

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	vi
<i>Preface</i>	vii
<i>Transliteration, spelling and punctuation</i>	viii
<i>Abbreviations and key terms</i>	x
Introduction	1
1 The presidency	4
2 The Russian Federation: strengths and strains	33
3 The political cockpit	60
4 The Ukraine conundrum	91
5 Economic considerations	125
6 Themes in foreign policy	163
7 Military issues	211
8 Quality of life	235
Lull before the storm? Concluding remarks	267
<i>Bibliography</i>	273
<i>Name Index</i>	282
<i>Subject Index</i>	287