

REMEMBERING THE TERROR

Few people may remember, but when George W. Bush was campaigning for the presidency of the United States in 2000, he pledged that the US would 'return home'. In other words, under the presidency of George Bush Jr., the United States should technically have undergone a sharp reduction in its international activity, instead shifting its focus to domestic policy issues that are just as prevalent and numerous today as they were back then. However, in the end, the events of 9/11 ended up setting the United States on a different course.

Through these tragic events, a new enemy had reared its ugly head, and the entire outraged world united in a common struggle with this enemy. The name of this particular enemy was 'International Terrorism', which was specifically personified by Al-Qaeda. A few years later, the Bush Administration engaged in various military adventures that ended up losing him the trust that had been vested in him as a result of the suicide-bombers' attack on the World Trade Center towers. Meanwhile, the enemy hasn't disappeared. His presence and the need to engage in the fight against him is being successfully realised by the world leaders.

In 2009, the city of Yaroslavl hosted the international conference 'The Modern State and Global Security'. One of the four sessions featured at the conference was called '**The Modern State Against Terrorism, Separatism and Xenophobia**'. Among the issues discussed by both the Russian and foreign intellectuals participating in this event was the issue of dealing with the perils that initially provoked the spread of international terrorism. In 2010, one of the topics at the next Yaroslavl Forum will be '**The Modern State: The Development of Democracy and Criteria for Effectiveness**'. It is quite probable that, during this particular event, the issue of global terrorism will once again be raised in this or that context.

At the same time, we cannot help but notice that, for the last two years, the problem of international terrorism and the threats therein has somewhat faded into the background, seemingly deemed to be of lesser significance. Over the last year, we could hardly find any significant research on the issue. The American political class has generally decided to abandon its use of the phrase 'the war on terror'. This has already provoked a tough response from neo-conservatives, who clearly understand that the refusal to use a word-combination defining such a phenomenon will not lead to its disappearance. On the contrary, this will end up leading to a growth in the level of danger that may be presented on the part of this very phenomenon.

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THE SECRET OF DEVELOPMENT WILL BE SOUGHT IN YAROSLAVL



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Exclusively for RJ

The Yaroslavl Forum will provide a fascinating opportunity to reflect on the prospects for the next decade.

Every major economy is now struggling to find new economic models that generate genuine new wealth.

That means diversifying beyond raw materials, diversifying beyond the often misleading growth of financial services to achieve strength in terms of the depth in the manufacturing and services sectors. This challenge also means preparing for a very different kind of economy, in which the biggest sectors will be occupied by such fields as health care, old age security and education (partly a consequence of the ageing population). Within this same new economy, every sector will have to become more ecologically sustainable. Of course, the world isn't flat. There will be radically different answers to these questions in different parts of the world. Being able to hear and to develop solutions to these answers will be one of the objectives of the next Yaroslavl Forum.

One of the most interesting issues in relation to this topic is how nations manage to

accelerate innovation, not only with respect to the realm of technology and business, the dominant concerns of the last few decades of the 20th century, but also how they institutionalise innovation within society itself and at the state level. The solution to this problem should become the key to national success in the decades ahead. The gap nevertheless seems to be widening between those places that understand this and those that fail to do so.

The world also isn't flat when it comes to issues of geopolitics. **The pre-modern idea that national boundaries are absolute and inviolable has looked antiquated now for decades** and this concept is somewhat at odds with global public opinion. We should probably expect further tension between universal humanitarian perspectives and those that are held by individual nations, religions and groups. ■