

vation valley in Skolkovo or the Moscow International Financial Centre, must appear successful in the eyes of the public or at least promising in the long run. Moreover, their success should also be seen as vital to the country as a whole.

It is notable that the second aspect of the problem is even more difficult than the first. It is important to demonstrate that ‘the multispeed Russia,’ an image that is promoted by the aforementioned projects, is not only an integral state, but also an integral community. It is necessary to demonstrate that privileged sites of modernization, whether territorial, corporate, or industrial, will drive development of the nation’s economic and social spheres as a whole.

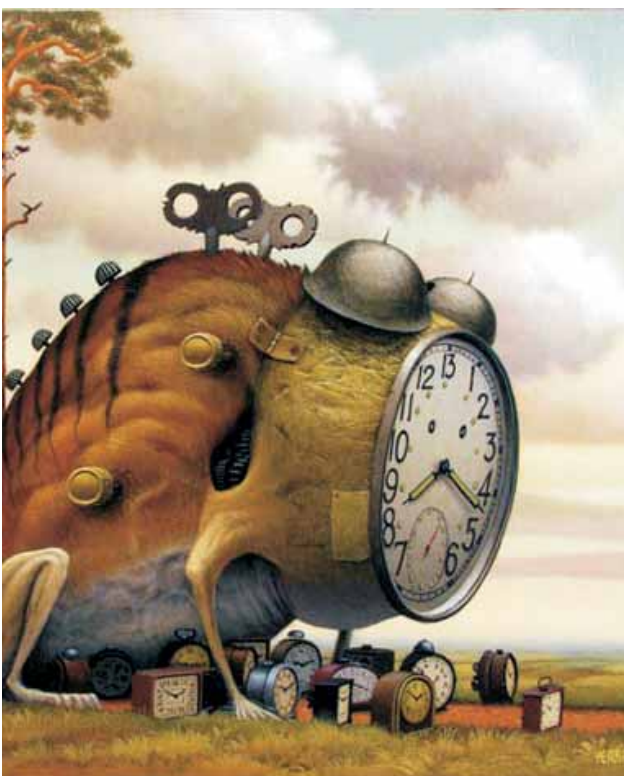
When considering the complexity of this task, it seems likely that political technologies will prevail over politics at the 2012 elections. In other words, the election agenda will be a tangent of Medvedev’s own agenda for securing a second term.

Most likely, a clear contrast will be apparent.

If his campaign follows a motto of **conservative pragmatism** that is based on the status quo and on playing with the electoral results, **Medvedev’s second term has the potential to turn out to be entirely different – it could be reformist and value oriented.**

This sounds strange given that usually the opposite occurs, that is to say ‘idealism’ at the elections and ‘pragmatism’ only after the post is gained. In any event, it is likely that the president has a certain set of reforms planned for his second, and final, term. ■

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THE AGENDA WILL BE DICTATED BY HISTORY



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The election campaign of 2011-2012 will invariably adopt a particular agenda, and center around a few key topics. At the moment, judging by the present demeanor of all the potential candidates, it is difficult to make an accurate forecast of the topics that will either splinter or serve as some point of agreement for the candidates.

As the recent debates on the Victory Day issue revealed, there exists such a crucial problem throughout the nation with historical self-identity, common attitudes to the country’s history, and most importantly common attitudes to the Soviet era.

It is notable that there is such a strong reaction when the leaders of the country speak about Stalin and his role in World War II. Hardly any of the current presidential candidates will be able to ignore this topic during the run-up to the election.

The reaction of politicians to the issue of modernization as

stated by the President have also varied considerably. There is a particular ideological consensus among the political class that the country should diversify certain elements of the economy and generally strive to overcome its relative backwardness.

While there may exist a wide variety of opinions on what modernization is and how it should be carried out, **there is no outright opposition to modernization in the country in general, at least among the elite of the political class.**

The apparent shift to the left in the face of the economic crisis will most likely be compensated by the growing demand to limit state involvement in the economy (a sentiment that is growing more and more popular not only in Russia, but also in the West).

Owing to this trend, it seems likely that a more conservative voice will play a prominent role in the 2012 election campaign. ■