



### Russia



- Location: Northern Asia, bordering the Arctic Ocean, between Europe and the North Pacific Ocean
- Area: Total - 17,075,200 sq km, land - 16,995,800 sq km, water-79,400 sq km
- Natural resources: deposits of oil, natural gas, coal, minerals, timber, etc
- Population: 141,377,752 (July 2007)
- Languages: Russian, many minority languages
- Government Type: Federation
- Legal system: Civil law system
- Executive branch: Chief of State - President Dmitriy Anatolyevich Medvedev, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin
- Political parties: A just Russia, Communist Party of the Russian Federation, Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, United Russia, People's Party
- National elections: Presidential Election March 2, 2008

### Challenges:

- President Medvedev is confident about the strong relation between him and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. However, it is not certain if this "tandem" relation will remain strong over time. Putin still enjoys widespread public support and the Kremlin is divided between Putin allies and Medvedev allies. The question is of Medvedev will rid himself from Putin's continued influence or let Putin continue to influence the Presidency.
- The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) arrested two brothers with links to British economic interests in April 2008. Ilya Zaskavsky ( manager at the TNK BP oil joint venture) and Alexander Zaskavsky ( head of the British Council's Moscow Alumni Club) were gathering classified data for a number of foreign oil and gas companies to gain competitive advantages against Russian competitors.
- According to the Federal Financial Market Service (FFMS), the Russian federal executive body, over one quarter of criminal communities in Russia launder their criminal profits through real estate purchase, leasing companies, pawnshops, gambling services, wire transfers from Russian banks to offshore financial centres, controlling blocks of shares in corporations, and investing in legal businesses.



Challenges: Medium