

Time of Big Decisions

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Vision & Global Trends. International Institute for Global Analyses
Piazza dei Navigatori 22, 00147 – Rome (Italy)
Analytical Dossier – N. 29/2021 – September 2021

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© <https://www.pnp.ru/politics/vremya-bolshikh-resheniy.html>

First Edition: September 2021

Analytical Dossier 29/2021 - ISSN 2704-6419

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*“Nothing else in the world...not all the armies...
is so powerful as an idea whose time has come.”*

—Victor Hugo

BIG CHANGES

We are living in the era of changes.

After decades of relative stability, humanity is entering a systemic crisis that will cause socio-political shock in most countries.

There is an expert consensus on this issue, the disputes are only about the date of the world dropping into "crisis peak" - 2022/23 or 2024/25, that is not an essence on a historical scale.

An existing world order is already changing, threatening to plunge into the chaos the whole so-called “civilized world”.

Countries that will be able to withstand this period (according to expert estimates — the “turbulence period” will last until 2030) will create new rules and a new world order. Losers will fall behind forever, and a few will remain only in history, as it happened with great empires of antiquity or with some European states in the 20th century.

The growing wave of global chaos can also invade Russian borders.

At the same time, as it has happened more than once in history, the global crisis is a chance for the revival of Russia as one of the world leaders of the XXI century.

We used to talk about our problems — “Earlier the future was better...”, but the point is that the rest of the potential world players’ future is worse. Conditions of our army and MIC, a drastically increased level of food security, thousands of years of historical experience, and most importantly — the education, wisdom,

passion and mobilization skills inherent to Russians give Russia a historical chance.

BIG IDEAS

Human civilization experience shows that economy and people natural needs are not always primary for nations. There was a word in the beginning — or rather a big idea, giving the meaning of existing! What is the meaning of Russia? Firstly, a look from the background of historical perspective.

Russian Army General Field Marshal Christopher Minich, who was German origin, wrote in far 1765: "The Russian state has an advantage over all others, it is governed directly by Lord God himself. Otherwise, it is impossible to explain how it is governed at all..."



Russian Empire, 1914

Modern European politician, the Portuguese Manuel Barroso, who was thinking about the same thing, once said: "Russia is a civilization veiled as a nation." And that's true! Russia is a historically and culturally established sovereign civilization.

Guru of political technologies, the Frenchman Jacques Segala, who has "elected" many presidents, has frequently emphasized that people vote for an idea, not for a right, left or centrist programs! Remember how General de Gaulle said: "I have a certain idea of France."

Russia as an idea — what is it? I'll give my vision of it.

It is in our immense stretches, allowing us to live without throwing elbows.

It is in our civilizational Orthodox mission, in a collegiality that accommodates all peoples and religions. All of us are different here inside, and we all are Russians there-outside, especially when disaster strikes.

It is in our peacefulness. Russia is a peacemaker country. A country that has survived dozens of wars, lost millions of people, but rose from the ashes and won. This is a country that values peace more than anyone else.

It is in our army. Russian soldier loves life and does not seek death, but he is ready to give his life for our land – this is a military duty, and it has always been so. We don't need anyone else's, but what's ours is ours.

It is in our familialism, in the beauty of our women and children, in the beautiful nature, where everything for the soul is existed.

It is in our thousand-year history, where revolutions, riots, elites betrayal, heroism of the people, great achievements, tragic defeats, and glorious victories took place.

It is in our culture and science, which entire human race is proud of.

It is in our sovereignty. The essence of the idea of Russia is in its 1000-year-old existence!

BIG FORKS

Russia stands at a crossroads today, trying to identify the model of the future.

Moreover, for us, we can only talk just about our own-inherent and sovereign-decision.

Meanwhile, all the post—soviet period, Russia has been moving in the catching up development paradigm, trying on Western democracy. Today, this model "is coming apart at the seams" – the more important it is for Russia to find its own way.

Se va el tiempo de las muñecas de cartón – "The time of cardboard puppets has passed" (Spanish proverb). To overcome the target defocusing and the lack of the Russian authorities will, it is necessary to figure out the strategic course of the country, that is suitable to most of the population not just for the next few years, but for several generations to come.

This mature self-determination is even more important, since the West, relying on the fifth column, has unleashed a mental war against Russia, whose mission to deprive us of sovereign future by "rebooting" the worldview, replacing the objectives of Russians and first of all our youth.

In case of the worst, "inertia-catching up" scenario implementation, the country will lose its integrity, the population of Russia may decrease by several tens of millions – only "service people" working "for food" will remain, that are necessary to ensure the operation of the " pipe " through which natural resources will be flowed to the West and to China.

There is no doubt that the comprador financial and economic "elite" will surrender the country and go to spend their "hard-earned" wealth on their Mediterranean riviera.

This will be the price of "will lack and inaction ".

BIG PROJECTS

In its development any complex system rotates the stages of accumulations with the stages of changes. In physics, this corresponds to the accumulation of potential energy, which at a certain moment moves into a phase of consumption and outburst – into kinetic energy.

Social systems – such as society and the state – also eventually accumulate the potential of social energy— a request for renewal, changes, development. Today, the stage of gathering, the accumulation stage of the potential energy that is ready to result in active, creative work of society is coming to an end in Russia.

No matter how attractive stability is, it is very important not to go through a fork, not to miss the moment when it is time to implement the request for changes into action – into the creation energy. This is the wisdom of political leadership: in its ability to capture the very moment. If this moment is missed, the accumulated energy can be realized not into the creation energy, but into the destruction energy. In order not to miss this fork, you need to own the situation, understand the deeper significance of the ongoing processes in the system, have management tool of the system.

Big Decisions are the ability not only to catch, forecast the moment of transition, but, above all, to lead/ride this rolling wave of social energy, directing it to creation, to what is called in politics "big projects that change the world".

BIG THREATS AND OPPORTINITIES

Geography as fate is about Russia.

Russia needs to focus on itself.

The "Russia of the Future" model is a people's empire based on the principle of "autocracy" – not in the sense of restoring the monarchy, but in the sense of civil

power model, where we – Russians – headed by a strong state leader (sovereign) keep ourselves through strong local government, such as, for example, the Zemstvo was at the end of the XIX century.

To implement this "framework model", political will is needed, a new strategy for the geo-social and geo-economic structure of the country, based on three components – security, saving of the people and territorial and economic tie-up. Currently established strategy of concentrating resources in megacities foreign imposed on Russia, runs counter to its civilizational code and puts an infrastructure and geopolitical bomb for our future.

It is necessary to develop an anti-crisis socio-economic model of the mobilization type that embedded into the public administration system, which not only duplicates/insures in case of various hybrid crises such as coronavirus or techogenic interruptions in the future, but – and this is the main point – to establish a platform for stable development throughout the entire space of our huge country for decades to come.

Famous American analyst, a leading world expert on forecasting the future of the world economy, the author of the "black swan" concept, who predicted the crisis of 2008, Nassim Taleb predicted the crisis of megacities, catalyzed by the covid epidemic. He wrote: "There is a growing trend that will "destroy cities" – people will begin to move massively from megacities to small towns and rural areas."

Here I will briefly list few of the megapolis territorial concept vulnerabilities and threats:

- megacities are extremely vulnerable to epidemics and various kinds of techogenic catastrophes;*
- sociologists indicate: megapolis is comfortable for life only in conditions of social harmony, otherwise it turns into a "stone jungle";*
- all the mass protests of the last decades – "color" revolutions, national liberation movements, bloodless and bloody coups- their central stage were capital cities and megacities;*
- megacities "produce loneliness", estrange people from each other. It reduces trust and solidarity in society, which is critically important for Russia;*
- nowadays Moscow and St. Petersburg account for a third of Russia's GDP. More people than beyond the Urals live in these two megaregions;*
- the Moscow region alone, occupying no more than a percent of the Russian Federation, has absorbed almost a fifth of the entire Russian population.*

-forced to accumulate in narrow, limited point areas, our megacities inhabitants lose their creative constructive energy, existing in super-density: today, having 1/7 of the world's land, we live 7-10 times more concentrated, closed and storied than the same British and Germans.

"Crowding" and the concentration of the population in megacities is a multidirectional trend with the Russian civilizational code.

In this imposed on us by the West concept, Russia loses its main geopolitical and geostrategic advantage – the enormous spaces that were collected and bloodily preserved by our ancestors for hundreds of years.

The conclusion is that the main lesson of the corona crisis and the economy "resource curse" should be the spatial and territorial redevelopment of the country, because a well-balanced distribution of economic and population growth points is a key element of Russia's national security.

The solution of these issues is extremely relevant, because the lack of a socio-spatial strategy in Russian politics has already led to the depopulation of territories, the establishment of social wastelands and the creation of "exclusion belts" – satellite cities and suburbs inhabited by paupers, often ethnically colored.

It is necessary to move from consolidation and concentration to reasonable dispersal, to the establishment of a management single standard and life quality all over the territory Russia.

BIG PROJECT OF RUSSIA

Russia has always "pulled itself out of the swamp by the hair" with Big Projects – from the campaign of Yermak and the Siberia conquering to the Trans-Siberian Railway, space, the nuclear project, the Russian Arctic and the Crimean reunification.

Such a Big Project of Russia are able to become cities and territories of development of Siberia and Far East, where there are already lots of types of resources, industrial and scientific potential, but there is a shortage of human resources and managerial competencies, as well as the main problem and threat – depopulation.

Let me remind you of the classic definition of Siberia: This is the entire eastern part of Russia-from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

It was with the development of Siberia Moscow Rus became Russia – a great Eurasian power.

Siberia is a key connecting region between the Arctic, the Far East, Central Asia and the European part of Russia.

There, in Siberia, it is possible to modernize existing ones, but first of all it is necessary to build new cities in comfortable natural and climatic zones, modern type cities, which deployment and development logic will be tied to natural resources.

These will be cities of the most advanced architecture with developed infrastructure and science, education and healthcare, comfortable, attractive and interesting cities for, firstly, youth.

These cities of the people's empire will become locations of " Russian world building"!

Russian Minister of Defence General of the Army Sergei Shoigu Speaking to the scientific community in Novosibirsk, said about the urgent need for building from three to five scientific and industrial centers in Siberia with a population of 300 thousand to 1 million people.

It is the scientific, industrial and economic centers that will become new steady centers of attraction for both the population from all over Russia and for our fellow nationals from near and far abroad.

Such centers will provide a powerful impetus to the Siberian region development and, eventually, to the sustainable development of the entire (!) Russian economy. It is not just about the new settlements building, but specifically about the development of the Siberian macroregion and the country as a whole.

The prophetic thought of Mikhail Lomonosov should be reminded: "Russian power will grow in Siberia and the Northern Ocean. And it will reach main European settlements in Asia and America." For a reason Lomonosov wrote Siberia and the Arctic Ocean using the union "and". They should be developed together, not separately. That's why focusing on the Siberian region development along with the Arctic today is timely and reasonable.

As Sergei Shoigu emphasized: "There is a need to build a modern "Cedar Tract" — a safe and effective route between Europe and China..." The necessity of such a transport corridor, and above all a safe one, has already been very clearly identified, it is needed only to recall the recent events with the blocking of the Suez Canal, the attack of pirates, as well as the current situation in Afghanistan. This is also important for international transport flows. And for Russia, the Cedar

Tract is also a great importance as an opportunity to integrate into global production chains between Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

BIG HISTORY - TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY

The great sage Goethe wrote approximately following: "Brave thoughts play the role of advanced checkers in the game; they frequently die because of misunderstanding, but ensure the final victory..."

Russia has a successful experience in implementing large projects. Let us recall here, perhaps, the main one - Trans-Siberian Railway: how and for what it was launched, how a Big Decision was taken on it.

On March 17, 1891, Emperor Alexander III signed the rescript. "I order now to initiate the construction of a railway across entire Siberia, which has to connect abundant gifts of Siberian regions nature with an internal communications network", - ordered the sovereign. A month earlier, the Committee of Ministers of the Russian Empire also recognized that it was possible to initiate working on the construction of the Great Siberian Railway from both sides at once. The following decision was taken on: "the Siberian Railway is a great national objective, must be implemented by Russian people and made of Russian materials."

Even then, the Russian Army was in the vanguard of a Big Project: the Transsib as a project was established by military engineers, cartographers, railway workers, topographers and other specialists.

What was the main strategic objective of this Big Project?

Preparing the highest decision, the General headquarters on December 5, 1890, submitted a report that was voiced by Colonel N.A.Voloshinov at a meeting of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society (now the Russian Geographical Society). It was noted that: "... Starting with the question of a continuous road across entire Siberia, it is necessary, first of all, to give yourself an answer for what it is needed. It is necessary to single out the main, guiding construction purpose and according to this define everything else.... The purpose of the great continuous road across entire Siberia is not to develop arable farming in the South or to raise the gold mining in the North, but to eliminate the adverse influence of colossal distances, to compress all this long and narrow strip, to bring the Pacific Ocean closer to European Russia and to connect the rivers cutting through the fertile lands of Siberia."

That is, the main priority of the Trans-Siberian Railway was not the Siberia riches absorbing, namely, ensuring the connectedness of the giant empire.

Life has completely confirmed the correctness of this strategy!

Today it is extremely important to understand this thing, when part of the elites perceive Siberia just as a resource center for extraction and pumping wealth.

Any course change or adjustment is a violation of the status quo that has developed in the elites, this is tension and the need for action. Nowadays, unfortunately, our economy in a significant part is the economy of raw material exports and finance and monetary flows. The "Siberian turn" sharply changes everything. Political will occurs to shift to the mobilization form of development.

Big Project "Siberian Turn" as it is now as well as the Transsib caused a "brains churning and ambiguity of feelings" of the liberal intelligentsia and resistance in part of the local and central elites, who started fidgeting in their warm places.

Great highway construction had a lot of opponents who scared with swamps, dense taiga with animals, ruthless colds, midges, unpassable rivers, wild aborigines and many others. Supporters of the path connecting Russia were declared crook-dreamers and mentally unhealthy people.

There was also resistance in the elites.

Two years before the start of construction, Interior Minister Ivan Durnovo claimed that the Trans-Siberian Railway establishing would lead to a mass uncontrolled resettlement of peasants to Siberia — because of that, they say, villages in the inner provinces would be emptied and workers in cities would become much more expensive.

The local "tzars" also didn't keep silent. "The first thing to expect from the road is an influx of various crooks, craftsmen and merchants, then buyers will come, prices will rise, the province will be flooded with foreigners, maintaining an order will be impossible," the Tobolsk governor was worried.

The Finance Minister Ivan Vyshnegradsky was noted with especial resistance and ferocity of the criticism. He" horrified at such a large price of the road," offered the way out of this situation - foreign investment from the (!) Rothschild bankers, whose prior consent was already received by that time. But the emperor Alexander III, who was sense in details, didn't approve this decision.

More than a hundred years have passed, but how similar are these things to our days, it almost word for word remind a criticism of a new Big Project-one need only to change some names and outdated definitions.

In his interview Sergey Kuzhugetovich reminded these "critics": "At a meeting with the president, where important macroeconomic projects were discussed, I can't remember exactly who said: "There is no money." Vladimir Vladimirovich replied: "There will never be any money if you don't start doing something."

It is appropriate in conclusion of this section to give a parable about how a student asked a wise teacher: "How long to wait for changes?"-"If you are waiting, it takes long time."

BIG IDEOLOGY

Ideology is needed when it becomes a motive for real action, ideology is not needed for inaction. Today, the ideology of an active offensive movement is in demand.

What is the ideology of a Big Project?

I will give only the main ideologemes:

- shifting to a mobilization economy and partial closure from the decaying global world;*

- the crucial importance of the leading and organizing role of the state;*

- the state takes control of the economic, informational and geographical space of the country;*

- the idea of a single economic plan of the country as a key organizing document for the revival and recreation of the domestic economy based on the synthesis of the best aspects of state planning and market self-organization;*

- financial system subordination to the goals of economic growth, providing the economy with cheap and long money;*

- the new territorial policy is a state priority. Rejection of the megalopolis urbanization strategy. From the territory of sixteen megacities and depopulated vast spaces, Russia should turn into an evenly populated and equipped low-rise building country;*

- single management and life quality standard throughout the entire territory of the Russian Federation establishment. Workplaces, schools, polyclinics, Paramedic and obstetric centers, pharmacies, shops, cultural centers, yard sports, leisure and other-all these things should be maintained and ensured everywhere, and where necessary, recreated on the ground;*

- elites nationalization in accordance to the principle "who is not with us, is against us". Those "who are not with us" must realize that they take risks of losing everything. The meritocratic principle of the new management*

establishment. The target is for a Large project—a professional reset of the elites with the transfer of part of the capital's functions to Siberia;

-ensuring the socio-economic development priorities on an ongoing basis;

-education is the most important and key element of the new strategy. This is a social core of the entire mechanism for a Big Project implementing. This implies a sharp increase in the level of teachers support. By status: all teachers are civil servants;

-an increase in the satisfaction and happiness level of people (happiness index). The indicator of citizens' satisfaction should be necessary and cross-cutting for all national projects, state programs and other strategic planning documents of socio-economic orientation;

-growth of real incomes of the population. This indicator should be the main value, and GDP growth should be a subordinate value;

-reliance on traditional values, history and culture of Russia;

-building the "Russian world" — the return of fellow nationals living abroad;

-the key indicator is the growth of the population, including the growth of the birth rate to a level not lower than the natural reproduction of the population;

-security issues are key! This is the basic platform for the implementation of a Big Project and the development of entire Russia;

-the Russian Army and the MIC — the center of mobilization, economic revival, including the principles of control and planning based on the State Defense Order;

-the Russian Army is the main source of the serving the Fatherland ideology, the center for the creation and education of new nationally oriented managers for the state (education, medicine, science, etc.) and, in particular, for the revival of Russia through Big Projects;

-geosocial policy is strictly linked to the military-territorial structure and security issues of the country.

CONCLUSION

The state power is the center of the crystallization of Russia. It has no right to be weak, separated from the people and unsure of the country's prospects for decades to come, it must be able to make big decisions!

The great Russian philosopher Vasily Rozanov wrote: "The only vice of the Russian state is its weakness. A weak state is no longer a state, but simply it doesn't exist."

The idea of the proposed Big Project is the maintaining and multiplication of the land and the people of Russia. This strategy was launched by President Vladimir Putin in his Messages and protected by amendments to the Constitution.

Yes, this is a difficult and even risky objective. But this is the historical mission of the Russian government during the third decade of the XXI century. To fulfill this mission is a duty to the generations that coming to replace us.

The time for Big Decisions has come!

The author expresses deep appreciation to Alexander Galushka, Sergey Karaganov, Alexander Losev and also Dmitry Evstafyev, Dmitry Kulikov and Anna Shafran-for their like-mindedness and support.

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23 September 2021



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