

Rise of Vladimir Putin

- Putin's rise to power can be directly linked to the societal upheaval following the fall of the USSR
- Weak leadership and a floundering economy left an opening for the then unknown Putin
- He promised stability and a stronger State, and he delivered

President Putin and the Current Russian Government

- Putin turned Russia again towards an executive run nation
- His own party, United Russia, was formed to help ensure his policies would pass through the Duma
- Formed a strong hold on two of three branches of government

Putin's Policies

- A major problem in Russia was the power of the oligarchs
- The political elite in Russia siphoned off huge sums of money and coupled with corruption, crippled the Russian people economically
- In order to regain some Russia's lost lands Putin took major military action against Chechnya, a breakaway Islamic republic in the south
- With a puppet leader in place, Putin claimed a victory for Russia and began forming his image as a decisive leader
- Realising Russia's major energy potential Putin has taken large steps towards increasing the nation's oil production
- Putin has also begun rearming the country's military to Soviet Union levels in an attempt to reestablish the nation as a superpower
- Putin looks down on "blocs" of countries such as NATO; much of Russia finds the organisation to be either useless or a threat to the country's influence
- As a UN Security Council member, Putin has attempted to block many actions that he feels would limit Russian power or increase that of the US

The effects of Putin's Rule

- As a foreign power Russia has become much more influential, particularly with China and the Middle East
- Due to its economic potential and military might, Russia cannot be ignored
- While the people have noticed limited freedoms, their standard of living is still better than before, and therefore resistance is unlikely

Sovereignty and Authority

- The issue of who has the right to rule in Russia has a history of being questioned
- Under the tsars and communists, strong authoritarian figures subjected the people to their will, yet differing factions continuously fought for control
- In today's society, the oligarchs, people, and government all have differing opinions on the optimal use of power
- With Russia, power is generally concentrated in the hands of whoever fights hardest to gain it; historically, the people have rarely brought for power, and therefore it is maintained by the government