



Citizens, society, and the State

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Cleavages and Politics

Ethnic/ Race

- About 80% of the population are ethnically “Russian”. Some other ethnic groups include about:
- 4% Tatars, 2% Ukrainians, 1% Bashkirs,
- 1% Chuvashs, 1% Chechens, 1% Armenians along with other ethnic groups
- There aren’t really any major issues with this especially since most Russians want territories like the Ukraine, and other surrounding areas around it to join “mother Russia” again, so why would Ukrainians be considered odd there.
- Most people in Russia are considered Caucasian. There are not a lot of African Russians around. Sometimes Russia gets a reputation for racists attacks but others say those articles are misleading.



Class

- Russia's middle class is very small. And not a low of people are doing well right now because of the economy. The oligarchs who were pretty much running the country are not doing well either. This has lead to an increasing lower class. This was because of the abrupt reform after the USSR collapsed and capitalism was suddenly allowed so some people became very wealthy so then the gap was increased.



Gender

- Russian woman on average have on the highest education levels in the world, however comparable work is still going on and jobs favor men.
- Domestic violence is quite high for women in Russia.
- Also the amount of alcoholism for men is considerably higher than women's (maybe there is a correlation between violence and alcohol)?
- Male to female ratio at birth is: 1.05 males/female however at the age of 65 and above the ratio is 0.46 males/female (male 5,969,976/female 12,928,498) which coincides the male life expectancy of 61.83 years vs. the female life expectancy of 74.16 years.
- Exhibit A : Picture of a former Russian leader who was know to be a heavy drinker



Religion/Region

- Most Russians are orthodox Christians.
- About 10-15% practice Islam.
- Russians generally have more faith in religious institutions and the military than in government institutions (according to a poll).
- Most wealthy, well educated live and/or work in the urban setting.
- Russia is the largest country in the world covering 6,601,668 square miles.



Civil Society and Social Capital

- Even though they have a high rating when it comes to voting (in the not so competitive elections) the civil society there is quite low. Their traditional ideals have been that the government should be strong. Citizens are supposed to have faith in their government and feel that it's legitimate and stable. This is not the case in Russia. Capitalism has given people the case for some economic freedoms but recently the government has been intervening more because of the financial crisis.
- Exhibit B: Picture of who protesters miss the good old days of Stalin's rule



Media Roles

- Almost all TV is controlled by the state. There won't soon be anything to opposing on Russian TV because politicians like to be seen in a good lighting. Journalism is not free either, and those that do criticize the government (Putin) are mysteriously wound up dead. Some radio waves have less restrictions as long as they don't get too open, but even radio personalities are at risk if they say anything that offends the wrong person.
- Picture: Tokens of mourning the murdered journalist, Anna Politkovskaya.

