

Abstract

Basically, the theme of this thesis focuses on the political party formation and election observation in the Russian Federation. In order to examine Russia's political party system, the author observes and analyzes Russia's Duma election in 2003, and the presidential election in 2004, in terms of Maurice Duverger's electoral laws and Giovanni Sartori's theory on party system.

First of all, the author discusses the roles and functions of political parties, and then explores the interactions between party system and electoral design. By introducing the mixed electoral design, the author examines its unique impact on Russia's political party system.

Secondly, four State Duma elections, which were held in 1993, 1995, 1999 and 2003 respectively, are analyzed in the context of Russia's political party formation. After discussing the jurisdiction, function, and the previous electoral results of the State Duma, the author explores the major impact of the 2003 Duma election on the development of Russia's political party system and democratization .

Finally, the author also explores the constraints of presidential elections on Russia's party system. With a detailed discussion about the origin and authority of Russian presidency and a historical review on the 1991, 1996 and 2000 Russian presidential elections, the author analyzes the result of the 2004 Russian presidential election and its implications for Russia's political development in years to come.

Keywords: Russian Federation, party, elections, State Duma, president