Russia Notes Mafia-Civil Society

Oligarchy

Tycoons (wealthy/influential business people) tied to Yeltsin especially his daughter

Took advantage of Yeltsin monopolized business and industry

Boris Berezovsky and 6 other entrepreneurs controlled over half of Russia’s GNP

Including oil, media, tv and newspapers

Secured Yeltsin’s reelection and with other oligarchs financed and created the unity party (Putin’s Party)

Putin has had clashes (disagreements) with the oligarchy

Vladimir Gusinsky (media ) criticized Putin publically and was arrested for corruption

Gusinsky and Berezovsky are both in exile now

Mafia

More influence than the oligarchs

More than just underworld crime

Gained control of businesses, natural resources and banks during 1991 revolution

Payoffs, money laundering, bribing or threaten political officials (some former KGB),

Have murdered bankers, businessmen, journalists and members of the Duma

Oligarchs and Mafia threaten democracy in Russia

Institutions

Constitution of 1993 set the government structure

A mix of presedntial and parliamentary systems (France)

Allows for a strong president with democratic checks on power