Why the Russians don't give up
Andrey M. Ilnitsky - Alexander V. Losev
Why the Russians don't give up
Andrey M. Ilnitsky - Alexander V. Losev

Vision & Global Trends - International Institute for Global Analyses
WHY THE RUSSIANS DON'T GIVE UP

Russia is a unique civilization that has historically developed over a millennium. Our history and multinational culture have a defining and formative meaning for the Russian people.

Russia is a unique civilization that has historically developed over a millennium. Our history and multinational culture have a defining and formative meaning for the Russian people.

For hundreds of years of Russia existence the attitude of the West towards our state has not fundamentally changed. Russia is a historical obstacle to the Western project, an age-old “abnormal incomprehensibility” and an annoying mystery, and therefore more of an adversary than a partner. We are an obstacle in the implementation of the plans of the West today.

So why we, Russians, do not surrender to their mercy for centuries is the main and extremely old mystery, for which the West has no answer ...

The answer is offered by the authors of this article.

The era of confrontation and chaos

“The existing model of capitalism, which is now the basis of the social structure in the vast majority of countries, has exhausted itself,” a part of President Putin’s speech at a meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in October 2021.

The world is entering an era of chaos. The geopolitical space is becoming more and more unstable. The desire of the West to keep the elusive hegemony at all costs leads to the destruction of international law and security.

Russia (just like China) is declared an adversary in American top-level doctrinal documents: the US National Security Strategy, the National Defense Strategy, the Nuclear Forces Review, and the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act.

In fact, Russia is being blamed not only for its independent policy, but for its very existence.

Anti-Russian hysteria is whipped up, the readiness of the army, intelligence agencies and the government of the United States, as well as their allies, to participate in a wide range of conflicts with Russia is publicly and aggressively announced. For this purpose, information technologies are actively and widely used,
the influence of which on world politics and the economy is becoming more tangible, if not decisive.

These technologies provide states and transnational corporations with the opportunity to use a new weapon of mass destruction of people's consciousness, operating through the imposition of opinions and preferences, disinformation and outright deception.

The global confrontation extends to such areas as cyberspace, artificial intelligence technologies and space.

There is a period of dangerous rivalry between great powers and non-state actors - digital giants, global financial corporations, BigPharma, green companies and similar global BLMs and various ecosystems.

An antagonistic game/war is unfolding along the entire front, where the victory of some participants is a loss/destruction for others.

Internal contradictions and a split in Western society - primarily American - are growing, inflation is spinning at an unprecedented pace, and living standards are falling. And there is no solution, but elections are ahead.

In this situation, the Western establishment, trying to keep the internal agenda and power over the world, is looking for a way out of the crisis using a proven method, which the great military strategist Carl von Clausewitz wrote about two centuries ago: «A revolution in the social and state system is carried out much more easily in the conditions of general upheaval and accelerated development that war brings with it».

Today war is the way out for the US elites, that they are looking for, and the gain they are eager to receive, but not at home where they are, but somewhere out there, far across the ocean, and by proxy.

**Russia-West: Clash of Civilizations**

Russia has been and will be for the West (for the Anglo-Saxons first of all) a different civilization, a hostile and alien cultural and historical space.

The escalation of the conflict in the Donbass, the “pre-war” hysteria around Ukraine and attempts to include it along with Georgia in NATO are not the current aggravation, but a stage of confrontation between civilizational projects.

This is serious and for a long time!

Since Russia has sufficient nuclear and non-nuclear deterrence capabilities and is capable of inflicting unacceptable damage on any geopolitical adversary, a full-scale military clash with Russia is recognized by the “collective West” (despite its rather aggressive rhetoric) as something to be avoided.
Carl von Clausewitz said that the goal of any war is peace that is comfortable for the winner. But it becomes obvious even to our most rabid opponents that the world after the nuclear Apocalypse will not be comfortable for anyone, even if someone hopes to survive.

At the same time, the task of eliminating Russia as a subject of world politics is relevant and is on the strategic agenda of the United States and the West as a whole.

And there is no doubt that, in solving its own problems, the weakening hegemon, the United States, will continue to stir up conflicts on the borders and along the entire perimeter of Russia's (and China's) national interests.

The information and cyber environment, the cosmos, the space of perceptions and symbolic areas, the history and morale of nations - all this is included in the spheres of confrontation. The growing aggravation with the West, with its scale and total character, the more it goes on, the more it turns into a new type of hybrid war - a mental war.

*This war unleashed by the West is plunging peoples and countries into a state of "no war, no peace", where a full-scale hot war has been postponed for the time being, but the cold war is already underway.*

Mental war is a war where the occupation of the mind of the enemy is more important, more effective and destructive than the occupation of his territory. This is a war where entire peoples and independent states disappear "without firing a shot." This is a war for will, ideas and goals, for values and meanings. This is a war where Russia is declared an adversary of the West. This is a war of civilizations.

Thus, the mental war unleashed by the West against Russia, by its nature and type, is a coordinated set of actions and operations of different scales aimed at the “occupation” of consciousness in order to paralyze the will, change the individual worldview and mass consciousness of the enemy (in this case, us) for the demoralization of its army and society, the destruction of spiritual and moral values, traditions and cultural and historical foundations of states, the "erasing" of national identity.

**The Need for Ideology**

Ideology is in many ways the answer to the question - WHO WE ARE, but more it is the answer to the question - WHY WE ARE. Ideology is a conceptual substantiation of a country's development strategy.

Ideology is the battlefield of the mental war!

Highly organized states do not exist without ideology. The absence of ideology is the fundamental uncertainty of the future.
History and culture are a special area where the mental war against Russia is being waged extremely aggressively, for destruction.

The education and upbringing of young people is also the space of war and the main direction of the mental strike on our country.

Sovereign Russia of the third decade of the 21st century needs an ideology that will provide / equip with meanings and goals stable, powerful and independent development, an ideology that will gather the multinational people of Russia under a common great cause, one that will allow us to change and develop, remaining ourselves. This, of course, is about strategic plans and actions, and not about political technology imitations.

The Russian world, a cultural and semantic synonym for Russian civilization, is a geosocial and cultural space much larger than the territory of the Russian state proper.

But it is the state that is the pivotal forming element, the main bond and the supporting foundation of the Russian world. This is the essential and even sacred basis of Russian civilization!

Weaken or destroy the Russian state, reduce it to the level of a service and a service function, and the Russian world will disappear, turning into folklore, ethnicity, rituals, memories dear to the heart, books, architectural monuments, and the like. The traditional historically conditioned form of governing our state, which ensures the strength and unity of the state and the multinational people of Russia, is an empire.

The Russian ideology must be the ideology of the majority - moral, humane and fair, aimed at improving the quality of people's lives, at fighting inequality in order to become real politics.

A strong state, backed by a powerful ideology, is not only an opportunity to respond to the challenges of our time by ensuring sovereignty. This is the ability to make strategic decisions and the formation of one's own agenda, this is the availability of tools and the will to implement what was conceived.

In order to survive in a chaotic world, Russia must increase its power and authority, expand its sphere of influence, moving on to an active peaceful and creative ideological offensive, since wars are not won on defense, including mental ones.
Russians don't give up

"Russia is the Sphinx," wrote Alexander Blok in the poem "Skify": "Centuries for you is a single hour for us. Like obedient serfs we held a shield between the two hostile races of the Mongols and Europe!"; "You have been looking at the East for hundreds of years, hoarding and melting our pearls, and you only counted the time with mockery when is better to point the cannons!"

Trying to understand our strengths and weaknesses our enemies have been studying Russia for centuries.

The West, which has gone through centuries of its own social Darwinism, cruel inquisition, genocide of colonies and similar inhuman practices filled with meanness, cruelty and cowardice, cannot, is unable to understand Russian civilization and the character of the Russian people (in the multinational ontological sense).

Why the Russians do not give up is the main and centuries-old mystery for enemies, the answer of which the West has no answer, primarily because, as Fyodor Tyutchev wrote in 1849, Western science has always "comprehended Russia through blinders of hatred doubled by ignorance."

The Nazi General Staff, studying the psychology of the new Soviet man before the attack on the USSR, relied on the publications of the White émigré press and early Soviet literature, which in many respects had satirical features and ridiculed the vices left over from the old society, but did not reflect the true character of those who created a new world in the first five years to the words and music of the March of Enthusiasts.

The mass heroism and selfless labor of millions of Soviet citizens, the unparalleled determination of thousands of yesterday's high school students and schoolgirls to sacrifice their young lives in order to delay the advance of the Nazis to Moscow at least for an hour, at least for a kilometer, refuted all the calculations and illusions of the enemy. Already on November 29, 1941, the Reich Minister of Armaments and Ammunition, Fritz Todt, told Hitler: "My Fuhrer, the war must be stopped immediately, since we have already lost it militarily and economically." The inadequacy of the perception of the Russian soldier and the Soviet people as a whole became one of the reasons for the collapse of Nazi Germany.

It should be noted that in the final decades of the Cold War, the approach of the Americans and their allies to the study of our citizens and the Soviet nomenklatura became more scientific and substantive. A notable contribution to the scientific foundations of strategies aimed at the collapse of the USSR was made by the Soviet
defector, the mathematician from Leningrad Vladimir Lefevre, one of the creators of the theory of reflexive control (manipulative imposing on the enemy of making unfavorable decisions for him).

It turned out to be much easier to decompose the Soviet nomenklatura than to wage war with the people, for whom the Motherland, service, conscience and honor are not abstract concepts.

Alas, as a result of this mental war “for minds, values and goals”, the erosion of the elites turned out to be so significant that the great Soviet Union ceased to exist.

A mental war is a war, the blitzkrieg of which consists in paralyzing the will of the enemy, through influencing his elite and the media, in order to then destroy state institutions, decompose the army and law enforcement agencies with their own hands.

We need to learn the lessons of history, because the experience - alas, not without success - of the Reagan administration is well learned and used by the modern American establishment in anti-Russian work.

The roots of the policy of constant hypocrisy and deceit, double standards, the US categorical rejection of a formal NATO non-expansion treaty and security guarantees for Russia, total pressure on the economic, diplomatic, sports, ethnic and cultural areas, the boundless arrogance of the Americans in Ukraine - all this is based on the theory two ethically incompatible systems.

The mental war against Russia is about the competition of ethical systems. The existence of a different non-hypocritical morality and other moral foundations of society prevents the West from regaining its hegemony.

Therefore, there is a war of destruction, and not just for changing the model of thinking. Attempts to remake the people of Russia, to split and atomize them, to turn them into a manipulated mob, will continue.

In this regard, it is important to understand that the thesis that Russia needs, first of all, technocratic managers in management is fundamentally wrong.

Russia needs professional managers with a clear value profile, which is based on the ideology of serving our Fatherland.

The elite of Russia must be ideological - capable of living and acting for the sake of a lofty IDEA, for the sake of the Fatherland. Such idealism does not at all deny the material factor, but it must be secondary and only a consequence.
So far, our elites, alas, are mentally non-sovereign. They lack independent thinking, they lack their own vision, knowledge and language in order to define our Russian world. The bottom line is that the elites lack ideology!

The problem of ideological re-equipment, reset and nationalization of the elites is acute, it is a matter of national security.

So why don't the Russians give up?

*The Russians do not give up because the moral greatness of our people, our faith in ourselves, in truth and justice, the ability to sacrifice, the energy, space and physical strength of the country form a single whole.*

The Russian idea is the concept of universal morality embodied in a patriotic form and an unshakable faith that our cause is just, no matter what efforts the opponents make.

As Fyodor Tyutchev noted in the article “Russia and the Revolution” dated April 12, 1848: “It was the most sworn enemies of Russia that most successfully contributed to the development of its greatness. Now no real progress can be made without struggle. That is why the hostility shown by Europe towards us is, perhaps, the greatest service that she is able to render us.

"What is the power, brother? – The truth is our power!" - the prophetic phrase of the film hero Danila Bagrov is more relevant than ever.

The existence of the Russian world and Russia - a different non-hypocritical morality and other moral foundations of society - prevents the West from regaining its hegemony. Therefore, Russia must protect and promote its truth to the world.

The initial ideological platform for such a policy has already been formulated in the new edition of the National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation in the section on the protection of Russian spiritual and moral values, culture and historical memory.

President Putin spoke about this in detail in his fundamental report at the Valdai Club.

About the same draft decree "On the approval of the Fundamentals of State Policy for the Preservation and Strengthening of Traditional Russian Spiritual and Moral Values", on which an active discussion unfolded.

Thus, on the agenda is the deployment of strategic guidelines for the protection and promotion of Russia's traditional spiritual and moral values into real politics.

Only in this way - advancing in the fight for our truth - will we win the mental war!
Conclusion

The emerging military-political situation requires a qualitative comprehensive analysis and forecasting of the directions for the development of non-military means of ensuring the country's military security and the development of measures to counter emerging mental threats.

Russia's mental security strategy must be based on our historical traditions, justice and morality.

It is these civilizational frameworks that draw the “red lines” of Russia’s national interests, streamline the domestic and international landscape in accordance with certain values, such as the “God-given value of diversity among nations” and the need for a “multipolar world order”, based, as Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich repeatedly emphasized. Putin, on cultural pluralism.

Russian military topographers are the world's best specialists in drawing "red lines"! The army is the historical core of the viability of our ethical system, the source of the ideology of serving the Fatherland. The Russian military leader and professor of the Academy of the General Staff, Lieutenant-General Nikolai Nikolaevich Golovin, wrote about Russian soldiers and officers that “as long as the brave hold out, the military unit lives. These brave men may be few, but thanks to them the whole exists, and the enemy deals with this whole. The fight with him continues."

The growing civilizational confrontation brings both new threats and challenges, and new opportunities for Russia.

It is necessary to consolidate Russian society, strengthen solidary behavioral norms and virtues through pride in our great Motherland. In the younger generation, it is necessary to educate moral qualities, human dignity and respect for others, to support the desire for high spiritual values, for selfless service to the Motherland, for the readiness to unite all the peoples inhabiting Russia into a single nation, and the peoples of the world into a single civilization.

We are our past, our present and our future. From our self-consciousness, from whether we are able to preserve and protect the moral foundations of society and our values, the fate of the whole world depends. And the world order based on these ideals and values will be just, safe and attractive for all mankind.

NOTICE!
The text contains a personal authors’ opinion.

About authors:
Alexander Vyacheslavovich LOSEV, Member of the Presidium of the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy;
Andrey Mikhailovich Ilitsky, Member of the Council for Foreign and Defense Policy.