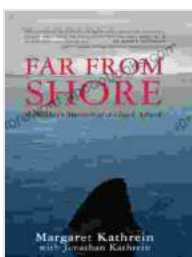


Public Control of Armed Forces in the Russian Federation: A Comprehensive Examination



Public Control of Armed Forces in the Russian

Federation by Sharon Sala

★★★★★ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2453 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 212 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Hardcover	: 382 pages
Item Weight	: 1.36 pounds

Dimensions

: 5.83 x 1.19 x 8.27 inches



In the ever-evolving landscape of international relations, the topic of public control over armed forces has gained paramount importance. The Russian Federation, as a prominent player on the global stage, has implemented a meticulously designed system of public control to ensure transparency, accountability, and civilian oversight of its military apparatus. This article delves into the intricate mechanisms and multifaceted dimensions of public control in the Russian Federation's armed forces.

Legal Framework and Institutional Structures

The foundation of public control in Russia lies in the Constitution, which explicitly establishes the supremacy of civilian authority over the military. Article 11 of the Constitution stipulates that state power shall be exercised through a system of checks and balances, including the subordination of military forces to the civilian government.

To operationalize this constitutional principle, Russia has enacted a comprehensive body of laws and established specialized institutions dedicated to public control. The Federal Law "On Defense" and the Federal Law "On the Status of Military Personnel" provide detailed regulations governing the activities of the armed forces and the rights and responsibilities of military personnel in a democratic society.

The Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights, under the leadership of the President of the Russian Federation, serves as a key platform for public engagement and oversight. The Council includes

representatives from various civil society organizations, human rights groups, and expert communities, and regularly reviews the activities of the armed forces.

Multiple Forms of Public Control

Public control in the Russian Federation is not limited to a single form or mechanism. Rather, it encompasses a diverse range of approaches, each playing a distinct role in maintaining civilian supremacy and ensuring transparency.

- **Parliamentary Oversight:** The Federal Assembly (parliament) of the Russian Federation exercises oversight over the armed forces through its relevant committees, such as the Committee on Defense and Security, which has the authority to review defense policies, military operations, and budgetary allocations.
- **Judicial Review:** Russian courts play a vital role in upholding the rule of law and ensuring that the actions of the armed forces comply with constitutional and legal provisions. Individuals and organizations have the right to seek legal remedies in cases of alleged misconduct or human rights violations by military personnel.
- **Public Hearings and Consultations:** Public hearings and consultations provide a direct channel for citizens to voice their concerns and participate in the decision-making process related to defense and military matters. The Ministry of Defense and other relevant agencies frequently organize such events to gather public input and feedback.
- **Media Scrutiny:** Independent media outlets in Russia, both traditional and online, play a crucial role in informing the public about the

activities of the armed forces and holding them accountable.

Investigative journalism and critical reporting can uncover potential abuses and promote transparency.

Challenges and Future Prospects

While the Russian Federation has made significant strides in establishing a comprehensive system of public control over its armed forces, there remain ongoing challenges and areas for improvement.

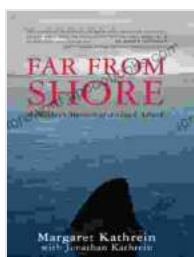
One challenge lies in the balance between maintaining effective public oversight and preserving operational autonomy. Ensuring that public control does not undermine the military's ability to respond effectively to threats and carry out its defense mission requires careful calibration.

Another challenge is addressing the issue of military secrecy. While legitimate security concerns necessitate confidentiality in certain matters, excessive secrecy can hinder public scrutiny and transparency. Striking a balance between protecting sensitive information and providing the public with adequate knowledge about the activities of the armed forces remains an ongoing endeavor.

Despite these challenges, the future prospects for public control in Russia's armed forces appear promising. Ongoing efforts to strengthen civil society organizations, enhance media freedom, and promote civic education will contribute to a more informed and engaged public, which is essential for effective oversight of the military.

The system of public control over armed forces in the Russian Federation represents a complex and evolving model of civilian oversight and

accountability. Through a combination of legal frameworks, institutional structures, and diverse mechanisms, Russia has endeavored to ensure that its military apparatus remains subordinate to civilian authority and responsive to the needs of society. While challenges persist, the commitment to public control remains a fundamental pillar of Russia's democratic development and its quest to maintain a balance between national security and civilian supremacy.



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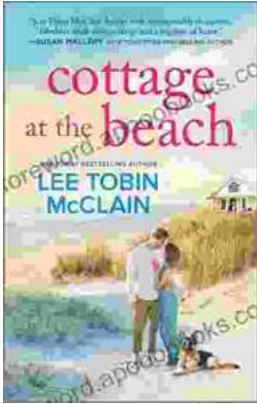
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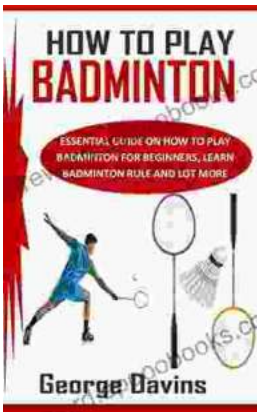
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