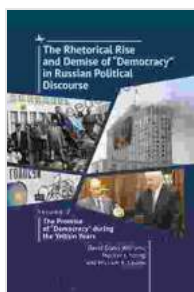


The Promise of Democracy During the Yeltsin Years

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked the beginning of a new era for Russia. After decades of communist rule, the country was now free to chart its own course. Boris Yeltsin, the first president of the Russian Federation, promised to lead Russia toward democracy and a market economy.



The Rhetorical Rise and Demise of “Democracy” in Russian Political Discourse. Volume 2:: The Promise of “Democracy” during the Yeltsin Years by Marilyn J. Young

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Yeltsin's early years in office were marked by economic turmoil and political instability. The transition to a market economy was difficult, and many Russians suffered from poverty and unemployment. The government was also plagued by corruption and crime.

Despite these challenges, Yeltsin remained committed to his goal of building a democratic Russia. He introduced a number of reforms, including

the establishment of a new constitution, the holding of free elections, and the creation of a free press.

Yeltsin's reforms were not always popular, but they did lay the foundation for a more democratic Russia. The country held its first free presidential election in 1996, and Yeltsin was re-elected. In 2000, Yeltsin stepped down from office and was succeeded by Vladimir Putin.

Putin has continued Yeltsin's reforms, but he has also taken Russia in a more authoritarian direction. The government has cracked down on dissent, and the media has become less free.

It is too early to say what the long-term legacy of Yeltsin's presidency will be. However, there is no doubt that he played a pivotal role in Russia's transition to democracy.

Yeltsin's Legacy

Yeltsin's legacy is complex and controversial. He is credited with leading Russia out of communism and toward democracy. However, he is also criticized for his handling of the economy and for his authoritarian tendencies.

Yeltsin's supporters argue that he was a necessary figure in Russia's transition to democracy. They point to his reforms, such as the establishment of a new constitution and the holding of free elections, as evidence of his commitment to democracy.

Yeltsin's critics argue that he was not a true democrat. They point to his crackdown on dissent, his control of the media, and his use of violence

against his political opponents as evidence of his authoritarian tendencies.

It is likely that Yeltsin's legacy will be debated for many years to come.

However, there is no doubt that he played a pivotal role in Russia's history.

The Future of Democracy in Russia

The future of democracy in Russia is uncertain. Putin has taken the country in a more authoritarian direction, and it is unclear whether he will be succeeded by a leader who is committed to democracy.

There are a number of challenges to democracy in Russia. These include corruption, poverty, and the lack of a strong civil society. However, there are also a number of reasons to be hopeful.

The Russian people have a long history of fighting for their freedom. They have overthrown communism and they have held free elections. They are also increasingly demanding their rights.

The West can also play a role in supporting democracy in Russia. The United States and other Western countries can provide economic aid, support independent media, and promote human rights.

The future of democracy in Russia is not certain. However, there are reasons to be hopeful. The Russian people have a long history of fighting for their freedom, and they are increasingly demanding their rights. With the support of the West, they may be able to build a more democratic and prosperous Russia.

Additional Resources

- Boris Yeltsin on Britannica.com
- Boris Yeltsin, a Complex and Contradictory Figure in The Washington Post
- Yeltsin, Who Led Russia From Communism, Dies at 76 in The New York Times



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