

Example Weekly Essay Prompts
COMS/SLAV 503
Fall 2017
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Lesson 6: The Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Role of Mass Media

There are different definitions of mass media and freedom of press in Russia in the '90s. According to Maria Lipman and Michael McFaul, "the 1990s were a time of unconstrained press, though the causes of this freedom were many" (p. 109). On the other hand, it was in the time of Gorbachev's *Glasnost* when the censorship came to the end. In December 1991, Yeltsin passed a progressive law on mass media that made it independent from the state and that gave birth to new channels, newspapers and media communication principle. Based on class lecture, documentary and class discussions, would you call Russian media in 1985 - 2000 a "period of free press" or a "period of uncontrolled press"? Prove your point of view by examples, facts and events.

*Do not exceed 1000 words in answering each of these questions.

Lesson 8A Essay: Russia and its Mass Media (2008-2017) & Russian Social Media

Why and how did digital communication technologies develop in times of war? Do you agree that Russia and the US are entering a Digital Cold War?

(It might be helpful to check on the required and supplementary reading and the documentary in choosing the best evidence to support your answer).

*Do not exceed 1000 words in answering these questions.