**Materials for the website Chapter 5**

**Practice Questions.  
Check your knowledge of important individuals, dates, institutions, and events in Russian political history and government.**

1. What role did the legislative branch play in the Soviet Union?
2. Why did President Yeltsin seek to weaken the legislative branch in the 1990s?
3. What is the highest legislative body of the Russian Federation? How many chambers does it have?
4. Which political party was most successful in the 1993 parliamentary elections?
5. What was the core aim of the 2005 legislative reform in Russia?
6. What is a “single-mandate” electoral district in the Russian electoral system?
7. Who is Vladimir Zhirinovsky, and which party did he represent?
8. What are “party lists” in the context of Russian parliamentary elections?
9. How many party factions are permitted to function in the State Duma?
10. The 2008 constitutional amendments changed the terms of service for the President and the Duma. What are these revised terms?
11. How many deputies (members) are elected to the State Duma?
12. According to the Russian Constitution, who becomes a member of the Federation Council?
13. How are members of the Federation Council informally referred to?
14. What is the nature of the relationship 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 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 belong there. The quote of 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**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vX2xnnTgzjw) **(13 min.)**