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Degree of Certainty

Alexander Ageev, Doctor of Science, Economics, Professor, Director General of the International Research Institute for Institute for Advanced Systems.

Early this June there has been a significant uptick in strategic certainty in almost all spheres of global competition and domestic Russian economic policy. The phase of “switching attractors” is over, now there is a quite clear understanding of upcoming forward movement trajectories, an opportunity corridor and a set of risks, dangers and threats. At the same time in the USA and the EU the level and the spectrum of uncertainty for prospects have soared. This is evidently reflected by the results of the European Parliament elections and during the unfolding presidential election campaign in the USA, presaging shifts in the structure of Western political elites, intensification of tensions and aggravation of the social and economic situation in the Western world.

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Views of the Russian leadership on the external and internal position of Russia, its strategy and “master plans” after the inauguration have been reiterated by the President of the RF, including his speech at the SPIEF. A package of decrees and other regulatory acts for critically important directions of the economic policy has been issued. The Government, the performance of which over the preceding period was positively evaluated by the President and by the Federal Assembly, has been “reset”. Finally, on June 7 at the SPIEF V.V. Putin presented his vision of the situation and development prospects, adding up important accents to his messages, expressed earlier in February-May. Let us take a closer look at the three fundamental scenarios, promising long-term effects for Russian economy projects.

A race for reinforcing sovereignty in key areas – state, values and culture, economy; something that just recently has been perceived as a subject of purely academic research or simplistic diagnoses in marginal media, now it has become a part of the global agenda – a “slipping role of dominating countries”. This is based on the issue of growing multiple imbalances in the global economy and a reconfiguration of the international division of labor. The kaleidoscope of conflicts, sanctions, new scientific and technology breakthroughs, information deluge, expansion of artificial intelligence systems, mass consciousness transformations etc. often makes it hard to discern any logic. It would not only be easier, but even more correct to “blame” many things on a game of chance or on unfettered market forces. However, there are reasons and driving forces behind what is called “order parameters”, something which makes up the skeleton, a systemic structure of markets and a complex multitude of existing organizations, businesses and regulators. The aforementioned role of hegemons primarily rests upon the principles of the global financial and economic system and military and logistics infrastructure. These principles are not limited by the role of the dollar in global settlements, payments, investments, but are a key issue. Control over this parameter ensures quite palpable and critically important advantages to those who have the right and the infrastructure for issue and circulation of a global currency.

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The race for sovereignty is directly related to this very battlefield. For some countries this is a fight for keeping the status quo for a longest possible historic period – “tooth and nail, by hook or by crook”. And for those, who have realized their

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discriminated position in the global system, this is a fight to break away from the role of a “tributary” of the system.

This fight will ultimately result in formation of a new world order, a new labor division structure. It is especially important to keep in mind, that many things that on the surface seem to be a military conflict, have a deep underlying economic dimension; particularly where deposits of critically important natural resources are located – hydrocarbons, food, minerals, or strategically significant communication routes – maritime, overland, air routes and hubs. It is for a reason that lately V. V. Putin has been using various terms and images to get across to various audiences the thought of “errors” of Western players, which are with their own hands, through sanctions and stoking instability and conflicts, expanding “grey areas”, destroying fundamental conditions for their privileged status, primarily in the financial and economic sphere. In this regard we should recall the key SPIEF principle – it is a “space for trust”.

Essentially, a model for Russia’s development has been chosen, not only on the basis of high retention rate of the previous government members, not only on the back of preliminary preparation of the May package of key strategic decisions, but also in terms of a clear vision, presented during his latest interviews and speeches, V.V. Putin outlined a mid-term economic policy model. The model envisions refocusing the foreign economic policy to countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America, with stronger cooperation in the EAEU, and also with Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. Over the latest 4 years the turnover in this area has grown by an order of magnitude and by tens of percent. The foreign trade structure is improving in favor of scientific and industrial cooperation and higher added-value products. Major investment projects for construction of new transport and logistics corridors are being launched, specifically the “North-South” corridor, the Azov-Black Sea route, the Northern Sea Route. Strategically important steps are made to establish a currency and financial infrastructure that is alternative to the Western one. It is essential that investments are growing at an accelerated pace. This topic was widely discussed at the SPIEF. It should be noted that it is stifling the investment dynamics that is an unfair global competition method. The USA, by the way, applied this method not only against countries, targeted by sanctions, but against their allies as well – Japan and Germany. The President described changes by 10 parameters of the new economic models and left an impression, that all required starting decisions have been made, the vector is clearly defined, the executive personnel is being reinforced in crucial areas. A frame for the new economic model has been built.

The triad – economy, values, military power – is expressed as an end-to-end principle for the current and the long-term strategy. Essentially, the ideology of economic determinism has again been buried as the theoretic hegemon, which ousted other worldview concepts in the 1990s and later. Mental health, basic values, social cohesion are directly related to military power, to economy quality, terms and living standards of all Russian citizens. The purpose of life just “all of a sudden” has got

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the right to get to the top of the current change agenda.

Therefore, over the latest few weeks a radically new international and domestic Russian situation has emerged. For the Russian society and business, particularly, mid-term goals and principles have become clearer, raising the degree of social optimism, despite the hardships of the current historic period and a complex global situation.

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