Guided Reading – Russia (Chapter 8, Kesselman 6th edition) Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Answer **ALL** parts of each question to get credit for the question.

Section 1: The Making of the Modern Russian State

1. Describe Russia’s unique geography.

2. Describe Russia’s governing system until 1917.

3. Describe the role of each of the following in the development of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

* **Bolsheviks**;
* **Democratic centralism;**
* **Vanguard party;**
* **Communism;**
* **Cheka.**

4. Identify the role that each of the following had in the USSR under **Joseph Stalin’s** rule:

* **Consolidation of state power;**
* **Collectivization;**
* **Industrialization;**
* **Gosplan;**
* **Censorship;**
* **Isolation from the outside world.**

5. Briefly describe the period known as “**destalinization**.”

6. What was the purpose of **Mikhail Gorbachev’s** reform program?

Define each:

* **Perestroika;**
* **Glasnost;**
* **Demokratizatsiia;**
* **“New Thinking.”**

7. What were the results of Gorbachev’s policies?

8. How did **Boris Yeltsin** become president of the Russian Republic of the USSR?

9. Describe the coup and its results.

10. Describe what occurred in October – December of 1993 (bottom of p. 339).

11. How did **Vladimir Putin** come to power?

12. What reforms did Putin introduce over his tenure as both president and prime minister of Russia that indicate a drift towards “**soft authoritarianism**”?

Section 2: Political Economy & Development

13. What natural resources is Russia’s economy highly dependent on?

14. Following the collapse of the USSR, how was **privatization** carried out?

15. What was a key obstacle to the success of market reform agenda in the 1990s?

16. What role did each of the following play in the aftermath of market reform?

* **Mafia;**
* **Oligarchs;**
* **Corruption;**
* **Debt.**

17. What were the benefits of the Soviet economic system to the average citizen?

18. What were some of the disadvantages/costs of the Soviet economic system?

19. Describe the public policy challenges for: Social welfare and Population.

Section 3: Governance & Policymaking

20. What role did the **nomenklatura** system play in governing under the Soviet regime?

21. When and how was the current Russian constitution adopted?

22. **Semi-Presidential System** (aka mixed Presidential-Parliamentary system):

 ***\*\*The current President is Putin & current PM is Medvedev (as of March 2013)***

* Head of State/general role:
* Head of Government/general role:
* How is the president elected and how long is his term? (see chart on p. 354)
* How is the prime minister selected?
* What has been a trend in the shifting of power between the president and PM?

23. What power did Yeltsin use frequently? Name some additional powers of the president.

24. How can the PM be removed? Why does the Duma not exercise this power?

25. Briefly describe the national bureaucracy. Include a definition of: **Siloviki and Clientelistic Networks**

26. Identify public and semipublic institutions, including **Gazprom**.

27. Describe the role of the Russian military in recent years and the Federal Security Service.

28. Describe the role of the Russian Judiciary:

* What is the purpose of the **Constitutional Court**?
* What is the purpose of the **Supreme Court**?
* What is the relationship between the Judiciary and the Executive?

29. Russia is a **federal system**. How many subunits are there? \_\_\_\_\_\_ How are they organized? (see box on p. 361)

30. Why is Russia’s federal system considered **asymmetrical federalism**?

31. How has the federal system been challenged in Russia?

32. What steps has Putin taken to implement the “**power vertical**”?

33. What must happen for a bill to become a law in Russia? How can this be bypassed?

Section 4: Representation & Participation

34. Define **civil society** and describe civil society in Russia.

35. The Russian legislature is bicameral:

* Upper House: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How many members? \_\_\_\_\_ How are members chosen? (page 354):
* Lower House: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How many members? \_\_\_\_\_ How are members chosen (include electoral system)?

36. How has the role of women in the legislature changed from the Soviet days?

37. In the 1990’s many parties formed around \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. How did this affect the development of political parties in recent years?

38. Describe the key issues that have divided opinions in the post-1991 period:

39. Russia currently has a **dominant party system**. Define this term and identify the dominant party.

40. Briefly describe the current political parties in Russia:

* **United Russia:**
* **Communist Party of Russian Federation (CPRF):**
* **Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) – a misnomer!!:**
* **A Just Russia:**

41. Explain what has happened to the liberal/reform parties (those that most strongly support Western economic and political values) since 2003.

42. What is the voter turnout in Russian elections? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

43. Until 2007, how were members of the Duma selected?

44. In 2007 what electoral system was implemented?

* The **minimum winning threshold** was raised from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

45. What must a party have to participate in an election?

46. Why have opposition parties fared so poorly in Russia?

47. How does Russian **political culture** differ from political cultures in countries with long histories of democracy?

48. Russia is a multiethnic state. How does this impact political culture?

49. What is the purpose of the youth group, **Nashi**?

50. What role does the **Russian Orthodox Church** play in Russian identity?

51. Describe the attitudes towards women in Russian culture.

52. Since Putin signed legislation amending laws on public associations and noncommercial organizations, what obstacles have been created for associations/organizations?

53. How are protesters, such as “The Other Russia,” treated?

54. What role do trade unions play in Russia?

55. What role does the media play in Russia?

Section 5: Russian Politics in Transition

56. Describe three of the most important political challenges facing Russia.

57. In what ways might terrorism affect Russia’s democratic processes?

58. What kind of international role is Russia seeking for itself and how have Russia’s leaders tried to establish this role?