

Delving into the Complexities of Legitimacy and Succession in Russian Politics: A Comprehensive Exploration

The challenges of legitimacy and succession have played a pivotal role in shaping the political landscape of Russia throughout its history. This article delves into these intricate issues, providing a comprehensive analysis of the Soviet era and its aftermath in the post-Soviet period.

Legitimacy in the Soviet Era

During the Soviet era, the Communist Party maintained its legitimacy through a combination of ideological justifications, social welfare policies, and the suppression of dissent. The Marxist-Leninist ideology provided a coherent narrative that legitimized the party's vanguard role as the leaders of the proletariat. Social welfare programs, such as free healthcare and education, fostered a sense of gratitude among the population.



The Putin Predicament: Problems of Legitimacy and Succession in Russia (Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society Book 237) by Honor Raconteur

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However, the party's legitimacy was also undermined by a growing gap between its ideological promises and the realities of daily life. The suppression of free speech and political dissent created a pervasive atmosphere of fear and mistrust.

Succession Crisis in the Soviet Union

The Soviet Union faced a succession crisis in the late 1980s, as Leonid Brezhnev's long reign came to an end. The transition to Mikhail Gorbachev was marked by a power struggle and the emergence of competing factions within the party. Gorbachev's policies of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring) challenged the existing system and further eroded its legitimacy.

The failed coup attempt in 1991 against Gorbachev ultimately led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Boris Yeltsin, the leader of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, emerged as the first president of the Russian Federation.

Legitimacy in Post-Soviet Russia

The post-Soviet era has been characterized by a search for a new basis of legitimacy. Boris Yeltsin's presidency was marked by economic turmoil and a decline in living standards, which undermined his credibility. He resigned in 1999, handing over power to Vladimir Putin.

Putin has sought to re-establish legitimacy through a combination of economic growth, nationalist rhetoric, and the suppression of dissent. His

policies have been met with mixed reactions, with some praising his economic achievements while others criticize his authoritarian tendencies.

Succession Crisis in Post-Soviet Russia

The question of succession in post-Soviet Russia remains a topic of speculation. Putin has been in power for over two decades, and there is no clear successor in sight. The 2020 constitutional amendments allow Putin to remain in power until 2036, but the long-term stability of the regime is uncertain.

Potential successors include Dmitry Medvedev, Putin's former prime minister, and Alexey Navalny, a prominent opposition leader. However, both face significant challenges, including loyalty tests and potential repression from the Putin regime.

The issues of legitimacy and succession in Russia have been intertwined throughout the country's history. The Soviet era was characterized by ideological legitimacy and a succession crisis in its final years. The post-Soviet period has seen a search for a new basis of legitimacy, with Putin consolidating power through economic growth and nationalist rhetoric. The long-term stability of Putin's regime remains uncertain, and the question of succession hangs over the future of Russian politics.

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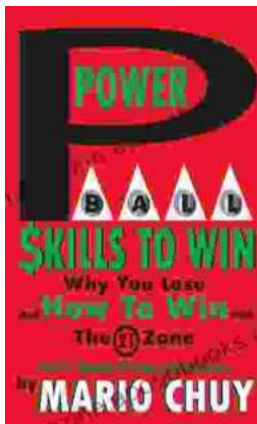
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