

THERE HAVE NOT BEEN AND NEVER WILL BE GLOBAL RULES OF MANAGEMENT

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The Washington consensus took shape under the influence of the positive experience of Reaganomics, and came to symbolize that such experience could be used in the developing countries. The debt crisis of the 1980s in Latin America worked as a stimulus for it to appear. As a result of its use in Mexico in 1994, and in the countries of Eastern Europe in 1989-1992, many Russian citizens began to identify the Washington Consensus with the neo-liberal economic policy in general. To a certain degree, this 'consensus' reflected the reality of the

American-centered world, albeit economically and not politically. The Washington consensus cannot be viewed as a synonym of political hegemony.

The Washington consensus has never been applied all over the world. Europe, Japan and China are the most prominent exceptions. That is why today we see the competition of different socio-economic models, and the balance shifting to the more regulated and socially oriented models of capitalism. Of course, we can assume that this new course is not everlasting either. Although temporarily resurgent, 'progressive' practices will soon give place to liberal ones, when such is demanded by the 'tasks of economic progress.'

The liberal economic system has really been a term synonymous with US domination in the global economy since the United States turned from an 'industrial' to a 'financialized' economy. Today, its dominance is based on its supremacy in technology, finances, and services. To gain an advantage given by such a position it is absolutely necessary to have a liberal economy. But it is not only the US that needs such policies to maintain its position, but also many other countries do in order to be in a position to challenge it. It is a mistake to suppose that the only thing capable of dismantling American hegemony is the outright destruction of the liberal economic system. It is worth separating the approaching decline of America from the problems facing the liberal economic order.

aration is dictated not only by the liberal principles of trade, but by the intellectual potential and technological innovations now becoming concentrated in developed countries. So the world is hardly going to stop being split even in the very distant future.

As for third-world countries, the main obstacle to their development - since they became independent - has not been the liberal principles imposed on them, but incompetence, corruption, and their leaders' lust for power. Just before the G8 summit in 2006, a large-scale poll held in the fifteen poorest African countries showed that 70 to 85 percent of their citizens lay the responsibility for their misery on their own authorities. And they are absolutely right in this appraisal. The anti-globalists, who strive to blame the governments of industrialized countries for everything, are just telling lies.

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There have not been and never will be global rules of management. Was the world run on the same principles during the Cold War? Has everyone forgotten that in the late 1970s Japan was close to the USA in its economic power while having an absolutely different model of management? Today, China is not going to conform to any common rules. Will economic systems of another kind emerge and be able to compete with the West? The answer to this question should be 'yes,' but it is going to make the world even more

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The world is getting 'flat' only in the fantasy of newcomer Thomas Friedman, but not in reality. Its sep-

fragmented rather than bring it closer to a situation where it is run on the same set of rules.■

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