


The Political System of Russia



The political system of Russia is determined by constitution (1993), which 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 compulsory ideology may not be adopted. The right to a multiparty political system is indicated. The content of laws must be approved by the 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.



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graph TD; A[Executive branch] --> B[Government (Cabinet)]; A --> C[President]; B --> D[Prime minister]; B --> E[Deputy prime minister]; B --> F[Federal ministers and their ministries and departments];
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Executive branch

Government (Cabinet)

President

Prime minister

Deputy prime minister

Federal ministers and their ministries and departments

The Government

The constitution prescribes that the Government of Russia consist of a prime minister, deputy prime ministers, and federal ministers and their ministries and departments.

The prime minister carries out administration in line with the constitution and laws and presidential decrees. The ministries of the Government execute credit and financial policies and defense, 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 federal 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.

President

Russia's president determines the basic direction of Russia's domestic and foreign policy and represents the Russian state within the country and in foreign affairs.

The president appoints and recalls Russia's ambassadors, accepts the credentials and letters of recall of foreign representatives, conducts international talks, and signs international treaties.

Several prescribed powers put the president in a superior position vis-à-vis the legislature. The president has broad authority to issue decrees and directives that have the force of law without judicial review, although the constitution notes that they must not contravene that document or other laws.

Under certain conditions, the president may dissolve the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, the Federal Assembly.

The president is empowered to appoint the prime minister to chair the Government, with the consent of the State Duma. Upon the advice of the prime minister, the president can appoint or remove Government members, including the deputy prime ministers.

The president submits candidates to the State Duma for the post of chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and may propose that the State Duma dismiss the chairman.

The president submits candidates to the Federation Council for appointment as justices of the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court, and the Superior Court of Arbitration, as well as candidates for the office of procurator general, Russia's chief law enforcement officer.

The president also has extensive powers over military policy. As the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation of the armed forces, the president approves defense doctrine, appoints and removes the high command of the armed forces, and confers higher military ranks and awards.

Legislative
branch

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graph TD; A[Legislative branch] --> B[Federal Assembly]; B --> C[State Duma (the lower house)]; B --> D[Federation Council (the upper house)];
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Federal
Assembly

State Duma
(the lower
house)

Federation
Council (the
upper house)

Federal Assembly

- * Each house elects a chairman to control the internal procedures of the house. The houses also form Parliamentary committees and commissions to deal with particular types of issues.
- * They prepare and evaluate draft laws, report on draft laws to their houses, conduct hearings, and oversee implementation of the laws.
- * A Federal law is passed by Duma, approved by Federal Council and signed by the president.

Judicial branch

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graph TD; JB[Judicial branch] --> CC[the Constitutional Court]; JB --> SC[Supreme Court]; JB --> SCA[Supreme Court of Arbitration]; CC --> CC_desc[Deals with complaints of various kind]; SC --> SC_desc[Deals with economic, criminal and civil cases]; SCA --> SCA_desc[Deals with impungnments (оспаривание) of legal documents of president, government, State Duma and Federation Council. And with economic disputes between RF and Federal subjects (or just subjects)];
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the Constitutional Court

Deals with complaints of various kind

Supreme Court

Deals with economic, criminal and civil cases

Supreme Court of Arbitration

Deals with impungnments (оспаривание) of legal documents of president, government, State Duma and Federation Council.
And with economic disputes between RF and Federal subjects (or just subjects)

Local and Regional Government

The 1993 constitution establishes a federal government and enumerates eighty-nine subnational jurisdictions, including twenty-one ethnic enclaves with the status of republics. There are ten autonomous regions, and the Jewish Autonomous Oblast. Besides the ethnically identified jurisdictions, there are six territories and forty-nine provinces. The cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are independent of surrounding jurisdictions; termed "cities of federal significance," they have the same status as the oblasts. The ten autonomous regions and Birobidzhan are part of larger jurisdictions, either an oblast or a territory. As the power and influence of the central government have become diluted, governors and mayors have become the only relevant government authorities in many jurisdictions.