

The Yeltsin Doctrine: Fiscal Inversion and Systemic Deconstruction in the United States

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Abstract:

The United States' 2025 fiscal appropriations signal a radical doctrinal shift, prioritizing domestic population control over foreign military intervention. We posit this shift represents a "Yeltsin Doctrine," a paradigm in which a nation's leader presides over the managed deconstruction of an existing imperial order to consolidate a new, nationalist power structure. Drawing a historical parallel with Boris Yeltsin's role in post-Soviet Russia, we analyze the Trump administration's current policies. The congressional allocation of US\$178 billion to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is presented as the central tool of this doctrine. This internal war budget, which dwarfs foreign military aid, functions as a pretext for a permanent system of mass detention, targeting a population of 11 million undocumented immigrants who paradoxically contribute ~US\$97 billion annually in taxes. This fiscal inversion accelerates systemic risk and mirrors the "shock therapy" of the Yeltsin era, which led to oligarchic consolidation. We conclude that the Internal War Doctrine is the primary mechanism of the American Yeltsin Doctrine, a process designed not merely for policy change, but for systemic deconstruction and the subsequent emergence of a post-liberal, authoritarian order.

1. Introduction: The Yeltsin Doctrine as an Analytical Framework

The end of an empire is often presided over by a transitional figure who, consciously or not, facilitates its dissolution. Boris Yeltsin's tenure in Russia serves as a historical archetype for this process: a chaotic, personalist leader who oversaw the dismantling of the Soviet empire, creating the conditions for a new nationalist oligarchy. This paper posits that the current U.S. administration under Donald Trump is implementing an analogous "Yeltsin Doctrine." We test the hypothesis that the unprecedented fiscal pivot towards domestic repression is the primary instrument of this doctrine, designed to deconstruct the post-1945 liberal American empire from within.

2. The Fiscal Instrument of Deconstruction: ICE vs. Foreign Military Aid

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The core evidence for the Yeltsin Doctrine lies in the 2025 budget. The allocation of US\$178 billion to ICE marks a historic inversion of national priorities (Fig. 1). This sum, 742% of the combined military aid to strategic allies Israel and Ukraine, transforms a domestic agency into a paramilitary force with a budget comparable to a major war. This is the doctrine's "shock therapy": a massive, disruptive investment that redefines the primary enemy of the state as internal.

3. The Paradoxical Enemy: Suppressing a Revenue Base

A key feature of the Yeltsin-era "shock therapy" was its seemingly irrational economic logic, which ultimately benefited a select few. The American version exhibits a similar paradox. The target of the US\$178 billion internal security apparatus is a population of 11 million undocumented immigrants who contribute ~US\$96.7 billion annually in taxes. This policy of spending vast sums of borrowed money to persecute, imprison, and remove a significant tax base is economically self-destructive. However, within the logic of the Yeltsin Doctrine, it is perfectly rational: it creates a perpetual crisis, justifies infinite security budgets, and solidifies a narrative of internal threat that is essential for consolidating authoritarian power.

4. Discussion: From Imperial Overstretch to Internal War

The Yeltsin Doctrine manifests as a transition from managing an external empire to managing an internal one. The previous model of "Pax Americana" relied on projecting power outward. The new model reallocates those resources inward.

The Logistics of Imprisonment as Oligarchic Opportunity:

The logistical "failure" to deport 11 million people is the doctrine's central success. It forces a pivot to a permanent logistics of imprisonment. This creates a new, highly profitable carceral-industrial complex, analogous to the Russian oligarchs who acquired state assets during the Yeltsin-era privatizations. Private prison companies, surveillance tech firms, and defense contractors become the new oligarchs of the internal security state.

Systemic Deconstruction as a Precursor to a New Order:

Like Yeltsin, Trump is not necessarily the architect of the new order, but the agent of demolition for the old one. The Internal War Doctrine effectively deconstructs the pillars of the American empire:

1. Financial Pillar: It triggers a sovereign debt crisis by deliberately increasing the deficit while shrinking the tax base.

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2. Geopolitical Pillar: It forces a retreat from global commitments, creating a power vacuum and rendering alliances like NATO obsolete.

3. Political Pillar: It shatters national unity by creating a permanent state of internal conflict, eroding the legitimacy of federal institutions.

5. Conclusion: The American Transition

The comparison of Donald Trump to Boris Yeltsin is not a rhetorical flourish; it is a structural diagnosis. The policies of 2025, particularly the establishment of a war-scale budget for internal population control, are consistent with a historical pattern of imperial dissolution managed by a transitional, authoritarian-populist leader. The Internal War Doctrine is the mechanism through which the American liberal order is being dismantled. The objective is not to solve a problem (immigration), but to use the "problem" to create a new system of power, unburdened by the costs of a global empire and focused on domestic control. The legacy of the American Yeltsin will not be the problems he solved, but the new, more brutal order that his chaos made possible.

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