

Contents

List of Figures.....	9
Acknowledgments.....	11
Introduction.....	13
1. Key Concepts in Post-Soviet History	19
Human Beings, the World, and History	20
Political Creativity and Imagination	22
The Framework of the Post-Soviet Period.....	31
2. The Logic and Stages of Post-Soviet History	43
Perestroika and the 1991 Revolution.....	44
The Post-Soviet Diffusion, 1992–1994	58
Stabilization, 1995–2000	66
New Century, New Conflicts, 2001–2008.....	73
The Period of Conflicts, 2008 On	79
Concluding the Era.....	85
3. The Evolution of Perceptions of Post-Soviet Development ...	89
Stage 1: Living through the Caesura and Revolutionary Change, 1989–1994.....	93
Stage 2: Humbled Conceptualization, 1995–2003.....	97
Stage 3: Questioning Post-Soviet Progress, 2003–2022	103
War and the Interrupted Transition.....	110
4. The Achievements of Post-Soviet Political Creativity	113
The Democratic Outcomes of Post-Soviet Political Creativity	114
Division of Supreme Power into Branches and Levels.	119
Refounding the State and the Nation.....	121
The Liberal-Democratic Potential of European Integration	124
Rule of Law.....	125

Autonomy of the Judicial Branch	127
Elections as a Right and a Practice	128
Democracy as a Unity of Electoral, Liberal, and Deliberative Practices	132
The Autocratic Outcomes of Post-Soviet Political Creativity	141
Unified Supreme Power and Neopatrimonial Rule	144
Post-Soviet Sovereignty	150
The Autocratic Effects of War	154
Conclusion	159
Bibliography	163
Index	181