

A b s t r a c t s

Lev Gudkov

A State without Society

On the Technology of Authoritarian Rule in Russia

Russia faces a change in personnel at the top. Putin's successor has already been selected. What is being called an election is merely acclamation. Although the power of the state derives its legitimacy from the fact that it has restored Russia's traditional greatness, the regime is not a new edition of Soviet order. To the contrary, it is a new stage of decay. Now that the society created by a totalitarian ideology of mobilisation and mission has been worn away, the authoritarian state is all that remains. The demoralisation of society and the destruction of its basis for common action belong to the state's technology of power.

Sonja Margolina

Disturbance in Dialogue as the Norm

Levada & Co. as Lonely Voices in the Wilderness

Structural deficits and diverging interests are preventing a productive dialogue between German and Russian social scientists. This affects above all the theoretically demanding Levada group. This disturbance in dialogue has several sources. In Russia, these are the group's position outside academia and its allegedly antiquated scientific ethos, which is based on Weber's values. In Germany, it is the inclination of the social sciences to instrumentalise their Russian colleagues' empirical research within the framework of prevailing theoretical paradigms. Furthermore, the anthropological limits of understanding the other complicate reception of the Levada group's thinking.

Alexandra Orlova

Corruption in Russia

On the Myth of the Market and the State as Antidote

Corruption is not an internal affair of state. Recommendations for fighting corruption in Russia take aim primarily at privatisation, decentralisation, and

democratisation. These formed the foundation of liberal reforms under President Boris El'tsin. With Vladimir Putin's accession to office, a fundamental about-face took place. As a consequence of Putin's statism, the Kremlin again controls key sectors of the national economy. But corruption still flourishes. In public administration in particular, a parallel, semi-feudal chain of command that profits from bribery has been established. Only with a strong civil society and a change of mentality is it possible to overcome endemic corruption.

Svetlana Pogorel'skaia

Enforced Conformity or Modernisation?

Russia's Academy of Sciences

Russia inherited from the Soviet Union its education and research system, and with it the Academy of Sciences as well. In the 1990s, Russia's academic facilities suffered from economic and organisational difficulties as well as a brain drain. In 2004, the Ministry of Education and Research presented a reform concept for the Academy of Sciences that unleashed fierce debates. For some, the academy is the embodiment of obsolete and inefficient scientific structures. For others, the academy is a guarantor of independent science and a national symbol. In the argument between politics and academia, the content of education and research has come up short.

Dieter Segert

Party Democracy in Crisis

The Reasons and Background in East Central Europe

In East Central Europe, populist politics is widespread. The participation of extremist parties in government, a disloyal opposition, and violent demonstrations are indications of a crisis for representative democracy. This crisis feeds on the confrontation between the winners and losers of the economic transformation, inter alia. Comparable phenomena of crisis are also to be observed in Western Europe. But East Central Europe acts as a trend setter.

Daria W. Dylla

More USA = More Security?

A Premise of Polish Foreign Policy Put to the Test

Poland's security policy motto runs: America first. This was shown by Warsaw's support for the Iraq war and the debate over the construction of a U.S.

missile defence system on Polish territory. But whether Poland increases its security with a one-sided orientation towards the United States is disputed. Why sending Polish soldiers to Iraq is to increase Poland's security was something Warsaw was never able to explain plausibly. In the debate over the missile system, a change has begun to take shape in the meantime. Since the new Polish government's accession to office in autumn 2007, Warsaw has once again been emphasising co-operative security more strongly. The United States remain security partner No. 1, but the EU partners are not to be alienated.

Annegret Haase, Katrin Großmann
Sigrun Kabisch, Annett Steinführer

Cities in Demographic Change New Perspectives for East Central Europe

Apart from capital cities Warsaw and Prague, demographic developments in Poland and the Czech Republic are leading to a situation where the big cities are losing people. In particular, the inner-cities are facing enormous changes. This shrinkage and the social change connected with it demand new perspectives in urban research and communal policy.

Karl-Heinz Kasper

"Images as Powerful as Those by Dante . . ." Russian Literature in German Translation 2007

With more than 30 titles, this year's harvest of translations from Russian into German is not so meagre. There are several surprising discoveries in poetry, novels and stories about the present that are worth reading – among them several from the pen of new authors - and travelogues. Once again, thrillers, fantasy and science fiction books, and detective stories are on offer. Of particular importance, however, is the return of three works that were banned in the Soviet Union and reached German readers via long detours and in incomplete form, and that also failed to have the expected affect, because they were not exactly brilliantly translated. Now Vasilii Grossman's *Life and Fate*, Varlam Shalamov's *Kolyma Tales*, and Andrei Bitov's *Pushkin House* are available in good new translations.

