



# RUSSIA --- in --- GLOBAL AFFAIRS

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## RUSSIA'S QUEST FOR IDENTITY

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*Revolutions and Democracy in the Islamic World*



KONSTANTIN KOSACHEV

*Russia and NATO: Three Birds with One Stone?*



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ANTON KHLOPKOV

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The deterioration of economic behavior will impact not only the population but also (and primarily) the elite, who today are connected with the rules of the "imposed consensus." This means that the diffusion of the current political system could take place against the background of economic changes that, at first glance, do not look like a crisis.

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Among the respondents favoring Chechen secession only a very small number believe that Chechnya should be entitled to independence by virtue of its right to self-determination. Remarkably, these respondents have Russia's interests in mind ("It would be better for Russia"), not Chechnya's.

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The Russian version of the multiculturalism policy is older and more complex in terms of its consequences than the European one. Multiculturalism as a form of promoting group and communal identity was an integral part of Stalin's policy of creating ethnic republics, as well as ethnic areas and regions.

## Perfect Storms

### Revolutions and Democracy in the Islamic World

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With growing presence of China, India and Iran the composition of players and the alignment of forces in the Middle East in the 21st century will look more like that in the 17th century than the 20th. This fits in perfectly with the theory of historical cycles, although it may appear disappointing, if looked at from the positions of Paris, London, Brussels or Washington.

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The tools available to the world community to try to resolve the currency dispute between the United States and China are very limited. Under a favorable scenario the conflict will remain latent, and under the worst-case scenario it will result in the overall growth of protectionism. Much will depend on how well Western countries can reduce the level of public debt. At the second turn of the debt crisis it will go geopolitical.

## Security Options

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The discussions about Russia's possible membership in NATO, although not followed up on, once again have created an opportunity to probe positions and see certain changes in the opinions of a growing number of politicians, above all in Europe. These discussions have also prompted people to look at this issue from a more specific point of view: "If Russia cannot join NATO, then why?"

### Towards a Euro-Atlantic Confederation *Hall Gardner*

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There can be no "national" solution to the Caucasus in that a number of ethnic disputes and irredentist claims overlap presently demarcated territorial state borders. Moreover, the membership of these states in either NATO or in the CSTO is not panacea either, in that membership in these separate military camps and command structures, even if these camps can be aligned, would not work to better integrate the entire Caucasus region.

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Still, even though one can state a decline in the complicated dynamics of Armenian-Turkish normalization, it would be wrong to speak of a total standstill in this process. After all, peace processes practically always have a nonlinear development. The ideas of reconciliation with the neighbor have become part of the internal discourse in both Armenia and Turkey.

## High-Tech Politics

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Russia's negative image in nuclear security, export controls and nonproliferation dates back to the early 1990s; it is based on a combination of real problems that existed at the time and Hollywood-like stories in the media. Until recently, that image has often stood in the way of practical contacts and politicized nuclear energy cooperation between Russia and the United States.

### Towards a Unified Innovative Market *Vladimir Yevtushenkov*

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A unified Euro-Russian innovation market is capable of ensuring a multiplication effect for any individual investor. Instead of an integrated European energy grid, which has been suggested by the European Union as an artificial incentive for competition, it would be better to create an integrated Euro-Russian innovation network.

### In Search of the Dream Country *Valentin Makarov & Pavel Zhitnyuk*

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Many IT companies do not need Skolkovo's Garden of Eden. Far more important to them are financial instruments (for example, lower taxes), mechanisms of interacting with other businesses, institutions and real investors and the selling of ideas. All this can be arranged in a long-distance mode.

## Revisiting the Past

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For all the obvious differences between the three presidents of the Russian Federation and despite the upheavals experienced by the country over the 20 years of its existence, the goals that Moscow set for itself during this period have changed much less than one might think. The Kremlin, under each of the presidents, has always sought to restore Russia's role as a leading player in the international arena.