This study has presented a comprehensive review of Russia’s attempts at democracy after the fall of the Soviet Union. The domestic and international policies initiated by Russian presidents Boris Yeltsin and Vladimir Putin are analyzed in an attempt to determine how effective Russia has been in its endeavor to become a democracy. These attempts, however, have been less than effective. Claims of election fraud, the elimination of domestic rivals, and other abuses of executive powers by both Yeltsin and Putin have shown that the attempts at democracy are far from successful. Finally, the future of Russia is reviewed, showing the increasingly codependent relationship Russia has with fossil fuels, and how Russia’s future prosperity is guaranteed for only so long as the oil and natural gas continue to flow.