federation Council but the Duma can override with a two-thirds vote • the President may dismiss the Duma under certain conditions
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Study the table. Translate the table from Russian into English.

ГОСУДАРСТВЕННАЯ ДУМА
Участие в контроле за исполнением федерального бюджета.
Назначение на должность и освобождение от должности Уполномоченного по правам человека.
Решение вопроса о доверии правительству РФ.
Выдвижение обвинения против Президента РФ для отрешения его от должности.
Объявление амнистии.
Решение вопросов своей внутренней организации.
Создание собственных комитетов и комиссий.
Избрание половины депутатов по одномандатным округам.
Избрание половины депутатов по общефедеральным спискам.
Назначение на должность и освобождение от должности Председателя счетной палаты и половины состава его аудиторов.
Назначение на должность и освобождение от должности Председателя Центрального банка РФ.
Дача согласия Президенту РФ на назначение Председателя правительства РФ
Принятие федеральных законов в рамках ее компетенции.

Unit IV

THE GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIA

1) Read the following definitions of “government” and choose the definition you like most. Explain your choice.

1. *the group of people who officially and legally control a country and make all the decisions about taxes, laws, public services, etc.* (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English).
2. *the political system by which a country or community is administered and regulated* (Britannica Online.com).
3. *the governing authority of a political unit or formal institutions responsible for making collective decisions for society and enforcing them* (Vocabulary for political science students, MGIMO).

2) Work in groups. Discuss the following questions. Share your ideas with your group-mates.

1. What ways of organizing a nation according to the territorial division do you know?
2. Why is unitary government a common system of governing?
3. Can different local departments act independently in a unitary government? Why so?
4. What is the difference between a federal government and a unitary government?
5. What is a confederation?
6. Can we say that central government is strong in a confederation? Why? / Why not?
7. Why are confederations rare in the world?
8. How many nations of the world have a confederative system of government?

Reading IV

1. What is the executive branch of power?
2. Who is the executive branch of power represented by?
3. What are the main functions of the executive branch of power?

The Executive Branch of Power in Russia

The executive branch of power is the branch of government that is broadly responsible for implementing, supporting, and enforcing the laws made by the legislative branch and interpreted by the judicial branch.

The constitution prescribes that the Government of Russia, which corresponds to the Western cabinet structure consists of a prime minister (Chairperson of the Government), deputy prime ministers, federal ministers and their ministries and departments. Within one week of appointment by the president and approval by the State Duma, the prime minister must submit to the president nominations for all subordinate Government positions, including deputy prime ministers and federal ministers. The prime minister carries out administration in line with the constitution and laws and presidential decrees. The ministries of the Government execute credit and monetary policies, defence policy, foreign policy and state security functions; ensure the rule of law and respect for human and civil rights; protect property; and take measures against crime. If the Government issues implementing decrees and directives that are at odds with legislation or presidential decrees, the president may rescind them.

The Government formulates the state budget, submits it to the State Duma, and issues a report on its implementation. If the State Duma rejects a draft budget from the Government, the budget is submitted to a conciliation commission including members from both branches.

According to the constitution, the government of the Russian Federation must:

- draft and submit the federal budget to the State Duma; ensure the implementation of the budget and report on its implementation to the State Duma;
- ensure the implementation of a uniform financial, credit and monetary policy in the Russian Federation ;
- ensure the implementation of a uniform state policy in the areas of culture, science, education, health protection, social security and ecology;
- manage federal property;
- adopt measures to ensure the country's defence, state security, and the implementation of the foreign policy of the Russian Federation;
- implement measures to ensure the rule of law, human rights and freedoms, the protection of property and public order, and crime control;
- exercise any other powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws and presidential decrees.

The government issues its acts in the way of decisions and orders. These must not contradict the constitution, federal constitutional laws, federal laws, and Presidential decrees, and are signed by the Prime Minister.

Read the text in detail to answer the following questions:

1. What type of government does Russia have?
2. Who interprets the laws implemented by the legislative branch?
3. What document confirms the structure of the Government of Russia?
4. How is a candidate elected to become the Prime Minister?
5. How does the prime minister carry out administration?
6. What are the functions of the ministries of the Government?
7. Under what circumstances may the President rescind decrees and directives?
8. Why may the budget be submitted to a conciliation commission?
9. How is the Government involved in the financial aspects of the country?

10. What laws should not contradict the acts of the Government?

Word Study

1. Find synonyms to the following verbs in the text:

to be accountable for =

to strengthen =

to dictate =

to abide =

to publish =

to cancel =

2. Translate the phrases from Russian :

- разрабатывает федеральный бюджет;
- обеспечивает проведение в единой финансовой, кредитной и денежной политики;
- обеспечивает проведение политики в области культуры, науки, образования, здравоохранения, социального обеспечения, экологии;
- осуществляет управление федеральной собственностью;
- осуществляет меры по обеспечению обороны страны;
- осуществляет меры по обеспечению законности, общественного порядка и борьбе с преступностью.

Reading V

Read the text and answer the following question:

Is government an enemy or friend?

The role of government in the lives of people has expanded significantly during human history. Government's role has gone from providing basic security to concern

in religious affairs to control of national economies and eventually to providing lifelong social security. As our societies have become more complex, governments have become more complex, powerful and intrusive. Although throughout the world government seems indispensable to modern societies there continues to be controversy over how big, how powerful and how intrusive governments should become.

Political conservatives, laissez-faire advocates or libertarians argue the problem is that government is too big, and governments that do too much are oppressive. They use a pejorative term – big government- to describe a government which is excessively large, corrupt and inefficient, or which is inappropriately involved in certain areas of public policy. Excessive government necessarily causes the misallocation of labour and capital, and the high tax rates needed to finance that level of government will discourage work, saving and investment. Small government is better at raising economic growth because lower taxation rates allow people to spend and invest more of their own money. Besides, governments are not doing enough to address a whole raft of social problems. Thus individuals should be encouraged and empowered to take responsibility for their own lives. So advocates of slim government contend modern societies should rely on markets and individual effort to solve the current and emerging social and economic problems.

However, there are those who deny many of the common criticisms leveled at government as highly exaggerated, misleading or simply wrong. They share a view that acknowledges the overwhelmingly positive role that government plays in society and recognize that government is one of the best tools for making the world a better place.

Consider just a few of the beneficial things that local, state and federal governments are doing for their citizens every day: preventing economic depressions, ensuring safety, eliminating horrible diseases like polio and smallpox, punishing criminals, protecting abused children, guarding national security, providing unemployment insurance, protecting bank deposits, funding public colleges and

universities, taking care of the poor, subsidizing childcare, regulating financial markets. They conclude that instead of less government, in any areas more government is actually needed.

Work with a partner. Think of some other arguments that:

- a) support the view that modern societies need more government**
- b) support the view that modern societies need less government**

Which viewpoint do you share? Why?

Comment:

1. That government is best which governs least (Henry David Thoreau).
2. What we should be asking is not whether we need a big government or small government, but how we can create a smarter and better government (Barack Obama, University of Michigan Commencement, 2010).
3. Government is too big and too important to be left to the politicians (Chester Bowles).
4. Whenever you have an efficient government you have a dictatorship (Harry S Truman).
5. In the long-run every Government is the exact symbol of its People, with their wisdom and unwisdom; we have to say, Like People like Government (Thomas Carlyle).
6. Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one (Thomas Paine).

Writing

Write a short essay (120-150 words) on the following question:

Suggest any improvements to the state body structure which could lead to better execution of its laws.

Comment on the quotation and write a story that must begin with it.

“Even when laws have been written down, they ought not always to remain unaltered” (Aristotle)

О.Р. Жерновая, Л.А. Петрукович

РОССИЯ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ МИРЕ

Учебно-методическое пособие

Федеральное государственное автономное
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