PUTIN’S REIGN: THE REALITIES AND RAMIFICATIONS OF DEMOCRACY IN RUSSIA
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RESEARCH QUESTION

TO WHAT EXTENT HAS RUSSIA BECOME A ‘DEMOCRACY’ UNDER PUTIN?

HOW DOES THIS ‘DEMOCRACY’ AFFECT THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE AND ITS BORDERING COUNTRIES?
WORLDWIDE SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPLICATIONS

• INCREASINGLY RELEVANT TOPIC TODAY WITH PRACTICAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMICAL AND ETHICAL SIGNIFICANCE

• 2014 SOCHI WINTER OLYMPICS, RUSSIA’S SEAT ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, CRIMEAN PENINSULA/UKRAINIAN CRISSES, EDWARD SNOWDEN’S RESIDENCE IN RUSSIA AND A WORLD-WIDE DEPENDENCE ON RUSSIAN ENERGY
LITERARY REVIEW

SCHOOLS OF SCHOLARSHIP

CIVIL SOCIETY’S VIEW OF DEMOCRACY
• ARTHUR MILLER, VICKI L HESLI AND WILLIAM M. RESINGER

DEFINING A MODERN DAY FUNCTIONAL DEMOCRACY
• STANLEY NARIBO OPUAMIE-NGOA, “FUNCTIONAL DEMOCRACY AND MASS MEDIA”
• MONTY MARSHALL, “THE MEASUREMENT OF DEMOCRACY AND THE MEANS OF HISTORY”

CHALLENGES WITH POST-COMMUNIST STATES
• CHRISTINA FREELAND- “RUSSIA AND CHINA, CHALLENGES FOR LIBERAL DEMOCRACY”
RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

“RUSSIA IS A DEMOCRATIC FEDERAL LAW-BOUND STATE WITH A REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT”

RUSSIAN CONSTITUTION

• OPERATIONALIZED A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AS A GOVERNMENT WITH:
  • FREE, FAIR AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS
  • ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE IN POLITICS AND CIVIL SOCIETY MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL CITIZENS
  • A RULE OF LAW, IN WHICH THE LAWS AND PROCEDURES APPLY EQUALLY TO ALL CITIZENS
RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

THESIS: DUE TO FUNDAMENTAL IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BY MODERN RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP, RUSSIA IS UNABLE TO BECOME A DEMOCRATIC STATE

- MEDIA SOURCES FROM RUSSIA, EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE UNITED STATES
- REPORTS FROM NGOS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- WEAKNESSES IN RESEARCH
ARGUMENT AND DISCUSSION

‘PUTINISM’

- CENTRALIZATION OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POWER IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH
- THE EMASCULATION OF PARLIAMENTARY POLITICS
- THE MUZZLING OF THE MEDIA
- A RETURN TO GREAT RUSSIAN NATIONALISM
- INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF NEIGHBORING STATES
ARGUMENT AND DISCUSSION

RUSSIA AS A KLEPTOCRACY RATHER THAN A DEMOCRACY

• Rule of an elite group led by Putin which benefits economically at the expense of the people
• Well-known corruption with the latest presidential election
• Inability for active participation in government by the masses
• Restrictions on the media, especially with anti-Putin/anti-government sentiments
• Human rights issues
• A rule of law, in which the laws and procedures apply equally to all citizens

Therefore, Russia is not the democracy-based state as said to be in its constitution
INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- Western democracies will be able to better predict Russia’s future actions politically and economically.

- A need to respond to Putin’s Russian on three levels:
  - Efforts to advance common interests
  - Stop the threat that Russia poses on its neighbors like the Ukraine and Georgia
  - Lessen the danger of systematic failure in Russia due to a potential negative impact on the international economy
Спасибо за внимание