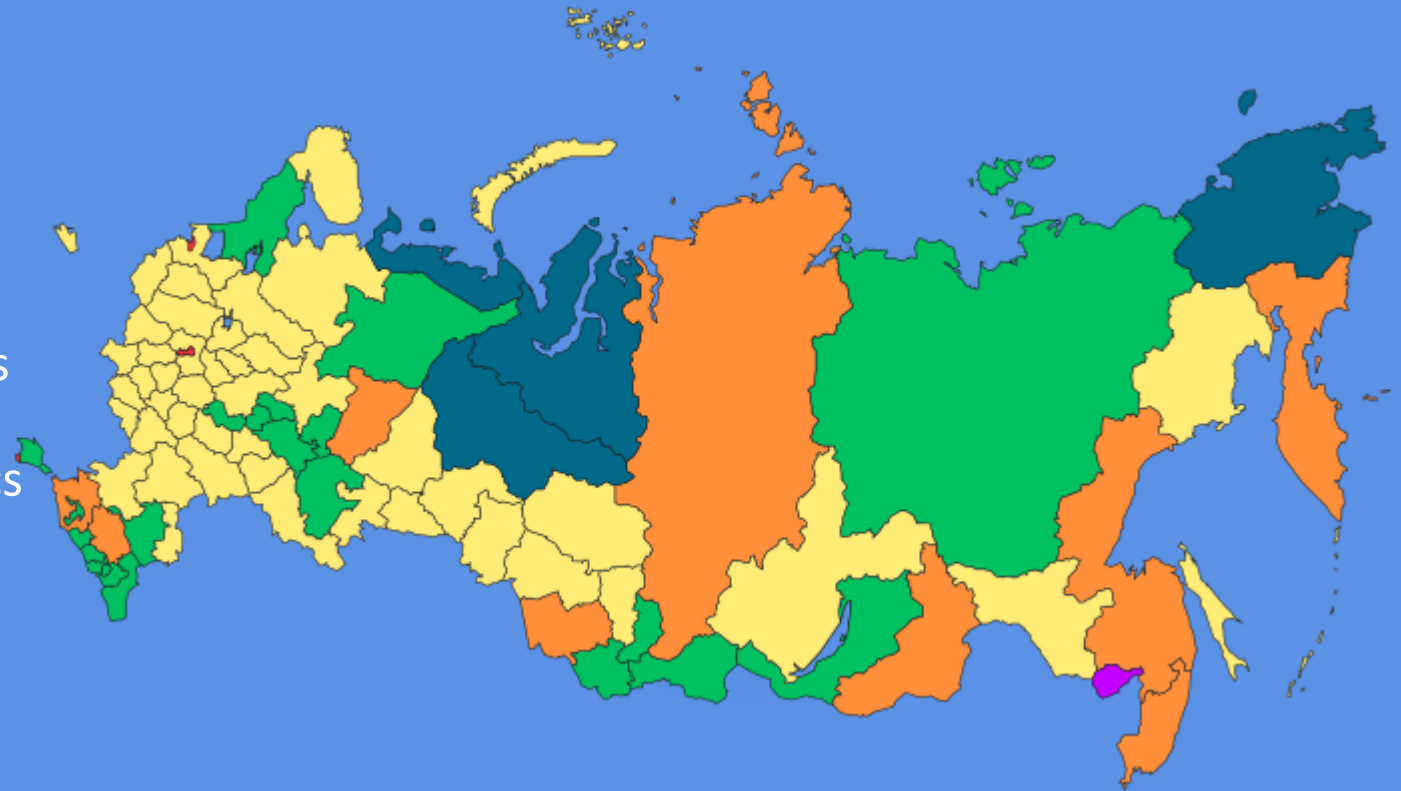




Structures of Governance - Russia

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 Krai – 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



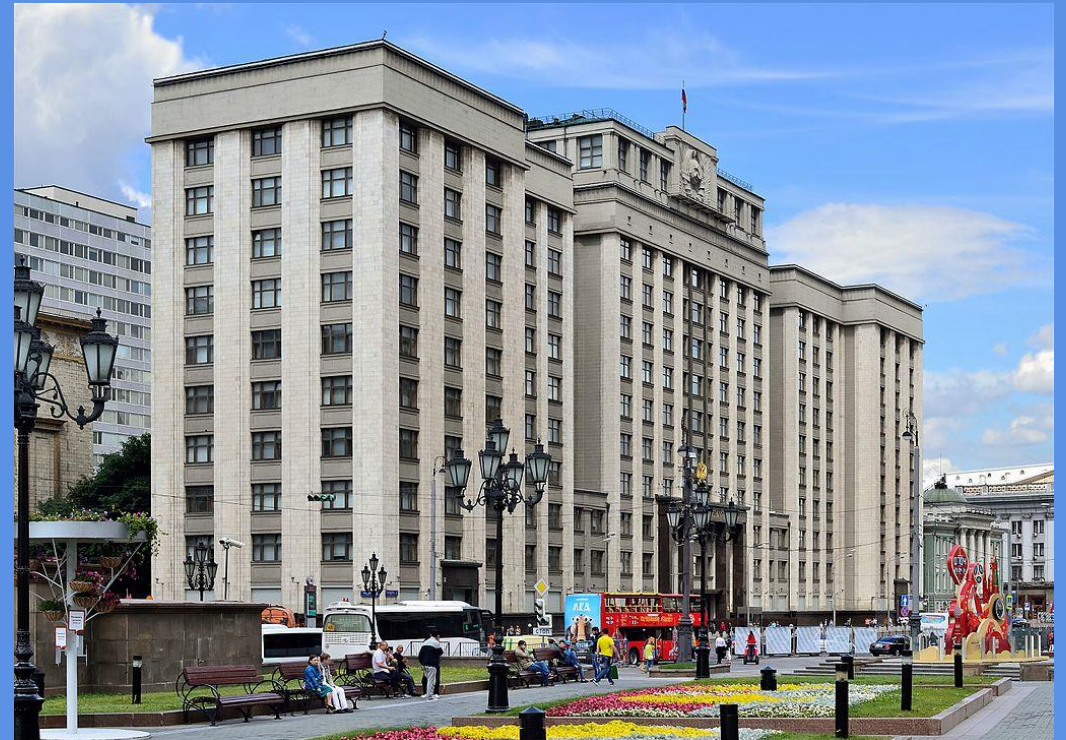
The Federation Council

- 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



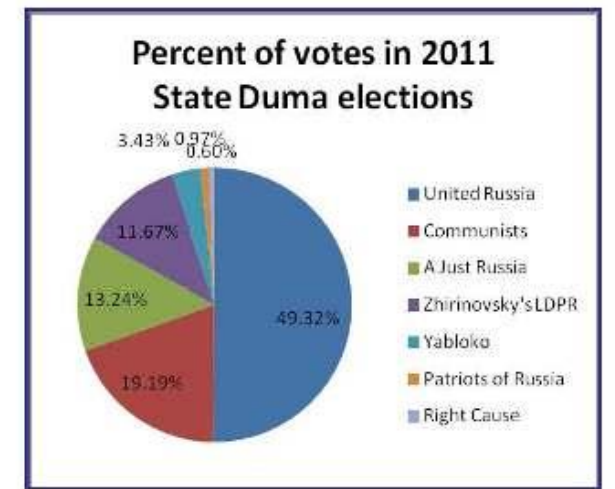
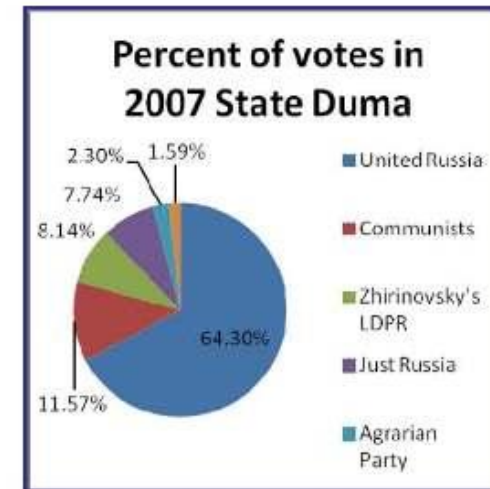
Federal Ministries

- 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

