**Materials for the website Chapter 5**

**Practice Questions.** Check your knowledge on some important individuals, dates, institutions and events.

What role die the legislative branch play in the Soviet Union?

Why did Yeltsin need a weak legislative branch back in the 1990s?

What is the highest legislative body of the Russian federation? How many chambers does it have?

Which party was the most successful in the 1993 elections?

What was the essence of the legislative reform of 2005?

What is a “one mandate” electoral district?

Who is Vladimir Zhirinovsky? Which party does he represent?

What are “party lists” in Russian parliamentary elections?

How many party factions can function in the Duma?

The constitutional amendments of 2008 established the terms (duration) of service for the president and the Duma. What were they?

How many delegates does the Duma have?

Who becomes a member of the Federation Council according to the Russian Constitution?

How are members of the Federation Council informally called?

What are the relations between the executive and legislative branches in Russia?

**Additional study resources:**

**Official site of the Duma** (in English)**:**

<http://duma.gov.ru/en/>

**Official site of the Federation Council** (in English):

<http://council.gov.ru/en/>

The process of nomination, registration, and the election of members of the Federal Council is complicated. Take a look at the multistep process and potential obstacles that each nominee or candidate may face during this process.

**How Members of the Federation Council are nominated and elected:**

Step 1. The President of the Central Electoral Committee in Moscow makes a decision about an election for a seat in the Federation Council.

Step 2. Recommendation of candidates. Potential recommenders: a political party, a member of the legislature, or head of the executive power of the Subject of the Federation where the election will take place.

Step 3. Registration of the recommended candidates. Procedures include verification of each candidate’s biographical data and their sources of income. The Electoral Committee of Russia makes its decision and publishes the list of candidates in the media.

Step 4. Nomination of the candidates by the legislature or the executive office of the Subject of the Federation. Registration of the Candidates.

Step 5. Electoral campaign and elections.

**The First Russian Parliament and Constitution | The Duma (1906-1917)**

It’s always interesting to delve a little bit in the democratic history of a country. In autocratic Russia, it was very short-lived. Following the Russian-revolution of 1905, a “constitution” and “parliament” were established… and yes, those quotation marks definitely belong there. The quote of the parliament’s chairman seems fitting, as he once exclaimed: ‘Thank God we still do not have a parliament.’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vX2xnnTgzjw>(13 min.)