

POWER IN RUSSIA – THE LOGIC OF SELF-RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SYSTEM

Abstract

In Russia potential for “change” and its social acceptance by the year 1993 have long since expired. The following years mark a stronger and more open “continuity” – that is, the revival of mechanisms of the past. Each political system has, of course, its own specific circumstances of leadership, however, this article intended to display those factors, which played a crucial role in building of a political position of the leader in rule as well as those, that determined the collapse of the democratic project in Russia. In this context a special attention was given to cultural and social circumstances, president’s features of character, and the legacy of the communist regime. The last question played a crucial role first in building of a semi-authoritarian and later, after the year 2000, an authoritarian system. The Russian revolution of the 90’s displayed a paradox. In the struggle of the old and the new, both the state power and the elites insisted on implementing as many Soviet mechanisms in new Russia as it was possible. Russia was supposed to be a reformed continuation of the communist state free of a few flaws of the past regime. Political changes that took place between 1991 and 1993 did not shatter real foundations of the political system of the Soviet Union, and turned out to be a more or less successful adaptation of the existing system to the changing circumstances. This meant that many elements that the Russian state consisted of were merely a simple continuation of the tradition and solutions from before year 1991.

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