

Abstract

Bachelor thesis *Collapse of the USSR - Russian national tragedy? Analysis of the Russian public opinion on the dissolution of the Soviet Union* discusses the Russian public opinion development about the end of the Soviet Union during the presidency of Boris Yeltsin (1991 - 1999) and Vladimir Putin (2000 - 2008). The first chapter illustrates the situation in Russia after the collapse of the USSR; afterwards it describes the social, political and economic situation of the country during mentioned periods.

Based on the available opinion polls and academic works the second part of the thesis examines the shift in Russian understanding of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The fundamental premise of this thesis is the idea that the end of the USSR was Russian national tragedy. After the analysis author concludes that in Russian society during the presidency of both Yeltsin and Putin remained a basic level of post-Soviet nostalgia, yet it wasn't a national tragedy. The regretting was presented within the older generation, for which the Soviet Union symbolized not only a major global player in international politics, but also their own (often idealized) youth, as well as within the younger generation, that has never had direct experience with the USSR. Furthermore author concludes that due to the worsening economic and political situation during the Boris Yeltsin's term the degree of nostalgia grew significantly, while the introduction of a new leadership style (that included partly the Soviet features and methods) presented by Vladimir Putin dropped the amount of nostalgia distinctly. The regretting of USSR's demise therefore depended mainly on economic situation in Russia, secondly on ability of the Russian state to use the advantage of soviet-era characteristics.