RUSSIAN POLITICS

Instructor: Peter Rutland; tel. 2483; email <prutland>, office PAC 203; hours MW 10.30-12.00.

ASSESSMENT: Out of 100 points, as follows:

1) Three short papers, 3-4 pages in length, due on Sept 16, Oct 20 and Nov 11. [15 points each]

2) Final research paper, outline due on Nov 2; 10-12 page paper due Dec 14. [35 points]
   I will circulate a list of possible topics, or you can pick your own topic.

3) Class participation, extra credit reports on lectures, and weekly quizzes on the required reading. Each extra credit or quiz will earn 1 point for a correct answer; exceptionally, 2 points may be given. [20 points]

All papers should be emailed to the professor by 4.00 pm on the due day as attached documents in Word.

READINGS

Basic texts for the course, which you should consider buying, are:

Lilia Shevtsova      Yeltsin's Russia: Myths and Realities (1999)
Stephen White (ed.)  Developments in Russian Politics 7 (2009)
Susan Richards       Lost and Found in Russia (2010)

The following book is out of print, but I have copies that I will lend you:


All the articles listed on the syllabus are available on the course’s Wesfiles page through hyperlinks.

Many of the books listed on the syllabus are on reserve in Olin.

Students must attend every class and complete the required reading each week, marked with *. All the other readings are optional, mainly for use when writing papers.

Unexplained absence from three classes will be treated as withdrawal from the course.

Plagiarism i.e. using material not written by yourself without clear attribution to the source will be punished.

You are welcome to bring laptops to class but you must NOT use them for email or web surfing.

Given the time constraints, this syllabus necessarily leaves out many important topics, such as gender, religion, civil society, social protests, nuclear weapons, Russia-China relations, Anna Chapman, etc. However, you are encouraged to pick one of these topics for your final paper.
WEB SITES

Moscow Times English-language daily, best one-stop source of news.

Johnson’s Russia List a comprehensive daily bulletin on Russia. (Web archive only goes up to January 2010)

These are Kremlin sponsored sites for daily news and commentary (in English):

Russia Profile weekly magazine format
Itar-Tass news agency
RIA-Novosti news agency
Russia Today English language TV channel.

Russian president’s web site All the presidents meetings and speeches (in English) archived to 2000.

Other Russia Site of the leading opposition group.

La Russophobe Review of and links to the top ten blogs on Russia (in English)

A Good Treaty Blog about politics and culture.

Bears and Vodka Blog about pop culture and daily life.

Russiaotherpointsofview.com Blog criticizing US media coverage of Russia.

Regular analysis from Western think-tanks:

Carnegie Center Site of the leading independent think-tank in Moscow
Radio Liberty News and analysis covering the whole region from US-funded Radio Liberty.
Eurasia Daily Monitor Daily analysis from the Jamestown Foundation, a DC think-tank.
Transitions Online Articles on the region from Prague-based magazine, archives from 1995.
Open Democracy Liberal commentary on current events in the ‘post-soviet world.’
Russian Analytical Digest Bimonthly reports on various features of contemporary Russia politics
Eurasianet Stories on Central Asia and the Caucasus.
CA-CI Analyst news and analysis on Central Asia and the Caucasus.
International Crisis Group Reports on conflict situations in Central Asia and the Caucasus.
Russia Votes Data on Russian election results and public opinion polls on major issues.
Erik Herron links to English and Russian language sites

For your report on one of the newly independent states, begin with:

BBC country profiles Archive of recent stories about each country, plus historical timelines.


JOURNALS that you may wish to search for sources for your term paper:

Europe/Asia Studies (formerly Soviet Studies)
Post-Soviet Affairs (formerly Soviet Economy)
Communist and Post-Communist Studies
Problems of Post-Communism
Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization
Week 1  THE WEIGHT OF RUSSIAN HISTORY  
Sept 6-8

Is there such a thing as ‘Russian political culture,’ and if so what does it consist of?
How great an influence does the pre-1917 Russian past have on the present?
Does Russia’s history set it apart from the rest of Europe?

* Marshall Poe  
   * Richard Hellie
   * Stephen Kotkin
   * Peter Rutland
   * Stephan Hedlund
   * Peter Rutland
   * Martin Malia

Week 2  THE SOVIET POLITICAL SYSTEM  
Sept 13-15

How was the Soviet Union ruled? What was it like to live under the Soviet system?
What was the nomenklatura? What role did the Communist Party play in Soviet society?
Why was the USSR so stable in the 1960s and 1970s? What held the system together in the absence of Stalin’s mass terror?

* Hedrick Smith
* Martin Malia
* Ilya Utekhin

Movies:   
   * The Russians, whole book but esp. chs 10-11
   * The Soviet Tragedy ch. 10
   * Kommunalka Video tour of life in a Soviet-era communal apartment.
   * Little Vera (1997); Vanished Empire (2008); Cargo 200 (2007).

FIRST ASSIGNMENT  Topic: The Soviet system

Due on Friday Sept 16, email to <prutland> by 4.00 pm. Write a 3-4 page paper on Smith’s The Russians. How did the Soviet system work? How did Soviet citizens adapt to life within the system?

Don’t just summarize Smith’s observations. You should read the whole book, but your essay should focus on a specific topic. What struck you as most interesting in Smith’s account? Did it confirm or refute your prior stereotypes of life in the ‘Evil Empire’? How does life in the USSR compare with life in other societies, such as the US? Is Smith’s reporting reliable?

Week 3  GORBACHEV’S GAMBLE  
Sept 20-22

How did Gorbachev rise to power? What were Gorbachev’s goals in introducing glasnost and perestroika? Why did he fail? Is Gorbachev a hero, a villain, or a fool?

* Stephen Kotkin  
* Peter Rutland
* David Kotz & Fred Weir  
* Stephen Cohen
* Michael Cox (ed)
* Archie H. Brown
* Michael Ellman & Vlad Kontorovich

* Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse
* ‘The Soviet collapse,’ ch. 2.
* ‘Why did the USSR fall?’, Dollars and Sense, July 1997
* ‘Was the Soviet system reformable?’ Slavic Review, 63: 3, 2004
* Rethinking the Soviet Collapse
* The Gorbachev Factor
* The Strange Death of Soviet Communism (March 1993)
Week 4  FROM GORBACHEV TO YELTSIN (1989-91)  
Sept 27-29

Why did the Soviet Union collapse – and was its collapse inevitable?  
Who launched the Aug. 1991 coup, and why did it fail?  
What were Yeltsin’s goals, and what was the political coalition supporting him?

* Stephen Kotkin  Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse  
* John Dunlop  The Rise of Russia and the Fall of the Soviet Union ch 2-5  
[This is an ebook, which you can read online through the Olin catalog]  
* Lilia Shevtsova  Yeltsin’s Russia: Myths and Reality chs 1-3  
* Leon Aron  ‘Everything you think you know about the Soviet collapse,’  
Foreign Affairs, July 2011  
Boris Yeltsin  The Struggle for Russia chs. 1-5  
Leon Aron  Yeltsin: A Revolutionary Life  (Yeltsin GOOD)  
Peter Reddaway  The Tragedy of Russia’s Reforms  (Yeltsin BAAD)

Week 5  RUSSIA’S TRANSITION TO CAPITALISM  
Oct 4

Why was shock therapy launched in 1992? Who benefited from those reforms?  
Was there any alternative to that radical reform package?  
How else could the transition to capitalism have been managed?

* Peter Murrell  ‘What is shock therapy? What did it do in Poland and Russia?’  
Post-Soviet Affairs, April-June 1993.  
* Peter Rutland  ‘Russia’s transition to a market economy’ ch. 5, pt 1 (thru 1996)  
David Kotz & Fred Weir  Revolution from Above: the Demise of the Soviet System chs. 9-12  
Anders Aslund  How Russia Became a Market Economy  
Anders Aslund  Russia’s Capitalist Revolution  
Marshall Goldman  Lost Opportunity. What Has Made Economic Reform in Russia So Difficult?

Week 5  THE MAFIA  
Oct 6

Why did organized crime and bureaucratic corruption rise so rapidly in Russia and the other post-soviet states?  
Can the state do anything to get either of these evils under control?  
We take the ‘rule of law’ for granted – but where does it come from, and under what conditions does it take root and develop?

* Paul Klebnikov  ‘Godfather of the Kremlin,’ Forbes, 30 December 1996  
* Peter Rutland  ‘Crime and corruption,’ ch. 8  
* Vadim Volkov  ‘Violent entrepreneurship in post-Communist Russia,’  
Europe-Asia Studies, 51: 5 (July 1999) 741-54  
Robert Sharlet  ‘In search of the rule of law,’ in S. White, Developments 7, ch. 8  
Federico Varese  The Russian Mafia  
Stephen Handelman  Comrade Criminal: the Rise of the Russian Mafia  
Valerie Sperling  Building the Russian State  chs. 4, 9  
Alena Ledenova  Russia’s Economy of Favors  
Movies:  Brother, Tycoon, Eastern Promises, Transiberian, Lord of War
Week 6  
RUSSIA’S SHAKY TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY  
Oct 11-13

While the West anxiously watched, in the 1990s power shifted into the hands of a new oligarchic elite. In 1993 Yeltsin suppressed a rebellion by the parliament and introduced a new constitution that consolidated presidential rule.

Was Yeltsin the father of Russian democracy, or its gravedigger? What was the basis of Yeltsin’s power? How did he win the 1996 election? Why did the democratic movement fail to replace the Soviet system with a truly democratic political order? Why did the economy crash in August 1998?

* Peter Rutland  ‘Politics under Yeltsin,’ ch. 4
* Peter Rutland  ‘Has democracy failed Russia?,’ National Interest (Dec. 1994)
* Lilia Shevtsova  Yeltsin’s Russia: Myths and Reality chs. 6-9
Stephen Fish  Democracy Derailed in Russia
Boris Yeltsin  The Struggle for Russia chs. 7-9
Alfred Stepan  ‘Russian federalism in comparative perspective,’ Post-Soviet Affairs, 16:2, 2000, 133-176

On the rise of the oligarchs:
* Peter Rutland  ‘Russia’s transition to a market economy,’ ch. 5, pt 2
* Joseph Stiglitz  ‘What I learned at the world economic crisis,’ New Republic 17 May 2000

Week 7  
RUSSIA’S ROLE IN THE WORLD  
Oct 18

What was Russia’s role in the post-cold war ‘new world order’?
What was US policy towards the new Russian state?
What happened to the military forces Russia inherited from the Soviet Union?
Could Russia’s leaders – and society – make the mental transition from superpower to nation-state?

* Peter Rutland  ‘Russia’s foreign and security policy,’ ch. 6
Vera Tolz  ‘Forging the Nation: National identity and nation-building in post-communist Russia,’ Europe-Asia Studies, 50: 6, 993-1022
Valery Tishkov  ‘Consolidating civic nationalism in Russia,’ Foresight, 19 Jun 08
Allen Lynch  ‘The realism of Russia’s foreign policy’ Europe-Asia Studies, 53: 1 ‘01
Strobe Talbott  The Russia Hand (2002)
Stephen Cohen  Failed Crusade America the Tragedy of Post-Communist Russia (2000)

SECOND ASSIGNMENT  
Topic: ‘The Russian transition’  
Oct 20

Email the paper to <prutland> by 4.00 pm on Thurs 20th. Write a 3-4 page paper on either:

a) Was it realistic to expect to see democracy take root in Russia? What were the main factors impeding the spread of democracy?  
b) Was shock therapy a mistake?

Oct 20  8.00 pm  Public lecture by Stephen Kotkin “What was the Soviet Union?” (PAC 001)
Oct 21  9.00-5.00  Academic workshop on “What was the Soviet Union?” (Woodhead Lounge)
Week 7
Oct 20
THE CHECHEN WARS

Why did Chechnya try to secede from the Russian Federation?
Why did Yeltsin invade Chechnya in December 1994, and why did the Russians lose the first war?
Why did the second war break out in 1999? How did Putin win the war?

* Peter Rutland ‘The Chechen war,’ ch. 7
Rajan Menon & G. Fuller ‘Russia’s ruinous Chechen war,’ Foreign Affairs, 79: 2, Mar 2000
Mark Kramer ‘The perils of counter-insurgency: Russia’s war in Chechnya,’
International Security, 29: 3, 2004
Pavel Felgengauer ‘A war Moscow cannot afford to lose,’ Transition, n. 31, May 96
Anatol Lieven Chechnya: Tombstone of Russian Power
Carlotta Gall & Thomas de Waal Chechnya: Calamity in the Caucasus
Matthew Evangelista The Chechen Wars
John Dunlop Russia Confronts Chechnya (history prior to the war)
Sebastian Smith Allah’s Mountains: the Battle for Chechnya
Kavkaz Center Chechen rebel web-site
Caucasian Knot Website with news from the region
Movies: Prisoner of the Caucasus, Blokpost, House of Fools, War, Alexandra

Week 8
Oct 27
THE BIRTH OF THE NEW STATES

How were the economic and military assets of the Soviet Union divided among the new states?
Why was the Commonwealth of Independent States such a feeble mechanism for cooperation?
What were the common challenges the new states faced?
Who held power in the new states, and what sorts of political regimes emerged?
What was the fate of the Russian diaspora living in the ‘near abroad’?

* Peter Rutland ‘From Soviet Union to CIS,’ ch. 3.
* Gerry Easter ‘Preference for presidentialism: Post-communist regime change,’
World Politics, 49: 2, Jan 1997
Graham Smith (ed.) The Nationalities Question in the Post-Soviet States From
Gail Lapidus Union to Commonwealth
Ian Bremmer & Ray Taras (eds) Nations and Politics in the Soviet Successor States
Graham Smith (ed) The Nationalities Question in the Post-Soviet states
Roman Szporluk (ed) National Identity in Russia and the New States of Eurasia
Igor Zevelov Russia and Its New Diasporas

Week 9
Nov 1
THE CAUCASUS

What were the causes of the wars that broke out in Azerbaijan and Georgia?
What are Russia’s interests in the region, and what role did Russia play in the 1990s?
What was the US interest in the region, and what role did the US play?
What would a solution to these conflicts look like?

* Charles Fairbanks ‘Disillusionment in the Caucasus and Central Asia,’ Journal of
Democracy, 12: 4, Oct 2001
Charles King ‘The benefits of ethnic war: Understanding Eurasia’s un-
recognized states,’ World Politics, 53: 4, Jul 2001, 524-52
Svante Cornell ‘Autonomy as a source of conflict. Caucasian conflicts in
theoretical perspective,’ World Politics, 54: 2, Jan 2002, 245-76
Thomas de Waal The Caucasus: An Introduction
Week 9
Nov 3

CENTRAL ASIA

How did the new states of Central Asia cope with independence?
Does oil wealth inevitably bring dictatorship?
How did the actions of Russia and the US shape developments in the region?
What about China’s growing influence?

* Stephen Kotkin  ‘Trashcanistan. A tour through the wreckage of the Soviet Empire,’ New Republic, 4 April 2002

* Pauline Luong Jones & Erika Weinthal  ‘Prelude to the resource curse. Explaining oil and gas development in the Soviet successor states,’ Comparative Political Studies, 34: 4, 2001

* Kathleen Collins  ‘Clans politics in Central Asia,’ Journal. of Democracy, 13: 3, 2002

Cullen Murphy  ‘Get in touch with your inner Turkmenbashy,’ Atlantic, Nov 2002

Dmitri Trenin  The End of Eurasia

Pauline Luong Jones  The Transformation of Central Asia

Martha Olcott  Central Asia’s Second Chance


Week 10
Nov 8

THE EAST EUROPEAN STATES

How was national identity constructed in Belarus and Ukraine after the Soviet collapse?
Why did Ukraine turn out to be more democratic than Russia – and Belarus less democratic?
Do you agree or disagree with the exclusionary citizenship policies adopted in Estonia and Latvia?
How come Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were able to enter NATO and the EU so speedily?
What’s the deal in Moldova?

* Keith Darden  ‘Blackmail as a tool of state domination: Ukraine under Kuchma,’ East European Constitutional Review, spring 2001


Adrian Karatnycky  ‘Ukraine at the crossroads,’ Jour. of Democracy, 6: 1, Jan 1995, 117-30

Dominique Arel  ‘A lurking cascade of assimilation in Kiev?’ Post-Soviet Affairs, 12: 1, Jan-March 1996, 73-90


Andrew Wilson  The Ukrainians. Unexpected Nation

Paul D’Anieri et al  Politics and Society in Ukraine

David Marples  ‘Europe’s last dictatorship: the roots of authoritarianism in “White Russia,”’ Europe-Asia Studies, 57: 6, Sept. 2005


Aris Jansons  ‘Latvia: Tempest in a textbook,’ Transitions Online 22 Feb 2006

THIRD ASSIGNMENT
Nov 11

Email the paper to <prutland> by 4.00 pm on Friday 11. Write a 3-4 page paper on one of the newly-independent states (but not Russia). Briefly summarize its key features, including its ethnic make-up and political regime. Then select one challenge that the new state faced, and assess how it went about tackling it.

For information on your country use the websites on p. 2 and readings listed weeks 9-10.
Week 10

Nov 10

FROM YELTSIN TO PUTIN

Yeltsin resigned on 31 December 1999 and handed power to Vladimir Putin. Where did Putin come from, and what were his goals? What did he achieve in his first two years? Topics include his cult of personality; limits on media freedom; and the construction of an administrative ‘power vertical.’

* Richard Sakwa  
  Putin: Russia’s Choice chs. 1-6
* Peter Rutland  
  ‘The rise of Putin,’ ch. 12
* Vladimir Putin  
  First Person (interviews with Putin) excerpted on the PBS website
Marshall Goldman  
  ‘Putin and the oligarchs,’ Foreign Affairs, 83: 6, Nov. 2004
Andrew Jack  
  Inside Putin’s Russia
Peter Baker  
  Kremlin Rising
Lilia Shevtsova  
  Putin’s Russia chs. 1-8
Cameron Ross  
  ‘Putin’s federal reforms,’ Communist and Post-Communist Studies, 36: 1, 2003, 29-47
Stephen White & I. Mcallister  
  ‘Putin and his supporters,’ Europe-Asia Studies, 55: 3, 2003
Timothy Colton  
  Are Russians undemocratic? Post-Soviet Affairs, 18: 2, 2002, 91-121

Week 11

PUTIN IN POWER

Nov 15-17

After 2004 Putin moved towards a more authoritarian system, triggering fierce debates among Western analysts over whether this was good or bad for Russia. Topics include: the arrest of Mikhail Khodorkovsky in 2003; United Russia’s control over the State Duma; the rise of the siloviki; the abolition of elected governors; and the concept of ‘managed democracy.’

In 2008 Putin sidestepped term limits, handing the presidency over to his aide Dmitry Medvedev.

* Richard Sakwa  
  Putin: Russia’s Choice chs. 6-8
* Stephen White (ed)  
  Developments in Russian Politics 7, chs. 1-10
* Pavel Baev  
* Peter Rutland  
  ‘From Putin to Medvedev,’ ch. 15
* Victor Yassmann  
Tony Wood  
  ‘I dream of him sitting in the dock,’ [Politkovskaya] LRB, 24 June 2010
Sergei Magnitsky  
  Wikipedia report on case of corporate lawyer unjustly jailed and killed.
Michael Mcfaul  
  ‘Liberal is as liberal does,’ American Interest, May 2007
Stephen Sestanovich  
  ‘Force, money and pluralism,’ Journal of Democracy, 15: 3, 2004
Daniel Treisman  
  ‘Putin’s silovarchs,’ Orbis, 51: 1, winter 2007
Andrei Shleifer & Dan Treisman  
  A normal country, Foreign Affairs, 83: 2, Mar 2004
Michael McFaul (ed.)  
  Between Dictatorship and Democracy. Russia Post-Communist Reform Putin’s Russia chs. 9-13
Lilia Shevtsova  
  Putin’s Militocracy, Post-Soviet Affairs, 2003, 19: 4
Henry Hale  
  ‘Why not parties? Electoral markets and stalled democratization in Russia,’ Comparative Politics, 37: 2, Jan. 2005
Thomas Remington  
  ‘Patronage & the party of power: President-parliament relations under Putin,’ Europe-Asia Studies, 60: 6, Aug 2008, 959-987
Thomas Sherlock  
  ‘Confronting the Stalinist past: the politics of memory in Russia,’ Washington Quarterly, spring 2011

Nov 21

Outline for final paper is due.

The outline should be 2-3 pages long, and include the main thesis, an outline of the arguments to be raised, and a preliminary biography. Email it to prutland@wesleyan.edu by 4.00 pm.

I will circulate a list of possible topics; you can also pick your own topic.
Week 12  SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRENDS UNDER PUTIN
Nov 22

Putin’s presidency coincided with an oil-driven export boom. Is Russia’s growth model sustainable? How was Russia affected by the 2008 financial crisis?

For a sense of life for ordinary Russians through the chaos of the 1990s and the signs of recovery in the 2000s, read Susan Richards, Lost and Found in Russia (2010).

* Stephen White (ed)  Developments in Russian Politics 7, chs. 11-12
* Peter Rutland  ‘Putin’s economic record,’ ch. 13
* Sergei Guriev & Aleh Tsyvinski  Russia After the Global Economic Crisis, 2010, ch. 1
Cliff Gaddy & Barry Ickes  Russia after the global financial crisis, Eurasian Geography and Economics, 51: 3, May 2010, 281-311

Philip Hanson  Russia to 2020, Nov 2009
Lennart Dahlgren  ‘Doing business in Russia,’ 2010 interview with IKEA’s head in Russia
Open Democracy Letters from Russia, 2009. Daily life in the provinces after the ‘08 crash
Peter Pomerantsev  Russian Reality TV, Open Democracy, 28 Jan 2011

Also a quick look at Russia’s social profile: inequality, gender, demographics, the health crisis.

Elizabeth Brainerd & David Cutler  ‘Autopsy on an Empire: Understanding mortality in Russia and the FSU,’ Jour. of Economic Perspectives, 19: 1, 2005, 107-30

Week 13  THE COLOR REVOLUTIONS
Nov 29-Dec 1

While authoritarianism was strengthening in Russia, a wave of revolutions swept Georgia (2003), Ukraine (2004), and Kyrgyzstan (2005). Do they represent a breakthrough to genuine democracy? Why did color revolutions not take place in Uzbekistan, Belarus and Moldova? 2010 saw clear moves away from democracy in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan.

* Charles Fairbanks  ‘Georgia’s rose revolution,’ Jour. of Democracy, 15:2, Apr 2004
* Adrian Karatnycky  ‘Ukraine’s orange revolution,’ Foreign Affairs, 84: 2, Mar 2005
* Martha Brill Olcott  ‘Lessons of the tulip revolution,’ Testimony before OSCE, 7 Apr 2005
* Graeme Herd  ‘Colorful revolutions and the CIS,’ Problems of Post-Communism, 52: 2, Mar 2005

Bringing Down A Dictator: Documentary about the first color revolution in Serbia in 2000
The Orange Chronicles: Documentary about the 2004 Ukrainian revolution
Lucan Way  ‘Ukraine’s Orange revolution,’ Journal of Democracy, 16:2 Apr 2005
Anders Aslund & Michael McFaul (eds)  Revolution in Orange: Ukraine’s Breakthrough, 2006
David Lane  ‘The Orange Revolution: ‘People’s revolution’ or revolutionary coup?’, British Journal of Politics and International Rels, Oct 2008, 525-549
Grzegorz Gromadzki et al  Beyond Colors: Assets and Liabilities of ‘Post-Orange’ Ukraine, 2010
David Marples  ‘Color revolutions: The Belarus Case,’ Communist and Post-Communist Studies 39: 3 Sept 2006, 351-64
Iurie Rosca  ‘Moldova’s orange revolution,’ Demokratizatsiya 13: 4, 2005, 537-542
Roza Otunbayeva  ‘Kyrgyzstan’s tulip revolution,’ Demokratizatsiya 13: 4, 2005, 483-489
Eugene Huskey  ‘If you want to understand Kyrgyzstan,’ Slate, 9 Apr 2010
Week 14
Dec 6

PUTIN’S FOREIGN POLICY

The causes and consequences of the 2008 war in Georgia and the ongoing gas wars with Ukraine. Is Russia turning back into an evil empire? The impact of Obama’s reset of relations with Russia.

* Peter Rutland ‘US foreign policy in Russia,’ in Mick Cox (ed.) US Foreign Policy
* Dmitry Trenin ‘Russia’s foreign policy’ in Anders Aslund et al, Russia After the Global Economic Crisis, 2010, ch. 9
* Richard Boudreaux ‘Russia’s fading army fights losing battle to reform,’ WSJ, 5/20/11
* Svante Cornell et al Russia’s War in Georgia, Aug 2008
* Charles King ‘The five day war,’ Foreign Affairs, Nov 2008, 2-11

Wikipedia Yuliya Tymoshenko ‘Containing Russia,’ Foreign Affairs, 86: 3, May 2007
Bobo Lo Vladimir Putin and the Evolution of Russian Foreign Policy
Edward Lucas The New Cold War. Putin’s Russia and the Threat to the West
Andrew Kuchins ‘US-Russia relations,’ in Anders Aslund et al, Russia After the Global Economic Crisis 2010, ch. 12

Week 14
Dec 8

FUTURE PROSPECTS

It remains unclear how much power Medvedev really has. Despite Medvedev’s liberal image and his promotion of ‘modernization’, authoritarian trends have continued during his time in office. Is there any prospect of Russia returning to the democratic path in the foreseeable future? Who is really ruling Russia? What is the composition of the core Russian political elite?

* Dmitry Medvedev ‘Go, Russia!,’ 10 Sept 2009
* Lilia Shevtsova ‘Medvedev’s Potemkin modernization,’ Current History, October 2010
* Medvedev’s prospects Collection of newspaper articles from 2011.
Andrei Ryabov ‘How Russia works,’ Russian Analytical Digest, 49, 5 Nov 2008
Pavel Kanygin ‘Russia, Dislike,’ NG, 1 June 2011. Why young Russians are emigrating.
Boris Nemtsov & Vladimir Milov Putin. The Results. 10 Years 2010
Anders Aslund et al Russia After the Global Economic Crisis 2010

Other Russia Critical news reporting from the main opposition movement.
Michael McFaul & ‘The myth of the authoritarian model. How Putin’s crackdown
Kathryn Stoner-Weiss holds Russia back,” Foreign Affairs, Jan/Feb 2008
Richard Sakwa ‘Putin’s leadership: character and consequences,’ Europe-Asia Studies, 60: 6, 2008, 879-97
Leon Aron ‘Was liberty really bad for Russia?’, AEI, fall 2007

Dec 14

Final research paper due

10-12 pages including notes, the paper should be sent by email to <prutland> by 4.00 pm on Dec 14.