

## RUSSIA NEEDS AN AUTHORITARIAN REGIME

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The process of modernization is often leads to specialized regional development. The challenge is to spread the processes and results of modernization beyond these localities. If this does not happen, modernization will become hindered. If modernization plan fails to deal with environmental problems, it will undoubtedly face hostile criticism, and old structures,

including the bureaucratic ones, will inevitably reject it. Secondly, modernization depends on the availability of new resources and more importantly, the availability of new employees. **If the science town of Skolkovo is to be surrounded by backwardness, it will fail to attract any new individuals to fill its 'fortresses of modernization.'** The Soviet system was bogged down mainly because of the military-industrial complex that absorbed all of its valuable human, intellectual, and natural resources.

The same trend can be seen through the history of other nations. For example, during the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, authoritarian modernization in Brazil ran out of steam rather quickly due to its elitist orientation. Only 20% to 25% of Brazilians felt the benefits of modernization. Meanwhile, vast areas of poverty and backwardness offered cheap laborers, failing to inspire Brazilian entrepreneurs to innovate in the technical and technological sectors. Only under the nation's current leadership has socio-economic development in the country's different areas began to level out steadily, albeit rather slowly.

In China and India, modernization is subjected to the influences of traditional society. The dualism in Indian society is that the existence of mass areas of backwardness are slowing the process of Indian modernization as a whole. India has a slim chance at becoming a leading world power merely because it is forced to use all its economic and technological achievements on solving domestic problems. The same applies to China. Most likely, China has reached the point where its current model of development needs to be changed. As a side note, unlike Russia, the Chinese have managed to strictly separate their political

and economic government. Unfortunately, in Russia, the great officers of the state have their fingers in both pots, either through nepotism, or often can be found directly among the board members of major companies. Naturally, they are interested in maintaining the existence of these companies without any modernization. This is because any form of modernization presupposes self-limitation not only for the sake of the people, but also for the sake of the elite. Therefore, it would be unreasonable to expect that our so-called elite would voluntarily agree to limit its own consumption and power.

Irrespective of how social inequality will deepen in the course of Russian modernization, it's absolutely clear that we need an authoritarian regime. Of course, democracy is always better than authoritarianism. However, Russia's tragedy is not a result of a lack of democracy, as Russia simply cannot function under a democracy given its current economic structure and current socio-economic relations. Russia's tragedy lies in the fact that its authoritarianism is not oriented towards development.

**To make the designated regions of modernization work properly, we have to re-industrialize.** This is the thing that our leadership, including the President, cannot understand. **Innovation and modernization are like apples and pears.** Who is going to create a market for innovations, for technological developments, and for scientific and technical discoveries if we do not have a properly working industry? Moreover, it would be rather difficult to sell innovations abroad, since each innovation should correspond to effective demand and the real needs of its target market. ■

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