

Russian Federation



VS



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

AP Comparative Government Politics

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Type of Government

The Government of **Russia**:

Is a federal semi-presidential republic, according to the 1993 Constitution.



The Government of North Korea:

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea has been dominated by the ruling Workers' Party of Korea since 1948. It has been described as a socialist state and a totalitarian dictatorship.



Origin Russia

- 800 - Slavic peoples migrate into the area of the Ukraine.
- 862 - King Rurik rules the region from the city of Novgorod. The people are known as the Rus.
- 980 - The kingdom of the [Kievan Rus](#) expands and grows in power under the rule of Vladimir the Great.
- 1015 - Yaroslav the Wise becomes king. The Kievan Rus reach their peak in power. A written code of law is established.
- 1237 - The land is invaded by the Mongols. They destroy much of the region's cities.
- 1462 - Ivan III becomes the Grand Prince of Moscow.
- 1480 - Ivan III frees Russia from the Mongols.
- 1547 - Ivan IV, also known as Ivan the Terrible, is crowned the first Tsar of Russia.

Origin North Korea

- World War II ended in 1945, Japan lost control of Korea to Allied forces.
- Korea was divided at the 38th parallel, with the Soviet Union administering the northern half and the United States administering the southern half. (temporary)
- In 1948, Kim Il-sung, communist-aligned leader of the Korean People's Army (KPA), convinced Soviet leaders not to allow UN (United Nations) authorities north of the dividing line.
- Later that year, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was declared in the north, with Kim Il-sung established as Premier (with support of the USSR).



Who Governs?

The president of the Russian Federation, is the head of state and de jure head of government of the Russian Federation, as well as the commander-in-chief of the Russian Armed Forces. He holds the highest office in Russia. The president determines the basic direction of Russia's domestic and foreign policy and represents the Russian state within the country and in **foreign affairs**.



Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of North Korea, The Supreme Leader, Kim Jong-Un. He is the head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The chairman directs the State Affairs Commission, which is the supreme leadership institution in North Korea.

Basic structure of government of Russia

The constitution of 1993 provides strong powers for the President. The President has broad authority to issue decrees and directives that have the force of law without legislative review, although the constitution notes that they must not contravene that document or other laws. Russia's strong presidency is sometimes compared with that of Charles de Gaulle in the French Fifth Republic (1958-69).

The Prime Minister is appointed by the President with the approval of the Duma and is first-in-line to the presidency in the case of the President's death or resignation. Historically the role of Prime Minister has been very much subservient to that of the President.

However, this situation changed in March 2008 when Vladimir Putin stepped down as President - as he was constitutionally required to do - and became Prime Minister while the First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev stepped up to the Presidency.

Basic structure of government of Russia

The lower house in the Russian Federal Assembly is the State Duma. It is the more powerful house, so all bills, even those proposed by the Federation Council, must first be considered by the Duma.

However, the Duma's power to force the resignation of the Government is severely limited. It may express a vote of no confidence in the Government by a majority vote of all members of the Duma, but the President is allowed to disregard this vote.

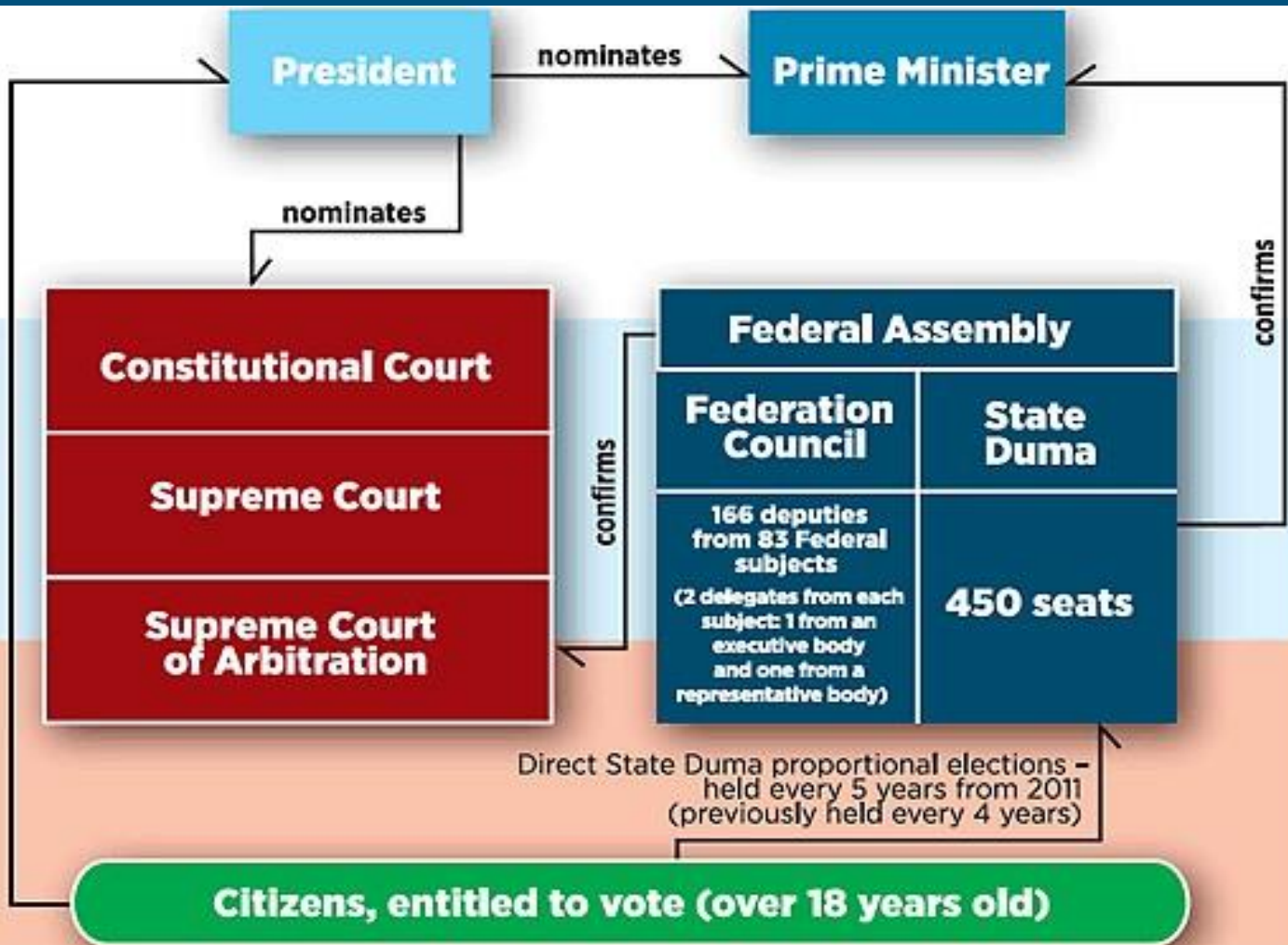
The Duma has 450 members who are known as deputies. Originally seats in the Duma were elected half by proportional representation (with at least 5% of the vote to qualify for seats) and half by single member districts.

Basic structure of government of Russia

The upper house in the Russian Federal Assembly is the Federation Council. The Council has 170 members who are known as senators. Each of the 85 federal subjects of Russia sends two members to the Council. One senator is elected by the provincial legislature and the other is nominated by the provincial governor and confirmed by the legislature.

The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation consists of 19 judges, one being the Chairman and another one being Deputy Chairman. Judges are appointed by the President with the consent of the Federation Council.

Direct presidential elections – held every six years from 2012
(previously held every 4 years)



Citizens, entitled to vote (over 18 years old)

North Korea Political Structure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGCodBnM2hl>

How is power obtained



Legislative power is vested in the two houses of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, while the President and the government issue numerous legally binding by-laws. Furthermore, democratic elections are held every 4 years for all levels and branches of government, however Russia has an infamous reputation for disappearing candidates days before elections under mysterious circumstances so they haven't had any significant reforms for decades. (1)

Elections in North Korea are held every four to five years for the Supreme People's Assembly, however their Supreme leader is a title passed on by family, similar to a patriarchal democracy. Given the People's Assembly possesses little power compared to the Supreme Leader, the Supreme Leader has almost unlimited power with no proper restrictions, contrary to Russia in which the branches of government are leveled.



How are Laws/ Decisions made?

In the Russian Federation the parliamentary body is deemed the Federal Assembly and they are the body that ratify or deny bills. To begin the process, an “unofficial” reading takes place before the bill is officially introduced. Afterwards, official readings, which are mere formalities take place. The Civic chamber is merely a decorative structure. The process of amendment begins in earnest after a law has been passed. Repealing laws however, occur after the entire process has been completed. (1)



The North Korean Supreme People’s Assembly is the body in charge of legislation in the North Korean democratic republic. it is not influential and does not initiate legislation independently of other party and state organs. Invariably the legislative process is set in motion by executive bodies according to the predetermined policies of the party leadership. The assembly is not known to have ever criticized, modified, or rejected a bill or a measure placed before it, or to have proposed an alternative bill or measure.

- (1) Schulmann, E. (2015, February 19). The Politics of Law-Making in Russia. Retrieved March 1, 2020, from https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/field/field_document/2015-02-12 - The Politics of Lawmaking in Russia - Event summary FinalJM.pdf
- (2) Organization of the North Korean Government. (n.d.). Retrieved March 1, 2020, from <http://countrystudies.us/north-korea/59.htm>

Basic Economy Imports/Exports GDP

The economy of Russia is an upper-middle income mixed and transition economy. It is the fifth-largest national economy in Europe, the eleventh-largest nominal GDP in the world, and the sixth-largest by purchasing power parity.

Economy depends mostly on exports of oil and gas.

Russia's GDP is of 1.6 trillion dollars.

Their GDP per capita is \$10,743.10 and the minimum wage is \$2,495.

North Korea

The economy of North Korea is a command economy. According to economic freedom ranking by Heritage Foundation, North Korea's economic freedom score is 5.9, making it the least free of the 180 economies measured in the 2019 Index.

Economy depends on metallurgical products, minerals, manufactured products, textiles, and agricultural and fishery products.

North Korea's GDP is estimated to be around 40 billion dollars. Their GDP per capita is \$1,700 and there is no minimum wage.

Trading Partners (Exports)

Russia

China: US\$56 billion

Netherlands: US\$43.5 billion

Germany: US\$34.1 billion

Belarus: US\$21.8 billion

Turkey: US\$21.3 billion

North Korea

China: US\$1.58 billion

Pakistan: US\$27.8 million

India: US\$25 million

Ghana: US\$11.4 million

Mali: US\$9.8 million

Trading Partners (Imports)

Russia

China : US\$52.21 billion

Germany: US\$25.51 billion

Belarus: US\$12.9 billion

United States: US\$12.69 billion

Italy: US\$10.58 billion

North Korea

China: US\$3.23 billion

Russia: US\$74.1 million

India: US\$59.1 million

Peru: US\$9.7 million

Honduras: US\$8.81 million

Advantages

Russia is one of the strongest powers in the world which means that their role in BRICS is crucial. Also, Russia currently doesn't have any conflicts with other countries that could affect their economy or their country.

North Korea is feared by many countries, this could maybe give them a level of respect over the rest countries. They also have a very strict leader which could come in handy.

Disadvantages

Russia has had some conflicts in the past that could cause a future problem, but there is no serious problem that could affect their involvement in BRICS.

North Korea is one of the worst economies in the world. With a 40 billion dollar GDP, their economy doesn't even come close to that of Russia. Also, their type of government is one of the worst in the world. Because of this, they wouldn't be a good asset for BRICS.

Facts

<https://youtu.be/bRWpg7A51pl>

<https://youtu.be/X1bAmvMSfzw>

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