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From Eastward Pivot to Greater Eurasia

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THE CURRENT STAGE of Russia's pivot to the East is the product of the second half of the 2000s largely as a belated economic response to the rise of Asia, which opened new opportunities for the country's development, especially for its eastern part. That rise made it possible to turn the Ural region and the Russian Far East from a mainly imperial burden - or a logistics base in confrontation with the West, sometimes a front line in rivalry with Japan or China - into a potential territory of devel-

opment for the entire country.

The expediency of making the pivot was substantiated by the forecasted imminent economic slowdown of its main traditional partner, Europe, and the deterioration of relations with Europe and the West as a whole.

The need for the diversification of economic ties and outside sources of development was becoming increasingly obvious.

RUSSIA'S PIVOT to the East, which was repeatedly proclaimed, in fact began politically and economically in 2011-2012.

The unprofitable and unhealthy foreign trade structure that developed during the disintegration of the Soviet economic complex and chaotic reconstruction - when, in exchange for energy, the country received relatively costly and economically less efficient goods from the West, primarily from Europe, - is becoming history. The diversification of foreign trade flows creates more beneficial positions for Russia and is shifting the balance in economic and political bargaining in its favor.

Of course, the economic turn is proceeding very slowly because of the accumulated inertia, including the inertia of economic thinking, and the sluggishness of the Russian government apparatus, corrupt elites and, most important, economic stagnation and the weakness of the investment climate, primarily for Russian small and medium-sized businesses.

THE GREATER EURASIA PARTNERSHIP or Community is, first, a conceptual framework that sets the course for engagement between states on the continent. It should be aimed at the joint economic, political and cultural revival and development of dozens of Eurasian countries, which used to be partially backward or were under oppression, and Eurasia's transformation into a global economic and political center.

As Russia moves toward Greater Eurasia and deepens its pivot toward Asia, in the next several years it should probably also consider engaging with its traditional partner, Europe, on a new political, economic and conceptual basis, especially since the ongoing crisis of the European project is objectively pushing many countries on the old continent toward reviewing the counterproductive policy on the Russian track. For their part, European countries are also seeking to make a pivot to the East. Many are already doing so, ahead of Russia.

The Greater Eurasian Partnership Project: Challenges and Opportunities

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THE GREATER EURASIAN PARTNERSHIP (GEP) initiative, which is being put into effect before our very eyes, has become a subject of scholarly and public polemics, but most importantly, there is an obvious desire to understand challenges and opportunities that it involves.

The GEP idea was formulated by Russian President Vladimir Putin in a message to the Russian parliament on December 3, 2015.

The GEP concept has deep historical roots. It can be traced to heated political battles between the Slavophiles and Westerners. Those bitter disputes were about choosing the path of development for Russia.

But leaving polemics aside, it is essential to understand the geoeco-nomics behind the GEP idea and practical reasons for it. Apparently, the main reason are expectations of opportunities for near - and medium-term economic integration in the EAEU format that are based on objective assessments.

Another serious and pragmatic reason for the GEP idea is Russia's concern over the declining role of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the emergence of closed regional trade associations.

The GEP initiative is a way for Russia to adopt a rapid development strategy by quickly organizing industrial facilities based on new technologies and developing new forms of its international economic cooperation.

While putting forward the GEP initiative in his December 2015 address to parliament, Putin stressed that "this partnership should be based on principles of equality and mutual interest."

Effectively, the GEP initiative is already being put into practice. Today, the important element of this process is the project for the integration of the EAEU with Silk Road Economic Belt, and the first stage in implementing it will be a planned comprehensive trade and economic agreement between the EAEU and China.

Today's main task is to choose institutional forms to make the building of such a community of interests and values in Central Eurasia an irreversible process.

Hence, the GEP may become the embryo of a new, more rational, and more just world order, which is based on multipolarity, sovereign equality, respect for all cultures, religions and civilizations, and inclusive and non-discriminatory international cooperation.

European Hopes: The Conventional Arms Control Regime Can Be Revitalized

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THE REGIME for conventional arms control in Europe, established in the 1990s after the end of the Cold War, was for those years a unique set of measures and was seen as a model suitable for other parts of the world as well. However, destructive activities by NATO member countries over the past two decades have eroded it and threaten to ruin it completely if these activities are not stopped. The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), which was considered the cornerstone of this regime, is practically dead.

With CFE being dysfunctional, the Treaty on Open Skies, signed in 1992, is the only legally binding mechanism for the control of

military activities in the Euro-Atlantic region that still works, although its application has revealed objective imbalances and difficulties that raise questions about its future.

NATO's recent adoption of a policy of open confrontation with Russia has undermined confidence between Russia and the West and seriously weakened other agreements that are components of the conventional arms control framework, including the Vienna Document, a 2011 accord on confidence-and security-building measures.

Most analysts believe that the NATO countries are unlikely to abandon their confrontational policies and that substantive negotiations on conventional arms control will not start any time soon.

Washington's position is supported by the majority of NATO member countries, with the warmest support coming from Poland and the Baltic states, which fear that the very fact of arms limitation talks being in place would result in a weaker public support in the West for NATO decisions to step up anti-Russian military preparations.

Differences in the positions of the United States and the majority of European countries on various aspects of arms control still leave Russia a chance to seek compromises on this highly important set of European security issues.

In conclusion, it would be appropriate to cite the Russian Foreign Ministry's point that "only a radical transformation in the nature of the alliance that is hopelessly stuck in the past can pave the way to positive change in European security."

Countering Terrorism in the OSCE Region

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The heinous acts of terror, indiscriminate slaughter of civilians, persecution of whole communities (particularly on the grounds of religion or belief), metro bombings, and terrorist attacks against major European cities continue to shock and horrify.

In today's complex and interconnected world, "we must achieve greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats, such as terrorism," said the OSCE heads of state and government in the 2010 Astana Com-

memorative Declaration.

At a meeting in Vilnius in 2011, the OSCE Ministerial Council took a decision to create a new department to address transnational threats "with a view to ensuring better coordination, strengthened coherence and more efficient use of the OSCE's resources," particularly in anti-terrorism projects being implemented by the Organization.

In 2012, the Ministerial Council in Dublin unanimously adopted a Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism and a Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism.

AN IMPORTANT PLACE in the counter-terrorism efforts of the OSCE participating states belongs to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference in May 2017 will continue the discussion on preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, with focus on national experiences and lessons learned from international cooperation in this area, including youth empowerment in preventing and countering VERLT. The links between drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism will be discussed at an OSCE-wide Conference on the Nexus between Illicit Drugs, Organized Crime and Terrorism in July 2017.

It is important to ensure that a new dialogue on these and similar initiatives helps to build trust within the Organization. Such steps will strengthen security, reduce the threat of terrorism and crime, and protect all citizens in the OSCE region, including diplomats, against terrorist acts. Obviously, the human rights of every individual, including the right to life, liberty and personal security, are worthy of the effort to ensure their protection in practice.

The Collective Security Treaty Organization: Moving From the Treaty to the Organization

Author: V. Semerikov

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THIS YEAR, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) has marked two jubilees - the 25th anniversary of the Collective Security Treaty and the 15th anniversary of the organization itself. The CSTO is an effective mechanism that not only guarantees security to the organization's member countries but also plays a serious role in maintaining peace and stability in its region. The CSTO member states have developed close mutual relations that enable them to take effective joint action to defuse international tensions, prevent instability in individual regions, and stop existing conflicts from escalating.

After signing the treaty, the member states launched intensive work drawing up agreements on military, political, and military-technological cooperation, and on political coordination.

Meetings of the CSTO Council of Foreign Ministers and working meetings of member states' foreign ministers involve debates on key points of international security and stability and result in initiatives on a wide range of problems. Since 2011, the CSTO system has included a mechanism of Collective Instructions to representatives of member countries in international organizations. The purposes of this mechanism are to formulate common principles on indivisible security, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of states, respect for their independence, and non-interference in their internal affairs; joint measures should be also taken in principal international organizations to prevent distortions and revisions of the results of World War II. The Collective Instructions mechanism underwent one of its regular updates in July 2016.

The CSTO continually revises its crisis reaction system. The Crisis Reaction Center, set up by the heads of state of the CSTO member countries under a decision of October 14, 2016, is an agency for providing CSTO governing bodies with information, analytical, organizational, and technical services required for crisis reaction measures.

The Coordination Council of Heads of Competent Bodies of CSTO Member States on Combating Illegal Drug Trafficking, an auxiliary CSTO body, manages a permanent regional anti-drug trafficking operation codenamed Kanal, whose participants are drug control police, border guards, customs, security agencies and financial intelligence officers of member states.

In a statement issued on October 14, 2016, the heads of state of the CSTO member countries pledged to continue intensive efforts to develop our organization, make it more effective, and modernize its collective security system, which is seen as the chief instrument of maintaining peace and stability in the member states and the main guarantee of their independence and sovereignty.

One Belt, One Road: A Major Benefit to the World

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THE ONE BELT, ONE ROAD (OBOR) initiative is the most wide-ranging public project that China has proposed to the global community so far. Since 2013, when the initiative was put forward, it has been joined by more than 100 countries and international organizations, with over 40 states signing cooperation agreements with China.

The OBOR initiative is so widely welcomed because it is built on the concept of tolerance and openness, including joint discussion, joint construction and joint use of results. China does not think in terms of domination or cultural superiority, does not position itself in that role, and does not impose its will, development path, social order or ideology on other countries. On the contrary, it acts as an equal partner, contributes sufficient trade, investment and technological resources to mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries and seeks common benefit.

The OBOR initiative is moving forward successfully because it is based on the historical trend toward peace, development and cooperation, and takes into account the realities and wishes of countries located along the OBOR line. Political contacts, the integration of infrastructure, the development of trade, the interpenetration of capital, and communication between nations help foster the complementarity of countries, bridge the gap in regional development, accelerate territorial integration processes, and facilitate general development and prosperity.

Globalization remains a trend of future development but it is essential to review the outdated methods of fostering it and change the existing benefit distribution arrangements. Isolationism and protectionism will disrupt the normal global production chain, impeding the effective use of resources and the comprehensive development of markets, and ultimately hindering global economic development.

Russia remains a key partner in the OBOR initiative. In May, President Xi Jinping and President Putin signed a joint statement on cooperation in harmonizing the Eurasian Economic Union and the Silk Road Economic Belt projects, which paved the way for developing the strategic association and further deepening bilateral business cooperation. The two countries' combined efforts in cooperation on joint projects have produced first results.

President Vladimir Putin will participate in the High-Level One Belt, One Road International Forum as a special guest of honor. During the event, the Chinese and Russian heads of state will not only have an in-depth exchange of opinions on harmonizing development strategies and bilateral cooperation, but will also propose more effective cooperation procedures, which will put bilateral cooperation to a higher level, expand its scope and accelerate the two countries' economic development. In addition, they will have a comprehensive discussion of ways of fostering regional partnership

relations and, together with other parties, will address such important issues as improving global governance so that OBOR becomes a new platform for developing international strategic engagement and will, through joint efforts, make a new contribution to promoting long-term stability, peace and development in the region and in the world.

The Internet: An Ocean of Opportunities but a Habitat for Monsters Too

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Editor-in-Chief of International Affairs



IN RUSSIA, there are 84 million users of the Internet. According to recent surveys by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM), nearly half the citizens of Russia believe that their life wouldn't be any different if they didn't use the Internet at all. One wonders if these feelings are the result of wide-scale information about global cyber threats and about violations of the rights of consumers.

Today, no one has any doubt that the Internet is an ocean of opportunities but that it is also a habitat for dangerous monsters. On my way here to Garmisch-Partenkirchen, I was reading Rossiyskaya gazeta, a Russian daily that comes out in several million copies, and ran across an article that expressed a common opinion that the Internet is a means of surveillance, obtaining personal data, spreading fake news, and propagating warfare viruses whereby one nation can fight another. One would hardly dispute the point of the author of that article that it must be one of the functions of the state to provide guarantees for the safe use of the Internet. However, it is not enough to vest the whole responsibility for Internet security in the state. Information security is indivisible by nature - information security interests cannot be divided into those of the state, those of the individual, those of manufacturing companies, and those of banks. None of these would be able to cope with cyber threats single-handed.

One of the editorials in The Economist of April 7, 2017 speaks about technological aspects of this interdependence. "Why computers will

Remarks at the XI International Forum on "Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Ensuring International Information Security," Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavaria, Germany, April 24-27, 2017 never be safe," the magazine's cover says in announcing the largely alarmist but on the whole realistic editorial, which is entitled "The myth of cyber-security." "It is impossible to weaken encryption for terrorists alone," the article says in part. "The same protection that guards messaging programs like WhatsApp also guards bank transactions and online identities. Computer security is best served by encryption that is strong for everyone."

Then comes a fair historical comment: "One reason computer security is so bad today is that few people were taking it seriously yesterday... When the Internet was new, that was forgivable. Now that the consequences are known there is no excuse for repeating the mistake."

We at International Affairs are aware of this, and so our journal takes part in organizing meetings such as this influential conference in the hope that persistent efforts by those interested will bear fruit. I hope that this conference will lay one more foundation stone for an urgently needed system of world communication security.

"Russian-French Relations Need Clear-Cut Strategic Goals to Move Forward"

Author: A. Orlov

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For centuries, the relations between the two largest European powers - Russia and France - have played a major role in European and world politics. Although unlike Germany, there was only one dynastic marriage between our two countries: the youngest daughter of Grand Prince Yaroslav the Wise married French King Henry I in the distant 11th century. The two states and their people have always been drawn to each other, based on common culture and religion. It should not be forgotten that for two centuries French was in effect a second language

in Russia. The Russian aristocracy and well-educated people were fluent in French, which had a deep impact on our perception of French culture and France as a whole.

However, it would be incorrect, to say the least, to portray the relations between Russia and France and cloudless and problem-free. They have always been highly charged with emotion. Periods of harmony alternated with wars. In past European conflicts, we were often on different sides of the divide. France was in alliance with Sweden, Poland and Ottoman Empire at a time when those countries were at war with Russia.

Nevertheless, let us leave history to historians. From a practical perspective, it is more important for us to remember how our relations evolved in the 20th century. At that time, in those trying years of World War I and World War II, Russia and France were allies, fighting a common enemy shoulder to shoulder.

I believe that the present level of Russian-French relations cannot be called satisfactory. They have to a very large degree become hostage to the geopolitical games unleashed by Washington and Brussels, as well as to ideological prejudices. Of course, it would be wrong to completely absolve France and its leadership of responsibility, as, in my opinion, it did not show enough persistence in upholding the country's national interests.

At his meeting with Vladimir Putin, Emmanuel Macron showed himself to be a well-meaning, pragmatic partner, committed to a joint search for concrete results on both the most pressing international issues and bilateral relations.

The overall change in the atmosphere around Russian-French relations, which we observed following Macron's election and the formation of a new government, also inspires a certain degree of optimism.

On the whole, an analysis of different economic trends leads to the conclusion that the French economy has lost more because of the sanctions than the Russian economy.

It should be noted that even now the remains of Russian soldiers lie on former battlefields in

France. French people remember and pay tribute to the heroic deeds of Russian soldiers, thanks to whose efforts France was not wiped off the map of Europe. Thus, on March 22, 2017, the remains of an unknown Russian soldier of the Russian Expeditionary Corps, discovered during extensive archeological research by French historian R Malinowski on the former battlefield near Reims, were buried at the Russian military cemetery in Saint-Hilaire-le-Grand.

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THE FRENCH MEDIA wrote about the 2017 presidential campaign in France as unprecedented: for the first time in the history of the Fifth Republic, it was neck-and-neck race of four candidates in the first round of election.

Foreign policy was one of the battlefields: never had the internal problems been intertwined in the eyes of the French with the foreign policy course. This explains why two out of four main candidates (Le Pen and Mélenchon)

and eight out of 11 candidates confirmed by the Constitutional Council promised radical changes. The fate of the EU or at least its evolution depends on France: Brexit made inner restructuring of the EU and revision of its foreign strategy inevitable. Brexit also means that the EU, very much as before, is based on the Paris-Berlin axis but its durability has been constantly tested for many years.

The Euro-Atlantic concept that Macron personifies is geared to the interests of the neoliberal circles. It is based on the idea that the Paris-Berlin axis should be strengthened, that European integration should be deepened and cemented up to and including the creation of a federal state, the United States of Europe of sorts, an advanced variant of objectively inevitable globalization. On the whole, the foreign policy course of Francois Hollande and, to a certain extent, Nicholas Sarkozy will remain unaltered. The unprecedented unpopularity of Hollande and an absence of a detailed foreign policy doctrine of the latter make some adjustments of the stated foreign policy course inevitable although hardly important. For example, Macron, very much like Hollande before him, insists on al-Assad's resignation - but only after the ISIS is liquidated.

In November 2015, after the monstrous terrorist acts in Paris that had claimed 130 lives, Hollande, under pressure of public opinion, made a feeble attempt to set up a wide international coalition with Russia to fight ISIS but Washington's opposition forced him to retreat. Later, French diplomacy accused Russia of war crimes in Aleppo.

Today, foreign policy of France has become much more ideologized, its geopolitical aims are overlaid with the "varnish of values." French experts have pointed out that "political activists" rather than experts in countries and problems now figure prominently in the French diplomatic corps.

The outcome of the struggle between two foreign policy concepts depends on the evolution of the European Union and its ability to change and to be revived as a successful project. This is a different story; the end of it is nowhere in sight, at least not in 2017.

Macron's Victory as Liberal Revenge

Author: A. Orlov

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SIX MONTHS filled with tension and keen apprehension of the "Trump effect" cropping up on the European soil separated two victories at the presidential elections: the victory of conservative Donald Trump in the United States and liberal Emmanuel Macron in France.

People celebrated the victory in the streets of French cities and towns; they sang La Marseillaise while highbrow intellectuals were trying to find a link between Macron's victory and the ideas of the French Revolution of the late eighteenth century.

On May 15, the next day after his inauguration, he went to Germany to coordinate positions with Chancellor Merkel, whose party had scored a big win in the key state election in North Rhine-Westphalia on May 14, thus giving her a good chance to become the chancellor for the fourth time running after the September federal elections. Macron's purpose was obvious: the Paris-Berlin bloc as invincible as ever was and would remain the cornerstone of the European Union and the locomotive of European integration despite the Brexit and its obvious and so far not obvious repercussions.

The euphoria raised by Macron's victory among a fairly big share of Europeans and the new French leader's devotion to the European values are expected to guarantee prosperity to France and the EU; reality, however, is less radiant. The number of disagreements of all sorts is too big to be sorted out more or less promptly; the same fully applies to the emerging political solitaire and its possible results. When threatened by "a-systemic elements," the matrix promptly mobilizes its huge opposition potential. This can be observed in real time in the United States: having perceived Donald Trump as a threat, the liberal matrix went into the war at the stage of the election campaign and has not yet lay down their arms even though the new president spares no effort to demonstrate that he is not a threat to the matrix but is its inalienable part with bits and pieces of his own opinion.

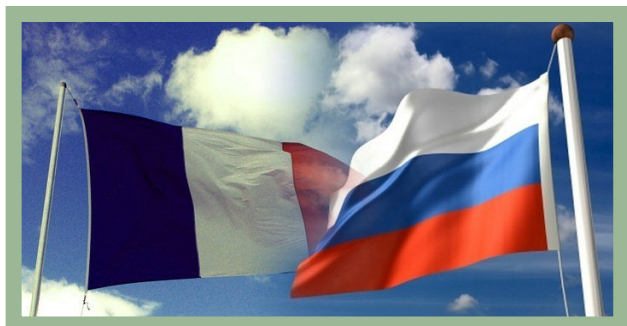
Macron, in his turn, tries to present himself to the nation as a storm petrel of renovation, a carrier of new ideas and a vehicle of new hopes. The new "moralization law" pledged by Emmanuel Macron to clean up French politics following a series of fraud scandals bans members of parliament, local representatives and senior civil servants to employ members of their families.

In the parliament, Macron counts on "new people" who have nothing in common with the mossy political class associated with demagoguery and corruption.

Who rules the world? This is an eternal question that today has become even more important than at any time before. Many analysts are trying to prove that French society, the French are behind the deep-cutting changes related to the rotation of political elites. Is this true? Is the people, an instrument of voting, an object of subtle political intrigue that brought to power the candidate of the omnipotent liberal matrix?

Russia and France: A 300-Year Dialogue

Author: V. Medvedeva
Journalist



THREE HUNDRED YEARS of diplomatic relations between Russia and France filled with political alliances, disrupted ties or even six wars have not diminished the two countries' mutual cultural attraction.

For the first time in its history, the International Peter the Great Congress was held outside Russia, in France, from 20 to 22 April, 2017. It marked the 300th anniversary of Peter the First's unofficial visit to France on

from April 21 to June 24, 1717 that opened the history of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Congress was hosted by Paris and Reims, two of fifteen cities the Russia czar had visited 300 years ago. In line with the very special cultural traditions, the Congress presented Parisians with a month-long exhibition "Pierre le Grand, un tsar en France. 1717" held at the Russian Orthodox Cultural and Spiritual Center.

In France, the Russian czar discovered French craftsmen who would define one of Russia's cultural development vectors for several centuries. It was on his invitation that French specialists started moving to Russia in great numbers. The political results, however, were more modest and open to various interpretations since the Amsterdam Treaty of 1717 was short-lived.

The political dialogue between Paris and Moscow defies one-sided interpretations. Sergey Mezin, author of *Pyotr Pervy vo Frantsii* and one of the speakers at the Congress, had the following to say about the first treaty between Russia and France.

"Today, what young people think about Peter the Great and his life is very different from what we, the older generation, were taught to think. We have inherited the post-revolutionary ideas about the royal house, its life and its members as poorly educated, and some of them short of mad. This was presented as a fact. Today, we know that members of the royal family were unique people who did a lot for Russia. This has been amply confirmed by the Congress and the exhibition."

Ambassador of the Russian Federation to France Alexander Orlov, who has been studying the relations with France for 45 years now, spoke of the International Peter the Great Congress as "unprecedented" and added: "I would like to point to good or even excellent preliminary work. The Congress presented 45 papers and five new books on Peter the Great's European visits, including his French visit.

After the 1717 visit, political France never let the Russian czar out of sight. When he died, *Gazette de France*, an influential periodical of the time, wrote about Peter the First in the terms previously reserved for the monarchs of France's closest allies: "Born with the greatest virtues and great talents, he from his early days was a far-sighted genius capable of realizing the most ambitious plans."

"It Is the Duty of Russia to Remain a Great Nation of Scientific Discoverers Because the Entire World Needs This"

Author: Catherine Bréchignac

Professor, Ambassador Delegate of France for Science, Technology and Innovation, Perpetual Secretary of the Academy of Sciences of France



I'm not a nuclear physicist although I do have a dissertation on atomic physics, on the movement of isotopes. But atom doesn't mean nucleus.

Most of my work has been nano research. Specifically, I've studied tiny particles of metals, particles of sizes where literally each atom affects the overall picture and the properties of an object change when its size changes. To make it clearer, in studying gold atoms, for example, it transpired that gold can oxidize at nano level though oxidization would stop if gold increases in mass.

The atomic nucleus conceals powerful energy, and it would be a shame not to make use of it. The energy commission of the French Academy of Sciences has just finished a report that clearly demonstrates advantages of a comprehensive way of dealing with the issue of providing society with energy, with the compulsory inclusion of atomic energy in order to avoid excessive emissions of carbon monoxide into the atmosphere during the burning of fossil fuels. France and Russia would be able to cooperate fruitfully in recycling nuclear waste.

Russia should also be attractive because it isn't enough to educate your fellow citizens and raise your own young generation of scientists - the country should also attract researchers from other nations.

There is a public atmosphere of mistrust of science, and we should obviously react to it in some way. This atmosphere results from lack of information, which is something that scientists themselves are to blame for, and from increasing obscurantism that is propagated by the media and inculcated by some ideologues.

I'm pleased to state that the situation in Russia is much better today than it was in the 1990s. Today, scientific research and engineering are professions that are regaining a prestige that they should never have lost. Because of that loss of a whole generation of researchers, our Russian counterparts normally belong to opposite age groups - some are very young and the others, on the contrary, are of quite venerable age. One has the impression that intermediate generations have disappeared.

The humanities need a more comprehensive approach than the exact sciences because knowledge of a foreign language is essential there.

Russian Diplomacy: Traditions and Innovations

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MODERN DIPLOMACY is a major factor in Russia's effective development and positioning in the 21st century. Russia clearly understands the problems of the world order and the critical state of many of its aspects in geopolitical terms, as well as the methodology of global governance based on the fundamental principles of international law and the UN Charter. This is evidenced by the Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation that the Russian president signed on November 30, 2016. It not only re-

fects Russia's national interests and the priorities of its foreign policy activity to ensure these interests, but also sets the task of harmonizing them with the positive trends and needs of the international community as such. Therefore, the concept documents the country's integral function and its status as an organic and active part of the world of the 21st century.

The Russian Foreign Policy Concept entrusts the implementation of these and other principles, relevant to international law, to Russian foreign policy institutions in an objective and well-substantiated way and from a long-term perspective. This style reflects Russia's historical discourse oriented toward civilized positioning in the world based on respect for international law and diplomacy.

An overview of the actual, multiformat and multidimensional influence of Russian diplomacy on the present and future world order shows its lofty mission not only philosophically but also in terms of reasonable pragmatism.

Russian Emperor Alexander III the Peacemaker said that Russia had only two allies: its army and its navy. In the 21st century, there is every reason to add a new element to these words: diplomacy. A case in point is Russia's established constitutional law practice that is subject to evolution. Many legislative acts and regulations are naturally oriented toward the global environment and its electoral segment.

The next logical step is monitoring diversified diplomatic practice in elections and referendums and using this as a basis for codifying rules regulating the electoral diplomacy sphere. Such proposals should be put forward at active international venues before the end of this year.

At the national level, it is advisable to start developing a concept of Russian electoral diplomacy with the formulation of its priorities, its legal basis, forms of implementation, and personnel training tasks (the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Foreign Ministry, and the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration).

The Russian Federation is called upon to play a strategic role in developing this, as well as other directions of modern diplomacy. It has the necessary potential to make it happen.

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TODAY, many countries rely on public diplomacy (PD) when dealing with expert communities and civil society in other countries: foreign policy is growing increasingly personalized all over the world making PD dealing with specific circles of foreign audiences a useful and very much needed instrument.

Public diplomacy, American PD being no exception, is closely connected with national interests and national security; this means that it should "execute campaigns and programs that engage the public to advance U.S. foreign policy goals.... and provide platforms for public engagement that prioritize individuals, facilitate long-term relationships" between people and the U.S. government with citizens of other countries.¹ This makes public diplomacy a foreign policy in-

strument used by state structures and the structures close to the state.

Barack Obama, who sought greater influence in the Russian World, revived the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the remnants of the Cold War era, by setting up 35 Russian-language programs for the post-Soviet space in 2015.

The nation brand of the United States has been and is being formed by the business community, big companies - the American Chamber of Commerce with its offices in 108 countries, and cultural institutions - from McDonald's, Disney and Hollywood to the Smithsonian Institute and Carnegie Hall. Many generations of Russian children loved the books about Tom Sawyer, Maurice Gerald, Holden Caulfield, and Natty Bumppo. This allows the United States to actively exploit cultural diplomacy in its efforts all over the world, the post-Soviet space being no exception. The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy that provides analytical assistance to America's public diplomacy was set up by the Congress in 1948 to elaborate new PD means and methods of assessment of their efficiency. Since 2013, it is vested with powers to compile annual reports for the State Secretary and Congress.

Two hardly compatible tasks of American public diplomacy - attracting allies and opposing rivals - make it harder to use this foreign policy instrument.

Alexandra Kollontay said in her time that diplomats should win new friends for their country. This fully applies to PD specialists. The mission of American diplomats in the twenty-first century is to help millions of people all over the world realize the American dream.

Author: S. Osadchy

Russian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Cyprus



DURING MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER, I have witnessed several historical events in Cyprus. The July days of 1974, tragic for the people of Cyprus, are still fresh in my mind. Working at the Soviet embassy in Cyprus at the time, I observed the coup and the subsequent military operation by the Turkish army, which led to the forcible division of the island state into the Greek and Turkish sectors.

We Soviet diplomats did not remain indifferent to the processes that were unfolding on the island, demonstrating our commitment to the search for a just, stable and lasting peace settlement on Cyprus based on the choice made by the Cypriot communities themselves. Unlike other states, our country adopted a firm and consistent position in favor of the island's independence, and this position has not undergone any situational changes to date.

Going back to the origin of all of Cyprus's problems, it needs to be said that when it gained independence in 1960, the Republic of Cyprus was confronted with a number of difficulties in terms of interethnic communication.

We would like to hope that a day will come when Europe's last divided capital finally loses its exclusive status on the world's political map.

After the Makarios government was overthrown on July 15, 1974, the Soviet government immediately condemned the organizers of the coup.

Russia still has a clear-cut position on the abolition of the guarantee system. As is known, this system was imposed on Cyprus under the Zurich-London agreements of 1959. Optimal guarantees for united Cyprus are UN Security Council guarantees. In other words, the security of Cyprus should be guaranteed by a collective body - the UN Security Council, not by two or three states in accordance with their own interests. In this context, Russia, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, is ready to become involved in resolving the Cyprus problem.

The failure of efforts to reach a settlement in Cyprus will imminently lead to the growing sense of frustration among the island people. The danger, however, is that the preservation of the status quo, as well as the failure to resolve the Cyprus issue for such a long time, casts a shadow on the effectiveness of the existing tools of resolving international conflicts within the framework of the present system of international law. The unresolved Cyprus dispute is not conducive to strengthening stability in the eastern Mediterranean.

Particularities of National Policies in the Baltic States

Author: A. Skachkov

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THE MOMENT of the Soviet Union's dissolution coincided with the period of an active search by European democracies for optimal forms of multicultural development based on the principles of ethnic tolerance and a provision of broad rights to national minorities.

However, not all countries that joined the European family were willing to examine, let alone use the experience of multiculturalism, opting for a diametrically opposite vector of state development, i.e., ethnic nationalism. A paradoxical situation

has emerged, where "in conditions of the integrated Europe, different states strived for different policies regarding national minorities and the ideology of multiculturalism."

One of the strictest forms of ethnocratic government and state structure emerged in the Baltic states. Nationalist groups who came to power after 1991 and consolidated under the ethnic principle (Latvians, Estonians, and Lithuanians), selected, as a strategic hallmark of their national development, not a state nationalism based on the establishment of a unified multi-national community, but rather ethnic nationalism.

A prevailing view promoted by the Baltic elites that the Soviet period in the history of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia has to be regarded as the "lost years," which slowed down the Baltic states' development, not allowing them to get closer to the Scandinavian states, looks rather disputable. According to several Baltic researchers, including Latvian lawmaker and historian Nikolai Kabanov, the period of 1960s-1980s was, on the contrary, a Golden Age of the Latvian history. At that time, the central authorities strived to turn the Baltic states into a "showcase of socialism" and invested in the region huge material and labor resources, often to the detriment of other republics, including Russia.

In Latvia and Estonia, access to government structures for the Russian-speaking population was blocked by nationalist parties for a long time.

Expert opinions cited above indicate that the national policies of the Baltic ruling circles have aroused criticism not only on the part of Russia, but also of the West and some open-minded Baltic researchers. Against the backdrop of a continuous growth of centrist forces in Latvia and Estonia, this allows to express some hope that with the passage of time there will occur a liberalization of interethnic policies in the Baltic states.

When political practice based on considering the "Russian issue" exclusively as a rudiment of the "occupation period" and some kind of a post-imperial syndrome gradually fizzles out, the line on real social integration within the Baltic states will hopefully prevail. This will ultimately allow national minorities to stop being outside observers, but rather become full-fledged participants in the political process in the countries of their birth and permanent residence.

Providing Information Support for Russia's Foreign Policy

Author: O. Melnikova

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IN ANY COUNTRY, including Russia, the efficiency of government depends to a serious extent on the quality of information support. An effective mechanism of government is impossible to imagine without media support for all aspects of home and foreign policy. The quantity, quality and accessibility of information are criteria for the external assessment of a state and indications of its status in the international community.

Modern information society and the continuously increasing sophistication of information and communication processes confront the Russian state with a wide range of tasks. Information policy objectives relating to national security and foreign policy include creation of a single information space in Russia and the country's entry into the world information space; personal, public, and state security; political stability; and efficient provision

of information for all spheres of public life and government and high-standard technological support for such information.

Information and communication processes that emerge between the state, civil society, and the individual can help form a positive public image for the country, its institutions, and its leaders. Foreign Policy Concept gives the media and other providers of information the task of "delivery to the international community of unbiased information about Russia's perspective on key international issues, its foreign policy initiatives and efforts, processes and plans of its socio-economic development and Russia's cultural and research achievements."

Censorship and freedom of expression are issues that take up much of the agenda of the dialogue between China and the West. Western nongovernmental human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and Reporters Without Borders are scathing critics of China's Internet censorship. Beijing, for its part, exposes unseemly methods used by Western media and cites compromising information about founders or sponsors of Western media outlets and about profits brought by anti-Chinese propaganda.

media support for Russia's foreign policy presents a dual problem. On the one hand, Moscow's foreign policy needs wide-scale domestic public support and, on the other, it needs increasing understanding and approval from the international community. It is a strategic line of Russia to defend the right of everyone to access objective information on developments anywhere in the world as well as any point of view on such developments.

Author: P. Dobrotvorsky

Research assistant, Security Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation



WE CAN WITNESS TODAY the emergence of a new, polycentric world order. Developing countries play an increasing role in the world economy. This has brought many analysts and politicians to the conclusion that the era of the dominance of the world by the West, an epoch that has spanned centuries, is coming to an end.¹ It would be useful to see how this process manifests itself in principal trends and dynamics of development of the legal map of the world.

Jurisprudence offers no single definition of "legal map of the world," which today consists of national legal families comprising a total of more than 200 systems. The main points in dispute are how to segment the legal world map and what criteria to use for the classification of legal families. French jurist René David said that there are almost as many classifications as there are legal comparatists. Although there are disagreements about how many legal families there are in the world, we can identify principal ones.

The uncontrolled streams of refugees give serious problems to EU nations. As a result, the "Europe without borders" ideology is being revised. Many of the EU countries tighten border control and take additional security measures. Meanwhile, the inflows of refugees fuel xenophobia and intolerance in EU countries, which entails threats of frictions and chaos in international relations.

These developments mean that action to prevent intercivilizational rifts and lay the basis for partnership of cultures to ensure the harmonious development of humankind should be a top priority in world politics. In the realm of law, there is an increasing need for interaction between legal systems, which is usually achievable through integration or convergence.

Russia is a multiethnic and multireligious country with a history of ethnic and religious harmony that is several centuries long, which enables our country to play a balancing role in the development of world civilization, a role that is recorded in Russia's foreign policy doctrine.

To sum up, the legal map of the world is changing due to numerous civilizational, cultural, and legal factors. Western legal families exert a dominant but not absolute influence on non-Western families. Non-Western systems make technical borrowings from Western systems but maintain their own identities and gain stronger global positions as non-Western countries play an increasing role in the world economy. The legal map of the world is acquiring a multivector character and increasingly reflects characteristics of the national legal systems comprising it. Each legal family is unique, and this reflects the legal diversity of the world order.

Russia and Cuba: Our Dialogue Never Ends

Author: M. Kamynin

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Cuba and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas



This interview was conducted by International Affairs' commentator Alexander Moiseyev.

The year 2008 went down in the history of Russian-Cuban relations as a breakthrough. Cuba became a key element of our return to the Latin American region, where it holds a special place due to its authority and influence. The qualitatively new level of our bilateral cooperation was evidenced primarily by President D.A. Medvedev's working visit to Havana in 2008 (he visited the island again in 2013 as prime minister). It became a kind of a starting point in invigorating the ties between our countries in practically all areas. The talks that took place at that time confirmed our mutual interest in drawing closer together and fostering mutually beneficial cooperation geared to the future.

In short, our relations moved forward during that period primarily due to the existence of mutual political will.

We have a close, trust-based dialogue with the Cubans at international venues; we jointly uphold our common interests; and our views on key issues these days are similar or identical. Our foreign ministers regularly meet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and exchange visits. We coordinate our positions in accordance with plans of political consultations between our foreign ministries that are signed every three years. Cuba actively supports us at the UN General Assembly and at the Human Rights Council on such pressing issues as the return of Crimea and the situation in Ukraine and Syria. This mutual understanding and this favorable political backdrop expand our possibilities for effective cooperation.

Our relations with Cuba are developing dynamically in all areas of trade, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation.

Cultural and educational ties are expanding. Russia's participation in Havana's International Book Fair and Theater Festival has become a tradition. Russian cinema weeks have become a regular feature here. Russia's humanitarian presence on the island is as relevant as before since many Cubans know our literature, fine art and theater very well and speak Russian.

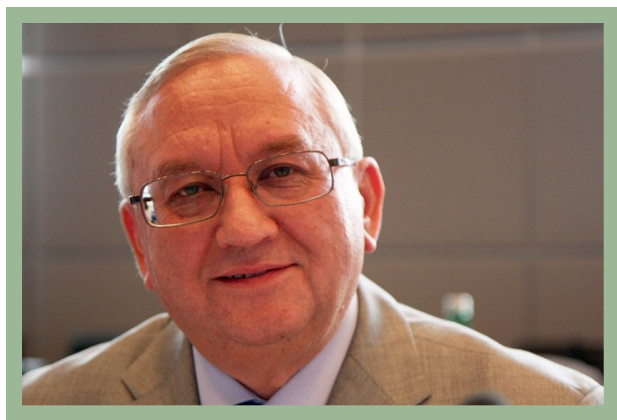
We realize that we are returning to Cuba amid tough competition. However, Havana is interested in reliable, time-tested partners to implement its socioeconomic program.

Our task is to live up to the Cubans' expectations and continue to work effectively to foster mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas.

25 Years of Diplomatic Relations Between Russia and Croatia

Author: A. Azintov

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Croatia



ANALYSIS OF THE HISTORY of the Russian policy with regard to South Slavic peoples generally boils down to considering Russian-Serbian relations, often unjustifiably leaving out the Slovenians, Croats, Macedonians and others. However, all these peoples have also strived to establish close relations with us and use Russian authority and influence in the struggle for the interests of their own, including, admittedly, in conflicts with each other. For many

centuries, Russia has been developing contacts with these peoples, and their cultures kept intertwining.

Leaders of the Croatian national movement in the 19th century - Josip Juraj Strossmayer, Franjo Racki, and Ante starčević - pinned their hopes for becoming independent from the Habsburg monarchy on Russia and France. In World War I, being among war prisoners of the Austrian-Hungarian troops, the Croats actively sided with the Russian army and, after the 1917 revolution, voluntarily joined the White Army. Following the 1917 October Revolution, White émigrés made an invaluable contribution to the development of science, education and culture in Croatia. The joint fight against the Nazi in 1941-1945 further cemented the relations between our two peoples. In the years of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, over 6,000 Red Army troops were killed on Croatian soil. After World War II, Croatia has become Yugoslavia's leading republic in terms of development of its economic ties with the Russian Federation.

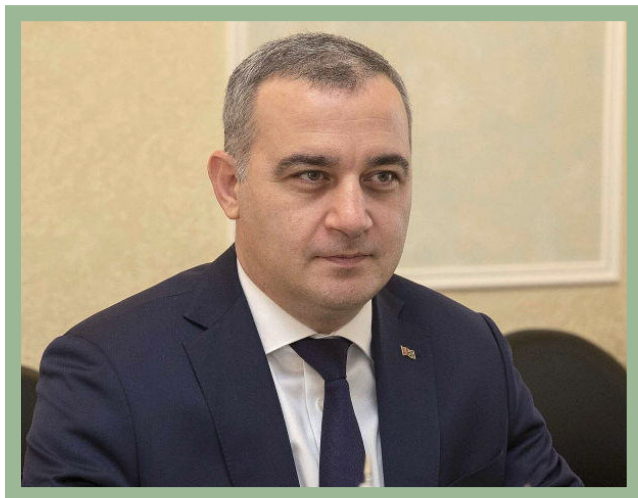
On May 25, 2017, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between our two countries. The twenty-five-yearlong Russian-Croatian interaction has essentially mirrored all ups and downs in the relations of Russia and the West - with all their Balkan specifics, including the friendly attitude of common people toward Russia.

According to memoirs of a Croatian ambassador to Russia Hidajet Biscevic, in the course of his visit to Moscow in 1998, President Tudjman complained that even not all his aides understood the importance of developing contacts with Moscow in order to speed up Zagreb's rapprochement with the EU and NATO. The Balkan countries have always held that the West's efforts to push Russia out of the region should be used for their own purposes.

Russia has always been ready for such a cooperation. In contrast to other countries, we are rightfully regarded as the great power not because we can control others and impose on them our norms and approaches but due to our ability to do good for the sake of common security and economic well-being.

Author: Batyr Niyazliyev

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan to the Russian Federation



THE EIGHTH OF APRIL of this year was the 25th anniversary of the Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation. That date was the starting point of a qualitatively new period in the history of friendly and good-neighborly ties between the peoples of Turkmenistan and Russia. The relations between the two countries, which span many centuries, have had their logical continuation in recent times. These recent years of Turkmen-Russian cooperation have been marked by intensive dialogue and by mutual sup-

port and confidence in the international arena.

As Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow stresses, Russia is a strategic partner of Turkmenistan. The two countries have long-term bilateral relations that encompass all key spheres and are based on principles of equality and respect for each other's interests, on mutual understanding, and on similar positions on principal international problems and trends. The effective and mutually beneficial partnership between our nations has a huge potential and is based on rich historical experience, on strong ties of friendship, good-neighborliness and mutual respect that bind the peoples of the two countries together, and on their awareness of present-day realities. In this connection, the Turkmen head of state emphasizes the need for maximum use of all resources of interaction since close and multifaceted Turkmen-Russian cooperation meets the ultimate interests of the two peoples and exerts an important positive influence on regional and international processes.

The peace-loving and constructive foreign policy strategy followed by Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation forms the basis for dynamic, constructive and consistently expanding bilateral cooperation.

Very recently, the Russian Federation sponsored and co-authored another UN General Assembly resolution initiated by Turkmenistan, a document that declared December 12 the International Day of Neutrality.

Turkmenistan, for its part, gives strong support to Russian international initiatives. Our country has repeatedly voted for Russia or Russian officials when they ran for UN specialized institutions.

This anniversary year in the history of Turkmen-Russian diplomatic relations will be one more landmark in effective bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Author: N. Tavdumadze

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Paraguay



ON MAY 14, 1992, a new democratic Russia and a democratic Paraguay, which had recently dismantled its authoritarian regime, put into effect their decision to restore diplomatic relations. A new era began in the history of communications of the two countries which are separated from each other by almost 12,500 km, but nevertheless share a lot of historical events (of which the Russians became aware only in the past 25 years). During the turbulent twentieth century, the two nations, so different at the first glance, managed to build an invisible

yet strong communication link between themselves, however unusual this may seem. Real life can be even more unpredictable and fantastic than any most intricately woven fiction.

The diplomatic relations between the Russian Empire and Paraguay were first established in 1909, when Envoy Extraordinary Mavriky Prozor, who had already been representing the interests of the Russian Crown in Brazil and Argentina, submitted his credentials to President Emiliano Gonzalez Navero of Paraguay. A kaleidoscope of milestone events, including World War I and Russia's October 1917 Revolution, resulted in the suspension of, and subsequently a full rupture of diplomatic relations between the two countries, which by that time had already been perfunctory.

Healing the breach between Russia and Paraguay, which has ultimately led to the restoration of diplomatic relations, became somewhat easier following a break-up of the Soviet Union and the establishment of independent post-Soviet states.

During the afore-mentioned challenging period marked by a search for a new identity on both sides, a humanitarian factor fully revealed its positive role.

As an ambassador, I am deeply satisfied that a comprehensive discovery of the "Russian Paraguay," albeit with a major delay amounting to several dozen years, has finally happened.

We can presently note with satisfaction that in the twenty-five years following the signing in Montevideo of a package of documents on the restoration of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Asuncion, we have been able, on the basis of joint efforts, to unlock a multifaceted potential of cooperation between the two nations.

I am convinced that we need to more actively and efficiently use in our relations with Paraguay such factors as a unique nature of the historic ties between our two nations and Paraguayans' willingness to promote a dialog with Moscow. Following the twenty-five years after the restoration of diplomatic relations between our two countries, the necessary prerequisites have finally emerged for a higher, qualitatively new level of partnership, which assumes a coordinated work on elaborating a list of joint actions in all areas of cooperation. The importance of building such relations with Paraguay has been continuously growing for Russia due to the fact that its foreign policy in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean has been presently undergoing the fine-tuning of all its main accents to appropriately react to new challenges that have emerged in the region in the past few years.

Author: D. Trofimov

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THE WAVES OF DESTABILIZATION in the Middle East that have risen high in recent years, terrorist acts that follow one another, persecution of those who think differently or follow different religions in the Muslim countries and even outside them bring to mind, once more, Prof. Huntington. Indeed, can Islam and violence, Islam and democracy and, in the final analysis, Islamic and non-Islamic values cohabitate within the frames of the steadily globalizing community of men?

Any religious system, Islam being no exception, is much more complicated and has more dimensions than its description; this article is merely another attempt to outline certain important problems that should be discussed. We can easily identify as least several

scores of fundamentally different "Islams" of trends and madhhabs (schools of thought or interpretations) or even "Islams" of different countries and regions. In everyday life, we deal with people, not civilizations, some of whom do not necessarily accept the whole set of the so-called Islamic values.

IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, Muslim and non-Muslim communities interact differently. Within the American "melting pot" and Canadian multiculturalism the process is not smooth yet conflict-free. Multicultural communication in Russia and Central Asia still relies, to a great extent, on the old Soviet basis; this means that so far individual elements of civilizational opposition can be controlled fairly successfully. Labor migration to Russia, likewise, is conflict-free: labor migrants are, on the whole, carriers of the common post-Soviet identity. Cohabitation of Muslim and non-Muslim societies in the Middle East, Asia and Africa is not smooth at all, to say the least.

Europe is not only living amid an obvious crisis of multiculturalism; the loss of its own civilizational identity under pressure of migrant flows from the Muslim East has become a fact.

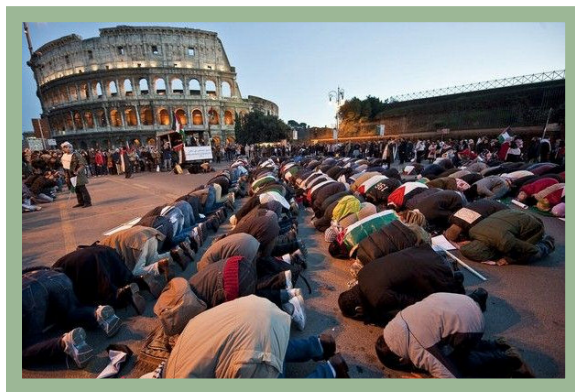
ISLAM is a civilization of the word which is frequently sacral and, by implication, more important than human life. A rightly chosen word can bring glory or even power.

At the individual level, people should demonstrate tolerance, mutual respect, the desire to understand and accept each other within the permissible variety and observation of clear and reciprocal rules of co-habitation, the main of them being "When in Rome, do as the Romans do."

European Muslims and Their Identities

Author: A. Yashlavsky

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IN THE MID-2010S, the problems related to European Muslims intensified under pressure of the migration crisis and terrorist acts carried out by religiously motivated extremists in some European countries. Hence a closer attention to the far from simple relations between Europe and the Islamic world and to their dimensions: demographic, migration, cultural, political, ideological, social, economic, etc. The scope of an article inevitably narrows down the range of the problems discussed.

AT THE TURN of the twenty-first century, many of the centuries-old relations between Europe and the Islamic world acquired a qualitatively new character. Today, in the globalized world, Europe is struggling with deep-cutting transformations; it is no longer associated with Christianity mainly because of more pronounced secular trends and, practically to the same extent, because of demographic changes caused by migration. Globalization raised large-scale waves of migration out of former colonies to former metropolitan countries. European countries, mono-ethnic or bi-ethnic in the past, have become multi-ethnic. Waves of immigrants, either legal or illegal from Africa, Asia and the Middle East who in search of a better life if not for themselves but for their children, inundated Europe, changed its ethnic, confessional and cultural image. The Muslims who found a new home in Europe are gaining more and more weight in the current processes.

According to different forecasts, in the next few decades, the share of Muslims in Europe will be considerably bigger due to the ageing population of France, Germany, the UK and other countries. Today, aware of the steadily increasing weight of the Muslims communities in their countries, Europeans have to revise the basic principles of Western civilization.

Muslim countries that have already settled in the FRG and showed no desire to integrate into the host society.

The negative stereotypes in the minds of Europeans are created by the context in which carriers of different cultures and religions do not achieve mutual understanding. On the other hand, the distorted ideas about Islam that dominate the West are rooted in distant past; the same fully applies to what Muslims think about the West.

Whether we like this or not, Christians, Muslims, Jews, and followers of other confessions as well as agnostics and atheists, in short, all people living in Europe, will have to live side by side which means that they will need a dialogue between civilizations and cultures. This requires understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, and, very important in view of the above, ability to protect their values.

No Mad Games in Cyber Minefields

Author: A. Tolstukhina

Staff editor, International Affairs



THE SWIFT DEVELOPMENT of information and communication technology (ICT) and its use in practically all spheres of activity not only lays the basis for the economic growth of any country but is also a reason for anxiety. Any object using ICT, whether it is civilian, military, social, or commercial, is in the risk zone with a wide range of threats. According to Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) statistics as of January 2017, hacking attacks have caused global damages over the past few years that varying estimates put at between \$300 billion and \$1 trillion or between 0.4% and 1.5% of the gross world product. Losses caused by hacking have a stable tendency to grow.

There is an increasing threat of ICT being used for resolving of international disputes by armed force, for terrorist attacks, and for violating human rights and freedoms. Use of fake events for fanning tensions is

becoming a trend in international politics.

Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program. Norilsk Nickel, Internet Development Fund, Russian Railways Institute for Automated Systems Research, Microsoft Russia, ICANN, Kaspersky Lab, and the International Affairs journal helped carry through the conference. The forum was also the venue for the 15th conference of the International Information Security Research Consortium (IISRC), which took place on the same dates as the forum itself, April 24-27.

"The forum in Garmisch-Partenkirchen is one of the most important international facilities for exchanges of opinions and negotiations on information security. One more reason why it is valuable is that it not only enables the expert communities, intelligence services, and foreign ministries of various countries to understand one another better but also makes clear where the red line passes that cannot be crossed," said Andrey Krutskikh, the Russian president's special representative for international cooperation in information security.

It is obvious that the information arms race and conflicts and arguments between nations caused by the use of ICT for intelligence or subversive purposes have begun to erode the foundations of global strategic stability.

THE CONFERENCE in Garmisch-Partenkirchen unanimously called for more intensive discussions and closer interaction among ICT professionals, military officials, and politicians. The forum decided that it was imperative to develop international rules on conduct in cyberspace and urged governments to make responsible use of ICT. During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union realized before it was too late that they risked destroying not only each other but the entire planet. The two superpowers had enough sense to come to an agreement to limit their strategic armaments. One hopes that an international agreement to close cyberspace to military activities is achievable. "Nobody wants war. Let's have an agreement that can stop us killing each other because of some hackers. We must prevent a large-scale confrontation before it's too late," Krutskikh said at the conference.

"My Motto: Never Give Up!"

Author: N. Kasperskaya
President, Info Watch Group



At present, we deal with problems related to protecting enterprises from all sorts of information security threats. Our group includes five companies, each with own specialization. However, on the whole, we work in two key areas - i.e., protection against external and internal threats. In addition to actual products, we make recommendations to enable users with different levels of proficiency to use information technologies that have penetrated practically all areas - government agencies,

the business sector and the everyday life of every person.

Hacking attacks are a separate story. The phenomenon of so-called Russian hackers appeared in the past three years and is being actively played up in foreign media outlets. You have justly noted that it is an information smokescreen, not something real. In this context, let me remind you about WikiLeaks where documents concerning the development of CIA viruses and the codes of the malware developed by that agency were posted. These documents include the description of a subdivision designed to cover the tracks of virus developers and camouflage them as hackers working in some country or other.

We work quite a lot with the public sector even though it is not our main segment. Generally, our clients are financial institutions and banks; then there are oil and gas companies (they are also our best clients); finally, there is the public sector and mobile operators.

To ensure protection against attacks, we have a product called Attack Killer, which is built as a three-segment system.

What often happens is that clients are told: "Let us protect you against DDoS attacks." However, if a malicious program is already embedded in a system, then external protection will not help. By contrast, our three-segment product does help.

It is necessary to invest money in domestic projects, not move it abroad, paying for intellectual property that does not belong to us.

InfoWatch's charity program is focused mainly on helping children. We help children with complicated conditions and we collaborate with several foundations. Sometimes, we are approached privately and we also provide support.

Author: A. Klimov

Coordinator of Eurasian Dialogue, Deputy Chairman, Committee for International Relations, Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation



A YEAR AGO, on May 5, 2016, the world mass media announced a one-of-its-kind concert by the Mariinsky Theater orchestra, conducted by Valery Gergiev, in the Syrian town of Palmira. Unfortunately, this ancient jewel of the East had become the hostage of the pseudo-Islamic "state" (ISIS, banned in the Russian Federation). So a miraculous appearance of the Russian performers in the heat of an atrocious war became a symbol of the inevitable vic-

tory of Good over Evil. This concert, given by outstanding envoys of the Russian culture at the world-renown UNESCO landmark, not only gave the people of Syria hope for a peaceful future - it also demonstrated to the world community our country's high humanistic mission and a creative nature of Russian foreign policy.

In over two decades that I have been directly involved in what is called parliamentary diplomacy, the formula "We disagree with Russia's policy at home and abroad yet we admit that Russian art and culture are a valuable contribution to European culture and the culture of all peoples" that came even from the most stubborn opponents of Moscow has become very familiar. Nevertheless, some fanatical fighters with the "hand of the Kremlin" are continuously trying to undermine all attempts to widen the dialogue of cultures between Russia and the EU countries.

It is commonly believed that foreign tours of famous Russian artists, the impressive number of guest performances and exhibitions of all sorts are "our best propagandists and agitators." This is true: thousands applaud our outstanding artists on all continents and thousands sincerely admire the best achievements of Russian culture.

The Foreign Policy Concept recommends "to involve civil society institutions in addressing international challenges in order to enhance the effectiveness of the Russian foreign policy"; "to develop, including through public diplomacy, international cultural and humanitarian cooperation as a means to build up dialogue among civilizations, achieve consensus and ensure understanding among peoples." Public diplomacy should include "greater participation of Russia's academics and experts in the dialogue with foreign specialists on global politics and international security as one of the areas of public diplomacy development."⁵

Cultural leadership cannot survive on what it inherited from the past and on efforts of individuals, no matter how great. Cultural leadership is not an aim in itself; it can and should offer solutions of many problems that the Russian state is facing today.

The Role of Russia in the Dialogue Between Civilizations

Author: E. Astakhov

Professor, Moscow State Institute (University) of International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; Candidate of Science (History)



IN THE 21ST CENTURY, core political, social, economic, and - what is more dangerous - cultural and moral values have plunged into a systemic crisis. The claims of the West to the top civilizational status don't hold water any longer. Moreover, it is obviously losing its dominant economic positions.

In this new context, assimilation into the Euro-Atlantic version of proposed "global civilization" hardly makes any sense. That civilization prioritizes technological progress as a means of boosting consumption. This principle is put at the basis of a macroeconomic model that essentially is a set of former monetarist recipes and means domination of financial services over the real economy.

As regards the so-called basic human values, it's a controversial issue what they should be. Undoubtedly, basic human values are essential, but only as long as they don't obliterate the identity of any individual culture, meaning culture in a broad sense - traditions, historical memory, art, literature, perception of the world, and the material and intellectual achievements of many generations.

Russia is experiencing difficult times today with increasingly deep social, economic, political, cultural, and religious divisions. The global civilization idea has been embraced in some quarters of Russian society.

What the country needs is not consumption slogans but a project for national development, development that is not horizontal but vertical and has not only technological but primarily spiritual aspects.

Russia's leadership, while not refusing to cooperate with the West, has adopted a multi-vector policy, focusing on Eurasian integration projects and taking part in creating new global economic and political centers.

Russia's eastward turn shouldn't lead to any considerable scaling down of its relations with the West. Moreover, there are reasons to expect that this reorientation will persuade our Western partners to revise their geopolitical calculations and restore their economic ties with Russia.

The Russian World naturally attaches great importance to principles such as human rights, civil freedoms, and material comfort and well-being. But, unlike the West, the Russian World does not consider them core values.

Author: L. Mikhailov

General Secretary, Russian Medical Society



OCTOBER 2017 will mark 15 years since Russia joined the World Medical Association (WMA). Our country joined the most influential international medical organization in 2002 at the 53rd WMA General Assembly in Washington, and coincidentally, 15 years after that event, the 68th WMA General Assembly will also take place in the U.S. (Chicago), in October. Despite the sanctions, the 66th WMA General Assembly was held in Moscow in October 2015 with great success.

The principle of professional autonomy is of fundamental importance to the WMA. In all the national medical organizations of WMA member countries, this principle underlies the formation of the system of the doctor's professional, ethical and financial

responsibility for the results of medical activity to the national medical corporation and the corporation's similar forms of responsibility to the state and its citizens. Obviously, without professional autonomy, it is impossible to ensure the doctor's responsibility for the results of his medical activity and therefore it is impossible to ensure the doctors' compliance with ethical and legal norms in relations with their patients or the principles of deontology and mutual professional responsibility.

The healthcare system is designed to ensure a person's right to health. A person can exercise this right only through a doctor but on the condition that the doctor bears professional, ethical and financial responsibility for a person's health before a professional medical corporation while the corporation bears the same responsibility to the state and its citizens. A medical corporation is designed to provide conditions for the doctor to pursue his professional, ethical and public vocation (calling).

Russia's admission to the world medical political elite was not plain sailing, but without that membership we could not receive the precious knowledge and experience extremely necessary for creating an effective healthcare system in the new economic conditions.

The national medical organizations of the WMA member countries work autonomously from their countries' health ministries and often act in opposition to them but their foreign policy activity is traditionally based on collaboration with their countries' foreign ministries. As shown by the experience of the past several years, this collaboration is very important for both sides. It is hard to overestimate its importance and this is the basis on which significant international legal, ethical, socio-medical, environmental and humanitarian initiatives, necessary for both our country and the world, can be implemented.

We are extremely grateful to the Russian Foreign Ministry's subdivisions and officials for their prompt assistance and valuable advice in organizing the activity of the Russian Medical Society.

I would like to use this opportunity to express special gratitude to the Association of Russian Diplomats and its chairman, Igor Vasilyevich Khalevinsky. It was due to the contribution by our veteran diplomats, their interest in our activity, their experience, knowledge, and their unique diplomatic culture that we managed to achieve the results that at first seemed unachievable.

The Joseph Brodsky Award: Erasing Boundaries

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Journalist



A FAMOUS Italian director's lonely villa hosted an award ceremony on the volcanic Isle of Ischia - not far from Naples: the director being none other than Luchino Visconti and the award - "Brodsky on Ischia: Traveler Without Borders." The award laureates were Irina Gerasimova, CEO of "Radio Orpheus," and Lyubov Kazarnovskaya, an opera star.

Joseph Brodsky, a Nobel prize laureate, a maestro of laconic expressions, a rebel and a poet - called himself a "man of no bounds." That is precisely why overcoming formalities and strengthening ties in culture and the arts is, in fact, the core purpose of the award named after the poet.

The award ceremony location was deliberately chosen. After all, the director Luchino Visconti was also a "man of no bounds": while a descendant of an aristocratic family line, he had Freudo-Marxist sympathies, worked at a musical theater and directed movies, some of which were labeled "questionable" by the critics. Many people today know Visconti because of his iconic *La Traviata* at La Scala, with Maria Callas as the prima donna. It is precisely this villa on Ischia, which was home to the opera's practice sessions and where the director gave his priceless advice to the singer.

Not only is Lyubov Kazarnovskaya, one of the laureates, fluent in Italian, but she has been helping to foster a bond between Italian and Russian opera traditions. In her life, the singer takes turns between performing on stage and engaging in numerous educational and enlightening projects.

Francesco Del Deo, mayor of Forio, partook in the ceremony. He noted that currently the villa is not in its best shape. The outer wall, with an elevator once connecting the villa's stories, was once adorned with Murano glass. The interior design reflected the villa owner's unique yet refined taste.

Nonetheless, Luchino Visconti's villa creates an unforgettable impression on the visitor. Take a look from the sea, and you are greeted by white castle turrets with lancet azure windows.

The award is embodied in the statuette of a reading boy. This trophy brings together Ischia's two traditional crafts: ceramics and metal work. The figurine seems metal on the outside, but in actuality clay is hiding just beneath a layer of silvery coating. Clay from the isle of Ischia is endowed with healing properties and hence gives the islanders the gift of health, not to mention that it inspires admiration in anyone, who chances to see ceramic artwork by local artisans. So, even the trophy unites several symbols. The event organizers, the laureates and even the Joseph Brodsky Award itself overcoming formalities and boundaries, finding abounding new ways to bring our cultures closer together."

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