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Russia-U.S.: Expanding the Interface of Mutual Expectations and Opportunities

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I can describe the ongoing developments in the G8 as economic renaissance.

Russia, which holds the G20 rotating presidency this year, has made employment and sustained growth one of the key topics of its presidency. I am sure that we will take into account the results of the Lough Erne Summit when the documents of the G20 St. Petersburg Summit are finalized.

We would like to see a correct, reliable, reason-

able, and carefully calculated balance of interests to be ensured between suppliers and buyers. We are determined to discuss all those aspects in a calm, professional, expert manner with our Chinese and U.S. partners as well as with those in Western and Eastern.

We have major subjects for discussion with the Americans in connection with the implementation by Washington of the concept of the so-called Prompt Global Strike that will be based on nonnuclear strategic systems. There are also some imbalances on conventional weapons. The Americans want a great deal from us including the continuation of nuclear arms negotiations and deeper cooperation on some regional issues, which is something that we want from them as well. We want them to stay out of our internal affairs.

Until the business sector on both sides feels a real need for each other, until it becomes interested in searching for new areas for the application of its efforts there will not be a qualitative change for the better.

I am convinced that this will be a long-term effort. It is not some kind of task that can be included into a document within the space of a week or a month, and then one could turn a page and do something else.

I would like to say that there is quite a bit of conflicting information as to the volumes of production and deliveries of Afghan drugs to foreign markets

It is impossible to move away from declarations of intent, from the declaration of common positions to specific projects, often quite challenging ones, and at the same time work to expand the association.

Global Change, Global Challenges and Responsibility

Author: Erkki Tuomioja

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WE ARE LIVING in a world of accelerating change and uncertainty. World population growth is the central factor behind globalization and the fact that we are living in a world characterized by growing interdependence. Many challenges are directly related to the global demographic developments, be it environmental degradation, food security or climate change.

The symbolic turning point took place perhaps only a few years ago when the G20 replaced the G7 or G8 as the most relevant forum for global governance.

Globalisation is no longer determined by the western powers, which by and large created the international order with its norms and institutions. This was also in the centre of the analysis of global change presented in the newly adopted Russian foreign policy concept. The issue of sovereignty is often regarded as a dividing line between the West and the E countries, but here too there is a tendency to oversimplify. The US view, for example, on sovereignty is closer to some of these "E" states than that of the EU countries, which recognize the value of shared sovereignty in an interdependent world.

What is missing is agreement on the provisions and means of reaching these universal goals and obligations.

The Libyan case was an extreme example as it did not only involve a UN Security Council mandate to use military force for the protection of civilians but also led to regime change which is seen as controversial precedent.

I know that citizens of my country move to other countries temporarily or on a permanent basis. We should seek and find ways and means of peaceful coexistence and find common approaches to the related problems. On the whole, we welcome the process though the Russian diaspora, one of the largest, speaks its own tongue and does not know Finnish.

In future, Russia and Finland can act together within network diplomacy; I have discussed this issue with Sergey Lavrov. We can and should look for the issues, such as the status of women, on which we can cooperate and work together. Such issues are high on the agenda of the northern countries and they presuppose network cooperation with other interested states.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization on the Eve of the Bishkek Summit

Author: K. Barsky

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THE CURRENT SITUATION in the world does not give much cause for optimism. International relations are going through what is far from being the best of times, experiencing serious "stresses" caused by the effects of globalization on the one hand, and the increasing recurrences of policies based on the use of force and disregard for the elementary norms of international law, on the other.

THERE ARE several other important regional factors for the SCO. First of all, this is the impact of the situation in Afghanistan.

Real security problems - both traditional threats and new-generation challenges - not only remain but are intensifying, demanding collective efforts from the world community.

Yet another factor is the effects of the "Arab Spring." Unrest has swept not only many countries in the vast region from the South Mediterranean to Levant. The impression is that there are forces in the world that are interested in the wave of Arab revolutions continuing, spreading further to the East.

Naturally, the SCO member states are concerned by what is going on in neighboring countries - North Africa, the Middle East, the continuous conflict in Syria.

IN THE CURRENT SITUATION, one of the SCO's priorities is to strengthen security collaboration mechanisms. The Regulations on Political and Diplomatic Measures and Mechanisms of Reaction to Situations Endangering Peace, Security and Stability in the Region has been approved. All of that is true. But today that is no longer enough: It is necessary to move further.

A GOOD DEAL of present problems lies in the economic field. Hence the SCO's new set of priorities.

THE SCO is not only about security and the economy. It is a vast cultural area. Striving for mutual understanding of cultures and traditions, exchanges between people of arts has always been characteristic of Eurasian peoples.

The SCO will preserve its commitment to the established priorities in its activity. Key areas of that activity include collaboration in combating the most acute threats and challenges to stability and security of its member states, and joint efforts to ensure a reliable security system.

On International Cooperation in Countering Criminal Challenges and Threats

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RUSSIA'S CONTRIBUTION in strengthening collective international efforts to combat international terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime was set by President Vladimir Putin in his May 7, 2012 decree "On the Measures to Implement the Russian Foreign Policy Course" among the country's international policy objectives.

This category of new threats and challenges has become firmly established on the interna-

tional agenda and is a factor in the provision of global and regional security, and sometimes also an instrument of geopolitical influence.

In talking about the criminal cross-section of new threats and challenges, we mean those emanating mainly from non-state actors. For states, transnational criminal networks are not a traditional enemy.

The regulatory framework for anti-crime collaboration has been laid. But the legal base needs to be bettered and updated along with broadening the range of participants.

Among the priorities is developing an international legal framework to combat cyber-crime.

A growing destructive wave of radicalism is provoking dangerous interreligious tensions in various regions, resulting in favorable conditions for attracting new supporters, particularly young people, to terrorist groups.

Another particularly alarming tendency is the entwining of terrorism into the fabric of present-day regional and other armed conflicts, as is the case, for example, in Mali. Acting under the flag of separatism, the terrorists directly threaten the territorial integrity of states, thereby undermining the foundations of international peace and security.

Russia's new capacity as a donor opens up additional possibilities for the deployment of effective anti-crime cooperation under the aegis of the UN.

Efforts to respond to the new challenges of crime are strongly integrated into the Russian foreign policy course as a strategic priority. The work in this important area of international security affairs is going to continue.

Author: Armen Oganessian
Editor-in-Chief of International Affairs



THE NEW U.S. SECRETARY OF ENERGY, Ernest Moniz, did not make much of an impression on the Senate Committee that was engaged in confirming him. A question from a Republican senator whether the new Secretary had plans to develop an oil-bearing continental shelf so as to remove the "dependence" of Europe on Russian oil remained unanswered. Moniz also dodged the question about the development of the huge reserves of natural gas

in Alaska.

The physics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was already deputy secretary of energy under Bill Clinton.

In defending their political nominee, the Democrats suggest that environmentalists should rally around a development program for shale gas in China, the reserves of which are nearly 50 percent greater than in the United States.

Indeed, China, which has substantially enhanced the share of energy from coal, increases its greenhouse gas emissions by 8-10% a year. By 2020, China will emit greenhouse gases at four times the rate of the United States.

But many problems arise in the way of those plans. It's unlikely for China to agree to an active U.S. role in developing its energy resources - too high is the "strategic vigilance" of Beijing vis-a-vis Washington.

It is estimated that as Nord and South Streams go online, gas from Russia will in any case be cheaper and more reliable than the economic benefit from the development of shale gas fields in Europe.

Yet Russia should seriously think about which path the global development and distribution of energy resources is going to take. Technological uncertainty may be short-lived. It should be borne in mind that China has been conducting an impressive program for the adoption and state support of clean and green technologies for several years now. In Russia such technologies are available at the level of development. Today, they could become not only a means of protecting the environment in the Russian expanses, but also prove to be an important argument in the promotion of our economic interests in developing countries, not excluding China.

Europe: From Distrust to Mutual Understanding

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE entitled "The Role of Parliamentary Organizations in Building a Europe without Dividing Lines" was held in St. Petersburg by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member States and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

"We attach great importance to cooperation with the Council of Europe within the framework of

its parliamentary dimension - PACE, which is the oldest parliamentary institution on the continent," Valentina Matviyenko.

In his address, PACE President Jean-Claude Mignon described cooperation between PACE and the CIA IPA as a model of serious partnership over the past several years. Such meetings and discussions, in his opinion, help make that cooperation more effective.

Amid the growing political and financial-economic turbulence there is a rising awareness in Europe that a stable state is impossible without a strong democracy.

Such a wide-ranging goal can only be achieved by moving toward each other and substantiating our plans with concrete action.

The visa issue was also addressed by Viktor Guminsky, deputy speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, who said that the visa regime is a hangover from the Cold War era. "All of us are members of one European family. But we are different and that is where our strength lies."

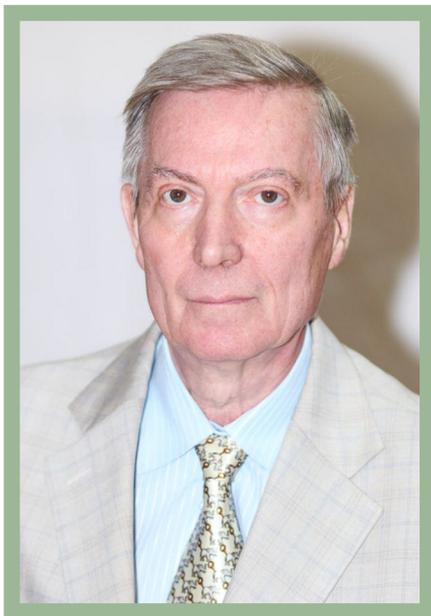
That point, which raised no objections from among the PACE delegation, nonetheless became a cause for discussion on the issue of the observance of human rights and pluralistic democracy in the post-Soviet space

The format of a constructive dialog between the two largest inter-parliamentary organizations on the European continent has also provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss the future of Europe, which today is directly linked to the future of democracy.

South China Sea: A Zone of Cooperation or Waters of Conflict

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CURRENTLY in a number of capitals in the Asia Pacific region, especially Beijing and Tokyo, passions are running high along with bellicose rhetoric and a relentless drumbeat. Politicians and the military compete in patriotism, fueling nationalism. A fresh example: the ASEAN nations have reacted rather nervously to the regional policy of China, which has recently begun issuing new passports that show a disputed map of the South China Sea (SCS). Beijing has also approved a new regulation which gives the Navy's leadership a greater scope of freedom to detain foreign vessels traveling in the waters that China claims as its own.

Today, the world's ocean problems occupy an increasingly prominent place in international politics. Their importance, considering that these problems affect the interests of practi-

cally all states, is steadily rising.

The intensifying diplomatic struggle on these issues is associated with unilateral actions of certain states, aimed at extending national sovereignty.

Concrete examples of political maneuvers and attempts to carry out economic activities are the Spratly Archipelago and Paracel Islands, which are also critical to the delineation of territories and water areas in the South China Sea. \

The end of the Cold War, the breakup of the Soviet Union and the decline of U.S. influence in Southeast Asia led to significant changes in the balance of forces in the region: China filled the vacuum of power left by the former USSR. This caused a strong sense of insecurity in the ASEAN nations.

In various international forums, ASEAN diplomacy was quite active in calling international attention to this problem and in trying to draw in the U.S. as an arbiter; it repeatedly spoke of its intention to refer the matter to the International Maritime Court, even proposing to submit the issue at the United Nations.

As a result, China began to show greater flexibility towards its southern neighbors, toned down its approach to the ASEAN claimants to the Spratlys and adopted the Association's principles for resolving the contentious issues: consultation, consensus and cooperation.

The main thing at this point is to show a responsible attitude and the will to compromise. The first step in this direction would be political stakeholder consultation at expert level on the most relevant aspects of the situation in the SCS.

The "Fiscal Cliff": Accidental or Unavoidable?

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A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE without adequate food, in terms of quality and caloric content, is hard reality in today's globalized, industrial and post-industrial world, in a world of information technologies and the Internet, which is getting increasingly at variance with the objectives of world development.

IN ORDER TO take into account all aspects of the shortage of foodstuffs, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) introduced a concept of food security.

In accordance with this concept, food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary requirements and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

If we look at the problem in terms of the world economy, the main factors influencing food security are population growth, shortage of arable land and fresh water, globalization of food markets, plus economic policy of individual nations and of the world community as a whole. The World Food Security Summit held by the FAO in Rome in November 2009 was attended by heads of state and government or their deputies. The summit adopted a declaration on pooling international efforts to end hunger. It stressed that more than one billion people around the world suffer from hunger.

The declaration formulates five principles for sustainable global food security.

Principle 1: Invest in national plans and projects, aimed at channeling resources to well-designed and results-based programs and partnerships.

Principle 2: Foster strategic coordination at national, regional and global.

Principle 3: Strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security.

Principle 4: Ensure a strong role for the multilateral system by sustained improvements in efficiency, responsiveness, coordination, and effectiveness of multilateral institutions.

Principle 5: Ensure sustained and substantial commitment by all partners to investment in agriculture and food security and nutrition, with provision of necessary resources in a timely and reliable fashion, aimed at multi-year plans and programs.

In recent years, the food problem has been a subject discussed at top-level meetings in addition to meetings within the UN framework

Of importance for Russia is the fact that it has been for a number of years now a major exporter of grain. Thus, it is playing an active part in contributing to international food security.

"Back to Thatcherism" or Funeral for a Dream

Author: Armen Oganessian

Editor-in-Chief of International Affairs



PATROCLUS LAY DEAD while Achaeans and Trojans were still fighting over his body. Today, the controversy over Margaret Thatcher's heritage is going on unabated. The Conservative press has placed the former prime minister on a high pedestal under the slogan Back to Thatcherism. The Labor media, however, firmly relegated the Iron Lady into the past and turned this page of history declaring the former premier forever

confined in the narrow British context.

The scope of Winston Churchill's personality who steered the "British ship" through the vagaries of World War II is much greater than those of the Iron Lady yet they both were driven by the desire, feeling and faith in Britain's greatness. Churchill and Thatcher, two fragments, albeit of different sizes, of the same granite rock called the British Empire failed, no matter how hard they tried, to restore the empire's "rule over the seas."

At some point, a new leader came to the fore, whose willpower, purposefulness and selflessness rekindled the nation's faith in the country's great future yet failed to change the balance of power in the world.

In fact, her "iron" qualities were much more obvious at home, rather than beyond the seas. Stationed in London as a radio correspondent during the Thatcher era I met people of different convictions who differently assessed her reforms, her pitiless destruction of the largest nationalized companies and, in general, Thatcherism which had taken shape by that time.

Churchill and Thatcher, two fragments, albeit of different sizes, of the same granite rock called the British Empire failed, no matter how hard they tried, to restore the empire's "rule over the seas."

There is no need to repeat here what has been said all over again in the last few days. I will limit myself to a quote from *The Economist* (April 8, 2013): "Winston Churchill won a war, but he never created an 'ism'." This is very typical for our time concerned with matters economic and extremely ungrateful. What else can you expect from *The Economist*, a convinced advocate of monetarism? The following takes the edge from any apology of Thatcherism.

Unlike other "isms" Thatcherism did not become a universal teaching. It was and remains what it really is: a British model of Friedman economics. Lady Thatcher changed the economic landscape of her country and revived national self-awareness of its people, something which cannot be denied or ignored.

Despite her titanic efforts to raise the British economics at a higher and qualitatively new level by means of shock therapy the British goods and the British export fall short of an aggressive expansion of Germany and other developed countries of Europe and Asia. Margaret Thatcher could not realize a breakthrough and bring the "Made in Britain" commodities to higher levels of competitiveness. The tiny country did become a financial center thanks to the monetarist tactics; the new status is, however, an indirect evidence of the failed efforts to restore Britain's former industrial might.

Today, the City looks sustainable and financially attractive yet the Cyprus developments have warned that not infrequently destructive earthquakes begin with earth tremor. The crisis has devalued much of what was considered to be probable and improbable in economics and, in the first place, finances.

We should affirm that Lady Thatcher outlived Thatcherism, a local phenomenon limited to Britain; its illusory universality was created by the scope of the Iron Lady's unique personality; by the irony of fate the Iron Lady remained the Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk. [The reference is to a novel by Nikolai Leskov. - Ed.]

Recently, much has been said about special relations, unprecedented in the Cold War era, between Margaret Thatcher and Gorbachev.

At that time, I was employed at the British section of Soviet radio; during the British visit of Mikhail Gorbachev, then second-in-command in the USSR, we were instructed, in strict confidence, not to cover his visit in great detail. Somebody in the corridors of power was very vigilant indeed. On the other hand, prominent dissidents, Mr. Bukovsky was one of them, later said that President Reagan had tried hard and without much success to convince the British prime minister that Gorbachev was a product of the Soviet system and an apparatchik who sought more sustainability for the Soviet Union and communism as its ideology.

As a rule, the strongest figures in human history are tragic figures. At some point, however, the Iron Lady looked slightly like a provincial Miss Marple as brilliantly presented in an English serial.

I am pretty sure that neither Churchill nor Thatcher understood Russia but their sincere interests and a sincere desire to understand put them apart from many generations of Western politicians. We should be thankful to them.

The Challenges of Reinvigorating the Interaction of Russia With Global Development Institutions

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At the current stage of choosing the model of economic growth for the Russian Federation, it is very important to decide on the technology of using the existing innovation development schemes in various fields and to set the appropriate priorities for international cooperation. Currently, the foundation of aligning the goals of internal development programs and the objectives of the international activities of the federal bodies of executive power is the Program

for the Effective and Systematic Use of Foreign Policy Factors for Long-Term Development of the Russian Federation, devised as part of the modernization agenda.

An important priority within the modernization strategy is to ensure the openness of the national innovation system and the economy, including integrating Russia into the global processes for developing and using innovations.

If we analyze the international direction of modernization efforts, a systematic and focused work with international development institutions is not yet done in Russia.

Experience in other countries shows that the structure of governance of the processes of interaction with international development institutions and centers of competencies can take shape in different ways, which is undoubtedly of interest from the point of view of the possible improvement of the Russian practice. In any event, all states align that interaction with their priorities in foreign policy and technological cooperation and with the interests of national business.

At the current stage of choosing the model of economic growth for the Russian Federation, it is very important to decide on the technology of using the existing innovation development schemes in various fields and to set the appropriate priorities for international cooperation. We need clear-cut goals and well-defined criteria, plus the indicators of achieving them in the field of international support of the technological development of Russia. Global development institutions carry the obvious potential of deeper partnership in questions of the design and promotion of economic modernization processes.

Today, we see in Russia a tendency for the creation of new institutional arrangements instead of the use of the existing tools that have proven their effectiveness - such as the hundreds of international organizations concerned with development in all areas of interest to Russia - education, industry, transport, and communications.

Countering Illegal Migration: EU Practice and Russian Policy

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IN THE EU, like everywhere else in the world, illegal migration exists in spite of the fairly rigid system of visa issuance and border security. Up to now, sizing up this phenomenon has been the chief difficulty to overcome. Indeed, there are a great number of expert assessments which often are either very contradictory or often without any basic studies..

A major factor driving illegal migration is the rather liberal migration laws of the

countries in the immediate vicinity of the countries of destination for migrants.

As we see, illegal migration is a very widespread way of territorial movement to the developed countries of Europe. Exact statistics on the size of illegal immigration do not exist. The free movement of citizens is one of the fundamental principles of the European Union, but in recent years there have been ever more frequent demands for the need to impose substantial restrictions on immigration.

The imperfection of the existing system of migration management in Russia is demonstrated by the presence of a significant number of illegal migrants. Each year, three to five million foreign nationals are engaged in labor activity without employment permit in the country. The massive influx of illegal immigrants is a challenge to security. At the present time, illegal immigration poses a particular threat from the point of view of the sanitary and epidemiological situation in the host country.

An important move forward on the road to reducing uncontrolled migration and harmonizing European migration policy was the European Union summit in Seville, Spain, in 2000, which laid down the guidelines for dealing with illegal migration in Europe.

In general we can say that the countries of the European Union have succeeded in adopting a compromise plan for a unified course of action on combating illegal immigration, including a number of measures to detect and prevent the penetration of illegal migrants into EU countries, particularly by transit route.

The main thing now is to ensure proper implementation of the decisions in the field of combating illegal migration, adopted at the highest political level.

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THE RADICAL ENERGY POLICY SHIFT declared by the German government still remains a priority theme in public debate in the FRG. Despite the impressive growth of the proportion of renewable energy sources (RES) in electricity generation, experts and the business community are having increasing doubts about the wisdom of the course taken by the Government in quickly winding down the nuclear energy industry, pushing out hydrocarbon energy resources and speedily intro-

ducing RES.

At the heart of the new energy strategy was a series of ambitious goals for introducing RES, improving energy efficiency and expanding the network infrastructure.

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, Germany's energy mix has undergone significant changes, which are particularly noticeable in electricity generation. In 2012, renewables' share of electricity production increased to 22% (+5.5%). The contribution from NPPs decreased almost as much. The proportion of brown coal rose, while that of natural gas fell.

THE GERMAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S Energy Concept 2050 redefines the long-term guidelines for energy development in Germany and requires serious consideration from the point of view of the interests of Russia and the prospects for Russian-German cooperation in the natural gas sector.

The idea of expanding the network of gas-fired CHPs has no support from the German authorities, and with the current priority of electricity extraction from RES it will not be provided with necessary private sector investment either.

There are also no discernible growth prospects for natural gas consumption by households, which in Germany, as mentioned above, account for over 40% of the country's total natural gas consumption. Construction of new homes with natural gas heating has practically stopped and a large-scale program has been launched for older buildings' rehabilitation with high insulation standards and partial conversion to brown coal, the production of which in Germany is still relatively cost-effective.

The possibility of some increase in the use of natural gas as a fuel does not change fundamentally the overall picture.

Today, Russian pipeline gas tied to oil price is too expensive for consumers. It will unlikely become more competitive over time as this will be gas from hard-to-develop Arctic fields supplied via long, costly and difficult to build routes.

Pakistan and the Afghan Mission of the West

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IN THE LAST DECADE, Pakistan remained one of the most active geopolitical players in Afghanistan, which figured prominently in the twists and turns of armed struggle and politics of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (IRA). Islamabad has been and remains the key element of the "Afghan game" not only because of its traditional weight with the Taliban but also because the Western counterterrorist coalition is fighting in a landlocked country.

THE RELATIONS between Islamabad and New Delhi, until recently better described as confrontation, affect to a great extent Pakistan's policy in Afghanistan. Both capitals are actively involved in the Afghan developments while their impacts on economics, politics and culture of their neighbor cannot be overestimated.

ITS GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION makes Pakistan one of the key trade partners of Afghanistan; Pakistan is used as a transit route for all sorts of cargos moved from the Indian Ocean ports (including those intended for ISAF) to Afghanistan. In 2010/2011, Pakistani export to Afghanistan amounted to \$2.3 billion; Afghanistan's export to Pakistan was much smaller, \$172 million.²¹

SO FAR, the relations between the two countries can be described in the "bad neighbors" terms: mistrust, enmity and claims of the Pashto tribal territories in Pakistan vs. apprehensions of a flare-up of Pashto separatism which Kabul may support and of closer relations between India and Afghanistan.

Today, however, conflicts between the two countries and negative developments in the border regions are unlikely mainly because the Pashto, who have been part of Pakistan for over a century now, have acquired a different from their Afghan brethren identity shaped, to a great extent, by the unique cultural and economic ties among the peoples in Pakistan. The Pakistan Pashto became also deeply integrated in the Pakistani officer corps and other key structures; this adds stability to the national and state integrity of Pakistan.

In this context, stronger bilateral economic ties which exclude confrontation look like the best possible option for both countries.

Beijing and Moscow are the two most probable choices but Russia's chances are looking preferable: in early October 2012, Pakistan announced that it was willing and ready to "reset" its relations with Moscow and move them at a higher level. Russia, on its side, has both positive and negative experience of the relationships with both countries.

Confessional Disagreements in Saudi Arabia

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SO FAR, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), as well as the other Arab monarchies (with the exception of Bahrain), remains outside the "Arab thaw" zone. Its top crust has preserved political and social stability which relied for many years and relies now on three factors: first, petrodollars which deal with real and potential causes of social unrest; second, the regime which sides with the conservative religious circles and tribal leaders; third, the West, the United States in the first place, which guarantees national security. This is an illusion behind which political, social and economic contradictions are piling up and gaining momentum. The image of a prosperous and rich Arab state is not quite

true. Early in the 21st century, economic, social and political tension in Saudi Arabia intensified.

THERE IS NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION about the exact number of Shias in the country; according to different assessments there are from 1 to 1.4 million of them or 4 to 5% of the total population.

In Saudi Arabia, the status of the Shia community is vague or even contradictory. The Shia theology presupposes involvement in politics and social activities.

The Sunnis at the helm of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia treat the Shias as a group of risk, the fifth column which may destabilize the state.

Today, those at the helm have devised a new political course toward the Shia minority: formally the Shias have received more rights while in fact the state has tightened its grip on the formal and informal structures inside the community. The Shia and other opposition forces are successfully pacified by redistributed oil incomes: billions of petrodollars are channeled to the social sphere to dampen social discontent and neutralize the impact of the Arab Spring.

THE SITUATION at the Gulf is of fundamental importance for Russia because of the region's huge resource potential, its great role in the world's power production, geographic proximity, and its impact on the Russian Muslims.

Russia is interested in closer relations with Saudi Arabia for economic reasons and because the kingdom holds a special place in the Islamic world.

Parliamentary Diplomacy: The Latin American Vector

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THE VISITS to Mexico and Cuba by an official delegation of Russia's Federation Council led by its Speaker Valentina Matviyenko from May 14 to 17 this year were an integral part of the parliamentary dimension of the voluminous multi-vector foreign policies pursued by present-day Russia in the framework of an emerging multi-polar international system based on equality, mutual respect and reciprocally advantageous cooperation.

Innovative technologies, investment in major infrastructure projects, scientific, technological, economic and trade cooperation, medicine, education, student and cultural exchanges, the environment - this is a far from complete list of areas of common interest in which our countries have already successfully cooperated, but are capable of significantly more.

It is possible to say with certainty that Russia returns to Latin America earnestly and for a long period. It returns as a partner and friend - responsible, reliable and sincere.

In her speech, the head of the Russian delegation paid special attention to the growing dynamics of Russian-Mexican dialogue, an important component of which has been rich and diverse cooperation at regional and international levels to effectively tackle global challenges such as terrorism, the illicit arms trade, drug trafficking, cyber crime, and corruption.

Senate President Ernesto Cordero Arroyo, in turn, noted the exceptional importance of Mexican-Russian cooperation, expressing confidence that its development will go on increasing.

The history of relations between our two countries is unique in many respects and rich in striking events. Having gone through various stages - from the fraternal friendship in the Soviet period, the subsequent winding down of cooperation in many areas after the USSR's collapse to the restoration of ties and the present steady build-up of positive dynamics - today, we can definitely say: our relations have not only stood the test of time, but are clearly on the upgrade.

Upon conclusion of the talks, Valentina Matviyenko and Esteban Lazo Hernandez signed an Agreement on Cooperation between the Federation Council of the Russian Federation and the National Assembly of People's Power of the Republic of Cuba, envisaging active inter-parliamentary cooperation in the interest of the development and strengthening of friendly relations between Russia and Cuba, as well as further expansion of political, economic, scientific and cultural relations between the two countries.

The Crimean Odyssey

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There are quite a few Russians who look at the transfer of the Crimean Peninsula to Ukraine as a national tragedy and a perfidy of national dimensions.

Khrushchev's lavish gift caused million tragedies in the Crimea and in Russia. Nearly 60 years ago, when the Crimea was transferred from the R.S.F.S.R. to the Ukrainian S.S.R. "to mark the 300th anniversary of the unification of Ukraine and Russia" this gesture looked unimportant.

Ukrainian patriots should not interpret the above as an encroachment at their state's territorial integrity - truth is indivisible. It was a tragedy of millions living on both sides of the border, while from time to time (look at Viktor Yushchenko's presidency) Ukraine was hostile to Russia.

There is another, much more important aspect. If the Crimea remained outside Ukraine the country would have had a different president, different premier, different parliament, and different oligarchs, which means a different country, probably a NATO member.

People of the Crimea did a lot to extend the time of lease of the Black Sea base in Sevastopol to the Russian Navy; the absolute majority of the population has supported and continues to support the presence of Russian seamen in Sevastopol and the Crimea.

Much was if not forgotten but dimmed during the two post-Soviet decades. The Crimean people learned to survive in new realities; the political, kindred, friendly and cultural ties with Russia lost much of their former strength.

Russia lost the Crimea and, by the same token, acquired an instrument of influence in independent Ukraine in the form of a region with the predominant Russian population tied to Russia by common history, culture, language, strong kinship, and friendship.

The Crimean people have done the main thing - they kept the peninsula and the rest of Ukraine within the Russian World. There is a long Odyssey ahead; a long trip back home, not necessarily ending in unification with Russia but, rather, in restoration of civilizational and philosophical affinity, return to historical and cultural roots, probably together with the rest of the country. The Crimea is Russia's paradise acquired in the 18th and lost in the 20th century. Magnificent royal palaces, sumptuous houses of aristocracy and memorial houses of Russian writers, poets and artists are the best evidence of this. Seen from Europe the Crimea is an abandoned end of the world - the sooner the Russians, Ukrainians and people in the Crimea realize this difference, the better.



IT HAS BECOME a good tradition to run from time to time roundtables on topical issues of Russian foreign policy with the Institute for International Studies (IIS), which is part of the Moscow State Institute (University) of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

What is happening in Africa today, and what processes are boiling inside of the continent

which is so heterogeneous, inter alia historically? We need to understand where are the points of application of our efforts to restore and establish ties with Africa within the larger context of Russia and Africa.

But life has put everything in its place. Today, only a political deaf and dumb (though they still exist) would deny the importance and significance of maintaining and developing multifaceted relations with Africa, as well as with Latin America and other regions, to the national interests of Russia.

Already, Africa is the most economically fast growing continent in the world while Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has in the last twelve years been second only to East Asia in annual GDP growth rates.

Africa has turned towards actively attracting foreign investors, for whom increasingly favorable conditions are being created.

The world's leading economies, both "old" and "new," will fight tooth and nail for the rights of access to Africa's fuel and minerals.

The leading roles in global economy are now taken by populous developing countries, which have all but passed the stage of demographic transition, in other words, which have now an appreciably lower birth rate.

Now a few words about the regional arms market. The share of African states in the overall regional structure of Russian arms exports will decline significantly. The actual value of arms supplies will also decrease. This analysis is based on the existing contracts, as well as on the declared intentions for direct arms suppliers.

South African specialists will go to Russia for training. A center for the modernization and servicing of armored vehicles may also appear in South Africa. Such centers will help promote Russian-made equipment on the African market.

The Republic of South Africa so far deals mainly with its neighbors (it buys gas from Mozambique); it is also interested in cooperation with Russia in atomic power production. On the whole, BRICS may help stimulate development of the so far backward continent: it has enough potential and fairly strong economic incentives.

Author: G. Petrov

Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation



In market economy conditions it was really necessary to devise a consolidated position of business on the establishment of business relations and development of cooperation with the countries that are the principal field of activity for Russian companies. It is understandable that today, contracts and agreements about specific shipments are no longer a matter for government. It is a matter for business and that's exactly where a vacuum arose.

Experience has shown that in addition to the multilateral board, which the Russian-Arab Business Council had become, the need arose to set up a business council with each individual Arab country; that is to create bilateral councils, as of course trade relations are developed on a bilateral rather than multilateral basis. And now we have such bilateral councils in place with almost all the CCIs of the countries which form the League of Arab States. If you look at the geography, the largest number of our joint business councils today is with developing countries.

First and foremost, it should be an entrepreneur who is highly respected, who is well-known in Russia and has his own business in a country where a business council is in the offing; otherwise he just won't be interested. This is a very important condition.

A considerable role is played by executive bodies, because the business councils themselves are meeting a maximum of two times a year, but economic and trade cooperation is on a daily basis.

By and large, the business council is a very important tool of any intergovernmental commission.

I can say with full responsibility that every leader of the Russian component of an intergovernmental commission relies heavily on the business council. I have experience of participating in the work of the Russian component of many intergovernmental commissions, and I am convinced of the correctness of the path.

Business councils open up entirely new areas which previously were not present in our bilateral cooperation, through contacts between entrepreneurs in Russia and foreign countries. As for "exotic areas" where the business councils are created, it's a rather difficult question for me.

"Oh Sports, You Are the World!"

Author: A. Makarov

Director of the Department for Work with Compatriots Living Abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation



WITH EACH PASSING DAY, the media and sports circles are focusing increasing attention on the preparations for two major global sports events soon to take place in Russia - the Student Games in Kazan and the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi. The countdown to these events we are now witnessing is raising this interest even more.

We have long realized the great need Russian compatriots living abroad have for information about the events in Sochi and Kazan. With this in mind, an International Youth Forum of Compatriots on Sports was held on April 13-14 in Moscow by the Government Commission on Compatriots Living Abroad (GCCLA).

More than 100 delegates from 49 countries of the world attended the forum.

After the political pep talks, the young forum delegates were impatient to meet famous Russian athletes. And they were not disappointed.

The participants heartily applauded the speech by Honored Master of Sports and State Duma Deputy Svetlana Zhurova. She emphasized that it was up to young people to do everything to prevent sports from becoming a victim of political intrigues.

Representatives of Tatarstan gave a vibrant and emotional multimedia presentation of the Kazan Student Games, which was accompanied by a lively video clip.

An atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding reigned among the young forum participants. Many of the young people, although they had seen each other before at various sports competitions, were meeting in Moscow for the first time.

The forum included an extensive cultural program, since many of the guests came to Moscow for the first time.

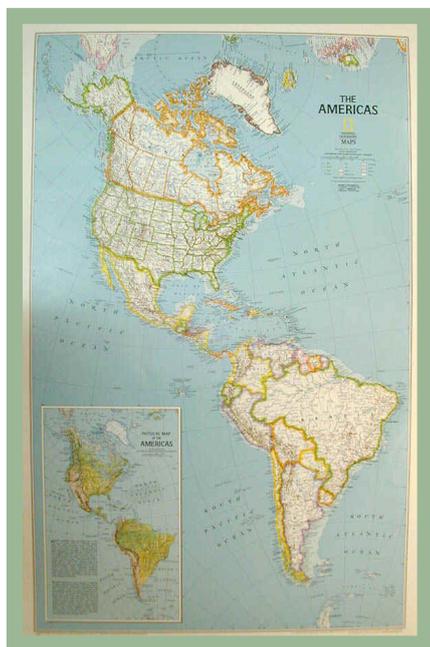
In conclusion I would like to note the following. The purpose of the April forum, although focusing at first glance on sports issues, was to help young compatriots feel themselves to be a full-fledged and significant part of their historical homeland and make friendly contacts for the years to come. The participants have created a social network community and produced a way for exchanging information among organizations of young compatriots of different countries.

On the whole, we are focusing our efforts on the youth wing and will continue to so in the future. This is an absolute priority.

On the Regional Meeting of Compatriots of the Americas

Author: V. Sibilev

Deputy Director of the Department for Work with Compatriots Living Abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Candidate of Science (History)



ON MAY 9-11, 2013, the Seventh Regional Conference of Russian Compatriots Living in North and South America was held in Havana with the support of the Government Commission for Compatriots Living Abroad (GCCLA) and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was attended by the leaders and active members of coordinating councils and associations of compatriots from 18 countries of Latin America and Canada, a total of approximately 40 people. Unfortunately, the delegation of compatriots from the U.S. headed by I. Baboshkin, a member of the World Coordinating Council of Russian Compatriots and chairman of the Coordinating Council of Compatriots Living in the U.S., who was refused a visa to visit Cuba, was unable to attend the Havana forum.

The conference, which I will talk about below, was preceded by celebratory events organized by the Cuban authorities and Russian Embassy in Cuba and dedicated to Victory Day. The situation was unique because Cuba is the only place in the Western Hemisphere where this occasion, so dear to the heart of every Russian, is officially celebrated. Along with the compatriots, who were given an auspicious welcome, the celebrations were also attended by the leadership of the Cuban armed forces, prominent public figures, and young people, as well as the heads of the embassies of Russia and other CIS countries accredited in Havana, including Russian Ambassador Mikhail Kamynin, who gave a welcoming speech.

I can confidently say that the celebration of Victory Day in Cuba left an indelible mark in the hearts of the compatriots, filling them with untold joy from their encounter with part of their historical Homeland.

The shortage of information about important events going on in our country is a significant problem for compatriots in Cuba, as it is in other Latin American countries.

The conference participants showed great interest in the presentation given by the Foundation for Supporting and Protecting the Rights of Compatriots Living Abroad and approved the planned opening of a regional center in Mexico.

Summing up, it can be confidently said that this regional meeting was not transient, but symbolic and successful. The delegates from the Russian communities of the American region - the organizers of the event - showed that they feel the pulse of their historical Homeland and are an important element of the so-called soft power that is promoting popularization and enhancement of Russia's image abroad.

Confrontation of Two Blocs in the Korean War

Author: A. Fomenko

Historian and political scientist, Deputy of the Fourth State Duma of the RF Federal Assembly



IN THE LATTER HALF of the 1940s, due to Japan's defeat in World War the political landscape in the Far East significantly changed the balance of forces seeking political domination in this part of the world.

Leaders of all democratic victor nations, simultaneously but for different reasons, shifted their support from Chiang Kai-shek and his government of "reactionary" Nationalists to "progressive" Chinese Communists.

For several years while the Korean Peninsula was slowly moving toward a military conflict and the Chinese Communists were spreading their power far and wide across mainland China, the Soviet Union and the United States, former allies in anti-Hitler coalition, were contending for the right to "control" the new Communist regime.

For several years, the United States was deliberately avoiding a full-scale opposition to the spreading zone of Communist influence in Asia. This fact cannot be explained by individual failures and blunders – it seems that the federal government was deliberately following a foreign policy strategy backed up by a doctrine of some sort.

Unlike many of the American military, the chief American diplomat was very much aware of the meaning and consequence of the culture of Oriental martial arts which taught how to use the adversary's strength against him.

It should be said that those who came to power in the Soviet Union after Stalin and General Eisenhower who replaced Truman in the White House in 1953 made their best to conclude the military confrontation in Asia to mutual satisfaction.

Today, when the "repentant" Soviet Union has left the stage and when the United States has established relations with unrepentant Chinese and Vietnamese Communists, everybody, even the starry-eyed anti-Communists in the West and the East, can see that the Cold War was waged not for "freedom and democracy" and not against Communism.

It has become abundantly clear that confrontation between the blocs was a complicated and far from straightforward phenomenon.

The last two decades, which separate us from the bloc politics which took the form of a Cold War, have thrown into bolder relief the true geopolitical meaning of the numerous programs of "economic aid" carried out by the USAID, the World Bank and other international institutions which share the ideology of the Washington consensus.

Historical Archives: Promoting Accord Between Nations

Author: A. Kuznetsov

Director of History and Records Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation



THE ROLE OF RUSSIAN ARCHIVES as historical memory keepers is assuming a greater significance now when people in our country are showing unprecedented interest in its history as well as due to the aggravation of complex historical issues in Russia's relationship with a number of countries. Archival documents cannot be "revoked" or rewritten. They tell their own tales about the complexity

of historical phenomena and facts. This is why free access to archives, and the declassification and publication of documents have become the fundamental principles that guide Russia's archival community.

The tradition of serving the interests of diplomacy, science and society has long been part and parcel of the collections of documents of Russia's foreign ministry. This is especially true because from the outset the archival affairs in this country are traced back precisely to this ministry.

As time went by, scholars were getting greater access to archival documents. Whereas, until the middle of the 19th century, Russian historians were only granted access by the emperor, gaining access was made appreciably easier on the initiative of Foreign Minister A.M. Gorchakov.

Scientific processing and publication of archive materials resumed in the Soviet era, especially during the post-World War II period, albeit under strict censorship and ideological pressure.

Free access to archives, and the declassification and publication of documents have become the fundamental principles that guide Russia's archival community.

Close contacts with history students have always been typical of Russia's diplomatic school. That makes ridiculous the claims appearing in the mass media now and then that the MFA is restricting access to its archives and what its archivists only do is to hide documents in every way from scholars and members of the public.

Following the global trend, Russia is widening access to archival collections by digitizing them. Technically, this is a very complex and costly project.

The openness of archives is important in today's world where facts from the past are increasingly tending to become factors of soft power in foreign and internal policy of nations. The shaping of a new world culture matching the realities of the era of globalization calls for finding appropriate approaches to history free from narrow nationalistic interpretations.

Martial Music and Military Rituals as "Political Texts"

*Authors: M. Kukartseva, Professor, Chair of Political Science and Political Philosophy, Diplomatic Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Doctor of Science (Philosophy)
M. Chertok, Expert in foreign and Russian martial music*



Rituals are an important element of the army's main mission: defense of the state, guarding state borders, fulfilling allied obligations, and controlling captured territories. There are official and unofficial rituals.

The larger part of the official military rituals (about 90% of them) is accompanied by music. Why is music important? Because it serves a catalyst of human emotions; it wakes

up man's innermost feelings and brings out the rituals' ideological and meaningful content.

Emotions stress the vital meanings of objects, phenomena and situations, and experience of the past. They help the individual arrive at axio-logical assessments and inspire him to action. This function is central to our deliberations because not infrequently emotions remain elusive and vague.

It is the function of music to bring them out and organize them around one of the emotions to produce subjectively similar responses. The emotional hues of psychological images gradually emerge and gradually blend to channel the feelings in the same direction and arrive at a definite attitude.

Military rituals accompanied by martial music help breed in the military sustainable social attitudes: patriotism, the feeling of belonging to the army, the country, the nation, etc.

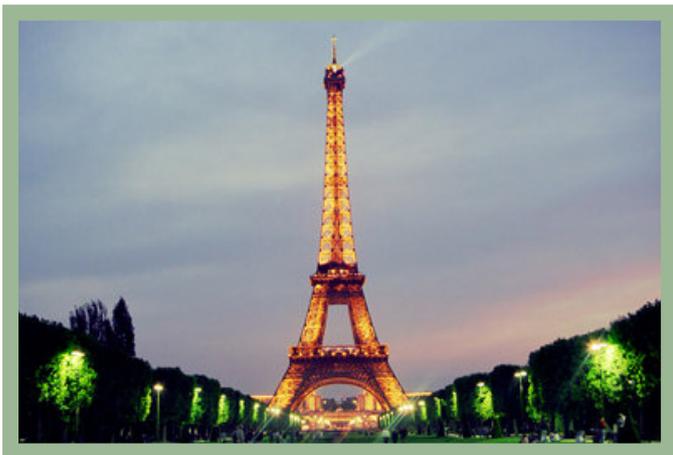
People are convinced that if revived and preserved the old military rituals will add weight to the army thus making it a hazard for democracy. There are apprehensions that cultivated military rituals will invite accusations of revanchism; there is a danger that part of the younger generation might be carried away by imperialist and, worse still, Nazi delusions.

The military rituals which rely on martial music facilitate social communication between the army and civil society and promote mutual understanding. In fact, this is a sequence of communicative acts which create a new type of discourse as part of the "army" discourse in general.

On the French Experience of Resistance to Cultural Expansion

Author: A. Maksakov

Counselor, General Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation



THE WORK of Sergey Kosenko, a well-known author, not only to his colleagues in the diplomatic world, but also to many members of the cultural community at home and abroad* is dedicated to the cultural policy of France at the turn of the 20th/21st centuries, a policy aimed at cultural revival and transformation in the face of an all-embracing process of world globalization. Positioning himself as the defender of the historical tradition of French and Russian cultural

policies, the author aims to show, using France as an example, the advantages of such a national cultural.

The book is intended to emphasize the historical divide between age-old French culture with its lofty spiritual and moral aspirations which many generations of people across the world have been raised on and the so-called mass, commercialized culture engulfing the entire world. From today's perspective, the book's relevance is conditioned by the inexorable processes of the spread of globalization, or to be more precise, Americanization of today's world, and the growth, under these conditions, of the problem of the preservation of the national identity and cultural distinctiveness of every civilized country, including Russia.

Throughout the book, the author tries to convey that the state bears responsibility towards its own culture.

Over the centuries, rulers and political regimes have changed, but the government policy on the national cultural heritage, its protection and preservation has not changed much. The state has by law assumed the function of a "cultural paternalist." In French society the universally attractive humanistic orientation and accessibility of culture began to be asserted.

Making a time cross section of the historical layers of the formation of the cultural traditions of France, the author lays special emphasis on the postwar period, namely on the late 50s of the 20th century - after General de Gaulle's advent to power and the creation in February 1959 of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

To conclude the brief overview, I would like to note that the work of Sergey Kosenko contains an important message - Russia's successful future largely depends on an intelligent, ambitious and up-to-date concept of national cultural policy. The book successfully generalizes the positive French experience that today's Russia could avail itself of.

A New Face of the European Union

Author: N. Kaveshnikov

Head, Chair of European Integration, Moscow State Institute (University) of International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Leading Research Fellow at the Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences, Assistant Professor, Candidate of Science (Political Sciences)



NOT INFREQUENTLY discussions of present and future of the European Union proceed from somewhat simplified approaches and fit everything what happens inside it into the classical pattern of consistent onward integration development. Even the loyal supporters of stronger national sovereignties remain within the same logic, albeit with a minus replaced with a plus.

Lyudmila Babynina's new book "Flexible Integration in the European Union" reveals a fundamentally new possibility for the EU. The author has studied in detail the processes of flexible integration which, in the last two decades, changed the EU beyond recognition and which can, potentially, create its new image. The author has rightly pointed out that the methods of

flexible integration "contradict the fundamental principle of unity of the integrated field... leads to a change of the EU development paradigm."

Political science in Russia has not yet overcome its "childhood disorders." Much of what is written by Russian authors within the "paradigm of mastering"¹ the methods of political science abroad and its experience still looks like an effort to apply Western concepts to Russian realities. Lyudmila Babynina's contribution testifies that political science in Russia is slowly but steadily overcoming its "childhood disorders." Hers is an integrated research based on a well-substantiated methodology, the novelty of which goes beyond the scale of Russian political science. The measures the EU is taking to get out of the economic, budget and financial crisis suggest that it should move toward "significant division between 'fast lane' versus 'slow lane' Member States"⁴; this means that the "Union is being increasingly divided between an integrated core and a marginalized periphery."

The ever widening gap between the core and the periphery adds topicality to the question that author has asked on one of the last pages. "At this development stage it has become increasingly important to answer the question: To which extent will the EU's structural flexibility promote integration and at which stage will its further spread start interfering with integration? Will flexibility make settlement of disagreements in the EU more efficient or will it breed insoluble contradictions which will transform the EU into an umbrella under which each country 'will enjoy its own private feast'?" (p. 271) We will live and we will see.

Russian Correspondent in Hot Spots

Author: D. Klimov

Candidate of Science (History)



THE TRILOGY, made up of "Romance with a Female Terrorist," "Back to Kabul" and "The Intifada"* by well-known Russian journalist Andrey Pravov, which has one hero, a reporter working as a special correspondent for a major, first Soviet and then Russian, news agency, is essentially biographical. During his tenure as a correspondent for APN, and then RIA Novosti, Andrey Pravov repeatedly found himself in some hot spots, in the epicenter of a burning conflict. For several years, from the late 1980s to early 2000s, the author

worked in various countries - Vietnam, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Israel, and Palestine.

All parts of the trilogy are complete separate works.

"Romance with a Female Terrorist".

THIS STORY from beginning to end is the fruit of artistic fiction. That is, all of its heroes and their fates are invented. Real people under such names never walked the streets of Moscow or Berlin, Kabul or Tel Aviv. Ho Chi Minh City or San Francisco.

"Back to Kabul"

IN FEBRUARY 1989, Soviet troops were completely withdrawn from Afghanistan. Yet a large group of shuravi as Afghans called Soviet citizens still remained in the country for another three and a half years. (The name comes from the word "shura," meaning "council.") In the ambassador's compound in Kabul there lived and worked not only diplomats, journalists and technical staff of the embassy and trade mission, but also many advisers, including military ones.

Andrey Pravov happened to be present at that memorable event. Together with other Russian citizens - diplomats, journalists and technicians who remained at the Russian embassy in Kabul.

"The Intifada"

The Intifada has been going on in the Holy Land almost endlessly. In Arabic, the word means "shaking off" but is more often used in the Arab world today to designate the Palestinian struggle against Israel and is defined as a "popular uprising." Israelis, in contrast, exclusively associate this word with "Islamist terror," against which they, as is constantly stressed, are conducting an "implacable struggle." And so the participants of the Intifada are heroes, justice and anti-occupation fighters for one side and terrorists for the other.

Yet the most valuable thing in the artistic, but quite realistic writings of Andrey Pravov is the revelation they give of the psychological essence of terror and its motives and origins. The author shows the terrible face of extremism, which has no justification.

The UK: Recent History Before and After Margaret Thatcher

Author: V. Sokolov

Associate Professor at the Department of Journalism, Moscow State University of Culture and Art, Candidate of Science (History)



GALINA OSTAPENKO and Alexander Prokopov of the Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences, published a textbook on the history of Great Britain; this fundamental publication spans practically the entire "complicated and contradictory" 20th century during which this Great Power, being somewhat displaced from its former positions by the course of history, preserved a lot of its former consequence in the 21st century to figure prominently on the European and world scene.

The textbook's 470 pages are best described as a consistent survey of history brimming with facts and novel interpretations; the authors' "fresh approach" to well-known facts helps the student grasp the 20th century history of Britain

and a large part of world history.

The way the Northern Ireland issue was resolved presents a lot of interest: the Prevention of Terrorism Emergency Act the British Parliament passed in 1974 was applied across the entire territory (p. 287).

Under a strong pressure of Americanization and globalization the British have already lost some of their traditions "yet, on the whole and at the everyday level they have still preserved their distinctive features." (p. 351)

The textbook offers chronologically arranged political portraits of politicians who dominated in the 20th century and whose contribution to the international weight the country has still preserved cannot be overestimated. Political profiles of David Lloyd George, Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher deserve special attention.

At all times, the UK had a special role to play, write the authors; this fully applies to recent history and it was especially obvious under Margaret Thatcher who declared a war on socialism inside and outside the country (p. 312).

On the whole, write the authors, under Margaret Thatcher the UK considerably consolidated its positions in international relations.

The authors have summarized Great Britain's economic advance achieved in the 1980s with saying that Thatcherism as a British variant of neo-conservatism proved to be effective.

The authors have brilliantly revealed the intensity with which the British political elite are seeking the ways of restoring their country's role in the new and changing world.

A Comprehensive Look at Migration

Author: A. Starostin

Director, Russian Language Training Center for Foreigners, Ural State Mining University, Candidate of Science (History)



THE THREE-VOLUME Russian-language anthology "Migration in Russia: The First Decade of the 21st Century. 2000-2012" prepared by the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), is a real gift for migration scholars. Its broad-brush material examines virtually all aspects of migration issues - from the impact of migration on the economy of Russia to the problem of integration of migrants - and will be of interest both to students and scholars studying this multifaceted phenomenon from a scientific point of view, as well as to expert practitioners working directly with migrants: employees of the Federal Migration Service (FMS) and employment agencies, personnel officers, workers of nongovernmental organizations, and many others.

Interest in this subject is dictated by the fact that migration is having an ever greater effect on the economy of our country and the lives of ordinary Russians, so every year more and more research is being. The RIAC's anthology is the first attempt to structure the already published material.

The publication is useful not only for budding experts, but also for accomplished scientists specializing in specific themes. This anthology offers a unique chance to become acquainted with the works of leading specialists in all areas of migration research.

As already mentioned, the anthology is composed of three volumes. The first volume, "The Processes of Migration and Topical Migration Issues," contains 26 chapters covering various aspects of the migration issue.

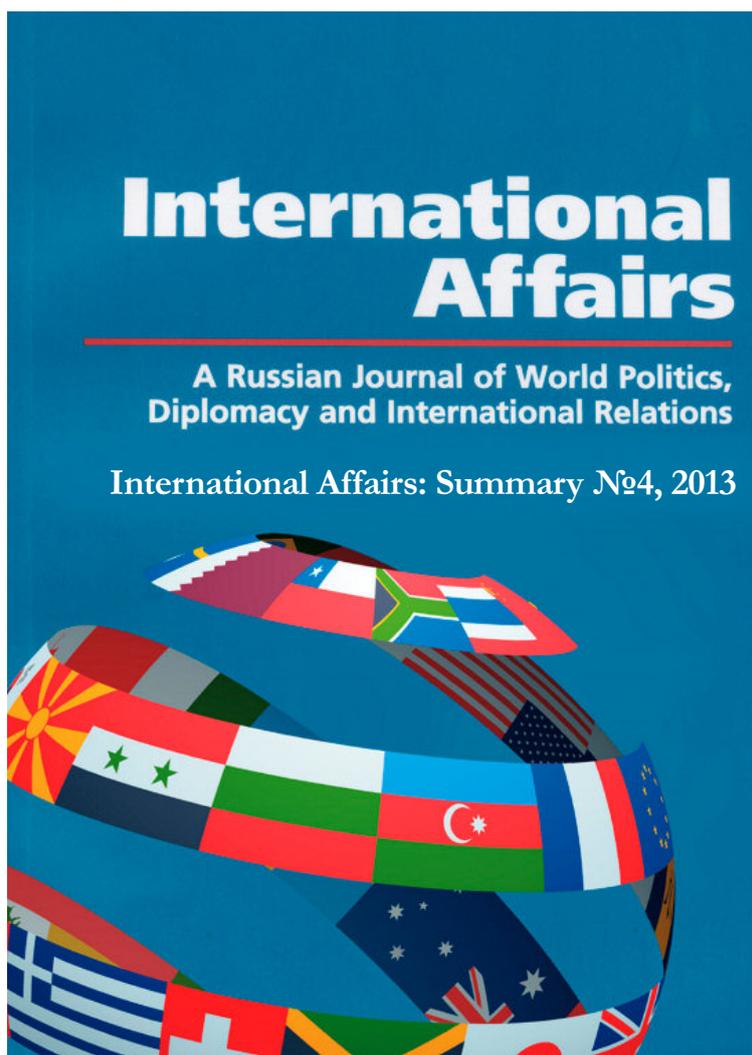
The second volume, "Migration Policy and Legislation," contains six chapters. It also includes an annex entitled "Legal Documents Governing Migration Issues."

From the materials presented in the chapters the reader can learn about the main trends of development in migration laws in Russia and the European countries during the period under review.

The third volume, "Annotated Bibliography on Migration," contains a list of articles and monographs on the subject that have been published during recent years. The list is huge, but even it was unable to comprise all the articles and studies on the theme of migration, so boundless it is. Still, as we have already noted, there will be something for interested readers to start from for further research on their own.

It is gratifying that the endeavor undertaken by the RIAC to take a comprehensive look at migration has proved to be successful.

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