

PO4032 Russian Politics

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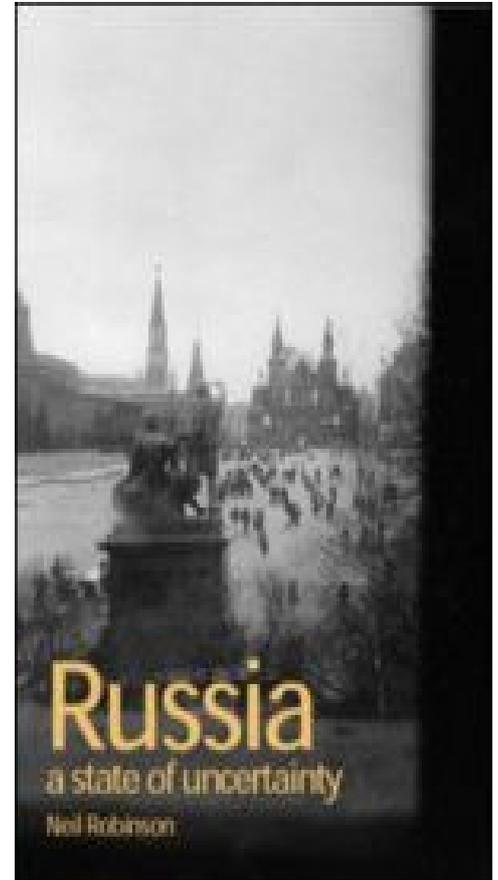
Aims and Objectives

The purpose of this module is to help students explore issues in Russian political development over the last century according to their interests.

In addition to the knowledge gained by students about the USSR and Russia, this module will help students to develop their analytical and research skills. All students, however, will have to search out information on contemporary Russia in their own time and will learn how to locate information in the library and on the WWW, will learn how to judge the merits of different information sources, will learn how to construct arguments from primary materials that they have and how to relate such materials to existing academic literatures. They will also have to learn how to interpret academic literature in changing circumstances, to relate it to a developing polity and judge it against change.

By the end of the module students should be able to:

- Recount key episodes in the development of the USSR and/or Russia and their political systems.
- Analyse and appraise the academic literature on specialized topics on Soviet and Russian politics.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the specificities of Soviet and/or Russian political development.



Contents

Leninism and revolution; the Stalinist system; deStalinization and stagnation; crisis and reform; the development of perestroika; political reform under Gorbachev; the emergence of Russia; post-Soviet political reform; post-Soviet economic reform; the institutions of the Russian state; Putinism; after Putin; democracy and Russian politics

Core Readings

Stephen Kotkin (2001) *Armageddon averted: the Soviet collapse, 1970-2000*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Neil Robinson (2002) *Russia. A state of uncertainty*, London: Routledge

Christopher Read (2003) *The making and breaking of the Soviet system*, Basingstoke: Macmillan

Richard Sakwa (1999) *Soviet politics in perspective*, London: Routledge

Richard Sakwa (2004) *Putin. Russia's choice*, London: Routledge

Robert Service (1997) *A History of Twentieth Century Russia*, Harmondsworth: Penguin