

Name _____

Russia Reading Questions

RUSSIA IN THE 1990's

Read and answer questions from the 1st article

Yeltsin under fire from hard-liners...'constitutional coup.' *Globe&Mail*, October 19, 1992

1. How can the managers of state enterprises support market reforms, but they have been taught values of Communism and their business techniques?
2. What did Boris Yeltsin's compromises with Volsky and Rutskoi damage the Russian economy rather than help it? How is this an example of government and economic change within Russia?
3. What government was Yeltsin's suggestion compared to by Yegor Gaidar? What does this say to the state of affairs and Russian attitude in Russia only 1 year after the August coup?
4. Who was the player that proved to be difficult within this economic situation?

BESLAN ATTACK

Select 2 of the 3 articles to read and answer

Moscow Takes the Gloves Off. *Newsweek International*, Nov. 11, 2002

1. What is the Moscow theater siege referred to? Based on the notes and videos in class is this an accurate description?

2. What is unique about Chechnya since the fall of the Soviet Union compared to other break away states?
3. What view do typical Russians hold to people of the Caucasians?
4. How has the crisis effected news reporting within the region and also within Russia?
5. What other state within the region is effected by the Chechen war?
6. By reading this article and recalling notes and videos from class was the Moscow Theatre siege inevitable? Explain. What role does government hold within the entire situation? What role does the international community hold within the entire situation?

US Investigates Moscow Theater Siege, Seeking Qaeda Link. *New York Times*, Nov. 19, 2003

1. What is the question being posed within the article?
2. What is the controversy the Russian government is facing with its dealing with the end of the siege?

3. How many hostages died in the siege?
4. What is the Russian reasoning why Qaeda is connected to the Chechen issue?
5. Based on the evidence identified by eyewitness accounts, do you believe that there was a larger player involved in the theater siege? Explain your answer.
6. Based on the information within the article, does the citizens of the United States have a legal case? Explain.

The Kremlin's Control Freak. *The Economist*, Sept. 16, 2004

1. Is the author of this article correct about his assessment of Russia being closer to a dictatorship as early as 2004 with Putin? Explain.
2. What evidence does the author cite as the basis of the destruction of the Russian political and electoral system?
3. In terms of public policy what indictments are being presented within the article showing an authoritarian rule within Russia by referencing the Beslan siege?

4. Do you believe Putin understands these perceived weaknesses? Explain your answer.
5. What solution is proposed to bring Russia and the Russian government into becoming more transparent and more democratic?

CHECHNYA

Select 1 of the 2 articles to read and answer

Chechnya still calling for help. *The Economist*, Jan. 13, 2005

1. What are examples of Chechnya's normalcy based on the article, notes, and videos?
2. What type of atrocities/crimes are being committed in Chechnya?
3. What 2 events have been a result of the Chechen issue?
4. What was the goal of Boris Yeltsin when he first sent troops into Chechnya?
5. Is the continuing conflict with Chechnya a result of Yeltsin's decision in 1994 or was this inevitable based on the history of the Soviet Union and Chechnya? Explain.

6. How did the Chechen situation bring about political change within Russia?
7. What social/economic/ and ethnic lines are being crossed and addressed because of the Chechen situation?

Chechnya, Russia and 20 years of Conflict. *Al Jazeera America*, Dec. 11, 2014

1. Is the situation within Chechnya another 'Vietnam' situation for the Russians, a different type of mess for the Russians, or is this an extension of global terrorism that is being seen all over the globe? Provide examples from the article, class notes, videos, and discussions to support your answer. It has to be one or the other, not both.

UKRAINE

Select 3 the 5 articles to read and answer

Ukraine Reports Russian Invasion on a new front. *The New York Times*, Aug. 28, 2014

1. How many movements of Russian military were reported within the article?
2. Based on readings, classnotes, and videos why would the Russian government deny the movement of any military?

3. What could the possible Western response be to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia?
Namely organizations like NATO, EU, and UN

4. Which European leader is considered the closest relationship Russia and Putin has within the region?

5. Why would Ukrainian soldier retreat or refuse to fight the Russian forces?

6. Why would the Russians support the separatist movement found near the city of Mariupol in the south?

7. Who's attacking Ukraine in the city of Novoazovsk?

Presence of Russian Troops is an act....response from west. *The Telegraph Online*, Aug. 30, 2014.

1. Does the EU have the authority to respond to Russian aggression in Ukraine? Explain your answer.

2. Describe what happened to Mr. Scholosberg as he walked into a meeting with journalists. What was the cause of this action?

3. What was the goal of the attacks on Mr. Scholosberg and what injuries did he sustain from the attacks?
4. Based on the description within the article and the history of people opposing Vladimir Putin, how would you evaluate this situation?

EU imposes new economic sanctions on Russia over Ukraine. *Cyprus Mail*, Sept. 12, 2014.

1. What specific sanctions were placed on Russia over Ukraine by the EU?
2. Are these sanctions negotiable between the EU and Russia?
3. Why was gas and oil a significant issue within the article?
4. As a citizen of Russia how should they react to this situation within Ukraine and also the reaction of the EU? Give details.

NATO is at a policy impasse over Ukraine's conflict. *The Daily Star*, March 27, 2015

1. What is the conflict NATO finds itself in with Russia and Ukraine?
2. Why is there a reluctance to escalate weapons and sanctions in Ukraine by major power leaders?

3. What is the possible solution towards the problem of Putin not leaving Ukraine? Explain your answer.

4. What are the long term results to the economic sanctions being placed on Russia?

5. What is a possible counterattack towards the sanctions in Ukraine?

6. Could the Ukraine situation become more violent and bring in European military? Explain.

Putin the uniter; Ukraine and Russia. *The Economist*, June 20, 2015

1. What common lineage does Russia and Ukraine hold?

 2. What caused the positive feelings of Russia in Ukraine to drop from 88% in 2013 to 30% in 2015?

 3. Why does Putin see Ukrainians and Russians as one people?
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Foreign and Domestic Issues

Select 2 of the 3 articles to read and answer

The Shock of the Old. *The Economist*, Jan. 20 2005

1. Who are the typical beggars found with Moscow in 2005? Why is this group the new group of beggars? What are they protesting?
2. What is the main issue of the protests? How is corruption and lack of transparency a central issue to this problem?
3. What should Putin do about the protests? Why doesn't he do it?

The Pact between Russia and Syria that gives Moscow carte blanche. *The Washington Post*, Jan. 15, 2016.

1. Define carte blanche
2. What are the conditions of the deal with Syria?
3. What is the conflict the United Nations sees in the announcement of Russia's bombings in Syria?
4. Can Russia be trusted in Syria? Explain your answer.

Checkmate in Syria...Kurds turning to Moscow. *Newsweek*, Feb. 26, 2016.

1. What side does Russia support in Syria? How is this difficult for the west to handle when it comes to ISIS?
2. How many refugees reached the Turkish border in February?
3. What are the consequences of having so many refugees in Europe and the Middle East?

Putin has mixed motives...Ukraine. *Newsweek*, April 17, 2015.

1. What is the purpose of the Iran nuclear deal according to President Obama?
2. What is the underlying goal of the Iranian goal?
3. What are issues identified in the article why Iran can't be trusted?
4. How does Russia benefit from this deal between the United States and Iran?

25 Years

Read and answer this article

Reveiled by many Russians, Gorbachev still has lots to say. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, June 5, 2016

1. What has Vladimir Putin proclaimed about Gorbachev?
2. Is this fair that Gorbachev is such a reviled figure within Russia today?
3. List the positive contributions Gorbachev provided Russia during his tenure as their leader.
4. What is Gorbachev blamed for?
5. What disease does both Putin share with Gorbachev?
6. What areas does Gorbachev agree with Putin on?