

The Global West and Global South: Development Paths

M. Zakharova

Keywords: state-civilization, developing nations, African organizations, security agreements, BRICS

Russia is notably absent from the “South-West” paradigm as it cannot be fully categorized as either Western or Southern. Some perspectives associate Russia with the Global North, while others link us to the Global East. Russia’s 2023 Foreign Policy Concept, defines the Russian Federation as a “unique state-civilization and a vast Eurasian and Euro-Pacific power” – a scope broader than these conventional classifications.

The concept of the Global West is relatively straightforward; it encompasses the US, the EU countries, and to some extent the Asia- Pacific region, knit together by American-centric military, political, and economic alliances – what they call Euro-Atlantic values.

The concept of the Global South is somewhat more nuanced. Today it includes countries like India and China, both major global economies. Referring to these nations as “developing” is absurd.

What ties these two macro-regions together: historically, their interaction primarily unfolded during the colonization era, when Western states exerted control over non-Western civilizations. Today, the contemporary world not only bears the lingering effects of that five-century epoch but also perpetuates old practices in new guises – now termed neocolonialism. It refers to a set of distinctly Western underhanded methods. These include so-called sanctions that bypass the UN Security Council and are essentially components of trade wars; the abuse of dominance in international organizations, particularly financial ones; the use of the dollar and loans as tools of coercion; financial and economic pressure, including forcing nations into debt dependence and stifling development through unfair

competition and nonmarket protectionist measures.

By even the most conservative estimates, since the 19th century the US alone has made attempts to influence domestic policy in no fewer than 150 countries. Out of the current 193 UN member states, only 22 have never faced armed attack from Britain. Over the past few decades, the West has dealt ruthlessly with countries that have gotten in its way, such as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1999, Iraq in 2003, Libya in 2010, and Syria in 2014. In August 2021, the 20-year presence of the US-led international coalition in Afghanistan came to a shameful end.

The Global West has thus shown its consistent, brazen, and haughty attitude toward the nations of the Global South, using neocolonial methods against them to maintain control and continuously drain resources for the benefit of the “golden billion.”

Having focused on the Global West in detail, it is time to shift our focus to the Global South in its broader sense, touching upon topics like BRICS, Russo-African relations, and the Group of Twenty (G20).

Leaders of the non-Western world share common foreign policy approaches with us, as vividly evidenced by the provisions of the Johannesburg Declaration adopted at the BRICS Summit on August 23, 2023. It underscores the “commitment to the spirit of BRICS, based on mutual respect and understanding, sovereign equality, solidarity, democracy, openness, inclusiveness, strengthened cooperation, and consensus.”

When discussing the development trajectories of the Global South and the Global West, as well as their interactions, there are two key opposing trends elucidated in Russia’s 2023 Foreign Policy Concept. First, there is a shift in development potential toward emerging, non-Western hubs of economic growth and geopolitical influence. This trend is accompanied by growing global self-awareness, a reinforcement of cultural and civilizational diversity, and the democratization of international relations. Conversely, the West is staunchly trying to thwart the rise of such a multipolar world.

Civilizational War: The Will to Win

A. Ilnitsky

Keywords: deep state, globalization, generative models, nature and content of wars, mental war, ideology, the Russian World

The US National Security Strategy defines the US as a global hegemon that sees no dividing lines between domestic and foreign policies and treats the world as its sphere of interests.

The transnational system of global power known in the current political narrative as the “deep state” has imposed Degradation Strategy on the West. The term “deep state” is unfortunate and inaccurate because it is in fact liquidating the state as an institution.

The methodology of power of the deep state relies primarily on cultivating in target states a colonial elite/fifth column, providing the latter with considerable career and material benefits and privileges as a provincial vassal, but nevertheless a part of the global establishment. This is a pact with the Devil, pure and simple: As part of the global deep state, the fifth column gets a chance to acquire greater wealth and better material prospects in circumvention of the existing rules in exchange for its loyalty to the alien axiological system that frequently undermines the target society’s ethics, religion, and national interests.

This was all patently obvious in Russia, which in the late 1980s and in the 1990s acquired an influential, sizable, and highly consolidated pro-Western comprador fifth column of the deep state. On June 17, 1992, in his address to the US Congress, President Yeltsin said with a great deal of pathos, “God bless America,” while Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, with a great deal of servility, asked ex- US president Richard Nixon to “determine our national interests.”

Today, the global war that the deep state is waging against the world for hegemony has become a form of existence.

The deep state is pursuing its strategic project of liquidating national states; its stages are unfolding in a certain order with the help of sophisticated targeted

technologies that rely on violence and war.

The nature and content of war are radically changing; special operations carried out by well-trained marines supported by Apache helicopters and aircraft carriers are a thing of the past. In October 2023, US Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low- Intensity Conflict Christopher Maier said that the US was moving to another war. The psychological operation (PSYOP) will be radically consolidated. This will be a war for minds, for the ideas and understanding of the world.

Russia is a civilization with a millennia-long history; it relies on a strong state that organizes, protects, and develops the Russian World; its elite serves (should serve) but does not rule the people and the Fatherland. It is fully aware of the greatness of our history and culture, and of Russia's purpose and mission in the world.

It is important to understand that under the civilizational approach, the protection of Russia's cultural and historical space should not be reduced to informational and cybersecurity aspects. That is an outmoded and outdated approach that cannot create a strategic initiative.

The dramatic events unfolding in that part of the Russian World that was the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic consolidate the Russian people and purify the elite. The ideology of the Victory of the Russian World is crystallized on the battlefields of the Special Military Operation.

Russian warriors love life and do not seek death, yet they are ready to sacrifice their lives for our Motherland. This is their military duty inherited from previous generations. We do not need what is someone else's, but what is ours is ours. We will protect it, preserve it, and restore it. Speaking at the World Russian People Congress, Vladimir Putin said: "We must have faith in the great Russian people."

Ways to Improve the World Economy

A. Baklanov

Keywords: world economy, new economic world order, sovereignty, equal cooperation

The present state of economic interactions between nations and efforts to foster development cannot be deemed satisfactory.

Speaking on February 21, 2024, at the G20 Ministerial Council meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov highlighted the extremely dangerous and destructive role played by the US and its allies in global and regional affairs, including in economics, trade, and finance.

“The collective West,” he said, “uses any methods to advance its own goals.... Criminal methods are being devised to seize sovereign assets and private property. The emphasis is placed on extraterritorial sanctions, economic discrimination, unfair competition, ‘green’ barriers, and restrictions on the effective flow of technology and investment.”

The lack of progress is because the US is hampering reform of the IMF’s assessment and quota system. The US wants to preserve its blocking minority and is reluctant to relinquish the unlawfully retained percentage of votes, essentially so that it can singlehandedly lead this key international organization. The IMF occupies a crucial position in the system of international financial and economic relations, which has been shaped in accordance with the vision of Western countries.

The Russian vision of overcoming the current situation is to more fully unleash the potential of new centers of power and associations of the Global Majority, including the SCO, ASEAN, and the EAEU. It is important to expand contacts between these economic associations in the context of the initiative put forward by Russian President Vladimir Putin to form a Greater Eurasian Partnership open to all countries of the continent without exception. The African Union and subregional organizations play that role in Africa. In the Middle East and North Africa, that role is played by the League of Arab States, and in Latin America – by

the Community of Latin American and Caribbean Countries.

This year, during the 2024 events at the UN dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the G77, most likely together with the PRC, is expected to reiterate its demands.

The Western countries are closely monitoring these developments and preparing for a battle. As counterclaims to the countries of the collective South, they are developing arguments about the need to move away from “undemocratic” methods of economic management.

The main focus of the collective West’s efforts in this area is still the defense of its positions in the key sector of finance. In this context, the policy of sanctions, primarily related to finance, becomes a major element of the West’s efforts to maintain its position.

Overall, it is now crucial to expedite the development of specific proposals aimed at addressing the challenges that have emerged in international political and economic relations largely due to the actions of Western countries. This work must be done in close contact with our partners from the Arab, Middle Eastern countries and other states of the collective East and collective South. The role of our country in establishing a new, more balanced and fair international economic order has received wide international recognition. A book on the significance of Russian efforts to change the current situation in global trade and economic relations was published in Pakistan in 2023. Muhammad Athar Javed – a prominent political figure, scholar, and president of the Pakistan Foundation – noted in his article included in that publication that “Russia’s role in the new economic order is of key importance. Many countries see Russia as their potential partner. Without a doubt, the Russian Federation is a major player in the global economy, and Moscow’s role will increase in the coming years.”

Global Supply Chain Problems: An Economic or Political Challenge?

P. Sevostyanov

Keywords: supply chain management, logistics, COVID-19, political risks, price fluctuations, price growth, political stimuli

Since mid-November 2023, when Houthis attacked dozens of commercial ships in response to Israeli operations in the Gaza Strip, many shipping companies opted to take what is known as the Cape Route. Transit volumes through the Suez Canal plummeted, and four out of the five biggest container shipping companies suspended their activities in the Red Sea.

War in this part of the world is a huge problem for the global economy. Prolonged closure of the Suez Canal increases commercial expenses as shipping is redirected around Africa, while the sudden jump in prices will probably recall the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic or the incident with the *Ever Given* container ship that ran aground in the Suez Canal in 2021, blocking it for a week.

The pandemic spurred a trend that had been unfolding for years: e-commerce. From April to June 2020, during the first wave, Amazon sold 57% more goods compared to the same period the year prior.

Growing demand promptly brought a wave of industrial goods to American ports; ships waited in queues; the volume of orders proved to be much higher than the number of available containers; the price of cargo deliveries from Shanghai to Los Angeles increased 10 times over.

The crisis is rooted in the production model that Toyota used for the first time toward the end of World War II and that leading consulting firms spread all over the world.

Under the “just-in-time” manufacturing model, companies store as few raw materials and parts as possible and buy what they need as they need it. This only works if you can get everything you need just in time. For many years, experts have been warning that the world economy is overdependent on “shock-prone” lean production and remote enterprises. The pandemic confirmed that supposition:

Bottlenecks and price jumps revealed the risks of expanding global supply chains based on the economic efficiency principle.

It has been established that disruptions in supply chains associated with shortages of goods and services cause a jump in the prices of goods, which in turn lowers the population's living standards and trust in the authorities and consequently influences government policy.

Before each crisis, the prevailing view was that decentralized markets would provide the necessary resilience, either by spreading financial risk or providing a variety of alternative supplies.

The energy sector, for example, was consistently shifting away from national self-sufficiency toward dependence on global markets. In 2008, the EU launched what it called "liberalization," which made it possible to create a new system of competition on a gas and power market that was to cover all of Europe.

Most analysts and politicians, however, failed to discern potential bottlenecks on global gas and raw material markets. Not infrequently, diversification achieved through liberalization turns out to be an illusion. On the other hand, supplies of many products, including semiconductors, became more concentrated. The division of global production chains into narrow specialized links that took several decades to form led to unexpectedly close correlations between supply shocks in various industries (production of fertilizers, foodstuffs, semiconductors, or cars). Certain shortages, such as of truck drivers and cargo containers, directly affect supply chain logistics.

Thus, accumulating vulnerabilities quickly began to intensify. The narrowly specialized structure of the global production system brought considerable advantages, but its weaknesses have now clearly increased.

International Financial Diplomacy and the Role of the IMF

P. Sadykhov

Keywords: international financial diplomacy, debt sustainability, public debt, sovereign default, IMF, debt restructuring

The concept of “international financial diplomacy,” began to be used by the expert community relatively recently, by historical standards – as credit and financial cooperation at both the global and various regional levels started to intensify, which was preceded by the formation of new financial associations and unions after the collapse of the world socialist system and the rise of a group of countries with emerging market economies.

International financial diplomacy could be defined as a set of measures taken bilaterally and multilaterally by governments and international financial institutions (IFIs) aimed at preventing default crises and, when sovereign defaults are declared or highly likely to occur, debt restructuring to alleviate the debt burden of debtor countries, restore their debt sustainability, and ensure debtors’ access to international financial markets.

At various times, attempts by the world community to make life easier for countries experiencing a debt crisis or facing an imminent sovereign (government) debt default using the methods and tools of international financial diplomacy, while reducing the debt burden, failed to produce an “inclusive” solution, as it is often referred to today, to the debt problem. As a result, the volume of global sovereign debt has increased despite the abundance of international formats, programs, and platforms for its settlement: In 2020, total global debt reached 263% of global GDP, its highest level in the last 50 years. At the same time, the entire palette of debts – sovereign and private creditors’ debts, debts of economically developed countries and those of emerging economies, foreign and domestic debts, quasi-sovereign debt of public sector enterprises, etc. – has also increased.

The issue of sovereign debt settlement, which has become extremely urgent due to the deformation of the global financial architecture, especially after the Global

Financial Crisis (GFC) of 2007-2008, is related not only to the need for debtor countries to maintain financial sustainability and access to global financial markets, but also, and no less importantly, to ensure overall global monetary and financial stability.

The IMF, which has repeatedly confirmed its status as the lender of last resort, is the main international institution designed to ensure global financial stability, as stated in its Charter. Established in 1944 by the UN Bretton Woods Monetary and Financial Conference and formalized through the adoption of the IMF Charter, signed at that point by 29 countries, the IMF began its work in 1945 and to this day remains the leading institution of financial diplomacy, promoting global monetary policy cooperation and exchange rate stability for the currencies of IMF member countries.

The relatively recent experience of the IMF's involvement in resolving situations related to financial crises (Argentina, Uruguay, Dominican Republic, Grenada, etc.), it becomes obvious that the IMF's actions in this area are often not consistent enough and lack the necessary systematic approach to the problem of sovereign debt restructuring as such. In this sense, the attitude of foreign academic circles to the IMF's activities is typical.

It would be unfair to deny the positive aspects of the IMF's crisis mitigation measures. These are, first of all, the provision of funds when a country loses access to international financial markets (interim financing) and the creation of incentives – both for creditors and debtors – to motivate them to restructure sovereign debt.

It can be stated with some confidence that debt crises, like the development of the world capitalist economy, are cyclical. Like thermonuclear reactions, they cannot be stopped: They can only be managed by channeling them – with the help of financial diplomacy instruments – in a direction beneficial to the debtor countries and necessarily with a focus on achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

New Vectors of a New Future

D. Stasyulis

Keywords: multipolar world, sovereignty, cooperation, “New Era – New Ways” International Forum

A new intellectual center for a multipolar world has been established in Russia: the “New Era – New Ways” International Forum. Its first congress is due to take place on April 19, 2024, in Moscow.

In 2023, the International Organization of Eurasian Cooperation proposed establishing the “New Era – New Ways” International Forum as an intellectual center of the multipolar world.

One of the forum’s goals is to support Russian President Vladimir Putin’s initiative on creating a Greater Eurasian Partnership.

The International Forum is an informal association of representatives of international organizations, state and government agencies, the business sector, the expert community, traditional faiths, scientists, and cultural and artistic figures from various countries who have common goals and share common principles. It will work on a regular basis by holding meetings of its governing bodies and expert groups. The public-private partnership format will make it possible to take into account the interests of all participants in the dialogue as much as possible, and the results of this work can be used by state and government agencies, as well as business and public circles represented at the forum.

The main goal is to jointly shape a common future as part of a multipolar world order in the interest of building a fair global economy, improving the well-being and security of the people, and fostering spiritual and moral development.

The International Forum will address the following issues: implementation of the initiative to create a Greater Eurasian Partnership; joint development of the digital economy; cooperation on environmental protection and sustainable development; cooperation on economic integration; human rights activities; protection of the basic principles and norms of international law; harmonization of

different laws to ensure the effective implementation of joint projects; international humanitarian, legal, cultural, scientific, educational, and social cooperation; assistance in organizing international industrial and professional associations, etc.

The main principles of the International Forum discussions include respect for the sovereignty of all participants in the dialogue; nonproliferation of countries' jurisdiction to the territory of other countries; respect for the right of peoples to the independent and democratic choice of political and socioeconomic development models; respect for traditional values and cultural and historical specifics of all participants in the dialogue; and the principle whereby the activities of the International Forum are not directed against any nonmember states, international or public organizations or individuals.

The "New Era – New Ways" International Forum has every chance to become an influential platform for consolidating those who oppose globalization and international monopolism and are sick and tired of the colonial concept of a unipolar world led by a self-proclaimed global policeman.

International Information Security: Russia at the UN (2018-2021)

S. Boiko

Keywords: international information security, UN, OEWG, GGE, ICT

After the work of the fifth UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (hereinafter referred to as the GGE) came to an unsuccessful end in 2017, the question of how to organize relevant dialogue at the UN arose once again. Preserving such a dialogue and making it truly global became increasingly important amid the rapid development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the expanding possibilities of their use for illegal purposes.

Such a plan could only be realized if all interested parties were involved in the discussion on the growing threats to international information security and ways to counter them. Such a demand, coming primarily from developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, which had virtually no chance to join the limited number of GGE members, necessitated the search for another, larger, and more effective format for relevant dialogue at the UN.

In that complicated situation, Russia reaffirmed its leadership by proposing in October 2018 to adopt at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly a draft resolution titled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security,” which opened a fundamentally new page in the history of discussions on international information security at the UN.

Russian Federation proposed the establishment in 2019 of a relevant open-ended working group (OEWG) within the UN with the possibility of the participation of all interested countries to consider the full range of issues related to international information security.

During four substantive sessions between 2019 and 2021, the GGE, in line with its mandate to promote responsible state behavior, developed an additional level of understanding of the 11 non-binding, voluntary norms of responsible state

behavior contained in the 2015 GGE report, emphasizing their value with respect to expected state behavior when using ICTs in the context of international peace and security and providing examples of categories of institutional arrangements that states can establish at the national and regional levels to support their implementation.

The work of the GGE, like that of the OEWG, was also accompanied by intense debates, as its members held polarized views on certain issues of its mandate. Despite the numerical superiority of its opponents, Russia managed to prevent the GGE final document from being biased in favor of pro-American approaches and to defend its stance on these issues.

Thus, the consensus adoption of the final reports of the OEWG and the GGE testified to the world community's intention to continue studying the current problems of ensuring international information security and working out ways to solve them. The mechanism proposed by Russia for this purpose – a new Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025 – received full support, which inspired a sense of optimism ahead of the start of the Group's work.

The Global Digital Compact: On the Verge of a Foul

O. Melnikova

Keywords: digital revolution, ICTs, Open-ended Working Group, Roadmap for Digital Cooperation

The digital revolution, like any other revolution, is having a significant impact on society. Its current stage is characterized by the rapid growth, development, and penetration of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in all areas of social life. The use of online services, cloud storage, digital financial assets, wireless Internet, and artificial intelligence as a type of ICT has become commonplace. In fact, there is not a single area of modern life where advanced technology with digital components of various purposes and complexity have not found their application. Globally, informatization has become a source of goods and services that satisfy public and personal needs.

This process was accelerated in large part by the [coronavirus] pandemic, when a significant proportion of communications moved to the virtual space, greatly increasing the vulnerability of states and their citizens to ICT-related challenges. In fact, COVID-19 served as the trigger for the accelerated transition to the final phase of the cyber revolution.

Existing ICTs have a huge impact on political processes, economic development, and all of society; they increasingly improve people's quality of life, make it more comfortable and connected, and open up new opportunities for people. At the same time, the tremendous development of ICTs gives rise to challenges such as the need to protect information and ensure its confidentiality, safeguard personal and other data, as well as to ensure human rights in the digital age.

The Russian Federation was the first to recognize the risks of the malicious use of ICTs associated with rapid digitalization and the global spread of the Internet, and it drew the attention of the entire global community to them. In 1998, the Russian Federation raised the issue of information security at the UN for the first time.

Russia also laid the foundation for the work of UN member states on an

international agreement on countering the use of ICT for criminal purposes. It introduced and secured the adoption at the UN General Assembly of Resolution 74/247 “Countering the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes.”

In contrast to Russia’s efforts in the field of IIS and the peaceful use of ICTs, the West has, unfortunately, largely opposed Russian initiatives all along and has repeatedly tried to impose its own track of mobilizing the international community to discuss digital cooperation. Using its scientific-technological and political-diplomatic potential, it sought to develop its own “rules of the game” in the information space.

To date, the policy brief, presented by Secretary-General António Guterres and posted on the UN website, provides the clearest indication of the content of the future GDC.

For example, Guterres’s policy brief does not specify which international entity or mechanism will be responsible for the full range of issues related to the implementation of and compliance with the GDC.

It notes that “the Internet is governed by long-established multi-stakeholder institutions.” This effectively postulates the continuation of US control of the Internet through the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). At the same time, this thesis contradicts the provisions of one of the most important international documents in the field of Internet governance: the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005 and supported by most countries.

Accordingly, any country that cares about its sovereign and dignified place in the international community should clearly define its attitude to the GDC that is being developed under the auspices of the UN secretary-general. Otherwise, it will not be possible to get rid of the digital imperialism and neo-colonialism imposed by the West.

Blood Brothers or Blood Enemies? Legal Aspects of the Differences Between International Law and a Rules-Based International Order

K. Sazonova

Keywords: international law, rules-based international order, treaties, conventions, globalization, international institutions

Even during the most troubled times of the Cold War, when the bipolar world was being torn apart by numerous disagreements, international law was recognized and accepted by all participants in international interaction. That approach continued until the beginning of the 21st century, when Western countries began to actively promote the concept of a “rules-based international order” as an alternative to international law.

The term “rules-based international order” emerged in the information space suddenly in 2004- 2005. It later largely fell out of use, but then quickly became popular again in early 2022. The US, Canada, Great Britain, and Australia use the term the most actively. Generally, the term fully belongs to the Anglosphere and is translated into other languages from English.

The 2022 US National Security Strategy regards the rules-based order as the “foundation for global peace and prosperity.” In June 2022, US President Joe Biden published an article in *The New York Times* in which he stated that Russia’s actions in Ukraine “could mark the end of the rules-based international order” and “open the door to aggression elsewhere, with catastrophic consequences the world over.”

Currently, there are different approaches toward the correlation between the terms “international law” and “rules-based international order.”

For example, Prof. Olga Lebedeva considers the concepts “mutually exclusive,” and Prof. Yevgeny Voronin argues that the “liberal ‘order’ being promoted by the transatlantic community – based not on the universally recognized international legal principles and norms of the UN Charter, but rather on anti-legal and arbitrary rules – represents a new disorder and a foreboding of future chaos.”

The approach favored by Western experts is based on the concept that there

is no alternative to an international rules-based order as a key regulator of international relations. For example, according to the United Nations Association of Australia, “as demonstrated since the formation of the United Nations following the Second World War, a rules-based international order is the only alternative to international coercion by competing great powers, spheres of influence, client states and terrorist organizations.”

It can be said that the rules-based international order is in a sense a “hall of mirrors” of modern international law. It retains a number of outward characteristics of a legal system of sorts for interstate interaction, but at the same time it is devoid of the basic characteristics of the current system of international law based on the values of equality, sovereignty, and humanism. One finds little consolation in arguments brought up by Western experts to the effect that, “as with any system, the rules-based international order is imperfect. There is no law that has gone unchallenged, rule that has gone unbroken, or norm that has been unobserved.”

The concepts of international law and a rules-based international order have a similar rationale, related to the objective need to manage relations between states, but they are built on completely different ideological principles and values.

Problems of Legality of the International Criminal Court
(Opinion of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' International Law
Advisory Board)

Keywords: ICC, Rome Statute, violation of jurisdiction, international conflicts, investigations, justice

The International Criminal Court (ICC) was established by an international treaty, the Rome Statute (RS), adopted on July 17, 1998. As of April 1, 2024, 124 states are parties to the RS. Despite the seemingly impressive number of participants, this agreement cannot be considered universal. Many states do not participate in it – in particular, three of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (Russia, China, and the US); industrialized and densely populated India, Pakistan, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia; the states of the Arab East (except for Jordan and Tunisia); and many others.

At various times, Israel, Russia, the US, and Sudan, previous signatories, declared their intention not to become parties to the RS.

Unlike sovereign states, which are the primary and main subjects of international law, international organizations are its derivative subjects, created by an agreement between states. They are, “notwithstanding frequent assertions, ... not some universal, supranational entities ‘absorbing’ the sovereign rights of states and dictating to them the rules and norms of conduct on the world stage.” In any case, the scope of the powers of international organizations cannot exceed that of the states that established them.

When establishing an international organization, including in the form of a judicial body, states do not have the right to vest the organization with powers that they do not possess themselves. In particular, the criminal jurisdiction of states, by virtue of generally accepted norms of international law, is limited by the immunity of foreign officials. In these circumstances, the jurisdiction of an international criminal justice body created by states is also limited by such immunities. The ICC’s claim that, due to its “international” nature, it is not bound by this restriction in relation to officials of states not party to the RS, has no basis in international law.

In its practice, the ICC has repeatedly violated both the provisions of its own statute and generally recognized norms of international law. Among the most obvious violations are attempts to exercise jurisdiction over acts allegedly committed on the territory and by nationals of a state not party to the RS.

The ICC's claim to a unique international role stems from its creators' vision of the special contribution of criminal justice to conflict settlement and postconflict reconciliation. These ideas, in particular, dictate the forms of interaction between the ICC and the UN Security Council enshrined in the RS. The ICC has repeatedly become a factor complicating the settlement of interstate and intrastate contradictions.

The Court's activities raise significant questions from the standpoint of jurisprudence. Contradictory decisions are common. There is an abuse of the practice of dissenting opinions of judges, sometimes replacing the official motivation of decisions. The interaction of the judicial chambers with the prosecutor, whose sole powers actually make judges dependent on him, is ambiguously structured.

The so-called arrest warrants issued by the ICC against the president of the Russian Federation and the president's commissioner for children's rights are unlawful from the viewpoint of both general international law and the RS. By issuing these warrants, the ICC, as an international organization, committed an internationally wrongful act.

In its activities, the ICC has deviated from both its original goals enshrined in the RS and, in general, from the norms and principles of international law. There are indications of its politicization and bias. The totality of violations of international law, procedural shortcomings, and interference by extraneous political factors committed by the ICC and its prosecutor prompt us to question whether the Court has lost authority in the eyes of a significant part of the international community and, as a consequence, its legitimacy.

The Special Military Operation: Unlearned Lessons of History and Russia's Role in the New Picture of the World

V. Kiknadze

Keywords: SMO, proxy war, fascism, Nazis, the Holocaust, Day of Military Glory, Friendship Manifesto

The number of lives lost in the proxy war that the US and NATO have been waging since 2014 against Russia in Ukraine, coupled with the lives lost in other conflicts of the 21st century, could very likely exceed the number of losses in the two world wars of the 20th century.

This is confirmed by the obvious determination of the collective West either to achieve a strategic victory over Russia or to continue fighting to the last Ukrainian, which would mean 40 million human lives.

Looking back into the past, we see that humankind could have learned these lessons at much earlier stages of its development.

Today, political scientists lavishly paid for stirring up coups in all corners of the world have managed to portray the corrupt servants of Germany and Poland as freedom fighters to the youth of Ukraine (who know next to nothing about the past of their own country).

Younger generations find it much harder to get their bearings in the history of the early 20th century: Today, the country and the people that made the greatest contribution to the victory over German and Japanese fascism are frequently portrayed as occupiers or even tyrants.

Regrettably, some of those who fought in the war called for limited retribution or even to openly rehabilitate Nazism at the state level.

The US and Ukraine are at the vanguard of the neo-Nazi onslaught; Canada is a safe haven of the Nazis of the past and neo-Nazis of our days; since the mid-1980s, it has been a preserve for Ukrainians who fought in the ranks of the SS. Today, its parliament greets with applause a Nazi of the 20th and [who is now] a neo-Nazi of the 21st century.

What is important is the fact that today children and young people are learning the lessons of history. Genocide begins when people reject the democratic principles of respect for human dignity, equality, and mutual respect; when they fall victim to hatred, racism, ignorance, and prejudices.

This means that knowledge and upbringing should become the two main tools used in the fairly long process of painting a picture of the world and struggling against the ideas and practices of dehumanization. This should be done now, during the Special Military Operation. We all know that in the most dehumanized places of World War II (the fascist concentration camp Buchenwald being one of them), the Soviet teacher continued to teach children and instill in them a love for their country. Education and upbringing should triumph today and unite all progressive forces of the world.

Ukraine as Collateral Damage on the Path of Militant Atlanticism

G. Varga

Keywords: militant Atlanticism, Russia, Ukraine, West, NATO, Special Military Operation (SMO)

It is becoming increasingly clear that some Westerners have been using Ukraine in their favor for a long time, forcing it to fight for unattainable goals, thereby destroying it. The country practically cannot function independently; about 40 countries around the world are supporting it with donations. The future of a huge European country is shaped by the intentions of others, primarily the US. It is already obvious that the preservation of Ukraine's statehood and the size of its territory largely depend on how long the military confrontation with Russia will last.

A change of power in Ukraine occurred in February 2014 as a result of a coup d'état. Note that the day before the coup, the heads of the foreign ministries of Germany, France, and Poland became guarantors of the agreement between the head of state and the opposition on resolving the domestic political crisis. The German foreign minister is currently its president, and the then Polish foreign minister still holds the same position (incidentally, he was the first to congratulate the US on the explosion

of the Nord Stream and Nord Stream 2 [natural gas pipelines]). Neither the foreign ministers, who assumed the responsibility of guarantor, nor the European Union, on whose behalf they acted, issued a statement condemning the coup in Ukraine or called for the introduction of EU sanctions or the restoration of legal norms.

The unconstitutional coup enjoyed the support of the Western political elite and became the starting point for the outbreak of civil war in a country divided along ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and religious fault lines, as well as the explosive emergence of separatism in Crimea and eastern Ukraine.

The situation of the Russian minority in Ukraine, their culture, language, education, and religion. The first legislative act of the Ukrainian regime that illegally

seized power as a result of the 2014 coup backed by the political West abolished the official status of the Russian language. However, the European Union did not announce any sanctions against Ukraine, even though the national minorities of EU member countries – Poles, Hungarians, Romanians – also suffered significant losses as a result of this act.

Today, EU leaders are keeping hundreds of millions of Europeans in fear, declaring that after Ukraine, even more countries will become victims of Putin's aggression. The purpose of intimidation is to create public support for new sanctions, arms deliveries, and further escalation. But the proponents of war are currently on the losing end – granted, only political – while hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians are dying “defending Europe.”

The main responsibility for the military and economic crisis, the destruction of the system of international relations, and the inevitable consequences does not lie with Ukraine. The currently disrupted stable international political and economic ties and logistics are likely to take decades to restore due to the West's manipulations in resolving the internal Ukrainian conflict and subsequently the war in Ukraine.

Crimea and the North Black Sea Region in the Context of Russia's National Interests

V. Konstantinov

Keywords: Tuzla Spit, Treaty of Jassy, Wild Fields, Black Sea

Russia's ongoing struggle to ensure the security of its western and southwestern borders brings into sharp relief the place that the North Black Sea region holds in this process.

Crimea's accession to the Russian Federation afforded the country a timely opportunity to expand its control over the entire territory of the North Black Sea region. Crimea's central location in the Black Sea region makes it conducive for controlling the coastal areas.

The loss of Crimea would pose a direct threat to the Russian North Caucasus and Azov region.

In the 1990s, without Crimea, Russia experienced a period of wars in the Caucasus and barely avoided the threat of being blocked in the Sea of Azov: Ukraine gained sole control over the Kerch-Yenikale Canal.

Without control over Crimea, Russian troops would not have been able to swiftly capture Kherson and the Azov coast in 2022. Unfortunately, we had to withdraw from Kherson, but the Sea of Azov has become a Russian lake of sorts, opening broad opportunities for the socioeconomic development of the Azov region.

The Special Military Operation cannot be considered a success until Ukraine has been deprived of access to the Black Sea coast. This is the only way to guarantee the security of Russian territories.

The only chance to return the Black Sea region to the path of development is to reintegrate it with Russia. And the benefits of such reintegration will more than compensate for the necessary reconstruction costs.

In short, we must return and firmly establish ourselves on our historical lands. This is necessary not only for the North Black Sea region but for all of Russia.

Another America: Turmoil Instead of Strategy

A. Grishanov

Keywords: Russia, West, US, Global Majority, Middle East, Asia, Ukraine

Ten years have passed since Russia's relations with the West nosedived – a considerable period by all measures. Today, people are entering adulthood who can hardly imagine even a friendly, let alone constructive, dialogue between Moscow and former “Western partners” turned “geopolitical opponents.”

In the two years since the fateful February 2024, serious doubts have arisen about the readiness and ability of the US to engage in real diplomacy rather than watered-down, propaganda diplomacy. And this problem is apparent not only in the context of Russian-American relations but also globally.

Europe, which during the two years of the acute phase of the Ukraine crisis has shown nothing but a readiness to fall in lockstep with Washington? Today, it is difficult to imagine a direct diplomatic conflict between the US and, say, France and Germany, similar to the one that occurred at the start of the Iraq war.

The development of models for positioning the US in the world for many decades remained the prerogative of the so-called “foreign policy community,” which in Washington has acquired the slang name the “Blob.

Hopes that the US will gradually come to its senses and that the superpower leaders will sit down for a breakthrough summit in the best traditions of diplomatic history are understandable and explainable but unfortunately illusory. We have become accustomed to American leaders and their circle being calculating, somewhat ruthless, and often destructively inclined but still capable of a productive conversation with opponents. That view, based on the experience of past years, is the basis for intent expectations for negotiations.

But the US has changed. The current elites of this country can boast exceptional mastery of the art of liberal demagoguery and can skillfully manipulate the rhetorical techniques of their predecessors, but their bravado conceals insecurity and confusion in the face of the formation of a new world order whose essence the

US cannot fully understand.

But there is no reason to hope that a possible [presidential election] victory for Trump will drastically change the situation.

By and large, many crises of today are the result of the action (and inaction) of the Trump team, as well as members of the traditional establishment at various levels of departments and agencies who are sabotaging any innovation.

US foreign policy has never been a “thing in itself”; it has been driven by the needs and demands of both elites and voters.

The period of the demise of the old model of Washington’s positioning may be long and painful but inevitable. The US, intellectually and physically, has failed to adapt to the tectonic shifts in world politics and take the lead.

Some time ago, Barack Obama called Russia a “regional power,” but today there is a feeling that the US itself (at least mentally) is becoming one.

But for Russia, as for other leading global powers, passively waiting for these changes means wasting precious time. The Ukraine conflict could drag on for years. The cold war in Asia is probably just beginning. The Middle East will continue to simmer for a long time. But it is important that all these and other constantly arising crises can be resolved without regard to Washington’s position, especially since it often lacks a position. And an attempt should be made to do so. Russia, like non-Western countries in general, has accumulated a critical mass of ideas and developments that allow it to address ongoing crises and play a more active moderating role where the US position increasingly boils down to inertial contemplation.

As for the Americans, it will take them years to deal with domestic problems and accept their changed identity.

Migration to the US From the South and the Position of the Biden Administration

M. Chernykh

Keywords: illegal immigration, Biden, Trump, US immigration policy, US Customs and Border Protection, US-Mexico border, Texas, ways to resolve the crisis

Over the past three years, the US has faced unprecedented levels of illegal migration, not only at the US-Mexico border but also at the US-Canada border. The worsening crisis has exposed a number of serious problems, including an increase in gun violence, an increase in drug-related deaths, a lack of affordable housing, an increase in the homeless population, a growing burden on the social welfare system, and a tougher economic situation for American citizens. Although US President Joe Biden has been compelled to address this matter to some degree, the current efforts of his administration are clearly insufficient to resolve the crisis, which could ultimately affect the Democrats' chances in the upcoming presidential election.

The presented data show that during Donald Trump's presidency, about 3 million instances of illegal border crossings were recorded. During the three years of the Biden administration, this figure reached almost 9 million, which became an absolute record in US history. In addition, the number of illegal crossings has been steadily increasing over the past three years.

The vast majority of illegal immigrants come from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

The causes of the crisis at the US southwest border can be divided into internal and external. Internal ones are caused by the Biden administration's changes to immigration policy.

In general, with the arrival of Biden in the White House, potential migrants have sensed the weakness [of US migration policy], and even the restrictions imposed on them do not seem as stringent as they were during the Trump administration. At this stage, they are becoming increasingly motivated, given that Trump may return to power early next year and significantly tighten control

measures.

When discussing external reasons for migration, it is important to highlight the difficult economic situation that many Latin American countries face, which exacerbates poverty, inequality, political instability, violence, and crime.

The illegal migration crisis at the Mexican border has major implications for the US. First, an impressive amount of public funds is needed to apprehend illegal border crossers, consider their cases, expel and deport them, etc.

Second, the US-Mexico border is one of the main channels for the supply of narcotic substances – in particular, fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid often used as a painkiller.

Third, illegal migrants smuggle weapons, leading to an increase in cases of mass and armed attacks on educational institutions. The fourth issue, which especially concerns minors, is that the problem of human trafficking and exploitation, including for night work and work in dangerous industries, has become more acute. Migrants often end up in debt bondage to smugglers.

It is clear that in the long term, the US needs comprehensive immigration reform, which is not yet a realistic possibility due to the sharp divide between Republicans and Democrats. However, its main points are known. These include an increase in legal immigration, a larger number of immigrant visas, and expanded opportunities for labor migration, both for highly qualified professionals and for blue-collar workers. Finally, the issue of accepting refugees must be resolved. Given the growing turbulence of the modern world, their influx will only increase in the near future.

The Social and Philosophical Legacy of Magtymguly Fragi: The Continuity of Ideas of Peace, Humanism, and National Unity

E. Aydogdyev

Keywords: Magtymguly Fragi, Turkmenistan, humanism, national unity

The year 2024 is the 300th anniversary of the birth of the great Turkmen poet and philosopher Magtymguly Fragi.

Magtymguly Fragi is one of the greatest thinkers of the East and the founder of Turkmen classical literature. His works reflect timeless and universal human values such as love for one's homeland, humanism, peace, and national unification as a condition for achieving independent statehood. Magtymguly's philosophical and literary legacy is a national asset of the Turkmen people and a world treasure. His poetry has been translated into many languages and taken a worthy place in world literature.

UNESCO has put May 18, 2024, on its commemorations list for 2024- 2025 under a resolution on celebrating Magtymguly's birth tercentenary passed by the organization's General Conference at its 42nd session at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris on November 21, 2023.

On May 24, 2023, a collection of manuscripts by Magtymguly submitted by Turkmenistan was included by UNESCO in its Memory of the World International Register. This act of a major international organization shows that Magtymguly's poetic and philosophical heritage is recognized internationally as a priceless gem of world culture.

The manuscript collection, which is the state property of Turkmenistan, comprises more than 80 *diwans* (collections of poems) by Magtymguly and includes copies of manuscripts dating to the 18th and 19th centuries.

National Leader Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov attaches special significance to Magtymguly's literary legacy. The birth anniversary of Turkmenistan's great son comes at a time of prosperity in the country, a time when the nation is successfully implementing long-term national development programs.

Magtymguly's heritage is increasingly significant from the viewpoint of the historical developments of his time, and analyzing those developments helps understand many regional and global political problems of today.

Summing up, the legacy of Magtymguly contains profound philosophical, social, and political ideas reflecting the culture of the Turkmen people, who for centuries felt an acute need to create independent statehood in their indigenous land.

The history of today's independent and neutral Turkmenistan, which is more than 30 years long, represents the implementation by the Turkmen people of their potential to create and consolidate statehood. Turkmenistan confidently moves forward along a path of prosperity and well-being, carrying out comprehensive long-term development programs.

Turkmenistan pursues a foreign policy aimed at lasting peace, guaranteed security, sustainable development, and increasing cultural cooperation.

Strategic cooperation between Turkmenistan and Russia and top-level contacts between them have traditionally been marked by deep mutual understanding and respect, and help to consistently cement relations between the two countries. Building effective formats for partnership opens extensive opportunities for large-scale projects that can benefit the peoples of Russia and Turkmenistan, and promote sustainable development and well-being worldwide.

Filling In All the Blanks: Rosneft Implements Large-Scale Arctic Exploration Program

For Russia, the Arctic is a promising and strategically important region. Furthermore, following the disruption of many of the established logistical chains, the Northern Sea Route is currently emerging as one of the most rapidly developing transport arteries of the 21st century.

The Rosneft oil company was among the first Russian companies to propose and implement a series of research projects in the Arctic.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology is also creating a system of state environmental monitoring in the water areas adjacent to the Northern Sea Route that will provide complete and up-to-date information on changes in the environment and help predict its condition. Environmental protection and ecological safety is one of the main goals of state policy in the Arctic.

One of the most interesting initiatives as part of state programs in the Arctic is “Business and Biodiversity.” Under this program, Rosneft is implementing a comprehensive project to study species that are biological indicators of the state of Arctic ecosystems.

Since 2012, Rosneft has undertaken about 50 scientific research expeditions in the Arctic region, aimed, among other things, at studying ice and hydrometeorological conditions on the Arctic shelf, making it possible to plan comprehensive studies into the state of northern fauna.

The company expects the results of this work to serve as a basis for planning and organizing a system for safe and efficient cargo transportation in the Yenisei Bay, which is crucial for the effective operation of the Northern Sea Route.

Over the past 12 years, Rosneft scientists and specialists have made expeditions throughout the Russian Arctic, from the Barents Sea to the Chukchi Sea. Rosneft plans to continue working in the Arctic region and help scientists find answers to their questions. “The Arctic is vast. Even though our expeditions have already covered all water areas, there are still blank spots.

Satellite Information Technologies in a Time of Crisis and Military Operations: Current State, Challenges, Future Prospects

N. Romashkina

Keywords: satellites, information space, functional distribution, applied satellites in the US military infrastructure

The quantitative and qualitative characteristics of artificial Earth satellite constellations constitute one of the most significant indicators of a nation's prestige, international influence, and potential. The role of satellite information and communications technology (ICT) in the global information space is growing, providing the means to ensure national security, foster communication with other countries and organizations, and maximize the balance between national and international interests. Moreover, the importance of the space echelon increases significantly during military-political crises. This is because infrastructure for collecting, studying, and processing information, in which satellites play a unique role, is vital for supporting military operations, economic analysis and forecasting, and government decision-making during conflicts.

Documents of the Russian Federation and the UN Standard International Trade Classification classify spacecraft as advanced technology products, meaning that all processes associated with space technologies fall into the category of the most important, innovative projects of national importance defined as a set of measures aimed at achieving the necessary level of national security and obtaining economic benefits.

This article presents an analysis of significant dynamic changes in the global information environment of outer space associated with the large-scale proliferation, and quantitative and qualitative growth of satellite constellations in most countries of the world. These changes are also associated with the increasing importance of applied satellites used for military purposes during crises and military operations. The article provides a classification of satellites performing military functions. The problem of the destructive use of satellites during military conflicts has emerged in

association with the increased risk of cyber threats and the growing likelihood of conflict escalation, threats against Russia, and threats to international security and strategic stability. This article proves that quantitative and qualitative characteristics of a state's satellite constellation are crucial indicators of its global influence and potential.

Christian Orthodoxy as the Spiritual Foundation of Russian Culture

Metropolitan Theodosius

Keywords: Christian Orthodoxy, church, Russian culture, spiritual values, art

In Russia, the Orthodox faith has a history of more than a thousand years. It came to the southern borders of the Fatherland long before Christianity was officially adopted under Holy Prince Vladimir. Orthodoxy contributed to the establishment of the statehood and culture of Ancient Rus.

Faith tightly bound the Fatherland to the Christian East and established a special religious national type of culture and art. With the Orthodox faith, we were given the gospel of the One True God, the Gospel law of love, brought to Earth by the Son of God, who, according to the Apostle John the Theologian, “is love”.

Having entered the family of nations enlightened by the light of Christ, the Russian people sought to embody absolute moral standards in their lives and in every possible way to extend Church influence over social, political, economic, creative, and everyday life.

The history of Russian culture is inextricably linked with the Orthodox faith. In various eras, philosophers and theologians pointed to the divine origin of culture.

The radical transformations of the foundations of statehood carried out by Emperor Peter I in the early 18th century were a test for both the people and culture. During this period, the Russian architectural style was replaced by works of foreign designers, traditional icon painting was replaced by European art painting, and polyphonic compositions began to compete with Znamenny chant.

In the first quarter of the 20th century, when Christians began to be openly persecuted for confessing their faith, the educational activities of the Church did not extend beyond church buildings. During the decades of Soviet power, the cultural community of Russia lost many of its outstanding sons and daughters – religious and secular figures who were shot or exiled to numerous camps, as well as those who were forced to leave the country.

In the late 20th century, atheistic tendencies again began to clearly appear

throughout the world, leading to the abandonment of traditional, biblically rooted views on the nature of man, on his role and significance for the world around him, on freedom of personal expression and creativity.

Unfortunately, at the end of the 20th century, our country was unable to avoid the spiritual expansion of the West, and visiting “missionaries” spread alien ideas of postmodernism in the Russian cultural field in the form of blasphemous theater and opera productions, museum exhibitions, “performances,” and “exhibits.” Pushing Christian values to the margins of public life.

Currently, we must realize that if we accept the ideas of the so-called new secular culture of the postmodern era, then we are consciously abandoning our own spiritual culture on which generations of Russians have been brought up for centuries and therefore are moving away from the absolute Divine law of life.

The Church has always made great efforts to limit the penetration of Western anticulture into Russia and thereby prevent its pernicious influence on the mentality of our people.

It is obvious that the Russian Church, Orthodox traditions, Russian spiritual culture, and the moral standards of behavior rooted in folk customs prevent the bearers of postmodern ideas from introducing godless ideology into our society.

Recently, we have become witnesses to blatant “Russophobia” and sometimes inappropriate actions of haters of our country who make it their goal to “cleanse the world cultural space of the culture of Russia”.

It is obvious that it will not be possible to completely eradicate European “Russophobia,” but it can be countered by a system of “patriotic upbringing and education of children and young people, as well as the formation of a national ideology in Russia”.

Russian culture has as its foundation Christian Orthodoxy, which will not be overcome by the forces of evil, for it is contained in the Church founded by Christ himself, and it is a theanthropic organism.

**Metropolitan Joseph (Semashko) and the Liberation of Belarus From
Uniatism: The Story of an Unforgotten Hero**

B. Gryzlov, V. Vanke, S. Afonin

Keywords: Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Uniatism, Russia, Belarus

Over the centuries, we have faced constant, mounting pressure from the West, which is seeking, even today, to subjugate the East Slavic lands to its will and religion that is alien to us. But the Russian people have remained steadfast in defending the historical choice of their ancestors, preserving their identity and unique culture based on the spiritual foundation of the Orthodox faith.

In the latter half of the 13th and early 14th centuries, the lands of modern Belarus were, in fact, occupied by pagan Lithuanians, Baltic tribes, and their Mindaugas rulers, who received the crown from the hands of the Pope, and later Gediminas and his heirs. The Balts had unity, support from the Vatican, and a strong army, but they were noticeably inferior to our ancestors in the development of culture, writing, and folk traditions.

Metropolitan Joseph was born on December 25, 1798 (January 5, 1799, N.S.) into a Uniate family. In 1829, he took monastic vows and was appointed Bishop of Mstislavsky.

In 1833, Joseph Semashko was appointed Bishop of Lithuania, and his ideas to return Belarusians to their native faith were fully supported. By 1837, under the influence of the bishop, most Uniate priests confirmed in writing their willingness to become Orthodox. Following the Polotsk Cathedral, which was preceded by the titanic preparatory work of Joseph Semashko, more than 1,400 parishes and over 1,600,000 believers came into the fold of the Mother Church.

The whole life of this great and righteous man was a model of holiness. The spiritual appearance of Bishop Joseph, his qualities as a church and public figure, were reflected in the memoirs of the metropolitan himself, numerous memoirs of his contemporaries, and in official documents accompanying the preparation of the Polotsk Cathedral.

Metropolitan Joseph managed, under incredibly difficult conditions, to ensure that Orthodoxy finally returned to the lives of the reunited clergy and the common people.

There are heroes of their time, but there are also timeless heroes. The selfless example of these outstanding sons of our Fatherland must be extrapolated to the current situation. Only by uniting society and peoples, concentrating on what is common and not what is different, will we be able to defend our freedom and independence.

Priorities of Eurasian Integration and the Role of Intellectual Property in Their Implementation

F. Mukhametshin

Keywords: Eurasian integration, intellectual property, EAEU, Eurasian Patent Office, Eurasian Patent Organization

Russia's chairmanship of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) ended in 2023. In 2024, the Russian Federation will assume chairmanship of another integration association: the Commonwealth of Independent States. Here, too, Russia's priorities include economic integration and cooperation to improve the well-being of citizens of the CIS countries.

But what can be done to ensure successful integration in the real sector, implement initiatives for the joint development and use of new technologies and scientific and technological consortia, and promote the scientific and technological development of the Eurasian states in general?

Under the new conditions, the importance of the institution of intellectual property (IP) and integration cooperation is significantly increasing.

Protecting rights to technologies, industrial designs, and trademarks will be a key issue for joint industrial projects in Eurasian countries and scaling the use of technological solutions.

The Eurasian Economic Union is working to introduce a system for registering means of individualization in accordance with the EAEU Treaty on Trademarks, Service Marks and Appellations of Origin of Goods.

At the same time, tools for obtaining IP protection at the regional level are successfully working and developing in the Eurasian space.

The Eurasian Patent Office administers a cost-effective and simple system for obtaining Eurasian protection by filing one application in one language and paying one set of fees. The patent does not require additional validation in member states.

A positive trend is that Russians are obtaining more Eurasian patents and maintaining them; this indicator grew by more than 20% in 2023. The promotion of

Russian exports to Eurasian countries is expanding.

The introduction of a regional system will make participating countries as a whole a more attractive market for third countries.

Eurasian systems for registering trademarks and utility models can be created quite quickly: The Eurasian Patent Office has gained experience in introducing new objects after it started handling the registration of industrial designs.

In general, cooperation on IP issues, despite the general understanding of their importance, is still an undervalued integration track. At the same time, there is reason to believe that dialogue in this area will expand, given the significant accumulated experience in implementing joint projects within various integration associations and successes in creating a common information and examination space in the field of IP. The implementation of cooperation projects in industry and agriculture, the expansion of scientific and educational contacts and technological ties in the Eurasian cooperation space will inevitably entail the need to resolve issues of protecting technologies, brands, and industrial designs.

Synergy Between the SCO and BRICS: **Consolidating the Non-Western World**

V. Gulyants

Keywords: regional politics, regional governance, polycentrism, non-Western world, multipolarity, SCO, BRICS, RIC

In today's world, marked by an unprecedented surge in geopolitical risks, there is a growing recognition that the old global order is giving way to a new paradigm aimed at establishing a polycentric system of global governance.

A prime example of effective state collaboration at the regional level is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the intergovernmental bloc BRICS.

The architecture of each new world order emerges during periods of turbulence, as parties not only confront one another but also negotiate the rules that will govern the new era. The ongoing expansion of both the SCO and BRICS, amid crises within the UN and Group of Seven, is reshaping the framework of global governance. Furthermore, the extension of alliances to include Western nations reflects a shift in the global paradigm, with emphasis on mutually beneficial trade and commitment to multipolarity.

Unlike traditional military or trade blocs, the SCO and BRICS structure their actions around shared objectives rather than threats. This presents an opportunity for consolidation and transformation into an influential non-Western bloc that could offer significant advantages to the Global South.

The SCO and BRICS embody hope for the creation of an inclusive system of cooperation free from pressure exerted by Western organizations in various domains. Both the SCO and BRICS possess a crucial unifying element in the form of member states that do not adhere to Western positions on major global political and economic issues, instead promoting an alternative international agenda. Geopolitically, the activities of these two groups are shaped by Russia, India, and China (RIC).

Due to the Anglo-Saxon world's continued efforts to contain Russia and

China in the effort to unite the Eurasian space based on principles of equality, tensions are escalating between the collective West and organizations in which Russia and China are members, vying for influence in the regions of the South and in Southeast Asia. Consequently, there is a growing need for the establishment of bilateral groups for interaction.

Within the SCO, energy and trade-economic cooperation is becoming increasingly significant alongside existing areas of cooperation. The SCO, like BRICS, is emerging as a platform for dialogue and joint decision-making among countries that do not subscribe to the Western model of globalization. However, for the SCO to reach a new level, it must become a more economically oriented organization – for example, by establishing a SCO development bank similar to the New Development Bank of BRICS.

Cooperation Between Russia and African Countries: Status Quo and Priorities

A. Maslov, V. Glebov, B. Agonnoude

Keywords: Russia, Africa, cooperation, priorities, neocolonial practices, French-speaking African countries, severance of relations, France's destructive policy, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

It goes without saying that 21st-century changes to the world geopolitical landscape are making Africa a point of attraction for the great powers, including Russia. There are at least four reasons for this. First, African states comprise the largest regional group in the United Nations, accounting for 28% of all UN members. Second, Africa possesses vast reserves of all kinds of resources. Third, there are important sea trade routes passing near the continent, especially near East Africa. And fourth, Africa is home to the world's fastest-growing young population, which by 2030 will make up about 42% of the world's young people and is a key resource of labor.

It is important to mention that Russia is returning to Africa at a time when relations between some French-speaking African countries and France have been soured or severed because of France's destructive and predatory African policy. Russia, on the other hand, is seen by Africans as an ally in their anti-neocolonial struggles. Russian support is a powerful factor in efforts by African states to consolidate their sovereignty.

Russian economic interests, which are a major help in these efforts, are represented in Africa by state-owned and private companies, most of which are hydrocarbon or other extractive businesses. However, trade between Russia and African countries has been showing relatively modest growth.

The First Russia-Africa Summit, which took place in Sochi, Russia, on October 23-24, 2019, resulted in mutual relations becoming a priority for both sides and gave a fresh impetus to cooperation in various fields. The Second Russia-Africa Summit, held in St. Petersburg on July 27-28, 2023, was an opportunity to sum up

work that had been done and set a new course in cooperation. Russian-African cooperation should undoubtedly cover domains where Russia would be able to share experience, but it should meet the needs of African nations. In our view, six of these domains should take priority. Five of them correspond to SDGs set by the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Phenomenon of Russian-Paraguayan Cultural and Historical Relations

A. Kusayev

Keywords: Russia, Paraguay, culture and history of relations, Russian immigration, Chaco War

Russian-Paraguayan relations, dating back to 1909, when the special envoy of the Russian Empire in Brazil, Mavriky Prozor, presented his credentials to the then head of the Paraguayan state, Emiliano González, have been repeatedly tried. The first serious challenge was the October Revolution of 1917, which led to the suspension and then severance of diplomatic ties.

But even in that difficult era for bilateral relations, when everything Soviet in Paraguay was under the strictest ban and representatives of the local Communist Party were persecuted, residents of the country retained special respect for Russians, their culture, and contribution to the development of the state, and numerous representatives the Russian-speaking community were prominent figures in the local military-political, creative, and academic elites.

In the first quarter of the 20th century, Paraguay was still suffering from the consequences of the war (1864-1870), which set back its development by several decades. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the government was in a state of constant political and economic crisis.

However, the difficult situation in the country, located in the very heart of the Latin American continent, opened up wide opportunities for our compatriots who were not received all that warmly in neighboring countries of the region. It was this potential in Paraguay that Ivan [Juan] Belyayev, a military general, was able to discern.

Paraguayan leaders, in dire need of highly qualified personnel in almost all areas, were able to see, faster than their counterparts in other countries in the region, the benefits that the former subjects of the Russian Empire who arrived on the continent promised to the country that was “frozen” between the 19th and 20th centuries.

The year 1924, after General Belyayev arrived in Paraguay, is customarily considered the starting point of official record-keeping of Russian immigration to the “heart” of South America.

The turning point in the life of White emigrants in their new homeland, which was just beginning to improve, was the Chaco War (1932-1935), which broke out between Paraguay and Bolivia for control over vast territories of the Chaco region. Russians commanded a division, 12 regiments, and 40 battalions. During the war, six Russian officers sacrificed their lives defending Paraguay.

The role of Russian officers in Paraguay’s victory over Bolivia is difficult to overestimate. After all, it was then that our compatriots ceased to be foreigners here and become truly native to locals.

In addition to numerous feats of arms, our compatriots distinguished themselves in almost all areas of Paraguayan society.

The restoration of full-scale interstate relations has boosted the development of multi-vector, partnership relations between Moscow and Asunción. Relatively quickly, several important bilateral agreements were signed in a variety of areas, including the Treaty of Friendship, Trade, and Cooperation (2000). In December 2008, a full-fledged Russian diplomatic mission opened in Asunción. Its opening was a logical continuation of the energetic steps that Russia and Paraguay took toward each other after decades of mutual detachment.

The Russian cultural and historical heritage created in Paraguay by courageous Russians deprived of their homeland has become an integral part of Paraguayan culture, forever linking with an invisible thread two peoples who seemed so different from each other yet became friendly. Preserving this spiritual wealth, the history of the great feat of Russians in a foreign land, is our common responsibility to future generations, as well as to the memory of those who almost 100 years ago created a good name for Russia thousands of kilometers from its geographical borders.

Alexander Dzasokhov Turns 90

S. Filatov

Keywords: A.S. Dzasokhov, anniversary, countries of Asia and Africa, Global South, East

Alexander Dzasokhov contributed greatly to the establishment and development of ties between our country and the peoples and states of the Global South, the new moniker for the part of humanity that in the 20th century was called the “third world” – the world outside the struggle of the two planetary systems of socialism and capitalism.

In the second half of the 20th century he assumed the post of first deputy chairman of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee (SAASC). In those years, our SAASC was the link with the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia and Africa (OSNAA), and in his post, Dzasokhov had the opportunity to interact with legendary leaders of Asian and African countries that were liberated from colonialism.

In one of his books, Dzasokhov mentions meetings with such historical figures as Nelson Mandela, the outstanding leader of the African National Congress of South Africa; Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization; Sam Nujoma, first president of Namibia and leader of the SWAPO party; Pham Van Dong, prime minister of Vietnam; Rajiv Gandhi, eldest son of Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi and later prime minister himself; Hafez al-Assad, president of Syria; Eduardo Mondlane, leader of the Mozambican people and chairman of the FRELIMO party; Agostinho Neto, first president of the Republic of Angola; Gamal Abdel Nasser, president of Egypt; Ali Nasir Muhammad, leader of the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen, and many others.

Work at such a high level, when Alexander Dzasokhov was often the only and main link between Moscow and individual units of the anticolonial movement in the “Third World,” was filled with diplomatic creativity, since everything did not always go smoothly.

Vyacheslav Trubnikov – Intelligence Officer and Diplomat
In Memory of a Reliable, Faithful Friend and Devoted Comrade

A. Azimov

Keywords: director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, knowledge of India, diplomat, multifaceted talent

Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov would have turned 80 on April 25, 2024. He graduated with honors from the Moscow Mathematical School and the Moscow State Institute (University) of International Relations (MGIMO), traversed a long and bright path from being an ordinary detective of the First Main Directorate of the KGB of the USSR to becoming the director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, an Army general, a Hero of Russia, an ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, and first deputy minister of foreign affairs of Russia.

In 2004 he was appointed to the post of ambassador in New Delhi, pinning great hopes on him in terms of continuing and comprehensively strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Trubnikov had a wide variety of contacts and easily established trusting relationships at the highest level.

In the fall of 2009, Trubnikov retired, but he did not stop working: He took a post at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of World Economy and International Relations, where he worked for the last 12 years of his life.

Whatever positions Vyacheslav Ivanovich held, he remained modest and sincere in his communication, and his amazing inner human charm always attracted people.

His life is a vivid example of selfless and honest service to his homeland. In our memory, he will forever remain a reliable and faithful comrade, friend, and selfless son of our Fatherland.

Ideology and War in American Policy: In Memory of G.A. Trofimenko

A. Frolov

Keywords: Outstanding Soviet expert on America G.A. Trofimenko, Trofimenko's book *The USA: Politics, War, Ideology*

February 1, 2024, would have been the 95th birthday of Professor and Doctor of Sciences (History) Genrikh ["Henry"] Aleksandrovich Trofimenko, an outstanding Soviet expert on America who in the 1980s led the department of foreign policy problems at the USSR Academy of Sciences' Institute for US and Canadian Studies. His works remain classics in the study of US foreign policy and military-political strategy.

One of his main academic works was the book *The USA: Politics, War, Ideology*, which at one time became a military history bestseller. The book provides a broad and comprehensive analysis of the emergence of American military-political thought, the strategy of a new, rapidly growing peripheral state with all its advantages and birthmarks.

The very title of the book – containing the inseparable triad of politics, war, and ideology, in the unity of the American interpretation – is its cornerstone. A strong point of the book is that the author studied not only documents and fundamental acts pertaining to the establishment of the US, but also the works of the founding fathers of the US and their views on survival and development that emerged during the formation of the independent state in conflict with the imperialist predators Great Britain, France, and Spain, as well as their subsequent interpretations by leading American theorists and military and political figures.

Just as all of a person's problems are rooted in their childhood, state policy cannot be understood without considering its fundamental principles and underlying ideology. Trofimenko managed to find this fine thread, and through the lens of the birth of a new state, to decipher its policy based on the ideas on which it was established.

The paradigm of US military-political strategy was that, having originated as a

strategy for a nation that had emerged from a war of liberation under the influence of class interests, it quickly degenerated into an expansionist strategy.

The US preferred freedom of maneuver; any alliance with another power must be considered temporary and respected only insofar as it allows the US to advance its own interests.

During World War II, the national interest at some point took precedence over ideology. As a result, the postulates of the latter were subordinated to military-political strategy, which proved the vital need to support forces representing a counterbalance to the forces of the “axis.”

Since the birth of the independent US, many generations of those who consider themselves Americans have come and gone, but the basis of this policy, its mainstream, has been preserved; moreover, it is passed on from generation to generation. “Like any class strategy,” wrote Trofimenko, “regardless of its specific wording, it preserves the continuity of the fundamental goals and attitudes of a given class, developed over decades – the invariability of the general approach to methods of achieving the goal”.

The current American foreign policy is based on its initial postulates, the main constant being the idea of American messianism – the need to combine rational calculation with selfish interest in planning actions abroad.

Everything is the same today. In his books, articles, and speeches, Genrikh Trofimenko explained the background, hidden meaning, essence, development, fate, and continuity of the military-political concepts and theories of the US. To understand politics, you need to know what motivates it. The researcher’s talent and insight were manifested in the fact that his works outlived him and retained their relevance over the decades, with some adjustments for the current situation in the world, when relations between Moscow and Washington reached their lowest point since their establishment. And the book *The USA: Politics, War, Ideology* turned out to be timeless and should be a reference book for all who seek to understand US politics.

Crimea: A History in Documents

A. Shubin

Keywords: history of Crimea, collection *Crimea in the Development of Russia: History, Politics, Diplomacy – Documents from the Russian Foreign Ministry Archives*

The collection *Crimea in the Development of Russia: History, Politics, Diplomacy – Documents from the Russian Foreign Ministry Archives*, the second edition of which was presented on February 15, 2024. Based exclusively on material from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Russian Empire Foreign Policy Archive (REFPA) and Russian Federation Foreign Policy Archive (RFFPA), [this publication] substantively adds to and enriches the overall picture, focusing on aspects of foreign policy connected with the Crimean peninsula. These documents touch upon a wide range of issues in Russian foreign and domestic policy – from geopolitical decision-making, defense of [our] southern borders, and the position of Russia in the complex tapestry of international relations to economic, migrational, cultural, and spiritual questions.

There are, of course, significantly more documents in the REFPA and RFFPA that concern Crimea in one way or another than those chosen for publication. The selection criteria, besides the general topic, were the uniqueness of the material (particularly international treaties signed by Russia), as well as the special value and importance of the Foreign Ministry documents.

The chronological framework of the collection, covering events from the early 18th century to the 1920s, was determined by the particularities of the document collections in the Russian Foreign Ministry archives. These materials on foreign policy and international relations go back to Peter the Great's Collegium of Foreign Affairs – the early chronological limit of the publication. This collection closes with the Decree of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR on the Autonomous Crimean Soviet Socialist Republic of October 18, 1921, and the Treaty on the Formation of the Union of

Soviet Socialist Republics of December 30, 1922.

These published materials from the Russian Foreign Ministry archives are mostly original documents. The goal of the compilers was to provide readers with new documentation not yet in the scientific field, yet they also considered it mandatory to include the most important of those that had already been published. If a document was previously published in its entirety, an appropriate citation is given.

The documents are published unabridged, save for excerpts of just a few particular texts. In these cases, due to the length of the full document, only part of it was selected as a stand-alone text, as in the case of the Tsebrikov manuscript.

The documents are placed in chronological order, and the numeration is continuous through all the sections. Dates are cited according to the document itself: Documents of Russian origin, as a rule, follow Old Style, while foreign ones use New Style. Dual dates are indicated only in those cases where they were affixed at the time the document was created.

The collection is illustrated mainly with documents and other holdings from the Russian Foreign Ministry archives. The compilers express their gratitude for the illustrations provided by the State Historical Museum and the State Archive of the Russian Federation; they also thank Professor Galina Grebenshikova, Doctor Science (History), for permission to use some illustrations from her works on naval history during the times of Catherine II and Nicholas I.