

“The EAEU Has Been in Existence for 10 Years and Certainly Proven Its Effectiveness”

A. Pankin

Keywords: Global South, EAEU, "Eurasian Economic Way", CIS

In the interview with Alexander Pankin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the positions of the EAEU in the global reformatting of the economic picture of the world are discussed, how effective the structure of the EAEU is today, what has been achieved, what is the dynamics of the development of relations within the EAEU, which of the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union are most interested in the development of this organization and how this is manifested, whether the EAEU has become an effective link between Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, how the interests of the SCO and the EAEU are divided, about the projects of "transport corridors" through the territory of Eurasia, about the "free trade" zone within the EAEU, whether the sanctions pressure on Russia has affected the policy of the EAEU, about the relations of the Eurasian Economic Union with China and Iran.

The Raven's Eye: Some Aspects of Great Power Relations at the Present Stage

A. Kramarenko

Keywords: great power relations, diversity of the world, Russia, USA, China, Europe.

Relations between the great powers/leading states of the world have always played a key role in maintaining peace at the regional and global levels. History provides a lot of evidence for this, including both world wars and the Cold War. The period after the end of the Cold War was no exception, although there were hopes for the so-called "peace dividend" and the establishment of cooperation relations not only between the leading Western powers, but also more broadly, including non-Western powers that have been on the rise in the last 30 years, primarily the BRICS countries, and regional powers gaining strength and weight, such as like Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

It was assumed that these relations would be regulated by the norms of international law within the framework of the established post-war international system. However, for some time, what is commonly called the "unipolar moment" was formed, which, of course, could not last forever. But the ideological basis - the thesis of the "victory" of the United States/West in the Cold War - was developed in the Wolfowitz doctrine, which represented another "grand strategy" that was designed to preserve the status of the United States as the "only superpower" and - in line with the logic of the Thucydides trap - to prevent the rise of any other power that could in principle, that is, it would have the appropriate resources to "challenge" America. Moreover, the question of intentions was not raised. As in the framework of the Russian-American arms control process during the Cold War, it was postulated that potentials, not intentions, matter.

Relations in the "triangle" of the USA-Russia-China gained a special role in global politics during the Cold War. Under Nixon, this "triangular diplomacy" was successfully played out by Washington against Moscow. In this regard, it is noteworthy that Henry Kissinger's judgment in one of his latest books, "Leadership",

that the then "multipolar diplomacy", due to the circumstances of Nixon's departure, unfortunately, "did not become a reliable school of American foreign policy, which implied a readjustment not only of strategy, but also of thinking." This should be taken as a recognition of the already existing multipolarity, which Nixon "introduced" into his policy. Kissinger, as one of the pillars of the realistic school of international relations, could not but regret that the American elites turned out to be neither psychologically nor strategically ready for the de facto multipolar world order that has been emerging in recent decades, including as a result of globalization.

In the meantime, a combination of domestic, foreign policy and economic factors will work to establish the principles of restraint and moderate policy within the framework of the "triangle". The role and importance of the three leading powers will decrease as other centers of economic growth and military strength strengthen, including at the regional level. Perhaps there will be a certain balance of power, and global politics will acquire a truly multilateral character. The lessons of the current escalation between the West and Russia will also have an impact, which demonstrated the limited Western resources, including political and economic ones, when the sanctions pressure on Russia turned out to be destructive for the West.

The maximalism of Western politics and the "burning of bridges" have shown their counterproductivity. And as for Russia, in the current conditions, the greatest threat to its development is precisely the lifting of Western restrictions, since it can undermine the impulse to technological sovereignty based on the objectively existing basic self-sufficiency of the country.

For centuries, Russia has been forced to play by Western rules and the Western agenda, which they pushed through on international platforms. Now we can establish our own in cooperation with others.

European Security: Stances of Russian and Foreign Experts

A. Serikova

Keywords: European security, expert community, disintegration of international treaties, Russia, Europe, NATO, USA.

There are different assessments of European security in the political expert community. Many political scientists analyze the current situation in Europe and try to predict the future architecture of European security. Comparing the views of foreign and Russian experts makes it possible to dive into the topic of European security, clearly see both contradictions and similarities - the future foundation of negotiations on de-escalation of tension in Europe.

In 2014, after the reunification of Crimea with Russia through a referendum on the Crimean peninsula and the will of the citizens of the peninsula to be part of the Russian Federation, Russia's bilateral relations with European countries worsened. As a result of the aggressive steps and terrorist methods of the West against Russia due to the start of a special military operation in 2022 to denazify and demilitarize Ukraine, as well as due to the consistent termination of treaties defining the architecture of European security by the West, tensions are escalating on the European continent. The international expert community perceives the current situation in Europe in different ways. There are both similarities and differences in approaches to assessing European security among Russian and foreign political scientists.

The international expert community is divided into two camps: the first is a radical, aggressive approach to assessing European security and the second is a moderate, balanced approach. It is obvious that radical experts are not aimed at resolving the European security crisis in order to establish and maintain peace in Europe, but are only looking for ways to satisfy their own geopolitical ambitions to the detriment of the future development of other states. Moreover, they do not share the opinion on the need to engage in dialogue with Russia and agree on important items on the security agenda. Moderate experts, on the contrary, are aware not only of the unjustified, failed policy of NATO and the United States in Europe, but also

urge to intensify efforts together with Russia to improve the situation in European security. On the whole, the moderate expert community quite soberly assesses the current architecture of European security, recognizing Russia's huge role in resolving the European security crisis. The Russian expert community is convinced that Europe is now prone to Russophobic sentiments and is not disposed to constructive negotiations, not so much because of its own reluctance, as in fulfillment of the agenda set by the North Atlantic Alliance against Russia.

Deep Warfare

A. Ilnitsky, O. Yanovsky

Keywords: deep warfare, mental warfare, military policy, world order, hybrid war, military-civil interaction, deep state, sovereignty.

The NATO declaration, formulated at the session in honor of the 75th anniversary of its formation, put an end to any arguments about the possibility of reaching an agreement with the collective West. NATO and the West, represented by the "elite horizontal" of the Deep State, have chosen the path of war. The Cold War 2.0 option has been designated for several years in the analytical community of the United States and Great Britain as an absolute priority and the most profitable for them.

In the context of the West's global aggression against the Russian Federation, the priority of which is mental and cognitive impact and hybrid operations, Russia's main rival is not so much the US state as a transnational elite "horizontal" consisting of individuals, groups, institutions and companies of the collective West with an Anglo-American dominant. This is the same system of influence that has received the marker "deep state" in political usage and which launched an all-out offensive against Russia in order to destroy the Russian state and the civilization of the Russian world.

The West, or rather the deep state, faces an existential fork: either the preservation of the existing "rules-based order", which presupposes the preservation of the dominance of the Western financial system, the exploitation of neocolonial practices and the absorption of sovereign states by financial and industrial groups, or the completion of their hegemony and the collapse of the system that has ruled the world for more than 500 years based on military force and financial networks. This is their war for hegemony through the preservation of order, which arose as a result of the exhaustion of the colonial system of the basis of its development due to expansion and the seizure of world resources.

Today we see a global conflict in which the struggle of two forces is unfolding - those who seek to preserve the state as the basic institution of the world order, and

those who want to destroy it, plunging the world into a "gray zone". And Russia as a civilization on a strong state basis, by the will of fate, found itself in the center of this confrontation.

A deep hybrid war is being waged both from outside the objects of war and from within on the entire front – from the economy, politics, the spiritual and mental sphere and cyberspace to local military clashes and proxy conflicts around the world.

It should be borne in mind that the deep war is not being waged for territories or geographical spheres of influence, but for the right to participate in the formation of a new world order. It resembles a game of Go, where each side strategically places its stones in different domains, spaces and geographical areas. There are no final battles in this war, instead accumulative processes occur, leading to tectonic changes at the deepest levels of the system's functioning. This is a very tough, hidden and undeclared, but real war between deep structures for defending strategic interests within the framework of a dramatic reformatting of the world system.

The deep war is a war for quality, where quantitative factors are only tools and resources, but not the goal.

In the deep war, defeats and victories are not fixed by the "Act of Surrender", they are not obvious, multi-domain and hybrid, but the qualitative shifts achieved as a result of this war are evolutionary and irreversible.

The goal outlined by the President of the Russian Federation is to be at the forefront of the formation of a new world order. Those who are able to do this should be educated now. The main aspects determining their status include managerial skills, strategic and sovereign thinking, adaptability and commitment to state interests, as well as the ability to shape the domestic political and international agenda in accordance with the interests of Russia. The best formula for achieving these goals is the skillful involvement of civilian specialists in military objectives and the establishment of civil-military cooperation.

And if before the war was chess, now the deep war is a game of Go. And the task of the Russian leadership is to properly lay out the stones and arrange the personnel.

Unsustainable Sustainability: Results of the Summit of the Future

O. Shamanov

Keywords: environment, UN, SDGs, declarations, plans, pact, human rights, lack of investment.

The period of the most active formation of the foundations of the concept of sustainable development dates back to the late 60s - early 70s of the twentieth century, when, against the background of accelerating environmental degradation, the urgency of ensuring economic development without harming nature became apparent to many scientists, civil society activists and statesmen. Social movements were spreading all over the world, whose participants protested against the thoughtless, consumerist attitude towards nature and the undermining of the very foundations of life on Earth.

The international response to the massive public environmental movement was the convening of a UN Conference on the Human Environment, following which the UN member states recognized the need to take urgent measures to address the issue of global environmental degradation. The practical result of this conference was the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP was tasked with developing international cooperation in the field of environmental protection and providing recommendations on policies for this purpose.

In 1983, UNEP initiated the establishment of the International Commission on Environment and Development to develop recommendations to prevent an environmental crisis. The Commission was headed by the then Prime Minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland, after whom this body was popularly called the "Brundtland Commission".

For Rio+20 (2012), the High-level Group on Global Sustainability, established in August 2010 at the initiative of then UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, prepared a voluminous study with conclusions and recommendations entitled "A viable planet of viable people: the future we choose" - a kind of analogue of the report "The Brundtland Commission." Russia made a significant contribution to the

preparation of the report - A.I. Bedritsky, who at that time held the position of adviser and special representative of the President of the Russian Federation on climate, was invited to the group of authors. As a result of the meeting, a package of decisions on the reform of international cooperation in the field of sustainable development was approved and an intergovernmental negotiation process on the development of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was launched.

At the High-level Meeting of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly (2015), the main document of the current stage of cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations on sustainable development issues was adopted - "Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". It formulates both the SDGs themselves - a set of 17 strategic goals with their subdivision into 169 tasks - as well as guidelines and specific parameters of interstate cooperation in the economic, social and environmental spheres. As can be seen from the document, which is often called the "2030 Agenda" for short, it is planned that the SDGs should be implemented by 2030.

Organizationally, the task of ensuring coordinated promotion of the Sustainable Development Agenda within the UN system was assigned to the special subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established in 1993 - The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). This structure consisted of 53 UN member States elected by ECOSOC on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution for a three-year term of office.

Thus, by 2015, the goals and objectives of sustainable development were clearly formulated, the international mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was improved and the process of its implementation was launched.

Unfortunately, negative trends regarding the implementation of the SDGs are noticeable today.

However, according to the author, the concept of sustainable development has a great future. There is simply no alternative to it if we want to preserve a favorable environment, but at the same time ensure progressive socio-economic development.

International Information Security: Russia at the UN
– Launch of the New OEWG (2021-2022)

S. Boiko

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

The new Open-ended Working Group on Security Issues in the field of information and communication technologies and Information and communication technologies Themselves 2021-2025, convened at the initiative of Russia, supported at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly by the majority of members of the world community, began its main work in December 2021, the results of which will be summed up four years later.

International Information Security: Russia at the UN (2022)
– New Differences Emerge

S. Boiko

Keywords: international information security, UN, OEWG, Action Program, ICT.

The adoption by consensus in July 2022 of the first interim report of the new OEWG 2021-2025 was the result of a compromise in order to preserve the positive dynamics of the Group's activities and the prospects for reaching agreements that contribute to the formation of an international information security system.

Bretton Woods Institutions: 80 Years and Counting

R. Marshavin

Keywords: Bretton Woods institutions, World Bank, IMF, global financial architecture, Global South, BRICS.

July 22, 2024 marked the 80th anniversary of the end of the Bretton Woods Conference, which resulted in the creation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB). The anniversary is a good reason to summarize interim results and reflect on the future.

In 1944, when these institutions were created, the world was completely different. The Second World War was still going on, but victory over Nazism was close. Starting in 1943, consultations between the allies of the anti-Hitler coalition, primarily the United States, Great Britain and the USSR, concerning the future of the world order, including its economic aspects, took place in Moscow and Washington.

The founding fathers of the Bretton Woods Institutions looked to the future and laid down extremely important principles in their charter, primarily the non-politicized nature of their activities and equal treatment of all member countries. It is precisely this foundation that has allowed these organizations to exist for so many decades, overcoming various crises. Unfortunately, the current generation of representatives of Western shareholders remembers less and less about these fundamentals and from time to time tries to turn the World Bank into another arena for political disputes.

Today we have the opportunity to use the bank as a platform for dialogue and promotion of our interests. This includes using the bank's unique country analytics, promoting Russia's export potential and strengthening contacts with friendly countries.

Great hopes for the future are also inspired by the increasing authority of Russia in the bank among friendly states and even individual Europeans due to the active course of foreign policy pursued by the leadership of our country, as well as

the constructive position of our directorate, one of the few country offices openly advocating a more equitable world order in the field of global economy and finance.

It is encouraging that, despite all the obstacles erected by our detractors, the accumulated volume of contracts concluded with Russian suppliers within the framework of World Bank projects continues to increase. In general, over the past years, we have managed to dramatically increase the level of awareness of Russian business about the opportunities for foreign expansion provided by the bank.

Russian know-how in a wide variety of sectors - from the organization of school meals to the establishment of epidemiological protection systems - has been implemented with the assistance of the World Bank as standards in more than 50 client countries.

If you treat participation in the bank passively, you will not get any benefit from being in it, but if you continue the course of more active interaction with partners from friendly countries, you can achieve big changes. Russia's voice is important here, and it would be irrational not to use these opportunities, especially now that we are witnessing the birth of a new world order.

As in any other corporation, "music is ordered" by those who own its controlling stake. So far, it is in the hands of Western countries, but the transfer of control over the Bretton Woods Institutions to the countries of the Global Majority, led by the BRICS, is only a matter of time due to macroeconomic, demographic and other trends. Therefore, we need to work patiently to bring this moment closer and not succumb to the provocations of those who cling to the outdated global way of life.

Economic Diplomacy in the Modern Geopolitical Context

D. Birichevsky

Keywords: economic diplomacy, mutually beneficial cooperation, multipolar world order, integration, World majority.

The current historical stage is characterized by significant turbulence in the system of international relations against the background of the failure of the collective West's claims to civilizational exclusivity and, accordingly, the inability of Western regulatory mechanisms to ensure the sustainable development of the world economy. In these circumstances, Westerners are trying to maintain their dominance by systematically weakening potential competitors and ensuring the overall subordinate position of the World majority countries.

In the confrontational logic of our opponents, Russia is not just a geopolitical opponent, but an existential threat, whose combined potential and political will for sustainable sovereign development threaten the global hegemony of the collective West. In an effort to prevent us from realizing this potential, Washington and its satellites systematically constructed a systemic security crisis near the Russian borders, with the transition of which into an acute phase, they announced their intention to strangle the domestic economy and inflict a strategic defeat on our country.

A complex hybrid confrontation is being imposed on us, one of the fronts of which is in the economic sphere. This requires us not only to make efforts to level out the most acute problems in the short term, but also to actively contribute to the construction of a new infrastructure of international cooperation beyond the control of the West.

As alternative centers of attraction are formed, new competencies and regimes will develop - industrial cooperation territories and logistics routes. The complexity of tasks related to the protection of transport, logistics, and technological infrastructures will increase. The competition of integrated production and marketing solutions will intensify.

New tasks, challenges and risks will require significant additional resources. The world economic system will not become simpler, and the countries of the World majority should not count on solving their problems at the expense of civilizational development. It is necessary to actively strive to achieve the maximum possible sovereignty and, through it, ensure access to decision-making processes.

Very soon, one of the key factors in choosing unions and integration associations will be the extent to which they allow us to preserve and most effectively implement sovereignty within the framework of solving the declared tasks. The West wants the algorithms of economic integration to be "universal" and thus ensure the reproduction of their dominant position. But the future belongs to integration algorithms - alternative, multiple, competing and complementary - that preserve the identity of the countries of the World majority. This will mean the end of the dictate of Western exceptionalism.

Therefore, the efforts of domestic economic diplomacy are aimed at promoting the development of a new multipolar world order, at actively forming new mechanisms of international cooperation, which in the future will determine the overall structure of the world economy. There is still a long, strenuous, but very interesting work ahead, requiring serious intellectual mobilization.

In general, the functions of economic diplomacy will expand as its role in international relations continues to strengthen. The greatest success will be achieved by those who can ensure the effective integration of various concepts. This is exactly what the Russian Federation is striving for - together with its closest allies, partners and all interested countries. Building sustainable cooperative ties based on the principles of constructive, respectful and mutually beneficial cooperation remains our absolute priority. Every step towards the development of bilateral and multilateral integration outside the paradigm of Western domination will contribute to the establishment of a more equitable multipolar world order.

The West Is Undermining and Losing the Global Diamond Industry

M. Artemyev

Keywords: Kimberley process, diamond industry, KPCS, collective West.

In November 2024, the next plenary meeting of the working bodies of the Kimberley Process (KP), the only industry regulatory mechanism of its kind, ensuring the transparent functioning of the natural diamond market, will be held. For almost three years now, this format has been under massive politicized pressure from Western countries seeking to subjugate the global diamond industry under the guise of anti-Russian hysteria. During this time, the Kimberley Process has become an illustrative example of effective opposition to the hypocritical attempts of the collective West to undermine the mechanisms of international cooperation beyond its control.

Over the more than 20-year history of the Kimberley Process, its participants have managed to reduce the share of so-called "conflict diamonds" in global turnover from 15% to 1%. This has contributed to a significant strengthening of socio-economic stability and security in the extractive countries of Africa. The secret of the KP's success lay in the constructive interaction of interested States, industry and civil society in order to ensure the most effective compliance with the basic requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), a set of generally recognized rules on the basis of which the world trade in natural diamonds is carried out. Even despite some attempts by Western countries to bring their "values" to the KP, the Kimberley Process, until recently, was in many ways an example of a multilateral platform where effective consensus decisions are made.

Currently, as a result of the subversive actions of Western countries, the industry is suffering losses and is in confusion. The prospects for sustainable development are deliberately being questioned. In the context of the core tasks of the Kimberley Process, all this not only does not contribute to the fight against conflict diamonds, but only aggravates the situation.

At the same time, due to the narrow horizon of planning their destructive actions, Westerners are faced with the fact that their restrictions turn against themselves - the diamond center in Antwerp is losing market share and suffering losses at a catastrophic rate, the prospects for maintaining its status as one of the leading trading platforms are at least vague. The general distrust of mining and processing countries towards Westerners as partners in the diamond business is growing, not to mention the further compromise of their reputation in terms of industry regulation.

The anti-Russian provocations of the United States and its allies in the Kimberley Process led to the fact that other representatives of the global diamond industry took their sovereign national interests seriously in the context of the geopolitical insinuations of the collective West. Mining countries are well aware that their well-being directly depends on the availability of conditions for open and fair competition, effective supply chains and business models, as well as the availability of a legitimate multilateral regulatory mechanism for the global diamond industry, such as the Kimberley Process.

Westerners, unable to think outside the patterns of their neocolonial aspirations, have personally laid the foundations for consistent marginalization in this market as alternative value chains inevitably diversify and new cooperative mechanisms are developed. Against the background of the incessant provocations of the "Seven", the absolute majority of countries confidently demonstrate their commitment to observing the principles of the Kimberley Process and striving to develop fruitful mutually beneficial cooperation outside the framework of forced Western domination. The countries of the Global South, obviously, do not intend to give their natural resources to Westerners, on the availability and effective use of which their socio-economic well-being and sovereign development directly depend.

Current Democratic Trends in Latin American Countries

A. Budayev

Keywords: Latin America, politics, West, democracy, human rights, values, alternative, populism, society, corruption, governance.

The Latin America and the Caribbean region (LAC) is going through a difficult stage of its development in the context of the transformation of the system of international relations and becoming an independent center of power in the emerging multipolar world. Stability and stability of democratic institutions, strengthening their immunity to modern challenges and various authoritarian deviations are of great importance in these processes.

The number of democratically elected Governments in the region has increased significantly in recent decades. The main guideline for Latin American democracies remains the Western-centric model with some national specifics. Regularly conducted by representatives of the collective West and their NGOs, studies on the level of development of democracy in the region are aimed at introducing their own approaches and criteria in this sensitive area into the public consciousness of Latin Americans. These include such universal characteristics as political pluralism, free and transparent elections, the level of development of political parties and civil society, freedom of speech and the media, the possibility of opposition activity, and accountability of the government to voters.

A number of analysts believe that democracy in LAC is losing popularity even in those states where it seemed quite stable until recently. Indeed, there are more and more democratic countries in the region according to formal indicators, and citizens' satisfaction with the political process itself (or the methods of government of the current government), judging by public opinion polls, is decreasing. This leads to an increase in protest moods and, as a result, stimulates the demand for informal leaders. As a result, "democratic demands" are increasing almost synchronously in countries with relatively little democratic experience and/or with the so-called "hybrid regime".

A characteristic feature of the evolution of LAC States in the current historical period of time is that politicians who are inclined to autocratic methods of government come to power through democratic procedures. The most striking examples of this phenomenon include the leaders of Argentina X.Milea and Salvador N.Bukele. It is noteworthy that the so-called "authoritarian populists" enjoy fairly broad support from the population of their countries. Thus, the first of them won the presidential elections in November 2023 with 56% of the vote, and the second was re-elected in February 2024 for a new presidential term with a record 85% support.

In order to protect national sovereignty and independent domestic and foreign policy in these countries, certain restrictive measures may be used that affect democratic and human rights norms in their Western understanding and interpretation. This should be seen rather as forced steps to counter the subversive and destructive activities of the right-wing conservative opposition, which is supported and sponsored by Western curators who are trying to organize "color revolutions" and forcibly change the legitimate government they dislike. In the second, "traditionalist" model, it would be possible to identify sub-regional subgroups (South American, Andean, Central American), each of which has a number of features related to the geographical and cultural-historical identity of the respective countries.

The issue of developing, together with like-minded Russians, their own scale of values in the field of democracy in order to compile alternative Western ratings and conduct appropriate information and explanatory work to expose the true aspirations of their authors is becoming increasingly urgent.

Risks of the Malicious Use of Artificial Intelligence Technologies in South Korea: Informational and Psychological Aspect

P. Kuznetsov

Keywords: South Korea, AI, risks, generative models, chatbots.

Modern South Korea is one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world. The most advanced technologies have been developed and successfully applied there, including technologies related to artificial intelligence (hereinafter - AI). South Korean technology giants such as Samsung, LG, SK and the like are creating so-called ecosystems that include the widest range of technological solutions and products - starting with the already mentioned AI solutions and ending with railway trains.

Like any other technology, AI can be used both for the benefit of society and for malicious purposes. This article examines the risks of malicious use of AI technologies in South Korea in an informational and psychological aspect.

It is necessary to mention the relevance of both the topic of the risks of direct malicious use of artificial intelligence and the risks of indirect harm to the introduction of AI systems. Currently, AI technologies are beginning to be tested in such a "sensitive" field as medicine, specifically in the fields of psychology and psychiatry. And the use, for example, of chatbots as interlocutors for patients, according to the testimony of researchers and practicing psychologists, can lead to completely unexpected harmful consequences for the mental health of patients. Therefore, it is necessary to drastically reduce the delay in regulating AI technologies compared to the speed of their implementation. Currently, there is a significant predominance in terms of the use of AI technologies in public life over the availability of developed effective measures to counter their malicious use and determine responsibility in cases of negative consequences.

Catalonia, the Basque Country, and Galicia on the Issue of Transforming the Territorial Organization of Modern Spain

A. Vilchinsky

Keywords: Spain, Catalonia, Basque Country, Galicia, autonomy, political system, territorial structure, decentralization, party.

The formation of the modern system of the territorial structure of Spain began after the death of Francisco Franco in 1975 and represented a political and legal process, as a result of which the Spanish regions received an autonomous status. The basis for the legal formalization of Spain's democratic transformation was laid down by the Constitution adopted on December 29, 1978. The process of obtaining autonomous statuses by the regions took place between 1979 and 1995. As a result, 17 autonomous regions and two autonomous cities were formed, and three historical autonomies - Catalonia, the Basque Country and Galicia - received the broadest rights in self-government.

Assessing the prospects for a potential change in the territorial structure of Spain, it is worth noting that such a possibility is currently extremely unlikely. Even in the face of a large stream of criticism from nationalists, a legal change in this system does not seem feasible. Such transformations require not only broad public support, but also appropriate political support, the achievement of which is complicated by the lack of a parliamentary majority for both the right and left coalitions. Moreover, any political agreement will not be sustainable in the context of the increased role of the nationalist parties of the Basque Country and Catalonia, which not only seek to expand the powers of their regions within the framework of existing autonomy, but also often raise the issue of independence. Based on this, it can be concluded that constitutional reform and any transformations in the Spanish territorial structure should not be expected in the near future.

Speaking about potential areas of reform, it is worth noting that the most suitable option for the Kingdom of Spain could be to preserve the system of autonomies while updating and modernizing it. Such transformations should be aimed at updating the system of interaction along the line of "center – autonomy",

the key innovations of which could be the following aspects: clarifying the full range of powers of the autonomies and the center in order to avoid controversial subjects of competence; improving coordination between state and autonomous administrations through joint bilateral commissions; reassessment of approaches to the allocation of funding between autonomous communities.

To implement such initiatives, it is necessary to prepare an appropriate regulatory framework, which is difficult in the context of party and political instability, the absence of a parliamentary majority in the ruling coalition and the increased role of nationalist parties. It should be noted that it is important to hold regular political consultations with the nationalist forces of Catalonia, the Basque Country and Galicia, which set the agenda in their autonomous regions and most actively advocate decentralization.

Initiatives to change the existing system of the territorial structure of Spain come from economically strong regions with large nationalist movements, therefore, the leading parties of historical autonomies will be the engines of any transformations. The governments of Catalonia and the Basque Country, as well as residents of these regions, to varying degrees support an increase in the independence of the regions, unlike Galicia, where conservative views prevail, but nationalists also have the necessary support to get into the Spanish parliament.

In addition, Catalonia and the Basque Country are among the most economically developed regions, which allows them to depend less on the center's assistance in crisis situations than Galicia. This provides broader public support for decentralization in the two regions. There is very little interest in this issue in other autonomous regions. Thus, the Catalan and Basque parties will play leading roles in shaping the principles of the renewal of the territorial structure of Spain, which should take place not unilaterally, but consistently, taking into account the positions of both the autonomies and the leading political forces of the kingdom.

The End of 40 Years of Catalan Nationalist Leadership? The Significance of the 2024 Regional Elections in Catalonia

O. Karpovich

Keywords: Spain, Catalonia, parliament, government, elections, nationalism, party, coalition.

The regional elections to the Catalan parliament, held on May 12, 2024, marked significant changes in the balance of power on the party map of autonomy. The vote ended with the victory of the Catalan branch of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE). The movement gained the support of 28% of voters, gaining 42 seats in the 135-member legislature, expanding its representation by nine seats compared to the results of the 2021 elections, in which the Socialists also took the leading position. Nevertheless, this was not an obstacle for the bloc of nationalist forces, which formed a coalition government, having in total an absolute majority of parliamentary mandates. Catalan nationalists have consistently played a leading role in the creation of the regional government for about 40 years.

The autonomous parliamentary elections in May 2024 in Catalonia marked the weakening of nationalist forces in the region, which failed to form a government for the first time in 40 years. The decline in their popularity is due to the PSOE's success in mobilizing its electorate, as well as the fatigue of some voters from the fruitless struggle to hold a new referendum on the status of the region. Another factor is the lack of attention to the more pressing socio-economic and environmental issues of autonomy.

The appearance in August 2024 of the coalition of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and the Left Republicans of Catalonia (LRC), which, with the support of Sumar, managed to get the necessary 68 votes to approve the head of the Socialists, Salvador Ilya, as head of the Generalitat, indicates the strengthening of the position of the Socialists in the region. These results also point to the successful policy of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to resolve differences with the autonomy. In particular, the announcement of amnesty for former Catalan politicians

in 2023 resonated with some Catalan voters, which led to an increase in support for the PSOE. Nevertheless, the new cabinet created by PSOE, LRC and Sumar will work in the presence of a large opposition represented by 66 deputies.

By becoming part of the ruling bloc in Catalonia, the Socialists, who are also the leading party of the Spanish government coalition together with Sumar, have gained new levers of influence on the political process in the region. The nationalist movement to hold a new referendum on the status of the community may be sidelined, since the PSOE and Sumar do not support this initiative, and the LRC adheres to moderate positions and advocates restrained negotiations with the center. This feature of their approach led to disagreements with another nationalist force, the Together for Catalonia party, which has now joined the opposition and voted against the candidacy of Salvador Illia.

The Socialists will be able to partially control the course of the nationalist forces in the region. The policy of the Spanish central authorities in 2023-2024 to normalize relations with Catalonia through a number of concessions, which included amnesty for former Catalan politicians, as well as plans by the PSOE-LRC coalition to empower the Generalitat with tax collection powers, partly meets the requirements of some moderate nationalists. Under these conditions, the nationalist forces of the region have limited tools in the medium term to increase their popularity and attract new supporters. The further positions of the PSOE-LRC bloc will depend on the progress of the implementation of the plans outlined in the inter-party agreement.

Eurasian Integration Through the Lens of Antiterrorism Cooperation

A. Arefyev

Keywords: anti-terrorist cooperation, integration, dialogue platform, CIS, SCO.

Against the background of the ongoing degradation of anti-terrorist cooperation in the format of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) for several years, the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) demonstrate a steady desire to combine efforts and synchronize their positions in various fields of activity, including in matters of national security. In September 2024, the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, hosted two significant events, each of which can rightfully have the prefix "for the first time".

First of all, we are talking about a dialogue platform organized jointly by the State Security Service of Uzbekistan, the CIS Antiterrorist Center (ATC CIS) and the SCO Regional Antiterrorist Structure (SCO RATS), which for the first time combined two independent events - the CIS Conference on Combating Terrorism and Extremism and the SCO RATS International Scientific and Practical Conference. If this kind of forum has become the second in a row for the CIS, then the SCO is already gathering interested actors of anti-terrorist cooperation for the tenth time.

The joint format of the event made it possible to gather at one table with personal presence more than 230 participants from 20 CIS and SCO countries, CIS and SCO structures, six international organizations and more than 20 scientific and educational organizations. The conference program allowed the participants to exchange national experience in countering terrorism and extremism, assess the current situation in the region and the world as a whole against the background of ongoing local conflicts, including on the borders of fraternal integration associations, and in an open dialogue to condemn the policy of double standards pursued by the countries of the collective West. A separate section of the event was devoted to international counter-terrorism cooperation, during which representatives

of CIS bodies and specialized international organizations informed about their measures and projects in the CIS and SCO region.

The site was of interest, where the heads of educational and research organizations from almost all participating countries of the conference shared their experience in scientific and educational support for counter-terrorism and anti-extremist activities. The ideas of synchronizing research work on topics of mutual interest were expressed.

With this in mind, and based on the results of the activities carried out, a conclusion arises about the need to further project the accumulated best practices to other areas of cooperation between the countries of the Eurasian continent in order to develop integration, eliminate duplication of initiatives and agendas, as well as increase the impact of the efforts made.

Turkish-Egyptian Relations at a New Stage of Strategic Rapprochement

M. Kolesnikova

Keywords: Egypt, Turkey, Erdogan, Africa, A. al-Sisi, Israel, military cooperation, Eastern Mediterranean.

Against the background of the ongoing reconfiguration of contacts between various players in the Middle East, the process of de-escalation of the Turkish-Egyptian crisis seems to fit naturally into the region-wide logic of reviewing the accumulated problems. The official point that marked the end of the longest conflict between Ankara and Cairo in modern history was set on February 14, 2024, when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited the Arab Republic of Egypt (ARE) to hold talks with his counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Many experts note the pragmatic interest of both sides in resuming a comprehensive dialogue, and also emphasize the importance of strengthening their interaction in order to increase the effectiveness of cooperation on key regional dossiers. Taking into account the steps taken by Turkey and Egypt towards each other, it is appropriate to say that at present we are talking not so much about detente, but about a full-fledged transition to a new stage of strategic rapprochement, which will be in many ways to influence what is happening in the entire Middle East system of regional contacts.

Currently, Turkish-Egyptian relations represent a complex set of contacts, where the economic interests of each side and their desire to strengthen their own political positions in the Middle East and North Africa region play a key role.

Potential cooperation between Turkey and Egypt, which are the main actors in key regional dossiers, can pave the way for the transformation of these crisis zones, which also meets the interests of Western partners of both countries. However, when regional issues acquire the dimension of global geopolitics, the final harmonization of the positions of Ankara and Cairo is called into question by the presence of a certain load of contradictions.

At the same time, despite a number of difficulties, it can be argued that in the medium term, the course towards rapprochement between the two Middle Eastern

partners will remain due to the aggravation of common problems (primarily the offensive actions of Israel and the factor of Palestinian refugees). At the same time, regardless of the change in the alignment of domestic political forces in Turkey, it seems most likely that the planned "reset" of Turkish-Egyptian relations will continue in connection with the publicly expressed virtually unanimous support of the Turkish opposition for the normalization that has begun.

Russia – Islamic World: Toward the Formation of a Fair and Multipolar World Order

F. Mukhametshin

Keywords: SVG "RIW", forum in Kazan, Palestinian-Israeli conflict, OIC, new world order.

On May 16, 2024, the Strategic Vision Group (hereinafter referred to as the SVG or the Group) "Russia - the Islamic World" ("RIW") held an international conference in Kazan with the agenda: "Russia - the Islamic World: a just multipolar world order and secure development." The meeting was attended by more than 200 politicians, scientists, public figures and religious leaders from 45 countries of the Islamic world, as well as 38 diplomatic missions.

The conference, held in the context of escalating international tensions, a new military and political crisis in the Middle East and in order to further enhance the role of Russia's multilateral cooperation with Muslim countries, once again demonstrated the relevance of SVG RIW as an international intellectual platform.

Members and honored guests of the Group also took part in the plenary session and sections of the International Economic Forum "KazanForum 2024" (hereinafter - the Forum), which for the second year has been the main federal platform for strengthening trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural ties between Russia and the countries of the Islamic world. The Forum was attended by more than 20 thousand representatives of 87 countries and most of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

The key topics of the Forum were the financial and logistical infrastructure of Russia and the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Islamic finance and investment, international cooperation in the field of economics, science and technology, the Halal industry, as well as strengthening humanitarian ties in education, culture and sports, including the development of youth and women's programs. More than 180 different events were held within the framework of the Forum, including 140 thematic sections. As a result, 120 agreements were concluded.

The conference participants expressed the wish that the leaders of Russia and the OIC member countries, realizing their collective responsibility for the fate of their states and peoples, could speak from a unified position on September 23-24, 2024 at the Forum "Summit of the Future", held by the UN General Assembly, in order to make a worthy contribution to the development of a new global consensus on ways to create the foundations for a more effective planetary cooperation capable of coping with today's challenges, as well as new threats in the future.

The SVG Russia - Islamic World plans to continue discussing the current agenda concerning approaches to the formation of a just multipolar world order and secure development at its international seminars and conferences, as well as at a visiting meeting of the Group in one of the OIC member countries in 2025.

SCO: The Formula for Continental Power of Eurasia

S. Lavrov

Keywords: SCO, Putin's Eurasian initiative, geopolitics of Greater Eurasia.

In the 20 years since its establishment in 2001, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has become an important factor in maintaining regional and international security.

Initially, the SCO was created to streamline the provision of regional stability and security between China and its neighboring Russia and the countries of Central Asia after the collapse of the USSR. However, the founders' vision of the future was manifested in the fact that from the very first steps the SCO began to develop a fundamentally new, different from the Western-centric, democratic model of interstate relations and multilateral cooperation on an equal non-aligned basis, anticipating, in fact, the essential, universal foundations of the emerging multipolar world order. This generally acceptable platform for finding joint responses to the challenges of the time has led to the natural evolution of the SCO into something much more significant (while Central Asia remains the core of the SCO).

A fundamentally important characteristic of the SCO as an association of collective interaction is that it is not a military-political or economic union and is not directed against any third party. It is open for accession by other states, its charter does not limit the number of possible participants (if they meet other criteria and correspond to the SCO region).

The SCO has become one of the most important mechanisms available to Russia for formatting the continental Eurasian space in the interests of the country, ensuring the needs of its development and security, taking into account the special position of Russia "as an original state-civilization, a vast Eurasian and Euro-Pacific power".

The SCO is an outstanding geopolitical project capable of fundamentally turning the centuries of the struggle of world powers for supremacy in Eurasia

through the adoption of a development agenda in the interests of countries and peoples directly located in this space without outside interference.

Currently, the SCO has the opportunity to reformat its activities and the mechanisms of the Organization itself. First of all, this is due to the expansion of the horizon of opportunities in solving integration problems in Eurasia. Further improvement of the Organization's activities will be an important step in effectively responding to new challenges and adapting the SCO to the modern realities of increasing geopolitical tensions in the world.

An analysis of the SCO's inherent characteristics and potential as the largest geopolitical entity in Eurasia shows that the SCO is objectively more capable than any of the existing multilateral structures in Eurasia of becoming an integrator of the processes of "assembling" the Great Eurasian Partnership as a platform for interregional coordination to promote Eurasian integration, consolidate the efforts of states in building an integral Eurasian space of stability and development, forming In Eurasia, there is a fundamentally new architecture of indivisible security on a collective non-block basis. At the same time, the increased level of capabilities sets the SCO the task of adapting, reconfiguring functional mechanisms in order to most effectively realize the enormous potential inherent in it.

Eurasian Horizons of BRICS

S. Lavrov

Keywords: BRICS, Eurasian logistics, Eurasian ITC.

Since January 1, 2024, since its expansion, the BRICS has entered a new stage, a period of transformation into a different quality. The undeniable fact is the growth of the political weight and potential of the association.

Speaking during the Primakov Readings in June this year, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, describing the processes of fundamental changes that have engulfed the Eurasian space, called BRICS the "locomotive" of Eurasian integration.

One of the key areas where the participation of the BRICS countries can objectively have a noticeable impact is the formation of a new architecture of transcontinental Eurasian logistics, the development of a network of international transport and logistics corridors (ITC).

The Eurasian prioritization of BRICS spatial relations would fully meet Russia's interests, taking into account its special position "as an original state-civilization, a vast Eurasian and Euro-Pacific power."

In addition, given that our country has entered a period of prolonged confrontation with the collective West and the sanctions regime against Russia, even according to the most optimistic forecasts, will last for more than one year, the need of Russian foreign trade participants for new solutions to circumvent the imposed sanctions will only increase and has already led to significant changes in Russia's foreign trade transport logistics.

In the context of the West's uncompromising hybrid war against Russia, the development of the Eurasian ITC network with its participation can play an important role in overcoming attempts by the United States and its satellites to oust Russia from world economic relations.

Currently, opportunities are opening up to use the financial and economic potential of the BRICS to form a new architecture of transcontinental logistics in Eurasia, which would be more in line with the strategic interests of the Russian

Federation and at the same time would contribute to strengthening the economic connectivity of the Eurasian space.

Over time, the new Eurasian logistics, the locomotive of which the BRICS is capable of acting, would allow the formation of the "great integration contour of Eurasia" to begin. In turn, the promotion of Eurasian integration will open up additional economic opportunities for cooperation with Brazil, South Africa, as well as the BRICS+ countries.

It is premature to say now that the BRICS states will do so. But we believe that in the current situation, circumstances and conditions are more favorable for the BRICS countries to realize these opportunities to reach a new quality of economic interaction and interconnectedness.

BRICS: Philosophy and Practice of Uniting the World in the 21st Century

R. Abdulatipov

Keywords: BRICS, value orientations and worldview, Russia's approaches to the creation of a universal interstate association, S.Huntington, A.Toynbee.

Profound transformational changes became characteristic after the collapse of the Soviet Union for both specific countries and regional and global processes. Hence, the increasing role of the philosophy of world politics as a methodological basis for identifying cultural and civilizational value, worldview knowledge about the content, nature and prospects of the world of political change in the 21st century.

In this regard, an analysis of the evolution process and the prospects for the development of such new international associations as BRICS is interesting for scientific understanding. Here, a concrete historical analysis of global and domestic socio-political processes is important. After all, this is very important for determining the dynamics of development, that is, revealing the essence of the past and determining the scenarios of the future in their interrelation and interdependence.

In this regard, the Russian Federation, one of the initiators of the formation of the association, acts as a system-forming factor. In terms of form and content, our country has had and probably will continue to have a positive impact on the formation and prospects for sustainable development of the BRICS. Russia's presidency of the BRICS and its 16th summit in Kazan (October 2024) will undoubtedly become a new important milestone in the formation of this international association, defining a new model for establishing partnership cooperation in key areas of politics, economics, finance, as well as cultural, humanitarian, youth and other contacts.

By 2009, consultations began, and soon the process of forming a new global international association - BRICS with the participation of Brazil, Russia, India and China was launched in Yekaterinburg. The founding countries initially stated that they see BRICS as an equal union of peoples and countries in the struggle to

strengthen their national sovereignty and free themselves from attempts at Western dictate.

At the summit in China in 2011, the Republic of South Africa joined the new international association, and after that the Organization acquired its current name. Work has begun in BRICS on the main parameters of its political course, and in Durban in 2013, the summit of Heads of State adopted the Etekwini Declaration and the Etekwini Action Plan. At the 7th BRICS summit in Ufa, the adoption of the Economic Partnership Strategy took place, prospects for expanding cooperation between the countries in the economic and foreign policy spheres were outlined. The next summit in China in 2017 was held under the motto - "BRICS: strengthening partnership for a better future," and the need for UN reform, including the Security Council, was also highlighted.

The Russian Federation pays special attention to the cultural and humanitarian dimension of the association. The BRICS countries highly appreciate the vast experience of the Russian state in conducting a national policy to build a mutually respectful relationship between different faiths. How can we not recall here the words of V. Klyuchevsky about the settlement, not the conquest of territories, about the rejection of enslavement and displacement of the natives.

And Russia as a state, as a nation, will rise to a qualitatively new level of its cultural and civilizational development through interaction in the international association of such unique member states. Undoubtedly, strategically, this international association will expand and strengthen as an important mechanism for establishing a multipolar world order. We are confident that the main thing in BRICS will not be national, confessional and racial differences, not what separates these countries and peoples, but what unites them, helping to jointly determine their joint movement towards civilizational and cultural integration, thus contributing to the growth of humanity's ability to unite on a planetary scale, realizing the responsibility of an independent development and conciliar unity. At the same time, it is clear that each BRICS member state is aware of its independence and responsibility, first of all, to its people.

Joining BRICS+: Anwar's Pragmatic and Strategic Choice for Malaysia

R. Hussin

Keywords: BRICS+, Malaysia, economic cooperation.

During the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to Russia, the country's potential membership in BRICS+ was in the spotlight. It is increasingly believed that Malaysia's interest in BRICS+ is a turn away from Western alliances, but this interpretation overlooks the strategic reasons and nuances behind Malaysia's participation in this association.

Malaysia has long pursued a balanced foreign policy, interacting with both Western and non-Western powers to maximize its national benefits. This approach, based on pragmatic diplomacy, allows Malaysia to exploit the opportunities of diverse global partnerships without being constrained by binary geopolitical interests.

By joining BRICS+, Malaysia seeks to deepen economic cooperation with emerging markets, expand trade, investment and technological exchange. This interaction is intended to complement Malaysia's existing ties with Western countries and institutions, not replace them.

Diversification of economic partners through membership in BRICS+ can strengthen Malaysia's economic stability and reduce dependence on any one bloc. Such strategic diversification is extremely important in a multipolar world, where economic stability can be strengthened through interaction with numerous partners. Malaysia's participation in BRICS+ is consistent with its long-term economic strategies and development plans, which makes its choice practical for the country's future growth. The BRICS+ intention to complement global economic governance by empowering emerging economies contributes to a more balanced and inclusive global economic landscape. This, in turn, can support global stability and growth, which benefits everyone, including Western economies.

BRICS in the New World Order

A. Bolshakov, Ye. Khramova

Keywords: neocolonialist system, new world order, proxy wars, BRICS, Hamas, Hezbollah, BRICS+.

In recent years, it has been customary to say that the world order, dominated by the collective West, is coming to an end. This was insisted on by the leaders of a number of countries with significant weight in world development - Brazil, India, China, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, etc.

Currently, two main trends are developing in BRICS. She is forced to institutionalize. This is a normal stage in the development of any interstate association. Russia, along with India and Brazil, is the initiator of such changes. However, the global prospects of unification are also connected with expansion. Therefore, BRICS+ cannot but expand, and not only by increasing participants, but also by declarations of accession of new members.

BRICS are united by values, economic interests, and the ability of countries to regulate certain processes. This is still a project-oriented organization. The work takes place on the following grounds: conversations, coordination, allocation of money for a specific project.

Despite the fact that the BRICS countries currently have good historical ties, they all have their own priorities in terms of transport logistics. For example, Russia has the Northern Sea Route. These projects need further discussion within the framework of the BRICS Civil Society Forum, twinning projects of the cities of the BRICS countries. There is also a BRICS Network University. In this regard, BRICS is an important modern global project, but not a way to solve all the world's problems.

In the economic sphere of the BRICS, the common goal is to create conditions for confident economic growth of all states, and the specific task is to increase the role of the organization's member countries in the international monetary and financial system. In the Johannesburg Declaration of 2023, the BRICS leaders fixed the states' focus on increasing settlements in national currencies, strengthening

correspondent banking networks to ensure international transactions, therefore, work will continue on the development of a pool of conditional foreign exchange reserves, primarily in terms of using currencies alternative to the US dollar.

Among the immediate economic tasks of the BRICS is the creation of its own payment system within the framework of unification. We believe that an important goal in the future is the creation of an independent settlement payment system within the framework of the association, which would be based on the most modern technologies, such as digital currencies and blockchain. In addition, the focus is on the safety and sustainability of global transport chains, improving transportation efficiency and reducing logistics costs.

The political, and even more so the military component, are not the main ones for the BRICS countries at the moment. Today, BRICS members prefer to limit themselves to statements about the need to destroy the system of Western colonialism in the world and form a more just world order.

The summits of the BRICS countries, the expansion of the association at the expense of new members, the interaction of BRICS and BRICS+, since the latter has more than 30 states applying for membership in BRICS, are political in their content. The debate around the new members of the association - Argentina, Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey, Thailand, Malaysia and others - is political.

Western countries are trying to undermine and weaken the BRICS union. However, the BRICS does not compete with anyone, does not oppose itself to anyone, and is not an anti-Western association, according to their own rhetoric.

Therefore, it is still far from creating an alternative political bloc based on BRICS/BRICS+, and the common economic policy of the participating countries will be formed for many years.

Time will tell whether anti-colonialism and opposition to the West will be able to unite a new community (an international organization at the global level), whether it will be able to develop an effective and sufficiently universal policy in the field of abandoning the dollar.

Personalities in the History of Russia's Diplomatic Presence in Jerusalem (1881-1914)

F. Georgi

Keywords: The Russian Empire, the Middle East, the Holy Land, Jerusalem, St. Sergius Compound, Israel, the National Library of Israel, consulate, digital diplomacy, online exhibition.

The Middle East has always occupied a special place in the history of the Russian state and society for both geopolitical and religious and spiritual reasons. Jerusalem and other centers of the Biblical region are among the most important points of application of Russian spiritual and cultural activity. Our ties with the Holy Land are deep, multifaceted and strong. In this context, the history of Russian diplomacy in the Middle East region, as well as the role of the Consulate General of the Russian Empire in Jerusalem, is of interest.

On February 8, 2024, on the eve of the Day of the Diplomatic Worker of the Russian Federation, the opening of the exhibition "The Russian Imperial Consulate General in Jerusalem in person" took place. Her exhibition, which included unique photographic materials from the collection of the National Library of Israel, archival documents and even poetry of diplomats who served in the Holy Land, was prepared by the Russian Embassy in Israel with the support of Rossotrudnichestvo. The exhibition is located in the branch of the Russian House in the Sergievsky courtyard in Jerusalem. Its electronic version can be found on the website: <https://www.yakovlev-jerusalem.ru/1858-1914>. The project aims to expand the understanding of the Russian and foreign public about the history of Russian diplomacy in the Middle East at the turn of the XIX-XX centuries.

The Russian Imperial Consulate operated in Jerusalem for almost 60 years: from 1858 to 1914. In 1891, his status was elevated to general. During this time, the diplomats serving there have written many glorious pages in the annals of the Russian presence in the Holy Land. This article will focus on the activities of the consulate in 1881-1914.

On the 200th Birth Anniversary of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Empire Prince Alexey Lobanov-Rostovsky

V. KruzHKov

Keywords: Prince A.B.Lobanov-Rostov, a great diplomat.

A.B.Lobanov-Rostovsky had the opportunity to serve the Fatherland in various positions in different countries under four emperors of the Russian Empire - Nicholas I, Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II. During the respective periods of the reigns of the mentioned monarchs, he was an active participant in important diplomatic and political processes.

In 1847, Lobanov was sent to serve at the Russian embassy in Paris, where he witnessed the dramatic revolutionary events in France in 1848, including the overthrow of the king. In 1850, Alexei Borisovich was sent to Berlin. There he received not only another promotion, but was also awarded the Order of St. Anne, 3rd degree, and two years later - 2nd degree "for zealous service and special labors." In 1852, Lobanov was awarded the rank of court counselor, and in 1854 - collegiate counselor.

During the Crimean War, when the French Emperor Napoleon III in 1856 began to send signals about the desirability of a peaceful settlement of the conflict, Lobanov was entrusted with an important secret diplomatic mission in Paris.

After the end of the Crimean War, an experienced diplomat A.P.Butenev was appointed Russian ambassador to Constantinople in 1856 to restore relations with Turkey. As his "right hand man", a promising young diplomat Lobanov-Rostovsky was sent to the post of mission adviser.

In 1862, Lobanov-Rostovsky achieved the conclusion between Russia and Turkey of a treatise on trade and navigation - beneficial for Russian merchants and favorable for Russian merchant ships visiting Turkish waters.

The International Berlin Congress (June-September 1878), which was chaired by German Chancellor O. von Bismarck, thanks primarily to the efforts of England and Austria-Hungary, leveled a number of provisions of the San Stefano Treaty that were beneficial to Russia. In particular, the temporary occupation of Austria-

Hungary was established in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Bulgaria was subject to division into northern and southern parts. Northern Bulgaria was granted the status of an autonomous principality, and the so-called Eastern Rumelia was to remain under Turkish rule. There was a threat of Ottoman troops entering there under the pretext of protecting Muslims, as well as occupying contingents of Western powers. The British and Austrians insisted on this, assuming to create a buffer for Russia's communications with the Balkan peoples. Austria's expansion in the Balkans was carefully supported by Germany, which was preparing to absorb Austria in the future, of course, along with its Balkan territorial acquisitions.

The West feared that if a "Great Bulgaria" friendly to Russia was created, the Russians would be able to control the Black Sea Straits and all the Balkans. Prince A.M. Gorchakov called the Berlin Congress "the blackest page of his career." Taking into account the results of the congress, it was necessary to work out and conclude a final agreement with the Turks.

Lobanov managed to establish close contacts with influential Turks as soon as possible and, after mutual concessions, achieved the signing of the Constantinople Peace Treaty with the Ottoman Empire in February 1879.

For the successful settlement of the "Eastern question" Lobanov received the rank of a full state councilor and the Order of Alexander Nevsky with diamond pendants.

Against the background of strained relations with England, Alexander II decided to send Lobanov-Rostovsky to London in December 1879 as a man capable of "putting out fires." At the same time, the tsar told the prince that this business trip would be his last before he replaced A.M. Gorchakov as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Under the new Emperor Alexander III, in July 1882, A.B.Lobanov-Rostovsky was appointed to Vienna as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Austria-Hungary. He worked in this position for 13 years, then becoming Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Empire.

Führer, World, Death

I. Kravchenko

Keywords: Fuhrer, Adolf Hitler, fascism, the Third Reich, the Nazi system, neo-feudalism, propaganda, war.

Any Fuhrer is an entity born twice and living two parallel lives at a certain stage of his earthly existence.

The first birth is physical. The actual birth of God. Further, as with any ordinary person: childhood, socialization, experience, personality formation, with joys, sorrows, worries, resentments. Their character costs, their cockroaches in the head, like everyone else. Education, work, participation in socio-political activities. This period can last indefinitely.

The most curious thing begins with the moment of his second birth, the start of a parallel life line. It is always an unexpected gift of fate, opening up such opportunities for power, when conscience and the concepts of good and evil become the only constraints.

The Fuhrer is a superman: his beauty, intelligence, strength and will are beyond our comprehension. He has no age, his essence is timeless. He is born already wise and mature, he does not age, but dies always young. His face, turned towards us, is a dazzling golden mask. And no one should ever see and know what is under it.

Gradually, the disguise sticks tightly to the living flesh, puts its roots into it and fuses with it into a single whole. The virtual image of the great leader finally replaces the physical reality. He no longer wants to feel like a mere mortal, he sincerely longs to be what he only seems to be: omnipotent, eternal and invulnerable. Rebirth devours a person, and only the Fuhrer remains.

Any Fuhrer creates a fascist structure around himself, at the same time, any fascist community somehow finds, elects or appoints a leader. He is the living idol of this infernal cult, accepting worship, accumulating sacrifices from his flock and distributing grace to the members of his brotherhood: powers and resources, the main of which is the right to impunity.

Despite his "leading and guiding" role in the system, the Fuhrer is largely subordinated to its inertia. The deity depends on his cult and, accordingly, on his servants performing the necessary rituals. And these priests - with the right level of intelligence, dexterity and accuracy - can manipulate their idol, arousing anger or mercy in him, and direct this colossal energy in the right direction.

No matter how close the image of the Fuhrer is to the people, he himself is infinitely far from the people in the flesh. His feet have not touched the ground for so long that he is unable to understand basic things. How can it be that someone does not have enough to live on, someone does not have access to normal medicine, education, and often to the basic benefits of civilization? The leader firmly believes that everyone lives in the same wonderful fairy tale as himself.

The Fuhrer's appetites are starting to grow. Even small tactical successes can turn his head and further strengthen his maniacal self-confidence. It takes more and more resounding victories, more triumphs, more evidence for himself that he is omnipotent and eternal. But since the great leader does not correlate the scale of tasks with the available opportunities at all, and the servants of his cult all as one take a salute, there are not enough resources to manage the world and the cheapest and most affordable is thrown into the furnace. This is how the bloody flywheel of recycling of fellow citizens is unwound. For Hitler, this was the beginning of the end.

How does it all end up? War does not necessarily kill leaders. But such a war, which killed Adolf Hitler, will kill any Fuhrer. The fact that it was lost was clear to the visionaries in 1943. In 1944, this became so obvious that part of the leadership of the Wehrmacht organized an assassination attempt on him - a conspiracy on July 20th. At that time, there was still hope that everything would somehow end with another trailer in the Compiègne forest. Unfortunately for Germany, the assassination attempt failed, and the school in Reims remained the only possible ending.

Timerbayev R.M. Selected Works

N. Artyomenkova

Keywords: nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, NPT, IAEA, CTBT.

In 2023, the Moscow publishing house "The Whole World", under the general editorship of V.A.Orlov, published the book "Favorites" by Roland Mikhailovich Timerbaev (1927-2019), an outstanding Russian diplomat, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR and Russia.

The publication is an organically structured collection of articles, scientific notes, excerpts from monographs and fragments from the personal diaries of R.M.Timerbayev on a wide range of issues of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The materials presented in the book, which are valuable in themselves, simultaneously act as a documentary basis for the development of the end-to-end storyline of the "Chosen One" - the progressive disclosure of the personality of Roland Mikhailovich, his views and beliefs. In fact, the pages of the publication unfold a narrative about the professional path of the author, whose worldview is reflected in the description and analysis of such changing events and topics as the beginning of the atomic era, the history of negotiations on the NPT, the building of the IAEA safeguards system, regional challenges, the work of the subcommittee of the UN Disarmament Commission and the evolution of arms control.

Information and Communication Technologies for the Global World

E. Sidorenko

Keywords: monograph, ICT, global world, digital age, information security.

The presentation of the monograph "Information and Communication Technologies for the Global World", prepared by leading Russian and Chinese experts, took place at the A.M.Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Support Fund. The event was timed to coincide with the 80th anniversary of MGIMO and the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Russia and China.

The monograph, prepared under the general editorship of Olga Melnikova, Candidate of Political Sciences, Researcher at the MGIMO Institute of International Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, touches on key challenges and trends related to the impact of ICT on global politics, and issues of international cooperation in the field of information security. Andrey Krutskikh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Professor, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Director of the Center for International Information Security and Scientific and Technological Policy of the MGIMO University of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, acted as the head of the project.

Well-known experts in the field of cybersecurity and information technology took part in the discussion of the monograph.

**Dudarev K. Saudi Arabia in the 21st Century:
Revolution of the 30-Somethings or the Tsunami of Modernization**

S. Filatov

Keywords: Saudi Arabia, the Arab world, moderate Islam, Vision 2030, openness to the world, tourism.

The fundamental changes in Saudi Arabia's domestic and foreign policy are one of the most significant phenomena of our time, which influenced the course of world events. This is the leitmotif of the new book by Russian orientalist and international journalist Konstantin Dudarev "Saudi Arabia in the 21st Century. The Revolution of the 30-year-olds or the tsunami of Modernization", recently published by Nedra Publishing House.

The work is a kind of analytical review – a chronicle of the reforms of King Salman, after his accession to the throne in January 2015, and his son, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman. The changes are being implemented on the basis of a new strategy formulated in the Vision 2030 policy document. The essence of the new strategy is the total modernization of the Kingdom, reducing dependence on raw materials, diversifying the economy, getting rid of the dominance of religious retrogressions, opening the country to the outside world and turning it into one of the global tourist centers of the planet.

The publication of a book widely and systematically informing about the phenomenal changes in Saudi Arabia, a country that is the leader of the Muslim and Arab world, largely makes up for the lack of information about the processes taking place there, which are of crucial importance not only for it, but also for many other countries, including, and possibly and to a greater extent – for Russia.

K. Dudarev's new book is a continuation of his work "Saudi Arabia. The XXI century in the homeland of Islam. From the "world gas station" to the "laboratory of innovation and excellence"" – the first domestic publication about modern Saudi Arabia, written on the basis of long personal experience of work and life in this country, and telling about the period immediately preceding the cardinal reforms in the Kingdom.