

Administração Pública

From Flawed Democracy to Authoritarianism: Russia's Political Trajectory from Yeltsin to Putin

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Resumo

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union (USSR) on 26 December, 1991, Russia began its transition to a democratic regime, which was marked by instability and weak institutions. The government of Boris Yeltsin (1991-1999) exhibited characteristics of a flawed democracy, as evidenced by the 1993 Constitutional Crisis self-coup which culminated in an increase in executive power and a reduction of checks and balances of the previous Constitution. The rise of Vladimir Putin intensified this process, consolidating an authoritarian regime. The main objective of this study is to analyze how Russia, after the dissolution of the USSR, transitioned from a flawed democracy to an authoritarian regime. The research is qualitative and based on a bibliographic review. Books, academic articles, official speeches and statements, institutional data and other primary sources will be used that addresses the rise of Putin to power, the transition from Boris Yeltsin's government to Vladimir Putin's government, including the collapse of the USSR and the fragility of Russian institutions in the following years. The initial literature review points to the relevance of the concept of "desconsolidation" of democracy, which occurs when the norms and democratic institutions lose their strength. The reading of "How Democracies Die" by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt suggests that the collapse of the democracy is a gradual process of internal erosion, while Yascha Mounk argues that the rise of populist leaders can be legitimized by popular dissatisfaction with liberal democracy and becomes a risk factor for authoritarianism. In this theoretical context, the analysis of the return of the traditionalism and the rise of the far-right offers an important framework for understanding how Putin used nationalism, external conflicts and an anti-Western discourse to strengthen his power and his support base. Finally, the readings of Timothy Snyder shows that the Russian authoritarian turn is part of a broader global trend, where external conflicts like the war in Ukraine serve to consolidate the power of illiberal regimes. It is concluded, based on these readings, that the political trajectory in Russia was a process of gradual erosion of democratic institutions, facilitated by internal crises and legitimized by power strategies and external conflicts.

Palavras-Chave: Russian politics, International Relations, Democratic deconsolidation.

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