



## Reading

8 Read the text.

## The Political System of Russia



The Russian Federation was set up by the Constitution of 1993. After its destruction in 1991, the Soviet Union was broken up into an independent Russia and 14 other new, sovereign nations.

The Russian Federation is a presidential (or a constitutional) republic. The President is the head of state and is elected directly by the people. He controls all the three branches of power. The President is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, he makes treaties and enforces laws, appoints the prime minister, cabinet members and key judges. The President can override and in some cases even dissolve the national parliament, the bicameral Federal Assembly. The President has his administration, but it is not part of the Federal Government. The President is involved in the work of the legislative and executive branches.

The government consists of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. Each of them is checked and balanced by the President. The legislative power is vested in the Federal Assembly. It consists of the Federation Council (upper house) and the State Duma (lower house). The members of the State Duma are elected by popular vote for a four-year period. The Federation Council is not elected. It is formed of the heads of the regions. Each Chamber is headed by the Chairman. Legislation is initiated in the State Duma, but to become a law a bill must be approved by the lower and upper houses and signed by the President. The executive power belongs to the Government. The judicial branch is represented by the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and regional courts.



**"Russia — our beloved country..."**

**9** Are these statements true or false? Correct the false ones.

1. The Russian Federation is a parliamentary monarchy.
2. The President is the head of state and is elected by the State Duma.
3. The President is involved in the work of the legislative and judicial branches of power.
4. The government consists of the Federal Assembly and the Federation Council.
5. The executive power is vested in the Federal Assembly.
6. The Federation Council is elected by popular vote.
7. The Federation Council is formed of the heads of the regions.
8. Each Chamber of the Federation Council is checked and balanced by the President.
9. The legislative power is represented by the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and regional courts.
10. The Russian Federation was set up by the Constitution of 1991.



**Listening**

**10** TRACK 23.  
Listen to the texts and fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

1.

privatization, was elected,  
disintegration, International  
Monetary Fund, economic crisis,  
radical changes, liberalization

2.

voluntary, deputies, ballot,  
Federal Assembly, expression,  
election

Yeltsin . . . . . President of Russia in June 1991, in the first direct presidential election in Russian history. During and after the Soviet . . . . . wide-ranging reforms including . . . . . and market and trade . . . . . were undertaken, including . . . . . along the lines of "shock therapy" as recommended by the United States and the . . . . . All this resulted in a major . . . . ., characterized by 50% decline of both GDP and industrial output between 1990 — 95.

. . . . . of the State Duma of the . . . . . of the Russian Federation shall be elected by citizens of the Russian Federation on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret . . . . . Participation of a Russian Federation citizen in the . . . . . shall be free and . . . . . Nobody shall compel a Russian Federation citizen to participate or not to participate in the election or shall prevent free . . . . . of his will.