

devastating impact. **And those who are not prepared to deal with that, who have not moved to identify key trends, will be devastated or buried by these tsunamis.**

A part of the problem and the shift that needs to be made to make further progress is away from think tanks and most research organisations focusing on forensic analysis, analysing events that have already happened. For instance, in November 2008, you could easily attend a conference focused on dissecting the global economic crisis, what caused it and what to do about it post-factum. What needs to occur, and mostly because of the emergence of what I describe as tsunamis, is that there needs to be much more proactive analysis in order to identify what the emerging trends are, and there must be a commitment, a political will - that's the other part of the problem - to do something about it. And that has always been a problem because policy-makers find crisis to be liberating due to the fact that they can do things under the crisis that they cannot typically do under normal circumstances. We do not have the luxury of waiting for a crisis, because there will be policy tsunamis, which will be devastating and will have a global impact.

Secondly, the great promise of these universities and think tanks was to provide an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary analysis of the world's problems. **And clearly it is a fact that no single problem can be understood by a single discipline.**

Thus, there has to be a transformation in terms of think tanks and in terms of universities, so that they are structured in a way that addresses the problems that we are facing in the world, which are multidisciplinary. And only through that kind a change can true progress take place. So it can be said that think tanks are advancing with progress in a whole range of areas, but there are some fundamental flaws in how they and universities are structured. They will need to learn how to resolve the global problems that we face today. ■

Yulia Netesova exclusively for RJ

The Russian Institute is an independent non-commercial organisation that was established in March 1996. According to its charter, the Institute's purpose is 'to promote the formation of Russian cultural self-awareness and the establishment of institutions that will assist in the formation of a new social identity'. The Russian Institute was founded by **Gleb Pavlovsky, Sergey Chernyshev, and Yaroslav Kuzminov**. In 2010, the Russian Institute issued a report entitled '**Russian Democracy: from Stability to Renewal**', which was presented at the Global Political Forum in Yaroslavl. The report urges shifting the focus to the actual democratisation experience within Russia, instead of simply discussing the common value-oriented foundations of Russian and Western democracies, which are already evident.



PROGRESSIVE AGENDA FOR THE XXI CENTURY



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Exclusively for RJ

There is a clear, **emerging progressive agenda** in Europe and the US. The 20th century represented progress towards more equitable, stable, and open societies at the domestic level plus the creation of an international order that could promote political freedoms, human rights, and economic opportunity. Obviously, there were major setbacks in the process and serious issues remain. But, in general, the creation of a progressive 'mixed economy' model helped to promote wealthier societies in the West while correcting the negative aspects of economic development through the welfare state, labour rights, education, workplace protection, environmental regulations, and poverty reduction measures.

The XXI century progressive agenda starts from the assumption that global problems require global solutions. Poverty, disease, climate change, terrorism, financial instability,

and other issues can no longer be dealt with on a nation-by-nation basis. We must strengthen international institutions and cooperation to identify emerging problems, work through common solutions, and enable real action to address these problems.

The West must do more to invest in its long-term competitiveness through funding of education, science and technology. But we must also work to build a global middle class that can enjoy more productive, meaningful and secure lives. Challenges such as youth unemployment and migration must be dealt with cooperatively if we are to avoid strife and conflict, as well as increase our collective living standards. Global finance and commerce will require stronger global oversight and regulation. Energy needs and scarce resources must be handled not through exclusion, but through cooperation and shared knowledge. ■